

This just in...
PACFLT nomination

The president has nominated Vice Adm. Walter F. Doran for the appointment to the rank of admiral and assignment as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.



THE HAWAIIAN NAVY NEWS

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Earth Day is April 22. See local list of projects, history and facts... B-1

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Navy celebrates 100 years of destroyers

JO2 Daniel J. Calderón
Staff Writer

In 1902, the U.S. Navy launched its first destroyer, USS Decatur (DD 5). From that first destroyer to the newest Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, USS Chafee (DDG 90), under construction at Bath Iron Works, Maine, destroyers have been an invaluable benefit to the Navy.

In recognition of the tireless service of U.S. Navy destroyers and the Sailors who have served aboard them, Destroyer Squadron 31 (DESRON 31) is hosting the Destroyer Centennial Ball. The celebration will be held May 24 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Anyone interested in attending the Destroyer Centennial Ball can call 473-3241.

Commodore "Buz" Buzby, commander Destroyer Squadron 31, first served aboard USS Miller (DE 3071, later FF 3071) in 1977. His love of destroyers began long before that, however.

"My dad served aboard destroyers in the Korean War," said Buzby. "He would tell me stories and that's when I got my first exposure to the allure of destroyers."

▼ See DESTROYER, A-2



U. S. Navy photo

USS Fletcher (DD 992), a Pearl Harbor-based spruance class destroyer.

CNO says DD(X) will play key role in 21st century

JOC Walter T. Ham IV
Chief of Naval Operations
Public Affairs

During an April 10 Senate Seapower Subcommittee hearing, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark said the DD(X) program will serve as the technological vanguard for the Navy's surface fleet for the first half of the 21st century.

"It isn't just about numbers. In addition to buying enough ships and aircraft, we must buy the right ships and aircraft, with the right capabilities for our future fleet," the CNO said.

Along with the DD(X) family of ships, Clark said that the Joint Strike Fight-

▼ See DD(X), A-3

Ford Island Bridge run



JO2 Jim Williams photo

(L to R) Photo shows the "Supply Corps Team" as they near the completion of last Saturday's 5th Annual Ford Island Bridge 10K run. The 6.2 mile MWR-sponsored run attracted thousands to run or cheer on their friends. The overall first place runner was civilian Farley Simon who ran the race in 33 minutes, 44 seconds. Next week's Hawaii Navy News will include all the winners of the Ford Island Bridge 10K.

Holomoku Mini Mart officially opens its doors

JO2 Daniel J. Calderón
Staff Writer

Naval Station Pearl Harbor's newest mini mart officially opened for business Tuesday. Amid balloons, under a clear, sunny sky, Mike Cottrell, District Manager/General Manager Navy Exchange Hawaii, presented the Holomoku Mini Mart to its patrons.

"This is a culmination, a celebration of all the efforts for the Navy Exchange to provide quality service," said Cottrell. "It is time for us to come into the new millennium with a store like this."

In addition to the regular fare, the new store boasts a barber shop, a Seattle's Best Coffee shop and the first drive-through Subway sandwich shop in Hawaii. The mini mart also offers video rental and laundry/dry-cleaning services.

Soon, a Navy Federal Credit Union will be added to the mart.

Construction on the \$2.3 million, 9,600 square foot store began last August and was completed in March.

Until April 23, patrons can enter to win a variety

▼ See MINI MART, A-6

VP-47 scores excellent in Naval Safety Center inspection

Lt. Dave Belew
VP-47 PAO

Patrol Squadron Forty Seven (VP-47) was recently visited by personnel from the Naval Safety Center.

Located in Norfolk, the Naval Safety Center's main purpose is to train and motivate Sailors and Marines to prevent mishaps and save lives. They accomplish this by assisting Navy

and Marine Corps units in determining how safely they operate, which is especially important in the difficult and hazardous environment of naval aviation.

These periodic visits help squadrons ensure the safety of all maintenance and aircrew members which leads to lower mishap rates.

This bi-annual visit allowed the "Golden Swords-

men" to identify ways to improve their already exemplary safety environment.

The Naval Safety Center brought in 14 Navy and Marine Corps personnel of varying aviation backgrounds and experiences and provided a diverse perspective into squadron operations.

Every workcenter and office was observed as the Safety Center spent the

day evaluating the squadron.

After an exhaustive assessment of its people, procedures and equipment, many squadron successes were noted.

"In an overall sense, the squadron seems to be doing everything the way it should," said Marine Corps Capt. Peter Faerber of the Naval Safety Center.

"There are a few areas

which I believe could be tweaked here and there, but as a whole it is evident that the Safety Department is more than holding up its end of the bargain."

Overall, VP-47 had an excellent review and the Naval Safety Center personnel were able to help the "Golden Swordsmen" become a better squadron and successfully accomplish their mission.

Navy, consultants work toward improving aviation non-deployed readiness

Lt. j.g. Anne Cossitt
AIRPAC Public Affairs

In order to increase non-deployed readiness of aviation squadrons throughout the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), the Navy has implemented the Naval Aviation Readiness Integrated Improvement Program (NAVRIIP).

The Thomas Group, a consulting company with expertise in process management, is assisting the Navy throughout the NAVRIIP process in improving non-deployed readiness in naval aviation.

"NAVRIIP is driving a fundamental change in the way we determine, manage, coordinate and

prioritize naval aviation resource requirements during the IDTC," explained Cmdr. Bob Gilbeau, CNAP supply readiness officer. "It is the enabler which will allow us to do better with our existing resources with the objective of immediate and long term improvement of non-deployed readiness."

The program, led by flag officers from 17 commands including Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT), Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET), aims to set, reach and sustain non-deployed aviation readiness goals.

"We are focusing on streamlining and improving the readiness process so that non-deployed squadrons get

the right parts, at the right time, for the right sortie," said Capt. Doug Henry, force aircraft material officer, Commander, Naval Air Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet (AIRPAC).

A critical part of NAVRIIP is Boots on the Ground (BOG). BOG teams, comprised of maintainers and suppliers from the Type Commanders (TYCOMs), Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), program offices, Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the Thomas Group will visit air stations to enable face-to-face interaction with the troops maintaining and supporting the aircraft. This will enable them to identify barriers to readiness improvement.

"When we did the BOG at NAS Oceana, we found some real low hanging fruit...the easy fixes," explained Capt. Mark Clemente, Commander, Fighter Wing Atlantic.

"For example, we repair aircraft 24 hours a day, in three shifts. The prepended bin, which is where all of the consumables like nuts and bolts are, was open for only two shifts. The third repair shift would have to wait until the bin opened the next day. There was an easy fix to that... keep the bin open during the third shift."

As problems are brought to leadership's attention through the BOGs, steps will be taken immedi-

ately to change the process.

"This program is very exciting. It's something that I've never seen in all my time in naval aviation," said Clemente. "It empowers the operational chain, the guys who care about flying, to dive into the issues and fix them."

More information on NAVRIIP can be found on the AIRPAC web site at www.airpac.navy.mil.

In changing the process, aviators are implementing a long term, lasting solution; not merely using a temporary fix, such as asking for more money. "The solution is not to buy more parts or to throw more money at the problem, explained Henry. "The key is to improve the process."