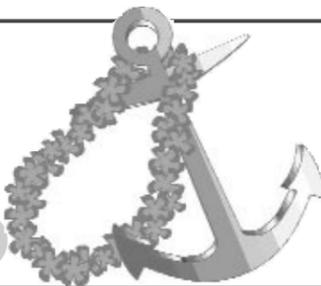


# Hawaii Navy News



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## IN BRIEF

### Holiday Hometown Greetings

Want to send something unique back to the mainland this Christmas? The Naval Media Center will be shooting Holiday Hometown Greetings October 12 and 13 at Merry Point from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Greetings will be marketed through your hometown television stations, so come on down and wish your families and friends back home a happy holiday. Participants must be in a clean, squared-away uniform of the day. For more information call 474-6605.

### Ford Island traffic flow for CINCPACFLT change of command and Hydrofest 99

Traffic across Ford Island Bridge is altered due to traffic lane set up in support of CINCPACFLT Change of Command today and Hydrofest 99 Oct 8-10. Two lanes inbound and one lane outbound will be allowed; from 1 to 6 p.m. During CINCPACFLT Change of Command Ceremony all car alarms within the vicinity of Ford Island should be deactivated from 1 to 4 p.m. All parking lots within the vicinity of the USS Missouri will be closed. Reduced speed limits may be imposed across Ford Island Bridge during these events. Direct questions to MAC Cruz, 473-2156.

### Navy College Program website

The new Navy College Program will serve as the umbrella for the current components of voluntary education, and will add several new features, which will integrate all components into a single system. The program is being introduced in three phases over the next year. For more information visit the NCP web site at [www.navycollege.navy.mil](http://www.navycollege.navy.mil).

### 1999 Active Duty Member and Spouse Surveys

From now through the end of October, approximately 20,000 Sailors will be asked to complete the "1999 Survey of Active Duty Personnel." This survey is a collaborative effort between the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Defense Manpower Data Center, which solicits views on quality of life in the services and what can be done to make improvements. GAO is slated to present survey results to congress in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee next February. Responses from previous surveys have been helpful in improving many facilities, services and programs. If you are among those chosen to be a respondent to the 1999 survey, please take time to complete it - you can make a difference.

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## Hawaii commands win Navywide Bronze Hammer 'Self-Help' award

Self-help projects improve morale, save money

By J02 Sean Hughes  
PACFLT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Three Hawaii commands received 1998 Navy Self-Help Bronze Hammer awards for their use of self-help programs to improve their facilities and save taxpayers' money.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor; Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA) Pearl Harbor and Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, Wahiawa, Hawaii; were recognized for their accomplishments.

The self-help program is designed to improve the working spaces of Navy military and civilian personnel. Projects may range from simple interior painting to complete office space remodeling.

"If you wanted to build a wall in your office, you would come to us and we would do a little project planning," said Chief Builder (SCW) Walter A. Sward, Leading Chief Petty Officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Self-Help Center. "We would have a Seabee representative assist you in building the project, and we would provide all of the materials."

Some criteria used by the board to decide the winners include strong command involvement, organization (including a full-time self-help coordinator), clear program objectives and effective use of Seabees and funding. Winning self-help programs also included good promotion and advertisement, recognition for the program participants and well-planned, quality work.

"One of the criteria is the ratio of Sailors doing the work compared to the number of Seabees coordinating the effort," Sward said about the key to the



Courtesy NCTAMS PAC Self Help

NCTAMS PAC Sailors take advantage of self-help programs to improve their internal and external spaces. NCTAMS won the Bronze Hammer Award for their self-help pro-

gram.

"We become a force multiplier, and that saves the Navy money." Bronze Hammer recipient NSGA Pearl Harbor is well aware of that. With a comparatively small crew of 130 and no permanently assigned Seabees, they used the program out of necessity.

"We had to move a couple of divisions around in our building, so we wanted to renovate some of the office spaces to accommodate them," said Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) 2nd Class David Wahl, Assistant Facilities Manager at NSGA, Pearl Harbor. "Instead of getting Public Works to do it, we did it ourselves."

But they didn't stop there. In addition to much-needed remodeling, NSGA Pearl Harbor estimates that they saved the government about \$28,000 by taking on volunteer projects themselves.

"We installed a weapons display in front of our main building, we renovated a lanai, and replaced a fire escape with metal steps and a covered awning," Wahl said.

"And we enlarged an outdoor picnic area. It's both necessary safety projects and quality of life projects."

"We were operating (our self-help program) with 15 to 40 people," said Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Edward Medina, head of the First Lieutenant's division. "Now our numbers are reduced to an average of 10 to 15 people."

But that didn't stop them from saving estimated \$243,000 last year by doing their own projects.

"The program's really working the way it should," Medina said.

"It's pride of ownership because you're doing the work and you're taking care of your own space," Sward added.

## NCTAMS PAC wins Bronze Hammer

By Lt. j.g. Russ Rang  
NCTAMS PAC

The keys to a successful self-help program consist of dedicated command support and the enthusiastic Sailor and Seabee work ethic.

With these combined, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) proved to be the Navy's best in Self-Help and was awarded the Self-Help Bronze Hammer Award for 1998.

The Navy Self-Help Bronze Hammer Awards Program recognizes those naval activities who have made exceptional progress improving the naval shore establishment through the use of self-help efforts.

With NCTAMS PAC meeting their category criteria of "Small Activity, Construction Battalion Unit in the Immediate Area" all of the self-help projects were accomplished at the command's Wahiawa location where over 550 enlisted personnel are assigned.

A successful self-help program must follow strict guidelines to be considered for the Bronze Hammer Award. In order to be eligible for the Bronze Hammer, the submitting command must demonstrate strong support and involvement in the self-help program from the top down.

