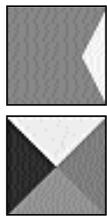


FLEET FOCUS



Bravo Zulu

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

Legion of Merit
Capt. Thomas Liedke, Jr.

Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal
Lt. Marc Rzepczynski
MSC Roberto Tuico
JO1 David Nagle

Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal
RP2(FMF) Jared Osselaer

Letter of Commendation
BM1(SW) Thomas Haegele

Frocked
MMCM(DV) Eric Treible

Civilian Length of Service Awards
Stanford Yuen (25 years)
Roberta Kim (15 years)
Terri Kojima (10 years)
Danette Akina (10 years)
Laurence Shohet (10 years)

USS San Francisco (SSN 771)

Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal
Lt. Cmdr. Brian Fratello
Lt. Jim Christie
ETC(SS) Kevin Daly

Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal
Lt. Kyle Freeman
Lt. Andrew Mauger
Lt. Russell Martin
Lt. Chong Thai
Lt.j.g. Todd Nethercott
Lt.j.g. Brian Shuster
MMCS(SS) Pedro Clavero
MMC(SS) Willie Stevens
STS1(SS/DV/AW) Troy Nye
STS1(SS) Garry Mayfield
STS1(SS) Ronald Park
HM1(SS) Jeffrey Riffle

Golden Swordsmen support Constellation battle group

By Lt. Dominic Caronello
VP-47

Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47) Combat Aircrew Nine (CAC-9) recently returned from a highly successful detachment to Naval Air Station North Island. Both CAC-9 and CAC-7 flew multiple missions in support of the USS Constellation (CV 64) Battle Group during its pre-deployment work ups.

Prior to the deployment of a carrier battle group, the carrier's crew, the embarked air wing and its supporting ships must complete a series of battle group training exercises in preparation for deployment. VP-47 aircrews participated in the first of several CVBG training exercises, called COMPTUEX. After completing individual training requirements, the ships of the Constellation Battle Group began the initial stages of becoming a fully operational qualified CVBG.

During COMPTUEX, ships strive to implement current tactics and develop teamwork to effectively employ the tactics that protect the carrier from air, surface, and undersea threats. The ability of a Battle Group to protect the carrier enables the carrier to efficiently carry out its primary mission of "Power Projection."

VP-47 crews worked in close conjunction with the destroyers of the CVBG to combat both surface and sub-surface threats. As the world's premier USW platform, the



VP-47 photo

A P-3 Orion from VP-47 passes an F-14 fighter during recent COMPUTEX exercises with the USS Constellation battle group.

P-3 Orion plays a vital role in modern battle group operations. United States and Canadian ships and their embarked helicopters worked in conjunction with Golden Swordsmen aircraft to defend the CVBG from the U.S. submarine simulating an enemy submarine.

Lt. Cmdr. Bill Mack, embarked aboard Constellation during the COMPTUEX commented, "Destroyer Squadron Seven was extremely pleased with the support provided by the Golden Swordsmen."

In the past, the S-3B Viking constituted the carrier's primary long range undersea warfare platform. However, as the role of carriers in naval warfare has shifted from blue water, global operations to the littoral,

regional environment, the role of the S-3B has shifted towards in-flight refueling of air-wing aircraft and away from USW. As a result of the carrier's diminished organic long-range USW capability, the carrier has become increasingly reliant upon inorganic maritime patrol aircraft working in conjunction with the CVBG's USW helicopters to fill the gap left by the shifting role of the S-3B.

Consequently, land based maritime patrol aviation plays a continually increasing role in carrier group operations. The Golden Swordsmen enjoy working with the Battle Group and appreciate the opportunity to demonstrate the P-3C's capability to efficaciously operate in a multi-threat, multi-mission environment.

Aegis Training and Readiness Center Det Pearl Harbor wins excellence award

By FCCS(SW) Chris Cox

ATRC DET PEARL HARBOR

Aegis Training and Readiness Center Detachment (ATRC) Det Pearl Harbor recently received the Theater Surface Combatants Team Award for Excellence.

