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Greetings

HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS

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Key West returns home

JO2 Cori Rhea
COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

After more than four months away from home, the men of the attack submarine USS Key West (SSN 722) returned to their homeport of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8. As the first boat to report on station in the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the crew was happy to be safely home with their loved ones.

"I am nothing if not proud of the men on my ship," said Cmdr. Charles Merkel, commanding officer of USS Key West. "Everyone stood up and did their job just like they were trained to do."

"So much has changed since we left a few months ago. I am thrilled to be back here with my girlfriend after such a successful deployment," said Machinist's Mate 2nd Class(SS) Ferlin Espinal, a native of Puerto Rico.

USS Key West was on its way to Bahrain for liberty when notification of the terrorists attacks was given which diverted the submarine's plans to missions in the North Arabian Sea. "I have been training in the Navy my whole 16-year career for the operations that were conducted on this deployment. The men performed flawlessly," said combat systems department chief, Fire Control Technician Chief Petty Officer(SS) Bobby Keyes.

The crew was able to enjoy some time off in Singapore, Thailand and Bahrain but more importantly, they will always remember the important role they have in protecting the nation's security.

"We have a lot of pride knowing that we've directly contributed to America's freedom. Just as patriotism rose here and on the mainland, so did it onboard the boat and I think everyone felt more dedicated to what they were doing," said Espinal. The freshly frocked second class petty officer re-enlisted during the deployment for six more years.



A Key West Sailor embraces his daughter upon returning to Pearl Harbor from supporting operation 'Enduring Freedom' Dec. 7.

Golden Eagles' return from supporting 'Enduring Freedom'

Lt. Keith Demetriades
Patrol Squadron 9

The men and women who serve as the 'Golden Eagles' of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) are home in time for the holidays after an outstanding, six-month deployment that included support to Operation Enduring Freedom.

The first plane arrived back at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay on Nov. 28, carrying the "advanced beach detachment." Their mission was to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the squadron. The remaining members returned to Hawaii by P-3 Orion aircraft and airlifts in the days that followed, with the last aircraft arriving in Kaneohe Bay on Dec. 11. Among the returnees on that last aircraft was "Golden Eagles" commanding officer, Cmdr. Robert Lally.

The Golden Eagles operated from several locations scattered throughout the Middle East during an extremely fast-paced deployment. Since the start of their deployment in June, the squadron flew over 7,300 flight hours in support of a multitude of operations.

The squadron's missions included sur-

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CNO stresses readiness during Pearl Harbor visit



"As a result of the Sept. 11 attack, we all understand Pearl Harbor a little better."

Adm. Vernon Clark
Chief of
Naval Operations

JO1(DV) Bob Palomares
Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

"Today's Sailors are as ready to face the new enemy as their grandfathers were after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark to a gathering of Sailors here.

CNO addressed the Sailors during an all hands call at Naval Station Pearl Harbor in the closing hours of his visit to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the infamous surprise attack.

"As the commemoration ceremony was in progress, I couldn't help but think that the events of

Sept. 11 helped Americans relate to the events of Dec. 7, 1941 in a totally new way," he said. "As a result of the Sept. 11 attack, we all understand Pearl Harbor a little better."

Since the terrorist attack, "the world has been counting on the U.S. military," he continued. "Shortly after the attack, in a joint session of Congress, the President turned directly to us, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and said 'be ready.'"

"This is our most important challenge — to be ready. Our nation has called us and we are at war," Clark said. "Just like the enemy of the attack 60 years ago,

this enemy wants to destroy our way of life. That's why we must be ready. We are not going to let this enemy destroy our way of life."

Earlier, during the commemoration ceremony on board the USS Arizona Memorial, the CNO addressed the men who survived the attack. More than 2,400 of their shipmates lost their lives in the attack, which dealt a tremendous blow to the Pacific Fleet.

"These people refused to be defeated. They brought the fleet up from the bottom of the harbor and went on to win the war in the Pacific. They refused to quit," Clark said. The CNO then salut-

▼ See CNO, A-2

Rumsfeld: Military must become 'capabilities-based force'

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

"America and our allies must not be bound to the past. We must be able to build the defenses we need against the enemies of the 21st century," President Bush said Dec. 11 during a speech in Charleston, S.C.

Transforming the military has been a priority for the Department of Defense since Bush took office. When Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld came

aboard, he stressed that changing the military from a threat-oriented force to a capabilities-based force would be one of his top jobs.

Rumsfeld's consistent message has been that the U.S. military needs to assess the threats of the future and adjust manning, equipment and doctrine to counter those threats. Long before terrorists rammed planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, he hypothesized that enemies would use "asymmetric" means to counter

America's preponderance in conventional weapons and tactics.

Military and civilian personnel need to understand that "transformation is not a destination, transformation is a process," said retired Vice Adm. Arthur Cebrowski, Rumsfeld's newly appointed special assistant for transformation.

Military and civilian workers need to shed mindsets conditioned by years of business as usual.

"Business as usual means you're dead," Cebrowski said. The events of

Sept. 11 prove new threats confront the United States and its allies, and new means must be found to counter them, he remarked.

When people think of transformation, they most often think of new equipment with new capabilities. While this is true, it could also be a case of taking old equipment and using it in a different manner.

For example, there were tanks and

▼ See CHANGE, A-3

Afghanistan is only the first round

Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

Afghanistan is only the first round in the war against terrorism, said Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

"As the President has said, the campaign begins in Afghanistan, but it does not end in Afghanistan," he told reporters at a Pentagon news briefing.

"The war on terrorism is about more than one man," Wolfowitz stressed. "It is about more than one terrorist network. It is about the whole complex of global terrorist networks that interact and sup-

port one another."

The United States will use every tool available to expose them and go after those cells, he vowed.

Noting that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's surprise visit to Afghanistan this weekend highlighted the role of U.S. service members, Wolfowitz said the brave men and women in America's armed forces are doing "a magnificent job."

"U.S. troops on the frontlines well understand that Afghanistan is only the first round, but the bell ending that first round has yet to

ring," he said.

"There are still plenty of Al Qaeda loose in Afghanistan, and of course the hunt for Bin Laden and other senior members of Al Qaeda continues," Wolfowitz said. "We can expect half-defeated enemies to continue to pose considerable dangers and risks to our troops. So it's going to be a difficult job and we're going to have to work to root them out."

Afghanistan is roughly the size of the state of Texas, he noted. "The terrain is much more hospitable to those who want to run and hide than

▼ See WAR, A-3



PHC Johnny Bivera photo

U.S. Marines assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) deploy to Afghanistan aboard a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter from USS Bataan (LHD 5).