

Paul Hamilton: Former Russell XO assumes command

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tional Rim of the Pacific exercise, Paul Hamilton deployed to the Arabian Gulf as part of the Abraham Lincoln Battle Group.

This deployment included support for Operation Southern Watch and enforcement of United Nations sanctions against Iraq through Maritime Interception Operations. During this time Paul Hamilton earned the Maritime, Engineering, Command and Control, Logistics Excellence, Green H and the 2000 TYCOM Ship Safety Awards. Additionally, Paul Hamilton was awarded a meritorious unit commendation for service in the Arabian Gulf.

O'Meara graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1982 with a bachelor of science degree in marine engineering. In his initial sea assignment he served sequentially as auxiliaries officer, fire control officer and CIC officer in USS Berkeley (DDG 15).

In 1986 O'Meara was ordered to instructor duty at

Surface Warfare Officer School in Newport, R.I. where he taught main propulsion and auxiliary systems at the Division Officer Course. Following department head school, he returned to sea duty as engineer officer in USS Goldsborough (DDG 20).

Goldsborough deployed in 1990 to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans with the USS Independence Battle Group. As part of Operation Desert Shield, Goldsborough became the first U.S. warship to seize an Iraqi merchant vessel attempting to circumvent United Nations Security Council sanctions.

In June 1993 O'Meara reported to the International Military Staff at Headquarters, North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, Belgium where he served as a watch officer in the situation center.

From 1995 to 1997 he served as executive officer in USS Laboon (DDG 58). While deployed to the Arabian Gulf in 1996, Laboon fired 13 Tomahawk missiles over a

two-day period in support of Operation Desert Strike.

Since returning to Hawaii in 1997, O'Meara served as fleet distribution officer, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and as chief staff officer for Commander, Destroyer Squadron Five and Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-One.

O'Meara is a graduate of the Naval War College, earning a master of arts in National Security and Strategy Studies. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal.

He is Paul Hamilton's fourth commanding officer and his next assignment will be as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

His relief, Cmdr. Pfirrmann, attended Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., graduating with honors in June 1982. Following completion of Officer Candidate School,

Newport, R.I., he was commissioned an ensign in June 1983.

Reporting directly to USS Ponce (LPD 15), Pfirrmann assumed duties as auxiliaries/electrical officer until he reported to the Surface Warfare Officer Basic Course. Upon completion, he returned to Ponce as boilers officer completing two Mediterranean deployments that included extensive operations in support of the multi-national peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon.

His next assignment was to USS Josephus Daniels (CG 27) as fire control officer and first lieutenant completing a Mediterranean deployment and an Arabian Gulf cruise where Josephus Daniels served as anti-air warfare commander in support of Earnest Will tanker escort operations.

Returning from the Arabian Gulf in November 1988, he assumed duties as aide and flag lieutenant for Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight deploying to the Mediterranean

in December 1988 embarked in USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

After completion of Surface Warfare Department Head training, Pfirrmann served as commissioning weapons officer in USS Barry (DDG 52) and as combat systems officer during Barry's 1994 maiden deployment which included extensive NATO operations in the Adriatic Sea enforcing United Nations' sanctions and a surge deployment to the Arabian Gulf as part of Operation Vigilant Warrior.

Following postgraduate study, he was assigned as executive officer, USS Russell (DDG 59), deploying to the Arabian Gulf to conduct Maritime Interdiction Operations. His most recent assignment was as an operations planner, European Command Division, Operations Directorate (J-3), Joint Staff.

Pfirrmann holds a masters degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

PACFLT urges common sense in handling suspicious packages

JO1 (DV) Robert Palomares
CINCPACFLT Public Affairs

A heavy dose of common sense helps when you think you've come upon a potential threat of being exposed to chemical or biological agents, such as anthrax.

"We just want our people to know there are procedures in place to limit exposure to these agents, including anthrax," said Cmdr. Ken Alexander, CEC, CINCPACFLT's Chemical, Biological, Radiological Defense Officer.

If you do come upon a suspicious package, don't open it, he said. Place the package in a plastic bag or some other type of container to prevent the contents from leaking out. If you don't have a plastic container, cover the package with something such as clothing, paper or a trash can.

Once the item is covered, leave the

area and prevent others from coming in contact with the item. Wash your hands immediately with soap and water.

If you're on Navy property in Hawaii, report the incident to the Navy Base Security Office at 471-7144 or 473-1238.

If off base, report the incident to local police at 911. In addition to calling local police, call Navy Base Security as well, Alexander advised. "We want to track all potential threats against our people, so we need to know about any incidents involving Navy or other Department of Defense personnel," he said.

Everyone who comes into contact with the potential hazardous material should be identified. Record the names of all people who were in the room or area when this suspicious letter or package was recognized. Give this list

to both the local public health authorities and law enforcement officials.

What if a suspected chemical or biological agent is present? If a powder does leak from an envelope or package, do not try to clean it up. Instead, cover the powder immediately with anything. Then leave the room, close the door and cordon off the area to prevent others from getting near the substance.

If any of the substance gets on your clothes, remove them as soon as possible, place them in a plastic bag and seal it. Shower with soap and water as soon as possible.

Signs of a suspicious package might include excessive postage, handwritten or poorly typed addresses, incorrect titles, misspellings of common words, no return address, protruding wires or aluminum foil, discolorations or odors, excessive weight, ticking sounds or

shows a city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address.

"Again, don't panic. Anthrax is not contagious," Alexander said. "You can't contract the disease from others. Anthrax and other biological organisms can cause infection in the skin, gastrointestinal system or the lungs."

A person can become infected with anthrax if it is rubbed into a skin cut or scratch, swallowed or inhaled as a fine aerosolized powder. The inhaled version of the disease is the most lethal, but prompt recognition and treatment with appropriate antibiotics is effective.

No reports of threats from other agents, whether biological or chemical, have occurred to date, but these guidelines should be used when coming across any suspicious package, added Alexander.