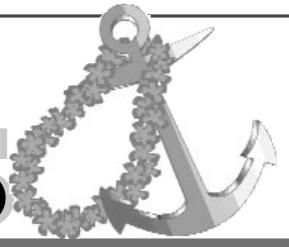


Hawaii Navy News



Volume 24 Issue 15

1997 Chief of Information Merit Award Winner

April 16, 1999

A royal visit to Hilo

IN BRIEF

NMCRS fund drive extended until April 22

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive has been extended until April 22, to allow commands more time to ensure 100 percent quality contact with all personnel. To date, NMCRS has collected \$201,315 in contributions, which is a little more than 38 percent of last year's contributions. For more details or to contribute, contact your command NMCRS fund drive keyperson.

BMC Ford Island closes

Clinical services at Branch Medical Annex Ford Island have transferred to BMC Makalapa. Patients can now benefit from the increased level of service available at Makalapa since the opening of Ford Island Bridge has made getting there easier.

BMC Makalapa will now maintain BMCA Ford Island's medical records and also assumes responsibility as the primary care manager for those previously assigned to BMA Ford Island as their primary care manager.

For more information call HMCM(SS) Meckley at 473-4410, ext. 248.

SEAL detailer to visit Hawaii

The enlisted SEAL, EOD, SWCC and Diver detailer will conduct a briefing at Sharkey Theater on April 23 at 10 a.m. The briefing will include information on entrance requirements and screening procedures. All Sailors and family members are invited. Call 473-4298 for more information.

INSIDE HMMN

Poetry in motion: Merrie Monarch Festival celebrates ancient Hawaiian dance form. **B-1**

INDEX

Commander's Column	A-2
Bravo Zulu	A-5
Chapel Pennant	A-9
Movie Call	B-2
MWR	B-2
Community Calendar	B-3
Healthwatch	B-4
Classifieds	B-6

□ Crommelin visits Big Island for annual Merrie Monarch Festival

By J01 David Nagle
HNN EDITOR

Few people in their lifetime can say royalty has greeted them. However, the 219 officers and Sailors aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37) can now claim just that, as they were treated to a royal welcome, literally, to Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii.

The king, queen and members of the royal court of the 36th annual Merrie Monarch Festival greeted the crew of the Perry-class frigate during a welcome ceremony at Hilo Harbor last Friday.

Crommelin was in Hilo as part of the annual hula competition and Hawaiian cultural festival. The week-long festival included Hawaiian arts and crafts exhibitions, a royal parade and three nights of hula competition.

"For 36 years, Hilo has welcomed people from around the world to observe and participate in one of the most beautiful art forms of the Hawaiian culture," said Rear Admiral John Townes III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii at the welcome ceremony. "Hula provides a tremendous opportunity for our Sailors to learn about and appreciate the culture and history of Hawaii's people while visiting



J01 David Nagle photo

The Merrie Monarch Royal Court welcomes USS Crommelin (FFG 37) to Hilo during an arrival ceremony last Friday. Crommelin and its crew of 219 took part in the 36th annual hula competition and Hawaiian cultural festival.

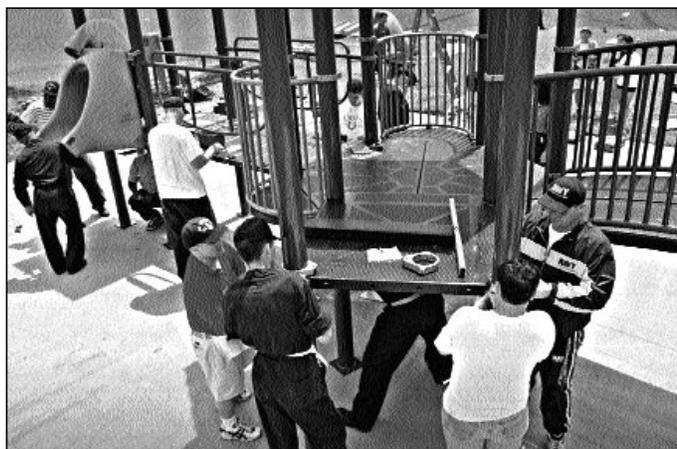
one of the most beautiful places on earth. The opportunity to see and be a part of this year's Merrie Monarch Festival is something we will all remember and cherish for years to come." Admiral Townes and his wife, Nancy, joined Crommelin's crew in representing the Navy at the Merrie Monarch Festival.

