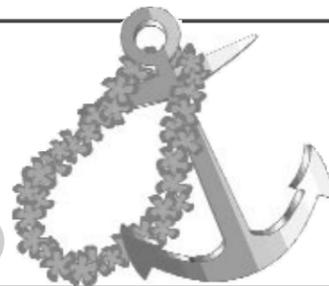


Hawaii Navy News



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Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

November 12, 1999

IN BRIEF

Naval Academy Alumni luncheon, golf tournament

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association hosts a luncheon on Nov. 18 at 12:30 p.m. at Lockwood Hall. Vice Adm. John Ryan, Naval Academy Superintendent, is the guest speaker. The cost for the luncheon is \$12.

The Alumni Association is also hosting a golf tournament on Nov. 19 at Navy-Marine Golf Course. A buffet lunch at 11:30 a.m. precedes the 12:30 p.m. shotgun start for the four-person team blind draw tournament. Entry fee is \$50.

For more information on both events, call Lt. Hammer at 472-8881, ext. 317.

ESO Command Career Counselor Workshop

An Educational Services Officer/Command Career Counselor workshop for ashore representatives in Hawaii will be held Nov. 24 at the Navy College Office, Room 24 B from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The workshop will present the most updated information on Navy College Programs.

To reserve a space, email Ann Choi at choiaw@pearl-harbor.navy.mil. Include your name, phone number and email address and whether you are your command's ESO or CCC. For more information, call 473-5754.

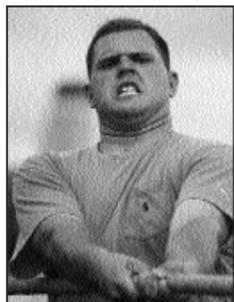
Recruiting duty briefing

Personnel interested in recruiting duty or who have recruiting questions are encouraged to attend the Navy Recruiting Command Recruiter Selection Team (RST) briefings scheduled for Nov. 16 and 17 at the Naval Station Training Building (Bldg. 679) classroom 14 at 10 a.m. The briefs review the challenges and rewards of recruiting duty and provide an opportunity for the selection team to screen prospective volunteers. Volunteers will be eligible to negotiate for a specific city within the Navy Recruiting District requisitions available.

There are currently 750 recruiting billets available for Third Class Petty Officers. Additionally, the Navy is trying to increase the number of female recruiters to match a number consistent with current levels of females on active duty.

For more information, please call NCC(SW) Joe Oliver at 473-1036, or email oliverj@cnrc.navy.mil.

See also...



Sailors participate in Surface Line Week...B-1

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Comings and goings

Topeka departs for WESTPAC

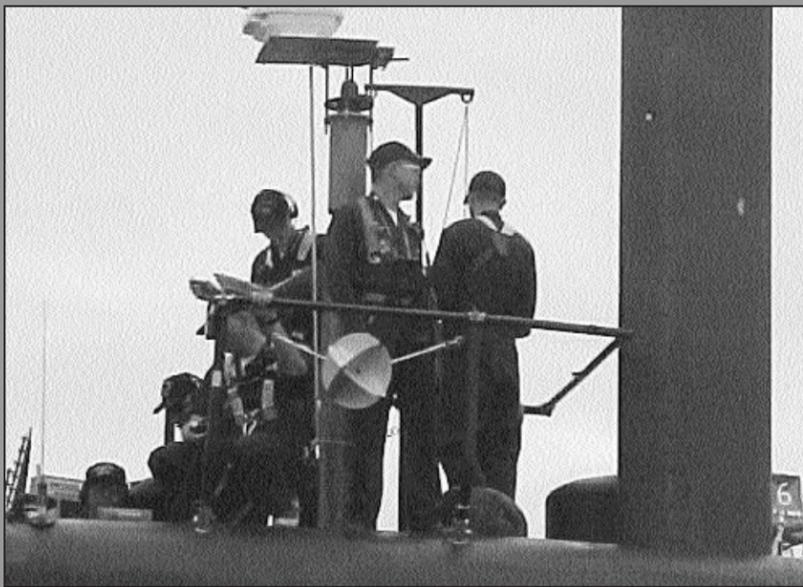
By JOCS(SW/AW) Darrell D. Ames

SUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Family and friends were on hand to bid farewell to USS Topeka (SSN 754), as the Los Angeles class submarine got underway Oct. 29 for a deployment to the western Pacific.

Topeka is capable of carrying the most advanced weapons available to the submarine force. Included in its arsenal are the MK-48 advanced capability torpedo and the Tomahawk land attack cruise missile.

Topeka, commanded by Cmdr. Mark D. Patton, was commissioned in October 1989. The boat has a complement of 130 men and is more than 360 feet long. USS Topeka was named after Topeka, Kansas.



Crewmembers from the Los Angeles class submarine, USS Topeka (SSN754), navigate their boat out of Pearl Harbor. Family members were on the pier to bid their farewells. Topeka and her crew of 130 men are deploying to the western Pacific for six months.

SUBPAC photo

USS Buffalo returns from six month deployment

By JOCS(SW/AW) Darrell D. Ames

SUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Buffalo (SSN 715), a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine, returned home from its eighth western Pacific deployment on Oct. 29.

"We conducted some very dynamic operations which really provided challenges for the crew, and I have to tell you they responded superbly," said Cmdr. Bob Hennegan, the submarine's commanding officer. "The missions we

were asked to support this deployment were the most interesting I've seen while deployed in the Pacific."

While deployed, the ship participated in several international exercises, a few operations and enjoyed some quality liberty ports.

