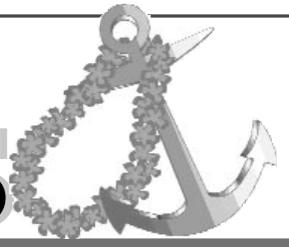


# Hawaii Navy News



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## In Brief

### Pearl Harbor Sailors to compete for PACFLT SOY

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Eugene Schlotterbeck from USS Port Royal (CG 73) and Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW) Fernando Arlanza, Jr. of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific staff were selected as finalists in the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year competition last week. Each Sailor will compete against two other finalists for selection as PACFLT Sea and Shore SOY, respectively. If selected, Schlotterbeck and Arlanza will travel to Washington D.C. to represent PACFLT at the CNO Sailor of the Year competition.

### Fletcher open for public tours tomorrow

The Spruance-class destroyer USS Fletcher (DD 992) is open to the public for tours tomorrow from noon-4 p.m. at pier B-21. Visitors may enter through Nimitz Gate and proceed directly to the ship. Reservations are not required. For safety purposes, children must be at least 8 years old. Visitors should wear comfortable shoes and clothing. For more information, call the Regional Public Affairs Office at 471-0281.

### Makalapa/Halawa intersection to close

Due to the renovation of the CINCPACFLT headquarters building (bldg. 250), the intersection at Makalapa and Halawa Drives will be closed starting April 7. The Salt Lake gate, near Aloha Stadium, will be open 24 hours a day, in addition to the main gate. Pedestrian walkways along Makalapa and Halawa Drives will remain open. For more information, call B.J. Harger at 471-5851, ext. 110 (Makalapa residents) or Lt. Cmdr. Turner at 471-0144 (all others).

### POV mileage rates reduced

Effective April 1, the authorized mileage rate for privately owned automobiles was reduced from 32.5 cents per mile to 31 cents per mile. Mileage rates for privately owned motorcycles/private owned airplanes remain unchanged.

## A Sailor breaks ground for new housing project at Hale Moku

**NAVY EDITOR** Junior Sailors and their families can soon look forward to an improved quality of life with brand new homes at Hale Moku housing. The Navy Region Hawaii Commander Rear Admiral John

Townes III, and Commander, Pacific Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command Rear Admiral Peter Marshall joined representatives from Harper Construction and the Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company to break ground on a \$37.6 million project to replace existing housing at Hale Moku on Wednesday.

Harper-Nielsen-Dillingham/Hawaiian Dredging, the project contractor, will replace 222 World War II-era, junior-enlisted Navy housing units with an equal number of two-story, two-bedroom duplexes.

"Today's ceremony is another success story in the making, and another example of commitment and partnership in action," said Townes. "In just nine short months, we expect to open 72 high-quality new homes for our Sailors and their families...five months after that, we are scheduled to open 150 more units when phase two of this project is completed.

"This is definitely a good deal for our Sailors, their families, the Navy and Hawaii's economy," he

▼ See HALE MOKU, A-6



J01 David Nagle photo

A contractor's backhoe rips through old Navy housing, making way for new housing in the Hale Moku area. The \$37.6 million project calls for the construction of 222 two-story duplexes for junior Sailors and their families. The first 72 homes are expected to be completed in January 2000, with the remaining 150 due for completion in May 2000.

## Underway with the John Ericsson



PH2 Chad McNealey photo

SM1(SW) George Bradford aboard USNS John Ericsson (T-AO 194) signals to USS Russell (DDG 59) during a recent underway replenishment. Bradford is one of 22 enlisted Sailors stationed aboard the Military Sealift Command-operated fleet oiler. See page A-4 for more photos, story.

## Barbers Point services affected by impending base closure

### Affairs

Naval Air Station Barbers Point will cease operations and decommission on July 2, as part of the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure plan.

Various support organizations at Barbers Point will reduce or end services to facilitate the base closure and allow continued support of operational units in their new location at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay. These services are as follows:

**Housing:** Residents of Makai, Orion, Officer, Orion Park, and Coral Rose hous-

ing areas will have a full time command family housing representative (CFHR) until July 2. After July 2, Navy Region Hawaii will assign a new CFHR. The Aloha Center (housing office) at Barbers Point will continue to offer the current services after July 2. Point of contact is ATC Yeager at 684-1500.

**Staff Judge Advocate (SJA):** SJA will offer the current level of services (wills, powers of attorney, command support, etc.) until June 10. After that date, legal services can be obtained from the Navy Legal Services

▼ See BARBERS, A-3

## Kosovo matters because Europe matters, say SECDEF, Chairman

American Forces Press Service

Why is Kosovo, a small Serb province thousands of miles away, important to America?

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and U.S. Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed this and other questions on the U.S. role in NATO Operation Allied Force during March 28 appearances on NBC's Meet the Press and CNN's Late Edition.

More than 2,000 people have died in Kosovo since fighting began there a year ago between Serb authorities and ethnic Albanians seeking independence. Nearly half a million people have been displaced, and since NATO Operation Allied Force began March 24, thousands more refugees have fled to neighboring nations as Serb forces attack and burn their villages.

The United States and its 18 NATO allies are trying to halt this humanitarian disaster, Cohen said on NBC. "We can't help every country in every situation," he said. "We try to help where we can and where it's advisable for us to try to help militarily."

The Kosovo crisis is creating instability throughout a region that, historically, has been a source of great instability, Cohen said. World War I began in the Balkans, and World War II battles were also fought there.

"To the extent that Milosevic does not see the wisdom of arriving at a peaceful agreement, he's going to continue to witness his military capability being degraded," Cohen said.

Restoring peace in Kosovo is not going to be quick or easy, Cohen noted on CNN. "It's a very tough environment," he said, with poor weather conditions and mountainous terrain. Nonetheless, NATO is going to conduct a "serious, sustained air campaign."

"To the extent that Milosevic does not see the wisdom of arriving at a peaceful agreement, he's going to continue to witness his military capability being degraded," Cohen said.

Shelton told NBC the mission has well-defined, clear military objectives. The goal is to reduce Milosevic's army and special police forces' ability to "slaughter" the ethnic Albanian Kosovars, he said.

The chairman displayed bomb damage photos from some of the NATO air strikes. One showed the crater where a Serb army garrison headquarters once stood in Pristina, Kosovo. Another showed what remained of an airfield where Serb forces kept attack helicopters.

Cohen told CNN U.S. officials have not yet learned what caused a U.S. stealth fighter-bomber to crash in Yugoslavia March 27. "We are unable to determine whether it was due to anti-aircraft fire, a surface-to-air missile or a malfunction," he said. He expressed gratitude the pilot was safe and hailed the competence, professionalism and courage of the search and rescue team.

Shelton said on CNN the two Yugoslav MiG-29 fighters shot down March 26 when they entered Bosnian air space apparently did not intend to attack SFOR troops. "[They] were carrying air-to-air munitions," he said. "There's no indication that they were in fact bound to attack our troops. That's not the type of ordnance that you'd carry for a mission like that."

Both defense leaders said there are no plans to commit U.S. ground troops to Kosovo. "The president has made it

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