

USS Russell changes hands

Kearns relieves Miranda

Ens. Elizabeth Crapo
USS Russell PAO

Cmdr. William A. Kearns III relieved Cmdr. Hank Miranda as commanding officer (CO) of USS Russell (DDG 59) during a change of command ceremony held on the ship's flight deck March 13. Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway, Jr., Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was the guest speaker.

Russell's accomplishments under Cmdr. Miranda's leadership included the rescue of the crewmembers of a downed B-1 bomber in the Indian Ocean and, most recently, selection for the battle efficiency award for Commander Destroy Squadron (COMDESRON) 31.

"Russell bested every challenge and prevailed in every circumstance over the 22 months of my tour. No CO could ever hope for more out of a man-of-war than to have a crew that meets every chal-

lenge courageously and professionally, especially in a time of conflict," Miranda told the crew. "Your performance during our last deployment did just that. I consider it an honor to have served as your captain and to call each of you shipmates."

Miranda's next assignment is at Joint Chiefs of Staff J5, missile defense branch, at the Pentagon.

Cmdr. Kearns graduated from the University of Colorado in 1984 with a bachelor of arts in political science and received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corp (NROTC) program. His previous sea duty assignments include executive officer, USS Ramage (DDG 61); weapons officer and combat systems officer on the commissioning crew of USS Vicksburg (CG 69); fire control officer, USS Ticonderoga (CG 47); and auxiliaries officer, USS Josephus Daniels (CG 27).

Ashore, he served as deputy for flag officer detailing at the Bureau of Naval Personnel; aide to the di-



PH2 (AW) Kelton Washington photo
Before Cmdr. Hank Miranda departed USS Russell (DDG 59) through the sideboys, he gives his final goodbye and thanks to his crew. Miranda turned command of Russell to Cmdr. William A. Kearns III during a change of command ceremony aboard Russell March 13.

rector, surface warfare (N86) at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; surface junior officer

detailer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel; and as an instructor at Surface Warfare Officers School.

Quality key factor in Navy career

MCPON testifies on behalf of Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
Public Affairs

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON (SS/AW) Terry Scott, testified on behalf of Sailors to the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) on March 5.



U.S. Navy photo
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott

He discussed improving quality of service for Sailors and their families with improvements to virtually every form of housing for both Navy families and single Sailors. Other issues he addressed were sustainment restoration and modernization (SRM) funds, for the maintenance of our current infrastructure, and the importance of quality of life programs for military readiness.

"Sailors don't ask for a lot, but they do deserve to be fairly compensated and to enjoy a quality of life similar to their civilian counterparts," Scott said. "The quality of life and quality of work our Sailors enjoy is a key factor in their decision to make the Navy a career or seek employment elsewhere."

"One requirement common to all Sailors is the need for a quality home while in homeport," he explained. "Our commitment to fully fund basic allowance for housing (BAH) expenses by 2005 and our plans to provide housing for single Sailors ashore are two ways to meet that need."

He also added that public-private ventures for family housing are very successful in many areas and the Navy is working on pilot programs in hopes of meeting a portion of bachelor housing needs as well.

"One of my biggest quality of life concerns is that we currently have more than 18,000 single Sailors living aboard their ships, even while in home port," Scott said. "Our 'home port ashore' program plans to provide housing ashore in either barracks or through providing BAH to all these Sailors by 2008."

While discussing MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) and family support programs, he emphasized how the commitment our nation pays to providing a good quality of life for our Sailors is paying off today, by providing our country with the most flexible, powerful and capable Navy in the world.

This was Scott's first opportunity to testify before the HAC since assuming the office in April 2002. He was also accompanied by the other services' senior enlisted equivalents.

The House Appropriations Committee has jurisdiction over discretionary spending which is approximately one-third of the federal budget. It consists of thousands of programs controlled through annual appropriations acts.

Manning the rails



PHAN Keith Hutton photo
Sailors manning the rails aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) stand at parade rest while passing the Battleship Missouri and prepare to render honors to the USS Arizona Memorial March 10. Nimitz and its battle group are currently deployed conducting missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

One-stop shop for manpower information

Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, Public Affairs

Navy leaders have found a more effective way to manage their Sailor's training and professional development through the Navy Training Management and Planning System (NTMPS). Wardrooms, chief petty officers, training officers, manpower and personnel managers, career counselors and all others across the fleet who need a one-stop shop for information concerning manpower, personnel and training issues should first look to NTMPS for their answers.

The NTMPS system contains thousands of pre-existing report formats available for use immediately and they are tailored such that any command can benefit from their use. "I've been a training and schools officer for seven years and have found this to be the best system available," said Ens. Blaine A. Laurion of USS

Tarawa (LHA 1). "For example, when the command needs to know who has been to different security schools for force protection issues, I just need to jump on the system and I have answers right away - no more digging through records to find the answer," he continued.

NTMPS, a Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) program, is the Navy's official enterprise training management system that serves as the backbone for comprehensive data analysis and report generation encompassing all aspects of manpower, training, facilities, funding and personnel. NTMPS data is collected from over 30 authoritative databases, integrated and then made accessible to approved users using the latest business intelligence tools.

The business tools allow users to query the data warehouse to create their own unique reports. There is no limit to the way data can be parsed and displayed by

NTMPS users. "Non-existing reports can be generated using 'ad-hoc tools' or with assistance from the help desk," said Lt. Cmdr. Robert Chatham of Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific. "This function enables users in development [of] their own reports not currently present, so data may be portrayed as the user wants," Chatham said.

Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW/SS) Jeff LePointe of USS Oldendorf (DD 972) said NTMPS has made his job a lot easier by helping him monitor Oldendorf's Sailors' training and required schools. "It tells me who has gone to leadership continuum and who needs to go," LePointe said. "NTMPS also helps me track Sailor's time in rate and for the GENDETS, it tells me when they are eligible for their professional development board."

The NTMPS system has a proven track record as a productivity enhancement system, a de-

cision-making tool and as an excellent data source for a variety of organizations including the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, NETC, type commanders, NETWARCOM, Naval Personnel and Development Command, officer and enlisted detailers, ships, submarines, aviation wings, squadrons and many others.

Navy Counselor Senior Chief John Leavitt said he uses NTMPS everyday as Commander Naval Surface Forces Pacific's (CNSP) lead career counselor on the waterfront. "The database capability has significantly increased in the last eight months with the addition of advancement data, career review board information and various other training and manpower queries," he said. "I have held two NTMPS training sessions for all CNSP career counselors and have assisted in more than 15 installs aboard various surface Pacific units," Leavitt

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Navy tax center saves Sailors money

JO2 Tim Walsh
Staff Writer

With little more than four weeks left before the April 15 deadline, service members, retirees and their families still have a free tax filing resource on Pearl Harbor.

The Navy Tax Center is located in Building 1337 behind Arizona Hall bachelor enlisted quarters in the former Naval Station Bowling Alley.

So far, the tax center has filed more than 2,500 federal returns and more than 1,000 state returns. With an appointment, a trip to the tax center can be as short as 15 minutes, according to the Lt. Janelle Lokey, the tax officer for Naval Legal Service Office Detachment, Pearl Harbor.

Not only does the tax center get Sailors' returns back, but it also saves them the additional

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