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Common Access Card hits Hawaii

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

Hawaii-based service members and civilian personnel will soon begin receiving their new identification cards, the common access card (CAC).

A team arrived Feb. 18 to begin a limited issuance of common access cards for a three-week field verification testing of the four applications currently used with the 8K smart cards on Oahu.

The CAC is the new DoD identification card being issued to active-duty military, select National Guard and Reserve personnel, DoD civilians and eligible contractors. But it's more

than just a new ID card; it's a passport to the e-World, according to Brad Stonesifer, U.S. Pacific Command smart card coordinator.

The CAC performs all of the functions of the current benefits and ID card and has smart card technology featuring embedded memory and a microprocessor circuit chip, Stonesifer said. The card will ultimately replace physical access badges for buildings and controlled spaces, allow holders to log on to their computers, encrypt e-mail and electronically sign documents. The potential for growth continues to be explored.

"All DoD computers will have a device where users swipe or insert their cards to log on to their computers," Stonesifer said.

"This system allows for the encryption or encoding of email and the ability to electronically sign documents. Business can now be conducted electronically with confidence in the integrity of the transmission of the data and in the identity of the originator and recipient.

"The obvious goal of all of this is additional security," said Stonesifer. "No one will be able to log onto your computer, even if they have your name and password."

Another benefit of the common access card, he said, will be its positive impact on readiness.

"Many paper-based processes will become automated, so what may have taken days may now take hours," said Stonesifer. "As technology matures, the common access card will perform more functions."

According to Paul Brubaker, deputy chief information officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence, the deployment of the card moves DoD one step closer to a significant milestone in securing its information systems.

What makes the card "smart" is the circuit chip, Brubaker said. The chip has the ability to read, write and perform various functions and operations on several thousand bytes of information.

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Sailor killed Dec. 7, 1941 ID'd, laid to rest

JO2 Daniel J. Calderon
Staff Writer

More than 60 years ago, 17-year-old Apprentice Seaman Thomas Hembree was killed aboard the seaplane tender, USS Curtiss. Tuesday, with 17 family members in attendance, he was finally laid to rest at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as Punchbowl.

The youngest of five children, Hembree was required to have his mother sign a waiver for him to join the Navy because he was not yet 18. He had been in Pearl Harbor for less than a week before the Dec. 7, 1941 attack that claimed more than 2,300 lives, including 21 Sailors from Curtiss. His body, burned beyond recognition, was not identified before he was buried. Eventually, his remains were buried at Punchbowl in site C-258 with a grave marker that simply read "Unknown."

In the intervening years, his oldest sister, Helen made requests to various agencies to try and determine where he was buried. All met with no success until 1989. Then, Helen met Ray Emory, a Pearl Harbor survivor. Emory had been compiling a history of the individuals buried at Punchbowl and was a staunch believer in identifying the "unknowns" there.

After a decade of phone calls, letters and personal visits, Emory received word from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) on Hickam Air Force Base that they had exhumed the remains buried in C-258 and had taken them to their laboratories for examination. They then contacted the family to request DNA samples to match against those they would obtain from the remains.

"I sent in my DNA in December of 2000," said Marion Price, Hembree's niece. She was three years old when Hembree died. She has seen pictures of Hembree with her when she was younger and knows her uncle from stories her mother, Hembree's sister June, would tell about him. "I received a letter [from CILHI] in January 2001 that they had received the sample and had it on record. They told me not to get my



JO2 Daniel Calderon photo

Members of the Navy honor guard prepare to fold the American flag over Apprentice Seaman Thomas Hembree's grave during Tuesday's re-interment ceremony while his family watches silently.

hopes up, but they stayed up for a month or two," she said.

For much of the year, the process of identification went out of the minds of the family as they attended to their daily lives. At CILHI, the work was progressing. They measured the remains using state-of-the-art equipment that had been unavailable in 1941.

After determining that there were only two unidentified casualties from Curtiss, they reviewed records on the individuals. Navy Capt. John A. Lewis Jr., DC, a forensic odontologist at CILHI, analyzed the remains, determined they were consistent with an individual of Hembree's age, race, sex and stature and matched them with Hembree's dental records. Once the match was made, Navy Lt. Galo Chaves, from Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn., contacted Price. Chaves was the case manager for the family.

