

# Hawaii Navy News



Volume 25 Issue 51

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

December 22, 2000

## In Brief

### Disdado Rome Galley closure

The Diosdado Rome Galley is closed until Jan. 8, 5:45 a.m.. Patrons are encouraged to use the Silver Dolphin Bistro during this closure. The Silver Dolphin Bistro meal hours are:

**Monday - Friday**  
• 6 - 7:30 a.m. Breakfast  
• 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch  
• 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Dinner  
**Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays**  
• 6:30-7:30 a.m. Breakfast  
• 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Brunch  
• 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Dinner

### U.S. Navy Band Holiday Concert 2000 on Channel 2

Navy Live TV presents the U.S. Navy Band Holiday Concert 2000. The concert, which aired worldwide, was videotaped during a recent live performance and is currently airing on the Navy Channel (Oceanic Cable Ch. 2).

The concert can be seen daily at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. through Jan. 1, 2001.

### Commissary open early

The Pearl Harbor Commissary is implementing "early bird" hours to better serve its patrons.

The store will be open 8-9 a.m. today and tomorrow for 15 items or less. This is an additional hour to the identified days. Large orders of 15 or more items will be processed beginning at 9 a.m. daily.

The Commissary will also operate on special hours on Christmas Eve, opening at 8 a.m. and closing at 5 p.m.

### Martin Luther Coalition

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Coalition is seeking committee chairs, members, volunteers and food/non-food vendors to enhance Dr. King dream in Hawaii on Monday, Jan. 15, 2001 at Queen Kapiolani Park. All are welcome. For more information, e-mail: dhayman@aol.com

### VP-4 Reunion

Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) is having a reunion for members from all years on May 17-20, 2001 at Pensacola, Fla. Contact Steve Andruszkewicz, 13115 Le Parc #35, Chino Hills, CA 91709. Phone number: (909)-591-2329 or email: steveaz@bigfoot.com. Reunion hotline is: (405)-321-0287 and website: www.vp4association.com.

## Skinny Dragons return to lair

By Lt.j.g. Kevin Brink

PATROL SQUADRON 4

After six months of challenging duty forward-deployed to the 7th Fleet Area of Operations, the Skinny Dragons of Patrol Squadron 4 (VP-4) have returned to their homeport of

Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Since June, VP-4 has operated out of Misawa, Japan, and Kadena, Okinawa, flying the P-3C Orion, the Navy's premier multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft.

As the first combat aircrew departed Japan on Nov. 30, it signaled the end of a historic deployment for

the Skinny Dragons. The squadron amassed over 4,500 mishap-free flight hours during their WESTPAC deployment.

A primary mission focus was emphasizing the U.S. commitment in the region and enhancing interoperability with our allies.

As such, VP-4 detached to 13

Pacific Rim countries and participated in 27 multi-national exercises conducting Under Sea Warfare (USW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASW), Battle Group support & screening, intelligence, surveillance & reconnaissance (ISR), and aerial

▼ See RETURN, A-7

## HARBOR LIGHTS TOURS



Lt. Cmdr. Jane Campbell photo

Thousands experienced this unique view during the annual Pearl Harbor holiday lights boat tour. Over 225 individuals took part in the harbor tour Monday evening. The free 20-minute tours ran Monday through Thursday evenings and were open to all military, DOD civilians, and their family members. Guests had the opportunity to glide on the waters of Pearl Harbor and sing along to soft holiday music while Navy tour guides described the history and mission of the Navy ships and submarines adorned with holiday lights. Visitors rode past the piers of the Naval Supply Center, all ships and submarines moored in Pearl Harbor as well as the Battleship Missouri and the Arizona Memorial before returning to Merry Point landing. The tours were conducted by the Naval Station, Pearl Harbor Arizona Detachment - the same detachment that provides shuttle boats to and from the USS Arizona Memorial.

## Navy Announces New Special Duty Assignments

By Lt.j.g. Kim Basel

CNP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON (NWS) — Twenty-three Navy Enlisted Codes (NECs)/categories were added to the latest Special Duty Assignment Pay Award Level Plan (SDAP) that went into effect Dec. 15.

NAVADMIN 318/00 on the BUPERS web site, <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>, details the recent changes.

Twenty existing SDAP skills/categories will receive an increase in award level. No categories were eliminated from the plan.

"Increasing the levels of SDAP and adding more billets to the list is one more indication of Navy leadership's resolve to show Sailors we are committed to them and listening to their needs," said

Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Norb Ryan.

New SDAP skills include air traffic controllers, arduous Military Sealift Command units, surface propulsion plant managers and command master chiefs (CMC).

SDAP is awarded in graduated increments of \$55, \$75, \$100, \$110, \$150, \$165, \$175, \$220, \$275, \$350 and \$375. For example, command master chiefs in a billet designated as such, NEC 9580, will receive a minimum of \$110 per month, with the amount graduated up depending on the level of the CMC billet.

Other Sailors affected by the changes are those serving as Recruit Division Commanders (RDC). Historically, RDCs received \$275 in SDAP and neutral duty credit. However, since neutral duty was eliminated earlier this year, new RDCs will no longer receive that credit. To compensate, SDAP

for new RDCs was increased to \$350. Those RDCs receiving neutral duty credit before it was eliminated will continue to receive the credit and \$275 in SDAP.

There are approximately 25,000 billets in the Navy that have an assigned SDAP level. Each year, SDAP is reviewed to determine if new billets should be added, old ones eliminated and changes made in the amount of money associated with a particular billet, if necessary.

Surface Rescue Swimmers will see the biggest increase, with their SDAP doubled from last year's amount. "This is all in line with rewarding our Sailors, knowing that they go an extra step in fulfilling their duty," Ryan said.

For more information, see NAVADMIN 318/00 (two parts) on the BUPERS web site <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>.

## INSIDE



Volcano: Things are really heating up on B-1

By J03 Brenda M. Diggs

NAVY REGION HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When the renowned marine-life artist Wyland visited the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange last Friday it was more than an autograph signing session.

It was an opportunity to for the artist to emphasize the Navy's role in the environment and ecological system.

Wyland's goal at the autograph signing was to promote the importance of keeping the ocean and its creatures safe - the theme behind his artwork.

Wyland is a renowned painter, sculptor, writer, underwater photographer and muralist. Since 1981, he has painted more than 86 monumental marine life murals around the world and plans to do 14 more to reach his goal of 100, ending at the

Great Wall of China.

This artist is committed to bridging the worlds of marine science and art. He has dedicated his life and his art to whales, which have received great benefit from his talent.

The Wyland foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 1998, has implemented educational programs such as the Wyland Ocean Challenge. Members of the foundation conduct shows across the country and paint life-size marine life on huge canvases around the world.

The Undersea World with Jacques Cousteau was the beginning for Wyland. As a young boy, he was intrigued with the show. It was what he learned from that show that inspired him to want to do more for the environment



J03 Brenda M. Diggs photo

Marine-life artist Wyland, framed by one of his dolphin sculptures. He visited the Navy Exchange last Friday for an autograph signing session. Wyland is a renowned painter, sculptor, writer, underwater photographer and muralist. He has been named the artist of the "International Year of the Ocean" by the United Nations and given a commemorative stamp in his honor.

▼ See WYLAND, A-3

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