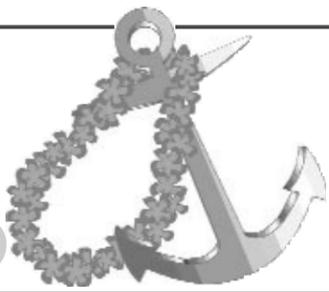


Hawaii Navy News



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IN BRIEF

JEMS to hold Job Fair

The Joint Employment Management System (JEMS) will hold a mini Job Fair Jan. 18 at The Banyans on Pearl Harbor from 3 to 7:30 p.m. The fair is open to active duty military and their family members, retirees and their family members and civil service employees.

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting for full and part-time positions as office clerks, census takers and crewleaders; Washington inventory service is recruiting for part time inventory specialists. AMSEC, LLC will be recruiting for welders, electronic technicians, electricians, assemblers and team leaders, full and part time, flexible schedules.

Census positions are not open to active duty military.

Qualified applicants must be at least 18-years-old and have a high school diploma or equivalent. No pre-registration needed.

For more information call JEMS at 473-0190.

Navy-Marine Corps News

Navy-Marine Corps News is being shown on the Navy Channel on TV Channel 2 (Oceanic Cable) at 10 different show times beginning at 2, 6, 8 and 10 a.m., noon, 2, 4, 6:35, 8 and 10:35 p.m.

The Navy Channel is available on base and in all Navy Housing areas.

For more information call 471-0281.

Kanehoe Bay Commissary Store Holiday schedule

The Commissary located on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kanehoe Bay will be closed on Jan. 18, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

The sStore will reopen for normal operation on Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information call 257-2612.

See also...



A perfect get-a-way, offers more than a beach...B-1

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USS Topeka straddles history

Fast Attack Submarine observes Y2K on dateline, equator at 400 feet submerged demonstrating 'Around the world, around the clock' readiness

By Lt. Cmdr. Dave Werner

SUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the world celebrated the new year, it was business as usual for the U.S. Navy in the Pacific - underway serving America. USS Topeka (SSN 754), a Los Angeles-class, nuclear-powered attack submarine on routine deployment to the western Pacific, navigated across the international dateline and equator as the clock struck midnight.

By virtue of their location, the crew simultaneously experienced different hours, days, months, years, hemispheres and seasons while looking forward to the new millennium. And they had the unique vantagepoint of watching the clocks roll from 400 feet below the surface of the water. Technically, crewmembers could have lost one day completely as they sailed through the dateline.

"All of us on the Topeka are proud to represent the United States Navy during this unique opportunity. USS Topeka was the first U.S. ship to witness this. I can tell you that there were plenty of ships vying for the spot on the surface of the ocean during the precise time, but I can assure you we were the only ones at 400 feet below the surface to experience it," said Topeka's commanding officer, Cmdr. Mark Patton.

The ship celebrated the event by taking small water samples, which each crewmember will get to keep as a small memento of where they were at the fateful moment.

"This is awesome. Fantastic. Words can't describe the feeling. It's better than Times Square. Few people can say they brought in the millennium 2000 on the dateline at the equator," said Lt. Michael Bratton, Topeka's navigator, who was a key figure as the ship positioned precisely over the intersection as the clocks rolled.

The submarine actually arrived on scene earlier in the day and prepared for the event. After a quick check on the surface confirming there was too



file photo

Half of USS Topeka (SSN 754) Sailors celebrated Year 2000, while the other half was still in 1999, simultaneously. The submariners were at 400 feet below sea level as the clock struck midnight on one end of the sub while the other half was still preparing for Y2K. The fast attack submarine observed the millennium across the international dateline and the equator while on her western Pacific deployment.

much traffic "on the roof" competing for the key location at the exact time, the commanding officer took her down.

The submarine embarked on their six-month deployment on Nov. 4. Beside this brief rendezvous with history, the submarine has a full plate of sensitive missions to carry out. They have spent more than 50 days underwater to date conducting operations in the Western Pacific, and have already traveled in excess of 10,000 miles.

"The crew of this fine ship works extremely hard. When we return home to Pearl Harbor next May, many will look over their shoulder and realize they have been at sea for 17 of the last 24 months. Even when in port, they still repair and maintain the ship as well as spend one of every four nights onboard standing duty. The continuing reduction in number of our nation's sub-

marines and increase in demand, our time at-sea tempo will continue to be very high," said Patton.

"An opportunity to participate in this special event and enjoy recognition for their hard work and sacrifice through the media helps these men see that what they do is important. And I can stand up all day and thank them for a job well done," said Patton.

The bulk of their deployment will be spent supporting the same primary mission as the ships and submarines that have been navigating the waters there for the previous century: to promote peace and stability throughout the region.

