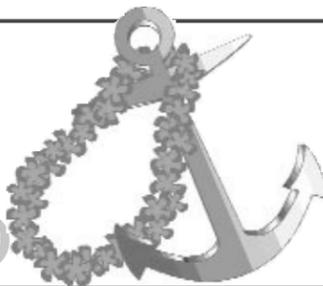


Hawaii Navy News



Volume 24 Issue 24

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

June 18, 1999

IN BRIEF

Seaman to Admiral program offers Sailors education, commissioning

The Seaman to Admiral program provides enlisted personnel, including selected reservists (included this year), with an outstanding education and commissioning opportunity. Qualified and highly motivated Sailors who are selected will complete a Navy-funded undergraduate degree program prior to reporting to Officer Candidate School for officer training and commissioning.

NAVADMIN 165/99 provides general information on the Seaman to Admiral commissioning program, eligibility criteria, application procedures for the FY-00 selection board, which convenes Sept. 7, 1999, and application format. Applications are due to PERS-811D by July 19.

Head surface officer detailee to visit Pearl

Capt. Bill Doud, the head surface officer detailee will present a briefing on June 25 at 8 a.m. in the Lockwood Hall dining room. A Surface Navy Association and ship sponsored roundup will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Banyans lanai. All surface officers are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, call Lt. Cmdr. Mike Talaga at 473-3241.

DoD marrow registration drive comes to Oahu

The C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Center, in cooperation with Pahu military installations, is holding a marrow registration drive at the following locations:

June 21-25: Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

June 21: Naval Station, bldg. 661, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 21: Bloch Arena, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 22: Naval Shipyard training building (bldg. 2), from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 23: Camp H.M. Smith Pollack Theater, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

June 24: JICPAC Twitty Auditorium, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

June 24: Schofield Barracks Kaala Recreation Center, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

There are currently more than 3.5 million volunteers on the National Marrow Donor Program Registry, with more than 190,000 volunteers from the Department of Defense. For more information, call the DoD Marrow Donor Center at 1-800-MARROW3.

Pacific Fleet Sailors attend Y2K town hall meeting...virtually

By JO2 Sean A. Hughes
PACIFIC FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pacific Fleet Sailors, Marines, family members, civilian employees and retirees joined Navy personnel around the world in a Y2K virtual town hall meeting with Navy leadership Tuesday.

"The live broadcast was designed to educate people about Y2K and how it might affect their lives at home and at work," said Lt. Flex Plexico, Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Y2K coordinator. The program was hosted by Under Secretary of the Navy Jerry Hultin and mediated by Susan Rook, former host of CNN "Talk Back Live," a daily, live interactive town meeting.

Navy leaders in Washington as well as those in the Pacific and Atlantic fleets were on-hand to answer questions about Y2K by phone, fax and e-mail. Y2K is short-

▼ See TOWN HALL, A-9



JO2 Sean Hughes photo

Members at Pacific Fleet Headquarters in Pearl Harbor view live video teleconferencing during the Navy's Y2K virtual Town Hall Meeting Tuesday morning, June 15. The two-hour interactive broadcast involved top Navy leadership in Washington, D.C. answering real time questions from Sailors, Marines, civilians, family members and retirees around the world.

Military, state partner to improve education for Oahu children

U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

Officials from the Hawaii Department of Education and the military held a meeting at Camp H.M. Smith Tuesday to establish a partnership, which will better the quality of education for all school-aged children on Oahu.

The meeting featured a proclamation signing in which Dr. Paul G. LeMahieu, superintendent of the Hawaii DOE, and Army Lt. Gen. Randolph W. House, U.S. Pacific Command deputy commander in chief and chief of staff, formalized the partnership, which is called the Joint Venture Education Forum.

During the meeting, several issues were discussed such as the unique needs and perspectives of military children and social integration of military children in public schools. Currently, there are approximately 21,000 military children in Hawaii's public schools.

According to LeMahieu, the forum represents a coming together of key leadership on both sides to provide a place where issues can be brought to the table and

Security to discuss crime prevention issues with Barbers Point area housing residents

By JO1 David Nagle
HNN EDITOR

As Naval Air Station Barbers Point prepares for closure on July 2, a major concern for residents of Navy housing areas on the Ewa Plain is security.

To address those concerns, the regional security department is visiting these housing areas on its "Night Out to Fight Crime."

Security representatives, along with McGruff the Crime Dog will go door to door and meet community members at Iroquois Point and Puuloa housing on June 21, Makai and Coral Rose housing on June 23, and Orion housing on June 25.

