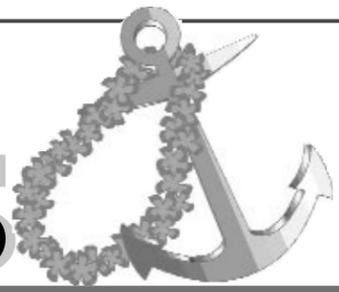


Hawaii Navy News



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IN BRIEF

NEX introduces choice at soda vending machines

The Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor Region will offer both Coke and Pepsi products through dedicated branded vending machines. Both Coke and Pepsi machines will be available at the same location in selected areas on Navy installations in Hawaii.

"We wanted to offer our customers a choice of name brand sodas," said Mike Cotrell, Director, NEX Hawaii. "This program will be monitored for both performance and customer acceptance. If the program is a success, Coke and Pepsi products may be available for purchase out of dedicated branded vending machines at Navy bases worldwide."

NEX Hawaii stores earn fleet-wide recognition

Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor and the Naval Magazine Lualualei Mini-Mart were recently selected as winners in the 1998 Bingham Award competition.

NEX Pearl Harbor was the winner in the superstore category (stores with sales from \$60.9 - \$125.2 million). NAVMAG's Mini-Mart was runner-up in the U.S. sales category (sales from \$239,000-\$762,000).

The Bingham Award program was established to recognize excellence in customer service, operations and management at NEX activities and promote friendly competition among activities striving to promote superior service to Sailors and their families.

The award is named for the late Capt. W. H. Bingham. Bingham was the chief executive of the R. H. Macys Company and was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy in 1946 to lead an advisory board for the establishment of the Navy Exchange system.

INSIDE HNN



Scenes from a Pearl Harbor Fourth: Thousands enjoy Naval Station block party. B-1

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Sailors lower the flag over Naval Air Station Barbers Point for the very last time at the air station's disestablishment ceremony on July 1. NAS Barbers Point closed after nearly six decades of naval aviation support to the fleet.



Fleet Imaging Command Pacific photo

Closing the Chapter

Naval Air Station Barbers Point ends 57 years of service to fleet

By JOCS(SW) Phil Eggman
NAVY REGION HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Naval Air Station (NAS) Barbers Point, Hawaii, was disestablished July 1 before an audience of 1,500 military and state officials and guests. The air station was officially commissioned in April 1942 and quickly developed into one of the busiest airfields in the world.

During its 57-year history, the base trained carrier pilots for combat, provided logistical support for naval aviation forces throughout the Pacific and supported airborne early warning and antisubmarine patrol operations.

"After nearly six decades of service to America, Barbers Point stands down, leaving behind powerful memories of service and sacrifice," said Rear Adm. John W. Townes III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. "It is good to remember this legacy as we close the Navy chapter here."

NAS Barbers Point was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list in 1993.

▼ See BARBERS POINT, A-5

Honolulu returns from WESTPAC

By JO3 McClain Shewman
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Honolulu (SSN 718), a fast-attack submarine, returned from a western Pacific deployment on July 1.

During their deployment, the crew of Honolulu participated in numerous community-relations projects in foreign ports and changed command in the midst of their WESTPAC. While in port in Yokosuka, Japan, Honolulu crewmembers took time out of their schedule to help restore the landscaping and

yardwork of a local Japanese home for the impaired.

"My men are all fine U.S. ambassadors and I'm proud to call them shipmates," said Cmdr. John Richardson, Commanding Officer of Honolulu.

USS Honolulu is a Los Angeles-class submarine and the 97th of the fast-attack submarine fleet. The Honolulu is the third U.S. Naval vessel to bear the name of the Hawaii capital city. USS Honolulu was commissioned in July of 1985 and carries a crew of 130 men.

Hawkbill completes global journey

By Lt. Cmdr. Dave Werner
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Hawkbill (SSN 666) returned from the ship's final deployment on July 1 after a historic voyage which very nearly touched the four corners of the globe. The Sturgeon-class submarine traveled to the North Pole, into England, down to the equator and through the Panama Canal before finally returning to its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The crew wasn't searching for an enemy submarine in the name of defense, but rather put their training to the test for a different national cause: science.

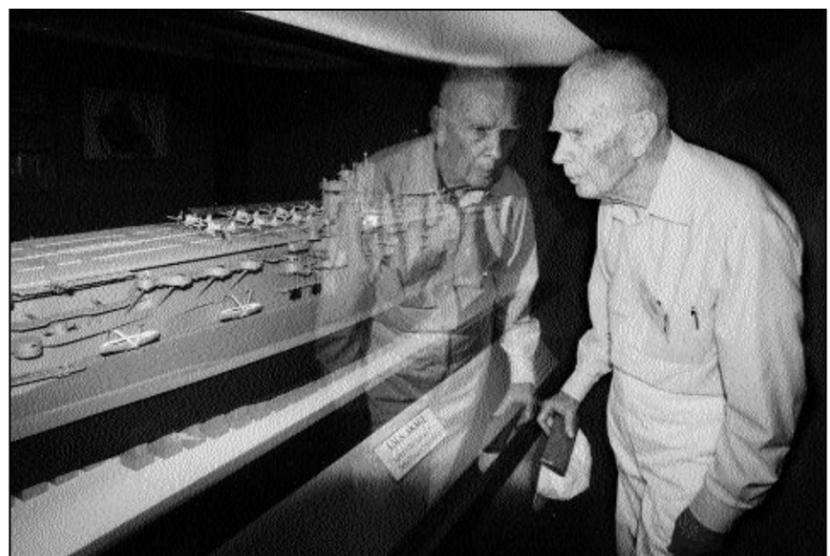
The submarine conducted the fifth of five planned sci-

ence expeditions (SCICEX) to the Arctic Ocean in a joint venture between the Navy and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

While Sailors and scientists alike praise the tremendous data collection and valuable military and scientific understanding gained in the Arctic over the five-year joint venture, the program has come to an end for the foreseeable future due to a lack of available submarines.

"We've gone from as many as 96 submarines in 1990 to a projected 50 submarines by the year 2003. Planners are already being asked which valid missions the remaining submarines can

▼ See HAWKBILL, A-8



JO2 Greg Cleghorne photo

Retired Lt. Cmdr. Richard Best takes a look at a replica of the WW II Japanese flagship, the aircraft carrier Akagi. Best commanded USS Enterprise's (CV 6) Bomber Squadron Six, a squadron of Dauntless dive-bombers that attacked and sunk the Akagi and assisted in sinking three other Japanese carriers during the Battle of Midway, changing the course of the war.

Midway's 'Best'

□ Battle of Midway veterans attend weeklong symposium

By JO2 Greg Cleghorne
HNN ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor marked the entrance of the United States into World War II.

The Japanese signing the instrument of surrender on USS Missouri's decks less than four years later marked the end of the war.

The heroic battle of Midway stands eye-to-eye with these historic events. It's the battle called 'the turning point in the war.' That U.S. naval victory partially avenged the attack on Pearl Harbor and shortened WWII.

To mark the 57th anniversary of the battle, Midway veterans, their families, historians and writers met for a Midway symposium June 28 and 29 on Oahu.

They spent the remainder of the week together, reliving the events surrounding the battle and ended their week-long commemoration with

visits to the Arizona Memorial Visitor's Center, the island of Midway and the battleship Missouri.

One important stop they made was to the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard's Building One. They witnessed the dedication of a plaque marking the site of the U.S. naval intelligence unit - code-named 'Hypo' - credited with breaking the Japanese imperial code. Deciphering that code may have been the most important contribution to the success at Midway and was cred-

▼ See MIDWAY, A-6