

Hawaii Navy News



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IN BRIEF

Ford Island bridge closure

The Admiral Bernard "Nick" Clary Bridge, connecting Ford Island to Pearl Harbor, will be closed to vehicular traffic Dec. 7, 5 - 8:30 a.m. to allow a pass-in-review as part of the annual Dec. 7th observance. There will be a total closure conducted Dec. 7 from 2 - 3 a.m.

Road construction

Current road construction along North Road has been extended until Dec. 15. This means that one lane of North Road fronting Perry Point Landing and the lane of North Road fronting Building 1557 (AVSTA Galley) will both remain closed. Traffic flow will continue to be restricted but not detoured because of these closures. Motorists/personnel are urged to follow posted signs and use caution. For additional questions or concerns, contact Fred King, facilities manager, Region Hawaii at 471-1170 ext. 232.

Aloha Center close early

The Navy Aloha Center (AC) at both the Pearl Harbor and Barbers Point stations will close at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 12 so that assisting employees may attend the annual Christmas party. The office will remain open Dec. 13 until 4:30 p.m. to assist customers. If you have any questions, call the main housing office number at 474-1800.

ACFLT Band performance

The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet proudly presents the Pacific Fleet Band in a holiday concert 7 p.m., Dec. 11 at the Hale Koa Hotel. The concert will feature favorite holiday melodies performed by the Pacific Fleet Wind Ensemble, the temporary music of the band's combo Tsunami, and members of the Pacific Fleet Brass Quintet and Low Brass Group. All Pacific Fleet Band concerts are free and open to the public. For more information concerning this event or other concerts by the Pacific Fleet Band, contact us at (8) 474-4151, or visit our web page at <http://www.cpfavy.mil/pages/band/band.n>.

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NCTAMS PAC hosts Operation Aloha

By YN1 James Campos
NCTAMS PAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 450 North Shore residents participated in the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) 11th Annual Operation Aloha Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 23 at the Waialua Community Center in Haleiwa.

Operation Aloha is a project in which volunteers provide and serve a holiday meal and present a program of entertainment within the North Shore community. This year's menu included sliced turkey, turkey gravy, sweet potatoes, corn on the cob, steamed rice, corn bread, pumpkin pie, apple pie, baked ham, bread dressing, mashed potatoes, and pineapple sauce.

"I would like to welcome everyone who made this special event possible, especially all the volunteers," said NCTAMS PAC Commanding Officer, Capt. Donald F. Kerrigan during opening remarks at the dinner.

"It's always a pleasure to give back to the community, to show our appreciation and help those who need it."

Special guest to the event was Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Surface Group Middle Pacific. Regional Chaplain Capt. Luther Alexander gave a Thanksgiving prayer.

"This is my second year of involvement with Operation Aloha and seeing it all come together was both exciting and inspiring," said Director,

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Lt. Cmdr. Jane Campbell photo

Sailors and volunteers representing Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific serve Thanksgiving dinner to North Shore community residents during the 11th annual Operation Aloha at the Waialua Community Center in Haleiwa. Operation Aloha is a project in which volunteers provide and serve a holiday meal and present a program of entertainment within the community.

Military QOL is a PACOM top priority

By JOC(AW) Doug Holl
PACOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During the past year, service members around the world have benefited from a concentrated effort by their service chiefs and the Department of Defense (DoD) to implement significant quality of life (QOL) reforms in the military.

During fiscal year 2000, service members received a 4.8 percent military pay raise, 50 percent retirement pay was restored for all service members and Congress enacted pay table reforms.

On Oahu, \$5 million in DoD funds went towards the repair and maintenance of Hawaii schools with large populations of military family members, and \$143 million was spent on construction and refurbishment of military housing.

The U.S. Pacific Command Director of Manpower and Personnel, Air Force Col. Wayne Newman, highlighted these successes and previewed planned QOL initiatives for the coming year during a recent Joint Women's Conference held here in Oahu.

"The feedback I got from the conference attendees was that these initiatives are very important," said Newman. "It showed that we have had

a sustained level of leadership involvement in improving the quality of life of our people."

