



Photo illustration. (Top photo) Mo'i Kane Richard Kualii'i Kamau Jr., the king of this year's Merrie Monarch Royal Court, visits the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG-37) during a pier side welcome ceremony hosted by the Merrie Monarch Royal Court. The 49th annual Merrie Monarch Festival aims to perpetuate, promote and preserve the art of hula and the Hawaiian culture through education. (Above) The Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG-37) visits the island of Hawaii for the 49th annual Merrie Monarch Festival.

535th Airlift Squadron conducts airlift operations, fosters joint services

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam - -- The 15th Wing's own 535th Airlift Squadron from Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii took to the skies April 5 on a five-day mission here to fly, execute airdrops, and foster joint service and international interoperability in the Pacific theater.

Maj. Alan Partridge, mission commander, 535th Airlift Squadron, said the 15th Wing has a unique relationship with the 36th Contingency Response Group (CRG), Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, as well as personnel at Naval Base Guam. These synergistic relationships allow all parties involved to work together to stay mission ready.

"A boat drop is an extraction airdrop, so it counts for our currency and also gives us an opportunity to do relevant airdrop training. When we combine that with our airdrop training with the 36th CRG, those things together make this (temporary duty) here very valuable," said Partridge. "There are only two C-17 (Globemaster III) wings that have an official boat drop program, and since we're the only one in the Pacific with all the expansive ocean around us in Hawaii, it makes sense to maintain the capability."

Capt. Steve Nolan, 15th Wing deputy chief of wing tactics, believes having the chance to work alongside



A U.S. Navy SEAL jumps out the back of a C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, over the ocean near Naval Base Guam.

other branches of service benefits all parties involved. "Anytime we have an opportunity to work with other agencies or partners, it's a plus," Nolan said. "We don't live in a vacuum. One part of our goal here is to execute the mission, and the other is to build relationships so we can be trusted and counted on in the future. The relationship we build now goes a long way into the future by remembering the Hickam guys doing great work and being professionals. It says a lot about our squadron and the C-17 capabilities we can provide," he said.

While some may consider Guam and Oahu to be similar in some regards, Partridge stated a few differences that made Guam a logical choice to conduct airlift operations, aside from the presence of the 36th CRG and the Navy.

"Hawaii is limited because our drop zones are small and have limited availability," Partridge said. "Right now, we are struggling to maintain our drop currency for heavy equipment in Hawaii. For us to bring our metal down here and get some joint training is good for us and good for them. It allows us all to stay current and build relationships."

Master Sgt. Tim Ledford, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster superintendent, said the learning experiences that took place during this mission will ultimately help joint-service and international military interoperability.

"When it comes down to it, that's how we're going to deploy. We can deploy with any service. It's a good learning experience, a good give-and-take of how we deploy and how they deploy.

There's a lot of learning that can be done between the two," said Ledford. "It's also neat to see the international jumpers get familiar with their airplane and for them to jump out of it. Ultimately, we're all fighting the same fight and all in it together."

Partridge said the boat drop, as well as the other items dropped during their time here, help enable the 535th Airlift Squadron to be ready to respond to a variety of situations, no matter the distance.

"It allows us to be more flexible in the types of problems we can solve in the future," said Partridge. "In our area of responsibility, which is mostly comprised of ocean, it is important that we leverage the capabilities of the C-17 to overcome the tyranny of distance and, in this case, through maritime airdrop operations."

Confessions of Spice users: Two Sailors reveal how drugs ended their careers

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Two Sailors at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were interviewed about their use of Spice and the consequences - it ended their careers in less than two months.

After 30 days confined in the brig and separation from the Navy in March, the two Sailors volunteered to come forward

and talk about how the use of synthetic drugs affected their lives. At their request, their last names were withheld for the purpose of this story.

"I was a little bit surprised, but I had a feeling when I got caught my life was going to change," said Joel, who was caught in possession of Spice.

In February 2012, two Hawaii-based Sailors, Joel and his girlfriend, Bridgette, were arrested

See SPICE, A-8



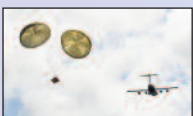
The Criminal Investigative Division at Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, displays examples of seized evidences of synthetic drugs, commonly known as "Spice," as part of an awareness and training campaign against its usage.



USS Chung-Hoon Sailors remember USS Sigsbee
See page A-2



Team Hickam maintainers put total force integration on display in Guam
See page A-2



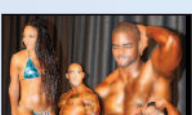
Combat mobility flight is key to aircrew qualification in Guam
See page A-4



American Idols make a stopover at joint base April 15
See page A-6



JBPHH Sailors visit Hilo, Hawaii for Merrie Monarch Festival
See page B-1



Iron warriors flex off in bodybuilding championships
See page B-2



Fire Controlman 3rd Class Jovie Tanele offers a Hawaiian lei during a remembrance ceremony aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) for the Fletcher-class destroyer USS Sigsbee (DD 502). (Additional photo on page A-5)

USS Chung-Hoon Sailors remember USS Sigsbee

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

The crew of guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) honored Sailors of the Fletcher-class destroyer USS Sigsbee (DD 502) on April 16.

The ceremony was held on Chung-Hoon's forecandle to pay respects to the 23 Sailors whose lives were lost when a kamikaze suicide plane struck Sigsbee on April 14, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa.

"Today we are here to honor and commemorate the remarkable crew who served and in some cases died on 14 April 1945 on USS Sigsbee during kamikaze attacks off the coast of Okinawa," said Cmdr. Justin Orlich, commanding officer of Chung-Hoon.

During the ceremony, Chung-Hoon's ceremonial guard conducted a 21-gun salute, a U.S. Pacific Fleet bugler played Taps, and Sailors offered Hawaiian lei off the side of the ship into the water to pay tribute to the perished Sigsbee Sailors.

Logistics Specialist 3rd

Class (SW) Krystal Spencer, assigned aboard Chung-Hoon, was one of the Sailors who paid tribute by dropping a Hawaiian lei in the water. She said she was very happy to be part of the ceremony and to continue to honor the Sailors aboard Sigsbee.

"Every year the ceremony gets better and better, and this one is the best one yet," said Spencer.

In command of Sigsbee at the time of the attack was then-Cmdr. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon. The attack knocked the ship's port engine and steering control out of commission and caused the starboard engine to be capable of running at only five knots.

Sigsbee was later towed out of the war zone to Guam where she was sufficiently repaired to be towed back to Pearl Harbor. The ship was decommissioned March 31, 1947 in Charleston, S.C.

Orlich spoke about the strong ties that Chung-Hoon and Sigsbee have.

"The Sailors that served aboard Sigsbee are no different than the Sailors that stand before you today," said Orlich. "The nation at the time, as it is now, was

at war, and many joined the Navy with a sense of patriotism and service. Like us Sailors today, they had families and loved ones who were missed when they went to sea. The Pacific Rim during WWII remains today a strategic focal point for world commerce and resources."

USS Chung-Hoon was named in honor of Rear Adm. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon. Chung-Hoon was a recipient of the Navy Cross and Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism as commanding officer of Sigsbee from May 1944 to October 1945. Chung-Hoon was also a Pearl Harbor survivor, assigned to the battleship USS Arizona during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

"We do ceremonies like this to re-emphasize our connections with the past," said Cmdr. David Faught, Chung-Hoon executive officer. "Sadly, most of the 'Greatest Generation' is slowly and surely fading away. Ceremonies like this today are in keeping with our traditions and heritage of our past to remember what it is that makes the Navy in our country so great."

Team Hickam maintainers put total force integration on display in Guam

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – What's the difference between an active duty flying crew chief from the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and a flying crew chief from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron?

Don't ask Staff Sgt. Justin Chaltry or Tech. Sgt. Miles Nakamura because they wouldn't be able to tell you.

"The guard and active duty work every day together, so when we get paired together to go on a mission, it's just like another day at work," said Chaltry. "We get together and do what we have to do to keep the planes flying."

"We both know what to do and how to do it," Nakamura said. "I know what he can do and he knows what I can do, so there's no problem. It's like there's no difference at all."

Both maintainers enjoy the travel, unique missions and camaraderie that come with performing the duties of a flying crew chief. They are aware of their paramount responsibility: keeping their planes safe and flying with little to no help.

"We go to some places where there is nobody but us to maintain the aircraft," Chaltry said. "Without us, sometimes the mission wouldn't happen at all. If the plane breaks and there's no one to fix it, we keep it going."

Nakamura expounded on the capabilities of the C-17 Globemaster III.

"It's awesome because of what it can do," he said. "It's bigger, faster and can do more than any other plane I've worked on in my career."

Unlike Nakamura,



Tech. Sgt. Miles Nakamura, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flying crew chief, performs pre-flight maintenance on a C-17 Globemaster III on April 6 at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam while on a five-day mission to fly, execute airdrops and foster joint service and international operability in the Pacific theater.

Chaltry is not a crew chief by trade, but he nevertheless completed all requirements necessary to fulfill the duties of a flying crew chief. Chaltry's knowledge of the C-17 Globemaster III leads him to believe in the aircraft's ability to do anything and go anywhere.

When it comes to maintaining the aircraft, both non-commissioned officers from maintenance squadrons at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii operate together as a unit, regardless of where the plane is located. The maintainers recently put on a display of total-force-integration during an airdrop opera-

tions mission here April 5 through 10 – a showing of teamwork they say is well-rehearsed at home station.

One maintainer is from Warner Robbins, Georgia and the other from Makakilo, Hawaii. One is a fan of the University of Georgia Bulldogs, and the other roots for the University of Hawaii. One wears a flight suit when fulfilling the role of a FCC, and the other prefers the Airman battle uniform. However, when it comes to employing the skills required to keep team Hickam planes mission-ready, the two are practically indistinguishable.