"We were really fortunate the Admiral and Commodore held the line and really pushed for some of the great ports like Brisbane and Pattaya. That's why some of these guys

▼ See BUFFALO, A-4

Chief of Naval Operations recaps IDTC initiatives for 1999

Navy Wire Service

It's been just over a year since Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson set a course for the Navy to reduce its Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) workload by 25 percent to enhance Sailors' quality of life and empower commanding officers.

Since then, the Fleet Review board (FRB), comprised of Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet and Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet representatives, has helped improve Sailors' quality of life (QOL) by implementing dozens of suggestions from Sailors throughout the fleet. The IDTC Workload Reduction program returns time to commanding officers, allowing Sailors more family time and eliminating unnecessary administrative requirements during the IDTC.

In a recent message to the fleet (NAVOP 008/99), Adm. Johnson reviewed major IDTC changes that have improved quality of life and allowed commanding officers more discretionary time.

These changes included eliminating more than 20 inspections, consolidating another 72, changing 27 former inspections to optional assist visits and aligning

▼ See IDTC, A-7

CNO testifies on Navy's readiness

Navy Wire Service

In testimony before both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees recently, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson thanked the lawmakers for their support of pay improvements for Sailors and reported on the status of the Navy's readiness.

"I would like to extend my thanks and that of our great Navy for the support that you continue to give our Sailors and their families," the CNO said. "You really came through for us, and we are profoundly grateful."

The CNO testified that approval of this year's budget, particularly the pay raise, pay table reform and restoration of retirement benefits, represents a great step forward in meeting challenges in recruiting and retention.

"Navy priorities have not changed," Adm. Johnson said, adding that Sailors and their

families still come first. "We should do everything we can to treat them as the national treasures they are."

The CNO was testifying along with the other Joint Chiefs of Staff on the readiness of the nation's armed forces.

"Readiness for our forward-deployed forces is good, and improving," the CNO told the committee members.

At-sea manning has been one area of readiness that has shown improvement, according to Adm. Johnson.

"Our shortfall has decreased nearly a third in the last year, and that's good news." The CNO told the Senators and Representatives that those Sailors at sea are still very busy.

"Our OPTEMPO is still high," Adm. Johnson said. "I believe it to be sustainable, and we remain committed to our six month maximum portal-to-portal deployment policy."

▼ See CNO, A-7

Maile Lei untying, open house held at new Navy Aloha Center

By Karen Spangler

HOUSING OFFICE

The blue sky and bright sunshine provided a beautiful backdrop for the open house and maile lei untying ceremony of the Navy's new Navy Aloha Center (NAC) in Moanalua Shopping Center. The Center was officially opened Nov. 3 by Rear Admiral John Townes III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

The brand new family housing facility officially opened for business on Oct. 12. Located at 988 Spence Street, the modern facility features the latest innovations and state-of-the-art technology housed in a two-story, 16,300 square foot structure. Construction on the new family housing office facility, a joint venture between Harper Nielson Dillingham and Hawaiian

Dredging, began in August 1998. Its location provides easy accessibility to the NEX and Commissary complex and Pearl Harbor commands. The building was designed with upgraded fire sprinkler and security systems and meets all handicapped accessibility requirements. Computer and telephone systems at the new NAC include the newest technology, enabling the NAC staff to serve customers even more efficiently.

Family housing formerly operated from a renovated warehouse at Catlin Park, its home since 1984 when it was still under the umbrella of Army consolidation. In September 1995, deconsolidation took place and Navy family housing took over responsibility from the Army for maintaining homes for Sailors and their families.



Karen Spangler photo

Jared St. John, Housing Manager, (left) Rear Adm. John Townes III, Commander Navy Region Hawaii and Cmdr. Ava-Marie Howard, Assistant Chief of Staff for housing untie a lei, officially opening the Navy Aloha Center. The Housing Office moved from Catlin Park to the Moanalua Shopping Center.

Prior to the deconsolidation, thousands of Sailors walked through the doors of the Navy Aloha Center to

▼ See HOUSING, A-9

There's no place like home: Regional QOL initiative moves junior single Sailors off ship into BQ

By JO1 David Nagle

NAVY REGION HAWAII

Once upon a time, if you were a single Sailor stationed aboard ship, "home" meant crossing the brow to a compartment you shared with 50 other people, putting your clothes and personal gear away in a small locker and climbing into a 6 by 3 foot metal bunk for a night's rest.

But, over the past two years, the Navy has made significant strides to improve living conditions for single Sailors aboard ship. First, E5 and above single Sailors living aboard ship were authorized to collect Basic Allowance for Housing and move off base, beginning in 1996. Now, Navy Region Hawaii leads the way with a new initiative, giving single shipboard Sailors, E4 and below, a new place to "hang their hat" — in bachelor quarters (BQs).

Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SS/SW/AW) James Russell, Navy Region Hawaii's Command Master Chief, said this initiative would have a "significant, positive impact" on single Sailors' quality of life.

"The most significant quality of life issue for Sailors on ships is living conditions," he said. "Navy Region Hawaii is focused on providing the best we can for our most important asset - our Sailors."

According to Russell, moving junior shipboard Sailors into the BQs was an initiative introduced by Adm. Archie Clemins, during his tenure as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Regional leadership in Hawaii discussed the feasibility of putting this initiative in place, based on the number of available BQ rooms and the number of junior Sailors aboard ship. Presently, Pearl Harbor is the only homeport able to offer BQ rooms to shipboard junior Sailors, due to the availability of berthing.

Russell added the region is providing this quality of life initiative to Sailors without