The command must institute a workable self-help organization and mandate a

▼ See NCTAMS, A-9

## U.S. Submarine makes historic visit to Jordan

By J02 Joseph Rehana  
FIFTH FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Kamehameha (SSN 642) recently became the first U.S. Navy submarine to visit a Jordanian port while participating in an annual special forces operations exercise, Early Victor, with U.S. and Jordanian special forces in the Red Sea.

His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein, the King of Jordan, was one of a handful of dignitaries to visit Kamehameha while the submarine was pier-side in Aqaba, Jordan.

"The ability to show what we can do and the type of missions that we perform - which are not widely known - gives us a great deal of satisfaction," said Cmdr. Derek Hesse, Kamehameha's commanding officer.

"It's something that we do day-in and day-out, and my men work tremendously hard to make it happen. So, whenever we get an opportunity to show off what we do, it is very exciting to us."

The American ambassador

to Jordan, William Burns, and Hesse received the king while the crew manned the rails. His majesty was given a tour of the submarine, meeting and shaking hands of crewmembers along the way.

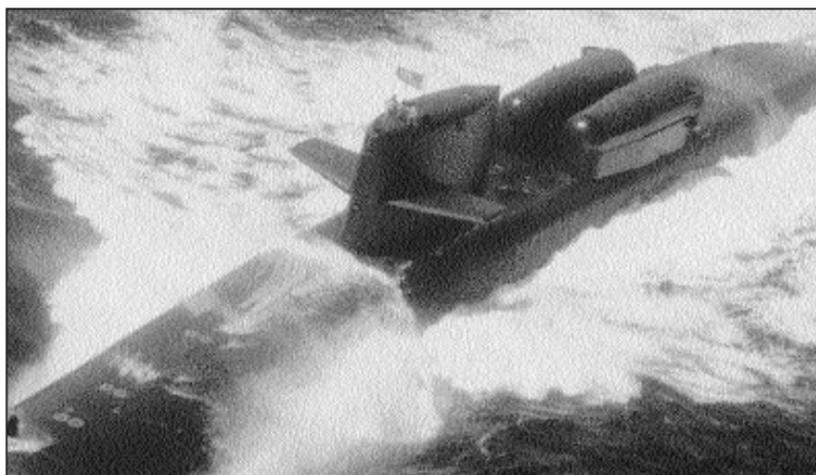
"It's not every day that you get to meet a king," said Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Curtis McIntire from Corsicana, Texas.

"He's going to see the way we live, the way we work, and get a better understanding of what we are all about."

"I think that the bond between our military forces is growing stronger and this visit is something that helps pave the way for further visits and further cooperation between the American armed forces and the Jordanians," said Hesse.

"We have worked with the Jordanian armed forces for many years and we both want to further those relations and strengthen those relations."

"Jordan has always been a stabilizing country in this region and it's important for us



File photo

USS Kamehameha, seen here with SEAL delivery vehicle tubes mounted aft of her conning tower, was the first U.S. submarine to visit a Jordanian port.

to show our support," said Lt. j.g. Justin Miller from Mystic, Conn.

"We're strengthening our military ties with them and counting on them to continue to be a stabilizing force in

this region."

"This is the first time a United States submarine has been in Jordanian waters, and I think that's a great accomplishment," said Gen. Peter Schoomaker,

Commander in Chief, Special Operations Command, to the Kamehameha crew gathered on the ship's messdecks a day earlier. "It is with a great deal

▼ See KAMEHAMEHA, A-

## Opportune Lift Program: 'Free Ride' for Sailor's belongings

By Lt. Cmdr. Ernest Fagan  
MIDPAC GROUP SUPPLY OFFICER

Among the many benefits military members enjoy, few are as convenient but least publicized as the Navy's Opportune Lift (OPLIFT) Program.

If you ever had to bring a second vehicle to Hawaii or send that extra car to Guam or Seattle, OPLIFT is truly a lifesaver.

The Supply Department of Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, administers Hawaii's OPLIFT program.

It allows members to move personal vehicles, boats, motorcycles, and even household goods on the next available Navy ship coming to and

leaving from Hawaii.

"OPLIFT saves each member using it about \$800 per use," said Rear Adm. John Townes III, COMNAV-SURFGRU MIDPAC. "All a service-member has to do is sign up and let our staff handle the rest."

MIDPAC coordinates OPLIFTS within the entire Middle Pacific region. This includes lifts between Hawaii and Guam, San Diego, and the Bremerton-Everett Washington area. Senior Chief Storekeeper (SW) Luis Simon supervises every OPLIFT in and out of Pearl Harbor.

"We ask each member to provide PCS orders, an ID card to verify eligibility, title or registration, power of attorney (if warranted) and a point of contact at the the other end," said

Simon. "Then you have to be patient. OPLIFT takes time."

OPLIFT operates without a schedule, relying totally on deck space available aboard any Navy ship passing through. MIDPAC maintains a list of OPLIFT customers on a first come, first served basis. It is not unusual for members to wait six months to move their car to the destination of their choice.

Consider the OPLIFT program a kind of Space A "flight" for your car.

Some ships have operational commitments that preclude them from taking vehicles, even if their decks are empty.

Opportune Lift is available to all active duty and retired members of the Armed Forces and unmarried widows

and widowers of retired service members. Civilians, government civilian workers and veterans who have not officially retired from the military are ineligible. The program is also closed to dependent personnel of active duty members not accompanying their sponsor. "It's common for dependents to stay behind and try to send a vehicle later," said Jamir. "It's simply against the rules."

Just as the list of who is eligible to use OPLIFT is limited, so are the items you can send through the program. "If you can drive it, or it floats, we can probably send it, says Chief Storekeeper (SW/AW) Fernando Arlanza, who maintains the customer

▼ See OPPORTUNE, A-10