

Fisher House to open Tripler Army Medical Center

American Forces Press Service

Two more Fisher Houses in the United States and the first one in Germany are scheduled to open by spring 2001 to provide free lodging for out-of-town families visiting family members being treated at military medical centers.

Fisher House spokesman Jim Weiskopf said the 27th comfort house in the Fisher House network is scheduled to open at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, this fall. It will be the third house at Lackland and will accommodate out-of-town families of pediatric patients at Wilford Hall Medical Center, the Air Force's premier medical facility.

"Fisher House III at Lackland will be a professionally furnished and decorated one-story handicapped-accessible home with 10 living suites," Weiskopf noted. "It will have a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room. It will also have an inviting living room, complete with library and toys for children, two activity rooms and an administrative office."

A second house is planned for Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii next year. The first Fisher House built on foreign soil is scheduled to open at the Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, by the spring of 2001, Weiskopf said.

The first two Fisher Houses at Lackland were built in 1992 and 1994. The third home will be built on the fourth corner of a rectangular block

where the other two Fisher Houses and the Admiral Boorda Center for Children with Special Needs are located.

"Prior to his death in June 1999, Fisher House founder Zachary Fisher asked trustees of the Fisher House Foundation to consider building a third house at Lackland to support pediatric patients at Wilford Hall," Weiskopf said. Foundation trustees honored his request and added the houses in Hawaii and Germany. The foundation is the nonprofit organization established to carry on Fisher's legacy, he said.

Weiskopf said nearly 40,000 families of patients receiving care at major military and Veterans Affairs medical centers have stayed at Fisher Houses since the first comfort home opened in 1990.

"They saved nearly \$30 million over the cost of commercial lodging," he noted. "More importantly, these homes have enabled families to remain together in the midst of a medical crisis, free from financial concerns and able to support a loved one during the healing process." He said the average stay at a Fisher House is 12 days. However, families have stayed from 3 to 50 days.

More information about Fisher Houses can be found on the Internet at www.fisherhouse.org or contact Tripler Army Medical Center at 315 Krukowski Road Honolulu, HI 96819

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Society may change, leadership does not, CNO says

Navy Wire Service

The fundamentals of leadership remain constant even as society changes, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson recently told class officers from the five service academies when he addressed approximately 150 senior midshipmen and cadets during "Leaders' Forum 2000" at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

The annual Leaders' Forum brings together some of the top-ranked seniors from the U.S. Naval, Military, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies to consider the challenges and opportunities ahead of them.

"Even if [today's youth] are different, even if they come from a different lifestyle than we grew up in, they're still looking for leaders, for discipline, to be a part of a team," the CNO said. "They're still looking for a pathway forward that makes them a better person and a better member of their team."

Adm. Johnson told the future ensigns and second lieutenants they will be "role models" when they graduate in a few months.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for you to put your imprint on the generation that follows and indeed on your own peers," said Adm. Johnson. "You are senior to two-thirds of the force the day that you are commissioned. A lot of people will be looking to you for answers."

The CNO pointed out that the changing demographics of civilian society would present some distinct challenges for the class of "Double-Aught."

"In the Congress of the United States, right now there are only 11 senators and 23 congressmen who

have ever worn the uniform of the United States Navy," said the CNO.

"Overall, for all services, less than one-third of the Congress has ever worn a uniform. They haven't had the experiences that we have had," he said.

Adm. Johnson explained that communicating with non-veteran members of Congress about what life is like when deployed aboard ship, with an air wing or on a submarine, involves a different approach than when talking with those who have served.

Adm. Johnson also pointed out that the nation is losing an important link to its past as more than 1,000 members of the World War II generation die each day.

"The World War II generation gave us family linkages to the military," said the CNO. "[If] you take that reality and push it away from us forever at a rate of 1,000 a day, ask yourself what that is going to mean a decade or two from now. I think we will have a profound fundamental change on the lifestyle of America, particularly as it relates to service of the country. And once the linkage is gone, you can't reattach it."

The CNO told the senior midshipmen and cadets that the importance of leadership in addressing these challenges remains constant.

"Leadership must be a guide star for us," CNO continued. "In the last decade we've learned a lot about ourselves in the leadership business. We've made huge institutional investments in leadership training to increase the fidelity of leadership throughout the Navy. It's working. Leadership is a fundamental part of our life — from petty officer through admiral."

VP-4 selects Sailor of the Year

By Lt. j.g. Kelly A. Hinderer
VP-4

When Hawaii native Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Matilda Henry May Kealiiokeuleikamapuaaokoehiokalamaulakukahiokeelanikamamaluopuaimoku Kahoonei was growing up in Wainae with her 15 brothers and sisters, she never could have imagined that one day she would be selected as the Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces Pacific Sailor of the Year, an honor which encompasses all Patrol Squadrons in the Pacific Fleet.

