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FISC initiates new subsistence onload program

Jim Murray
Fleet Industrial Supply Center

"The crew loves it. The supply officers love it," said Lt. Cmdr. Keith Sykes, Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl customer service officer, as he described the first days of Pearl Harbor's new subsistence onload program. The program, which has been warmly welcomed by ships' crew members, employs contract stevedores to load provisions aboard ships and submarines.

In implementing this program, FISC Pearl had one clear objective - improving the quality-of-life for Pearl Harbor Sailors. Traditionally, crew members have been the ones to load provisions and most Sailors can well recall times when they have been called away from pressing duties to perform the task as part of a "working party." In addition, most ship supply officers have experienced the frustra-

tions of trying to round up working parties. With the subsistence onload program now in full operation, the need for working parties to load provisions has been significantly reduced.

The program does more, however, than just relieve Sailors of the back-breaking toil of loading supplies. Sailors now have more time to pursue their official duties, training opportunities, and thereby improving the combat capability of their ships. When a prototype program was first implemented earlier this year in San Diego, its first four months of service saw a savings of nearly 35,000 Sailor labor hours.

Introduced and coordinated by FISC Pearl, the program had its official start on Oct. 15 when a gang of stevedores descended on the USS Fletcher (DD 992) to load six pallets of provisions. For the next hour, the steve-



Jim Murray photo

Two contract stevedores load provisions down the hatch of USS Charlotte. The new subsistence onload program employs contract stevedores to load provisions aboard ships and submarines.

▼ See ONLOAD, A-2

Navy medicine does its part



J03 Tim Walsh photo

Navy personnel at Pearl Harbor analyze possible biological agents recently with state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

Forces strike Al Qaeda 'in its entirety'

Jim Garamone,
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — U.S. forces are striking Al Qaeda "in its entirety," said Rear Adm. John D. Stufflebeem, deputy director of operations for current readiness and capabilities at the Joint Staff.

Stufflebeem, during a Pentagon press conference Oct. 23, said coalition forces have struck all the Al Qaeda terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. If Al Qaeda has other camps or tries to establish more, U.S. forces will strike those, he said. "To get into the details of the numbers is not nearly as important as the larger context of the campaign," he said. "We're going after Al Qaeda in its entirety. So wherever we find it... we're going to attack it."

On Oct. 22, U.S. forces struck 11 planned target areas, Stufflebeem said. The targets included airfields, radar installations and deployed Taliban forces including armor, vehicles and buildings. U.S. aircraft also struck targets in garrison and are interdicting lines of communications. American aircraft further struck targets of opportunity in engagement zones.

▼ See STRIKE A-10

Mini Mart opens at NCTAMS PAC

Lt. j.g. Damien Oliver
NCTAMS Public Affairs Officer

NOT even the rain could dampen the festivities on Oct. 10 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific when some 30 customers attended the grand opening of the newest NEX Mini Mart. Despite the drizzle, the balloons and bunting were out in full force to announce to the base that the Mini Mart was open for business.

Capt. Laura Marlowe, NCTAMS PAC commanding officer, and Ed McMichael, store

manager, cut the ceremonial maile as Cmdr. Christina Ward, NCTAMS PAC chief staff officer, and Mike Cottrell, Director Navy Exchange Hawaii District, looked on.

After the ribbon cutting, customers had full access to all of the amenities that the new complex offered including self-serve gas lanes, a modern barbershop and a full suite of vending machines for 24-hour convenience.

Customers filed in to purchase an assortment of goodies as well as sign up for the grand opening prize drawing.

The prizes, which were drawn on Oct. 15, included 12 \$100 shopping sprees, autographed Ken Griffey Jr. and Sammy Sosa baseballs, and a 27-inch JVC television.

Ground was broken for the new Mini Mart in February 2000 using NEX funds and construction battalion labor. After 20 long months of anxious anticipation, the residents and employees of NCTAMS PAC finally have a one-stop shop for all of their convenience needs. In the words of OS2 (SW) Brian Krause, "I think it's awesome!"



OS2(SW) B. Krause photo

Left to right: Cmdr. Christina Ward, NCTAMS PAC chief staff officer; Capt. Laura Marlowe, NCTAMS PAC commanding officer; Ed McMichael, store manager; and Mike Cottrell, Director, Navy Exchange Hawaii District; participate in the maile-cutting ceremony at the grand opening of the NCTAMS Mini Mart.

STOP Loss: Sept. 11 attacks affecting servicemembers' leave, separations

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

The Sept. 11 attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon have had widespread impact on Americans throughout the country.

Also affected are U.S. servicemembers throughout the world who are facing policy changes that could affect their leave and their ability to separate or retire from the service.

Sgt. Maj. Frank Raby, the senior enlisted adviser to the commander in chief of U.S. Pacific Command, said service members should be patient until they get all the information. "I think even as things get on to a routine operating basis - because even in war time we get into a normal routine of how we conduct business - and once that's established and we see what areas are impacted more, we'll have a better idea of who and how many people [will be affected] or

even if we need to have Stop Loss at all," Raby said. "So right now the main thing is don't panic, be patient and let's see how things play out."

On Sept. 19, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld delegated Stop Loss authority to the heads of the military departments and both the Air Force and Navy have since enacted their Stop Loss programs. The Army and the Marine Corps have not announced any plans to initiate a Stop Loss program.

The Air Force's program went into effect Sept. 22, to all active, Guard and reserve forces, stopping all separations and retirements for at least 30 days. The Air Force said it would re-evaluate the situation after 30 days depending on its needs at that time.

The Navy implemented a limited Stop Loss program Oct. 10, affecting more than 10,500 Sailors in certain special-

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