

FLEET FOCUS

Chosin hosts Honolulu Sunset Rotary Club

By Lt. j.g. J.C. Dudley
USS CHOSIN

USS Chosin (CG 65) recently took the opportunity to host a special group of people at a reception held on board the ship.

The Honolulu Sunset Rotary Club has sponsored Chosin and it's crew since 1998 and in that time a relationship of mutual support has developed that is greatly beneficial to the crew and the local Navy community.

In appreciation of their unwavering support, the crew took the time out of their busy schedule to invite the members of the Rotary Club on-board for an enjoyable evening of fellowship on the flight deck.

The Rotary Club is a civic organization made up of professionals, business people and local community leaders who give of their talents to make the community a better place to live for everyone.

Since adopting USS Chosin, they have made contributions to the crew that have both greatly increased the quality of life of Chosin's Sailors and opened to them avenues for service in the local community.

As an example, the members of the Rotary Club have invited Sailors into their homes over the holidays to enjoy a home away from home.

The Rotary Club members have also invited Chosin Sailors out sailing, a day at the beach or for a tour around the island. In turn, Chosin's Sailors often volunteer their time in partnership with the members of the Rotary Club on community-relations projects.

Most recently, volunteers from Chosin contributed their time and energy in a joint project to repaint the American Retarded Citizen's center.

Numerous Rotarians and Chosin Sailors banded together and donated a Saturday to give the center a much-needed facelift.

Another ongoing project that the Rotary Club and Chosin are involved with is support of Shriner's



USS Chosin photo

USS Chosin's Commanding Officer Capt. Thomas J. Gregory makes a presentation to Rotary Club Vice President Karen Lynden in appreciation of their support.

Hospital, where the Sailors and Rotarians work closely to brighten the lives of the young patients there for treatment.

During the reception for the Rotary Club, Chosin's Mess Specialists prepared a superb buffet line of hors d'oeuvres that would make the most seasoned caterers envious.

The ship was opened for tours and small groups from the Rotary Club were afforded the opportunity for a private tour of the ship.

It was a great chance for the Rotary Club members to learn more

about their adopted ship and gain an appreciation of what life is like for a Sailor onboard an AEGIS Cruiser.

In addition to the ship tours, guests and Sailors alike were afforded the unexpected treat of an air show of World War II vintage aircraft, as Japanese Zeros "strafed and bombed" Ford Island during the filming of the Disney production of the movie "Pearl Harbor".

The Vice President of the Rotary Club, Ms. Karen Lynden commented: "Everything about the event was great. The ship looked beautiful and

it was enjoyable seeing the men and talking to them about their duties. The pride all the men have in their ship is very evident."

The evening came to a close with the Members of the Rotary Club presenting Chosin's Commanding Officer, Captain Thomas J. Gregory, with a donation of \$1000.00 for Chosin's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fund.

Said Ms. Lynden, "We are honored to have such a good relationship with the men of the USS Chosin and we hope it continues for many years to come."

USS Hopper participates in ANZAC Day celebrations

By ET3 Jason Cordova
USS HOPPER

Officers and Sailors from the USS Hopper joined in the celebration of ANZAC Day with the people of Queensland, Australia while the ship was moored in the port town of Mackay April 25.

ANZAC Day, which stands for Australia and New Zealand Army Corps Day, is a holiday celebrated in the same spirit as our own Memorial Day and Veteran's Day and honors the sacrifice of all members of Australia's armed forces especially those who have fallen in combat.

As guests in Australia, the Hopper crewmembers were invited to march in several local parades and participate in a variety of ANZAC Day street parties and festivals.

The origin of ANZAC Day is rooted in an event that took place during the first World War. On April 25th, 1915, ANZAC troops, allied with the British, stormed the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula

of what is now Turkey in an effort to control the Dardanelles. Over a nine month period, heavy casualties were suffered by the allied troops in what is now known as ANZAC Cove.

Of the sixty-thousand ANZAC troops that landed at Gallipoli, nearly ten-thousand were buried there and only a fraction of the remainder returned to Australia alive.

This massive sacrifice of human life, in addition to the future battles and struggles the ANZAC troops participated in, is the foundation for the ANZAC Day memorial celebrations.

The most significant ceremony observed on ANZAC Day is the Dawn Service, in which Australians hold parades and memorial sermons timed to coincide with the time the first troops landed 4:28 in the morning.

The majority of the Hopper crew was divided into numerous groups before the first ray of sun touched Mackay on the morning of the 25th and then dispersed throughout the Queensland area in

order to participate in local town parades and services. In the city of Mackay, Commander John W. Peterson, Hopper's Commanding Officer, was the reviewing officer for the main parade in which a contingent of ninety Hopper Sailors marched along with Mackay's armed service units, school groups, and local Returned Services League (RSL) groups.

As honored guests, and in keeping with the camaraderie shared between the United States and Australia, Hopper crewmembers were welcomed warmly and treated to plenty of barbecue and beer after marching in their respective parades.

