

FLEET FOCUS

USS Chicago's namesake family

By J02 Cori Rhea
COMSUBPAC

The fast attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) hosted some special guests recently when the boat's support group, the 721 Club, flew to Pearl Harbor from Chicago to visit the crew. The club is famous throughout the submarine community for its tremendous support and interaction with its namesake submarine.

Christmas presents for crewmembers and their families, an annual party and money donated for special needs, such as exercise equipment on the boat, are among some of the contributions the 721 Club has presented to the crew.

The highlight of the club's week long visit to Pearl Harbor was a daylight embark on the submarine where the Sailors were able to show their supporters a taste of life underway. Every year members of the 721 Club make the trip to visit and ride the submarine.

"It's really great to be able to do this," said club member, Frank Whittaker. "There has been a large turnover in the crew since last year's embark. This gives us a chance to make personal friends with the crewmembers and it enhances our understanding of just how wonderful and hard working these young Americans are."

The Chicago crew demonstrated maneuvers of their fast attack submarine during the embark including an exercise called 'angles and dangles'. During this exercise, the boat undertakes severe degree rolls and tilts. While all the guests onboard brace themselves, the Sailors continue on with business as if nothing at all is affecting their balance.

Robert Burkhardt, from La Grange Highlands, Ill., was very impressed with the professionalism of the Sailors. "The opportunity to go out on a submarine is exciting to me. But to be able to see these guys work



J02 Cori Rhea photo

The 721 club gathers for a group shot after they spent the day riding the fast-attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721).

hard and so well together makes me feel a lot of pride. They seem to be so sincerely interested in us too, so it's good to know they are on the front line with that dedicated conviction for Americans," said Burkhardt.

Whittaker added, "When these guys go out to sea, it is hard for them and for their families... and when you think about it, they are out here for us. So I think all of us should do as much as possible to support our Sailors and try to help their lives be a little

easier."

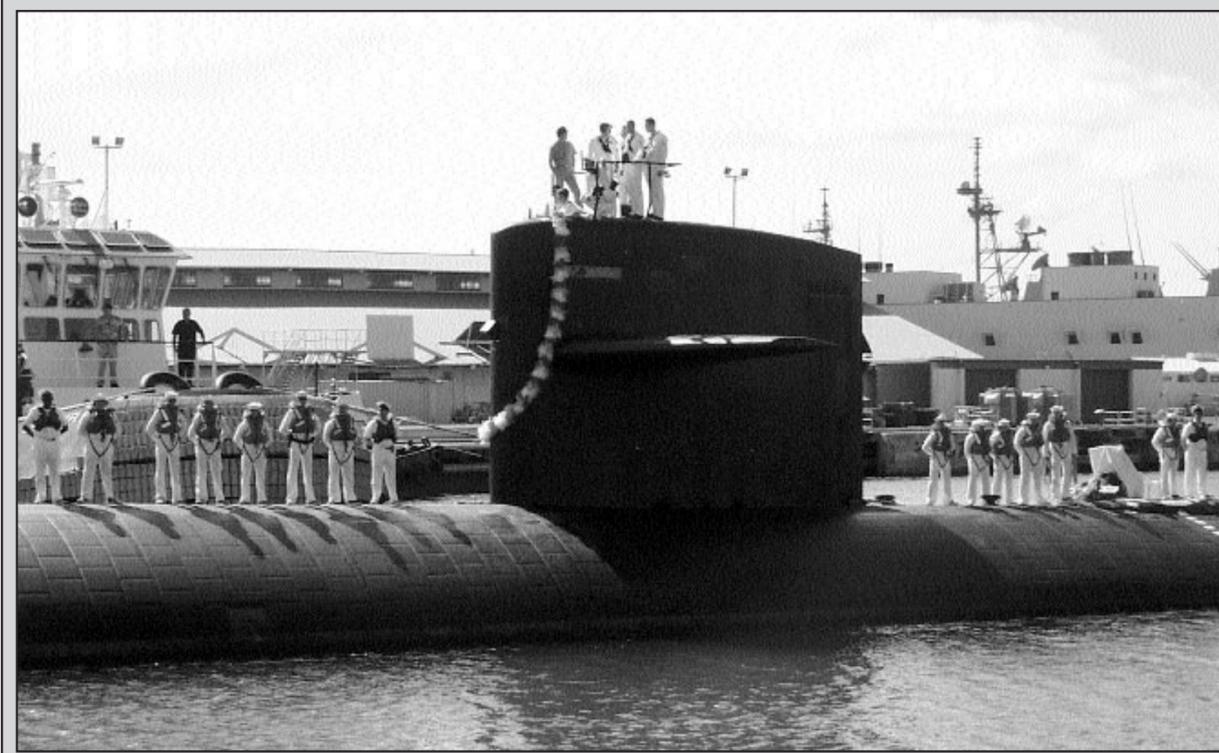
That is exactly what the 721 Club does. They are open for any requests and always ready to help.

"Our support group takes such great care of us," said MM2(SS) Marc Sergent, a native of Grove City, Ohio. "Finally, we are able to give a little back to them by taking them out and showing them a great time. They make us happy so it's really good to see them out here having a great time."

The embark was a well-received venture for both parties. People bonded and each group was able to show their deep appreciation for the other. The annual party was held in Waikiki a few days later.

"If every boat had a support group as generous and wonderful as ours, I believe the world would be a better place. Just to know there are people out there thinking about us helps the day go by a little easier," concluded MMC(SS) Jim Ganley.

