

1999's 'best of the best'

Regional SOY's honored at luncheon

By JO2 Greg Cleghorne
HNN ASSISTANT EDITOR

Thirteen of the region's top performers were honored last Thursday at a Sailor of the Year awards luncheon at the Diosdado Rome Galley on Naval Station.

Journalist 1st Class David Nagle of the Navy Region Hawaii staff was recognized as the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Senior Sailor of the Year and Dental Technician 3rd Class Stacy Mitchell of Naval Dental Clinic, Pearl Harbor received honors as the region's Junior Sailor of the Year.

Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) John Snelgrove and Damage Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Kellie Fernandez, both from USS Willamette (AO 180) were honored as Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific's Senior and Junior Sea Sailors of the Year, respectively, and Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW) Fernando Arlanza of the MIDPAC staff was recognized as the MIDPAC Shore Sailor of the Year.

Rear Admiral John Townes III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific personally acknowledged this year's top Sailors.

In addition, Sailors of the Year from regional shore commands were recognized at the luncheon.

"John Paul Jones once said, 'Sailors mean more than guns in the rating of a ship,'" Townes said. "That is certainly as true today, as it was during the birth of our great Navy. Our Navy depends on Sailors who must train for an incredible number of contingencies, and who must be trained to handle sophisticated modern technology. And above all, we rely on Sailors to uphold our Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment, each and everyday, ashore or underway.

"Every Sailor of the Year here today represents the best our Navy offers," he continued. "You possess the skills to lead and train others to the standard of excellence you have achieved. You continually strive for increased responsibility; you are self-starters who've taken it upon yourselves to know your mission, learn the job at hand, and train your subordinates well. Everyone here today is indeed a winner."

All five Sailors received gifts from the Navy Exchange, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Honolulu Council of the Navy League.

Arlanza is presently a finalist in the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year competition. The results of that competition will be announced later this month.

Other Regional Sailors of the Year

Naval Station

UT1(SCW) Ricky Jensen
YN2(AW) Frank Ryan

NAS Barbers Point

AO1(AW/SW) Anthony Lawhorn
AE3 Don Kelly

PMRF Barking Sands

AE1(AW/NAC) Richard Sperberg
AE3 Shelley Hall

Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor

HM2 Adriana Vallejo
HM3 Tabitha Garner

Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor

DT1(FMF) James Ellis

Editor's note: Hawaii Navy News will recognize other Sailors of the Year from the submarine, aviation and Seabee communities in a future issue.

Naval Surface Group MIDPAC Shore Sailor of the Year

Name: SK1 (SW/AW) Fernando Arlanza
Hometown: Olongapo City, Philippines
Duty Station: Naval Surface Group MIDPAC staff
Duties: Logistics support coordinator
Years in Navy: 10
Past Duty Stations: COMNAVMAR, Guam; USS White Plains; USS Ponce
Goals: To serve God and the Navy better.



Within a year of reporting aboard the MIDPAC staff, Petty Officer Arlanza became the focal point for top quality service and superb logistics support for our waterfront customers. He managed two OPTAR budgets worth \$645,000 and reduced the downtime by 50 percent of vital equipment on more than 30 ships by expediting over 250 CASREP requisitions. He also directed the opportune lift shipment of 484 POV's to and from Hawaii, thereby saving his shipmates \$411,000 in out of pocket expenses. He also saved the government more than \$900,000 in transportation costs by using opportune lift for transporting 950,000 pounds of military cargo to San Diego, Seattle and Guam. In his off duty time, he is actively involved with the community through the Big Brothers of Honolulu and MIDPAC's Adopt-a-Highway clean-up program.

Naval Surface Group MIDPAC Senior Sea Sailor of the Year

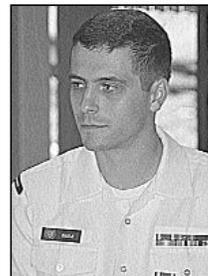
Name: FC1 (SW) John Snelgrove
Hometown: Monson, Mass.
Duty Station: USS Willamette
Duties: Close in Weapons System LPO
Years in Navy: 14
Goals: To help my shipmates by being a better petty officer.



As leading petty officer for the ship's Close-in Weapons Systems mounts, Petty Officer Snelgrove's technical expertise and leadership brought a team together that culminated in 26 successful firings and two TDU drone kills. He also serves as Willamette's Drug and Alcohol Program advisor, command assessment team member, ESWS qualification program member, combat systems training team member, assistant PRT coordinator, Combined Federal Campaign coordinator and conducts Petty Officer Indoc classes.

Navy Region Hawaii Senior Sailor of the Year

Name: JO1 David Nagle
Hometown: Malden, Mass.
Duty Station: Navy Region Hawaii staff
Duties: Public Affairs LPO, Editor, Hawaii Navy News
Years in Navy: 8
Past Duty Stations: HC-4, NAS Sigonella; Naval Media Center, Keflavik, Iceland
Goals: To be the first JO MCPON



Petty Officer Nagle is the driving force behind the award-winning Hawaii Navy News, responsible for leading the team that prepares the content, layout and design of the paper every week, but also the Navy Region's website and Navy TV channel 2. He is also responsible for preparing and marketing hundreds of stories and photographs to civilian and Navy media around the world. He also earned his bachelor's degree, serves as the command career counselor and also devoted off-duty time to his family housing association and local church.

Naval Surface Group MIDPAC Junior Sea Sailor of the Year

Name: DC2(SW) Kellie Fernandez
Hometown: Anaheim, Calif.
Duty Station: USS Willamette
Duties: Repair Parts Petty Officer, Supply Petty Officer
Years in Navy: 4
Past Duty Stations: NRD San Diego
Goals: To be the best at whatever I do



Petty Officer Fernandez's professional performance of maintenance and as repair parts petty officer contributed greatly to the material and operational readiness of her ship. She held the distinction of being the only third class petty officer onboard the ship to qualify as fire marshall and made numerous contributions to the ship's damage control readiness in repair lockers, crash and salvage team and in tracking more than \$100,000 worth of damage control repair parts. She also volunteers as a Big Sister and in community restoration projects.

Navy Region Hawaii Junior Sailor of the Year

Name: DT3 Stacy Mitchell
Hometown: Buford, S.C.
Duty Station: Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor
Duties: Assistant Fleet Liaison
Years in Navy: 7
Past Duty Stations: Naval Dental Center San Diego, NDC Great Lakes
Goals: To become a licenced dental technician



As the Dental Clinic's Assistant Fleet Liaison, Petty Officer Mitchell is responsible for ensuring the operational dental readiness of Pearl Harbor's 36 homeported ships and submarines. She was instrumental in the Dental Clinic's outstanding achievement of ensuring the last 29 ships and submarines deployed with 100 percent dental readiness. She recently trained and supervised more than 20 personnel to verify and convert 4,500 dental records to a new system. She also volunteered to support the command and her community through a variety of venues such as the Hawaii Food Bank drive, Hydrofest, Great Aloha Run, and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.