Topeka is the Navy's 43rd Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine and is capable of carrying the most advanced weapons available to the submarine force. Included in its arsenal

are the MK-48 advanced capability torpedo and the Tomahawk land attack cruise missile. The ship, assigned to Submarine Squadron Seven in Pearl Harbor, was commissioned in October of 1989, has a compliment of 130 men, and is more than 360 feet long.

"I think our presence in this region is tangible and influential. It is our ability to freely transverse the seas that allows us to extend that presence where ever necessary. We are honored to be able to carry on this tradition into the next millennium," said Patton.

The submarine is equipped with the most sophisticated computer, satellite and inertial navigation systems in the world - which came in handy here as well as for the sensitive missions this submarine routinely carries out. It al-

▼ See TOPEKA, A-7

Navy survives Y2K bug

Navy Wire Service

The Navy squashed the millennium bug, easing into the new century with barely a glitch.

Commands and units across the globe generally reported no problems as their clocks struck midnight, thanks to years of preparation and trouble-shooting beginning in 1996. Senior officers stressed that today's technology-reliant Navy recognized the grave potential danger early and moved to eliminate it.

In the end, the Navy made good on its millennial buzz

lines, "U.S. Navy - Underway on New Year's Day" and "U.S. Navy - Around the world, around the clock."

"The Y2K problem has been characterized by some as the greatest management challenge that this country has faced in the last 50 years," said Rear Adm. Jay Cohen, the Navy's Y2K project officer. "The Navy has taken this challenge very seriously, spending nearly \$1 billion over the last three years to analyze, remediate and test literally thousands of mission-critical and mission-support systems which

affect our ships, aircraft, shore stations and people around the world. Thanks to the hard work of our Sailors and the civilian [employees] of the Department of the Navy, we were able to report our readiness for the century turnover in November 1999."

The only glitches reported were minor, isolated system miscues, which were immediately corrected without harm. Perhaps the most visible was a low-tech glitch causing a World Wide Web page sponsored by the U.S.

▼ See NAVY, A-9

Y2K had little effect on DoD, Hamre says

Navy Wire Service

The millennium bug made few appearances on Department of Defense (DoD) installations around the world.

After checking with U.S. operational commanders Jan. 1, Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre said, "operations are absolutely normal."

While most of the rollover period was uneventful, DoD did experience one significant problem, Hamre said at a Pentagon news conference. "One of our satellite-based intelligence systems experienced some Y2K failures shortly after the rollover of Greenwich Mean Time," he said.

Intelligence officials were unable to process information from that system for two to three hours.

"The problem wasn't with the satellite system - they were under positive control at all times," Hamre said. "The problem was on the ground in the processing station."

DoD officials went to a back-up plan and were able to start processing the information from the satellites before midnight EST, Hamre said. He said the system still isn't up to normal peacetime operations, but he expects that to happen soon. "All of our high priority needs, for the DoD and other national customers, are fully being met," he said.

Overall, as DoD prepared for Y2K, defense officials fixed more than 2,300 mission critical systems. Hamre said he expects few problems, if any, with DoD business systems. Most of the system "glitches" officials found

were very small, Hamre said. With a range that included everything from cash registers to satellites, he said, most problems were clustered "on the cash register side of the spectrum."

"We learned that we did have a cash register that refused to process receipts in Okinawa," Hamre said.

The Navy base at Diego Garcia in the middle of the Indian Ocean lost power for a short while, Hamre noted, but the outage may or may not have been related to Y2K problems.

Command and control of nuclear forces during the rollover was a major DoD concern. The United States and Russia set up a joint center in Colorado Springs, Colo., to monitor early warn-

▼ See DOD, A-9

Pacific Fleet
ONE on ONE



By JO1 F. H. Mowry
PACFLT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This is part of a continuing series of interviews with the senior leadership of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and the Navy.

Dr. John J. Hamre is the 26th Deputy Secretary of Defense. Prior to assuming his duties of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Hamre served as Comptroller of the Department of Defense (1993-1997). During this time he was the principal assistant to the Secretary of Defense for the preparation presentation and execution of the defense budget and management improvement programs.

John J. Hamre

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Hamre had previously served 10 years as a professional staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He was primarily responsible for the oversight and evaluation of procurement, research and development programs, defense budget issues and relations with the Senate Appropriations Committee. From 1978 to 1984, Hamre served in the Congressional Budget Office, where he became the Deputy Assistant Director for National Security and International Affairs.

Dr. Hamre has a Ph.D. from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, where his studies focused on international politics, economics and United States foreign policy.

The pay increases ap-

▼ See PACFLT, A-6