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HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



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Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'

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Navy, Coast Guard perform international rescue

Merchant marine sailor from Singaporean-flagged tanker medevaced to safety

JO2 Jim Williams
Staff Writer

USS Lake Erie (CG 70), a Navy flight surgeon, four Navy SEALs and the United States Coast Guard joined efforts last week-

end to rescue an ailing merchant sailor. While cruising 900 miles southeast off the coast of Hilo, Hawaii, the Singaporean-flagged tanker HL Moogal sent out a distress call Saturday afternoon requesting emergency medical assistance for a 32 year-old Indonesian male crewmember suffering from severe appendicitis. At 6:30 p.m., the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie, serving her rotation as the Pearl Harbor duty ship, initiated an emergency ship recall - the ship's second such recall in six months. The ship departed Pearl Harbor less than five hours later to take part in the special humanitarian mission. Lt. Cmdr. T.J. Buratynsky, a flight surgeon assigned to the Branch Medical Clinic

(Annex) at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, joined the Lake Erie team. "It's not just about not giving up the ship, it's about not giving up on our shipmates either," said Capt. John Hammerer Jr., Lake Erie's commanding officer, referring to his ship's motto "Don't give up the ship." Once out of the harbor, a Coast Guard HH-65A "Dolphin" helicopter and the flight surgeon from Barber's Point landed onboard Lake Erie. Since the tanker's distance away from land prevented a direct helicopter flight, Lake Erie's role was to get the helicopter as close to the tanker as soon as possible to facilitate the medical transfer. In the meantime, four members of SEAL Delivery Team One, Chief Warrant Officer

Two David Bauer, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Rod Hooks (lead corpsman), Quartermaster 1st Class Dan Destefano and HM2 Shaun McIntyre, departed Barbers Point aboard a Coast Guard C-130 at about 3:30 a.m. Sunday. The SEALs arrived at the site of the tanker about four hours later and first parachute-dropped a supply-filled rubber raft. After making another pass over the site, the four SEALs parachuted into the ocean from a height of 4,000 feet, then rendezvoused with their boat and supplies before heading toward the ship. Once aboard, they stabilized the stricken sailor, using an intravenous solution (IV) and antibiotics.

▼ See RESCUE, A-2

Chief of Naval Operations launches major training initiative

By Lt. Cmdr. Gary Kirchner
CNO Public Affairs



Adm. Vern Clark

WASHINGTON (NWS) — Following a year focused on aligning the Navy to better focus on the fleet, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark announced Friday

that his top personal action item for the next 12 months is to revolutionize the way the Navy trains Sailors.

Named "Task Force EXCEL" (excellence through commitment to education and learning), this initiative will provide the tools and opportunities that will enable people to learn, grow and develop into successful leaders who make a difference in the Navy.

"We must have a commitment to education and learning that will arm our Sailors to excel," said Clark. "We owe those who promise to serve the best possible training throughout their Navy experience so they can succeed and prosper in their professional and personal lives."

Clark explained that while Navy training is currently producing a force that effectively carries American sovereignty around the world, a revolutionary look at the way the Navy trains is needed to ensure we continue to maintain our superiority.

"We are going to challenge all of our assumptions about when, where and how we train our professionals — and where there are advantages in change, we will change," Clark said. "The commitment to education and learning ties my Top Five Priorities with the two principles I use to evaluate leaders — their commitment to mission accomplishment and to the growth and development of our people."

Rear Adm. Harry Ulrich, presently serving as the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) Battle Group Commander, will lead Task Force EXCEL. Ulrich will report to the Commander of Naval Education and Training (CNET), Vice Adm. Al Harms. The CNO announced this initiative in messages to Navy leaders on July 20.

The Navy conducted a top-level review to lay the groundwork for this initiative. A committee consisting of fleet, CNET and OPNAV representatives, led by retired Vice Adm. Lee Gunn, interviewed Sailors, reviewed policies and procedures and evaluated successful corporate training programs.

