

Bravo Zulu

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal

BM1(SW) James P. Mulroy

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt.j.g. Sean T. Grunwell
Lt.j.g. Steven Hernandez
Lt.j.g. Wesburn J. Unger
RMC(SW) Ronald E. Fretwell
MS1(SW) Gilberto A. Elezar
SK1 Joshua P. Malong
BM1(SW) John P. Oliver
OS1(SW) Donald W. Saville
GSM2(SW) Hector Gamez
MS2 Glennanthy F. Joven
GSM2 Virgilio V. Martinez
GSM2(SW) Phillip H. McCowan
FC2 Jason A. Quarles
GSE3 Shawn D. Ritchey
DC3 Scott B. Schoaf

Letter of Commendation

FCC(SW) Wesley J. Miller
DC1(SW) Jerry L. Malcolm
FC1(SW) Michael D. Whitfield
SK3 Mitchell L. Owens, Jr.
FC2 Jason C. Basel
FC2(SW) Kevin M. White
STG3 James D. Hurlburt
QM3 Christopher M. Brooks
ET3 Leonard J. Mullins
TM3 Shea M. PESZ
QMSA Joseph C. Stoddard
FC2 Jason C. Basel
FC3(SW) Ahmedur R. Ali
GM3 Carl M. Arnoux
FC3 Kim F. Hartsfield
EN3 Alfredo C. R. Santos
DC3 Enrique A. Navparivera
SMSN Casey M. Heide
HTFN Taurus A. Walker
FC2 Kenneth A. Fraysur
GSM2 John A. Herman
STG2 Eric B. Stanfield
EN3 Andrew M. Thacker
RM3 Melvin S. Bayudan
RM3 Saul A. Jiron
GSM2(SW) Danilo R. Endozo
GSM2(SW) Luke S. Nielsen
FN Dennis E. Hogan
GSM1(SW) Eduardo C. Duran
GSM2(SW) Hector Gamez
GSM2 Jason A. Kinch
GSM2(SW) Kenneth A. Newton
GSM3 James E. Abron, III
BM1 Dennis J. Lauser
BM1(SW) James P. Mulroy
BM2 James T. Hypolite
BM2 Samuel B. Uy
BM3 Adebalde O. Ogunlade
SN Samuel T. Brown
SN Michael J. Cox
SN Emire F. Galdamez
SN Donald T. Gundler
SN Kevin K. Nelson
SN Nigl S. Phillips
SN Jason J. Schmidt
SA Brian D. Brown
SA Larry N. Rollins
SA Jeremiah A. Stern
SA Shannon S. Victor
GSM2 Virgilio V. Martinez

Distinguished Military Graduate

HTFR Manuel Baker

VP-47's CAC-1 succeeds in Singapore

By Lt. j.g. Jeff Tillman
VP-47

Patrol Squadron Forty-Seven's (VP-47) Combat Aircrew One recently completed CARAT '99 Singapore. The Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training (CARAT) exercise involved more than 1,000 U.S. personnel from the Navy and Air Force combined with the armed forces of Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Royal Singaporean Navy and Air Force. CARAT Singapore was an exercise in military interoperability and coordinated exercises.

During the ten day exercise CAC-1 attended numerous planning conferences, conducted a maritime patrol appreciation day, and flew tactical missions as part of the "war" scenario created for

CARAT.

Initially, CAC-1 conducted a mining mission off the southern coast of Singapore. Through expert navigation and professional planning, the crew accurately placed two MK-36 mines in a small harbor. The mining event was to simulate "enemy" forces dropping mines in a "friendly" harbor. Nearby, U.S. and Singaporean mining vessels eagerly awaited to enter the harbor, locate the mines, and then recover and defuse the weapons. Reflected "The area we used was so small. We had to set up the mine line, navigate around numerous civilian cargo ships, and monitor an airport controller frequency all at once," said Lt.j.g. Mark Sohaney, navigator communicator for VP-47.