Prevention and identification are key to fighting battle against mold

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Hawaii's tropical climate is especially conducive to the growth of mold and mildew in island homes. But the key is to fix a smaller problem before it becomes a bigger one.

By taking a few preventive actions to minimize humidity, housing residents can help to avoid the growth of mold and mildew in their homes.

There are three major steps in dealing with mold issues: prevention, identification and reporting of any problems.

"Many of our families have not lived in a tropical climate, so upon move-in we provide them with an information packet that includes information about environments that can be conducive to mold growth as well as tips on how to prevent mold," said Stephen Quinn, Hickam Communities director of proper-

ty management.

Forest City Residential Management (FCRM) advises housing residents that following these preventive measures can help to minimize the potential for mold growth:

- "Keep humidity levels low, and use windows and exhaust fans to ventilate kitchens and bathrooms.
- Identify any water leaks and immediately notify maintenance.
- Periodically open windows and doors for cross flow ventilation.
- Conduct routine cleaning of bathrooms and air conditioning vents."

Bathrooms are typical areas for mold growth, particularly in areas such as the tub and shower. Any moisture problems should be reported to residents' respective housing management offices.

The presence of mold is a fact of life in Hawaii and sometimes despite your best efforts, you may spot some signs that mold

and/or mildew are present in your home. Resident awareness is vital.

Following are some issues that may indicate the presence of mold:

- Any leak or water damage, damp walls or carpet.
- Any malfunction (including leaks) in ventilation or air conditioning system.
- Windows or doors that don't open or close properly.
- Any areas of visible discoloration on walls, ceiling or carpet near air conditioner closet (except very small areas that respond to routine cleaning).
- Musty or damp odors in the home.

Once residents have identified that mold may be present in their homes, the next step is to immediately contact their housing management offices.

"The health and safety of our families have always been a priority, and we take all our residents' concerns, including those

about mold or mildew, seriously," said Quinn.

"Residents that have a concern about mold are asked to immediately schedule a service request so a maintenance technician can come out to assess the situation," he said.

Quinn added that residents should also notify the maintenance office of water leaks as soon as they are discovered since leaks can cause mold or mildew if not addressed in a timely manner.

"Forest City asks that should you discover mold in your home, please call maintenance at 839-HELP immediately. Mold calls are responded to within 24 hours and if mold is present, action will be taken immediately," said a Forest City spokesman.

Hickam Communities outlined the formal process they use to address concerns about mold or mildew. "Our process helps ensure that the potential presence of mold is managed effi-

ciently and in a consistent manner," said Quinn.

The process includes a questionnaire completed by a maintenance dispatcher and community manager with the resident, and a checklist maintenance technicians follow during an initial site inspection. The process also provides guidance on how to manage mold, such as clean-up and maintenance.

For more information, visit the Hickam Communities website at www.HickamCommunities.com/go/moldtips or www.HickamCommunities.com and the Forest City Residential Management website at <http://www.fcnavyhawaii.com/>.

By working together and with proper education, use and maintenance, as well as prompt reporting of possible problems, the potential for mold or mildew in your home can be minimized.

(Please watch future editions of Ho'okele for additional tips on mold prevention.)

Protective pickup

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

Members of the 154th Maintenance Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, pick up individual protective equipment (IPE) during the Initial Response Readiness Exercise (IRRE) on April 12 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Navy joins engineering conference on Kauai

Story and photo by
MC1 Jay C. Pugh

Pacific Missile Range
Facility Public Affairs

According to the Office of Naval Research, students' declining interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers could adversely affect future operations and capabilities of the military, posing a challenge to the country's economic health and national defense.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, discussed that challenge at the 2012 Engineering Deans Institute (EDI) "Engineering: Transcending Boundaries" conference held April 17 in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. The annual conference is sponsored by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and Peter Crouch, dean of the college of engi-



neering at the University of Hawaii. The diversity panel consisted of five panelists from education institutions, government and non-profit agencies.

Engineering conferences, such as this one, help identify the risks of a lack of diversity and the solutions to overcome it.

"I'm here because this gives me an opportunity to reinforce the Navy's com-

mitment to diversity, education, community and technology to a very robust and capable workforce that can develop, operate and maintain our very technically advanced platforms. At the highest levels - from the commander-in-chief to the Chief of Naval Operations - we've made that commitment, not only in word, but in action," said Ponds.

"For the region of

Hawaii, this is the gateway to the Asia-Pacific region, and we must understand the critical role we (the Navy) must play in the security and stability of the region. Our people... our most valuable resource... assures us of success."

The annual ASEE EDI conference provided an opportunity for engineering deans, leaders and professionals to gather and discuss crucial issues facing their schools, colleges and professions. For three days, a single-stream program fostered dialogue between deans, industry leaders and those in important roles in research and government. Deans shared best practices, learned about career prospects for their graduates, and developed a voice for engineering education and the role of engineering in society.

"The world is becoming increasingly technological. So all persons in the world and the U.S. need to be equipped with enhanced

technological literacy to deal with the many decisions that they will need to take and to appreciate the decisions that politicians are taking on their behalf. STEM education is therefore also becoming increasingly more important for the future workforce," Crouch said.

According to Doug Goering, dean of engineering and mines, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in order to fix the problems with diversity in engineering students, mentors and educators need to break cultural barriers for incoming students. This starts at the K-12 levels through summer programs that engage students in hands-on activities, such as computer builds, as well as providing a strong emphasis to academic achievement.

Dr. Michael Kassner, director, office of research (discovery and invention), Office of Naval Research (ONR), was one of the panelists at the diversity ses-

sion. According to Kassner, about 30 percent of American high school graduates are white while 80 percent of engineering graduates in college are white, demonstrating an obvious disparity in the socio-economic and socio-geographic make-up of the engineering workforce in today's society.

"We need diversity of not just ethnicity or gender, we need diversity of perspective. The Navy is committed to the diversity of intelligent thought," Ponds said.

According to Kassner, ONR has 215 programs in place supporting the Navy's role in STEM, involving 31 commands, 75,000 students and all 50 states.

"The engineering workforce in the military is aging fast. So the military needs to recruit more engineers. As noted above, this means that we need to encourage more minority and women students to enter engineering education," Crouch said.

Bicentennial of the War of 1812: Keeping the sea free for more than 200 years

Navy Office of Information

Beginning this month and continuing through 2015, the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and partners will commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Star Spangled Banner.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert stated that, "The War of 1812 really signified our rebirth as a Navy and as a nation. A lot of what we do, a lot of what we're about really started from the War of 1812 - a lot of our traditions and our heritage."

Since winning independence in 1776, the United

States has been a maritime nation, relying on unobstructed access and free use of the world's oceans which are essential to our national security and prosperity. It is those reasons, access and free use, the United States went to war in 1812 to defend, and that is what the U.S. Navy has been protecting ever since.

200 years ago

In 1812, the United States, experiencing the growing pains of its recent independence, once again went to war with Great Britain to preserve its economy, its way of life and its independence. The U.S. Navy emerged as the key to victory, with the war serving as

the U.S. Navy's first trial by fire.

Born of necessity and forged in battle, the U.S. Navy took on and prevailed against the world's strongest fleet and proved to be a force of innovation, technology, esprit and expert seamanship. The Navy kept the sea lanes and America free during the War of 1812 and continues to fulfill this vital mission today.

U.S. Navy, then and now

Throughout the Navy's 236-year history, the force has been and continues to be comprised of highly trained and motivated Sailors and civilians with diverse backgrounds.

The commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812 is a salute to all Sailors and Marines who fought gallantly in that conflict, who served in all of the

Key messages

- Warfighting first: In 1812, the U.S. had an officer corps of exceptional warfighters. Today's force has been honed and combat tested by many global conflicts.
- Operate forward: In 1812, U.S. Navy frigates fought the British from the coast of England to the southwestern tip of South America. Today, the U.S. Navy maintains a global maritime presence, remaining at the front lines of the nation's efforts in war and peace.
- Be ready: In 1812, innovative ship designers created superior fighting ships crewed by Sailors who outfought the British navy. Today, U.S. warfighters are the most capable and flexible force in the world.

Facts and figures

- Navy commemoration events will take place in 14 U.S. cities, beginning in New Orleans on April 17 and concluding with a bicentennial commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans in January 2015.
- War of 1812 commemoration events will be held in conjunction with Navy Weeks in the following nine cities: New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston, Milwaukee, Chicago, Toledo, Cleveland, Detroit and Buffalo.
- 124 international navies have been invited to participate in the commemoration.
- For more information about the War of 1812, visit the website www.ourflagwasstillthere.org/.

Diverse Views



"What are you doing to honor Earth Day?"



Logistics Specialist 2nd Class
Eric Cotton
Fleet Logistics Center

"I'm going to volunteer at work and paint on all the sewers around my building (building 475), 'do not dump' around all the drains. This is my first time doing it but it's the first time I've had the opportunity to do it."

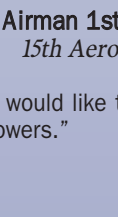
Senior Airman Jaime Angel
324th Intelligence Squadron

"I'm going to plant a victory garden just like First Lady Obama."



Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class (SW)
Aaron Jackson
COMPATRECONWING TWO

"Continue to recycle like I've been doing. Shred paper, bottles, cans, plastic bottles. I would recycle newspaper but the guy at the stand won't take them."



Airman 1st Class Jaclyn Malbrough
15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

"I would like to take the time and plant flowers."



Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class
William Massey
USS Chung-Hoon

"I'm going to try to be extra-conscious and pick up any trash that I see around base."

Tech. Sgt. Courtney Stanton
647th Air Base Group

"Use it as another opportunity to educate my son on the importance of taking care of our environment."



(Provided by Jazzmin Williams
and David Underwood Jr.)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?

