

PACOM volunteers help beautify local schools

By Staff Sgt. Ranston V. Harvey
PACOM Public Affairs

According to an America's Promise Hawaii brochure, Hawaii schools face \$595 million in deferred repair and maintenance costs each year. Most of that money is directed towards critical projects which involve student safety.

But what about the rest of the needed repairs and maintenance work which leads to the deterioration of school campuses over time?

"A few months ago, in every city in the United States, men and women were campaigning seeking the votes of their constituents and in the speeches of all of them was one thing," said Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, a n honorary chairman of America's Promise.

"Education is important. It is priority number one. But it happens quite often, when the elections are over and they gather in their legislative groups, they find that there is not enough money. Well, we've got choices. We can either argue about it, scream about it, curse the politicians or we can do something about it."

On Dec. 9, America's Promise put its plan into action – to do something about it – to begin the renovation of the first three of eight Hawaii schools it selected to help. This plan called for a large volunteer base, which included service members from the Pacific Command J1, the Joint Intelligence Unit at Kunia and the USS Russell.

J1 personnel and Ma'ema'e school officials did landscaping work at Ma'ema'e Elementary, in which they relocated shrubbery from the front of the school to a central location and replaced it with indigenous Hawaii plants.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Irwin Noel, volunteer from J113, said he gave up his Saturday to lend a helping hand to the community. "It feels great to know you're doing something good. Maybe, in few years, the little plants will become trees."

Beatrice Zane, principal of Ma'ema'e Elementary, said she was proud to work alongside J1 volunteers. "Joint manpower can make a lot of dreams come true, and our children will be able to see that," said Zane. "It's great to see people smiling while working."

Military volunteers from Kunia and the USS Russell along with students, parents, faculty, and union workers gave Kawanakoa Intermediate School a "much needed" paint job.

At Roosevelt High School, a few airmen from Kunia and other volunteers engaged themselves in a major landscaping project.

Volunteers met for lunch and an America's Promise Hawaii kick off ceremony at Roosevelt, which featured Wally Amos, founder of America's Promise Hawaii; Adm. Dennis Blair, PACOM commander in chief; Dr. Paul LeMahieu, Hawaii Schools superintendent; and Sen. Daniel Inouye.

"It's a great day, in which our community has come together to support our children – to support our schools," said Amos. "We are all a part of this community, and when we give to our schools, we give to ourselves."

"We are helping the students have pride in their schools, which builds their self-esteem. This will allow them to move on to be much more productive citizens."

Inouye also commended volunteer efforts. "About 200 years ago, when this great nation was founded, an important word was patriot – a person willing to give his life for his country," said Inouye.



Staff Sgt. Ranston V. Harvey photo

Col. Wayne Newman, PACOM J1, and Tech. Sgt. Irwin Noel, of J113, lift a shrub from the ground onto a wheelbarrow. J1 directorate volunteers helped beautify Ma'ema'e Elementary recently by relocating shrubbery to a better area.

"An equally important word was volunteer. America was made from volunteers, and this day, we are all volunteers – the military, union workers, parents, teachers and students. I cannot say enough to express my gratitude."

America's Promise Hawaii, a statewide initiative based on Colin Powell's America's Promise – the Alliance for Youth, mobilizes and connects Hawaii's children with the resources to help them become healthy, productive citizens.

Sailors can study for next exam cycle on webpage

By JOCS(AW) Jon Gagne
NETPDTC

"Is it really that time of the year again? Another advancement exam? I haven't even begun to study!"

Sound familiar? Well, hopefully you are ready for the January chief petty officer advancement exam or the March Navy-wide advancement exam. If you're not, shame on you. But how can you prepare yourself for future exams?

It's really quite simple. Visit the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC) home page at <http://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/>. At this site, home of the Navy Advancement Center, you'll find everything you need to prepare yourself for that next exam and get an inside look into the Navy advancement process.

