

HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



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Bush: Prepare for war



Tech. Sgt. Cedric H. Rudisill photo

President George W. Bush and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld talk with media at the Pentagon on Sept. 16.

'Everybody who wears the uniform: get ready'

Navy Wire Service

THURMONT, Md. (NNS) — The following are the remarks by the president, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Attorney General John Ashcroft during a Sept. 15 press availability at Camp David:

The President: I've asked the highest levels of our government to come to discuss the current tragedy that has so deeply affected our nation. Our country mourns for the loss of life and for those whose lives have been so deeply affected by this despicable act of terror.

I am going to describe to our leadership what I saw: the wreckage of New York City, the signs of the first battle of war.

We're going to meet and deliberate and discuss — but there's no question about it, this act will not stand; we will find those who did it; we will smoke them out of their holes; we will get them running and we'll bring them to justice. We will not only deal

with those who dare attack America, we will deal with those who harbor them and feed them and house them.

Make no mistake about it: underneath our tears is the strong determination of America to win this war. And we will win it.

I'm going to ask the Secretary of State to say a few things, and then the Attorney General.

Secretary Powell: Thank you, Mr. President. I might just say that I'm very pleased with the response we've been getting from the international community. I think every civilized nation in the world recognizes that this was an assault not just against the

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Chosin completes six-month deployment

Ship, crew return home safely to families, friends

JO2 Jim Williams
Staff Writer
Lt. j.g. Mark Aragon
USS Chosin (CG 65)

"I'd forgotten how beautiful Hawaii was," remarked Shane, Fireman onboard USS Chosin. He and over 300 Sailors returned home to Pearl Harbor aboard the Aegis guided missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) on Sept. 14.

A pier full of anxious families and friends welcomed the ship home after a routine six-month Western Pacific deployment as part of the USS Constellation Aircraft Carrier Battlegroup.

"Whenever you come back from a six-month deployment, it's always a great feeling, especially when you know that you, your family and your ship are all safe," said Curtis, a chief Operation Specialist.

"I've missed having him around to talk to or just hang out with," said his wife. "It's fantastic to have him back. It's like getting that last piece back to make our family complete."

John, an Electronics Technician and his wife were just one of many couples who reunited that day. "It's the best feeling in the world to have him home," said his wife. "I've been waiting for what seems like forever for the ship to return."

"It was a long trip," said John. "But it feels good to be with my friends and family again."

Twenty-two members and two Seahawk (SH-60B) helicopters from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 37, Detachment 6 "Dragon Riders" were also embarked on USS Chosin and returned home to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Lt. Cmdr. Dan Smith served as the Detachment 6 officer in charge. The detachment logged more than 700 flight hours while conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO).

The mighty "Wardragon" and her crew departed Pearl Harbor on March 22, joining the Constellation Battlegroup on their way to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch and enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq. Chosin was the air defense commander for the battlegroup as well as MIO commander.

As air defense commander, Chosin was in charge of protecting and con-

▼ See CHOSIN, A-4



JO2 Jim Williams photo

A Sailor kisses his wife after returning from a six-month Western Pacific deployment aboard the Navy guided missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65).

Hawaii prays for peace at candlelight memorial

JO3 Sunday Sawyer
Staff Writer

"This is part of the healing process that began shortly after the terrorist attacks on our nation," said Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris. The mayor offered up those words of encouragement Sept. 13 at a non-denominational memorial service held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in honor of the victims of the New York City and Pentagon attacks.

The service, hosted by the city and county of Honolulu, received significant support from Hawaii's military community. In addition to attendance by many of the senior military leaders on the island, Capt. (Chaplain) Thomas R. Atkins, Navy Region Hawaii command chaplain, the Pacific Fleet Band, and a military joint service color guard participated in the ceremony. Adm. Dennis Blair, Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Command, was one of several leaders who delivered remarks at the service.

"We must move forward as a nation. Sept. 11, 2001 will be the same inspiration as Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor was 60 years ago," said Blair. "Hawaii was ground zero for the attack on the United States which brought us into a long and costly, but ultimately successful war," he said.

Blair noted that on that day of infamy on Dec. 7, 1941, 2,403 Americans lost their lives and all but 68 of those wore the uniform. In the attack that took place this past week, the majority did not wear the uniform.

He offered words of hope and encouragement. "It is our turn to react as did the Second World War's 'Greatest Generation,'" he continued.

"The armed forces and people of the United States, working together, will take on this evil threat until it is defeated. We will light out many candles... that is terrorism. If there is any doubt about the determination of America to accomplish this, look around you tonight. The spirit of Pearl Harbor has been awakened - here - and throughout the nation. And we will prevail," Blair concluded.

Rev. Dan Chun, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu and leader of the Hawaiian Isle Ministries, led the service. Other clergy from Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist,

▼ See PRAYER, A-6

Reserve mobilization shows nation's resolve, Bush says at Pentagon

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — President George W. Bush said today that his Sept. 14 call up of Guard and Reserve troops "is a strong symbol of this nation's resolve" in its fight to defeat world terrorism.

Bush told Pentagon reporters that he understands that the Reserve component mobilization "affects the lives of thousands of Americans."

"After all," Bush continued, "We're talking about somebody's mom, or somebody's dad, somebody's employee, somebody's friend, or somebody's neighbor."

As many as 35,000 Reserve component members are affected by the call-ups, he said, including Coast Guard members. Bush met with Pentagon workers and thanked them for their commitment.

Bush said Reserve component troops affected by his order, and the thousands who sprang into action immediately after the attacks, "will

serve in a number of essential roles." These include air defense, port security, military with airlift and logistics, military police, engineering, intelligence and chaplains.

Bush said he appreciates and thanks employers of Guardsmen and Reservists, especially those "who understand that there is more to corporate life than just profit and loss."

"Freedom has a cost," Bush emphasized, adding that service members understand this "better than most" Americans.

The mobilization will entail "a lot of sacrifice for those who will be called up, and their families," he said.

America, he added, is willing to bear the cost of freedom.

"An act of war has been committed on this country," Bush said, "and the dedication of our Guardsmen and Reservists will serve not only as a strong symbol to all that we are prepared to take the necessary actions; it will be a part of helping to find the spirit and courage of America, and I'm grateful."

Terrorists hijacked four American commercial airliners Sept. 11. They crashed two airliners into New York's World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. A fourth crashed in a field in southwestern Pennsylvania. About 5,000 people are feared dead in the assaults.

The president declared a state of national emergency Sept. 14, and he has been entrusted by Congress to use all force necessary to protect Americans and eradicate the threat of global terrorism.