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

Doolittle's Raid on Japan remembered



U.S. Air Force photo

Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle (center), commander of the Army Air Forces Eighth Air Force, is surrounded by a group of U.S. flyers. This picture was taken before his promotion to lieutenant general. The general took part in the first raid on Tokyo on April 18, 1942, when a squadron took off from the USS Hornet in the North Pacific Ocean to bomb military installations in Japan.

HO'OKELE

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Combat mobility flight is key to aircrew qualification in Guam

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – Tech. Sgt. Francisco Aguilera, 647th Combat Mobility Flight (CMF) team chief from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, flashes a toothy smile reminiscent of a carefree kid playing catch in a nearby street as he cocks his arm back and lets fly a tight-spiraled bullet of a football. His receiver is Senior Airman Daniel Allen, a 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) rigger, who, despite his best efforts, can’t seem to jump quite high enough to catch the oblong projectile headed his way.

The drop zone here with its worn concrete and abundance of knee-high weeds likely won’t be confused with a football field anytime soon, nor will the football skills of Aguilera and Allen rival that of professional football players. However, when it comes to ensuring loadmasters and pilots have the qualifications they need to conduct airdrop operations around the world, there may be no one an aircrew would rather have in their huddle than a quality combat mobility flight.

For this mission here, from April 5 through 10, four members of the 647th LRS CMF accompanied the 535th Airlift Squadron, also from JBPHH.

“Our role is to provide currency and airdrop qualification for loadmasters and pilots while, at the same time, building relations between the AS and the LRS,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Cortes, 647th LRS Combat Mobility Flight team chief. “We do that by making sure everything we do is 100 percent.”

According to Cortes, this



Master Sgt. Jon Callaway, 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron combat mobility flight chief from Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, uses the “daisy chain” technique to field pack a parachute. (Right) A C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron drops a heavy equipment platform over the drop zone.

means the CMF has to be perfect in preparing the loads that will be dropped. All items dropped during this mission were built by the CMF team, inspected, and prepared for airworthiness before departing JBPHH. Consequently, the ability of loadmasters and pilots to receive their airdrop qualifications is dependent on the performance of the CMF.

“If there’s any fouls in what we do, then the loadmasters won’t keep their qualifications,” Cortes said. “If any discrepancies are found in the rig material on the aircraft when it’s inspected, they won’t be able to drop that load. If one had a discrepancy, that loadmaster wouldn’t be able to get his currency, and we wouldn’t be able to complete the mission.”

Master Sgt. Jon Callaway, the 647th LRS CMF chief, added that the mission of the CMF is dedicated to providing



forces downrange with what they need to survive and operate.

“You can’t do without the CMF,” Callaway said. “Our sole purpose is to train guys to go to Afghanistan and give live drops of ammunition and supplies to deployed locations in austere conditions. Without guys being qualified on currencies, they wouldn’t be able to conduct airdrop operations.”

Beyond ensuring the time spent dropping loads by pilots and loadmasters is well spent, there’s another reason why the pressure is on the CMF to perform perfectly.

“If parachutes aren’t properly packed, they don’t deploy properly, which ends up in a malfunction, which destroys our assets, and causes reports to have to be generated,” Callaway said. “It’s an intense job due to the fact that when the parachutes deploy out, if there’s anything that goes wrong while they depart the aircraft, they can get caught up and take aircraft down. (The aircrew) is entrusting us with their lives.”

Although Callaway admitted that he had a few butterflies in his stomach watching the plane drop bundles over the drop

zone, he said the performance of the bundles and the CMF team couldn’t have been better.

“We were flawless,” Callaway said. “The drops went according to plan, and we didn’t have any malfunctions. They were rigged properly, inspected properly, and in the field we recovered them with no problems or injuries. That always ends up being a flawless mission. The airdrops were on time and finished ahead of schedule.”

And Callaway, like any football coach likely would, will take a flawless performance from his team any day of the week.

Exchange of ideas key to success of Cope Taufan 2012

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Matt Summers

Cope Taufan Public Affairs

PENANG, Malaysia -- Cope Taufan 2012 may be billed as just a live-flying exercise between the U.S. Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), but there’s also quite a bit of knowledge being shared on the ground.

Chief Master Sgt. William Makaneole, Pacific Air Forces plans and programs action officer and 27-year security forces veteran, recently conducted a subject matter expert exchange (SMEE) with RMAF airmen from the Provost Squadron 104 at TUDM Butterworth. Makaneole, who is a 15-year veteran of the Honolulu Police Department, talked to the RMAF airmen about tactical shooting, handcuff-



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Matt Summers

Chief Master Sgt. William Makaneole, Pacific Air Forces plans and programs project officer, leads Royal Malaysian Air Force airmen from Provost Squadron 104 in a stack formation during a subject matter expert exchange at Cope Taufan 2012 at TUDM Butterworth.

and-search of a suspect, search team maneuvers and room clearing. He then provided them a

chance to show off their newly acquired knowledge. “They [RMAF airmen] were very energetic,” said

Makaneole, an activated Air National Guardsman with 154th Security Forces Squadron of the Hawaii National Guard. “This experience builds communication and builds partnerships,” he said.

RMAF Capt. Muhammad Syahlan Bin Shafie, 104 Provost Squadron operations officer, said the exchange provided valuable exposure to different tactics and techniques for his airmen.

“This is the first time for an exchange of this type for our squadron,” said the former attorney. “We are very appreciative. It will sharpen our skills and add to our knowledge.”

“We have many more things we want to learn,” he added. “We are looking forward to doing this again in the future.”

Thirteenth Air Force conducts various subject matter expert exchanges throughout the Asia-Pacific region, including civil engineering and medical SMEEs in support of the U.S. Pacific commander’s engagement efforts.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights

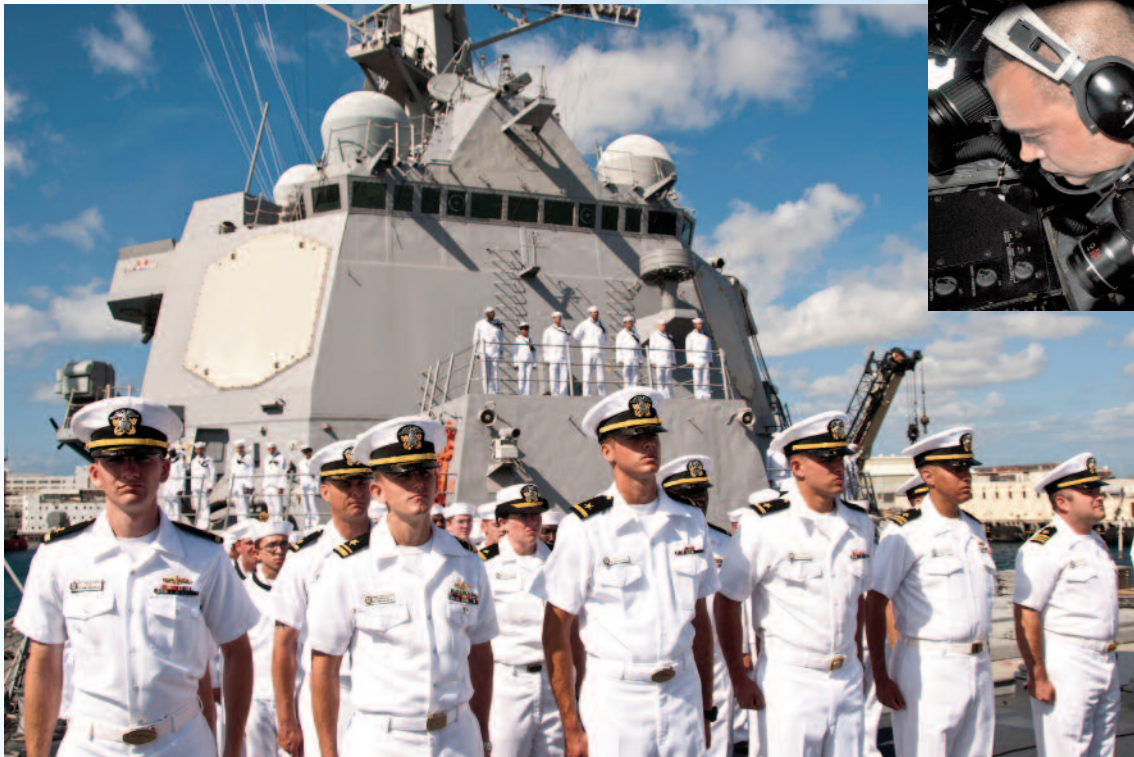
U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen
International military members jump out the back of a C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, over the ocean near Naval Base Guam during a five-day mission to fly, execute airdrops, and foster joint service and international operability in the Pacific theater.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Cutridge
Sailors from Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, pay tribute to past submariners during a plaque re-dedication ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on April 11 in commemoration of 112 years of submarine history.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lauren Main
(Right) A boom operator with the 96th Air Refueling Squadron refuels a F-22 Raptor over the Pacific as Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets observe and learn about the 15th Wing mission on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 5. Approximately 35 cadets were from various high schools around the island of Oahu.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Matt Summers
Royal Malaysian Air Force Cpl. Shahzaihar Zainol, a combat air rescuer, recovers Capt. Daniel Parrish, 67th Fighter Squadron F-15C pilot, as part of a combat search and rescue exercise during Cope Taufan 2012 at TUDM Butterworth, Malaysia. Personnel from Pacific Air Force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are participating in the exercises.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico
Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) pay respects to the 23 Sailors whose lives were lost when a kamikaze suicide plane struck the Fletcher-class destroyer USS Sigsbee (DD 502) on April 14, 1945, during the Battle of Okinawa.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), left, and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers JS Yamayuki (DD-129) and JS Yamagiri (DD-152) conduct formation drills during a passing exercise.

U.S. Navy photo by AW3 Shane Miller.



