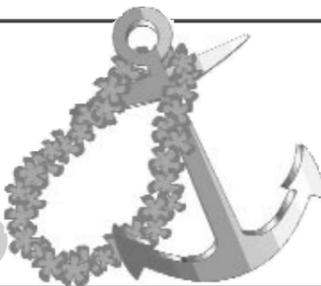


Hawaii Navy News



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IN BRIEF

Deadline for Enlisted Birthday Ball tickets soon

The last day to purchase tickets for the 1999 Navy Birthday Ball is Oct. 18. The all is Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Tickets are on sale at \$30 per person for E-1 through E-4, \$40 per person for E-5 through E-6, and \$45 per person for E-7 through E-9. MWR will provide free child care at the Pearl Harbor Child Development Center. Uniform is full dress white (with large medals). See your command representative for tickets or call YNC Blevins at 474-4753 for more information.

Tripler offers flu shots

(Information correction to Oct. 8, page B7 article) Tripler Army Medical Center's Allergy and Immunization Clinic staff is offering flu shots Oct. 18 at the clinic located on the 4th floor, Mountainside for eligible military beneficiaries.

Retirees and family members may bring their medical records and a military ID card between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to receive the immunization.

After Oct. 18 flu shots will be offered during regular immunization days and times through the end of the year. The hours after Oct. 18 will be Tuesdays, 1 - 3 p.m.; Wednesdays 9 - 11 a.m., and Fridays 9 - 11 a.m. For more information please call 433-6332.

NEX Focus Group meeting

The Navy Exchange is holding a focus group to discuss the selection of computers, electronics and video games. The group will meet Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. in the Makalapa BOQ Volcano Room. Refreshments will be served. Call 421-3401 for more information.

1999 Combined Federal Campaign is underway

"One Team Making A Difference" is this year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) theme.

Hawaii's service members and federal employees now have the opportunity to support their favorite CFC-sponsored charities.

During the six-week campaign, which ends on Nov. 4, more than 1,500 volunteer keypersons will coordinate educational briefings and contact co-workers about contributing to the CFC-sponsored charities of their choice.

To be a special part of "One Team Making A Difference," see your Command CFC Keyperson.

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'I relieve you sir...'

Admiral Thomas Fargo relieves Admiral Archie Clemins as Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet

By J02 Sean Kekoa Gano
PACFLT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With an exchange of salutes, Adm. Thomas Fargo relieved Adm. Archie Clemins and took the helm of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet in a Change of Command ceremony last Friday on Ford Island next to the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Clemins, a native of Mt. Vernon, Ill., will complete a distinguished 33-year naval career this December.

During his tenure, he placed great emphasis on increasing the Pacific Fleet's use of emerging information technologies and the empowerment of Navy men and women. His initiatives subsequently spread to the entire Navy.

"I joined the Navy because it paid my way through school, but it became my profession because it provided a unique and rewarding set of challenges," Clemins said. "For almost 34 years, I have had the opportunity to work with the finest men and women this country has to offer."

"I have never forgotten that this nation has entrusted us with their youth, and that with this trust comes the obligation to ensure that this national asset is mentored, nurtured, and used effectively," he said. "I have been allowed to serve our na-

▼ See CINCPACFLT, A-3

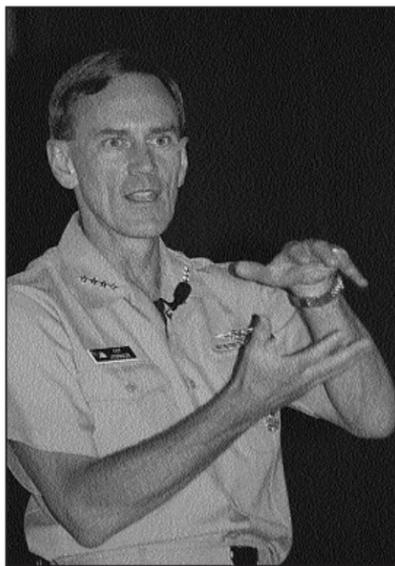


PH2 Elizabeth Burke photo

Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander in Chief Pacific (left), Secretary of the Navy, The honorable Richard Danzig (center), incoming Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, Thomas Fargo (saluting), Adm. Archie Clemins (right) stood face to face last Friday witnessing the turn over of the office of CINCPACFLT from Clemins to Fargo.

