

Fleet Focus

JMSDF brings detachment to Kaneohe Bay

By Lt. Mark Brummett
VP-4 Public Affairs

Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) welcomed a detachment of aircrews from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) that arrived at MCBH Kaneohe Bay.

The detachment (PATRON DET 36) of five P-3 Orion aircraft will participate in a series of local area flights and a number of joint training missions around the neighbor islands for a period of four weeks.

JMSDF sends aircrews to Kaneohe Bay throughout the year, but a detachment of this size only happens once. The majority of the crews are flying from Kanoya Air Base, in the city of Kaboshima, Japan.

The Skinny Dragons will be the host squadron to DET 36 during their four-week stay. Along with the many training flights scheduled, several other events are planned. Lt. John Wigglesworth will brief the detachment about local area flight rules and fly a familiarization flight around the islands, while Lt. Craig Exum will

give a brief on current Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) tactics used today by our allies. A number of social events are planned.

The Skinny Dragons were not the only ones to welcome DET 36 to Oahu. The United Japanese Society of Hawaii welcomed the aircrews after their long flight. Acting as a liaison to the Japanese consulate, the society will help the visiting members by providing assistance of a more individual nature.

President Kenneth Saiki, a former JMSDF Captain, described the society as both a cultural and social organization. "We're here to welcome the detachment and offer our support by bringing a little bit of home to Hawaii."

Greeting official guests from Japan is a normal function of the society. With such a large group coming to Hawaii, the society has special plans during the four-week stay. Several social events are planned, as well as a trip to the first Japanese Naval Cemetery located outside of Japan.

The detachment gives the

Skinny Dragons an opportunity to return a few favors to JMSDF as VP-4 recently returned from a Western Pacific deployment. Cmdr. Tyrone Payton, the Executive Officer of the Skinny Dragons stated, "It's always a pleasure to host our allies and repay the warm hospitality we receive during our deployment to Japan."

During that time, VP-4 maintained two deployment sites in Japan, one in Misawa and the other on the island of Okinawa. Several functions were held at both sites from softball games to a visit to a traditional Japanese bathhouse. JMSDF Patrol Squadron Five was one of the squadrons to host the Skinny Dragons with open arms.

PATRON DET 36 will depart Kaneohe Bay on June 7 for the mainland as they continue their two-month training detachment in San Diego, CA and Whidbey Island, WA. While in San Diego, JMSDF will participate in Joint Task Force Exercise (JTTFEX-01), a multi-national exercise involv-



PH2 Jay Pearson

Skinny Dragon Executive Officer, Cmdr. Tyrone Payton greets JMSDF Capt. Seichi Sekiguchi after their long flight from Kanoya, Japan. PATRON DET - 36 will be in Hawaii for four weeks.

ing aircrews from Whidbey Island, Wash., Canada and Australia as well. All nations will fly the P-3 alongside several Skinny Dragon

aircrews during the exercise. The DET will return to Oahu for another two-week stay before crossing the Pacific to Japan.

Honolulu Sailors listen to stories from Pearl Harbor survivors



PH2 Jay Pearson photo

Pearl Harbor Survivor Ray Emory talks with USS Honolulu (SSN 718) Sailors recently about his experiences onboard the World War II light cruiser USS Honolulu (CL 48) during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Story by USS Honolulu Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor survivors stationed onboard the World War II light cruiser USS Honolulu (CL 48) Dec. 7, 1941, recently spent their Friday afternoon sharing experiences with several crewmembers from today's nuclear-powered attack submarine namesake, USS Honolulu (SSN 718).

Eighteen Sailors sat attentively as Ray Emory and Scott Green told of the horrific events during the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 and the subsequent heroic efforts of the USS Honolulu (CL 48).

This was the first time many present day Honolulu

Sailors had seen or spoken to a Pearl Harbor survivor. The time of sharing also gave the current Honolulu Sailors a greater insight into the World War II ship that also carried the name USS Honolulu. Their moving accounts of the attack on Pearl Harbor and what life was like for Sailors during World War II left a lasting impression.

"We'll never experience this type of surprise attack on American soil again. What these men fought for and what they accomplished is the reason our jobs are made so easy today. They clearly showed the strength and determination of the United States and her people. No book or movie can make it as clear as these personal accounts," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Frederick Richter, of Rahway, N.J.

Machinist Mate 3rd Class Brian Schlaffer, whose great grandfather served as a torpedoman in World War II, talked about how interesting it was to compare his great grandfather's stories to that of these men and also reflected on how well they could recall events that happened nearly six decades ago. He also asked them to explain the advancement system during the war. Ray Emory, a Pearl Harbor survivor and former Honolulu Sailor, who joined the Navy in 1938, responded with his personal account of rising through the ranks to Chief Boatswain in just four years and two months.

Today's Honolulu Warriors quickly discovered that they were carrying forth a legacy of outstanding war-fighting capability and naval excellence throughout the Pacific. Green echoed his former shipmate's account about life onboard the Honolulu as she traversed the great Pacific earning nine battle stars and several other decorations for her efforts.

For the Pearl Harbor survivors, getting to know the current Honolulu crew gave them a strong sense of comfort regarding the men who stand on the forefront of today's national defense.

Emory told the group, "I came topside and saw the Oklahoma take a torpedo and go up in flames. Ironically, there were worse days ahead for Honolulu than on Dec. 7,

1941." Most of the survivor's stories centered on the events surrounding the day of infamy, promotion opportunities during the war, liberty, discipline, and life during World War II.