Submariners reflect on 112 years of ‘silent service’

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Submariners, past and present, and distinguished guests gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on April 11 in commemoration of 112 years of submarine service.

The event was sponsored by the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) Bowfin Base Subvets. USSVI was founded in 1965 by a group of U.S. submarine veterans of World War II.

The submarine force was born April 11, 1900 when the U.S. Navy bought the submersible Holland VI from John Holland. Today's submarine force consists of 53 attack, 14 ballistic-missile and four guided-missile submarines that enable the Navy and the nation to win wars, deter wars, defeat terrorists, and ease disasters.

Throughout the years, many submariners made history, became heroes, and paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Guest



Retired Master Chief Electrician's Mate Chris Cunha of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) Bowfin Base Subvets pays tribute to past submariners during a plaque re-dedication ceremony April 11 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in commemoration of 112 years of submarine history. (See additional photo on page A-5.)

speaker Rear Adm. Frank Caldwell, commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke about these brave men.

“Today we are going to remember our shipmates and gather strength in knowing all they sacrificed and all they accomplished,” said Caldwell. “As we gather here at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, we remember those who have been honored at memorial ceremonies here, and we remember those who lay here in their final resting place.”

“Among the souls here are those who served in all branches of our armed forces. Among the souls here are those who served in all facets of our Navy. Among the souls here are those who went down to the sea in submarines. And on our 112th birthday, it is fitting to remember all who have gone before and to remember those who rest here,” Caldwell said.

Following his remarks, a re-dedication of the submarine memorial plaque took place. The submarine memorial plaque honors the contribution of the many brave men and women who have served

with and supported the submarine force in the last 112 years as well as the 52 submarines that are on eternal patrol. The plaque re-dedication has been an April 11 annual event sponsored by USSVI Bowfin Base Subvets since the dedication in April 2000.

“It is a great honor to be here today, as it is every April 11, to remember and pay tribute to the greatest submarine force in the world,” said Retired Master Chief Electrician's Mate Chris Cunha of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) Bowfin Base Subvets. “The submarine memorial plaque means so much to submariners, active duty and retired, that this ceremony is very necessary and will continue for many years to come.”

A special bell tolling ceremony commenced to perpetuate the memory of the submariners and the 52 submarines that were lost in WW II and since. Each submarine name was acknowledged, followed by a bell toll in remembrance of their sacrifices for our nation. A 21-gun salute followed by the playing of Taps and retiring of the colors closed out the ceremony.

American Idols make a stopover at joint base April 15

Jazzmin Williams

Contributing Writer

Seven former American Idols visited the USS Arizona Memorial and USS Lake Erie (CG 70) on April 15 during a layover on their way back from touring Australia and performing for U.S. troops overseas.

“Capt. Jeffrey James gave us a private tour,” said Jovany Barreto, a season 10 contestant, perhaps best known for taking off his shirt for judge Jennifer Lopez. “We got a nice tour of Pearl Harbor and a lot of information.”

The group of former “Idols” included Naima Adedapo, Colin Benward, Kendra Chantelle, John Wayne Shulz, Lauren Turner, Rachel Zevita and Barreto, contestants from both seasons nine and 10 of the highly rated program.

With only a short

stopover in the islands, the group wanted to see a historic military landmark, such as the USS Arizona Memorial, with what little time they had. James, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander, hosted the tour along with Capt. David Hughes, commanding officer of the USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

“The biggest take away from our [American Idol] visitors was their view on young Sailors,” Hughes said. “Specifically, they were impressed by the significant responsibilities borne by our Sailors at such a young age. They struggled to relate the responsibilities we levy with their experience in the civilian world.”

Touring the USS Lake Erie was a special treat for Barreto, who worked in a shipyard before American Idol propelled him to fame. Seeing a fully manned and completed ship was an



Photo courtesy of Jimmy Swan

American Idols and guests toured the Battleship Missouri Memorial during their April 15 stopover in Hawaii, which included a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial and USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

experience, Barreto added.

“I was actually in the delayed enlistment program for the Navy,” he said. Barreto said that after he auditioned and was selected for American

Idol, the Navy released him and allowed him to continue in the American Idol competition.

Singing for troops is important to all the “Idols” involved. They started

their “Idolpalooza” tour, sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, last August in Japan. After doing nine shows at seven different bases, the group moved along to Alice

Springs, Australia, doing three more shows. Expecting 75 to 100 audience members per show, the group was surprised when attendance swelled to more than 500 in Australia.

After returning to the mainland for a short break, the group will go on two concurrent tours throughout Europe and the Mediterranean through June and July, then hit the Asia-Pacific region by August. Barreto listed being able to get the entire crowd involved, including prompting high ranking officials in both Australia and Japan to sing along to Justin Bieber's “Baby,” as the most memorable parts of the tour.

Speaking about the stop in Hawaii, Barreto said. “We really enjoyed it. Coming to Hawaii and seeing all the wonderful things here, it's been something else.”

Holocaust Days of Remembrance: American POWs in Nazi concentration camps

Michael Smith

Navy Region Hawaii Training and Readiness

While researching information about the Holocaust, I stumbled upon something that I did not know, something that may bring the horrific tragedies and atrocities committed at the Nazi concentration camps a little closer to home for all Americans.

We know that when the United States entered the war in Europe, many brave young Americans were captured and imprisoned. For Jewish Soldiers, the telltale “H” (for “Hebrew”) on their dog tags placed them at a special risk, allowing the Nazis to single them out for mistreatment.

After the Battle of the Bulge (December 1944-January 1945), more than 4,000 Americans were imprisoned at Stalag IX-B. One cold morning, the commandant had prisoners assembled in a field and ordered all the Jewish prisoners to take one step forward. Word had already spread among the prisoners and no one stepped forward. The prisoners were given until the following morning to identify themselves as Jews.

Ultimately, 130 Jewish POWs came forward. Immediately, they, along with an additional 50 non-Jewish NCOs, were segregated



Courtesy photo

American medics treat an emaciated soldier, Pvt. Alvin L. Abrams of Philadelphia, one of 63 American POWs who survived a death march from the Berga concentration camp and was liberated by Soldiers of the 357th Infantry Regiment.

and placed in a special barracks to await a special detail. The Americans had no idea what lay in store for them, but they were certain that whatever it was, it would not be good. The group left Stalag IX-B on Feb. 8, loaded like cattle in a boxcar and arrived at

Berga five days later.

The conditions in Stalag IX-B were considered the worst of any POW camp, but when the Americans arrived at Berga, they found themselves wishing they were back at Stalag IX-B. Berga was the construction site for an underground armament factory, and the Americans soon learned that their purpose for imprisonment was simply to serve as slave laborers. Each day, the men walked two miles through the snow to a mountain-side to work in the mineshafts.

One prisoner recalled that men were dying at an alarming rate. They worked 12 hours daily with no day of rest. Their only nutrition was a loaf of bread that several prisoners had to share. It became easy to recognize who was near death. Each morning they would find men dead in their bunks, many of whom had worked the previous day in the tunnels. Death was all around them.

As the end of the war drew closer, the prisoners were ordered to evacuate the barracks and begin a death march toward Bavaria but with no real destination in mind. The prisoners walked for endless days, often 10-12 hours at a time, starved, beaten and prodded. The death march was designed to both hide the evidence from the Allies and bring about a death of Jews from so called natural causes.

For the American prisoners from Berga,

liberation final arrived on April 23, 1945 near the town of Cham, 250 miles to the south of Berga. In the morning hours as they wandered out of barns, the Americans found themselves greeted by the sound of tanks. The 28th Infantry Division, part of the 11th Armored Division and Patton’s Third Army, had arrived. Horrified by what they saw, the Americans immediately began to aid their fellow Soldiers.

After the war, the two Berga commanders—Erwin Metz and his superior, Hauptmann Ludwig Merz—were tried for war crimes and initially sentenced to die by hanging. The U.S. government commuted their death sentences in 1948, and both men were eventually set free in the 1950s. Perhaps it is easy for some to forget the past and move on. It is certainly an admirable trait to forgive others, but we must never lose sight of the past nor forget what humanity is capable for doing.

(Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation’s annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims. Holocaust Remembrance Week is April 15–22, 2012. The theme designated by the museum for the 2012 observance is “Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue.”)

#SAAM: NCIS highlights text tips to report sexual assault

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Public Affairs

QUANTICO, Va. (NNS) – Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) officials reminded the fleet April 12 of their NCIS Text Tip Tool reporting system.

The text tip tool allows people to remain anonymous while reporting a sexual assault or any type of crime. The smart phone app “TipSubmit” can be downloaded and used to contact NCIS and other participating law enforcement agencies. Open the app, then choose NCIS from the drop down menu. Type “NCIS” first in your tip before sending it to 274637 (CRIMES) to ensure that the information is properly routed to where it needs to go as quickly as possible.

“More and more people are making texting part of their daily routine. It’s how people communicate these days, especially young people,” said Susan Raser, NCIS executive assistant director for criminal investigations. “NCIS just wants to make the most of that instant communication capability so we can get the tips that will help us solve crimes and keep DON personnel safe,” she said.

“The idea of this program is to give the

user the option of being known or unknown,” said Kris A. Peterson, the assistant special agent in charge of the NCIS Norfolk Field Office. “This program allows people to text or submit information regarding a crime or suspicious behavior without having to reveal their identity.”

Michael Church, an NCIS special agent in Norfolk, said the program is unique in the fact that the tipster and an NCIS agent can remain in contact while the tipster remains unknown if they choose. “We now have the ability to talk back and forth, almost like chatting with the tipster, even if the tipster wants to remain anonymous,” Church said. “The agency will assign the tipster an alias code, which will be used to identify them without the agency collecting any personally identifiable information from them.”

Raser stressed that the text tip tool is not a replacement for 911. “In any life-threatening situation when seconds count, your first call should be to 911. The purpose of the text tip tool is to allow anyone with information about a crime to get that information to investigators working the case.”

