

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

REMEMBER, REFLECT

"Navigator"

# HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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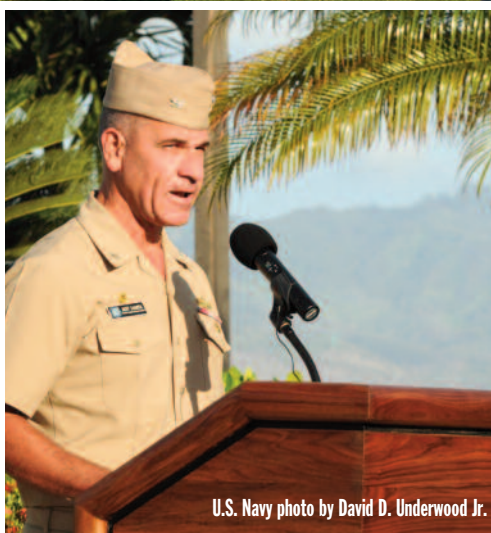
## PATRIOT DAY AT JBPHH



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



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



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



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

(Top, center) Navy Capt. Jeffrey James, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) commander, gives remarks to service members and civilian first responders near the "Missing Man Memorial" at JBPHH, during a Sept. 11 Patriots Day ceremony to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Flight 93. (Above) Navy Culinary Specialist 1st Class Richard Cravens and Air Force Airman 1st Class Thomas Bachtel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam honor guardsmen, prepare to raise the colors to half staff at the "Missing Man Memorial" at the Patriots Day ceremony. (Above right) Musician 3rd Class Geoff Scheusner, Pacific Fleet Band musician, plays "Taps."

## Hickam Elementary students remember 9/11

Story and photo by  
MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West,  
Detachment Hawaii

Students and staff of Hickam Elementary School along with firefighters from the Federal Fire Department marched around the lawn in front of Freedom Tower at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) for the fourth annual 9/11 Remembrance Parade honoring the fallen victims of the 9/11 attacks.

Before the youngsters headed out for their march, the Radford High School marching band played the National Anthem.

The Recruit Officer

Training Corps color guard led the students in their walk as they waved flags, shouted "U-S-A" and shook hands with service members and thanked them for their service.

"Being a dad of a kindergartener, I am extremely proud to see all the kids out here on this beautiful day," said Maj. Craig Swierzbis of 13th Air Force.

"It makes me feel really humbled just to know most of them don't know what this day is about, but the fact they are out here learning about it. They are the future of a great nation. Hopefully learning about it at this young age, they will learn more about the lessons we have learned since then



Students and staff from Hickam Elementary School parade in front of Freedom Tower on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of their fourth annual remembrance of the attacks on 9/11. (Additional photos on page A-5).

and make our great nation better," he said.

The children were sup-

ported and cheered on by parents and friends along the sidelines.

"Honoring the fallen victims who lost their lives in the terrorists

attacks, and also recognizing the service men and women who have defended our freedom ever since that day, helps us in our busy lives reflect on the moment, kind of brings us back to that time, and for the kids, many who were not even born yet," said John Erickson, principal of Hickam Elementary School.

Even as the kids became tired after their march, their spirits were still high as they ended the assembly singing "God Bless America."

"It was a great day. Everyone had a good time. There were a lot of smiling faces, a lot of happy kids, a lot of American flags flying," said Erickson. "You can't ask for a better day."

## Runners honor 9/11 victims at Siller Tunnel to Towers event

Story and photo by  
Fire Inspector  
Angela Sanders

Federal Fire Department

Several hundred military personnel, members of the Federal Fire Department, the Honolulu Fire Department and area residents gathered Sept. 9 to participate in the second annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers run.

The five-kilometer Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers stretched from the entrance of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH) Ford Island Bridge and back.

The annual 5K run is named after Stephen Siller, a New York City (NYC) firefighter who was on his way home when he heard of the hor-



Federal Fire Department personnel, Honolulu Fire Department members, military personnel and area residents participated in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Tunnel to Towers 9/11 five-kilometer run Sept. 9 at the Ford Island Bridge. (Additional photo on page A-5).

rible incident at the World Trade Center. He immediately turned around, headed back to the firehouse, and grabbed his firefighting

gear.

When he reached the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, it was closed due to traffic. He then parked his truck, put

on his gear which weighed more than 65 pounds, and ran approximately three miles to the World Trade Center. He was one of 343 first responders who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. In his memory, the Stephen Siller Foundation was created.

Every year since 2002, NYC participants retrace Stephen Siller's final steps through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel into Manhattan toward the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. The annual five-kilometer run event which initially started in NYC has now been held each year in several cities across the country and has become a nationwide event.

This year marked the second year

See SILLER RUN, A-2



Congratulations  
to new chief  
petty officers!

Chief petty officer selectees from Navy Region Hawaii will receive their anchors and be promoted to chief petty officers during a ceremony at 10 a.m. today at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

# Clean & Green

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



Keeping our bases clean and green is everyone's responsibility See page A-3



Pouhala Marsh and base cleanup See pages B-3 and B-5



# USS Louisville holds change of command

MC2 Steven Khor

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

A change of command ceremony was held Sept. 6 on the Los Angeles-class submarine the USS Louisville (SSN 724) at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Cmdr. Lee P. Sisco, commanding officer of Louisville, was relieved by Cmdr. Robert D. Figgs.

Guest speaker Capt. Douglas G. Perry, chief of staff for the Joint Force Development Directorate on the joint staff and Sisco's former commanding officer and mentor, praised Sisco for his exceptional performance while in command of Louisville.

"Lee, you've done an



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

Cmdr. Lee P. Sisco is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) by Cmdr. Robert D. Figgs.

immense service to the country. We are in your debt, and you have a very bright future in front of you," said Perry.

Sisco said he was honored to have the opportunity to command Louisville and acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer was because of the crew and their hard work.

"I know I drove you hard and was demanding, but you listened to what I asked," said Sisco to his assembled crew. "We tried to do things the right way, and we did the right things."

Following his remarks, Sisco was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from January 2010 to September 2012.

As Figgs assumed com-

mand of Louisville, he addressed the crew about the future. "To the officers and men of Louisville, I have had the opportunity to observe you operate the ship over the past several weeks. I have also had the opportunity to sit down and personally talk with most of you," said Figgs. "I am impressed and truly believe that we have an outstanding crew."

Sisco's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards) and Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards) as well as numerous unit awards.

Sisco will report for duty to, Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn. as the branch head for enlisted nuclear and submarine assignments.

## Immunization exercise to take place Sept. 18-20

1st Lt.  
Kathleen Eisenbrey

15th Medical Group

Air Force leaders from the 15th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) received their annual influenza vaccinations Sept. 6 in preparation for a mass-immunizations exercise scheduled for Sept. 18-20.

The Citadel SHOTEX 12 is a, mass-immunization exercise involving medical personnel from Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, 13th Air Force, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, the 15th Wing Medical Group and the 154th Medical Group. The exercise aims to vaccinate approximately 12,000 military personnel and category 1 and 5 civilian personnel.

"The Citadel SHOTEX 12 will test the capability of the Air Force and Navy to rapidly respond to a pandemic event," said Dan

DuBois, director of emergency management for joint base.

"It is our goal to vaccinate 70 percent of shore-based active duty personnel and 70 percent of category 1 and 5 civilians stationed on Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam within three days."

"Early vaccination is key to a successful seasonal flu vaccination campaign," said Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander. "It is of the utmost importance that first-line supervisors ensure personnel attend the immunizations exercise during their unit's scheduled chalk time."

There will be two distribution points: Bloch Arena on Pearl Harbor and the Makai Recreation Center on Hickam. Hours at Bloch Arena will be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 18-19 and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 20. Hours at the Makai Recreation Center will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 18-20.