Newman says that the U.S. Pacific Command Commander in Chief, Adm. Dennis Blair, has made QOL one of his top priorities at PACOM.

"The CINC considers QOL a readiness issue," said Newman. "If you don't take care of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, then their minds won't be fully on their jobs. They won't reenlist, and you won't have as many volunteers to come into this theater."

Newman explained the CINC's key strategy toward implementing QOL initiatives is to enlist the help of the Pacific Command service components. Last spring they formed a Quality of Life Working Group to identify and address key QOL issues in Oahu.

The group, chaired by Newman, developed a two-tiered approach to tackling the issues. Tier One issues will be worked over the long-term. They include housing, health care and the frequency of military personnel's operational deployments.

Tier Two issues, which will be worked in the short-term, include pet quarantine, schools (education issues), Cost of Living Allowance and the authorization of a second car shipment for Permanent Change of Station orders to Alaska and Hawaii.

"What happens is when a team from the Office of the Secretary of Defense or a Congressional delegation comes through Oahu, we talk our Tier One and Tier Two issues," said Newman. "Everyone speaks with the same voice on these issues. It is a unified voice which has proved to be more effective than one or two of us pushing an initiative."

The passage of the FY01 National Defense Appropriations Act has also pushed through a number of QOL initiatives. In addition to a scheduled 3.7 percent pay raise in January, mid-grade NCO's (E5-E7) will receive another targeted 5.5 percent pay raise in July adding up to \$57 a month to their take-home pay.

A COLA adjustment, effective Oct. 1, has already increased service member's average COLA payments by \$30 to \$60 a month.

Another \$100 million will go towards Oahu military family housing construction and refurbishment. A pet quarantine reimbursement — up to \$275 — has been authorized for all PCS moves. Targeted subsistence pay — up to \$500 a month — should eliminate any service members need for food stamps. Also, beginning in fiscal year 2002, Congress has authorized "TRI-

▼ See PACOM, A-3

Navy to observe 59th anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack

By Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

In commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Navy will host a memorial service aboard the USS Arizona Memorial on Thursday, Dec. 7 beginning at 7:50 a.m.

The sacred service will include prayers, more than 40 wreath presentations, a 21-gun salute and echo taps. The commemorative speaker will be Adm. Dennis C. Blair, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command.

A minute of silence will be observed throughout the naval base at 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack began 59 years ago.

A long blast from USS Hopper (DDG 70), a Pearl Harbor homeported guided missile destroyer, will signal the moment of silence in memory of the men who lost their lives on that fateful day. Hawaii Air National Guard F-15s will fly over the memorial in a "missing man" formation.

The Pacific Fleet Band will play the National Anthem at 8 a.m. while a Navy color detail raises the flag aboard Arizona, the only non-commissioned Navy ship allowed to fly the U.S. flag.

▼ See MEMORIAL, A-6

Honolulu Navy League awards 70 servicemembers



PHIA/Casey James photo

By J03 Erin Carlson and
J0SN Tim Walsh
NAVY REGION HAWAII

Seventy proud men and women from the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard received the 2000 Navy League Sea Service Award at an awards luncheon at the Ala Moana Hotel Nov. 8.

The Honolulu Council of the Navy League of the United States sponsors this program that recognizes superior role models that serve as an incentive for other young men and women to pursue a career in the Sea Services.

The guest speaker at the event was Brig. Gen. R.E. Parker, Deputy Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Base, Hawaii and Commanding General, Marine Corp Base Hawaii.

After remarks made by Paul H. Gagnon, President, Honolulu council Navy League of the United States,

Master of Ceremonies, William F. Bigelow presented the Sea Service awards to the recipients who personify excellence and professionalism in their respective services. Selection boards at nine senior commands faced the difficult challenge to select winners from all of the outstanding nominees who competed in the categories of performance of duty, individual achievements, excellence in leadership and community activities.

The highlight of the ceremony was the announcement of the Grand Award Recipients, selected by the Navy League Board of Judges from among the all of the recipients. Coast Guard Lt. Samuel D. Forbes, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Team and Gunners Mate 1st Class (SW) Rupert Rose, USS Reuben James (FFG 57) received this special honor.

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