The NCIS mission is to investigate and defeat criminal, terrorist and foreign intelligence threats to the Navy and Marine

Corps. Types of crimes investigated by NCIS include: rape, narcotics, child physical and sexual abuse, burglary and robbery, theft of government and personal property, fraud and homicide. Within the Department of the Navy, NCIS also has exclusive investigative jurisdiction into actual, potential or suspected acts of espionage or sabotage.

“Our goal is to get tips on any kind of crimes,” Peterson said. “It’s not ever bad to have more information. We can certainly screen through it if people are concerned that it isn’t a crime, but there really is no downside if they give us that information, and we can contact them if we need more information.”

“Tipsters need to make sure to put ‘NCIS’ first in the text because there are over 900 law enforcement agencies who use this system and without that information, it probably won’t be routed to NCIS,” Church said.

According to the NCIS website, all text messages are encrypted, entirely confidential, are completely anonymous, and are immediately processed by the NCIS.

NCIS does offer financial compensation for tips which contain valuable information for the agency and will negotiate the level of compensation based on the information provided.

“We want to appeal to people’s patriotism and their need to do the right thing,” Peterson said. “But we know that economic times are tough, and we have the money to pay people, so that is something that interests people. If that is something that interests people and helps get the word out and the tips in, we’re happy to use that method.”

For more information on the Text & Web Tip Hotline, visit the NCIS website at www.ncis.navy.mil and select the “report a crime” tab at the middle of the page. If you don’t have a smart phone, you can use the web-based email tip form, found on the same section of the NCIS webpage.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response is an important element of the readiness area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency, and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Navy and Marine Corps. The Department of the Navy is working aggressively to prevent sexual assaults, to support sexual assault victims, and to hold offenders accountable.

Help raise awareness by joining the conversation on social media using #SAAM.

Using Spice can bring speedy end to Navy career

Continued from A-1

after a routine traffic stop when a police officer discovered evidence of Spice concealed on their person and inside their vehicle.

Spice, a synthetic drug, looks similar to marijuana or oregano and is used for its psychoactive and hallucinogenic effects. The Navy has zero tolerance for drug abuse, including the use of designer and synthetic compounds such as Spice.

An investigation ensued and the two Sailors were court-martialed and sentenced to 30 days confinement, forfeiture of two-thirds pay for one month and reduction to E-1.

Bridgette had never tried Spice until she arrived in Hawaii and her boyfriend introduced it to her in December 2011. Joel and Bridgette had been in the Navy for less than two years.

“We were drinking one night. I thought that it was like a cigarillo or like a Black and Mild,” said Bridgette. “I had tried it and it had reminded me of just feeling relaxed and calm, worry-free of any responsibilities.”

Joel did not try Spice until he arrived in Hawaii as well, when he started

mixing in with the wrong crowd.

“It was a bad choice on my part,” said Joel. “I was taking it for the social aspect, but I figured they did it, and they are still able to do their jobs correctly. Maybe it helped them free themselves, too. I don’t really understand why, but it just helped me. I never really thought about me getting caught with it.”

Once Joel and Bridgette started using Spice, the two began a regular routine of taking overnight weekend trips to Waikiki to drink, smoke and escape.

For both Joel and Bridgette, Spice and other synthetic drugs are easy to come by. Aside from their peers, the illegal products are falsely marketed by manufacturers in commercial-like packages as a safe way to get high while avoiding drug testing.

Stephen Ludwig, the evidence custodian for the Criminal Investigation Division of Navy Region Hawaii, said the military in Hawaii is the biggest customer of synthetic drug sales. He said the artwork on the packaging can look very attractive. No one would guess that they actually contain ille-

gal substances.

It did not take long for Spice to have a negative effect on both Joel and Bridgette.

“After it all cleared and faded away, I felt groggy,” said Joel. “I felt tired. I woke up in the morning puking in the hole in the toilet for like 10 minutes at a time. When I started waking up in the mornings, I vomited black stuff out. Every time I threw up, it just made me feel bad. It felt like something was turning in my stomach.”

Lt. j.g. John White, a Navy judge advocate assigned at the Region Legal Service Office Hawaii, said that using Spice puts one’s career at risk, but there is also the risk to the user’s health.

“When on Spice, one’s mental faculties are diminished, making it potentially fatal when one is working on military vessels, aircraft or with weaponry, where errors in judgment can cost lives,” said White.

Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan called the health implications “alarming.”

“The chemicals found in these drugs are not regulated by the FDA, and no two batches are alike as manufacturers continual-

ly change the compound makeup in order to elude drug testing. Most packaging clearly reads, ‘not for human consumption,’ and that is for good reason. Military and civilian health professionals continue to learn more about the negative health effects of Spice use and the data is alarming,” said Nathan in a recent post on the Navy Medicine Live blog.

“Spice has been reported to cause elevated blood pressure, tremor, seizures, vomiting, abdominal pain and more,” continued Nathan. “Several episodes of heart damage have been reported with Spice use, as well as several reports of persistent psychotic symptoms, hallucinations and paranoid behavior lasting several days.”

There have also been civilian deaths and reported suicides associated with the use of Spice. I cannot over-emphasize my concern on this matter from a health perspective as my medical providers have witnessed and treated many of these reported symptoms at military treatment facilities,” Nathan said.

When Joel and Bridgette came to their

first command assignment, they said they were highly motivated. They both enjoyed working on high-valued Navy equipment.

Bridgette said one of the best things about the Navy was meeting new people. Soon their drives changed the longer he and his girlfriend took Spice.

“I was so tired walking around at work that I didn’t really want to talk to anybody,” said Joel. “I kept to myself mostly and I started changing who I was as a person, something I didn’t want to continue doing, but I did it because it made me fit in with the social crowd.”

Joel and Bridgette knew the consequences of taking Spice. Both had been informed of the dangers even by their recruiters.

“I knew it was illegal, and it was my responsibility to say no, even though I was inebriated a little bit; I’d been drinking,” said Bridgette. “Still, I should have been responsible enough to know the difference between Spice and cigarettes.”

“My biggest regret is trying to fit in when you first joined and not making the right friends,” said Bridgette. “I regret not putting my foot down in the beginning and walking away.”

Joel and Bridgette were both discharged from the Navy at the end of March. They plan to move back to Joel’s hometown and begin rebuilding their lives together.

“My message to the Sailors who are still taking Spice is if you are

really serious about being in the military, being in the Navy, excelling in your career, stop what you’re doing now,” said Joel. “There’s a big chance that you are going to get kicked out of the military. If you want that nice paycheck, a steady life, to meet the new people and to be able to continue on, get that rank, get that respect from people who have been in, just don’t do it. Just stop. It’s not worth it, it’s really not,” Joel said.

In March, the Navy announced that it has begun random testing of urine samples for synthetic chemical compounds like Spice. The Navy’s capacity for testing for designer drugs will continue to expand. During fiscal year 2012, the Navy will invest \$1.73 million to test for synthetic chemical compounds and expects to increase that amount to \$2.9 million in fiscal year 2013.

“They’re going to see Spice everywhere they go because it’s a bigger problem than people actually realize,” said Bridgette. “You should just not even try it in the beginning. Once you try it, even if you don’t get addicted to it, the point is that you have tried it. Most people do have addictive personalities, and it runs in the family. Don’t try it.”

The Navy continues to educate Sailors about the dangers of drug use, including new and designer drugs, through targeted awareness campaigns and continues to work closely with local governments to identify users and distributors.

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Sailors visit Hilo, Hawaii for Merrie Monarch Festival

Story and photos by
MC3 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West
Detachment Hawaii.

HILO, Hawaii – Sailors from the Pearl Harbor-based, guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and his wife Carol visited Hilo from April 12 to 15 to participate in the 49th annual Merrie Monarch Festival events.

The Merrie Monarch Festival is a week-long cultural festival that takes place to honor King David Kalakaua, who was called the “Merrie Monarch” for

his patronage of the arts.

The Merrie Monarch Royal Court greeted Crommelin during a pier-side welcome ceremony at Hilo Harbor.

“I understand what it means, the Merrie Monarch Festival,” said Ponds. “It’s all about the expression of the mind, but more so an expression of the heart, the emotions that you feel toward each other. Our being here is an extension of that emotion, that relationship.”

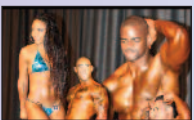
Crommelin Sailors and Ponds also attended the hula competitions and were accompanied by the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Band when they marched in the Merrie Monarch Royal Parade through downtown Hilo.

During the visit to Hilo,

Sailors from Crommelin participated in a community relations project as they visited the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home. The Sailors talked with the residents about their past experiences during their time in the military.

A select group of Waiakea High School Navy JROTC Cadets had the rare opportunity to embark the ship on its return trip from the Big Island to Pearl Harbor.

“The port visit was a huge success and it provided our Sailors a great opportunity to engage with the residents of Hilo,” said Cmdr. Michael Johns, commanding officer of Crommelin.



Iron warriors flex off in
bodybuilding championships
See page B-2



Iron warriors flex off in bodybuilding championships

Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Service personnel representing the Air Force, Navy and Army showed that sweat and hard work in the gym can do a body good, as contestants posed and flexed their carved physiques April 14 in the 29th Annual Armed Forces Hawaii Bodybuilding Championships at Sharkey Theater, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Held before a packed house at Sharkey, the yearly program not only featured the typically ripped bodies of the chiseled competitors, but also included an appearance by National Physique Committee (NPC) competitor and recently retired Navy Chief Mineman Kevin Sperling.

It also included a guest-posing session by Chelsea Prince, who introduced the Figure Division, which will make its debut in the 2013 championships.

The night, though, belonged to the hardcore muscled athletes who came ready for war in the battle for bodybuilding supremacy.