"The (point of distribution) lay-



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

Staff Sgt. Aimee Braxton, 15th Medical Operations Squadron NCO in charge of immunizations, gives a shot to Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, Sept. 6 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

out at the Makai Recreation Center has been designed to accommodate approximately a

10-minute processing time for units consisting of 200 personnel," said Staff Sgt. Aimee

Braxton, NCO in charge of the Hickam immunizations clinic and joint vaccine working group representative.

In conjunction with the SHOTEX at JBPHH, the majority of Department of Defense personnel stationed on Oahu will be participating in simultaneous mass immunization exercises.

"The island-wide vaccination goal is to immunize 30,000 military personnel within 72 hours," said Lance Golder, military vaccine analyst at Pacific Command and joint vaccine working group advisor.

For information regarding scheduled chalk times, personnel should contact their unit's command master chief, first sergeant and unit deployment manager or designated ombudsman. It is requested that all personnel bring their common access card and a completed copy of a SF600 that has been distributed electronically to their units.

## Siller Run commemorates 9/11

Continued from A-1

of JBPHH participation in the annual run. Last year JBPHH held the third largest event, with more than 1,000 runners, honoring both the victims of 9/11 and those of Dec. 7, 1941.

The JBPHH Tunnel to Towers 5K run began with the sounding of the sirens from Federal Fire Department engine 104, which officially led the event at the entrance to the Ford Island Bridge. Runners of all ages with pets and strollers ran, jogged, walked and rolled onto the bridge.

On the way back to the finish line, as a token

of their *aloha* for all the tragic lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, runners were able to present lei and touch a piece of the World Trade Center. The steel piece from the World Trade Center was displayed on the bridge to represent the attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001 and to provide encouragement to all runners.

Federal Fire Department Chief Glenn DeLaura stated, "This event provides us an opportunity to 'never forget' the tremendous loss to America and the New York City Fire Department. It also reminds us how Americans use tragic events like this for positive purposes."



# Holly Petraeus speaks about financial issues at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Story and photo by  
Brandon Bosworth

Contributing Writer

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel hosted two town hall meetings featuring Holly Petraeus of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Sept. 6. Petraeus, along with U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa and Bruce Kim, executive director of the Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection, discussed financial topics of importance to service members and their families.

Founded in 2011, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a fairly new government agency.



Holly Petraeus, assistant director of the office of service member affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, addressed military financial concerns at a Sept. 6 town hall meeting.

Petraeus explained some of the bureau's key functions, including informing con-

sumers of their rights and monitoring the activities of financial institutions such as banks, lenders and debt collectors. "If a company does something unfair, abusive, or fraudulent, we have an enforcement division that can go after them in court," she said.

Petraeus is the assistant director of the office of service member affairs section of the agency. "We try to see that all service members get the financial education they need to make better consumer decisions," she said.

There are a couple of key points of concern for the office of service member affairs. One is military homeowners who, like many other Americans,

may be experiencing difficulties in the wake of the real estate bubble bursting. According to Petraeus, her office is working with state attorney generals to craft special policies for military families facing foreclosure or similar problems.

Another issue is for-profit colleges and universities who target the military. While acknowledging that there are some good for-profit schools, Petraeus noted there are things potential students should be aware of.

"More than half of those who enroll in one of these institutions doesn't graduate," she said. "And more than half who do finish fail to find jobs." Petraeus cited

a study showing that some for-profit schools and universities spend more on advertising than they do on their students. She added that many of these institutions lack proper accreditation, which could pose a serious problem for graduates when they enter the job market.

The office of service member affairs also assists military personnel who believe they have been unfairly treated by a financial institution. "We've received 2,500 complaints from the military since opening last year," said Petraeus.

Petraeus stressed that it is important for service members to come forward with their financial issues.

"You can help someone else by telling your stories," she said. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau can be contacted via their website, [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov). Making a complaint can get results.

"So far we have managed to get back \$250,000 for consumers," said Petraeus. "When a company gets something in the mail on federal government letterhead, they tend to react."

"It's a capitalist society, and companies are allowed to try to make money," said Petraeus. "But they aren't allowed to cheat or deceive you."

For more information or to make a complaint, visit [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov).

## Commentary

# Keeping our bases clean and green is everyone's responsibility

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

First impressions can be lasting.

Like most of you now reading this, I have the pleasure of living and working in Hawaii. It's both a pleasure and a privilege.

We can never take that privilege for granted. We work in one of the most strategically important and most historically significant regions in our Navy.

This is where World War II in the Pacific began on Dec. 7, 1941.

1945. Today, Hawaii is home to two key strategic Navy installations – Pacific Missile Range Facility and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Hawaii is our home. As we consider the pleasure and privilege of living here as part of the Hawaii *ohana*, let's consider another word: responsibility.

Whenever I have the opportunity to walk to and from home, I think about how lucky we are to be here, able to make a difference for our Navy and our nation. It is our responsibility as good citizens, as responsible Sailors and as caring members of this *ohana* —

to do our part to protect the environment and keep our base clean and green. If you see litter, pitch in and pitch it in.

To those of you who make a conscientious effort to ensure base cleanliness and a professional appearance, thank you.

Our installations—waterfront and shore-front, harbor and flight-lines—host dignitaries from the state, leaders from our nation's capital and visitors from around the world.

Let's consider how their perception is shaped by our actions. Let's ensure we're making a good and lasting first impression.

## Basewide cleanup to take place Sept. 20

A base-wide cleanup of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. Sept. 20.

Command-wide participation is highly encouraged.

Focus will be on high-visibility areas, waterfront,

along the perimeter of the base and your respective areas.

For equipment and supplies, contact the first lieutenant shop: BU1 Jeremy Harman at 471-3521 or [Jeremy.harman@navy.mil](mailto:Jeremy.harman@navy.mil).

## JPAC to host POW/MIA recognition day ceremony Sept. 21

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will honor the nation's heroes and commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day during a ceremony at 10 a.m. Sept. 21 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

This year's program will be led by Johnie Webb, JPAC deputy to the commander for public relations and legislative affairs.

The keynote speaker, retired Army Col. William S. Reeder Jr., was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. During his second tour in Vietnam, Reeder was shot down and captured on May 9, 1972 by the communist North Vietnamese while on a combat mission in South Vietnam.

He was released on March 27, 1973 after being held captive for nearly a year.

Highlights this year include a wreath-laying ceremony, speeches and a rendition of Taps played in honor of former prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

The ceremony is free and open to the public. Organizations are welcome to participate in the wreath ceremony by laying a wreath or flowers. R.S.V.P. to Elizabeth Feeney no later than noon Sept. 19.

Appropriate attire for the event is military Class B or service equivalent or civilian casual or *aloha* wear.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employing more than 450 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts.

Since 2003, JPAC has identified more than 740 Americans. Combined with the efforts of its predecessor units, close to 1,830 Americans have been identified since the accounting effort began in the 1970s.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery, and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts.

For more information, call Feeney at 448-1937 or visit JPAC's website [www.jpac.pacom.mil](http://www.jpac.pacom.mil).



## Sailor, Airman work on aircraft

Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Gilbert Morales, (left), of Maguabo, Puerto Rico, and Airman Jorgi L. Gali of Ponce, Puerto Rico, remove a panel from a Fleet Composite Squadron Eight (VC-8) S-2F Tracker Anti-Submarine Aircraft in 1970 at U.S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. National Hispanic Heritage Month will be observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Photo by PH1 Patrick C. Wilkerson  
U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command

## Diverse Views

"What ideas do you have for beautifying Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam?"

Lt. Col. Teresa Darrow  
Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command/J1



"Add more decorative and colorful native tropical plant and floral displays throughout main areas of the base and within base housing."



Lt. Joseph Fackrell (Reserves)  
Undersea Warfare Operations Detachment G

"It already looks good to me as far as military bases go."

Solome Allen  
Military spouse



"Creating a space for a community garden would help to add more green places on base. It would also make an opportunity to bring the community on base closer."



Cryptologic Technician 3  
Kameron Hatton  
Naval Information Operations Command Hawaii

"I think the base looks great as is. To me, what really counts are the Sailors and the ships."