ATRC Det Pearl Harbor demonstrated exemplary initiative and performance above and beyond their normal duties as a satellite mobile training team. This team, experienced in every aspect of the Aegis combat system and theater ballistic missile defense, earned the respect of all waterfront ships from the commanding officer to the most junior technician.

In addition to supporting Pearl Harbor-based ships, ATRCD augmented training teams for ships based in San Diego and Yokosuka, Japan, while performing a pivotal role in pre-commissioning team training for USS O'Kane (DDG 77). The effectiveness of their exceptional training techniques, instructional media improvements and dedication to customer service were instrumental in

ATRCD becoming the premier waterfront training organization.

During the past year ATRCD completed 160 training missions, assessments and assist visits, providing quality combat systems and operations training to more than 2,200 shipboard students on 23 different fleet units. The detachment also developed the first Navy theater ballistic missile defense course of instruction for fleet introduction of the Linebacker capability. This capability is currently being tested onboard USS Port Royal (CG 73) and USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

ATRC Det Pearl Harbor, working closely with Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, reduced administrative requirements from the old inter-deployment training cycle. This reduction allows shipboard personnel more time for themselves and improves their quality of life.

ATRCD provided enhanced battle group system integration training for ships participating in Fleet COMPTUEX, as well as supporting coordinated multiple exercises at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai for ships during post delivery and test trials.

Accelerated SWO department head school accessions announced

Top performing surface warfare officers (SWO) who are completing their division officer tours now have an opportunity to transfer directly to department head school. This new policy was announced recently in a joint Atlantic Fleet Surface Force/Pacific Fleet Surface Force message.

The new program will allow hard-charging junior SWOs to accelerate their careers. After a three-year department head tour, the officers will then go to a guaranteed shore assignment of their choice including post graduate school, war college (as eligible) and/or geographic area of choice.

Officers interested in this opportunity should contact their detainer for more information.

Commissioning set for destroyer Higgins

The Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, Higgins, will be commissioned April 24 in Port Everglades, Fla.

The ship is named for Marine Corps Col. William "Rich" Higgins, a distinguished Vietnam veteran killed in Lebanon. While serving as a senior military advisor for the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Lebanon, he disappeared in February 1988. He was held captive by the Hezbollah in Lebanon and later murdered. After his death, President Bush awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal and Purple Heart.

Annual Navy Counselor Association Symposium scheduled

The 11th Annual Navy Counselor Association (NCA) Symposium will be held July 19-23 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Milwaukee and Naval Training Center (NTC) Great Lakes, Ill.

The symposium agenda includes one day of guest speakers, a day touring NTC's Service School Command and Recruit Training Command, modules and workshops on education, the survivor benefit plan, officer programs and the role of a career counselor. Seminars for professional and personal development of career counselors, and command, fleet and force master chiefs will also be held. To cap the week, a special graduation of four recruit divisions is planned.

Each year during the symposium, NCA selects the career counselor of the year. Commands may nominate eligible career counselors. Packages must arrive in Norfolk by July 12.

NCA also offers an educational scholarship to children or spouses of members. Scholarships will be awarded July 22. The NCA educational scholarship application is located at: www.bupers.navy.mil; www.cnsl.spear.navy.mil/retcen/; and www.surfpac.navy.mil

For more information, contact the NCA symposium chairman, NCCM(SW/AW) Ted Gammon at (847)688-3270(DSN 792); or e-mail: counselor_swaw@yahoo.com. Additional information is also contained in NAVADMIN 074/99.

Lehua Elementary takes the 'sub' to school

By YNC Alphonso Braggs
COMSUBPAC

Sixth grade students and teachers from Lehua Elementary School in Pearl City, spent the day touring the Naval Station Pearl Harbor, USS Olympia (SSN 717), and the Bowfin Submarine Museum on March 31.

The Pacific Submarine Force staff serves as the school's sponsor. Throughout the year, several military and civilian personnel donated their time and talents by classroom tutoring or assisting at various school functions.

The objective of "Take the Sub to School Day" was to use the submarine and submarine history as a medium for teaching the students history, science, social studies, and geography.

