

FLEET FOCUS

Buffalo: Sailors and families reunite after WESTPAC

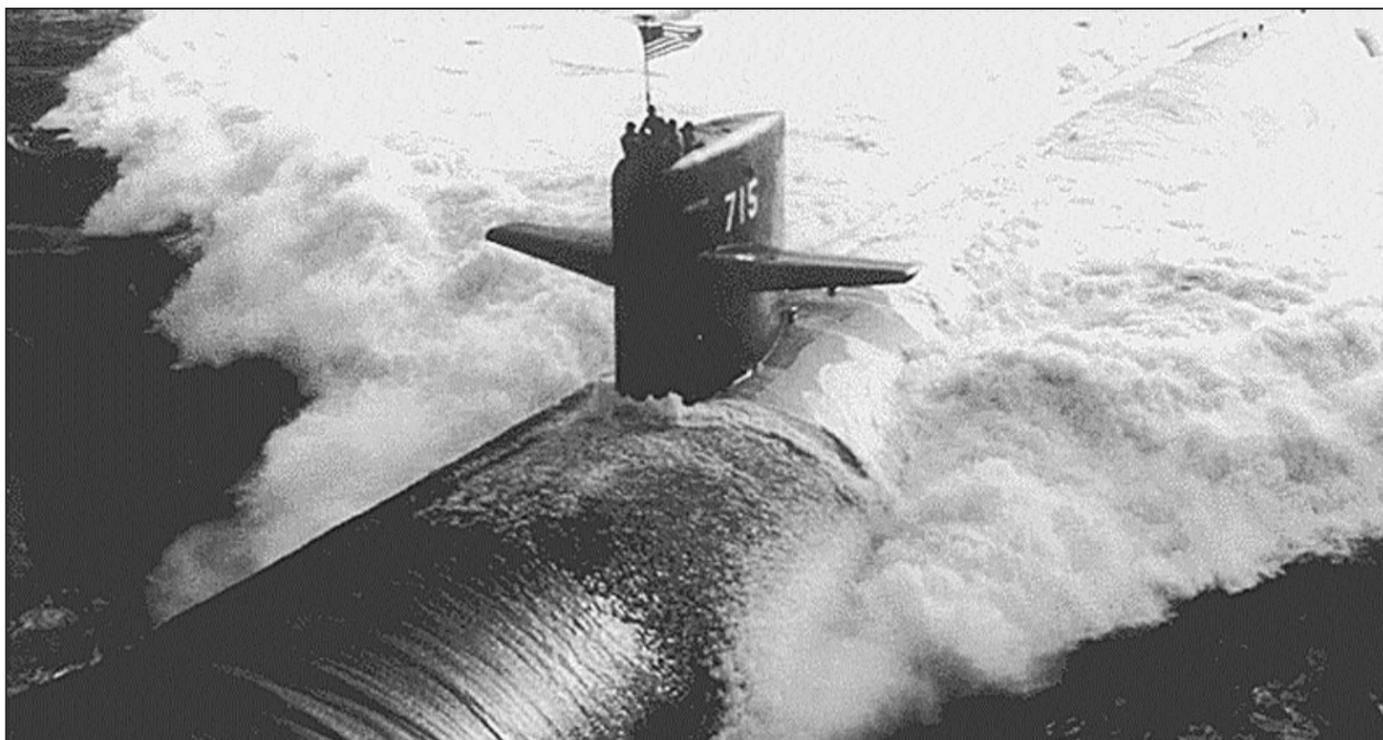
Continued from A-1

ally provided challenges for the crew, and I have to tell you they responded superbly," said Cmdr. Bob Hennegan, the submarine's commanding officer. "The missions we were asked to support this deployment were the most interesting I've seen while deployed in the Pacific."

While deployed, the ship participated in several international exercises, a few operations and enjoyed some quality liberty ports.

"We were really fortunate the Admiral and Commodore held the line and really pushed for some of the great ports like Brisbane and Pattaya. That's why some of these guys joined the Navy, and I don't think they were disappointed," Hennegan said. The submarine also visited Chinhea, Korea; Yokosuka, Japan; and Gaum.

"I would like to add that the support was just great. I know the USS Frank Cable (AS 40) guys, the squadron, group and TY-COM all worked quickly to get us repair support when it was required on short notice. The families were also



file photo

USS Buffalo (SSN 715) recently returned home from a six month western Pacific deployment.

Patrol Squadron Four holds safety fair for personnel

By Lt. j.g. Luke Hofacker

VP-4

Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4), based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, held a safety fair the end of September, in Hangar 104 for its 350 personnel.

