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New vehicle decals valid for one year

JO2 Daniel J. Calderón
Staff Writer

Because of the recent change in a NAVREG instruction, base decals will be valid for a maximum of 12 months from the month of issue.

Abel Esclito, NAVREG Pass and ID supervisor, said the new instruction, which took effect Jan 2, applies to anyone in the region who applies for a vehicle decal.

In the past, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor issued vehicle decals that would be valid for up to three years from the month of issue.

"Decals will now expire in the month of the safety inspection,"

said Esclito. "Those who have already been issued a three-year decal are grandfathered into the program and can keep their current decal until it expires or becomes unserviceable. When they come in to get it replaced, they will be issued a one-year decal."

However, individuals shouldn't expect every decal to be valid until the expiration date. Occasionally, a sticker becomes faded or worn after being subjected to the intense Hawaiian sunshine. If any sticker or part of a sticker becomes unreadable or is defaced, it is considered unserviceable and must be replaced. When this happens, personnel must bring the necessary

paperwork to Pass and ID to get a new decal.

Esclito said the new one-year policy also addresses another problem with the three-year decals. In some situations, personnel sell or trade their vehicle without first removing the decal. Esclito emphasized the fact that it's important for military and civilian personnel to understand that their decals are non-transferable and must be removed from their vehicle when they sell or trade them.

Capt R. Douglas Hughes, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Navy Region Hawaii Chief of Staff feels the new policy addresses security concerns

and tempers them with individual Sailor's or DoD civilian's interest taken into consideration.

"The mandatory annual re-issue of decals will help alleviate a nagging problem with our decals being on vehicles out in town," said Hughes. "Additionally, making the re-issue date coincide with the safety inspection should make it more convenient for everyone to remember to get their decals re-issued."

Esclito said "once I explain the logic behind the new policy, people understand it and go along with it."

Personnel at Pass and ID are quick to point out that the time re-

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Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation signed



JO3 Sunday Williams photo

Hawaii State Senator of the 20th District, Brian Kanno presented a Certificate of Commendation signed by the majority of State Senate members, to Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific to congratulate and commend Navy Region Hawaii on its efforts to promote healthy family relationships and to prevent child abuse.

State Senate lauds Navy's efforts for children

Navy Region receives legislative commendation

JO3 Sunday Williams
Staff Writer

Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific signed a proclamation Wednesday morning designating the month of April as the "Month of the Military Child" and "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

"The proclamation we sign today

must be more than just a piece of paper. It must be a living document that all local family support agencies and Navy families can rally around to recommit themselves to working together to make a difference in preventing child abuse," stated Conway.

Conway said that this year's theme for Child Abuse Prevention Month "Together, We Can Make a Difference in Preventing Child Abuse!" is "very appropriate" and highlights the Navy's efforts in networking and collaborating with federal, state and local agencies to

prevent child abuse and neglect.

"By signing this proclamation we protect our most precious resource, our keiki," said Conway.

In a special first time recognition of the efforts of Navy Region Hawaii, a special guest at Wednesday's ceremony, Hawaii State Senator of the 20th District, Brian Kanno presented Conway with a Legislative Certificate of Recognition signed by the majority of Hawaii's local Senate members. The certificate "commends and congratulates" Navy Region Hawaii for

▼ See EFFORTS, A-3

Murder trial begins for Naval Station Sailor

JOC Gerard Sekerak
Managing Editor

A General Court Martial convened on Monday at Trial Service Office Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for Yeoman 3rd Class Hawan T. Campbell.

Campbell, 23, is accused of shooting and killing another Sailor, Seaman Gregory L. Ballard, 29, who was assigned to the staff of the Commander, U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith. Campbell was assigned as an administrative assistant at Naval Station Pearl Harbor at the time of the murder.

In the early morning hours of May 4, 2001, Department of Defense Police at Pearl Harbor Naval Complex responded to reports of shots fired in the vicinity of Gabrunas Hall. Agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) arrested Seaman Campbell later that evening for the shooting.

NCIS agents credit their ability to make a prompt arrest in the case to the quick response of naval security personnel, the subsequent thorough investiga-

Photo not available for online version.

tion of the crime scene, and a detailed interview process.

The accused Sailor has been in pretrial confinement at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Brig since May 4, 2001. He pleaded not guilty to the charge on Dec. 19, 2001, and the government intends to go forward with the charge during the open court at the Trial Services Office.

Utility Boat schedule changes for Merry Point

Navy Region Public Affairs

Merry Point landing is closed until May 30 due to construction. Utility boat passengers who previously used Merry Point landing, may use either the Charlie or Sierra 9 landings.

The utility boat schedule will reflect only minor changes. The coxswain will delay the boat's de-

parture time from Sierra 9 to coincide with the Merry Point landing times. This will allow passengers enough time to make adjustments for the extra time needed to travel to Sierra 9 landing.

For more information can be obtained through the Waterfront Operations office at 472-6401.

A NATION AT WAR

'Anaconda' ends, 'Enduring Freedom' continues in Afghanistan



PH1 (SW) Ario Abrahamson photo

A U.S. Air Force C-17 taxis on the runway at Kandahar International Airport, March 15. Aircraft make regular stops at forward deployed bases in Afghanistan to bring much needed supplies to coalition forces operating in theatre.

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 18, 2002 — Operation Anaconda is officially over, but skirmishes near Gardez and west of Kandahar prove the Defense Department's premise that actions in Afghanistan are not complete.

Air Force Brig. Gen. John Rosa, Joint Staff spokesman, put it simply during a press conference March 18: "Operation Anaconda is over, but Operation Enduring Freedom continues."

Rosa said teams remain in the Operation Anaconda area looking for any remaining Taliban and al Qaeda. U.S., Afghan and coalition forces have searched more than 30 caves in the region so far and have found weapons, ammunition and documents.

On Sunday a patrol observed three vehicles

about 45 miles southwest of Gardez, Rosa said. After watching them for a time, commanders called in helicopters to stop the convoy. When their warning shots were met with return fire, the aircraft destroyed the vehicles. In the firefight, 16 people in the convoy were killed, one wounded and one detained. There were no U.S. casualties.

"Numerous weapons, ammunition, rocket-propelled grenades were found in these vehicles," Rosa said.

A fourth car, just a bit separated from the other three, was stopped, found to contain a family and let go, he said.

U.S. forces also conducted a "site exploitation" of a compound in the vicinity of Kandahar, he said. Forces found a large cache of weapons and ammunition in the compound. They detained 31 people.

Operation Anaconda was important because it showed al Qaeda and Taliban that the United States was serious, "that our troops are up to the task," Rosa said. "And we know we accomplished quite a bit." He said the U.S. Central Command does not see large groups of al Qaeda or Taliban leaving the Operation Anaconda area.

Neither Rosa nor Pentagon spokeswoman Torie Clarke wanted to quantify the number of al Qaeda and Taliban killed in Operation Anaconda. Clarke said conditions in the area make it very difficult to get exact numbers.

She did say that Operation Anaconda had effects on the al Qaeda. "We have debilitated and degraded to a certain extent the al Qaeda network," she said. The operation has clearly made it more difficult for al Qaeda to work inside Afghanistan and communicate with members outside the country, Clarke said.