

Hawaii Navy News



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IN BRIEF

Holiday lighting

Commander, Naval Surface Group MIDPAC will once again judge afloat holiday lighting to determine the ships/submarines that best express the holiday spirit in lights. Rear Adm. and Mrs. Conway, along with a panel of guest judges, will tour the harbor the evening of Dec. 22 to select the top two surface/submarine light schemes on the water front.

NAVREG PAO moves Dec. 14

The Navy Region Public Affairs Office will relocate from Bldg. 1 to Bldg. 150 Thursday, Dec. 14. During the move, the Public Affairs Office will be unable to receive phone calls. In the event of an emergency, the Duty Public Affairs Officer can be reached at 641-2860 (pager). The PAO office is expected to return to normal operations by Friday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 a.m. New phone numbers for the PAO office will be: 473-2888 (main line), 473-2876 (fax) and 473-2883 (HNN).

Free concert

The Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet proudly presents the Pacific Fleet Band in a Holiday Concert at 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 contemporary music of the band's combo Tsunami, and the powerful and exciting sounds of the Pacific Fleet Brass Quintet and Low Brass Group. All Pacific Fleet Band concerts are free and open to the public.

Road construction

Current road construction along North Road has been extended until Dec. 22. This means that one lane of North Road fronting Merry Point Landing and one lane of North Road fronting Building 1557 (NAVSTA Galley) will both remain closed. Traffic flow will continue to be restricted, but not detoured because of these closures. Motorists/personnel are asked to follow posted signs and use caution.

PACDIV gets second star

By Don Rochon
PACDIV PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Charles R. Kubic, Commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Third Naval Construction Brigade, received his second star Nov. 27 during a frocking ceremony at PACDIV headquarters. The ceremony was accen-

tuated by light rain, signifying a fortuitous blessing in Hawaii.

Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, officiated the event.

"From personal experience, these promotions don't come based on what has been accomplished in the past, they come precisely because of the potential to serve," remarked Fargo.

"And nobody has more vision or more willingness to take the Navy in new directions than Admiral Chuck Kubic."

Rear Admiral Kubic assumed responsibilities as Commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Commander, THIRD Naval Construction Brigade, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in August 1999.

He previously served as Vice Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Washington DC, from May 1998, and as Commander, TWENTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment, Norfolk, Virginia, from June 1997.

The practice referred to as frocking has been in common usage in one form or another throughout the

Navy's history.

There are various instances in Navy Regulations at least as early as 1802 of personnel assuming the uniform of the next higher rank, not necessarily with higher pay, when appointed by proper authority to assume the duties and responsibilities of that rank prior to actual promotion.

▼ See PACDIV, A-2

Beach cleanup



Lt. Edmond Gawaran photo

Sailors from Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor conducted their fourth "adopt-a-beach" cleanup project at Waianae Beach Park recently.

NAVMAG Sailors return to the beach

By Lt. Edmond Gawaran
NAVMAG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

On a recent Aloha Friday morning, the Sailors of Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor packed their gloves, shovels, weed cutters and chainsaws, and once again stormed the Waianae Beach Park, along the Leeward Coast. It was that time again for another "Adopt a Beach" cleanup day.

Since our Sailors cleared out most of

the kiawe trees and bushes during the last three "battles," the new focus was vegetation.

The group spent long hours in the sun digging holes for the new plantation. In addition to the plantation digging, numerous boulders were relocated for security purposes and a significant area of weeds was cleared out.

The Sailors were grateful they did not have to deal with as much kiawe thorns as they did in the past clean-ups, but the excessive heat from the sun still made it

a challenging day. Later that afternoon, Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor celebrated their fourth successful beach cleanup.

The command's active role in the beach beautification project began just after Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor volunteered to be a part of the Leeward Coast's "Adopt a Beach" Program established by Nani' O Waianae, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. Since then, the

▼ See BEACH, A-6

Advancement opportunity remains high for E-4 to E-6 Sailors

By Lt. j.g. Kim Brasel
CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NWS) — Navy uniform shops, stock up! With 27,550 E-4 to E-6 Sailors putting on a new stripe from the most recent exam cycle, there's going to be a run on chevrons.

Numbers from the September advancement cycle are up by 1,271 advancements (4.8 percent) from the previous cycle.

"Sailors should be encouraged by this continued steady improvement in advancements," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Norb Ryan.

"Now that the Navy is exiting the drawdown, advancement opportunity for most ratings has consistently improved."

Almost 4,800 Sailors will advance to E-6, a 9 percent increase from the March 2000 exam cycle. E-6 advancement opportunity increased from 14.43 percent to 16.4 percent.

This is the seventh consecutive cycle in which both the number of advancements and the advancement opportunity for E-6s has improved.

In fact, the number of advancements to E-6 is the highest since September 1991, while the advancement opportunity to E-6 is the highest since March

▼ See ADVANCEMENT, A-6

INSIDE



The USS Arizona Memorial re-membered... B-1

Budget adds major TRICARE benefits for active duty

By Staff Sgt. Kathleet T. Rhem
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, 2000 — Active duty members and their families should look for major new benefits coming soon in DoD's TRICARE managed healthcare plan, a senior program official said.

Air Force Col. Frank Cumberland, TRICARE Management Activity director of communications and customer service, said the most publicized TRICARE change in the defense budget signed Oct. 30 has been the opening up of benefits to Medicare-eligible retirees age 65 and older. The coming wave of change, however, won't overlook active duty members and families, he added.

Some of the benefits being added to TRICARE within the next year include:

- Active duty family members will no longer have to make co-payments for care from a civilian provider after April 30, 2001.
- Family members of active duty troops in remote locations become eligible for the

TRICARE Prime Remote program Oct. 1, 2001.

DoD will have a five-year period to phase in making chiropractic care available to active duty troops.

TRICARE and health affairs officials are still working out the details on these changes and will announce them when plans are complete, Cumberland said.

TRICARE managers are also working to increase access to school physicals, eliminate the need for some nonavailability statements and some referrals for specialty care. Some of these issues may not come to pass before a new TRICARE contract is awarded, perhaps in 2003 or 2004, program officials advised.

Dr. H. James Sears, executive director of the TRICARE Management Activity, called the changes outlined in this year's budget legislation "the biggest platter of benefit changes" since the mid-1960s. TRICARE, he said, is adding benefits and continues to lower beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs and, in the process, tak-

▼ See TRICARE A-3

Minimart reopens at Iroquois Point



Laura McDonald photo

Iroquois Point Minimart celebrated its grand reopening Nov. 20 with special discounts and giveaways. Rose White, an Iroquois Point Minimart customer won the grand prize, four free tickets to Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park. Minimart improvements included wider aisles better lighting and the addition of more than 200 new products. Above (L-R), Jack Hamacek, Navy Exchange Retail Operations Minimart Manager; Capt. McLawhorn, Commanding Officer, Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor; Julie Mercado, Iroquois Point Manager and Mike Cottrell, District Manager Navy Exchange Hawaii lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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