"It came as a real surprise to me," Kahoonei said. "I am so proud to represent Patrol Squadron Four as the Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific Sailor of the Year."

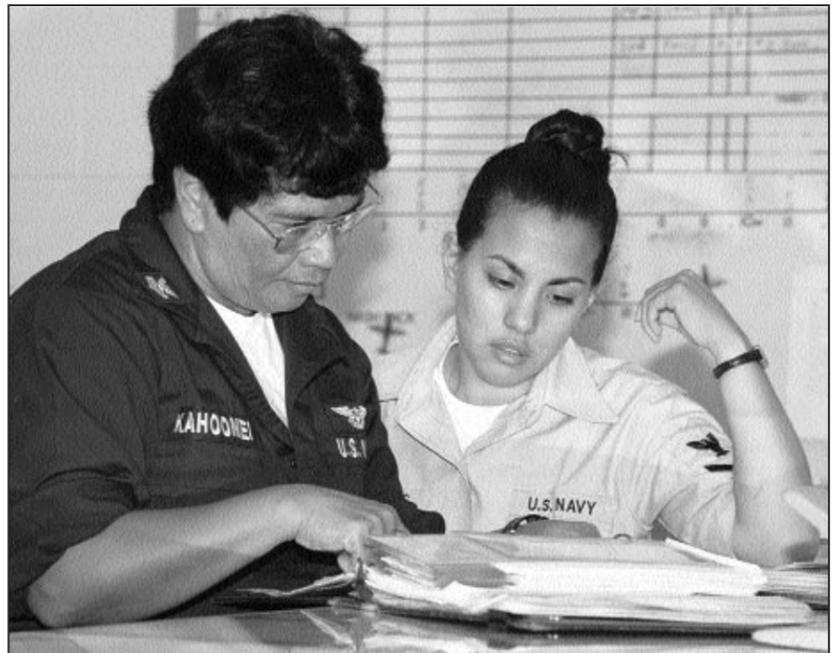
As one of the youngest girls in her family, Kahoonei would share in cleaning the house and cooking, but all the time dream of visiting other countries and sharing her stories with her family.

"After high school, I had the responsibility to stay home and clean," Kahoonei said. "I watched TV and saw different places. I knew someday I would leave Hawaii and go out into the world."

In 1981, Kahoonei decided to live out her dream of traveling, leaving Wainae behind for Navy bootcamp in Orlando, Florida.

Since that initial shock of indoctrination into the military and leaving her homeland, Kahoonei has spent 19 very successful years climbing the Navy ladder of responsibility, starting out as a plane captain and working her way up to the VP-4 Quality Assurance Leading Petty Officer. As a First Class Aviation Structural Mechanic, Kahoonei leads 10 petty officers in monitoring 60 command-wide programs.

Kahoonei has been deployed all over the world participating in six deployments to the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Fleets. Her most recent deployment to Diego Garcia and the Arabian Gulf included participation in Operations Desert Fox and Southern



VP-4 photo

AMS1 Matilda Kahoonei helps a junior Sailor look up information. Kahoonei was selected as VP-4's Sailor of the Year for her leadership and monitoring of 60 command-wide programs. Kahoonei is awaiting word on her nomination as the Commander, Naval Air Pacific Sailor of the Year, which is the final stepping stone to get into the running for the entire Pacific Fleet competition.

Watch.

"I love to work with young sailors and see them grow," Kahoonei said. "I especially love to see Hawaiians enlist in the Navy, so they can leave the island and see the rest of the world."

During Kahoonei's last tour, she spent three years recruiting Hawaiians into the Navy. She said it was one of the most rewarding tours of her career.

"Family to Hawaiians is extremely important," Kahoonei said. "That's why recruiting in Hawaii is so difficult. They don't want to leave. I told them that they had to go out and see the world. Hawaii will always be here."

When asked about her extremely long and unusual middle name, Kealiiokeuleikamapuaaokoehiokalamaulakukahiokeelanikamamaluopuaimoku, Kahoonei smiles proudly, asking, "Do you want me to pronounce it for you?"

"When all 16 of us were born," Kahoonei said, "the Kupunas (old folks) gave each of us a dream name. They told us that while they were dreaming, they would have visions of our names, and they would immediately wake up and write it down before they forgot."

Over her many years of service, Kahoonei has not only given a great deal of herself to the Navy, but also to her community. She helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity, constructed the playground equipment for the Mokapu Elementary School onboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and as the Vice President of the Wainae Racket Club, has collected food for Wainae's low income families.

"I owe a great deal to my wonderful community," Kahoonei said. "I really enjoy the feeling I get when we build a house for someone in

need, or give food to our families."