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and Brandon Bosworth)

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

Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)

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# JBPHH hosts ombudsmen appreciation dinner

Story and photo by  
MC2 Jon Dasbach

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West  
Detachment Hawaii

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam held an appreciation dinner for the ombudsmen of Navy Region Hawaii (COMNAVREG HI), Commander, Submarine Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two (COMPATRECONWING Two) on Sept. 7.

The dinner was an assembly of the ombudsmen who support the Navy and Marine Corps commands on the island of Oahu and to express the importance of the ombudsman program for service members and their families stationed in Hawaii.

“A job to provide information and guidance to the spouses and families that remain behind is more important than I can tell you,” said Capt. Daryl L. Caudle, chief of staff, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.



Capt. Daryl L. Caudle, chief of staff, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, talks about the importance of ombudsmen to the service member's families during the ombudsmen appreciation dinner held at the Hickam Officers Club. The annual dinner is held to show the appreciation and express the importance of the region's ombudsmen.

“That's how important you are. The Navy actually makes you a requirement,” Caudle said.

As a liaison between the family members and the command, an ombudsman's job is to keep the families informed about what's going on with the service members and to be there as a point of

contact in case of an emergency.

“We're the link between the command and the families. We are there to assist the families with any kind of information they may need to direct them to the resources that are available to them,” said Lori Boehler, ombudsman for Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

“The ombudsman is able to communicate with the family members,” said Stephanie Schultz, ombudsman for USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and assembly chair member. “If there's an important issue that the service member or his or her command needs to know about, the ombudsman can get that

information through a much faster way.”

Ombudsmen also play an important role in the morale and welfare of the service members, especially while deployed.

“Without family readiness, we can't go out and do our jobs. We can't go out and deploy our ships, we can't deploy our submarines, we can't fly the aircraft. A happy Sailor and a happy home is vital to the readiness of our nation,” said Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief Brian Ortega.

With Hawaii being so far away from the rest of the United States, the ombudsman role in Hawaii plays a crucial part for inbound service members and their families.

“When people transfer out here, there's a lot of information, and it's a little different than a transfer or PCS move on the mainland,” said Boehler. “We give them information about the area and what to expect when they arrive on island.”

Through the years, the

ombudsman program has advanced and become more efficient with technology such as e-mail and social media, but they have also become more well known by the service members and their families.

“Nowadays, even our young junior Sailors see their ombudsman at command indoctrination when they first check aboard,” said Command Master Chief John Ullery of USS Chosin (CG 65). “Back when I was a young junior Sailor, 28 and a-half years ago, I didn't know who my ombudsman was. I didn't know what an ombudsman was.”

In 1970, Adm. E.R. Zumwalt, Jr. created the Navy Family Ombudsman Program to improve communication between commands and Sailors' families. In 2006, Adm. Michael G. Mullen re-emphasized the importance of the program and signed an updated instruction highlighting the requirement that all Navy families have access to the program.

## USS Hawaii visits Philippines during western Pacific deployment

Lt. Lara R. Bollinger

Submarine Group 7 Public  
Affairs

SUBIC BAY, Republic of the Philippines (NNS) – The Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776), homeported at Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, arrived in Subic Bay on Sept. 7 as part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

USS Hawaii conducted a coordinated moor with submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40) to receive tended support during the visit.

With a crew of approxi-

mately 130 Sailors, USS Hawaii conducts a multitude of missions and showcases the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet.

The visit to Subic Bay presents an opportunity for Sailors to strengthen ties with their counterparts in the Philippines, participate with Frank Cable Sailors in community service events in Olangapo and enjoy crew rest and relaxation.

“Our Sailors have worked very hard for 14 months, qualifying and diligently training on various watch stations throughout the sub,” said Master Chief Electronics



The Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) pulls alongside the submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40).

Technician John Perryman, Hawaii's chief of the boat.

“Western Pacific deployments and their liberty ports are the reward that makes all of our crew's efforts worthwhile.”

This is the first visit to the Philippines for many of the crew members, but some of USS Hawaii's crew members have family in the Philippines and are taking time to reach out to them during this visit.

“I can't wait to get some time to call home, see the sites, and connect with my family in Manila,” said Culinary Specialist Seaman Apprentice Sedale

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Jennifer L. Walker



# Pearl Harbor-Hickam*Highlights*



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Eduardo Canales takes the Navy-wide advancement exam for first class petty officer at the Club Pearl Liberty Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

(Right) Command Master Chief Marcos F. Sibál oversees the raising of the American tribute flag Sept. 12 in front of building 150, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth



Brian Yim (right), deputy project superintendent of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, briefs Adm. Cecil B. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, on the status of the USS Texas (SSN 775) extended dry-docking selected restricted availability. Haney visited the shipyard to learn more about the Navy's largest ship repair facility between the west coast and the Far East.

U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki



(Right) Federal Fire Department engine 104, Ford Island Fire Station, led the second annual Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Tunnel to Towers 9/11 five-kilometer run Sept. 8 on the Ford Island Bridge.

U.S. Navy photo by Fire Inspector Angela Sanders



(Far left) A student from Hickam Elementary School pauses during the annual walk in remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001 to show his drawing to a parent.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Diana Quinlan

(Left) A student from Hickam Elementary School shakes hands with Maj. Craig Swierzbins of 13th Air Force, thanking him for his service during the fourth annual remembrance of the attacks on 9/11.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tierra Fulgham





# 15th Medical Group introduces Reach Out and Read Literacy Program

## 15th Medical Group

Getting books from the doctor is now a routine part of regular pediatric checkups at the 15th Medical Group (MDG) pediatric and family health clinics as doctors and nurses welcome the Reach Out and Read program to the practice.

The 15th MDG joins more than 4,946 programs nationwide and more than 60 military Reach Out and Read Programs worldwide that are preparing America’s youngest children to succeed in school.

Doctors, nurse practitioners and other medical professionals incorporate Reach Out and Read’s evidence-based model into regular pediatric checkups by advising par-

ents about the importance of reading aloud and giving developmentally-appropriate books to children.

The program begins at the six-month checkup and continues through age five with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities. Families served by Reach Out and Read read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies and stronger language skills, better prepared to achieve their potential.

Pediatric healthcare providers are trained in the three-part Reach Out and Read model to promote early literacy and school readiness:

- In the exam room, doctors and nurses speak with parents about the importance of reading aloud to their young children every day and

offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement.

- The pediatric primary care provider gives every child six months through five years old a new, developmentally-appropriate children’s book to take home and keep.

- In the waiting room, displays, information and books create a literacy-rich environment. Volunteer readers entertain children, modeling for parents the pleasures – and techniques – of reading aloud.

“Reach Out and Read is such an efficient and effective concept,” said Earl Martin Phalen, chief executive officer. “Childhood development experts tell us that the most important thing that parents can do to prepare their children to succeed in school is to read aloud to them every day.

“Promoting early literacy and school readiness through regular pediatric checkups is a simple model that has a lasting, invaluable impact on the life of a child,” said Phalen.

Medical research shows that literacy-promoting interventions by the pediatrician have a significant effect on parental behaviors, beliefs and attitudes toward reading aloud. For more than a decade, studies have indicated that parents who get books and literacy counseling from their doctors and nurses are more likely to read to their young children, read to them more often, and provide more books in the home. In addition, children served by Reach Out and Read enter kindergarten with a six-month developmental edge and have larger vocabularies and stronger language skills.

“I’m very excited that we were able to obtain a grant for Reach out and Read here. The children love getting a book for their well baby visits and not only does it provide a positive association with the visit, but it also provides a means for us to encourage our parents to read to their children,” said Lt Col Michelle Flores, element leader for pediatrics and the Reach Out and

Read coordinator at the 15th MDG.

## About Reach Out and Read

Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based, national non-profit organization that prepares America’s youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. Reach Out and Read currently serves one-third of the most impoverished children in the United States.

The Reach Out and Read model is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the program has one of the strongest records of research support of any primary care intervention.

