

FLEET FOCUS

USS Honolulu Warriors arrive in WESTPAC

By USS Honolulu Public Affairs

USS Honolulu (SSN 718) arrived in the western Pacific (WESTPAC). Under the leadership of Cmdr. John M. Richardson, commanding officer and Senior Chief Machinist's Mate William Cramer, Chief of the Boat. USS Honolulu is a Pearl Harbor based fast-attack submarine.

The Warriors recently left home for a six-month deployment.

On Sept. 10 crewmembers crossed the International Date Line. Davey Jones was on deck and welcomed the crew into the realm of the 'Golden Dragon' with the customary sounding of the "ship's gong". This is the seventh crossing for the ship.

Onboard, 35 men, new to east-

ern waters, joined shipmates on a voyage throughout the western Pacific in the tradition of great Sailors like Columbus, Magellan, and Marco Polo. Sailors new to the western Pacific drank black Chinese tea and logged their names in the historic deck logs of the Golden Dragon domain.

On Sep. 15 a special place setting was made to honor America's

prisoners of war and veterans designated as missing-in-action (MIA). On the crew's mess and in the wardroom, moments of reflection were made. During the meal hour, the POW/MIA flag was hung on the crew's mess.

Within a week of crossing the date line, the ship celebrated "Chief's Day". This time honored event culminated in Chief Electrician's Mate(SS/DV)

Christopher W. Galbreath and EMC(SS) Jeffrey P. Harvey joining the fold of United States Navy chief petty officers.

The commanding officer joined the chief petty officers as the new chiefs had their anchors pinned on and their hats presented. Flanked by the full company of their honorable brothers, the last phase was completed by a very emotional reading of the Chief's Creed.

Two 'Golden Swordsmen' earn mission commander title

By Lt. Michael Sanders
VP-47 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

After an exhaustive review board and months of preparation, two VP-47 "Golden Swordsmen" earned the title of mission commander (MC) for the P-3C Orion aircraft.

The mission commander is the person accountable for the overall effectiveness of the mission. Cmdr. Greg Wittman, commanding officer of VP-47, granted Lt. Mark Sohaney and Lt. Adam Kijek the responsibility for all phases of a mission. The MC ensures that take off and landing times are

met, sanctions the armament selection and release, and enforces proper EMCON restrictions for the crew.

While the plane commander always maintains safety of flight, either a plane commander or a tactical coordinator can be designated a mission commander. The

MC's responsibilities expand well outside the plane. The tactical readiness of the crew and the well being of the individual members are a major concern for the MC.

Lt. Kijek said that being designated as a MC is "one of the greatest responsibilities bestowed on a junior officer."

The feeling of trust to take 11 aircrew and a multi-million dollar aircraft out on real world operations and detachments has great rewards.

The "Golden Swordsmen" are proud of their newest mission commanders and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

Marine Corps special officer candidates celebrate 56th anniversary



J02 Cori Rhea photo

The U.S. Marine Corps Special Officer Candidate School, Class of 1944, celebrated their 56th anniversary on Oahu recently and visited USS Georgia (SSBN 729). Every two years the class gets together and remembers the times they shared. Georgia is based out of Bangor, Wash. and was in Pearl Harbor for a routine port visit.

By J02 Cori Rhea
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Marine Corps Special Officer Candidate School, Class of 1944, celebrated their 56th reunion recently in Oahu. Many of the retired war veterans served on the Big Island and Maui during World War II with the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions. Others, in the 1st and 6th Divisions served on the Solomon Islands (North East of Australia).

Every two years the class gets together to reminisce of the times they had together. The Pearl Harbor Submarine Base welcomed the men with the highest of regards. A full day tour was arranged to show the retired military exactly what America's Submarine Force is doing today.

The day began with a tour of the trident submarine, USS Georgia (SSBN 729). Groups of three and four were escorted through the submarine while young Sailors explained the systems and the many ex-

tensive operations of their boat.

The executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Gillespie, immediately announced over the intercom a welcome aboard to the WWII Vets and said he was very honored to have them aboard. Speaking to his Sailors, he said, "Gentlemen, you are in the presence of heroes today. Show them how proud we are to have them aboard."

The tour was in depth and the Sailors giving the tour were very knowledgeable.

Webb Carnes was in the second division and served at Okinawa. He said "What a clean, fine, intelligent bunch of kids, and they really know what they're talking about." Carnes joked that the submarine was too complicated for him, saying "It's mind boggling how they put these submarines together. It's high tech from stem to stern."

The control rooms of the submarine marked the end of the tour.

The group went on to have lunch at the Submarine Base

galley, The Silver Dolphin Bistro. Afterwards, they were briefed on today's submarines. A presentation highlighted ready for war capabilities, coordinated operations and capabilities of the battle groups. Also discussed was retention of the Pacific Fleet submariners, which has a higher retention rate than any other in the Navy.

Sam Menzelous, who served at Okinawa, summed up the tour by saying, "We have some of the brightest, most knowledgeable people manning our frontier today."

These men were trained for the Iwo Jima and Okinawa invasions. Of the original 375 graduates, 149 men were wounded at least once and 48 were killed in action. As a majority of the men were platoon leaders or had combatant duties during the war, they were placed in life or death situations. Five Navy Crosses, 16 Silver Stars, 27 Bronze Stars and 12 Letters of Commendation were awarded to people of the class of 1944.

