

FLEET FOCUS

WW II submarine veteran visits USS Honolulu

By ET1 (SS) T.L. Wilson
USS HONOLULU

Recently, USS Honolulu (SSN 718) hosted retired Lt. Tim McCoy, a World War II submarine veteran from Austin, Tx.

Following warm greetings and a short briefing topside by the Honolulu's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. John Richardson, and the Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) Bill Cramer, the distinguished guest was escorted below for a tour that included crew-member duties at each operational and tactical station.

The torpedo room and control room, where the ship's combat and information management systems come together, were the focus of the tour. McCoy commented that not much had changed since his days as a submarine Sailor.

The highlight of the day happened when McCoy took the floor in the crew's mess to share his most memorable moments as a submariner aboard his submarine, USS Grenadier (SS-210), with Honolulu's crew.

"Enroute to her final war patrol, USS Grenadier sank a small freighter off the island of Phuket, Thailand, McCoy recalled.

"She [Grenadier] remained in the area. Late in the night of 20 April 1943, she sighted two merchant ships and closed in for the attack.

"Running on the surface at dawn the next day, Grenadier spotted a Japanese plane. As the sub crashed, the skipper, Cmdr. John A.



USS Honolulu photo

WW II submariner veteran Lt. Tim McCoy (second from left standing) survived the sinking of his submarine USS Grenadier (SS-210) in action in the Pacific. He is seen here pinning FC3 (SS) Patrick A. Savea with his dolphins.

Fitzgerald commented, "We ought to be safe now, as we are between 120 and 130 feet." Just then, bombs rocked Grenadier and heeled her over 15 to 20 degrees. Power and lights failed completely and the wounded ship settled to the bottom at 267 feet. The crew tried to make repairs while a fierce fire blazed in the maneuvering

room and flooding waters entered the ship.

"After a little more than 13 hours sweating it out on the bottom isolating the damage, Grenadier managed to surface after dark to clear the boat of smoke and inspect damage.

"Her propulsion system was irreparable. Attempting to bring his

boat close to shore so that the crew could scuttle her and escape into the jungle, Cmdr. Fitzgerald even tried to jury-rig a sail.

"As dawn broke, the weary crew sighted two enemy ships heading for them. The skipper did not think it would be prudent to dive the ship in 280 feet of water without power, so he gave the order to pre-

pare to scuttle the ship. Enemy aircraft continued to attack our wounded submarine.

"Although the Grenadier was dead in the water and appeared to be helpless, we countered with her machine guns and hit the plane on its second pass, causing the plane to veer off target. Its torpedo landed about 200 yards from the boat and exploded.

"Opening all vents, the crew abandoned ship and watched her sink to her final resting place. A merchant ship picked up eight officers and 68 enlisted men and took us to Penang, Malay States, before being sent to other prison camps.

"We were then separated and transferred from camp to camp along the Malay Peninsula and finally to Japan. Throughout the war, the crew suffered brutal, cruel treatment.

"Our refusal to give military information frustrated and angered our captors. Despite the brutal treatment, all but four of Grenadier's crew survived the two years in the prisoner of war camps."

After his speech, recalling the courage and heroism displayed by Grenadier's crew, Fire Control Technician 3rd Class Patrick A. Savea had the honor of having his Submariner's Dolphins pinned on by McCoy, signifying Savea's completion of all requirements for qualifications in submarines.

For Honolulu's crew, McCoy's visit and vivid personal account of his service and sacrifice made the submarine tradition come alive for a day that will be long remembered.

Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor sets standard

By Lt. David Craig
NAVAL DENTAL CENTER
PEARL HARBOR

Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor (NDCPH) continues to set benchmarks for all of Navy dentistry. Since April 6, 1997, the center has deployed 42 consecutive ships and submarines at 100 percent Operational Dental Readiness (ODR), a feat unprecedented in Pearl Harbor history and throughout the Navy.

Last year, NDCPH was presented the Hawaii State Award of Excellence (HSAE). The HSAE award is based on Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award performance criteria and reflects world-class standards of organizational excellence with an added focus on preserving that which is unique to Hawaii, the spirit of Aloha. NDCPH achieved the highest level ever awarded in the state on its first application, an accomplishment achieved by only two

other organizations in the history of HSAE.

