

Reenlisting or retiring: Battleship Missouri Memorial is the place... B1



HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



Sea Cadets arrive to 'first assignment' at Battleship Missouri Memorial... A4

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Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'

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Military offers assistance to Hawaii schools

Sgt. Bradley Rhen
U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

When Sailors from USS Louisville (SSN 724) visited first graders at Princess Victoria Kaiulani Elementary School in Honolulu on Aug. 2, they had a chance to see firsthand how the \$288,000 of Department of Defense funds from the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) are being used.

A brand new set of books was waiting to be opened and the young students jumped eagerly at the chance to read them with their military visitors.

The Sailors - along with several other military representatives who were in the classroom - were led by the students to tables where they read together. The students also relished the opportunity to try on the Sailors' cov-

ers as they read with their military friends.

The books they were reading were purchased with money provided by the JVEF, a cooperative program between the U.S. military and Hawaii Department of Education. The program is designed to enhance and maintain open dialogue on education concerns and facilitate educational support of all children. This JVEF textbook initiative impacts 50 Hawaii public elementary schools in all seven school districts, including 11 schools on the neighbor islands (Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Molokai).

The JVEF provided \$20 per student for new K-3 reading books for 14,400 students in Hawaii's elementary schools. The Hawaii Department of Education pledged matching funds of \$148,000, for a total of \$436,000

for new books.

With the money Princess Victoria Kaiulani Elementary School received from DoD along with its own funds, the school was able to purchase a new reading series for the entire school - kindergarten through fifth grade. According to school principal Charlotte White, it was a unique opportunity.

"Usually, with limited funding, a school will purchase one or two grade levels at a time and then the following year add a couple grade levels," White said. White said the book series the school previously used was copyrighted in the 1980s and it was time for them to be replaced.

Later that day, Adm. Dennis C. Blair, Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Pacific Command, formally



Sgt. Bradley Rhen photo

A first-grade student from Princess Victoria Kaiulani Elementary School reads to Seaman James Francis of USS Louisville (SSN 724).

▼ See JVEF, A-3

FLIP pulls into Pearl Harbor

Capt. William A. Gaines, USN (Ret.)
Marine Physical Laboratory
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

The Navy research platform FLIP (Floating Instrument Platform), an Office of Naval Research (ONR) facility operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, arrived in Pearl Harbor on Aug. 13 towed by the MSC fleet ocean tug USNS Sioux.

While in Hawaii, FLIP will be supporting two ONR scientific research programs, the Rough Evaporation Duct Experiment (RED) conducted by SPAWAR System Center San Diego and the Hawaiian Ocean Mixing Experiment (HOME) conducted by the Scripps Institution of

▼ See FLIP, A-10



J03 Brenda Diggs photo

Office of Naval Research's (ONR) FLIP (Floating Instrument Platform) is towed into Pearl Harbor Monday afternoon by USNS Sioux (ATF 171) (not pictured). While in Hawaii FLIP will support two ONR scientific research programs, the Rough Evaporation Duct Experiment (RED) and the Hawaiian Ocean Mixing Experiment (HOME).

Ohana Survey: More than 2,000 respond in first week

JOC Gerard Sekerak
Editor

Sailors and their families are taking advantage of the Hawaii Navy Ohana Quality of Life (QOL) Survey with more than 2,000 responding in the first seven days since the survey went online. That number reflects an overwhelming increase over last year's survey which netted 3,050 participants upon its conclusion after almost four weeks.

"The survey is extremely successful so far because people can take it from any computer with Internet access, i.e., their work station or from home and at their convenience," said Sharleen Proctor, Navy Region Hawaii Ohana project coordinator.

The web-based survey, which takes advantage of technology while emphasizing convenience to the member, is available through Aug. 31. Active duty personnel, family members, reservists, Department of the Navy civilian employees and retirees can participate.

"It captures the customer's views on all the services the Navy offers in Hawaii, not just in those areas where people have complaints," added Proctor.

According to Ohana survey designer Todd Finnigan of the Navy Region Hawaii Business Office, the responses received in just the first 72 hours have already provided valuable information and insight.

"One of our toughest challenges is knowing how the E1s to E3s feel about things. So far, we have very little participation from them," said Finnigan.

"Often times they are away at schools or don't know a lot about the Navy so they don't feel like they have anything to contribute."

Finnigan also noted that Ohana program officials are making sure that everyone has access to the survey, whether on shore or at sea.

▼ See OHANA, A-13

BEARINGS gives troubled Sailors second chance



Lt. j.g. Erik Reynolds photo

AMAN Roberta Newman from HS-4 in North Island, Calif., carries pressurized water tanks used for the hot section wash of the SH-60. Newman is a recent graduate of BEARINGS, a new attrition-fighting program for troubled Sailors.

Lt. j.g. Erik Reynolds
COMNAVSURFPAC Public Affairs

Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Roberta Newman knows that if it were not for the Navy's program, BEARINGS, she would not still be in the Navy.

"BEARINGS was my moment of realization," said Newman.

This recent pilot course, a two-week class designed to provide new direction for troubled Sailors, is run by the San Diego Regional Support Organization (RSO).

Newman almost didn't make it to the program because she had already started the paperwork to leave the Navy. She was frustrated with the Navy

and her supervisors were frustrated with her performance. After BEARINGS, she begged her supervisors to stop the paperwork from going through.

Signalman Chief Martin Coladonato is an instructor with BEARINGS. He explained why combating attrition was important to the Navy. When a Sailor drops out of the Navy, the lost training investment can be staggering. The average cost of sending a Sailor to boot camp and an "A" school is \$42,000. When the Navy loses a Sailor, they lose the investment made in that Sailor, thus requiring the Navy to expend more investment in a new Sailor.

▼ See BEARINGS, A-10

PSD stays on the leading edge of technology

PN2 Gretchen L. Miller
PSD Pearl Harbor

Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) Pearl Harbor continually seeks more effective methods of servicing active and retired Navy members, their dependents and civil service employees. Several new automated systems and processes have been and will be implemented this year to make the Pay and Personnel Support System more efficient.

"The key to the transition

process when it comes to personnel and pay information is ensuring everyone gets the word", said Dan Tom, PSD's assistant officer in charge. Using the World Wide Web, PSD Pearl Harbor has developed a homepage at www.psdpd.navy.mil. When accessed, customers can find links to various web pages that will assist them in answering many personnel, pay and transportation concerns. The Pass Liaison Representative (PLR) program is also a vital means of providing

quality service as a interface between PSD, customer commands and active members. The PLR is a critical link to and an investment in gaining much improved and faster pay, personnel and transportation support for Sailors.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has introduced its new Employee/Member Self-Service (E/MSS) system. Department of Defense (DoD) customers can access their pay records and update pay information directly without filling out

any paper forms.

"This system is already saving customers immeasurable time by eliminating the need to visit PSD," said Disbursing Clerk 1st Class James Erickson. "The only problem is most people still don't know how easy it is."

Access to this system is available via the Internet at <https://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm> or through an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at 1-877-DOD-EMSS. E/MSS allows mil-

▼ See PSD, A-3