"I got the call Thanksgiving morning that they had identified Uncle Tommy's remains," said Price. "When I got off the phone, my husband asked who it was and I told

him that it was some guy from the Navy telling me they had identified Uncle Tommy. It wasn't until 15 minutes later that it came to me."

The whole process united families who had never known each other. Beth LaRosa, another of Hembree's nieces, said she and her cousin, Price, have been in constant contact since the identification process took the upswing in 2000.

"Marion and I talk almost daily from Seattle to California," said LaRosa. She lives in Seattle and Price lives in Altadena, Calif. "We're getting to reap the benefits of the work our aunt began so many years ago."

At the service, over 15 nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and great-grandnieces and nephews sat as Hembree was buried with honors including a bugler and 21-gun salute.

"I think Uncle Tommy is at peace now and the family is at peace," said Price. The families decided he should remain at Punchbowl instead of returning to his hometown of Kennewick, Wash. "We realized the family, when they were alive,

wanted Uncle Tommy here and we needed to carry on their wishes."

The family has high praise for the efforts of CILHI and Emory, whom they credit for making the re-interment possible.

"We can never repay Ray Emory for the years of effort on this journey, but you will forever be in our hearts," said Price.

"CILHI was absolutely phenomenal," said LaRosa. "I'm so proud to be an American today and know that my country cares enough to identify their heroes. We've been treated like royalty since we've been here and they haven't been clinical in their dealings with us. It's all been from the heart."

As the ceremony wound down, LaRosa addressed the assembled family and Pearl Harbor survivors.

"Uncle Tommy did not die in vain," she said. "We never would have known each other if not for his identification. One chapter has now been completed in our family's story and another is just beginning."

Tune into Navy Channel 2 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. March 9-15 to watch the reinterment ceremony.



MTCM (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott

Scott to relieve Herdt as MCPON

Chief of Naval Operations
Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark announced that he has selected Master Chief Petty Officer (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott to succeed Master Chief Petty Officer (SS/SW/AW) James L. Herdt as Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON).

Scott currently serves as the CNO-directed command master chief for Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet.

"Master Chief Scott follows a legacy of tremendous service in MCPON Jim Herdt," said Clark. "Master Chief Scott has the fleet experience and is singularly qualified to represent Sailors around the world. I look forward to working with him in the future on the important issues facing our Sailors and their families."

Scott was born in Buffalo, Mo. and raised in Louisburg, Kan. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1976 and has served on board USS John Adams (SSBN 620), USS James Madison (SSBN 627), USS Jacksonville (SSN 699) and Strike Fighter Squadron 192 (VFA 192), deploying on board USS Independence (CV 62) and USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63).

Scott's shore tours have included Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Training Center, Charleston, S.C. and Commander, Submarine Squadron 14 in Holy Loch, Scotland. Scott attended the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, R.I., graduating with academic honors. He subsequently served as the senior enlisted nuclear weapons technical inspector to Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet and as the command master chief of Naval Security Group Activity, Winter Harbor, Maine. He reported to his current position of CNO-directed command master chief for Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet in November 2000. Master Chief Scott is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy.

The change of office will be held April 22, 2002.

A NATION AT WAR

Troops take fight to Al Qaeda in Eastern Afghanistan



Air Force Master Sgt. Keith Reed photo

U.S. soldiers hurriedly load ammunition onto a waiting CH-47 Chinook helicopter destined for troops fighting in the mountains near Gardez, Afghanistan. This scene repeated itself many times March 2 and 3 as U.S. and coalition forces launched a ground offensive against terrorist Taliban and Al Qaeda forces.

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Between 800 and 900 U.S. servicemen are taking the war to the Al Qaeda and Taliban in the Shahi Khot region of Afghanistan, said Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command.

Franks, speaking in a Tampa, Fla., video teleconference with local and Washington news reporters, said soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum, N.Y., and the 101st Airborne (Air Mobile) Division of Fort Campbell, Ky., and Special Forces soldiers are taking part in Operation Anaconda. He said U.S. forces are joined by a like number of Afghan fighters and about 200 special operations

troops from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, France and Norway. Army Maj. Gen. Franklin Hagenbeck of the 10th Mountain commands.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during an earlier press briefing that nine Americans have died in the action so far, but Franks was less certain. He said the death toll may be eight or nine and that "some of the fog of war" would have to dissipate before officials know the toll for sure.

The U.S. casualties came early in the operation. First, a rocket-propelled grenade hit a U.S. MH-47 Chinook helicopter as it approached a landing zone. The pilot

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