Although Stephany Sanchez was the lone female competitor, the Hickam Department of Defense civilian came fully prepared with a physique that popped.

Sanchez's shape was especially appealing when she struck her front poses that highlighted her clearly defined six-pack set of abs.

The real battle, however, took place among the men, whose high-level of muscularity and definition made

it a tough night for the panel of judges, led by veteran bodybuilding appraiser Cindy Lee.

In the Lightweight Division, 131-pound, 20-year-old-service-family-member Ralph Custodio took top honors and was followed in order by DoD Eassie Soares and Army Staff Sgt. Adrian Romero, who is stationed with the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment at JBPHH.

"When I first saw those guys weighing in, I was not feeling good about it at all," said Custodio, who admitted that he was surprised to come in at first. "Preparation wise, I guess I got a little more sophisticated with what I eat, but overall it comes down to just winging it, within reason."

Up next in the Middleweight Division, Army Staff Sgt. William Prince of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 114 Infantry, came in at a tight 169 pounds and beat out Air Force Staff Sgt. Jarvis Polite of the 647th Security Forces Squadron.

With the lower weight classes over and done, it was time for the big boys to step out onto the stage and flex their massive bodies.

Buff Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Sabio of the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron won the top light-heavyweight prize. He beat out fellow musclemen Navy Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Matthews of Pacific Command/Joint Intelligence Operation Center and Army Sgt. Rudy Perez of Bravo Company, 127 Infantry.

"It feels good. The hard

work pays off," said Sabio about his victory. "I'm growing better. I've been experimenting with my diet and supplements and am looking up to bodybuilders, both locally and pro. I watch a lot of those videos and get inspired."

Finally, in a showdown between the two biggest behemoths of the competition, 247-pound Ensign Camille Halliday of Destroyer Squadron 31 outdueled Army Spc. Joel Schafer of Charlie Company, 114 Infantry, for the top honors in the Heavyweight Division.

Following the heavy-weight matchup, all four champions returned to the stage for the final posedown to claim the event's all-around male title.

In the heated last face-off, Custodio, who was the lightest competitor on stage, was awarded the sword as this year's top male armed-forces champ.

"It feels amazing," Custodio said. "I never ever thought that I would win this. I was iffy about my place, so this feels just great."

Judge and NPC competitor Brant Arelliano said that although Custodio was lighter in comparison to the other three finalists, there was nothing small about his physique.

"It was basically his overall symmetry," Arelliano stated. "He was very well-rounded. Everything just blended in. He needs to work on his posing. Not so stiff, but be more relaxed. Otherwise, he's got it."

After claiming the top prize, Custodio thanked the other competitors for their camaraderie and sports-

manship, which he said provided the motivation he needed to be the best.

He also thanked the vocal crowd for their support.

"I thought they (crowd) were great," he said. "I did-

n't expect anybody to shout out my name. It really helped."

As for his post-victory celebration, Custodio said he was going to keep it as low-keyed as possible, and start

planning for his next competition.

"I'm just going to make myself a smoothie," he said. "That's about it, so I can go sleep early and work out tomorrow."



JBPHH Department of Defense civilian Stephany Sanchez and service-family-member Ralph Custodio pose together with their championship swords after earning top honors at the 29th Annual Armed Forces Hawaii Bodybuilding Championships.

Poundtown hammers Force Support Squadron

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Two weeks after suffering their first defeat in over a year, base defending champs 647th Security Forces Squadron (647 SFS) Poundtown got back on the winning track April 16 by clubbing down the 647th Force Support Squadron (647 FSS), 20-0, in a mercy-rule-shortened White Division intramural softball game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The matchup, which was nearly called off due to a shortage of players by the FSS, started a few minutes late, but ended way before regulation because of the heavy lumber swung by nearly every member of the Poundtown squad.

The SFS posted six runs in the first, before breaking the game wide open with a 10-run outburst in the second.

Power-hitting Airman 1st Class Robert Smith, an All-Air Force selection in 2011, chased home the team's final three runs by going yard with a deep jack over the towering left-field fence and into the parking lot during a four-run third inning.

The win raised Poundtown's divisional record to 3-1, while the FSS dipped below the .500 mark at 2-3.

Almost from the start, Poundtown recognized that the FSS didn't have their best team on the field and exercised sportsmanship to give their opponent a fair shot.

Despite crushing the ball all game long, Poundtown would only advance their players by a single base at



Senior Airman Bryan Perkins of the 647th Security Forces Squadron (647 SFS) Poundtown softball team takes a cut at a pitch, while donning a pink outfit during an intramural softball White Division game against the 647th Force Support Squadron (647 FSS). Perkins was tasked to wear the pink outfit after striking out in his first at-bat.

a time in an effort to keep the score manageable.

Unfortunately for the FSS, Poundtown kept hitting them where they weren't and the score quickly got out of hand.

In the first inning, Security Forces banged out six hits, before going to town with 11 knocks in the 10-run second inning.

Meanwhile, Poundtown pitcher Tech. Sgt. Robert

“Woody” Wooderson retired the first five FSS hitters and only allowed a total of three base runners in tossing three shutout innings.

While Poundtown

enjoyed a great all-around day at the park, not all of the news was good for the team.

Although the SFS is definitely among the favorites to win this year's base

championship, the team will have to do it without its biggest stick in the order.

“Coming off of a loss, we needed a game like this, but this was my last game,” Smith said. “I’m heading to Alabama. I’m getting out. I’m actually leaving Thursday.”

The loss of Smith's bat and all-around play will leave a huge gap in the Poundtown attack, but Smith said that even with his departure, the team will be a force in the race for the pennant.

“We got a lot of young guys out here, but we got to work together, not butt heads, and if we're down, we need to step it up,” he stated. “I tried to be a leader when I was here, so I need to have someone step up in my place. But I don't see a problem in them winning back-to-back championships.”

With most of the Poundtown hitters having a field day at the plate, one batter who didn't fare too well was first-year player Senior Airman Bryan Perkins.

In two at-bats, Perkins struck out and popped out, but it was his whiff that caused the biggest stir.

“When you strike out, you have to wear the pink tutu and pink shirt,” said Perkins, who wore the pink outfit for the rest of the game. “It's not that big of a deal. It brings up team morale and is just a funny joke.”

Still, Perkins said that he won't be looking to put on the pretty-in-pink outfit again anytime soon.

“I'm definitely not going to strike out again,” he promised.

Big fly tops off mercy-rule win for 613 AOC

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Cleanup hitter Maj. JB Wills finished off a huge day at the plate April 17 by crushing a three-run, walk-off homer to help the 613th Air and Space Operation Center (613 AOC) complete a 19-7 mercy-rule victory over the 120th Fighter Wing Det. 1 (120 FW Det. 1) in an intramural softball Gold Division game at Hickam Softball Complex, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Wills, whose big bat has been a staple weapon in the 613's offensive attack for the past couple of years, banged out two singles and a triple, before stepping up to the plate and ripping the game-ending jack over the center-field fence.

The win kept the AOC on pace with the 735th Air Mobility Squadron, as the top teams in the Gold Division with identical 4-0 records, while the 120 dropped thier third straight game after opening up the season with a win.

“I knew that we needed a couple of runs to get that 10-run rule on them, and I was just looking for a good pitch,” said Wills about his homer. “I’ve been struggling with my swing. I just kind of concentrated, I hit the pitch and luckily it sailed out.”

Although the 613 has been playing all season without the services of power-hitter Staff Sgt. Jason Gaddis, the team hasn't missed a beat in racking up runs.

Against the 120, the AOC fell behind by a score of 2-0 after the top half of the first inning, but the team responded by smacking eight hits to score seven runs in its first turn at-bat.

The early rally got started by an RBI triple from Tech. Sgt. C.J. Hodge and ended seven consecutive hits later on a single by AOC pitcher Lt. Cmdr. Grant Hartfield.



Maj. JB Wills, cleanup hitter for the 613th Air and Space Operation Center (613 AOC), gets full extension on a pitch and drives it for a triple bottom of the fifth inning during a Gold Division intramural softball game versus the 120th Fighter Wing Det. 1 (120 FW Det. 1).

“We’re coming around,” said Wills about the team's hitting prowess. “We put in a little more practice earlier and improved on it. But the thing is just consistency – getting guys out of work to get out here on a consistent basis.”

While the team's bats were coming alive, its defense, led by the play of left-fielder Tech Sgt. Jeff Camacho, was working with Hartfield to keep the 120 from making a comeback.

Camacho was outstand-

ing in gobbling up everything that was hit his way, while the veteran Hartfield was masterful in keeping 120 hitters off-balance all game long.

Hartfield posted shutout innings in the second, fourth and fifth – setting the hitters down in order in the fourth.

“He just got back from deployment,” said Wills about Camacho. “He's been firing that ball right on spot from the outfield, he's been ripping the ball off his bat,

and he's just been running around the bases. He's a top-tier player, right there.”

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Garneau, who helped the 120 get on the scoreboard first with an RBI double in the first inning, said that although he and his teammates tried their best to keep up with the AOC, they just couldn't match their firepower.

“We just started this year, so we really haven't been playing that long,” Garneau said. “There are a

few of us that have played leagues before, but they're probably 80 percent that have never played.”

Although Garneau said that the team is basically out to have fun, he added that with a little more practice, the 120 could surprise a few teams before the season is done.

“We need to communicate and practice hitting a little more,” he admitted. “I think we have potential.”

Meanwhile, for the AOC, Wills said that keeping the

pressure off will be a key factor in the team's run for the pennant this season.

With Gaddis soon to return to the lineup, Wills acknowledged that the best is yet to come.

“We just want to have a good run at it and enjoy it,” he said. “We don't want to get too serious, we want to keep everything light, but competitive. We don't want to burn out too soon. We're pretty close. With Gaddis coming back here, it's just going to make us stronger.”

