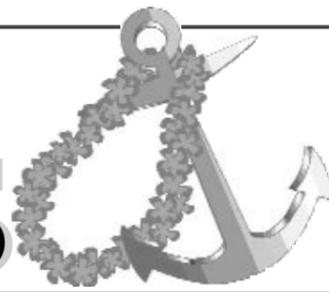


Hawaii Navy News



Volume 25 Issue 6

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

February 11, 2000

IN BRIEF

MIDPAC Annual Blood Drive

Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific is holding an annual blood drive on Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. until noon at Naval Station Fellowship Hall.

Blood centers cite urgent need for donors. According to the American Red Cross, about 45,000 pints of blood need to be collected every day nationwide to meet demand. Right now, collections are running about 32,000 pints a day.

For more information, call Lt. Brian Lawenda at 473-1269 or 473-2798.

VA-OVS Stand Down volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the "VA-OVS Stand Down" Feb. 18, an event sponsored by the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to feed homeless veterans.

The two groups expect to serve meals to about 100 homeless veterans from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Park, Honolulu.

Volunteers, donations of clothing and snack foods such as cookies, soft drinks and fruits are needed for the event.

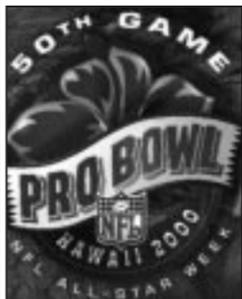
The term "Stand Down" originated in the Vietnam War, and was carried on in 1992 when a group of veterans in San Diego held the first peacetime stand down as a means to offer services and a temporary safe haven for homeless veterans.

For more information, please contact coordinating committee member Lionel Parker of the VA at 433-0501 or Carswell Ross of the Hawaii OVS at 433-0420.

NMCRS Fund Drive 2000 to begin in March

The 2000 Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) fund drive for Navy and Marine Corps activities in Hawaii will be held from March 6 through April 7, 2000. The theme for this year's drive is "At The End Of The Rainbow When Needed". Rear Adm. John W. Townes, III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, will address the fund drive keypersons at the kickoff meeting to be held at Sharkey Theater (Building 628) at 10 a.m., Feb. 17. All Command keypersons should plan to attend. Uniform is summer khaki or summer white.

See also...



NFL superstars put on show at Pro Bowl ...B-1

INDEX

Commander's Column	A-2
Chapel Pennant	A-8
MWR	B-2
Movie Call	B-2
Community Calendar	B-4
Classifieds	B-6

Navy participates in Pro Bowl

By JO2 Greg Cleghorne

NAVY REGION HAWAII

The 50th meeting of the Pro Bowl at Oahu's Aloha Stadium Sunday highlighted the talents of Hawaii Sailors to a national audience.

It began with all the fanfare of a major National Football League Sunday game; no scrimping on the spectacle and pageantry. While ESPN and ABC cameras rolled tape - bringing the game to millions across the country - the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Honor Guard, marching in perfect step, paraded the colors onto the Aloha Stadium's sea green and white field. Their eyes were focused, their polished chrome glistening, pressed black neckerchiefs swaying and their white hats and uniforms near glowing in the bright Hawaiian sun. The capacity crowd was hushed.

The color guard team stood shoulder to shoulder, marched smartly to the field's center and stopped. The crowd rose and the National Anthem rang out. As the final notes of "... and the home of the brave" lingered in the air, four F/A-18 jets from Fighter/Attack Squadron 125 out of Naval Air Station Lemoore, Ca. - roared by just a few hundred feet over the stadium.

The fly over brought the capacity crowd of 50,000 to a raucous ovation. Then, moments later, one single F/A-18 flew over and performed a physically-demanding, near-vertical climb over the arena, the red glare of its afterburners clearly visible, thundering the craft into the sky. The crowd erupted into even more frenzied applause and cheering.

And with that, the NFL's 50th Pro Bowl game was underway. When the NFC and AFC's best took the field they lit up the grid iron - as the fighter lit up the sky - with the highest scoring Pro Bowl game in the history of the meeting. The NFC won the contest 51-31.

The Pro Bowl and the Navy have had a long tradition of cooperation in



PH2 Michael Lewis photo

The Naval Station Pearl Harbor Honor Guard posts the colors during the National Anthem at the Pro Bowl last Sunday. More than 50,112 people showed up to witness the Pro Bowl event.

▼ See SAILORS, A-10

Cohen gives peek at fiscal 2001 budget

American Forces Press Service

Department of Defense will hit the \$60 billion mark in procurement in its coming fiscal 2001 DoD budget request, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Jan. 28 to the Defense Writers Group.

Cohen also said the budget addresses quality of life issue such as the basic allowance for housing and the military's TRICARE medical system.

"When I first took over three years ago the procurement level was down around \$43 billion," Cohen said. "This year we will hit the \$60 billion mark."

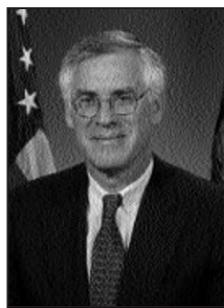
Then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. John M. Shalikashvili first proposed the \$60 billion modernization amount in 1995. Each year, the amount crept toward that level and in fiscal 2001 will hit the magic number.