This year, Reach Out and Read’s 28,460 volunteer doctors and nurse practitioners will provide 6.5 million new books to more than 4 million children at 4,946 healthcare locations in all 50 states.

For more information, visit Reach Out and Read’s website at [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org).

# Pearl Harbor submarine commands participate in damage control Olympics

## Story and photo by MC2 Steven Khor

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

Sailors from USS Columbia (SSN 771), USS Texas (SSN 775), USS North Carolina (SSN 777) and USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) competed against each other in a damage control Olympics held Sept. 5. The event was organized by Naval Submarine Support Command Pearl Harbor (NSSC), at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

The events consisted of pipe patching repair, flooding, fire hose handling, emergency medical relay, fire extinguisher handling and a communication exercise.

“We are using this event as a way to get the guys off

the boat, have a little fun, and use it as a training exercise,” said Senior Chief Electrician’s Mate Michael Robinson, NSSC organizer. “This is our first time having the event, and it’s a way to give back to the training program.”

Robinson said that the evolution was to reinforce the fundamentals of basic damage control on a submarine, showing personnel how to handle an emergency situation correctly.

The four different teams consisted of personnel not to exceed 30 years total for any one team. Each team took their turn in the various fire-fighting, medical and flooding evolutions.

“I have learned a lot today. One of the fun parts was using the pipe patch, something I have not done since submarine school,” said



Sailors from the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) and USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) participate in a pipe-patching exercise Sept. 5.

Machinist’s Mate Fireman LeeRoy Andrew Ybarra from USS City of Corpus Christi. “I had a lot of fun, and I feel a lot more comfortable now

to handle an emergency casualty situation.”

Upon completion of the event, there was a barbecue at the pier, and NSSC

instructors reviewed training with all the participants.

USS Columbia (SSN 771) was the overall winner at

the event and received bragging rights as the damage control champion. Robinson said NSSC plans to have the damage control Olympics as a quarterly event.

The commanding officer of NSSC, Cmdr. Brett Fillmore, was on hand to greet the Sailors and thank them for participating.

Parting words came from NSSC’s Command Master Chief James Miller.

“It was impressive to see all the Sailors train each other, and they did a really good job. It’s a great way to step up,” Miller said.

NSSC provides quality operational support in areas including operations, material and communications to submarines homeported at Pearl Harbor, their crews, families and the staffs of Submarine Squadrons 1 and 7.

# NAVFAC Pacific honors 17 decades of service to the nation

Catherine Cruz Norton

Naval Facilities  
Engineering Command  
Pacific Public Affairs



In commemoration of the 170th birthday of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), NAVFAC Pacific recently hosted a cake-cutting ceremony in its Pearl Harbor headquarters to honor decades of proud naval history and service to the nation.

Rear Adm. Kate Gregory, NAVFAC Pacific commander, said commemorating 170 years is a significant milestone for NAVFAC.

“Today we pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of the men and women who came before us, and we reflect on their tireless efforts to support our great nation and allied countries,” said Gregory. “It is an honor to be part of such a long legacy of construction and engineering ingenuity.”

The 13th Secretary of the Navy, Abel P. Upshur, officially established NAVFAC’s predecessor, the

Bureau of Naval Yards and Docks, in 1842 to execute the design, construction and maintenance of Navy yards and a few other shore stations around the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Eventually the bureau and its responsibilities would grow into the global enterprise known as NAVFAC, which was officially established in May 1966.

Current day NAVFAC

has 16 commands located in the United States, Europe, Southwest Asia and the Far East.

NAVFAC is the Navy systems command that delivers and maintains high quality, sustainable facilities, acquires and manages capabilities for the Navy’s expeditionary combat forces, enables energy security and environmental stewardship, and provides humanitarian and contin-

gency engineering response.

Within the Pacific area of responsibility, NAVFAC Pacific provides engineering and acquisition expertise to the U.S. Pacific Fleet by serving as the Navy’s facilities, installation and contingency engineers.

The command is the headquarters for NAVFAC in the Pacific with three facility engineering commands (FEC) within its area of responsibility (AOR) including, NAVFAC Far East, NAVFAC Hawaii and NAVFAC Marianas. Each FEC serves as the primary touch point for all facility, installation and contingency requirements

covering Japan, Diego Garcia, Guam and Hawaii.

“The Pacific is extremely strategic for our Navy and Marine Corps, and for decades NAVFAC Pacific has been instrumental in successfully fulfilling facility and engineering requirements in this AOR,” said Gregory.

“The NAVFAC presence is visible throughout the Pacific whether through mission requirements or humanitarian aid,” Gregory said. “I am proud of our Civil Engineer Corps officers, Seabees and civilians for their collective commitment to our country.”

## ETG Sailor pays tribute to USS Arizona fallen with re-enlistment

Expeditionary Training  
Group Public Affairs

A Sailor assigned to Expeditionary Training Group in Virginia Beach, Va. re-enlisted at the historic USS Arizona (BB 39) Memorial Museum while in Hawaii supporting Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise Aug 23.

When Yeoman 1st Class (AW) Denisse Gallardo realized she would be in Hawaii for three weeks supporting the RIMPAC exercise, she took advantage of the opportunity to re-enlist at the memorial.

The memorial pays homage to the officers and

crew who died when Arizona exploded and sank during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

“It’s a historic place for the Navy and our country,” said Gallardo. “The way I look at it, it was the opportunity of a lifetime – I just took advantage of it.”

Arizona was hit by a bomb that triggered a massive explosion in its forward magazine and caused the ship to sink in just nine minutes, killing 1,177 men. Their sacrifice was an important reason for Gallardo to choose to re-enlist at the memorial.

“It was actually a little

emotional—more emotional than I thought it would be,” said Gallardo of her visit to the museum. “When you think back, read the history, watch the movies, or read the articles (about Pearl Harbor), you never really know the feeling. It was very emotional thinking about it.

“Being in the military with families we do make sacrifices by deploying, and you know it’s our job to do what we do, but I don’t think our sacrifice compares to what they did. I think it’s something major, and you can’t help but feel grateful,” explained Gallardo. “Because of what they did, we’re here now.”

## Air Force Spice testing lab goes full throttle

Courtesy Air Force  
Surgeon General  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFNS) – The Air Force Spice Testing Lab recently became fully operational in support of the Air Force’s focus on quality Airmen. The new lab establishes a robust urinalysis testing program as part of the Air Force’s ongoing efforts to deter use of “Spice,” the common name for synthetic cannabinoids.

The Spice lab is capable of handling 2,500 active-duty Air Force samples per month, with the potential to increase testing to 60,000 samples per year. Equipped with two liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) instruments and a trained staff, the lab is taking over the full Spice-testing responsibility from a commercial contract laboratory that previously handled the testing.

Over the past year, the Air Force has made significant strides in the deterrence of Spice abuse among its members. Spice compounds are sprayed onto plant matter that is then generally smoked, causing hallucinogenic, psychotic and other harmful and sometimes deadly effects.

In July 2012, the president signed legislation placing 15 of these compounds on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. However, the possession and use of any synthetic compounds, such as Spice and other intoxicating substances other than alcohol and tobacco, remain strictly prohibited for Airmen.

In 2011, the Air Force dedicated funds to set up its own Spice lab at the Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory. In November, the Spice lab team began developing a high throughput method for processing samples.

By March, the team had reduced the analysis time for samples by one-third. Additional manpower further optimized the method, which will allow commanders to send in samples from an entire unit, maximizing the deterrence effect of the program.

The lab will continue to research testing for additional Spice compounds as new compounds emerge to ensure the program remains an effective deterrence mechanism for commanders.

The Spice lab will also continue to direct samples collected as part of an open law enforcement investigation to the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System. Active-duty Air Force commanders can send samples that are either commander-directed or taken as a part of unit, dorm and gate sweeps to the Air Force Spice Testing Lab for testing.





