

Hawaii Navy News



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Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

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In Brief

Tax Center 2001

The Pearl Harbor Tax Center will open Jan. 29 at 9:15 a.m. The center is located at the Naval Legal Service Office Pacific Detachment, Pearl Harbor, Bldg. 1746, 850 Willamette Street, Pearl Harbor Naval Complex (directly across from the Fleet and Family Support Center).

Free tax preparation for active duty military, their dependents, and retirees is provided. The Tax Center is open Jan. 29 - April 16, Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (walk-ins until 4 p.m.), and Saturday for appointments from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call 473-5982, ext 235. For further information, contact the Tax Officer, Lt. Matthew B. Kurek, JAGC, USNR, at 473-5982, ext 321, or LN1 William K. Hickok at 473-5982, ext 318.

GSA Closed For Inventory

The General Services Administration (GSA) Customer Supply Center at Schofield Barracks will be closed Feb. 20 - 23 for inventory.

The store at Hickam Air Force Base will be closed Feb. 26 to March 2 p.m. For more information, call Mike Martin at 655-0280 or Rita Loring at 448-8937.

Branch Medical Clinic Makalapa after hours appointment availability

Branch Medical Clinic Makalapa now offers routine appointments after hours and on the weekends in the Pediatric and Adult Care Clinics for all active duty personnel and family members who are assigned a primary care manager at BMC Makalapa. Appointments are available Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This is in addition to the normal appointment availability throughout the week.

Call Central Appointments at 473-0247 to schedule an appointment. If calling on a weekend for a pediatric appointment, call 473-1880, ext 296; for Adult Clinic, call 473-1880, ext 317.

INSIDE



Kicking your way into fitness at Block Arena... B1

NEX, DeCA break ground



PH2 Chad McNeely photo

Congressman Neil Abercrombie joined Navy, NEX and DeCA associates at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mall Jan. 19. The Mall is scheduled for completion in spring of 2002 and is expected to cost \$49 million. To see what is to come at The Mall, see pages A-4 and A-5.

Work to begin soon on The Mall at Pearl Harbor

By Laura McDonald
Navy Exchange

Navy Region Hawaii, the Navy Exchange (NEX) and the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) hosted a groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony Jan. 19 for the \$49 million Mall at Pearl Harbor.

The groundbreaking was held in front of the current

Plaza at Pearl Harbor at the site where construction will begin for the new Mall, which is scheduled for completion in spring of 2002.

Guests included Congressman Neil Abercrombie, along with Rear Adm. Conway, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; active duty and retired military, and NEX and DeCA associates.

Mike Cottrell, district manager of Navy Exchange Hawaii, started the event by saying; "Today's groundbreaking marks the beginning of the Mall at Pearl Harbor. But the groundbreaking celebrates much more than this... building this modern, efficient, and magnificent mall demonstrates the Navy's commitment to the Sailor and to their family's quality of life," added Cottrell.

The new, two-story, 340,000 square foot mall will be built opposite the existing Pearl Harbor Plaza. Once completed, it will back up to what is now Radford Drive and will house the largest Navy Exchange in the world and the largest commissary in Hawaii. "Our mission was to meet the operational requirements, enhance the [servicemembers']

▼ See THE MALL, A-2

Federal Fire Department assumes ambulance service

By Roger Pinell
Federal Fire Department

All military and civilian personnel located within the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex and surrounding Navy Region Hawaii housing areas can now boast that they are receiving the highest level of on-scene pre-hospital care available today.

This commendable and lifesaving achievement became a reality when the area's emergency service program was transferred from Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor to the Federal Fire Department (FFD) during a dedication ceremony Jan. 18.

The upgrade came about through the cooperation and full support of Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Capt. R. D. Hughes, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor; Capt. J. Steve Edmondson, Commanding Officer Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor; Capt. Jeffrey D. Conners, Commander

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, and Fire Chief M. P. Jones.

Six trained and certified FFD paramedics now provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedic ambulance services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

All of the paramedics selected have extensive knowledge and, experience in emergency care management, protocol and procedures. [Their skills were acquired through four years of intensive training at Kapiolani Community College's (KCC) Mobile Intensive Care Technician - Paramedic Program, which is highly regarded as one of the toughest in the United States.

Cumulatively, these paramedics have over 50 years of experience working in the state's busiest system - the City and County of Honolulu's Emergency Medical 911 Service, Dr. Fred Goldblatt, Director of Pre-hospital Services, Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor is the Medical Director

▼ See FFD, A-8



PH2 Chad McNeely photo

Paul Gabriel, Patrick Matsuki, Gregg Moriguchi and Roger Pinell represent the first Fire Department/Advanced Emergency Medical Response Service in Hawaii at the dedication ceremony Jan. 18.

Local Sailor launches drive for Seabee Memorial at Punchbowl

By BUCS (SCW) Rich Montoya
CBU-413 Self Help Center

Something is missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl and Construction Electrician 1st Class (Seabee Combat Warfare) Clint Rainey wants to do something about it.

However, he needs your help. It all began last May, when Rainey took his parents to Punchbowl. At the end of the visit, his father, who had served in the Air Force asked, "If you are so proud of being a Seabee, why isn't there a stone honoring the Seabees here?"

"I didn't know," replied the 31-year-old native of Summerville, Ga. who is attached to Construction Battalion Unit-413 Self-Help Center at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "My Dad put me on the spot,

but I said I would look into it."

Fueled by a strong sense of pride and initiative, Rainey set out to get the Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps who served in the Pacific Theater their own memorial stone at Punchbowl.

First he contacted officials at Punchbowl Cemetery and the Veteran's Administration to request guidelines on establishing a memorial at the site.

Administrators at Punchbowl provided the information and then referred him to Stan Nicholls, a retired WWII Submariner who had placed a memorial stone a few months earlier in April of 1999 to recognize the Submarine Force.

Nicholls provided information on fundraising, establishing a memorial account and vendors who could produce the memorial.

Records show more than 38,000 names of those

who are buried at the cemetery, including victims of World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Combat journalist Ernie Pyle, who was killed by a Japanese sniper during the Okinawa campaign, is buried at Punchbowl.

The grave of Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka, one of the Shuttle Challenger crew killed during the ill-fated 1986 mission, can be found there as well.

Among the honored dead are over 13,000 killed-in-action during World War II, as well as 600 more from Korea and Vietnam, including 143 Seabees whose final resting-place is at the National Cemetery.

The Seabee Memorial Committee has since grown to include other members such as his wife Patricia, whose father is a retired construction electrician.

▼ See SEABEE, A-3

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