"I've never seen or heard anything like this in person before. When I listen to what they went through, it makes me appreciate taking this time in port to work on qualifications and things for granted," commented Sonar Technician Seaman Jeremy Matthews. "They didn't have this luxury. They had to go right out and fight a real war."

"I've read stories and seen movies. To hear this story from actual survivors brought me closer to the Pearl Harbor tragedy and the events that followed. I have never seen the Navy operate in real wartime conditions since I came in after Desert Storm. However, after hearing their story, my mind is at ease and I feel very confident that we can do the same," remarked Machinist Mate 2nd Class Eun Lee.

Sonar Technician 3rd Class Andres Montoto said, "It made me realize what really happened and gave me a different perspective of their lives. This was coming from a real live Sailor who was actually there." Machinist Mate 3rd Class Robert Bulluck stated, "This was pretty interesting, a true learning experience for me to see how the world and the Navy has changed since World War II."

Overall, the afternoon proved to be a real eye-opener for many of the current Honolulu Sailors. This was a great opportunity to share with their predecessors and gain a new appreciation for the substantial contributions made by World War II Sailors. It also reaffirmed and broadened the significance of living up to the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

USS Honolulu (SSN 718) is the third Navy ship to bear the name Honolulu. She is a Los Angeles Class fast attack nuclear powered submarine home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Three. She is under the leadership of Cmdr. John Richardson and Honolulu's Chief of the boat Master Chief Machinist's Mate William Cramer.

Editorial: Linzey stirs Hopper Sailors with memoirs from Midway battle

By Lt. j.g. Charla Schreiber
USS HOPPER PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Fifty-nine years after the decisive battle that changed the course of the second World War, there is no doubt that the U.S. Navy is the world's strongest navy.

In fact, few of us can remember a time when our Navy was not the premiere global force. So when a gentleman like Dr. Stan Linzey, Jr. speaks of his memoirs of the great battle of the Pacific, it stirs Sailors into the unfamiliar realm of being at war with an uncertain outcome.

On the anniversary of Midway Day, USS Hopper (DDG) was honored with the presence of this Midway survivor and listened

eagerly to his story. Within about five minutes of speaking, Dr. Linzey had transformed Hopper's peaceful mess deck into the battle worn carrier Yorktown, heading to Midway and the fight that would ensue. What he experienced that day 59 years ago is remarkably vivid in his mind, no doubt because the dire situation he and fellow Sailors faced was against a Japanese fleet twice the size of what remained of the American Pacific fleet.

The Japanese had also been very successful in securing the western Pacific and were aiming for American territory. So, with the odds stacked against them and the pressure to hold back the Japanese surmounting, Yorktown and other ships in

company charged in.

Dr. Linzey's message about his experience during the battle and thereafter in the war was one of inspiration. Though a musician on the carrier, he found himself amidst all efforts to fight for his ship and country. When fear of battle would have stopped him from his duties, he sought guidance from a divine source and never winced an eye. He lived through the bombs and torpedoes that attacked and eventually sank the Yorktown that day. But by then, American aircraft had destroyed the Japanese carriers and clearly sent the message of our conviction.

It was apparent to Dr. Linzey that there were forces at work greater than humanly

possible that day, because the Yorktown, and every other American ship and aircraft there, were desperately outnumbered but stayed their course and changed the outcome of a war.

To many of our Sailors, hearing the experience of Dr. Linzey has inspired a new perspective and commitment to the Navy. Though it was 60 years ago, we see many practices and traditions that we know of so well and that make us who we are. There exists a great possibility that we may see such battles in the future.

Knowing how those who have gone before us have sacrificed somehow makes the difficulties and chores we face everyday in this job seem inconsequential.

COMSUBPAC awards exception performers



J02 McClain Shewman photo

Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) recently recognized its staff members, military and civilians, who have performed exceptionally over the past quarter. The group, comprised of 19 individuals, gathers after the ceremony held at the Parche Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. COMSUBPAC awardees from left to right: First row; Lt. Brian Davidson, LN1 Penny McCleary, Rowena Obrero, Esther Ajolo, John Willette, Joyce Krause, Oliver Smith, John Torosian and Clayton Tano. Second row: YNC(SS) Gary Chadwell, FTC(SS) Kim Good, STCS(SS) David Winsko, Rear Admiral John Padgett, SKC(SW/AW) Tullia Tafao, Capt. Stephen Burich, Cmdr. Pete Miller, Cmdr. Guy Dunan, Capt. Will Jordan and MS2(SS) Richard O'Connell. Awardees not pictured are; Tim Moore and Glen Amii.

SPOT CHECK

The Pacific Fleet today

Personnel: 227,353

- 135,067 USN
- 67,830 USMC
- 13,468 USNR
- 29,562 civilians

Ships: 191 (*)

- Underway: 83 (43%) (*)**
- Aircraft: 1,434 (**)**

Exercises: 2

Port Visits: 9 countries

Aircraft Carriers Underway/Deployed:

- USS Constellation
- USS Carl Vinson
- USS Kitty Hawk

LHA/LHD Underway/Deployed:

- USS Tarawa
- USS Boxer
- USS Essex

* — includes Military Sealift Command ships

** — includes USMC aircraft