The event consisted of numerous booths and demonstrations, emphasizing safety both on and off duty. Cmdr. McWilliam Bollman, commanding officer of VP-4, kicked off the fair by addressing the squadron during morning quarters. "We need to keep safety at the forefront in everything that we do," he said. The VP-4 "Skinny Dragons" recently entered their twenty-seventh year of Class A mishap-free flying.

The safety fair concept is an alternative to the traditional safety standdown usually seen in the Fleet. "Safety standdowns routinely consist of lectures, whereas the safety fair is designed to be hands on and much more interactive," said Lt. Jeff Chandler, VP-4's ground safety officer. One of the most hands-on demos was the drunken driving Demonstration Course. Officer Sherman Dowkin from the Honolulu Police Department conducted the demo, which consisted of a course with numerous turns defined by traffic cones to simulate the roadway.

Many Skinny Dragons had to weave through the course driving a golf cart while wearing goggles that blurred vision and simulated intoxication. There were two levels of impairment provided by the goggles. One pair simulated the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit of .08 with the other simulating twice the legal limit.

"The biggest degradation of concentration while intoxicated comes when you have to divide your attention skills between multiple tasks," said Dowkin. "The best example of this comes while driving when you push on the gas pedal, steer, and change lanes," he went on to say. Dowkin also conducted roadside sobriety tests on squadron personnel with their goggles on. Many individuals were amazed at how difficult standing on one foot and counting was while wearing the .08 goggles. Both of these demonstrations provided valuable lessons to personnel about the level of impairment that can result when drinking and driving.

Sgt. Masen Kuaiwa and Sgt. Roy Gonsalves from the Solo Motorcycle Detail Traffic Division of the HPD gave a presentation on the dangers of speeding. They allowed personnel to examine the LTI20/20 Laser Gun, which shoots a laser beam at a moving object to determine its speed. Kuaiwa noted that the HPD is cracking down on speeders on ma-

ior thoroughfares, and that the price of speeding tickets recently went up from \$4 to \$5 per mile over the speed limit. The cost of the driver safety course also moved from \$7 to \$27.

A fire inspector from the MCBH Federal Fire Department instructed personnel on how to properly use a fire extinguisher by letting them extinguish a fire contained in a metal barrel.

Aaron Lowe from the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources came to provide information on recreational safety while hiking on Oahu.

"The biggest item to emphasize while hiking on Oahu is to stay on the trail," Lowe said. "You will avoid dangerous areas and protect the environment by remaining on the designated trails."

He distributed free pamphlets and maps for some of the best hikes on the island.

Additional information can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to 2135 Makiki Heights Dr. Honolulu, HI 96822.

Former District Commodore Robert Airhart from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary provided information on boating safety. The most important factors to consider before going on to a boat is to make sure that life preservers are available, to know the location of the radio and to know the location of a fire extinguisher. Commodore Airhart also indicated

that a Boating Safety course would soon be required in Hawaii before you can obtain a license. A list of local classes and schedules can be obtained by calling 1-800-368-5647.

The safety fair also had many demonstrations set up by VP-4 personnel. These included a First-Aid/CPR demonstration by Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Sherylynn Westling, a demonstration on how to properly don and use survival equipment by Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 2nd Class Anthony Dunbar, a hazardous material protective equipment presentation by Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Terrance Washington and a presentation on electrical safety by Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Jason Souza.

Finally, Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator 2nd Class Jose Marrero and Lt. Cmdr. Stan Grabowski gave a presentation on a positive command leadership environment and how it can improve safety. Leadership can come from any rank from airman to admiral. All it takes is the ability to recognize a dangerous practice and the assertiveness to let people know about it. VP-4's safety fair was not only fun, but very informative for those present. As everyone knows, the best way to learn is by doing, and that is exactly why the safety fair was such a success.

VP-9 Sailor wins chef of the quarter competition

By Lt. Randy Studtt

VP-9

One thing that everyone, has in common is the love of good food. In light of this, it is unfortunate that we can't solve our disputes and differences through a good old-fashioned cook-off. If such a solution was an option, Patrol Squadron Nine's (VP-9) Mess Management Specialist 3rd Class Jaime Foster would be a valuable ally, as exemplified by her recent selection in August as Anderson Hall's "Chef of the Third Quarter" competition, held at Marine Corps

Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Anderson Hall sponsors such a competition quarterly and culminates in a "Chef of the Year" final cook-off for the "Chef of the Quarter" winners. To date, the competition has been held for the last seven years and has been an overwhelming success each year. Foster's recent win marked a first for Kaneohe's new Navy residents in this competition.

