



Check out the festivities for the July 4th Block Party... B1

HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



Rear Adm. Holmes relieved as COMPATRECONFORPACFLT by Rear Adm. Anthony L. Winns... A4

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Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'

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COMPATRECONFORPAC changes hands

By J02 Erin Carlson
Staff Writer

In a time-honored tradition of the U. S. Navy, Rear Adm. Anthony L. Winns relieved Rear Adm. Michael L. Holmes as Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet in a change of command ceremony June 22 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay. Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet served as keynote speaker.

COMPATRECONFORPAC is the Navy's Pacific land-based an-

ti-submarine warfare organization and was originally commissioned in 1964 at Naval Air Station, Moffett Field, Calif. Commander, Fleet Air Wings Pacific provided administrative command of all aviation patrol squadrons in the Pacific theater. In 1993 the command moved to Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii. Six years later, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation directed the closure of NAS Barbers Point and the relocation of all Patrol Wing Hawaii-based forces to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay that same year.

Today, COMPATRECONFORPAC is comprised of 32 subordinate commands/detachments, including two patrol wing staffs, six patrol squadrons, one fleet air reconnaissance squadron, one special projects unit, and six tactical support centers assigned in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Holmes, a Native American Indian, entered the Navy through Aviation Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in December 1973. He earned his pilot wings in November 1974. Throughout his career he served in numerous patrol squadron assignments, including command of

Patrol Squadrons 24 and 30. Holmes assumed command of COMPATRECONFORPAC in November 1997.

During his tenure, Holmes planned and executed the transfer of 2,000 personnel and 13 separate commands from Barbers Point to Kaneohe Bay while maintaining deployed and operational obligations at the highest state of readiness. This meant establishing new relationships on the Marine Corps base with agreements for bachelor enlisted quarters, medical facilities, and use of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

He was successful in getting

new tactical support centers in Misawa and Bahrain off the ground and started a support facility at Point Mugu to provide patrol squadron support to the battle groups and amphibious ready groups training in southern California. Holmes was also visionary in putting out new operational concepts producing the Control Reconnaissance Force Vision 2015 and initiating the kind of research and tactic development into hyper-spectral science and technology and explosive echo-ranging that will stand as

▼ See CHANGE, A-4

MIDPAC CoS retires but retained



By J03 Tim Walsh
Staff Writer
Photos by PH3 Kropca
Fleet Imaging Center Pacific

After 30 years of military service and a retirement ceremony June 22 at the USS Arizona Visitors' Center, Capt. Rick Smith may have been ready to leave the Navy, but the Navy isn't

quite ready to let him go. "Retired, but retained," explained Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific.

"Unlike many of the confusing military phrases we often use to describe something, this one is pretty self-explanatory. While this is a formal retirement ceremony, Capt. Smith isn't going anywhere just yet."

According to Conway, despite his retirement, Smith was asked to stay as MIDPAC chief of staff for the next several months, but the decision to do so was an easy one for Smith who went through a similar situation less than two years ago. In 1999, shortly after Smith assumed his current duties as chief of staff, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific serves as interim MIDPAC commander for three months between the time Rear Adm. John W. Townes III departed and Rear Adm. Conway arrived.

"When the Bureau of Naval Personnel has to make the incredibly hard decision to gap a flag officer billet, the decision isn't made without careful scrutiny of the officer chosen to fill in," explained Conway. "In this case, making the decision [to choose Smith] was an easy one."

While fulfilling the obligations of Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, Smith undertook the day-to-day operations of Pearl Harbor-based ships as well as hosting the largest maritime exercise in the world, Rim of the

▼ See RETAINED, A-6

Pacific Fleet Band



J03 Tim Walsh photo

The Pacific Fleet Band brass ensemble performed at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel June 23.

Our Navy: Building from our past for our tomorrow

Part Two

A look back at the Navy's past, a look to the Navy's future

By Adm. William J. Fallon
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

One of the premises of our national military strategy is that the United States will have immediate and sustained access to regions of the world where our nation's interests lie.



Adm. William Fallon

Given the draw down of U.S. military forces based overseas in the past decade, however, projection of combat power far from our shores has come to depend more on expeditionary forces deployed forward on a rotational or temporary basis.

In recognition of this, America's armed forces are making force structure and organizational changes to reflect 21st Century realities.

Increasingly mobile and expeditionary, they are capable of moving more quickly to the fight. But for this transformation to result in victory on the battlefield, access must first be gained and maintained.

In the coming decades, strategic access may be challenged by nations seeking to expand their regional influence in ways that compete with America's interests.

To some extent, those nations will value their military forces to the degree that they are able, or be perceived to be able, to keep the United States from projecting combat power in their respective regions of the world.

▼ See NAVY, A-10

Hawaiian monk seal tagged on Kaho'olawe

By Kelly Dunbar
Navy Region Hawaii

National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) officials can now feel a bit more at ease about the safety of a Hawaiian monk seal pup living on the island of Kaho'olawe.

In a combined effort between the Navy and its contractor, Parsons-UXB Joint Venture, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Services successfully tagged a Hawaiian monk seal pup June 22 on Kaho'olawe. By tagging the monk seal the NOAA is able to monitor and protect this endangered species.

"We had a successful mission last Friday," said Margaret Akamine Dupree, NMFS coordinator of the Hawai'i Marine Mammal Stranding Network. "With the assistance of the Navy, we found the pup without a problem and were able to measure and tag him for future monitoring. He appears to be healthy," added Dupree.

The tagging officially marks the first recorded birth of a monk seal on Kaho'olawe. The birth site on Kaho'olawe gives the monk seal isolated protection offered by no other major Hawaiian island. Because Kaho'olawe was used as a bombing range for 50 years, the island remains

undeveloped and allowed the monk seal freedom to mature through the weaning stage without disturbance from humans or domestic animals.

Currently the Navy, through its contractor Parsons-UXB, is conducting a cleanup effort on Kaho'olawe in which more than 300 people a day are airlifted to the island for unexploded ordnance removal (UXO). So far about 30 percent of the island has been cleared of UXO for safe meaningful uses of appropriate cultural, historical, archeological and educational purposes as determined by the State of

▼ See SEAL, A-2



John Boyden photo

The first recorded monk seal born on Kaho'olawe takes a nap with its mother.