"The amazing thing," said Fleet Liaison Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Pat Munley, "is that we have continued to get better. Instead of resting on our laurels, we asked ourselves how we could better serve the Sailors here in Hawaii.

"The answers were dental health, clinical excellence and clinical efficiency. For as long as I have been in the Navy, readiness has always been the most important issue for our people, making sure our Sailors are ready to deploy.

"While dental readiness is still our main focus, we also realize that dental health is a quality of life issue for our Sailors.

"We have become so much more efficient by incorporating a private practice mentality into how we do business, that during the last six-month period, we have provided more than \$1 million more in dental services than we did during the same

period the year before.

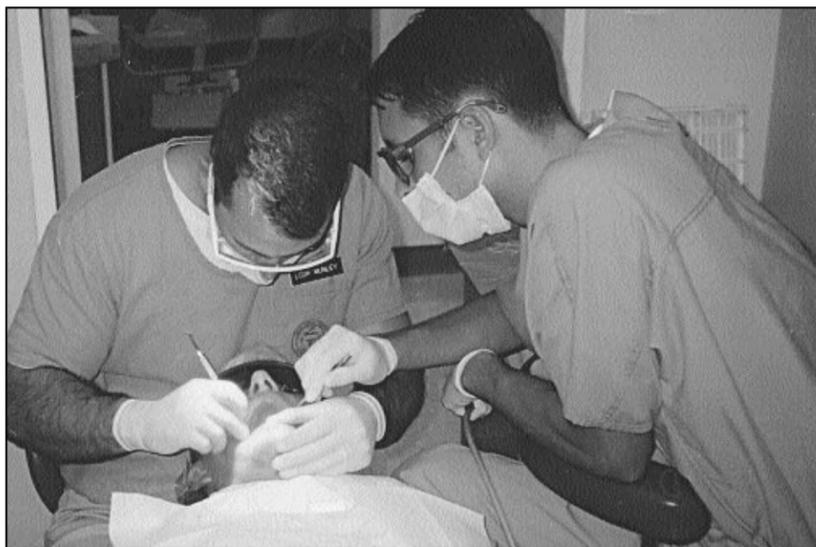
"People are [dentally] more healthy than they were before. This allows us to provide many different types of elective services that we were never able to provide in the past.

"We do exams and cleanings in one appointment. We offer some minor teeth straightening, teeth whitening and are able to do more crowns.

"Services that we were never able to do on a regular basis anywhere in the Navy are now available here at NDCPH.

"We want our Sailors to realize what is available to them and how much it would cost them if they went to a civilian dentist."

Dental health through and beyond dental readiness, outstanding customer service and the guiding principles of a high performance organization drives the treatment philosophy at NDCPH, at the helm, leading the Naval Dental Corps into the 21st century.



Naval Dental Center photo

Lt. Cmdr. Pat Munley works on the teeth of a Sailor at Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor. The center is responsible for deploying 42 consecutive ships with 100 percent Operational Dental Readiness (ODR).

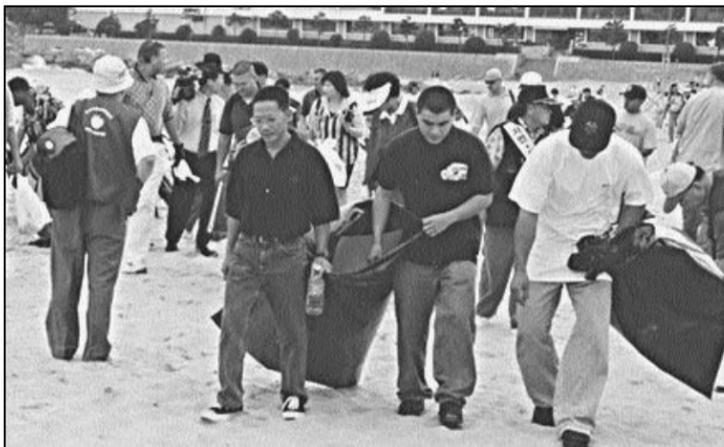
USS Chosin takes volunteer spirit on the road

By Ens. J.C. Dudley
USS CHOSIN

USS Chosin (CG 65) is well known in its home port of Pearl Harbor for making a difference in the local community. For volunteer projects such as the Makalapa Tutors Program and other contributions, Chosin was recognized for its caring spirit by winning first place in the 1998 Project Good Neighbor Flagship Program. Chosin's award was part of the Navy Community Service of the Year Award Program and honors commands that exemplify being good neighbors in local communities through volunteerism.

