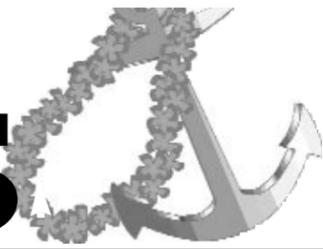


Hawaii Navy News



Volume 25 Issue 26

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

June 30, 2000

IN BRIEF

NEX concerts

The popular contemporary-Hawaiian bands Imua and Kapena will perform at the Navy Exchange and sign autographs.

Imua will perform tonight from 6-7 p.m. and Kapena will play tomorrow from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Both groups enjoy a strong following and extensive airtime on local radio stations.

The shows will be held on the Navy Exchange Lanai and autograph sessions will take place in the CD store. Both concerts are free and open to all military, their families and DOD civilians.

Look for your 1999 water quality report

As the owner and operator of five water distribution systems on Oahu, Public Works Center Pearl Harbor is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide an annual report to its customers on the source and quality of their drinking water.

PWC will distribute five 1999 water quality reports, one for each of its water systems, in early July.

Activities and civilian billed customers, who receive water from PWC, will be provided with a water report by mail.

For Navy housing residents, copies of all five water reports will be available after June 30 at the Navy Family Housing Office, Information Desk.

Housing residents may also call the Housing Community Relations Office at 474-1820, for assistance.

Additional copies of the report are available from the PWC Pearl Public Affairs Office at 471-7300.

The reports will also be posted on the Navy Region Hawaii website <www.hawaii.navy.mil> in the next several weeks.

Port Royal: Home again

By Lt. j.g. Jill Robinson and J03 Brenda Diggs
USS PORT ROYAL AND NAVY REGION HAWAII

With music blaring from the ship's sound system and Sailors "manning the rails," the officers and crew of USS Port Royal (CG 73) returned home to their family and friends Tuesday.

The 391-member team commanded by Capt. Roger C. Easton, Jr., operated in two oceans and five seas as air defense commander for the John C. Stennis battlegroup during the ship's deployment to the western Pacific and Arabian Gulf.

"We had a great deployment operationally, and we had some great liberty ports," said Lt. Cmdr. Edward Bradfield, Port Royal's operations officer. "We did a lot of important work and strengthened peace."

Port Royal's primary missions in the Arabian Gulf included operation Southern Watch and maritime interception operations, enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Port Royal visited eight ports in seven countries and traveled over 31,500 nautical miles.

Headed by officer-in-charge Lt. Cmdr. John McClain, Port Royal's embarked SH-60B helicopters from Helicopter Squadron (light) 37, Detachment One flew over 125 tactical missions encompassing 540 flight hours.

Many crewmembers in Port Royal claim the highlight of the deployment involved three diverted merchant ships affectionately dubbed "the three amigos." Damage Controlman 2nd Class Shaun Thompson stated, "my experience onboard the suspected sanction violator made the entire



PH2 Chad McNeeley photo

workup and deployment very worthwhile." While in the Arabian Gulf, Port Royal was tasked to board these three ships, get them underway from

and escort them nearly four hundred miles to the United Arab Emirates, where they were turned over to United Nations authorities.

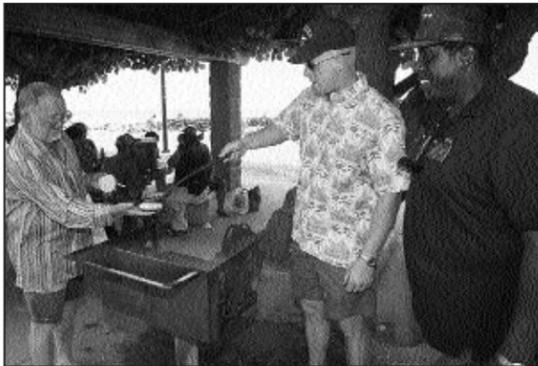
More than 30 Port Royal crewmem-

bers spent four days onboard the three ships, ensuring a safe, expeditious transit and turnover. Three of-

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Navy Lieutenant helps homeless veterans

By PH2 Chad McNeeley
NAVY REGION HAWAII



PH2 Chad McNeeley photo

Lt. Joe Ring (center) serves a hamburger to a needy veteran recently. "General" John Rodgers Jr. (right) of B.R.A.V.O. Hawaii runs the food program every Sunday at Fort DeRussy beach to aide homeless veterans and educate them on benefits and opportunities they are entitled to.

In Hawaii alone there are more than 900 homeless veterans from all of America's conflicts. Many of these veterans are not aware of the benefits that they earned and are entitled to. However, there is a crusader canvassing Honolulu's streets getting the word out about the plight of homeless veterans.

Every Monday through Friday morning "General" John Rodgers greets drivers on the corner of Kapiolani Boulevard and Kalakaua Avenue with a smile and a salute.

The "General" is not an official military officer, but more of a warrior to what he believes is a forgotten cause among the American people. He is the "General" of his organization, The Brotherhood Rally of All Veterans Organizations (B.R.A.V.O.) Hawaii, and a retired Army Vietnam Veteran Master Sergeant.

"Our goals are to ensure that veterans and retirees' entitlements and benefits

which we earned with our sweat and blood are no longer targets for budget cuts!" the General explained. "Our immediate goal is to bring back dignity to our homeless veterans. And to let them know that just because they are homeless, that they are not helpless," added Rodgers.

By his own admission, Rodgers has taken on a hefty task as the founder and president of his organization. But it's not an impossible task either.

B.R.A.V.O. Hawaii has accomplished many things including the opening of Hawaii's first ever homeless veterans transitional center in Wahiawa. The center offers help for Hawaii's homeless vets and their families that have fallen on hard times, with a "hand up, not a hand out," as the General describes it. B.R.A.V.O. has also sponsored marches, rallies and special events on a monthly basis in Hawaii. It also has sponsored events nationally, including in Washington D.C.

There are 43.3 million veterans in this

See LIEUTENANT, A-13

Pearl Harbor to get new community shopping center

By Mike Brandt
DeCA ENGINEERING BUSINESS UNIT

THE Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) and Naval Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) are pleased to announce the award of a contract for the design/build new community shopping center project at Pearl Harbor, HI.

The contract for this project was awarded on June 22 to the firm of C.F. Jordan, LP of San Diego California at a total price of \$49,990,000.

The award was based on using Air Force streamline source selection procedures where offerors' proposals for this design/build project were evaluated to determine which offer provided the best overall value to the government.

DeCA and NEXCOM are jointly funding this project.

The contractor is partnered with the firm Komatsu Architecture and their engineering consultants for the design of the new facility.

The project provides for over 348,000 square feet of total floor area with 94,100 square feet of floor area devoted to the new commissary facility and the balance providing for construction of a new exchange, shopping mall, and food court.

The completed project will include approximately 1,800 customer parking spaces and an additional 150 parking spaces for DeCA and NEXCOM employees.

The site for the new building is located near the

See SHOPPING, A-6

USS Charlotte returns from WESTPAC



J03 McClain Shewman photo

USS Charlotte (SSN 766), a Pearl Harbor-based fast-attack submarine recently returned from a western Pacific deployment (WESTPAC). The boat, commissioned in September of 1994, carries a crew of 130 Sailors. Named after the state capital of North Carolina, USS Charlotte is the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name. USS Charlotte is a member of Submarine Squadron One and is commanded by Cmdr. Reid Tanaka. Charlotte completed its first visit to Thailand during the deployment.

INSIDE



Pearl Harbor Naval Station will hold its 3rd annual July 4th Block Party...B-1

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