# Life & Leisure

B

## IMAGINATION MOVERS

motivate youngsters  
at JBPHH Day for Kids



**Don Robbins**  
Assistant Editor

Through a series of songs and dances emphasizing that with imagination anything is possible, the Imagination Movers performed at this year's Day for Kids celebration Sept. 9 at Ward Field at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The Day for Kids also included free food and activities, such as bounce houses and games.

Four friends in New Orleans formed the Imagination Movers

band in 2003: Rich Collins, Scott Durbin, Dave Poche and Scott "Smitty" Smith.

They have filmed three seasons of their children's music-and-comedy series for Disney Junior.

Their motto is "Reach high, think big, work hard, have fun!"

The Imagination Movers TV show currently airs in more than 55 countries and territories in 12 languages.

The Imagination Movers also tour extensively. Their 2011 "In a Big Warehouse" tour attracted 150,000 fans.





# Dream Chasers turn lights off on Pound Town

**Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz**

*Sports Editor*

At 5-1 and only a game behind the league-leading Dream Chasers, the future seems pretty bright for the Pound Town basketball squad.

However, once the two teams laced them up in a showdown of the Summer Basketball League's top two on Sept. 8, it was the Dream Chasers that took the spotlight by shining past Pound Town, 75-41, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

The runaway win placed the Dream Chasers in full command of the league with an undefeated 7-0 record, while Pound Town fell to 5-2.

"We got a lot of tall people, so we can rebound," explained Dream Chasers center Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Eric Cotton about the lopsided victory. "And then, just running the floor, we got a lot of athletic players, so we just like to shoot up and down the court."

Cotton led all scorers in the first half with 12 points and finished with a total of 17, which included a three-pointer late in the second half.

Still, Cotton wasn't the only member of the Dream Chasers' frontline that gave Pound Town problems throughout the game.

Cotton and fellow front-court players Marine Staff Sgt. Julius Johnson and former Navy chief and now Department of Defense civilian Troy McCloud, dominated the boards and



Dream Chasers shooting guard Electronics Technician Seaman Vince Hutter puts up a floater past Pound Town forward Airman 1st Class Vince Kruzona during a Summer Basketball League matchup at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

prevented Pound Town shooters from getting second shots.

Pound Town took an early 4-2 lead on back-to-back lay-ups from Airman 1st Class Marshaun Roan, but after that it was all Dream Chasers as the team went on a 14-0 run to take a 16-4 advantage en route to its one-sided win.

Roan said that the team's inability to get offensive rebounds proved to be its downfall.

"Their size made it hard to keep up with them," admitted Roan, who led Pound Town with 21 points, which included three three-point baskets. "We couldn't get anything on the inside in the first half, and they were just forcing us to take a lot of (outside) shots."

Once the Dream Chasers pulled down a rebound, the team went to work by turning fast breaks into easy baskets.

A dunk off of a break-away by Dream Chasers forward Marine Cpl. J.R. Martin raised the team's lead to 20 points at 29-9 with 3:09 remaining in the first half before an alley-oop pass from Cotton to Johnson led to a 34-18 lead at intermission.

"If they (Pound Town) only get one shot and they miss it, and every time we get the rebound and come down and score, you can break the lead open very quickly," said Dream Chasers shooting guard Electronics Technician Seaman Vince Hutter. "Our big guys can rebound, so I let them do their job and I'll just sneak out and get a couple of threes myself."

Following halftime,

Hutter did more than just get a couple of threes as the Dream Chasers guard went crazy from the outside.

At the end of the first half, Hutter had six points, but exploded for 19 points in the second half on five three-point baskets and two more closer shots from the perimeter.

"They (frontline) made it easy for me. I can't complain at all," Hutter said. "Wide open shots are my favorite. Once it starts falling, it's hard to stop."

With the Dream Chasers crashing the boards and Hutter knocking down treys, Johnson, who finished with 14 points, all but sealed the game at the 9:00 mark in the second half when he sank two free throws to double the team's lead over Pound Town at 54-27.

Regardless of the final margin, Cotton said that he was happy to walk off the court with a win.

Entering the showdown against Pound Town, Cotton revealed that the Dream Chasers would be without the services of one of their starting big men, Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Trae Caple and starting guards, Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Aaron Jackson and Engineman 2nd Class Brandon Thomason.

"We were nervous coming into the game because Jackson, our point guard, is gone, and Brandon, our two guard, is also gone," Cotton said. "Our other big man Trae was not here, so we had a lot of guys missing. But it's still just put the ball in the hoop, so it worked to our favor today."



# SNAFU Gold rides big inning to thump Tsunami

Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Down by a run, SNAFU Gold batted around the order and then some to tally 10 runs in the top of the fourth and rally to a 17-5 mercy-rule victory Sept. 8 over the Tsunami in a Winter Softball League (WSL) opener at Millican Field, Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The matchup was part of a nine-game, season-opening-day series that pitted 18 teams from the WSL's American and National Leagues.

The WSL is a pay-to-play league, which is open to active duty, dependents and Department of Defense employees who are 18 years or older.

"In retrospect, you got to just kind of buckle down and figure out what's going on," said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Mike Dilone about SNAFU's big fourth inning. "Once we started getting our groove, it was kind of momentum for the team, so we started making things happen."

After jumping out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning, SNAFU added another run in the top of the second when Boatswain's Mate 1st Class David Oswalt doubled to lead off the inning and was driven home on a single by Hospital Corpsman 1st Class David Gloria.



Retired Chief Information Systems Technician Lloyd Shoemaker, pitcher for SNAFU Gold softball team, delivers a toss during the team's matchup against the Tsunami at Millican Field, Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Tsunami bounced back to score two runs in the bottom half of the frame, and after SNAFU made it 4-2 in the top of the third, the Tsunami lived up to their name by taking the lead on the crest of a three-run wave in the bottom of the inning.

The one-run lead was short-lived, however, as SNAFU quickly struck to tie the score in the top of the fourth when Gloria led off with a single and was driven

home, one out later, on a hit by pitcher retired Chief Information Systems Technician Lloyd Shoemaker.

Then with two outs and bases loaded, Storekeeper 2nd Class Niko Langas came up with a clutch base hit to drive in two runs.

The timely single seemed to stir the SNAFU batting order as the team erupted for seven more runs before a ground out by Shoemaker

finally brought the ordeal for the Tsunami to an end.

After Langas' big hit, SNAFU received additional two-run, two-out blows from the bats of retired veteran Dwayne Hassell and Oswalt.

Adjustments at bat, Oswalt said, were the key in awakening the team's attack at the plate.

"He (Tsunami pitcher) was throwing it kind of flat, and it was falling a little

short – causing a lot of people to reach for it," Oswalt explained. "But once we got used to it, we started hitting the ball hard."

Dilone also added that with the score in favor of the Tsunami, he and his teammates knew it was time to step up.

"Absolutely there was a sense of urgency," he admitted. "You just got to pick it up. You just got to say, 'Hey, what am I doing wrong?'"

You figure it out and make it right."

In the very next inning, Dilone completed the team's comeback by stepping up to the plate and slamming a leadoff inside-the-park home run to give SNAFU a 10-run lead.

"He tried to choke me on the inside and it was a strike, so I just nailed it," Dilone said about his homer. "A lot people think I'm slow, but I'm not. As soon as I hit second, I'm like, 'Well, you got to fire at me to get me.' So I just kicked it into high gear and ran home."

SNAFU tacked on a couple more runs to make it 17-5, and that was all Shoemaker needed to close the door on the 10-run, mercy-rule win.

Shoemaker retired the side in order in the first and fourth innings before tossing his third shutout inning in the fifth and final frame.

In assessing the victory, Dilone said that he was very satisfied with the team's play on the field and at the plate.

Although this was the season opener, Dilone said that if SNAFU continues to play up to their potential, he believes that the team will go far.

"I think we're pretty versatile from what I've seen in this first game on defense and offense," Dilone stated.

"We got a lot of good hitters, a lot of great players and experience on this team, so I think we're just going to take the whole thing."

## Slamming MEPS brings HIANG 10-year reign to end

Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

For the past decade, no team has dominated base intramural sports as much as the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG), which had won nine volleyball titles at Hickam before capturing the first joint base championship last season.