The same spirit that earned Chosin recognition at home is alive and well as the ship begins its 1999 Western Pacific Cruise as part of the USS Constellation (CV 64) Battle Group. During a recent port visit to Pusan, Korea, Sailors from Chosin joined other Sailors from the Constellation Battle Group and local citizens from the Pusan community to help clean up Hyundai Beach. Participants at the beach clean up were entertained by a Korean drum and dance troupe and were treated to a picnic lunch. According to Lt. Cmdr. William Docherty, HSL-37 Officer in Charge on board Chosin: "My favorite part of the day was the Korean drummers and dancers that led us down the beach and entertained us when we were done. I always look forward to the camaraderie with my shipmates and the local people."

Even though Pusan was a liberty port for the crew, there was no shortage of volunteers willing to make an impact in the local community. According to Chosin's Chaplain, Lt. Vic McInnis, "A week before we pulled into port, Chosin



USS Chosin photo

USS Chosin (CG 65) Sailors pitch in to help clean up a beach in Korea during a community relations project.

crewmembers asked me what the community relations project was going to be and asked if they could volunteer for it. Many were disappointed that they were going to have duty that day and I had to assure them that there would be other opportunities during this deployment.

There are many reasons Sailors volunteer their time when they could be doing something else. Gas Turbine System Technician Mechanical 1st Class Francis Aquino, from Tarlac, Philippines, said, "I wanted to do something more than go on liberty for myself. I just wanted to be a part of a group of people trying to make a difference." Making a difference in Pusan also offered everyone involved the opportuni-

ty to realize that a sense of volunteerism and responsibility to leave a place better than you found it can be found everywhere. According to Storekeeper 1st Class Dale Fager from Kewaunee, Wis., "Being a part of this project allowed me to show my appreciation to our host country and to show that we hold the same interest in protecting the earth's environment."

Chosin crewmembers have several port calls ahead of them as they continue their Western Pacific deployment. While the port visits will offer an excellent opportunity to relax and experience another culture, there will still be plenty of Sailors ready to make a difference and share the caring spirit that thrives on board Chosin.

NPMOC/JTWC holds change of command

By Lt. j.g. James Sinclair
NPMOC/JTWC

Capt. Terry R. McPherson relieved Capt. W. Tyson Aldinger as commanding officer of Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Pearl Harbor (NPMOC/JTWC) on July 29 during a change of command ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base.

Rear Adm. Kenneth E. Barbor, Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, was the guest speaker.

Aldinger led NPMOC/JTWC to many accomplishments and improvements over the last three years. During his tenure the command shifted from hand-drawn to digital forecast products, added a graphical enroute weather forecast, restructured to an asymmetric watch rotation to meet customer needs and created the community's first multimedia, internet weather brief. The command achieved two distinctions in the area of applied leadership. Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT) designated NPMOC as a "Total Quality Success Story" to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for commitment to continuous process improvement. Commander, Naval Base

Pearl Harbor selected NPMOC as his nomination for the Federal Organizational Excellence Award given by the Hawaii State Federal Executive Board (FEB).

Aldinger also led the restructuring of the METOC commands in the Pacific, including the closure of the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center-West and relocation of the Joint Typhoon Warning Center to NPMOC Pearl Harbor.

Aldinger remains in Hawaii as Fleet Oceanographer for CINCPACFLT.

McPherson, a native of Dallas, Texas, was commissioned in April 1976. He served as Executive Officer, Naval Oceanographic Office, Stennis Space Center, Miss.; Fleet METOC Officer at Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe; Head of Fleet Applications Department at Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center, Monterey, Calif.; Oceanographer aboard USS Ranger (CV 61); Project Officer for ASW Environmental Acoustic Support, and Operations Officer at Naval Ocean Research and Development Activity, Stennis Space Center, Miss.; and Staff Oceanographer to Commander, Naval Forces, Southern Region, Naples, Italy.