Cohen told reporters that lessons learned in Operation Allied Force over Yugoslavia will be part of the procurement effort in the budget request.

"Some of the items that we

▼ See COHEN, A-10

A letter from the Secretary of the Navy



Richard Danzig

Dear Sailors and Marines,

A New Year, and the beginning of a new session of Congress here in Washington present a natural point for looking back and looking forward: what have we accomplished, what are our most important challenges? For me, this is a particularly compelling moment for addressing these questions because I came to office with only a little

over two years remaining in this Presidential term and now half that time has been expended. In a very personal sense, therefore, I owe you some accounting of what we've done with that time and what I hope to do in the remaining year.

We have a lot to feel good about in 1999. Your Chief of Naval Operations and Commandant of the Marine Corps were among the first to press for a big pay raise and the roll-back of REDUX. We achieved these goals and, with terrific support from Congress, the 4.8 percent pay raise (the largest in a generation) was accompanied by improvements in Bachelors Allowance for Housing and a bonus package most especially valuable to the Navy and Marine Corps. Getting our own house in order, we reversed 1998's Navy recruiting and end-strength shortfalls—making the Navy and Marine Corps the only services to reach their

recruiting goals in 1999 and come in above end-strength. We made it a high priority to reduce our gapped billets at sea — and they came down from 18,000 Sailors in November of 1998 to 10,600 today. That translated into increased fill rates for our deploying battle groups and amphibious ready groups: they rose from around 88 percent to 93 percent.

At the same time, the CNO and I have combined his initiative to reduce demands during the inter-deployment training cycle and my efforts to introduce more labor-saving tools and civilian help to free up Sailors and Marines who are working too hard. These efforts are bearing fruit.

Further, on taking office I immediately directed selection boards to reject any "zero defect" philosophy and to promote "the best people, not the most immaculate records." At the same time, we greatly improved management of the officer promotion system so that periods of 150 days in reviewing and announcing board results were cut by more than a third.

During 1999, we were able to significantly increase operations funding for aviation spare parts by approximately \$100 million per year.

This is in addition to the increase of \$150 million in 1998. While this is slow in having its impact (often manufacturers have to retool) I expect it to reduce time wasted on cannibalization, increase our availability of aircraft for training, and improve our fighting capability.

In 1999, also, we brought the F-18E/F to a point of wide acceptance — indeed we secured legislative authorization for a money-saving multi-year contract. The V-22 will complete Operational Evaluation this year and procurement will in-

crease to full rate production. Overall we've allocated more funds in this direction so that through the next several years, starting in Fiscal Year 2000, we are buying an average of over 150 aircraft a year.

Equally significant, we brought shipbuilding to about 8 per year, a good start that takes us close, though not yet to, the 8 2/3rds ships per year we need to sustain a healthy force of more than 300 warships.

The challenge for the year ahead are of two kinds. First, we need to sustain and build upon these improvements. You need not just one year's good pay raise, but a steady series of them above inflation. We need not just one year's successful Navy recruiting but, like the Marine Corps, a string of strong years. We need to meet end strength year after year. We need not just to congratulate ourselves on getting gapped billets at sea down to about 10,000; but to recognize that 10,000 is 10,000 too many and to reduce that number towards zero. We need not just to deploy battle groups and Amphibious Ready Groups that are fully manned, but also to raise and stabilize the manning in training well before deployment. We need to assure that spare parts are not simply ordered, but are available in the field and fleet. We need to assure that inter-deployment training cycle reductions, fleet assistance program reductions and smart work initiatives actually result in more time for Sailors and Marines to develop their professional skills, mentor and care for one another, and spend more days and nights with their fami-

▼ See SECNAV, A-6

Ohana quality of life survey at Navy Exchange

By JO2 Robert Carr

NAVY REGION HAWAII

Those who live and work at Navy bases in Hawaii, but who lack Internet access, will get a chance to have a say in their quality of life through an online survey at the Navy Exchange complex Wednesday.

The Hawaii Navy Ohana Quality of Life survey will be available online at computers set up at the NEX from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m.

"All our people who don't have ready access to the Internet will have the ability to complete it at the Exchange," said Navy consultant Christine Hesemann.

Hesemann said two computers will be set up at the NEX entranceway. People may use the computer to fill out the survey, which asks respondents to anonymously comment on issues such as family housing, pay, food services and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

funding and communication.

In the past, quality of life issues were written on nameless sheets of paper. In 1998, only 700 people provided comments. This year, more than 1,420 people have filled out the survey online.

"Putting the survey on the Internet has definitely increased participation, Hesemann said.

The survey is located on the Navy Region website at <http://www.hawaii.navy.mil>, and is available

through Feb. 21. The questionnaire takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, and is completely voluntary.

The survey collects quality of life issues for the fifth annual Ohana conference, scheduled for March 1-2 at the Shipyard Training Center. The data from the survey is compiled and presented at the conference where delegates review and prioritize the issues,

▼ See OHANA, A-10