According to Regional Crime Prevention Supervisor, Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Richard Purcell, security will hand out crime prevention pamphlets and magnets

with emergency phone numbers, and discuss important information about changes to security after July 2.

"The major change is that, with Barbers Point closing, security will be regionalized at Pearl Harbor," said Purcell. "Another change is there will no longer be a gate guard at Iroquois Point housing after July 2.

"We want to assure residents that

▼ See SECURITY, A-6

▼ See PARTNERSHIP A-3

SECNAV sends 'letter to the fleet'

By Hon. Richard Danzig
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig sends the following "Letter to the Fleet."

Dear Marines and Sailors,

Southern California contains our largest concentration of Marines and Sailors. So I flew there right after I was sworn in and now, after six months in office, it seemed a good place to return to measure our progress. A couple of weeks ago, I met there with ships' crews, the generals from I MEF, the Third Fleet Commander, surface and air type commanders, master chiefs, junior officers, shipyard executives/workers, SPAWAR, Sailors from the Ship Intermediate Maintenance Activity, SEALs and the Surface Navy Association.

I liked what I saw. In slightly over six months, we have come a good way, on a good path. Have we gone far enough? Not yet, but the trends are very much in the right direction.

Six months ago, REDUX was a big issue. Starting with energetic work by the CNO and the Commandant, with excellent support from the President and Congress, we now have authorization bills that roll back REDUX. We are opti-

mistic they will soon pass into law and we will return to a system of 50 percent retirement for 20 years of service.

Pay also lagged — you hadn't had a pay raise over 4 percent in 15 years (which is most of your careers). In an important step forward, the administration recommended a 4.4 percent raise. Our armed services committees have raised that to 4.8 percent. The Navy has supplemented this with a highly effective package of targeted bonuses, exceeding anything in any other service. Similarly, the Marine Corps has more than doubled the Marine Corps College Fund and has substantially increased funds available for Selective Reenlistment Bonuses. Three of the four Defense Committees in Congress have already endorsed nearly everything we proposed. I hope and expect that this will soon be law.

At the same time, I have pressed the view that pay is only a part of what sustains you. Financial worries can keep you from remaining aboard, but in the end, hardly anyone stays because of the money alone. Nor would we want you to.

The rewards of service come from being able to perform important missions, your personal growth and

▼ See ONE ON ONE, A-10

ONE on ONE

Rear Admiral John W. Townes III
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
Commander, Naval Surface Group,
Middle Pacific

By JO1 David Nagle
HNN EDITOR



Rear Admiral John W. Townes III assumed command of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific on Jan. 22, 1999. Admiral Townes, the son of a career Naval aviator, is a 1972 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. At sea, he served in six

ships and commanded USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) and USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3). Ashore, he served as a junior officer detailee at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, on the staffs of Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Pacific Command and the Chief of Naval Operations. His most recent assignment was Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Admiral Townes recently spoke to Hawaii Navy News about his priorities as regional commander and his vision for Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

What are your top priorities as both the regional commander and the MID-PAC commander?

The number one priority is, and will continue to be, supporting our homeported

ships, submarines and aircraft squadrons, as well as taking care of our Sailors and their families. First, I want to ensure we use our resources in the best possible way in keeping our deployable units operationally ready and prepared to respond to events around the world. Then, we must ensure our Sailors operating the ships, submarines and aircraft have the best training and the best available resources to do their jobs.

Most importantly, we must take care of our Sailors and their families, and ensure their needs are met. They make our Navy what is today and what it will be in the future. We must provide a quality of life that's acceptable to them and their families, so they can focus on doing their jobs. If we don't, we won't have the Navy we need in the 21st century.

What are some of the quality of life initiatives in the works?

One of the biggest initiatives is quality housing for our married and single Sailors. Just look around the region and you can see where some of the older housing is coming down and new housing is going up. In the last six months alone, we've opened new housing at Pearl City and Moanalua Terrace, and begun tearing down old units at Hale Moku and Hukulani. Plus, there are a number of revitalization projects and housing upgrades underway to improve the quality of our existing housing. Providing nice, safe places to live is just one of many examples of our commitment to taking care of our Sailors and their families. But, we still have a long way to go.

▼ See ONE ON ONE, A-5

INDEX

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Commander's Column | A-2 |
| Fleet News | A-4 |
| Chapel Pennant | A-11 |
| Movie Call | B-2 |
| MWR | B-2 |
| Community Calendar | B-4 |
| Sports | B-7 |
| Classifieds | B-8 |