

Hawaii Navy News



Volume 26 Issue 18

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

May 11, 2001

In Brief

Were you a 'Pearl Harbor' extra?

The CINCPACFLT Public Affairs Office is looking for Sailors who worked on the 'Pearl Harbor' movie production. The public affairs office staff is working on a special public relations project related to the movie's premiere. If you were part of the movie crew, contact CINCPACFLT's 'Pearl Harbor' joint information bureau at 474-3857.

Navy Federal Credit Union

The Pearl Harbor Member Service Center will change its hours beginning May 16. The new hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon -Fri., and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on paydays.

Military Spouse Day

This year's Military Spouse Day is designated to be today.

Each year, since 1984, the services have set aside a special day to recognize the countless contributions of military spouses.

Our military spouses are often called upon to make sacrifices as they face the unique challenges of military life.

These women and men must cope with deployments, family separations, and frequent moves, all of which require special skills and commitment.

Throughout our nation's history, military spouses have not only met these challenges, but their energy and dedication have helped our military communities to thrive.

Their selfless contributions play a vital role in the stability of our service members and our communities.

Bake Sale

Volunteers are needed to donate baked goods. The Naval Station Recreation Committee will accept donations at 7 a.m. May 15 at the entrance of Navy Federal Credit Union for the bake sale that day.

For more information, contact LNC Peters at 473-3300.

INSIDE



Sit in on MWR's 18th annual bodybuilding competition... See B-1

INDEX

Fleet Focus	A-5
Chapel Pennant	A-8
Movie Call /MWR	B-2
Community Calendar	B-3
Classifieds	B-5

NEPMU 6 team deploys to Australia

By Mark Oliva

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

There are a few staples servicemembers deploying to Australia for Exercise Tandem Thrust can count on this year. Beans, bullets, bandages and yes, even microbiology laboratories.

The lab is part of the packing list for Naval Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 6 (NEPMU6), based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Their job in

Australia is to be the duty experts on how not to get sick, catch diseases, or get hurt from anything, anywhere at anytime. They teach the troops and even the troop trainers on staying healthy. Not an easy task for a unit fully staffed by 12 Navy preventive medicine personnel.

"It's quite a challenge since there's a few thousand people involved and only 12 of us," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Carlos LeBron, a microbiologist and NEPMU6 team leader.

"These are some big operations and the distances are great. We've got some heavy-duty expertise. We get the cream of the cream."

And the Unit needs them. The preventive medicine unit acts as a liaison for deploying troops to training regions. They often deploy ahead of the main units, testing waters, checking produce and even collecting bugs to find out what's out

there that can make servicemembers sick.

To get it done, NEPMU 6 has on hand two preventive medicine doctors and experts in several areas of medicine, such as LeBron's field of microbiology, industrial hazards experts or people regulating workspace safety, two entomologists "bug chasers", (one from Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center [NDVECC] Bangor, Washington), and environ-

mental health officers and preventive medicine technicians (PMTs), who have broad-spectrum training in all fields of preventive medicine.

"One thing we're watching out for is Ross River Virus," LeBron said. "It's a virus transmitted by mosquitoes. It's prevalent in the area we're training in."

Ross River Virus isn't a deadly virus, but it isn't

▼ See NEPMU, A-3

Boat race merges training, fun



See story and more photos on A - 4

PH2 Chad McNeeley photo

Rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) crews compete in the Destroyer Squadron 31 boat race May 4 on the northeast side of Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. DESRON 31 hosted the friendly competition as a way to provide its Sailors with low-cost, realistic underway maneuvering and formation training.

Criminal investigators target 'designer drugs,' users, dealers

By Karen S. Spangler

NAVY REGION HAWAII

It's a dangerous combination - young Sailors and the "rave" drug scene. Designer drugs are readily available, relatively inexpensive and not easily detected. They offer temptation to young Sailors with time on their hands, a little money in their pocket and the desire to try something new.

Rave parties and clubs, providing environments that are alcohol-free and usually frequented by young adults ages 14-25, often attract

young military members who are lonely and far away from home.

Other factors may also contribute to the fact that some young Sailors may venture into the designer drug scene. The servicemembers have a steady income and may be open to the sale of drugs. Many erroneously believe that designer drugs are not dangerous.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) has uncovered drug use throughout commands in Hawaii and has noted a marked increase in drug investigations including ecstasy and club drugs.

Positive urinalysis results for the use of ecstasy Navy-wide have shown a 556 percent increase since 1998. Statistics have also shown that users of Ecstasy are usually E4-E6. There were more than 400 cases of ecstasy abuse among Navy and Marine Corps personnel in fiscal year 2000.

NCIS uses a number of measures to detect the drugs and to apprehend drug dealers and drug users. They also work closely with Navy and Marine commands to provide information about illegal drugs and identify suspected users.

Additional methods of detection and investigation, as well as implementing new strategies to curtail drug use, are in progress.

NCIS agents are undercover in a variety of places that are likely spots of drug activity, and the person selling or buying drugs to Sailors could be one of those undercover agent. Yet, some will still take the chance.

The "rave" culture or so-called designer drug scene is a nationwide phenomenon. Users and dealers,

▼ See DRUGS A-2

New Zealand, U.S. armies open Asia-Pacific military medicine conference

By Margaret Tippy

PACIFIC REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—"It was absolutely wonderful the Maori shared their culture with us," said Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams, the U.S. Army Pacific Command Surgeon, speaking of the Maori welcome at the opening of the 11th Asia-Pacific

Military Medicine Conference (APMMC XI) May 7 at the Sky City Hotel Conference Center. The New Zealand Army (NZA) and the U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) are the co-hosts of the conference. Adams, and her co-host, Col. (Dr.) Anne Campbell, Director of New Zealand Army Medical Services, made history. This is the

first time two women are in charge of the annual conference that has been hosted in different countries for 11 years.

The primary theme for the conference is "Health Support in Operations Other than War." Other topics include emerging infectious diseases in the Pacific, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, and telemedicine. Maj. Gen. Martyn Dunne, Joint Force Commander Designate, New Zealand Defence Force, and the keynote speaker, addressed the more than 300 delegates on "Operations Other than War" as "Stability Operations and Support Operations."

"Stability operations include a range of actions that

▼ See MEDICINE, A-11

Field of Dreams 'ghost' players appear in Pearl Harbor



J03 Sunday Sawyer photo

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Pearl Harbor sponsored the touring "Field of Dreams" ghost players May 6 at Ward Field. During their visit, the players held a clinic to help local kids learn more about baseball. They also put on a comedy show and held a mock game against one of Pearl Harbor's softball teams. See next week's Hawaii Navy News, page B-1 for the full story and more photos.