



SUBPAC feature: USS Parche remembered...A4

# HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



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## Grandau relieves McPherson at NPMOC

By Lt. j.g. Sandra E. Sifuentes  
NPMOC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

According to Hawaiian legend, the islands summon rain as a symbol of their bereavement for the departure of a person who means a great deal to them.

How fitting it was that the islands offered Capt. Terry McPherson a deluge of rainfall, enough to interrupt the rehearsal, hours before he was to be relieved as the commanding officer of Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center (NPMOC/JTWC) on June 6.

And with the words "I relieve you" and "I stand relieved," the men and women of NPMOC/JTWC gained Capt. Frank Grandau as their 28th commanding officer.

The ceremony was an opportune time to reflect on the past and ponder the future. Few military ceremonies are as simple and yet as significant as the change of command. It is a visible symbol of command continuity and of the orderly transfer of responsibility from one naval officer to another.

Grandau, who brings with him 24 years of naval experience, is

no stranger to Hawaii or NPMOC/JTWC. He served as the officer in charge (OIC) of the Mobile Environmental Team and Fleet Services Officer from 1992 to 1994, and was the Pacific Fleet's staff oceanographer from 1997 to 1999.

Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway, Jr., Commander, Naval Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

During his address, Conway spoke of the important role of METOC to the Navy in Hawaii and emphasized the teamwork and leadership that has led to

NPMOC/JTWC's "exceptional support to the fleet."

As a surface warfare officer, Conway understands and fully supports the importance of the NPMOC/JTWC mission. He stressed that war-fighters rely on NPMOC/JTWC to turn data into information they can use; and Navy weather professionals do it better than any other military in the world.

"We absolutely rely on the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command to continue to gather the best possible METOC data and turn that data into operational knowledge

that is better than what our potential adversaries may have," said Conway.

Conway also used his remarks as an opportunity to highlight the history of meteorological support to the military. Fifty-seven years ago to the day, a critical METOC forecast led to a successful D-Day invasion of Normandy, and today the METOC community continues to prove its importance. The significance of June 6 as the 57th anniversary of D-Day was a theme that carried on throughout the

▼ See NPMOC, A-3

## ATG MIDPAC earns safety award

By PNC(AW) Don Robbins  
ATG MIDPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Director of Safety and Occupational Health and Fire Protection Policy for the Secretary of the Navy, E. Daniel Reinhard, Jr., presented an award to Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific's for its commitment and awareness in the field of safety.

Reinhard made the presentation June 8 at a ceremony held at ATG MIDPAC, which was selected as the winner of the coveted fiscal year 2000 "Department of the Navy Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore" in the Fleet Operational/Support Unit Ashore category.

"This is not one of those awards given by a committee," said Reinhard. "It's an award that is personally reviewed and selected from each category by the Secretary of the Navy."

He also stated that the factors that culminated in ATG MIDPAC's selection are the commands ability and willingness to apply Operational Risk Management (ORM) on the job and at home.

"Thanks to all of you, and do not let up. Safety consciousness is a 24/7 commitment," said Capt. Martin J. Leghart, Sr., ATG MIDPAC commander during the award presentation ceremony.

MMCS(SW) Robert Seneca, Command Safety Officer, received special thanks during the ceremony for his key role in managing the command safety and hazard awareness program at ATG MIDPAC. Ceremony officials cited Seneca's outstanding coordination effort and commitment to safety policies and beliefs as key factors for his command receiving the prestigious safety award.

"This award is especially significant considering the nature and frequency of the training provided by ATG MIDPAC," said Seneca. Presently, the command provides seven high risk and six moderate risk courses of instruction ranging from second-class swimmer qualification to live shipboard fire fighting.

Command representatives from ATG MIDPAC submitted the award nomination package to the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (SURFPAC) in December 2000 for the Navy-wide award competition. Upon selection by SURFPAC, the package was forwarded to

▼ See MIDPAC, A-2

## 'Polar Expedition'



JO2 Erin Carlson photo

Two volunteers lead a group of children from one activity to another Wednesday morning during the "Polar Expedition" Vacation Bible School program in which nearly 250 children are participating. The program hosted by the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Chapel began Monday and ends today. The NCTAMS Chapel will host a similar VBS program June 25-29.

## MWR, Navy Region Hawaii break ground on Catlin Teen Center

By Karen S. Spangler  
NAVY REGION HAWAII

Groundbreaking for a new \$3.5 million youth center - the first facility to be constructed and dedicated to Navy youth activities on Oahu - was held June 7 at Catlin Park.

"It's an exciting time for the youth program and Navy Region Hawaii," said Mick McAndrews, Director of Operations for Morale, Welfare and Recreation for Navy Hawaii.

The new state-of-the-art center, scheduled for completion and a grand opening in December, will comprise approximately 11,500 square feet. Situated in a park like setting in an area adjacent to the Navy's Catlin Park family housing area, the center will offer youth a myriad of activities.

The core of the youth center will be a central game area which will include foosball tables, air hockey tables, ping pong tables, game tables for such activities as chess and checkers, and a television with video games.



JoAnne Yow-Fairchild photo

Representatives for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Hawaii break ground on a new teen center June 7 at Catlin Park.

Three school-age care rooms, each with a capacity for about 30 children, will be utilized for the school age care program (a program similar to the A+ before and after school program and geared for children ages 6-12).

A computer study room with 10 computers and two study desks will be located in another area of the facility. In a nearby room, instructional classes in dance and other recreational activities will be

offered. A teen lounge with a television and play station will provide an area for teens to gather.

A small kitchen will also be incorporated in the center's design as well as an adjacent covered lanai with six to eight tables. The existing parking lot will be expanded and a second driveway added to allow a better flow of traffic.

It has taken about four years for the youth center

▼ See CENTER, A-10

## Navy Youth Programs team with Boys & Girls Clubs

By Karen S. Spangler  
NAVY REGION HAWAII

Navy Youth Programs in Hawaii are undergoing some major changes focused on making youth and teen programs even better.

Under a new partnering arrangement with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Navy youth in Hawaii will benefit from the new and expanded programs that will be offered.

Although currently under the Boys and Girls Clubs of America umbrella, the official name change will take place on Aug. 4. On that date, which precedes the observance of National Kids Day on Aug. 5, Navy youth Activities in Hawaii will formally become the Boys & Girls Clubs of Navy Hawaii.

Partnering with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America organization has already been done by Army and Air Force, and is now being done by the Navy.

According to Genia Wessels, Youth and Leisure Programs Director for Navy Region Hawaii, the local program has the distinction of being the

first Navy program to formally change from MWR Youth and Leisure Programs to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America program.

Some of the components of the new program include a code of conduct and a code of honor. Teens hold various offices and have leadership roles. Further defining the differences in the Boys & Girls Clubs program are such factors as more clearly defined goals and opportunities for a more well-rounded program that will serve more teens.

The new program operates with emphasis on five different core programs: character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, and sports and fitness and recreation. It will affect all Navy teen centers and school age care programs in Hawaii.

The care programs, geared for youth ages 6-12, offers recreational activities, arts and crafts, homework help and computer activities.

The teen program for

▼ See YOUTH, A-10