Each chef was graded on his or her menu, taste, originality, and presentation. Foster's winning menu included: chicken teriyaki, herb and mushroom rice, oriental Cabbage, teriyaki

sauce and her signature dessert, chocolate cashew brownie cake with a chocolate dipped hokey pokey cookie.

Foster said "The dessert was too rich for me but the judges must have been chocolate lovers. I think it helped me win."

Those lucky enough to get a bite of her dessert raved about how delicious it tasted. As if the menu itself weren't enough to sway the judges, her hand made dolphin ice sculpture presentation certainly helped her to victory.

Foster's list of prizes was certainly fitting for an

award-winning chef including: a three-piece knife set, a huge trophy, 96 hour liberty, three months of week-end free duty, a letter of commendation and her favorite, two weeks of on-the-job training at the Sheraton Waikiki with a Master Chef.

Although thrilled with her recent win, she is definitely not resting on her laurels. She has already begun working on her menu and surprise dessert for the "Chef of the Year" contest to be held in December.

FASO Hawaii donates equipment to local school

By AD1 (AW) Romulus De Villa

FASO TRAGRU PAC DET HAWAII

IN demonstration of the Navy's commitment to supporting Hawaii's public schools, Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group Pacific Detachment Hawaii, based at Kaneohe Bay, completed a delivery of 11 overhead projectors to Waikele Elementary School recently. The projectors were among

several surplus training aids in FASO's inventory that became available for re-use due to FASO's latest equipment upgrades. FASO's Officer-in-Charge, Lt. Cmdr. Tony Martinez, made the decision to contribute them to the community.

"We wanted the equipment to go where it would be best used and by donating it to Waikele Elementary we knew our equipment would immediately benefit Hawaii's Keiki. An investment in our children is an investment in the future." Martinez said.

Around the Fleet

New ship named in honor of Senator Chafee

The President has announced his decision to name the 40th ship of the Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer to honor Sen. John Hubbard Chafee of Providence, R.I., (1922-1999). Chafee distinguished himself as a U.S. senator, Navy secretary, Rhode Island governor, and a Marine - with service as both an enlisted man and commissioned officer.

Chafee served in the Marines during World War II, spending his 20th birthday on Guadalcanal. In 1951, he was recalled to active service to be a Marine rifle company commander during the Korean War. In 1956, he successfully ran for a seat in the Rhode Island House of Representatives where he was re-elected in 1958 and 1960. In 1962, Chafee was elected governor of Rhode Island and named chairman of the National Association of Republican Governors in 1967. He was appointed as secretary of the Navy in 1969. His

tenure as secretary was marked by a willingness to make bold decisions and stand by them. Emblematic of this was his decision to elevate Adm. Elmo Zumwalt as chief of naval operations over 33 more senior officers, and his judicious handling of the USS PUEBLO case. In 1976, Chafee was elected to the U.S. Senate and served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works. Having made these matters a chief concern, he will long be remembered as a leader on environmental issues.

SECNAV announces name of new ship

The Secretary of the Navy, Richard Danzig, has announced his decision to name the 39th ship of the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, "Mustin."

The Mustin (DDG 89) will honor the Mustin family who have recorded a rich and honor-

able tradition of naval service. The Mustins' legacy to the Navy service lasted from 1896 until 1989; nearly one century of naval history.

Capt. Henry C. Mustin, U.S. Navy, (1874-1923), a 1896 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, earned a commendation for distinguished service in the capture of Vigan, Philippines, in 1899; flew the first aircraft ever catapulted from a ship; flew the first operational missions of naval aircraft during the Veracruz operation in 1914; and was the first commander of Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet.

The destroyer Mustin (DD 413) (1939-1946), named in Capt. Henry C. Mustin's honor, earned thirteen battle stars for World War II service that included the battles of Santa Cruz and Guadalcanal and major amphibious operations in the Pacific.

NATO appoints Ralston next European Commander

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization announced Nov. 3 U.S. Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston will be its next supreme allied commander Europe.

Ralston, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the nation's number two military officer. He will succeed Army Gen. Wesley Clark when his NATO appointment becomes effective in May 2000. Ralston will also assume command of U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Born in Kentucky and raised in Ohio, Ralston entered the Air Force in 1965 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. His career includes commands at squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command levels as well as a variety of staff and management assignments. He also has held a variety of positions related to planning and acquisition.