While the squad seemed primed and ready to make another run at the crown, the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) team had other ideas.

In a Sept. 11 quarterfinal showdown of the two volleyball powers, the MEPS, behind a hard-hitting front-line, ended the HIANG's amazing run by defeating the defending champs in straight sets, 25-24 and 25-21 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

An elated outside hitter Spc. Fealofani Maugelei thanked God and his teammates for the huge victory and stated that everyone had to work very hard to beat the HIANG.

"Our game plan for today was play along, have fun and teamwork," he said. "It was all teamwork. Everything was coordinated, coming from the pass to the setter to

hitter. That's how we executed."

From the very start, the contest was a nail-biter with both teams exchanging blasts and leads throughout the game.

In the first set, the teams went back and forth for the first six points until MEPS was able to string together three straight points behind the service of Army Sgt. Rahim Fuiava to take a 6-3 lead.

The team slowly raised its advantage to 11-6, but that's when the HIANG summoned up its championship spirit and fought back.

After a side-out narrowed the gap to 11-7, the HIANG rallied behind the service of Tech. Sgt. Ronnie Saqui to record eight straight points and gain a 15-11 advantage.

Instead of folding, the MEPS picked up the pace, and after back-to-back kills by Spc. J.R. Haro, the team caught the HIANG at 16-16 on a putdown by Staff Sgt. Naseri Sunia.

Then in the final frenzied moments of the first set, the HIANG was able to tie MEPS three times at 22-22, 23-23 and 24-24 before a missed hit gave MEPS the first-set win.

"It was a shocker," said Tech. Sgt. Stephen Lorenzo, HIANG team captain. "I didn't know that there was a 25



Operations Specialist 2nd Class Solomon Pulu, Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), goes up for a kill against the defense of Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) frontline players, Tech. Sgt. Ronnie Saqui and Tech. Sgt. Stephen Lorenzo, in an intramural Volleyball League quarterfinal playoff game at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

(point) cap on the set. I thought that you were supposed to win by two. But when he (referee) told me that, I said, 'OK, well this is how it is. Let's play it.'"

The loss seemed to take something out of the

HIANG's attack for the rest of the way as the MEPS managed to just stay out of reach in the second set.

Outside of a 1-1 tie, the MEPS led throughout the second set, building as much as a five-point advantage, en

route to their four-point victory.

During post-game celebrations, Fuiava agreed with Maugelei that teamwork was the key to the team's sweep over the HIANG.

Everything, said Fuiava,

seemed to be in sync as MEPS was able to hold off every challenge from the defending champs.

"As long as everybody puts in something to the team, we'll be able to perform like this," he stated. "If you're comfortable with all your players, then you've got to give them the ball and know that they're going to do the job."

Before walking off the court, Lorenzo congratulated MEPS and added that the past 10 years were great.

The HIANG captain explained that if the team was able to play with a full roster the outcome might have been different.

"The hardest thing about this one was that we had an ORE (operational readiness exercise) and all of our players were out," he said. "Actually, all of our HIANG team is doing deployment practices. Some people came off of 13-hour shifts, so they were tired. I only had six players."

As for the MEPS, which now needs two wins to capture the base title, Maugelei said that the team would try to keep doing what it needs to do.

"Basically, just do the same thing," he said. "Teamwork and more practice."

## Volunteers needed Saturday to beautify area near joint base for endangered birds

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Volunteers are being recruited to remove invasive weeds this Saturday for the benefit of endangered birds and floating ducks (Hawaiian stilt, coot, moorhen) on Pouhala Marsh adjacent to Pearl Harbor near the Waipahu Police Academy.

This area is a recovering wetland and part of the Pearl Harbor estuary system.

Volunteers are needed to pull weeds such as cattail, pickleweed and mangrove from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday. Bring work gloves, water, hat, sunscreen, towel and change of clothes. Covered footwear and long pants are required.

Pouhala Marsh is the largest of the remaining wetland habitats in Pearl Harbor. The marsh is of vital importance for the endangered Hawaiian stilt.

Chief Master-at-Arms (SW/EXW) James Wooten, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam command volunteer service coordina-



Volunteers participate in a previous work day at Pouhala Marsh near Pearl Harbor. Another cleanup will take place Saturday.

tor, said he will participate in the cleanup at Pouhala Marsh. "It's a combined effort of the civilian community, Air Force and Navy," Wooten said. "It helps build the stewardship with the community."

Wooten emphasized that he rides his bicycle along the Pearl Harbor bikepath and his family uses the parks in that area of the island, so it's important to give back and beautify the area.

"Spending a morning at Pouhala Marsh gives you a break from the urban world of Oahu," said Becky Hommon, Navy Region Hawaii's environmental counsel.

Hommon added, "It's a special gift to be able to hear the 'skwock' of an endangered Hawaiian stilt as it takes off or the 'chuck, chuck, chuck' of an endangered Hawaiian moorhen. Most people on Oahu never see these birds, and here we can not only see them but hear them. It also gives you a glimpse into what the area might have been like before 20th century development."

According to the Hawaii Nature Center, during non-breeding sea-

son, Hawaiian stilt numbers on the marsh can exceed 150 birds (10 percent of the remaining world population). The Hawaii Nature Center uses Pouhala as a teaching site for educational programs.

Volunteers for Saturday's event should be adults or at least high school age, and they should dress for muddy, dirty conditions, said Pauline Kawamata, volunteer program manager for the nature center.

The nature center will provide snacks and juice for volunteers after the service project, Kawamata said.

There are no bathroom facilities at the marsh, but jugs of water and soap for washing hands and feet after the project will be available. Equipment and tools will be provided by the nature center.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam volunteers should sign up with MAC James Wooten, james.wooten2@navy.mil, 472-7149 or 225-5347.

For information about the Hawaii Nature Center, visit the website [www.hawaiinaturecenter.org](http://www.hawaiinaturecenter.org) or call 955-0100.



# Absentee voting ballot is available online

**Lt. Cmdr. Kathleen A. Elkins**

*Navy Region Hawaii*

There are only 60 days until the Nov. 6 general election

If you have not requested your absentee ballot for the 2012 general election, go to FVAP.gov and use the online registration and absentee ballot assistant, or contact your unit or installation voting assistance officers.

For those stationed overseas, the Military Postal Service Agency provides free expedited ballot delivery and ballot tracking to a local election office for military and their family members.

Go to a local post office or postal clerk, use the Label 11 – DOD form on the absentee ballot envelope and mail it. Go to

www.usps.com to track the status of your ballot.

If you haven't received your ballot by Oct. 6, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as the back-up ballot. Go to FVAP.gov and use the automated assistant.

For each office for which you vote, write in either a candidate's name or their party designation.

Pass this information along to spouses, voting age

dependents, other military voters and overseas voters.

For more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or for help with the absentee voting process, contact FVAP at vote@fvap.gov or call 1-800-438-8683, DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCONUS).

More information is available at FVAP.gov, or "like" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow on Twitter @FVAP.



## NAVFAC Pacific offers helping hand to Hawaii families

**NAVFAC Pacific Public Affairs**

Employees of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific contributed a total of 524 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable food items to the Feds Feed Families Campaign, which ran through Aug. 31.

"Although this is our first year to participate in the annual charitable campaign, the generosity of our employees is truly remarkable," said Capt. Pete Lynch, NAVFAC Pacific vice commander.

"It is a clear illustration that we can join forces with our federal partners in Hawaii to work towards one goal to provide help to those who need our helping hands."

NAVFAC Pacific partnered with

Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) to contribute to the overall CNRH goal of 7,000 pounds, while other federal partners in Hawaii also reached out to participate in the annual campaign.

"This year we had superior support from both NAVFAC Pacific and NAVFAC Hawaii," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Brian Schoffstall, who also served as the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) campaign coordinator.

"As soon as the Feds Feed Families Campaign was publicized, NAVFAC was quick to volunteer, and that is one of the reasons we had such a great turnout this year."