Kahoonei resides in Wainae with her husband, William Moku Kahoonei, III, and their son, William Moku, IV who have both given her a great deal of support throughout her career.

"I couldn't have made the sacrifice of being away from my family without their support," Kahoonei said. "Navy families have a really tough job."

Currently, Kahoonei is awaiting the results of her chief's exam, and awaiting word on her nomination as the Commander, Naval Air Pacific Sailor of the Year, which is the final stepping stone to get into the running for the entire Pacific Fleet competition.

"My focus now is to make chief," Kahoonei said. "I want to stay in the Navy and keep working with all of these great people."

Navy restores ties to the Tailhook Association

Navy Wire Service

The Department of the Navy announced recently that it would restore ties to the Tailhook Association.

This decision was made following a lengthy review of the relationship between the Navy and the Tailhook Association. As part of that review, Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig sent official representatives to the Tailhook Association's August 1999 Convention in Reno to observe first-hand the convention's activities and to speak with Tailhook Association's leadership and convention attendees.

The representatives, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Ms. Carolyn Becraft, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Vice Adm. Mike Bowman and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat and Development Command, Lt. Gen. John Rhodes, recommended the Department favorably consider resumption of support to the Tailhook Association.

Secretary Danzig, along

with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones, studied the group's findings and met with the Association's leaders on Jan. 18 before reaching the decision.

Secretary Danzig said, "The shameful events at the Tailhook Convention in 1991 led to a withdrawal of our support for the Association. Over the past eight years, however, the Association took a number of constructive steps that warranted a review of its status. Based on those steps, our review of their most recent convention, and our meeting with the Association's leaders, we've concluded that the time is right to restore ties. We fully expect the Tailhook Association will continue to provide support to the Navy and more specifically, naval aviation."

The Navy terminated all ties with the Tailhook Association on Oct. 29, 1991 after a series of investigations revealed misconduct by active duty Navy and Marine Corps officers at the

Association's annual conventions. In restoring support, the Department of the

Navy's leadership has received assurances that the Association had taken positive action to ensure that there would be no repeat of events such as those at the 1991 Tailhook Association convention.

The Tailhook Association has assured Navy leadership that they would actively:

- Provide opportunities for significant enrichment for all its members by focusing on the professional challenges and opportunities facing naval aviation;
- Be completely supportive, in word and deed, of all the men and women in the carrier aviation community;
- Be committed to preventing, and take all reasonable steps to prevent, the type of misconduct that resulted in the removal of Departmental support in 1991.

According to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson, the time is right to make this decision.

"The Tailhook Association leadership is committed to the changes they have made,"

Adm. Johnson said. "They have pledged to enhance naval aviation and serve as a forum for educating our younger aviators. It is important for us to renew ties to an organization that can foster professional growth, camaraderie and pride."

Since its formation, the Tailhook Association has provided a valuable professional forum for members of the naval aviation community, active duty, reserve and retired.

For many years Tailhook provided a venue for members of a unique and dangerous occupation to share experiences, lessons learned and information about the future of naval aviation. Affiliation with a professional community promotes job satisfaction and pride. These factors ultimately enhance personal and unit readiness.

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones said, "This decision underscores the fact that the Tailhook Association is a relevant organization. They have made reforms and deserve our renewed support."

Cohen approves homosexual conduct training plans

Navy Wire Service

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced Feb. 1 that he has received and approved each of the military Services' updated training plans on the Department's homosexual conduct policy.

The updated plans incorporate the guidelines for investigating threats against or harassment of service members based on perceived or alleged homosexuality.

"I am very pleased with the effort that went into updating the Services' training materials. These plans make it very clear to recruits, service members, and to law enforcement personnel, commanders, judge advocates, and investigators that are charged with implementing the policy, that there is no room for harassment or threats in the

military."

Cohen also noted that he had directed the Defense Department Inspector General to conduct an assessment of the environment at representative installations within each department, with respect to the application of the homosexual conduct policy. He said that as part of that assessment, the Inspector General would review the extent to which harassment may occur and the extent to which disparaging speech or expression with respect to sexual orientation is tolerated.

Cohen said, "I will receive the results of that review by March 13 and make a judgment as to whether any additional actions may be needed."

The Secretary emphasized that "service members need to understand that harassment for any reason will not be tolerated and commanders will take

prompt, appropriate action against individuals involved in such behavior."

The Services' plans also included implementing guidance that required the following actions:

- Inspectors general will include as an item of specific interest in their inspections the training of those charged with application and enforcement of the homosexual conduct policy;
- Installation staff judge advocates will consult with senior legal officers prior to the initiation of an investigation into alleged homosexual conduct; and
- Military Department secretarial-level approval will be obtained prior to the initiation of any substantial investigation into whether a service member made a statement regarding his or her homosexuality for the purpose of seeking separation.