At the Navy Advancement Center located at Saufley Field in Pensacola, Fla., senior enlisted subject matter experts from every Navy enlisted rating develop advancement exams, Non-Resident Training Courses (NRTCs) and advancement handbooks to help Sailors train and prepare themselves for advancement.

For exams, a bibliography is published six months ahead of time and posted on the NETPDTC web site, showing you the reference material you will need to study to prepare yourself for the exam. This bibliography is current for the next scheduled exam only and changes with each exam cycle based on the information on which you are being tested.

Advancement handbooks, developed in conjunction with a rating's occupational standards, or job task definitions, tells you what type of exam questions you can expect on each rating-related subject. And to simplify the process even further, the handbooks are broken down by paygrade.

The NRTCs, formerly called rate training manuals, are no longer a prerequisite for advancement, but they remain a solid training tool in the fleet and a valuable study guide for those going up for advancement. With modern technology, nearly every rating NRTC is available for download on the NETPDTC web site. And soon, you will be able to enroll in the related NRTC courses online.

If you've ever wondered how advancement exams were developed, processed and graded, click on the "NEAS Brief" button on the web site and you'll get an inside look into the exam process.

This presentation not only breaks down how exams are developed and exam quotas are compiled, but also explains the process of compiling your Final Multiple Score (FMS), and gives you a step-by-step overview of your new exam profile sheet.

What if you're not ready for advancement? Well, the NETPDTC home page at <http://www.cnet.navy.mil/netpdtc> has you covered. There are more than 100 non-resident training courses available to you simply by requesting to enroll.

Many of these courses can earn you college credits and all courses can be recorded in your personal record. So either way, you're proving that you are ready for the next step up the ladder.

Go ahead – take some time today to visit the NETPDTC or Navy Advancement Center web site. For junior enlisted personnel, these sites offer an eye-opening look at the Navy advancement process.

For senior enlisted, they present numerous opportunities for general military training (GMT) sessions and on-the-job training exercises for your personnel. Either way, they bring the Sailor one step closer to being fully prepared on exam day and, one step closer to getting advanced.

Yukon 'OPLIFT's spirits, POVs



PH2 Chad McNeeley

USNS Yukon (T-AO 202) offloads a privately owned vehicle that was transported to Pearl Harbor under the Navy OPLIFT Program Jan. 17. The OPLIFT program is designed for the shipment of military cargo, ammunition, and others. Space may be available for POVs after all military cargo has been assigned. The OPLIFT program is a benefit and is operated on a space available, first come first served basis.

Time in Hawaii coming to a close? Check out duty elsewhere



file photo

One of the many benefits of duty abroad is the views and the cultures you will be introduced to. Naples offers some of the more breathtaking views offered from duty stations around the world.

By J01(SW) Tim Oleary
Navy Region Europe Public Affairs

Naples, Italy – Navy Region Europe, headquartered in Naples, Italy launched a new, multi-media "Duty In Europe" web site on Jan 16.

The site, www.duty europe.navy.mil, offers a comprehensive look at the bases that comprise Navy Region Europe, and serves as a portal to the facilities and services they provide.

The purpose of the site is to be a complete source of information about what to expect from a tour of duty in the European theater for Sailors, family members and civilian employees.

It is also a call to exceptional Sailors who wish to accept the challenges and rewards that come with a tour in Navy

Region Europe. The Duty In Europe web site will serve as a tool for information throughout someone's tour in the region.

The "Life" section of the site provides essential information on housing, education, adult and youth activities and many more quality of life issues.

On the site's "Travel" pages, you'll learn about great tour destinations near each of the bases. These pages will provide video tours and printable directions to each spot. Another feature is the "Duty" section, which provides information on career-enhancing opportunities.

By clicking on www.duty europe.navy.mil, the Old World becomes your world.

Take a trip through the site and see why Duty In Europe means duty with the best – the best people, the best quality of life and the best opportunities.