CNO visits Hawaii Sailors, Marines

By J03 Brenda Diggs
HNN ASSISTANT EDITOR



PH2 Chad McNeely photo

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Jay L. Johnson, visited Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay on October 7 and conducted an all hands call with the local Sailors and Marines at the base theater.

More than 820 Sailors and Marines gathered to listen to the CNO and voice their concerns. Issues such as retention, education, uniforms and manning were discussed.

"The all hands call went well, I got some really good questions," the CNO said. "I think everyone is very much interested, not surprisingly, in education."

The CNO discussed the new Navy College Program that is being implemented. The new program will essentially give servicemembers the opportunity to have their own road map to a college degree, according to Johnson.

"We are going to phase the program in over the next year," said the CNO. "It gives you credit for your rating specific training and tells you what else you will need to get your degree."

Recruiting and retention are two other areas that present challenges. Adm. Johnson explained some

of the key initiatives put into place to help the Navy meet those challenges. Increasing the number of recruiters, increasing pay, reforming the pay tables and repealing the Redux retirement system all will improve the Navy's ability to retain quality Sailors, according to the CNO.

Johnson talked about the reduction of Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). He explained that the leadership is working hard to provide better maintenance, more spare parts and fuller crews than in recent years.

"It's a 25 percent whack at things you don't need to be doing when you're at home," said Adm. Johnson.

During the session, he said he didn't have all the answers, but he emphasized that meeting challenges through leadership and teamwork will ultimately help the entire Navy.

The CNO expressed his thanks to the servicemembers and their families here in Hawaii for playing a vital role in the fleet.

"Our tip-of-the-spear afloat forces couldn't perform if not for the support you provide day in and day out," said Johnson. "I'm proud of the Navy's role here in Hawaii. More than that though, our battle groups and amphibious ready groups absolutely depend on you."

Clinton approves military pay raise

President signs National Defense Authorization Act

Navy Wire Service

President Bill Clinton signed the Fiscal Year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Oct. 6 on the steps of the Pentagon.

Several senior military leaders including Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt, were on hand to witness the finalizing of the largest pay raise for the military in nearly two decades.

"We are extremely appreciative for all of the hard work everyone in Congress and the White House have



American Forces Service photo

President Clinton signed a military pay raise and retirement pay improvements into law on Oct. 6 in front of the Pentagon.

put into this significant step forward," stated Herdt. "It speaks volumes about what our leaders think of the job Sailors are doing around the world," he added.

The measure carries a 4.8 percent pay increase for all

military members starting January 1, 2000. Also included in the new law is the military pay table reform that takes effect in July 2000; a repeal of the Redux retirement program; the Thrift Savings Plan; along with new

and increased authorizations for a number of special and incentive pays.

Herdt pointed out our civilian leaders' commitment to military families.

"Sailors throughout the Navy should see this as a loud and clear message that they and their families are top priorities for Congress and the President," Herdt said.

"This is a great first step to financially establish military families where they belong in our communities around the world."

"Everyone involved knows this is not a fix-all solution, but we've got to be incredibly optimistic by the support America's leaders have stepped forward with."

The Senate cleared the Authorization Act by a 93-5 margin, and the House adopted the bill just as overwhelmingly, 375-45. "There is no other way to interpret the warmth Congress welcomed

the NDAA than to realize that they hear us loud and clear, and want to take action," MCPON added.

Under the new law, all service members will have the choice of retiring under the Redux plan, or retiring at 50 percent of "High three-year" base pay.

This addresses a major outcry by service members planning for their futures.

Additionally, the pay table reform will begin to restructure the pay table to reward service members for upward mobility instead of building incentives for longevity.

The FY 2000 NDAA also ensures continued closure of the pay gap between military members and their civilian counterparts.

Congress built future pay raises into this year's bill by mandating them at a minimum of .5 percent above the Economic Cost Index from 2001 through 2006.