Crommelin's crew enjoyed a hula exhibition by the Natibo Dance Company of Guam. Sailors manned the rails and stood in formation on the pier as the young dancers performed both traditional and modern hula. Several crewmembers were impressed with the ceremony and hula performance.

"It was a nice ceremony," said Operations Specialist Seaman Robert Venditti. "The hula performance was awesome. I'd never seen hula before."

Following the ceremony,

▼ See CROMMELIN, A-5



J01 David Nagle photo

Fifteen Sailors from USS Crommelin volunteered to assemble a jungle gym at Keikiland Park in downtown Hilo last Friday. The project, coordinated by the Hilo Council of the Navy League, saved Hawaii County an estimated \$25,000.

'Good neighbor' Crommelin volunteers for playground project in Hilo

By J01 David Nagle
HNN EDITOR

USS Crommelin's (FFG 37) Sailors showed why the Navy is a good neighbor during their port visit to Hilo last weekend.

Fifteen crewmembers volunteered a day of liberty to assemble a jungle gym at Keikiland Park, a county playground in downtown Hilo last Friday.

The Perry-class frigate was in Hilo to participate in the 36th annual Merrie Monarch Festival, a hula competition and Hawaiian cultural festival.

The playground project was coordinated by the Hilo Council of the Navy League, a civilian organization that supports the maritime services and serves as an advocate for the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Merchant Marines to the

public at large. "We're always coordinating with local organizations,

looking for projects that could use volunteers," said John Davis, a member of the Hilo Council who set up the project. "When we know a ship is coming to visit, we send a list of local projects and the ship picks one."

Davis added that the Navy likes to get involved in the community anytime ships visit Hilo. Past projects Sailors have undertaken include a footbridge at a local park, cleaning and painting a downtown bus depot, a shoreline cleanup, and refurbishing the Palace Theater. "They [Sailors] usually take

on projects that will benefit the community in the long term," Davis said.

According to county parks planner Glenn Miyao, the volunteer project saved Hilo County about \$25,000.

Crommelin's Sailors spent the day assembling the structure, which includes five different slides, bridges, bally decks and other features. "It's for the kids," said Fire Controlman Seaman (SW) Herbert Frazier, one of the volunteers. "It's a lot more work than I thought, but it's all worth it when you look back on it."

"We generally get a good response when we ask for volunteers for community projects. Usually, we have to turn people away because we get so many volunteers."

—RMC(SW) Wes Girard
USS Crommelin

▼ See PLAYGROUND, A-5

Pacific Fleet ONE on ONE



Rear Adm. Martin E. Janczak
Deputy Chief of Staff for Shore Installation Management, U.S. Pacific Fleet

By J01 (SW/FMF) S.A. Thornbloom
PACIFIC FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This is part two of a one on one with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Shore Installation Management in the Pacific Fleet. In this part, quality of life issues of the Fleet Shore Installation Management Directorate are discussed.

Q. What are some of the quality of life issues being worked by your directorate?

A. Certainly the bachelor quarters renovations going on throughout the Fleet are significant. Unfortunately, like any big organization, we are limited by the funds available and you can't upgrade every barracks every year.

We are trying to improve the older furniture in our bachelor quarters. In MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) we are spending significant dollars for single Sailor programs throughout the Fleet.

In particular, we are looking at things like Internet Cafes, pier-side laundries, making sure the right kinds of bands are performing in the club that appeal to a vast majority of Sailors and making sure the Sailors have good quarters to live in.

We are trying to do the things that are important to the Sailors of today's Navy - the things that they like. This is certainly different than things that I saw and liked when I first came in the Navy.

Q. Do the changes and modernization on the water front go through a cyclic period where you

▼ See ONE ON ONE, A-8