La Jolla calls Pearl Harbor Home



J02 Cori Rhea Photo

Sailors from the fast-attack submarine, USS La Jolla (SSN 701) are now calling Pearl Harbor their new home. The submarine just completed a two-year overhaul in Kittering, Maine and was previously homeported in San Diego, Calif. La Jolla is a nuclear-powered submarine and carries a crew of more than 130 men. It was commissioned on Oct. 24, 1981. La Jolla is now attached to Submarine Squadron One.

Scouts spend holidays down under

By Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde
USS TUCSON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 60 possible future Sailors in Singapore got a glimpse of life below decks on board USS Tucson (SSN 770) in the Lion City during a liberty stop.

Boy scouts from pack 3017 of Singapore visited the fast-attack submarine during the holidays.

"It is important for crewmembers to spend time with the youth and to show them about a possible career," says Fire Control Technician Senior Chief (SS) Robert W. Kumnick, a 19-year Navy veteran and former scoutmaster of a troop in Hawaii.

Tucson Sailors on duty gave the boys and their families tours of the submarine and described how the 130 members of the crew live on board.

"I saw both periscopes and listened to ocean sounds using sonar equipment. I sat in the seat of the helmsman; I saw where the captain slept, and I saw the missiles and torpedoes," says Weblo Scout Gregory McMillan of the troop's Den Seven.

"My favorite part was listening to the noises in the ocean using the radar equipment and driving the boat."

The Navy tour guides say they had fun answering the scouts' questions and giving the young guests an op-

"It's important to show who is out there defending them."

— MM2 Josephy Goolsby
USS Tucson (SSN 770)

portunity to visit a U.S. submarine. The Sailors learned they had some things in common with the scouts — like a sense of pride and patriotism.

"It's important to show [the scouts] who is out there defending them," says Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Joseph Goolsby of Houston, Texas. "They share the same pride of defending our country as we do. And being a part of the scouts gives them an opportunity to see and do things others will never have the opportunity to experience — just as we do every day."

The sub has a history of working with young people, introducing them to the Navy's "silent service."

Earlier this year, more than 30

fourth graders from Erickson Elementary School in Tucson, Ariz., traveled to San Diego, Calif., to visit the sub's crew.

A Tucson television station and the local Navy League helped make the trip possible for the students. Since the USS Tucson has formed, an ongoing partnership with the school.

The submarine's captain sent the students in the states postcards from the ports USS Tucson visited. In return, the children sent the crew letters. Many wanted to know more about life at sea.

"When the submarine moves fast, do you fall off?" asked Ariel a third grader at Erickson.

Her classmate wanted to know where the Sailors slept on board, making sure they were comfortable after a hard day's work.

"Do you wear pajamas when you go to sleep at night?" inquired Nikolas.

Many of the youngsters wanted to know about the creatures of the sea, particularly jellyfish and sharks.

"When you see a shark, do you jump back?" Cailah wants to know.

Some of the Boy Scouts in the Lion City say they were just as curious.

Tucson stopped in Singapore for a liberty call after a routine deployment to the Gulf. The ship is currently deployed with the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Battle Group.

Pacific e-Health Innovation Center wins technology award

By Susan Onuma
Pacific e-Health Innovation Center

Imark Communications presented its Pono Technology Award to the Pacific e-Health Innovation Center (P-eIC) at Tripler Army Medical Center. The award is given to organizations that demonstrate leadership, serve as an example of real-world risks, challenges, benefits and realizations to "doing it right", and motivate other organizations in the state of Hawaii to follow the lead and initiate similar projects.

The P-eIC as a whole, has crafted a new technology concept of research and demonstration/validation in association with a live test environment (Tripler Army Medical Center, Makalapa, Hickam Air Force Base, Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Pacific Island beneficiaries, Department of Defense, Asia healthcare facilities, etc.) that is without peer in the public and private sectors.

Peter Kay, the Pono Technology Award Event Chair said, "This award, in its first year, recognizes the achievements of Hawaii-based organizations that have demonstrated leadership and have overcome significant barriers and challenges in implementing technology solutions."

P-eIC was selected as the Pono Technology Award winner in the "Government" category, narrowly beating outbesting tough competitors such as the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation's Telemedicine Network, the Kauai County Housing Agency, and the Honolulu City and County Employees Federal Credit Union. Other categories included Education, Large Enterprise, Small Business, and Non-Profit.

The award was presented at a special recognition banquet during the recent Hawaii High Technology Showcase held at the Hawaii Convention Center. "We are extremely proud of the work we have done

here at Tripler Army Medical Center, and it is gratifying to know that others recognize the value and importance of this research and demonstration of outcomes," said Col. Rosemary Nelson, chief information officer and program manager of the P-eIC.

"I feel that it is the leadership at Tripler, which continues to challenge the status quo and the culture here.

Major Gen. Nancy R. Adams, the Commanding General of Tripler has cultivated and embraced the innovation that is found at P-eIC, and in fact, constantly encourages us to think "outside the box."

The P-eIC focuses on outcomes in a number of areas:

Applied E-Health—improves patient care through remote access to healthcare services and providers

Research and Concept Exploration—investigates promising clinical research questions and emerging technology issues resulting in contributions to the scientific discipline of clinical informatics

Distance Learning and Student Mentorship—facilitates internal and external training and education to various organizations in the Pacific to include mentorships for Native Hawaiians and distance learning programs

E-Health Process and Policy Analysis—fosters change management to support use of technology to meet military readiness requirements and assesses policy issues needing review due to Business Process Reengineering and technology capabilities

E-Health Collaborations—promotes collaborative relations, partnerships, and strategic alliances for information sharing and dissemination of Telehealth resources and knowledge

For more information on the P-eIC please contact us at 433-3600 or visit their website at <http://prpo.tamc.amedd.army.mil>.