

HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



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Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'

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Servicemen return home from two wars



J03 Tim Walsh
Staff Writer

Seventeen fallen American service members returned home Tuesday morning from wars long since over, but not forgotten. The repatriation ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base reminds us that our nation still has heroes to bring back from those wars in distance lands.

A hopeful son who has waited 33 years for the return of his father was joined by more than 100 active and retired military, and civilians, to greet the flag-draped coffins. David Olson was 7 in 1968 when Cmdr. Delbert Olson, his father, and his crew disappeared over Laos while flying a top-secret mission.

According to Bob Reynolds, a former member of Observation Squadron 67 (VO 67) who attended Tuesday's arrival ceremony, the Neptune OP-2E that Cmdr. Olson flew had a mission that was highly dangerous.

"(VO 67) dropped listening devices on the Ho Chi Minh Trail at very low altitudes, about 500 feet or so, in a straight line," said Reynolds. He explained that these listening devices would pick up movements of troops and transport during the night.

▼ See HOMECOMING, A-2

J03 Tim Walsh photo

Honors are rendered by the Joint-Service Color Guard as two flag-draped transport containers are carried across the flightline by a ceremonial guard at Hickam Air Force Base July 10.

New mail service to BEQs initiated at Pearl Harbor

By Jim Murray
FISC Pearl Editor

"This is another reason why Pearl Harbor is the best homeport in the Navy," said Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander Navy Region Hawaii, as he delivered the first letter to a resident's mailbox at Dalwitz Hall bachelor enlisted quarters.

The start of the new service was observed with a maile lei untying held July 2. The delivery marked the first time in recent United States Navy history that mail has been delivered directly to the enlisted barracks.

Previously, Sailors received their mail aboard their ships or at their shore commands. Currently, Pearl Harbor is the only site initiating this service and it will serve as the benchmark for other regions.

Deliveries will be made to more than 4,000 mailboxes at 12 different sites. The delivery duties will be undertaken by the Pearl Harbor Mail Center (PHMC), a component of the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor. Mail delivery will be

somewhat similar to delivery at condominiums or apartment buildings. A PHMC employee will deposit the mail in lobby mailboxes and residents can pick it up at their leisure.

The initiative provides a quality-of-life boost to service personnel who are now assured of receiving their mail from family and friends in a timely, convenient and private manner.

The idea for the undertaking came from a February 1999 "lunch with the CNO" in which enlisted personnel were invited to speak with the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) in a relaxed, lunchtime atmosphere. At the lunch, the CNO was asked if he could help initiate mail delivery to BEQs and that launched a two-year effort to secure funding and work out the details. Ultimately, a collaboration between Navy Region Hawaii and the Naval Supply Systems Command brought the endeavor to fruition. Thanks are also due to Al Foster who heads the Pearl Harbor Mail Center and Senior Chief Nestor Tumulac who heads the Combined Bachelor Housing Office Staff.



Jim Murray photo

(Left to right) Capt. R. Douglas Hughes, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor; Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander Navy Region Hawaii, Commander, Naval Surface Group, Pacific; and Capt. Christopher D. Knaggs, Commanding Officer, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor untie the maile lei signifying the launching of the new service which will provide mail delivery to BEQs.

Question & Answer with Vice Adm. LaFleur, COMNAVSURFPAC

This is the second of a two part interview with Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, Vice Adm. Timothy LaFleur, and Surface Warfare Magazine.

Question: A lot of people talking about changing the SWO culture. What do they mean by that?

LaFleur: You know, I don't feel like there's anything wrong with our culture. As I said earlier, I'm very proud of it and have always felt the SWO culture is the

backbone of the Navy. There is a reason SWOs are filling key positions all over the Navy.

It's because we have a work ethic that is recognized and appreciated throughout our service. At times you hear things like, "the SWO community eats their young," and we have a tendency to be very unforgiving in our community. I do think those are things we need to be very careful about.

I'm a firm believer that we have to allow people to train to fail. By that, I

mean allowing people to keep going until they make a mistake and encourage them to learn from that mistake.

For example, in our ship handling trainers commanding officers can let their junior officers do things they know are incorrect, but by allowing that young conning officer or officer of the deck to continue until he learns and sees that for himself, he's helped their professional growth enormously.

Unfortunately, because we have limited training opportunities, what we do to-

day is always put the A-Team on and as a result other people don't get a chance experience environments and learn from them.

I think if we can create a training system that will allow our people to train to fail, it will build up confidence and help get rid of the psychology of the 'single-mistake' mentality. As SWOs, we should be proud of our culture, but we also need to be weary of being too critical of ourselves.

▼ See LAFLEUR, A-3

Navy, Federal Fire Department play role at Victory Over Violence

By Karen S. Spangler
Navy Region Hawaii

Youth groups, entertainers, family health and social organizations, and representatives from the military community came together in support of Victory Over Violence (VOV) - a day-long event focused on sharing contributions and information in the battle against violence - held July 7 at Blaisdell Center. An estimated 7,000 people attended the activities.

Navy representatives from Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) and Federal Fire Department at Pearl Harbor provided handouts and answered questions as part of Hawaii's contribution to the national anti-violence campaign.

The focal point of the FFSC exhibit were the shaken baby memorial quilts which were on loan from the Shaken Baby Alliance. The quilts - one representing children who have died as a result of being shaken and the other representing children who have survived but are permanently disabled - travel throughout the country.

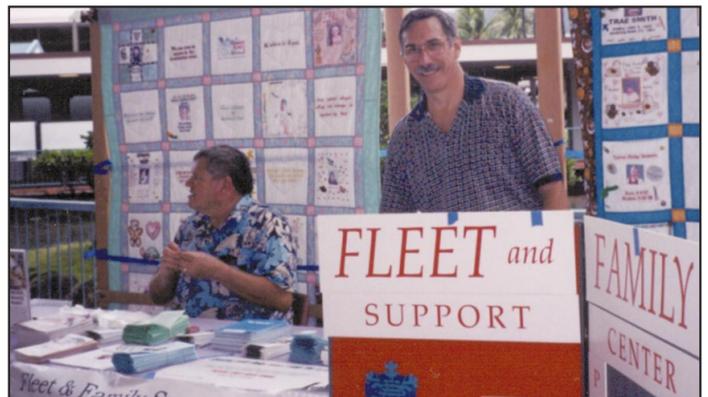
Squares of varicolored fabrics, detailed with miniature pictures and sayings, are a poignant reminder of the infants who have died or who have been disabled as a result of shaken baby syndrome. "Many of the people were very moved by the quilt," said Chet Adessa, a family life educator at FFSC. He, along with Frank Tomaszewski who is a financial

specialist at FFSC, manned the exhibit.

"We were able to let people know what the Navy does for its families and how they support their families," said Adessa. They distributed information and handouts on a variety of topics, including preventing child abuse, shaken baby syndrome and family violence.

"We felt we did a service to the community. It was very productive," related Tomaszewski.

EMT Victor Flint with the Federal Fire Department, who provided the medical equipment and operated an emergency medical treatment room at the event, was available to provide advanced first



George Fugioka photo

Frank Tomaszewski (seated) and Chet Adessa (standing) of Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) man an information booth July 7.

▼ See VICTORY, A-3