Additionally, many Hopper sailors participated in the Australian ANZAC Day tradition of drinking rum ration and milk before the dawn services. Of his experience on ANZAC Day, Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jason Laughlin said "I couldn't imagine having more fun than I did today."

Hopper was honored to share this significant memorial holiday with our Australian friends in Mackay and the surrounding areas.

McAllen Sailor provides support to Pacific Fleet

By Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Breslau
NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER,
SAN DIEGO

It's been said that "the journey of a thousand steps begins with just one," and for the U.S. Navy, the first step to ensuring our ships are able to go to sea begins in home port.

Without Sailors like Chief Petty Officer William S. Matthews, the 51-year-old son of Clifford Matthews of McAllen, TX, Navy ships could never leave their ports and deploy around the world to protect U.S. interests.

Matthews, a Navy counselor by trade, is spending his shore duty assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor is one of the Navy's busiest harbors. Personnel assigned to the naval station annually complete 65,000 boat runs and transport 2.4 million passengers and 200,000 vehicles to and from Ford Island and other harbor locations.

The mission of the base is to provide logistical support and topnotch services to Navy ships that dock there.

Every Sailor assigned to the naval station is relied on to blend their individual skills into an efficient team, focused on supporting the

fleet. Matthews, a 21-year Navy veteran, provides guidance to Navy personnel regarding personal and professional issues. With his role comes the satisfaction of a job well done.

"I am responsible for career development and advice for all the enlisted personnel here," said Matthews, a 1966 graduate of McAllen High School.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor mirrors a bustling, small town with recreational facilities, shopping centers, dining and housing facilities, a medical clinic and a police and fire department.

Shore duty, like that at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, is a departure from the fast-paced life experienced on board ships. It provides Sailors with an opportunity to realize the most rewarding aspects of being stationed at this command.

"The most rewarding aspect is being here to help Sailors maximize their career opportunities," Matthews said.

As long as the Navy has dedicated Sailors like Matthews assigned to its shore bases, ships will be able to go to sea and provide a continuous forward presence around the world as directed by the President.

USS Hopper Sailor frocked to Senior Chief



Ens. Carrie Spannagel photo

Cmdr. John W. Peterson, Commanding Officer of USS Hopper, and Cryptologic Technician Master Chief (SW/AW) Carol Cooper, Command Master Chief, frocks Information Systems Technician Senior Chief (SW) William M. Whitaker on the quarterdeck of USS Hopper April 6. He pinned on his new anchors just minutes prior to departing on his twelfth deployment in his 22 years of service in the Navy

USS Chosin Sailors active in Bluejacket HARP program

By Lt. j.g. J.C. Dudley
USS CHOSIN

The Sailors on board USS Chosin (CG 65) are accustomed to showing off their ship to visitors and telling people about their duties on board an AEGIS Cruiser.

While sea duty can be challenging, it is always with a great deal of pride that sailors relate what it is they do to people who sometimes have no idea what it is really like to be a Sailor at sea.

These opportunities to let the general public know what life in the military is really like reaps great benefits in terms of public opinion and appreciation for the Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen who are willing to make personal sacrifices in the defense of our country. Sharing with others on a personal level about life in the Navy is what the Bluejacket Hometown Active-Duty Recruiting Program (HARP) is specifically designed for.

Chosin Sailors are taking full advantage of this opportunity to influence and recruit the Sailors who will make up our Navy well into the twenty-first century.

The Bluejacket HARP program allows junior Sailors the opportunity to travel to their Home of Record to work alongside Navy Recruiters.

This benefits the recruiters in that it provides them with an additional resource to perform their demanding duties.

The pay back for the Sailor is he or she gets a free ticket home and allows them to spend some quality liberty time at home with friends and family.

Chosin's Bluejacket HARP program is run by Chief Firecontrolman (SW) Pearce who is Chosin's acting Career Counselor. Pearce's view of the program is a positive one and is probably a contributing factor to 15 junior Chosin Sailors volunteering for the program in the last three months.

According to Pearce, "My view on Bluejacket HARP is that it is a wonderful opportunity for our people to go home and see friends and loved ones while gaining invaluable experience and training."

While on Bluejacket HARP duty, participants perform such duties as talking with prospective applicants, conducting high school campus visits and just generally increase public awareness of the Navy.

The time spent on Bluejacket HARP exposes the Sailors to recruiting duty and serves as a bank of experience to draw from should they ever consider recruiting duty when negotiating for future orders. As a result of this type of exposure, the Navy is building a much stronger recruiting force with people who know what to expect from the very beginning.

Recruiting posters and media presentations are valuable tools in telling the Navy story, but nothing can match talking to a real-live Sailor who is from the same peer group as the prospective recruit. Says Pearce, "The Navy is getting these people 'out on the streets' and increasing the Navy's exposure."

In an age of cyber space and multi-media, what better recruiting tool than good old-fashioned sea stories?"

Sailors have always loved to tell sea stories. Thanks to Bluejacket HARP, 15 Chosin Sailors will have the opportunity to tell their sea stories in a manner that will benefit the Navy and will prove invaluable in helping prospective Navy recruits make an informed decision about their commitment to the Navy.