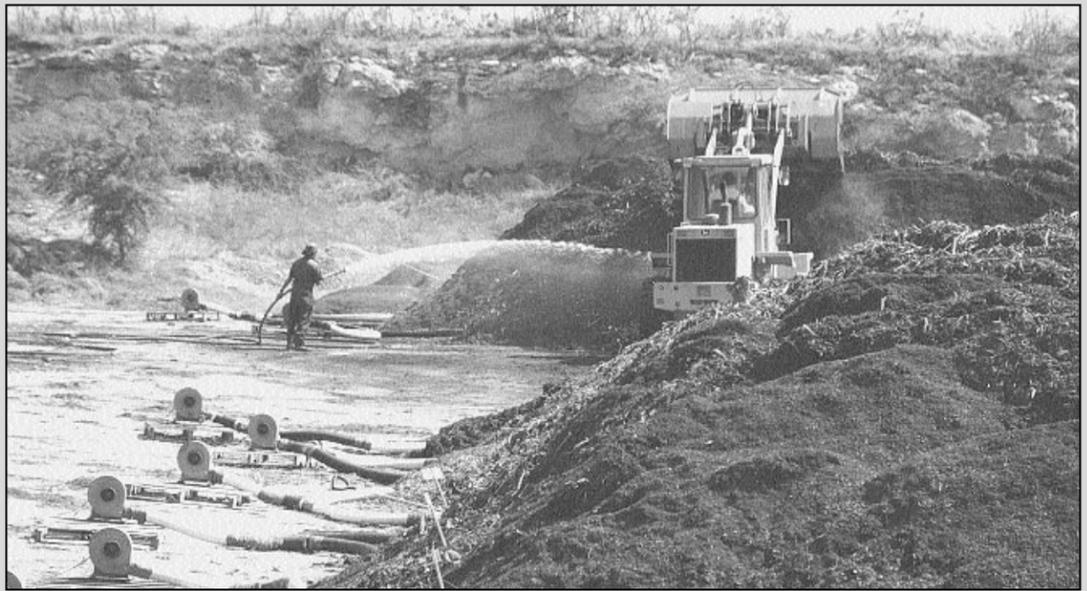
During the Maritime Appreciation Day, CAC-1 provided the Singaporean Air

Force with various mission related lectures. Lt. Mike Mrachek briefed the numerous capabilities of the P-3 C including Harpoon launches, surveillance patrols, search and rescue, and battle group interoperability. CAC-1 toured the Singaporean's squadron spaces and modern Fölkler 50 simulator facility.

Four members of CAC-1 participated in a familiarization flight aboard the Fölkler 50. The crew observed the Singaporeans conduct photo riggings of surface ships and execute simulated Harpoon missile firings.

"It was fascinating to see how a commercial aircraft can be integrated into a military air force." Lt. John Gehle commented. "Their avionics package is extremely advanced in the flight station and they have the latest technology in computer equipment."

Waste Made Good: Transforming the undesirable



Denise Emsley photo

The large piles of composting material receive oxygen from aeration tubes located at its base. The oxygen helps feed the micro-organisms or microbes naturally found in the mixture, enabling them to multiply and break down the greenwaste and biosolids mixture.

By Denise Emsley
PWC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Currently, a one-of-a-kind operation within the DoD, the Navy's Biosolids Treatment Facility at Kalaeloa Community Development District (formerly NAS Barbers Point) processes sewage sludge, or biosolids, and greenwaste to make a safe, desirable compost product. The facility has been in full-scale operations since March 1997. It receives sewage sludge not only from the Navy's Wastewater Treatment Facility at Fort Kamehameha, but also from the

Army's Wastewater Treatment Plant at Schofield Barracks. In addition, the Biosolids Treatment Facility began accepting sewage sludge from the city's Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Facility in December 1998.

As an owner of a large wastewater treatment plant, the Navy in Hawaii handles approximately 5.5 million gallons of wastewater each day. This means it must properly dispose of 4-8 wet tons of biosolids that remain after the wastewater treatment process is completed. In the past, the accepted practice for biosolids disposal was to bury them in specially designated landfills. However,

with changes in federal and state environmental regulations, the Navy realized it could no longer continue with this practice and began looking for alternatives.

Public Works Center, Pearl Harbor took up this challenge and settled on the idea of composting. According to Steven Christiansen, the hazardous and solid waste division director, PWC Pearl Harbor, the facility successfully processed approximately 9,000 tons of biosolids and 64,000 cubic yards of greenwaste into compost in almost two years of operations.

Health Care, housing need attention, Cohen says

American Forces Press Service

Health care and housing are two areas DoD must address to keep military recruiting and retention high, said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen.

Cohen, speaking at a conference entitled Strategic Responsiveness here Nov. 2, also said DoD is starting to see positive results from the changes to pay and retirement that were part of the fiscal 2000 Defense Authorization Act.