Local history: WWII Submarines, Marines unite in 1942

Makin raid highlighted Navy-Marine Corps teamwork

By J0CS(SW/AW) Darrell D. Ames
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Nautilus (SS 168) and USS Argonaut (SS 166), led by Group Commander J. M. Haines, got underway from Pearl Harbor on Aug. 8, 1942 en route to the Gilbert Islands. In addition to her crew, Argonaut carried 121 U.S. Marines. Nautilus added 90 Marines to her complement.

The Marines were led by the rugged, battle-worn warrior, Col. Evans F. Carlson. Handpicked by the Corps, Companies A and B of the famous 2nd Raider Battalion were notoriously tough. One of Carlson's officers was Major James Roosevelt, the President's son.

The Pacific Fleet Commander, Adm. Chester Nimitz, ordered the group to conduct a commando raid on Makin Island in the Gilberts. The objective was to create a diversion - scramble the enemy's plans to make them re-deploy their strengths which were known to be concentrated on a possible attack of Guadalcanal. Carlson's Marines were to hit Makin hard, wreak as much havoc as possible, and gather intelligence information.

The two submarines were temporarily converted to "troop transports" by removing all torpedoes except those in the tubes and installing extra air conditioning and tiers of bunks. Everything was thrown together in great haste.

Living conditions on the subs were far from comfortable. The air conditioning was not adequate. Below decks it was sweltering, and the Marines were either wilting or seasick. To keep them in shape, Haines allowed them to go topside in small groups for ten-minute intervals of fresh air and sun bathing.

Argonaut, making her second patrol after complete overhaul and modernization in Mare Island, Calif., was under the command of Lt. Cmdr. J. R. Pierce. Fresh off a

successful patrol in Japanese waters, Nautilus was guided by the able hands of Lt. Cmdr. W. H. Brockman. Despite rough conditions and uncooperative weather, the troops and Submarines were in good hands.

The boats arrived off Makin early on the morning of Aug. 16. Shortly after midnight Carlson launched his Marines in rubber boats. Though they had rehearsed it before leaving Hawaii, the debarkation was met with unforgiving conditions. Rough seas flooded the boats, drowning most of the outboard motors. The few boats that ran were able to tow the others as best they could.

By 4:21 a.m. all Marines were clear of Argonaut while the bridge crew watched them disappear into the darkness. At 5:13 a.m. word came by voice radio that the Marines had reached the beach.

Upon arrival the Marines found the going even tougher than expected. The Japanese suspected some type of attack, with Guadalcanal having been attacked the day before, and were waiting with snipers hidden amongst the many trees on the beach. Darting through the surf, the Marines finally got ashore, in front of the enemy rather than behind as planned. Communications between the Marines and the submarines were sporadic and primitive.

While the action ashore was intense, Brockman maneuvered Nautilus to fire on two Japanese ships in the harbor. Despite limited torpedoing opportunities Brockman managed to destroy both a freighter and one small patrol craft by firing 65 rounds a distance of seven miles. Although the Marines saw the two vessels go down, post-war analysis did not credit Brockman with any sinkings at Makin Island.

Later that night Nautilus and Argonaut attempted to recover the Marines. The recovery proved as difficult as the launch. The violent surf overturned boats and ripped weapons out of Marines' hands. A mere seven of 19 boats made it back and many men were severely wounded. The submarines' wardrooms instantly became operating rooms. Brockman and Pierce spent the rest of the night searching for the remainder of the landing party.

At dawn both submarines moved in closer to the beach, recovering three more boats and sending another one in with five Marines onboard to toss guns and arms ashore.



U.S. Navy photo

USS Nautilus and USS Argonaut arrive back at Pearl Harbor after the Makin Island raid in 1942. The exhausted Raiders and the submarine crews were greeted by Adm. Nimitz and the Navy brass band.

Almost immediately after the rescue launch, Japanese aircraft drove Nautilus and Argonaut under the water while strafing the rescue boat. All five Marines who volunteered for the dangerous mission were killed instantly. The submarines surfaced in the early evening and four boats, laden with weary commandos were recovered. More boats followed in the next few hours and by midnight, all but 30 Marines had been accounted for. They were believed dead, although post-war reports determined that nine survived, were captured, and later beheaded.

Initially, the Makin Raid was acclaimed a great "victory" and a "brilliant exploit" by the U.S. Department of Defense. Just how successful they were, however, was not known until long afterward. The Makin Raid, primarily a Marine story, made Colonel Carlson a household name. The

Marines nearly wiped out the entire enemy garrison. They destroyed a communications station, two planes, military installations and stores, and over 900 barrels of gasoline. Thirty Marines were lost, but the raid accomplished its primary objective by disrupting enemy plans to reinforce Guadalcanal and diverting Japanese guns and aircraft to the Gilberts.

Both submarine crews took great pride in their accomplishments as well. They delivered the Marines to Makin and brought many of them home. They destroyed two enemy ships in the harbor and gained valuable information and experience to be utilized in future island invasions. The teamwork and camaraderie displayed by the Navy-Marine Corps team was never more evident than during the greatest commando raid carried out in the Pacific during World War II.