"We will use the information they gathered to better meet our mission requirements; identify the knowledge, skills and tools our Sailors need to fight and win; and leverage emergent learning technologies in the most effective and efficient manner," the CNO said.



PHAN Adan Fabela photo

Chaplain Cesar Buenaventura christens Mary Richards O'Kane, the great niece of Rear Adm. Richard O'Kane. The christening took place July 20 aboard USS O'Kane (DDG 77), the Aegis destroyer named after the admiral.

JTF-FA changes command

By JO1(SW) Tim Paynter
Joint Task Force-Full Accounting Public Affairs

Air Force Brig. Gen. Steven J. Redmann assumed command of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA) from Army Brig. Gen. Harry B. Axson, Jr. during a change of command ceremony July 23 at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Dennis C. Blair was the guest speaker as well as the official presiding over the ceremony. Blair presented the Defense Superior Service Medal to Axson and commented not only on Axson's achievements during his tenure, but on the overall importance of the task force's mission.

"Today we are bearing witness to a change of command of a very unique mission. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting's mission is a

pledge that we keep to each other, to all of our brothers and sisters in arms." Blair added, "The Joint Task Force's mission is about binding wounds and healing the scars of war."

Once the JTF-FA guidon was passed to Redmann and he officially assumed command, he told his troops that he expects them to keep doing the excellent work that JTF-FA has become so well known for. "I cannot fully express how fortunate I am to be selected to command JTF-FA. In the few days that I've been here, I've talked to a few of the service men and women who go out on these missions to bring our men home. In every conversation, one thing has become clear; this has been the most rewarding experience that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have had in their entire careers."

Brig. Gen. Steven J. Redmann hails from

▼ See JTF-FA, A-8



JTF-FA photo

Air Force Brig. Gen. Steven J. Redmann assumed command of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA) July 23 at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

NMCI opens first Network Operations Center

JO2 Roy C. Padrick
Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — The 73,000 square-foot Network Operations Center (NOC) and Help Desk Norfolk officially opened its doors during a recent ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk. Senator John Warner and Rep. Ed Schrock, both from Virginia, were on hand to give remarks.

The center will be one of two main connection hubs for the Navy/Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI), which will allow more than 360,000 Sailors and Marines on installations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Iceland and Cuba to share voice, video and data information.

"One of the most important aspects of the intranet is that it

provides these desktops with a very secure connection with other agencies," said Dan Proctor, the NOC manager. "There are only two ways in and out of this intranet which provides for one of the most secure forms of information sharing in the world."

The system works similar to the Internet. It connects a series of computers to a central hub and stores information at one location that is available to everyone. Users of the NMCI, however, will have the ability to access their files from any computer on the intranet.

Software will be standardized throughout the Navy and Marine Corps, Proctor said, and will be updated so as to maintain no more than one upgrade away from the latest edition. Hardware will also be upgraded. On all Navy and Marine Corps

shore installations in the specified areas, older hardware, often severely outdated and in need of repair, will be replaced with identical modern equipment.

The old units that contain needed files and "legacy" software will be updated and transferred to the new servers. The term "legacy" refers to software that is older than the types that are slated for use on NMCI.

The old computers and peripherals will be sold to Department of Navy personnel and businesses, reused if possible or donated to accredited organizations, such as schools.

The network servers, located in Norfolk and at 17 other remote locations along the East Coast, will be accessible from every desktop unit. Software and non-local files will be available via the servers as well.

"Eventually, we would like to see all this connection potential used for transferring all kinds of information," said Proctor. This includes the ability to order supplies and repair parts via the intranet and obtain personnel information relating to pay and service records.

The ability to access these services is not available yet and is dependent on the individual agency's ability to create the service," he said.

"A huge benefit of the intranet is its ability to interact with IT-21," said Proctor. IT-21 is the intranet system currently used aboard ships.

Once fully functional, ships will be able to connect to information from any other ship or shore installation in the United

▼ See NETWORK, A-7