"What we have seen is, as a result of the pay raise, as the result of pay table reform, as a result of going back to 50 percent retirement, that there is a change ... in retention," he said. "When I was out on the USS Constellation (CV 64) a week ago, I re-enlisted 12 sailors. I asked each what caused them to re-enlist and they said pay and retirement benefits. They said, 'We think you're listening to what we say we need, and you're responding.'"

Cohen said members' attitudes are important because "we can't possibly pay what the private sector can pay and will pay." The military directly competes with private industries and other public institutions for the same pool of young people, he noted.

Cohen said that since Congress passed the authorization act, more service mem-

bers have opted to stay in the service. In the case of the Army, for example, increased re-enlistments made up for recruiting shortages and helped the service meet its fiscal 1999 end strength numbers.

"We've seen in the most recent weeks some change in the attitude and willingness to re-enlist," he said. "Whether this will be enough to sustain that remains another question."

Cohen said the loudest complaints he hears during his travels are about the military health care system. "This is something we have to come to grips with," he said. "We have to be more efficient, we have to eliminate the long lines. We have to address the lack of satisfaction that our people are experiencing."

Cohen said he still hears many complaints about TRICARE. "In fact, if we had to point to two other areas — now that we've addressed pay — you'd say housing and health care are of most concern to service members," he said.

He said DoD is trying to build housing for service members through an innovative program that leverages private sector participation — for every dollar DoD invests, the private sector puts in six or seven. He said the program is starting to work.

Cohen also said he thinks DoD must change its recruiting message, that it needs to make a different appeal to recruits.

"The mere fact that we say we'll pay for your college education frankly is not a big seller today," he said. "There are so many programs available from universities and colleges that, again, we're competing again in a very tough environment. We need to have advertising appeal to young people's patriotism, to show them what military life can and should be."

Finally, Cohen addressed the need of the military to be more predictable. "We have to provide as much predictability as we can in the lives of our service members," he said. "We have to make changes to lower the operations tempo, the time [service members stay] away from home."

He spoke of the Air Force moving to the air expeditionary force concept and how this could make life a bit easier and more predictable for airmen. The Air Force plan assigns units to force packages that serve on standby according to a rotating schedule.

"What we need to do is reshape the way we militarily do business, so we can reduce the pressures on our young people and hopefully that will help."

SPOT CHECK

The Pacific Fleet today

Personnel: 247,421
• 133,897 USN
• 70,006 USMC
• 12,848 USNR
• 30,670 civilians

Ships: 187 (*)

Underway: 76 (41%) (**)

Aircraft: 1,420 (**)

Exercises: 3

Port Visits: 8 countries

Aircraft Carriers Underway/Deployed:
• USS Kitty Hawk
• USS Constellation
• USS Abraham Lincoln

LHA/LHD Underway/Deployed:
• USS Peleliu
• USS Belleau Wood
• USS Essex
• USS Bonhomme Richard

* — includes Military Sealift Command ships
** — includes USMC aircraft

Barracks: Become home for shipboard Sailors

Continued from A-1

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 Clemons, 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 the benefit of additional funding. "We're doing what we can do, and providing what we have right now, because it's the right thing to do," he said.

Regional leadership is still investigating ways to fund the initiative, which includes move in and move out costs for Sailors.

Under the plan, developed by Chief Mess Management Specialist (SS) Michael Fukuda of the regional BQ department at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, each ship inport is allocated a percentage of BQ rooms based on the total num-

ber of available rooms and the total number of single shipboard Sailors, E4 and below. Fukuda said the occupancy plan is projected out for two years, factoring in ships' deployment and BQ renovation schedules.

Fukuda also said that some preparation was involved to make the rooms ready for the shipboard Sailors. For example, barracks petty officers added beds to rooms, where necessary, to make standard four-man suites and maintain unit integrity for each of the ships.

When a ship returns from deployment, Sailors can move into the BQ during the ship's Inter-Deployment Training Cycle. Sailors will move back

aboard ship a month prior to deploying, allowing BQ personnel time to prepare the rooms for the next group of tenants.

Sailors aboard USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Fletcher (DD 992) and USS Salvor (ARS 52) were the first to move to the BQ in October. Fukuda said three more ships are scheduled to move in at the end of November, with the rest of the ships moving in January.

"They [Sailors] like it," said Master Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) (SW/AW) Carol Cooper, Hopper's Command Master Chief. "It's a way for them to relax a little more and get away the ship. I've been able to accommodate everyone who