Doolittle Raiders had courage in face of extreme danger

Charles Nicholls

PACAF historian

The 70th Doolittle Raider reunion is planned for April 17 to 20 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Ohio. Another commemoration is planned for May 5 at the USS Hornet Museum in California.

The Doolittle Raiders hold a reunion nearly every year. The group keeps a set of 80 silver goblets, each engraved with the name of one of the Raiders.

Surviving Raiders hold a roll call and toast Raiders who passed away during the previous year. They also keep a bottle of vintage 1896 cognac, chosen for the year of Jimmy Doolittle's birth, which will be used to drink a final toast.

In addition, the Battle of Midway was a major followup after the Doolittle Raid. Marking the 70th anniversary of this "turning point in the pacific" epic battle, the Pacific Aviation museum Pearl Harbor will host two days of events on June 2 and 3.

Planning of the Doolittle Raid began following Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. After their Dec. 7, 1941 strikes in Hawaii and the Philippines, Japan won an unbroken string of victories across the Pacific theater. U.S. leaders were desperate to disrupt Japanese operations and raise American morale.



Photo courtesy of Pacific Air Forces

Lt. Col Jimmy Doolittle (fourth from right) led the raid on Japan during World War II.

U.S. Navy officers suggested that Army Air Force bombers launched from aircraft carriers could strike the Japanese homeland. The idea for such a mission was passed to Gen. Hap Arnold, who chose Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle to organize and lead the operation.

Additional goals were to divert Japanese forces to homeland defense and to weaken the faith of the Japanese people in their leaders – who had claimed their home islands would never be bombed.

The Army Air Forces plan was to strike targets in Tokyo under the cover of darkness and then fly on to China.

Volunteers for an unspecified but "extremely haz-

ardous" mission were sought from the most experienced B-25 unit, the 17th Bomb Group. The B-25 crews trained at Eglin Field, Florida to take off on a very short runway in a heavily loaded B-25.

The crews also practiced aerial gunnery, night-flying, over-water navigation and low-level bombing.

The U.S. made arrangements with the Chinese for the B-24s post-raid reception and onward movement to Gen. Stilwell's command in the Far East. All the preparations were made in extreme secrecy.

On April 2, 1942, the USS Hornet and her escorts sailed from San Francisco bay carrying 16 B-25 aircraft and their five-man crews.

The results of the Doolittle Raid were significant but varied. It brought a tremendous boost to American morale but had little impact on Japanese loyalties. The Chinese suffered terribly as Japanese forces seized the airfields that the Raiders had planned to use and carried out reprisals, killing up to 250,000 Chinese.

The greatest U.S. benefit from the raid was Japan's fateful decision to expand their defensive perimeter outward to prevent Allied operations against their home islands. A huge Japanese task force sailed eastward hoping to seize Midway Island and crush the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Instead, the U.S. won a decisive naval battle as Navy

bombers sank four of the Japanese aircraft carriers that had launched the attacks on Pearl Harbor. This victory turned the tide of the Pacific war.

Doolittle was promoted to brigadier general soon after his raid on Tokyo. In his July 9, 1942 after-action report, Doolittle's focus was not on attacking Japan, but rather on defending the United States.

Indeed, after Japan's Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. military had hurriedly established a network of radar sites, visual observers and fighter-interceptor units along U.S. west coast.

Epilogue

The Doolittle Raid is a story of outstanding courage in the face of extreme danger. The Raiders and the Navy task force braved hostile seas for days and, unlike the Japanese that struck Pearl Harbor, they were detected by the enemy hundreds of miles from their launch point. The Raiders

scrambled into their planes with little chance of achieving surprise or reaching a landing base.

The pilots had never tried a takeoff from a carrier, but each B-25 got airborne even as the deck of the Hornet rose and fell in the rough seas. The Raiders navigated over hundreds of miles of ocean by dead reckoning and struck the heart of Japan in broad daylight with no fighter escort and without a full complement of guns. After 13 hours of flight, the Raiders were out of gas, out of daylight and out of contact with allied forces. Death or capture loomed.

Each Raider was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The dead and wounded, including the POWs tortured in captivity, received Purple Hearts. Doolittle received the Medal of Honor.

Thirteen Raiders died later in the war, most in action against the enemy. Four became prisoners of war in German captivity.



The 80 Doolittle Raiders took off in 16 B-25 bomber aircraft.

WHO SAID IT?

"Because a thing seems difficult for you, do not think it impossible for anyone to accomplish."

Last Week's

WHO SAID IT?

"Freedom is the last, best hope of earth."

Abraham Lincoln



This Week's Trivia

Edward Michael was an Army Air Force aircraft mechanic strafed at Wheeler Field on Dec. 7, 1941. In 1944, Lt. Michael was a B-17 pilot flying missions in Europe. What happened to Michael on April 11, 1944?

Last Issue's Question: What happened on April 8, 1812 affecting the Territory of Orleans?

Answer: The territory took another step toward statehood with the creation of the District of Louisiana. The territory would become the state of Louisiana in a matter of weeks.

'Paws and Patriots' event to honor military and their pets April 28 at Humane Society

Hawaii Military Pets

Service members, their families and the public are invited to celebrate the human-animal bond at the inaugural "Paws and Patriots," a free military-appreciation event for pet owners from 3 to 5 p.m. April 28 at the Hawaiian Humane Society. The society is located at 2700 Waiialae Ave. in Honolulu.

The pet-friendly event will provide information to service members. Featuring informational booths and resource stations, the event is designed to inform military about ways to take better care of their furry friends.

A number of key topics will be discussed, including spay/neuter, microchipping, lost and found, preventative pet care, foster services for deployed troops and moving with a pet.

"We are so fortunate to host this gathering of our heroes in uniform. Pets are critical to their quality of life, and we are excited to sup-



Photo courtesy of Hawaii Military Pets

A Soldier spends time interacting with his dog. An event honoring military pet owners called Paws and Patriots is scheduled for April 28.

port efforts to promote this relationship," said Bonnie Osaki, education manager of Hawaiian Humane Society.

During the festivities, all military will receive half off adoptions, normally \$65. The event will also feature shelter tours and games

with the opportunity to meet Jr. Miss Hawaii and watch a performance by the Hawaii Pacific University Dance team.

The event is part of a series of events honoring service members in the spring by the Chamber of

Commerce of Hawaii. Every year, the Hawaii community holds several celebrations to give back to the troops for their sacrifices.

For more information, call the Hawaiian Humane Society at 946-2187.

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

Maniawa Nanea

LEISURE

Morale Welfare & Recreation

PROFESSIONAL BOWLING
The Professional Bowler Western Regional Tournament and Pro-Am will be held today through Sunday at the Hickam Bowling Center. Admission is free for spectators. The Senior Pro-Am matches will be held at 8 a.m. today and the Pro-Am matches from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The awards celebration will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday. FMI: 448-9959.

FREE GOLF CLINICS
There will be a free golf clinic at 9 a.m. Saturday on the Barbers Point Golf Course. FMI : 682-1911. A free golf clinic will also be held at the Mamala Bay Golf Course at 4 p.m. April 27. FMI : 449-2300.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DINNER DANCES
Father-daughter dinner dances will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday and May 5 at the Hickam Officers' Club lanai. The cost is \$15 for each father/daughter pair and \$5 per additional daughter. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com or call 474-1999, ext. 0.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
Earth Day will be celebrated in a free event from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at Scott Pool. FMI: 473-0394.

INTERMEDIATE GLASS FUSION II
A class on the art of glass fusion will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. April 24 and April 26 at the Hickam Arts and Crafts Center. Patrons have the option of choosing which date to attend. The cost of the class is \$40 per person plus the cost of supplies, with the class being open to those ages 14 and older. FMI: 448-9907.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
Preschool story time will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. April 25 at the base library. The theme is prince and princess MI: 449-8299.

ADVANCED SCREENING: "BATTLESHIP"
A free advanced screening of "BattleShip," filmed on location at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, will take place April 28 at Sharkey Theater. The ticket booth opens at 5 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are first-come, first-served for the first 450 authorized patrons. FMI: 473-0726.

INTRO TO SHORE CASTING
There will be an introduction to shore casting class from 9 a.m. to noon April 28 at Outdoor Recreation-Hickam Harbor. The gear, tackle, bait and instruction will be provided. The cost is \$25 per person. Sign-ups must be completed by April 25. FMI: 449-5215.

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

Community Calendar

April

20 ~ The Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (NAVSUP FLC PH) will hold an Earth Day Fair from 9 a.m. to noon at Kilo 8/9 Pier, the pier warehouse behind building 475. It will include displays on storm water pollution prevention, oil spill response, recycling and more. FMI: luke.dragovich@navy.mil or call 473-7818

21 ~ Volunteers are encouraged to participate in a Pearl Harbor Bike Path cleanup from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Blaisdell Park and Kapakahi Stream. Volunteers can contact MAC James Wooten at james.wooten2@navy.mil or 472-7149.

27 ~ The U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will host an arrival ceremony at 9 a.m. hangar 35 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to honor fallen U.S. personnel whose identities remain unknown. This event is open to the public. FMI: contact 448-1937 or visit the webpage at www.jpac.pacom.mil

28 ~ Turn in your unused or expired medications for safe, anonymous disposal from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the National Take Back Initiative at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) main lobby, 4725 Bougainville Drive. FMI: www.dea.gov or 541-1930.

30 ~ Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has scheduled an upcoming blood drive from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Makalapa Naval Health Clinic. FMI: 433-6699 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil.

At a glance

The Junior Officer (JO) Spouse Workshop Committee will host an event titled "Let's Talk" from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 1 at Lockwood Hall at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam. All spouses of Navy and Coast Guard officers pay grade O-1 to O-4 and chief warrant officer (CWO-1 to 5) are welcome to attend. RSVP by April 28 by calling Fleet and Family Support center at 474-1999 or email hawaii-ijospouse@gmail.com. Interested attendees can also obtain information by visiting the JO Spouse Ohana Hawaii Facebook page.