The day began when Master Chief Electronics Technician Roland Jenkins, COMSUBPAC Staff Master Chief, welcomed the students to Naval Station and challenged them to pursue their goals and dreams. He went on to state that

"knowledge is power" and they "have the power to become senators, governors, doctors, lawyers, military leaders, or any job" they choose.

He related his personal example of a local boy who rose through the ranks to become the Submarine Force headquarters staff master chief. "If I can do it, anyone can," he said.

The day was centered on a submarine and her crew training and going through a maintenance period and subsequently heading out to sea. Throughout the day, questions were posed to the students from classroom subject areas. All of the answers revealed the names of United States Submarines. Some of the questions posed to the students included: What is the name a former Hawaiian King? (USS Kamehameha) or; What City was the Declaration of Independence signed in? (USS Philadelphia).

Additionally, the fulfilled event exposed the students to the roles that submarines have played throughout world history

including humanitarian efforts, maintaining sea-lanes free, and scientific research.

Following their tour of Olympia, currently in upkeep, the students witnessed the USS Columbia (SSN 771) get underway.

As the day progressed, they became very fascinated by the many capabilities submarines perform. A walking tour of Subase included a brown bag lunch at the Parche Memorial. One of the teachers, Mrs. Ohira, stated "a lot was learned here today by both the students and teachers" and this was "certainly worth doing again."

The day culminated by touring the Bowfin Submarine Museum and reflecting on the difference our submarines made during World War II. There they paid respects to the men who gave the ultimate price for the freedoms they now enjoy. As the students boarded their bus, several of them replied that "this was the best field trip they had taken this school year."

VP-47 outperforms fleet during NATOPS inspection

By Lt. Dominic Caronello
VP-47

The Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47) recently hosted the Fleet Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Evaluation Team.

Each year as part of a Squadron's Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, the fleet evaluation team from VP-30 pays two visits to each of the fleet squadrons to evaluate their level of proficiency. The first is an interim evaluation that occurs shortly after a squadron returns from deployment. The second occurs just prior to deployment and serves as a final evaluation of a squadron's ability to safely operate an aircraft.

The NATOPS program governs all naval aviation and is administered by the Chief of Naval Operations. All aviation squadrons are governed by a general NATOPS manual. In addition, each squadron must comply with a specific NATOPS manual for their aircraft. The CNO delegates responsibility to administer a specific aircraft NATOPS to the respective fleet replacement squadron that generally serves as the model manager.

As a fleet replacement squadron, VP-30 provides initial and refresher training to all pilots, flight officers, and aircrew prior to executing their follow on orders to fleet. However, their mission does not end upon sending graduates to the fleet. VP-30 must ensure that squadrons maintain and build upon the training received at VP-30. The fleet evaluation team visits a squadron for one week. During that week, the team administers both open and closed book tests to the entire command covering the eight different aircrew positions. The tests evaluate aircrew knowledge of aircraft systems/limitations and normal/emergency procedures. Following the test several crews undergo an in-flight evaluation. During the week of testing members of the evaluation team conduct a thorough overview of all aircrew records.

The Golden Swordsmen Safety/NATOPS Department developed an exhaustive and thorough training plan to ensure the squadron held positional training daily. Each training session was specifically tailored to each position and covered each of the major topic areas at least twice. Following each session, instructors administered a mini-test tailored to approximate those encountered during the Fleet Evaluation.

The efforts of Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Chatham, Lt. Jeff Conway, Lt. Rich Lee, Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator 1st Class Tom Gilliam, AW2 Kelly Baumgardner, and Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Mike Fischer resulted in an exceptional evaluation. The Golden Swordsmen met or exceeded the fleet average of all other VP squadrons in 14 of 16 categories. Fleet evaluator Lt. John Kettlestrings commented, "I have never seen so many 4.0's on the Pilot test."

The in flight evaluations had similarly remarkable results. Overall, the Fleet NATOPS team was impressed with the performance of Golden Swordsmen aircrews, displaying once again what makes VP-47 "the Best in the West."