Schoffstall said the total combined contributions from all federal partners in Hawaii tallied 13,397 pounds. One of the advantages of the pro-

gram is that all donations collected on Oahu will stay on the island to benefit local families through organizations such as the Hawaii Foodbank, Goodwill and the River of Life Mission.

Lynch expressed his personal thanks to employees for their outpouring of support. In addressing NAVFAC Pacific employees, Lynch said, "The spirit of *ohana* is clearly evident through your kind contributions, and I want to personally thank you for supporting this great cause to help families in Hawaii."

The fourth annual Feds Feed Families Campaign was led by the Office of Personnel Management. All federal agencies were encouraged to participate by donating canned goods and non-perishable food items.

## Hispanic Heritage Month celebration planned for Sept. 21

A Hispanic Heritage Month celebration will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 21 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

Planned activities include a speech by the keynote speaker, Capt. Robert A. Espinosa, former chief of staff, Navy Region Hawaii.

The national anthem will be performed by vocalist Sr. Airman Letha Brown.

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam ceremonial

guard will parade and retire the colors.

Capt. Sal Aguilera will perform the invocation and benediction. Following the official ceremony, refreshments and a dance exhibition will take place at the chapel lanai.

For more information and to participate, call committee chairman QM1 (SW) Julian Pardal at 474-0302 or email julian.pardal1@navy.mil.

## WHO SAID IT?

"Public officers are the servants and agents of the people, to execute the laws which the people have made."

*Last Week's*

### WHO SAID IT?

"Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man's desire to understand."

Neil Armstrong



## This Week's Trivia

Who was the former base operations officer in charge of Hickam Field who was on duty during the attack of Dec. 7, 1941?

**Last Issue's Question:** What significant event took place Sept. 2, 1945 in military history?

**Answer:** V-J Day took place on that date with the Imperial Japan surrender which ended World War II. In ceremonies on board the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander for the Allied Powers, formally received the Imperial Japan envoys who signed the instrument of surrender ending World War II.

## ASBP blood drive schedule

**Currently scheduled drives include:**

Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., DIRSUP NIOC-Hawaii building, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Department Blood Battle 10th floor conference room, Tripler Army Medical Center.

Sept. 25, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., NEX, Tripler Army Medical Center.

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

## GOT SPORTS

Phone: (808)473-2888

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





PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM *Maniawa Nanea* LEISURE

Morale Welfare & Recreation

🏊 BIGGEST SPLASH AND FASTEST SWIM

There will be “biggest splash” and “fastest swim” challenges from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday at Arizona Pool. This is a free event. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. FMI: 472-7582.

🏊 FREE GOLF CLINIC

The Navy-Marine Golf Course is hosting a free golf clinic at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. FMI: 471-0142.

🏊 MAUNAWILI FALLS HIKE WITH LIBERTY

There will be a free hike to Maunawili Falls with Liberty on Sunday. Departures are from Liberty Express at 8:15 a.m., Beeman Center at 9 a.m., Instant Liberty at 9:15 a.m., and Makai Recreation Center at 9:30 a.m. This event is for single active-duty Sailors and Airmen only. FMI: 473-2583.

🏊 GREENS AERATION

Nine holes at the Barbers Point Golf Course will be closed on Monday for aeration. The other nine holes can be played twice. Half-price green fees will be in effect from Sept. 18–Sept. 23. FMI: 682-1911.

🏊 MWR NEWCOMERS LUNCH

A free Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Newcomers Lunch takes place 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. This event features lunch, MWR information booths, sponsor tables and activities for kids. At 12:30 p.m. there will be a tour of MWR locations around the base. Separate registrations are required for luncheon and tour. This event is open to all military-affiliated personnel during their first six months of arrival. FMI: [www.greatlifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com).

🏊 HICKAM HISTORICAL TOURS

Historical tours of the Hickam side of Pearl Harbor-Hickam will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, Sept. 21 and 29. The cost is \$55 for adults and \$45 for children ages 3-11 years old and free for children 2 years and younger. Departures are from Information, Tickets and Travel-Hickam and Royal Alakai Lodge. FMI: 448-2295.

🏊 BACK TO SCHOOL 5K RUN/WALK

A free Back to School 5K run/walk will be held at 7 a.m. Sept. 20, starting at the Wahiawa Annex Fitness Center. FMI: 653-5542.

🏊 FALL CAMP FOR YOUTH

The 2012 Fall Camp for Youth runs Oct. 1-5. FMI: [www.greatlife.hawaii.com](http://www.greatlife.hawaii.com).

For more information on events, visit [www.greatlifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com).

Community Calendar

🏆 September

🏆 20 ~ A base-wide cleanup of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. Command-wide participation is encouraged to help beautify the base. FMI: BU1 Jeremy Harman at [Jeremy.harman@navy.mil](mailto:Jeremy.harman@navy.mil) or 471-3521.

🏆 20 ~ The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam passenger terminal will hold a “space available” brief from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Hickam Memorial Theater. FMI: 448-9949 or visit the terminal Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/HickamAMC>.

🏆 21 ~A Hispanic Heritage Month celebration will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. FMI: QM1 (SW) Julian Pardal at 474-0302 or email [julian.pardal1@navy.mil](mailto:julian.pardal1@navy.mil).

🏆 22 ~ Bellows Air Force Station will hold a Keiki [children’s] Bodyboard Contest starting at 10 a.m. The entry fee is \$20. FMI: [www.bellowsaafs.com](http://www.bellowsaafs.com).

🏆 25, 26 ~ Domestic violence survivor Mildred Muhammad will speak from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 25 and from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Hickam Memorial Theater at Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 26 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii Main Chapel. Muhammad is the ex-wife of the convicted Washington, D.C. sniper, John Allen Muhammad and will share her story of domestic violence and how she was the target for her now executed ex-husband.

🏆 26 ~ The 25th annual Joint Employment Management System (JEMS) Job Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Club Pearl at Pearl Harbor-Hickam. FMI: 474-1999 or 449-0300 or visit [www.jemsjobs.com](http://www.jemsjobs.com).

🏆 29 ~ A Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam National Public Lands Day cleanup will be held from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Sept. 29 at two work sites: Halealoha Haleamau Burial Platform at Fort Kamehameha and Ahua Reef, both on the Hickam side of the base. FMI: [patricia.colemon@navy.mil](mailto:patricia.colemon@navy.mil) or [grace.hewlen@navy.mil](mailto:grace.hewlen@navy.mil).

Movie Showtimes



The Bourne Legacy (PG13)

The Bourne Legacy expands the Bourne universe created by Robert Ludlum with an original story that introduces us to a new hero whose life-or-death stakes have been triggered by the events of the first three films.

SHARKEY MOVIE THEATER

TODAY  
7:00 PM Magic Mike (R)

SATURDAY  
2:30 PM Ice Age 4: Continental Drift (PG)  
4:45 PM Advanced screening:  
“End of Watch”(R). Free to the first  
450 authorized patrons. Ticket booth  
and doors open at 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY  
2:30 PM Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG)  
4:45 PM The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13)  
7:15 PM Savages (R)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY  
6:00 PM Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG)  
8:30 PM The Bourne Legacy (PG13)

SATURDAY  
4:00 PM Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG)

SUNDAY  
2:00 PM Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG)





# Safety reminders issued for pedestrians, drivers

## Navy Region Hawaii

Due to the recent pedestrian fatalities in Honolulu, the following reminders are provided to both pedestrians and motor vehicle drivers who share in safety duties and responsibilities.

Drivers need to pay full attention when driving. Do not use cell phones or other hand-held electronic devices while driving.

Portable headphones, earphones or other entertainment listening devices may not be worn while operating a vehicle on base.

Distractions such as eating, adjusting the radio, shaving, applying make-up or reading, which may easily lead to traffic mishaps, are discouraged.

Pedestrians also have responsibilities. At crosswalks with no signals, a pedestrian may not suddenly leave a place of safety such as a curb and proceed into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.



Photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Jennifer Bariantos, educational assistant at Hickam Elementary School, stops traffic so children can safely cross the street on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

An immediate hazard occurs if pedestrians are not able to make it safely to the other side of the road without the oncoming vehicles slowing down or stopping for them.

Inattentiveness while on a crosswalk such as texting, talking on cell phones or just not paying attention to oncoming vehicles can jeopardize a pedestrian's

safety.

Be sure to make eye contact with the vehicle driver and that vehicles approaching the crosswalk have stopped or clearly show signs of stopping before entering the crosswalk.

Never assume that a driver sees you and will stop for you.

## Honolulu has opportunity to meet and greet America's Medal of Honor recipients

More than 50 Medal of Honor recipients will be on hand Oct. 6 for a book signing open to the public as part of the 2012 Medal of Honor Convention. Tickets for the event are \$20 and can be purchased at [MedalofHonorConvention2012.com](http://MedalofHonorConvention2012.com).

Recipients will meet and greet the public during two signing sessions: 9-11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hale Koa Hotel. This event is open exclusively for those who purchase tickets in advance. Only 500 tickets for each session will be sold.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. Each ticket also includes a Medal of Honor quote book, which recipients can sign at the event.

The book signing is one of several public events taking place throughout Honolulu as part of the convention, which runs Oct. 1-6 and hosts 54 of the 81 living Medal of Honor recipients.

For more information, visit [MedalofHonorConvention2012.com](http://MedalofHonorConvention2012.com) or email [sponsor@MedalOfHonorConvention2012.com](mailto:sponsor@MedalOfHonorConvention2012.com).

## Preparatory classes planned for JEMS Job Fair Sept. 26

Job applicants will have an opportunity to meet with more than 100 prospective employers when the 25th annual Joint Employment Management System (JEMS) Job Fair convenes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 26 at Club Pearl at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Even before job seekers meet face-to-face with employers, they will have a chance to hone their resumes and job-seeking

skills at preparation classes that are being hosted by staff at the Military and Family Support Center (MFSC) at 474-1999.

The preparatory classes will be offered this month. Information on how to write a resume, how to dress for interviews, and other job-hunting skills will be presented at the classes. Classes include:

### **Acing the interview**

- Sept. 24, 1 to 3 p.m.,

MFSC Pearl Harbor.

At [www.jemsjobs.com](http://www.jemsjobs.com), JEMS also offers a comprehensive job bank of approximately 1,600 to 1,900 Hawaii job listings with 600 to 900 new jobs added monthly.

Positions range from entry level to professional jobs. Job seekers are able to create and post resumes on the job site.

For more information, call 474-1999 or 449-0300.



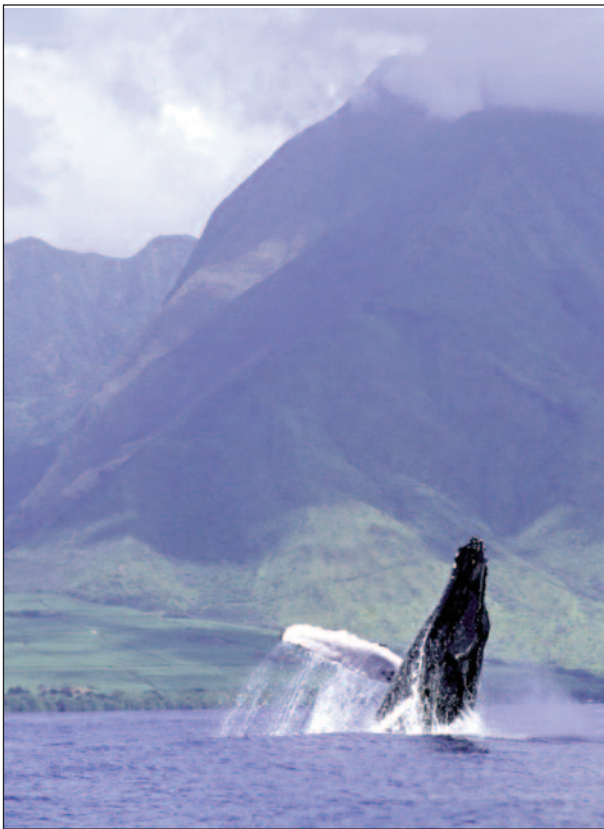


Photo by Flip Nicklin

## First whale of the season spotted near Honokohau Harbor

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The first confirmed sighting of a humpback whale Aug. 31 in waters off the Big Island marks the beginning of whale season in Hawaii, and it may even be the earliest humpback sighting to be documented in recent history. Ocean recreation tour companies observed an adult humpback whale surfacing off Honokohau Harbor.

With the arrival of humpback whale season in Hawaii, ocean users are reminded to keep a safe distance from these annual visitors to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

Endangered humpback whales are protected in Hawaii. Federal regulations prohibit approaching within 100 yards of whales when on the water and 1,000 feet when operating an aircraft. These and other regulations apply to all ocean users, including vessel operators, kayakers, paddle boarders, windsurfers, swimmers and divers throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

“It’s important for everyone to be extra vigilant during whale season, for their own safety and the protection of the animals, and this year whale season seems to be starting early” said Justin Viezbicke, Hawaii Island programs coordinator for the sanctuary.

Humpback whale season in Hawaii generally runs from November through May although whales may be encountered in limited numbers during other months. More than 10,000 humpback whales winter in Hawaiian waters each year.

Boaters are reminded to post a lookout at all times throughout the year, not just when whales are visiting our waters. An extra set of eyes scanning the waters ahead and to the side of a boat can prevent collisions with marine life, obstruc-

tions, divers and other vessels.

The whales attract wildlife enthusiasts, but they also pose safety hazards to ocean users when the 45-ton marine mammals surface, breach or slap their massive tails or flippers. Vessel-whale collisions can also result in death or injury to boaters and whales.

Whale calves are vulnerable to vessel strikes because they are difficult to see as they rest just under the surface. Young whales also must surface more frequently.

Ed Lyman, marine mammal response manager for the sanctuary, said ocean users such as those that reported the whale sightings are a “great resource” in helping monitor humpback whales in the sanctuary.

“By locating distressed animals, reporting and providing the initial documentation and assessment on the animal, ocean users are the foundation of our conservation efforts,” Lyman said.

If you come across an injured or entangled marine mammal, maintain the required safe distance and call the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Mammal Hotline at 1-888-256-9840 immediately, or the U.S. Coast Guard on channel 16.

If reporting a suspected approach zone violation, call the NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline at 1-800-853-1964. Additional guidelines and safety tips can be found at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>.

The sanctuary is administered by a partnership of NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the State of Hawaii through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The sanctuary works to protect humpback whales through research, education, conservation and stewardship.

## Volunteers needed for Kaneohe Bay Airshow Sept. 29-30

Hundreds of volunteers will be needed to assist in food service, marketing, ticketing and more for the 2012 Kaneohe Bay Airshow Sept. 29-30.

Volunteers will receive an airshow volunteer T-shirt, water bottle and certificate of appreciation.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will celebrate the Marine aviation centennial with the 2012 Kaneohe Bay Airshow, featuring the Blue Angels.

The airshow is open to the public and general admission and parking are free. In addition to a performance by the Blue Angels, the action in the air includes a number of military demonstrations and civilian aerobatic displays.

The event will include gravity-defying maneuvers by the BO-105 helicopter, a 1946 Aeronca Champ and F/A-18 Hornets.

Activity on the ground includes military static displays, an array of aircraft, a flash fire jet truck race, children’s carnival rides and Taste of Oahu food booths. Gates open daily at 9 a.m. Patrons are encouraged to carpool and arrive early.

Go to <http://bit.ly/Q6AB0B> for volunteer details and a volunteer registration application.

For more information about the air show, visit the website at <http://bit.ly/PeM53r>.

For more information, call the volunteer coordinator at 254-7638 or email [kunichikakt@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:kunichikakt@usmc-mccs.org) or [faauis@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:faauis@usmc-mccs.org).