

FMB's crane operators, riggers help keep submarines 'fit to fight'

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Fleet Maintenance Availability - Submarines (FMB) is in the current readiness business, one of the Chief of Naval Operations 'top five' priorities. Before the mechanical and electrical artisans can get to work and keep the subs "fit to fight," the equipment has to get rigged off the subs. Enter FMB's unsung heroes, crane operators and riggers.

In fiscal year 2001, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) sent 11 Pearl Harbor-homeported sub-

marines on deployment. In the same fiscal year, FMB conducted over 30 35-day upkeep periods and numerous emergent voyage repairs on every homeported submarine, totaling over 6,000 individual jobs. In fiscal year 2002, the projected workload at FMB is about 5,000 man-days more than fiscal year 2001.

All production efforts are a team effort at FMB, from work induction by the ship superintendents to work certification. Somewhere early in this process and again towards the end, the approximately 30-person crane and rigging crew assigned to the FMB project goes to work, either providing rigging service to the production shops or providing

weight testing services to the submarines.

The first quarter of fiscal year 2002 was a busy time at FMB. At one period in November, there were 12 submarines in a repair status. With such a high volume of work, it is difficult to list all of the accomplishments of the FMB crane and rigging crew within the space allotted.

Most noteworthy was the crew's effort on supporting USS Charlotte, Submarine Squadron One, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Newport News Shipbuilding and SEAL Delivery Team One (SDVT-1).

During Charlotte's last availability, the parties mentioned above were tasked with the fit-up

and sea trials testing of the Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS).

This was the first time ASDS went to sea on a host submarine anywhere in the Navy. The crane and rigging crew successfully rigged ASDS on and off USS Charlotte over 10 times. Each lift required controls equal to or greater than other critical lifts performed at the PHNSY & IMF.

The Shop 98/Code 700 group also managed the crane assets available to perform this job with the same level of expertise. Rearranging the maintenance schedule for the floating crane enabled the group to keep the floater available for these critical lifts and to ensure the required main-

tenance and certification are completed for the next period the floater is needed to support Charlotte.

The second quarter of fiscal year 2002 will be just as busy as the first as SUBPAC gets ready to deploy the first group of homeported submarines. The crane and rigging group at FMB will be right in the middle of action, completing scheduled fleet maintenance availabilities and pre-deployment load periods.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, President Bush, in a joint session of Congress, asked the military to be ready. Pearl Harbor submarines are ready, thanks to the efforts of the personnel at FMB and the crane and rigging group.

Campbell High School's corps of cadets shine for inspectors during annual inspection

JO2 Daniel Calderon

Staff Writer

"Compared to the average Sailor, these cadets at Campbell High School are as squared away as anyone we have in the fleet," said Hull Technician 1st Class (SW) Richard T. Reyes Jr. of Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1).

Reyes was one of a team of volunteers that conducted the annual inspection on Tuesday for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach. The inspection allows the cadet corps to match itself against other units across the nation. The top 20 percent receive the distinguished unit commendation. The Campbell corps has been awarded the commendation every year since 1997. Before 2000, however, the award went to the top 30 percent of high school units nationwide. Like the inspectors themselves, the students are volunteers in the NJROTC program.

"I'm an outgoing person,"



JO2 Daniel J. Calderon photo

Cadets from the James Campbell High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps drill team begin their demonstration at Tuesday's pass in review ceremony in the high school's gymnasium.

said Cadet Seaman Apprentice Domenic Malong, a 15-year-old high school freshman. "I got into our special operations team. We do a lot of outdoors stuff - build rope bridges, do runs and swims, some rappelling and some orienteering. I think being in ROTC is preparing me to be more responsible."

"There are a lot of misconceptions at ROTC," said Cadet Lt. Phillip Malasig, a senior at Camp-

bell. "People think we brainwash students into coming in. We don't. I've learned that you get more out than what you put in here. The skills and values that I've learned during my time here go along with my everyday life."

The active duty volunteers came from a variety of ratings. Each had similar, but slightly different, reasons for wanting to be there for the corps of cadets.

"It's something I hadn't done before," said Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW) Roger Twigg, also of MDSU-1. "The level of effort the students put into this inspection is amazing."

Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (SW) Jason Smallwood, a volunteer inspector representing the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific (JICPAC), was assigned to Pearl Harbor from 1993 to 1996. On his

current tour, he will remain in Pearl Harbor until 2005. As an Ewa Beach resident, he has a vested interest in the cadet corps.

"I'm here to promote the Navy and to show my support for the ROTC program," said Smallwood. "I like to come here and support the school. My brother-in-law goes here and, hopefully, so will my kids when they get older."

Chief Gunner's Mate (SW/DV) Jeff Olsen of MD-SU-1 is on his twilight tour. He plans on teaching NJROTC after his retirement from active service.

"It's highly rewarding," said the 22-year veteran. "I love military drill, military tradition and everything that goes along with it. The cadets I saw today are highly motivated, have outstanding military bearing and a high level of esprit de corps."

"They were very knowledgeable, very professional," said Reyes. "It was very obvious by the way they carried themselves and performed in the inspection that they really cared about what they do here, and I found that very

impressive."

"It's very motivational," said Senior Chief Yeoman (SW) Linda Naki, naval science instructor at Campbell. "The cadets get to see what active duty people are really like. [cadets] can talk and relate with them."

The corps of cadets has participated with the Army and Marines in a variety of activities. Naki is looking for more ways to get the cadets involved with active duty Sailors.

"A lot of people don't know that the corps exists out here in Ewa Beach," she said. "What I'd really like to see is a career shadow day with the Navy. We're looking at a date sometime in March. We'd have to pick a day that wouldn't impact on the kids."

Anyone interested in volunteering their time, either for the career shadow day or another program, to the Campbell High School Navy JROTC Program, or who would like more information about the NJROTC programs at other Oahu high schools, can contact Naki at 689-121.