An Asian Pacific-American Month event will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. May 9 at the Military and Family Support Center, Hickam lanai at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The theme is "Striving for Excellence in Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion." Guest speaker for the event will be CWO3 Andrew Nguyen. Attendees must be seated 10 minutes prior to the start of the program. FMI: 449-0306.

Movie Showtimes



Battleship (PG-13)

A fleet of ships is forced to do battle with an armada of unknown origins in order to discover and thwart their destructive goals.

SHARKEY MOVIE THEATER

TODAY
7:00 PM Dr. Suess' The Lorax (PG)

SATURDAY
7:00 PM Advance Screening of "BattleShip"
Free to the first 450 authorized patrons. Tickets with assigned seating will be issued at 4 p.m from the ticket booth.

SUNDAY
2:30 PM Dr. Suess' The Lorax (PG)
4:30 PM The Vow (PG-13)
7:15 PM Gone (PG-13)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY
6:00 PM Dr. Seuss The Lorax (PG)
8:30 PM Silent House (R)

SATURDAY
4:00 PM John Carter (PG13)
7:00 PM Gone (PG13)

SUNDAY
2:00 PM John Carter (PG13)



Yellow Ribbon brings family closer

Senior Airman Crystal Charriere

Contributor, 624th Regional Support Group Public Affairs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Saying farewell to a husband, wife, father or mother who is leaving on a deployment can be difficult, and when they return it can be equally challenging to get back to the way things were before. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program helps families cope with saying “good-bye” and “welcome back.”

The Yellow Ribbon program provides information, support and outreach services to reservists and their families. Services include chaplain, family readiness, finance, health, and legal and military personnel flight support. They place emphasis on staying connected to families.

“It’s very informational;

you’re always learning because there are so many different topics,” said Napua Warnet, wife of Tech. Sgt. Sean Warnet, 48th Aerial Port Squadron. “Yellow Ribbon offers a bunch of classes that help you prep for the deployment, and when your family member gets back from deployment, the classes help you get back to how it was before they left. After the classes each day, you get to spend the rest of the afternoon as a family.”

The Warnets have been married for seven years and have three young children. In the last six years, Sean has deployed multiple times. Napua said Yellow Ribbon has helped her family handle her husband’s absences.

“Before his deployment to Qatar early last year, we went to a pre-deployment retreat with the Yellow Ribbon,” she said. “I thought it would be really

interesting, and after we went I asked him why he didn’t tell me about this before.”

Since their first retreat, the Warnet family has been to several Yellow Ribbon events, and Napua said she continues to learn something new from the classes.

She said it’s refreshing to participate in the Yellow Ribbon retreats because it’s stressful when her husband leaves, and said she enjoys being able to reconnect as a family.

“On one of his deployments, we had issues come up while he was gone, and it was hard because we were arguing and he was in a different country,” Napua said. “But the classes at the retreat helped us talk about everything more and work things out. It’s made us much closer. I strongly encourage everyone to go on the retreats.”

Federal Executive Board awards



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 David Kolmel

Morris Tamanaha, manager of the regional dispatch center for Navy Region Hawaii, receives an award for team excellence from Army Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher, commanding general of Pacific Regional Medical Command & Tripler Army Medical Center, during a ceremony to honor federal government employees. This was the 56th annual Excellence in Federal Government Award presentation, honoring employees from all the agencies in the federal government throughout the Pacific Region. The following Navy Region Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam employees were among those who also received awards: Employer of choice: Navy Region Hawaii; Supervisor/manager: (N3) Dennis Siler, regional emergency manager; Professional/admin/tech: (N3) Dan Dubois, emergency management officer, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Mentor of the Year: (N9) Chief Ship’s Serviceman (SW) Jose Martinez, complex LCPO; Clerical/assistant: (N8) Christine Kelly, financial technician; Leader of the Year: (N1/PSD) Chief Personnel Specialist (SW/AW) Jacqueline Stover, senior enlisted advisor; Community service: (JBPHH) Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Ronan R. Basat, UPH complex manager; Trades/crafts: (N9) Oscar Calma, warehouse worker.

NEX pharmacy begins taking handwritten prescriptions

Pacific Regional Medical Command

Tripler Army Medical Center has announced a new service at the satellite pharmacy located at the Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The NEX pharmacy began accepting handwritten prescriptions for formulary medications from civilian physicians March 15. As the pharmacy expands its services and hires additional employees, any prescription dropped off regardless of the day will be ready to pick up in 48 hours.

As the service is streamlined, prescriptions can be dropped off

Monday through Friday by 6 p.m., and they will be available for pickup within 48 business hours. In addition, the NEX pharmacy provides a new secure video teleconference service for those patients who desire to speak with a pharmacist if they have any questions on their medications, or should a pharmacist need to speak with them about their medication history. Patients can talk one-on-one with a licensed pharmacist at Tripler from the

convenience of the NEX location. For patient convenience, the NEX refill pharmacy is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed for lunch 2 to 2:30 p.m.) Call the Tripler pharmacy at 433-7880 or the NEX pharmacy at 422-2394 for more information.

Short on time? Use the online pharmacy system at <http://go.usa.gov/mOi> to check the status of a prescription or to order refill medications.

This Week in USAF and PACAF history

Charles Nicholls

PACAF historian

On April 16, 1916, the Lafayette Escadrille was established as a squadron of mostly American volunteer pilots flying and fighting for the French Air Service during World War I. The planes, mechanics, and the pilot uniforms



Maj. Leo K. Thorsness and his regular backseater, Capt. Harold Johnson are shown. Johnson flew 93 Wild Weasel missions over North Vietnam and received the Air Force Cross.

were French, as was the commander, Capt. Georges Thenault.

The squadron was originally named the Escadrille Américaine. For reasons of international diplomacy, the unit was re-named to honor the French military hero who aided the American Army during the American Revolution.

On April 18, 1943, the

Yamamoto Shootdown took place. Flying P-38 aircraft over Bougainville Island, 1st Lt. Rex T. Barber and Capt. Thomas G. Lanphier, Jr., intercepted and shot down a Japanese bomber carrying Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto.

The interception, meticulously planned and executed on the first anniversary of the Doolittle Raid, deprived the Japanese of one of their most brilliant naval officers. Maj. John W. Mitchell led the flight of 16 P-38s in which Barber and Lanphier flew.

On April 19, 1967, Maj. Leo K. Thorsness earned a Medal of Honor by protecting a mission to rescue downed airmen in North Vietnam. While flying an F-105 with low fuel, Thorsness shot down one MiG-17, damaged another, and drove off three more. Despite his urgent need for fuel, Thorsness elected to recover at a forward oper-



Flying P-38 aircraft over Bougainville Island 1st Lt. Rex T. Barber and Capt. Thomas G. Lanphier Jr. intercepted and shot down a Japanese bomber carrying Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto.

ating base, allowing another aircraft in emergency condition to refuel from an aerial tanker. Shortly after this incident, Thorsness was shot down, captured and held prisoner until his release on March 4, 1973.

On April 16, 2004, near

Kharbut, Iraq, two USAF HH-60G helicopters were dispatched to rescue the crew of a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter that had crashed in a sandstorm. The brown-out conditions left the rescue crews' infrared and night vision goggles ineffective.

Flying through multiple surface-to-air missile attacks, the HH-60s flew visual approaches to locate, rescue and evacuate all five Army crash survivors. For their outstanding actions, the HH-60G aircrews earned the Mackay Trophy.

C-47 ‘Cheeky Charley’ now on Ford Island

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor

Pacific Aviation Museum welcomes the famous Douglas DC-3 / C-47 - nicknamed "Cheeky Charley."

After flying missions in the Pacific for the US Army Air Force, it was turned over to the Australian government for service.

The aircraft's last night flight was on April 14, as it was towed to Pacific Aviation Museum. It is now parked in front of hangar 79 ready for restoration.

Photo courtesy of Pacific Aviation Museum Cheeky Charley has been relocated to Pacific Aviation Museum



SAAM flag football tournament to be held April 28

The Commander, United States Pacific Fleet (COM-PACFLT) Junior Enlisted Association and Navy Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Team will hold "Tackle Sexual Assault," an intramural, single-elimination flag football tournament at 11 a.m. April

28 at Makalapa pavilion and football field on the COM-PACFLT compound. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).

The rules of the tournament are:

. There must be eight players per team.

. At least two female mem-

bers must be on each team.

. Each team must have a name and a captain.

. The tournament is open to active duty military, Department of Defense personnel and their families.

. Captains must register by April 20.

. The tournament is only

open to 12 teams.

For registration and information, team captains may contact OS2 Alvin Balthazar, email alvin.balthazar@navy.mil or call 474-4373, or YN2 Rashard Leysath, email rashard.leysath@navy.mil, or call 471-9727.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii will have limited patient care on April 27

Susan Schultz

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

Due to all Naval Health Clinic Hawaii staff participating in mandatory semi-annual training, limited health care services will be available April 27.

Beneficiaries are asked to take this into consideration when scheduling health care. All routine care should be planned prior to or after April 27.

For Makalapa Clinic, there will be limited health care operations. Services available are laboratory, pharmacy and radiology. All other services are closed.

For Kaneohe Bay, Camp Smith and Wahiawa clin-

ics, all health care operations are closed. Makalapa Clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 28 and from 8 a.m. to noon April 29 for acute care needs. Kaneohe Bay, Camp Smith and Wahiawa clinics will open April 30 at their regular hours of operation. For NHCH hours of operation, visit the website at <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhch>.

To speak to a medical care provider anytime the clinics are closed, call the "provider after-hours advice line" at 473-0247, ext. 3. For emergencies, go to Tripler Army Medical Center, dial 911, or go to the nearest emergency department.