FLEET FOCUS

Navy, Marine Corps team centralizes HAZMAT

Marine Corps photo

Petty Officer 1st Class Perla Smith and Petty Officer 2nd Class James Ashcraft work through the new Consolidated Hazardous Resource Information Management Program.

By Lance Cpl. Otto Pleil-Muete
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Kaneohe Bay's green sea of Marines has turned a shade of blue from the increase in Sailors from Naval Air Station Barbers Point due to the Secretary of the Navy's distablishment of the base, and now they're working together to prepare for the next millennium.

Sailors from the Navy-Marine Corps team at Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element, Kaneohe (MALSEK), initiated a time-effective and cost-reducing method of handling hazardous materials Aug. 9 by combining all the MALSEK hazardous materials sections as the Consolidated Hazardous Resource Information Management Program.

Hazardous materials included are items such as sealants, cleaning supplies, paint, hydraulic fluid, engine cleaning agents and corrosion prevention compounds, said Smith.

Petty Officer 1st Class Perla Smith, the assistant manager for the unit's hazardous materials and waste, said she and the unit's Hazardous Materials and Waste manager, set up a program similar to the one they had at Barbers Point to manage and control the use of hazardous materials.

"It's going to make it easier to control hazardous materials and save money in the long run," said 2nd Lt. Anthony Frost, the Airframes Division officer for MALSEK. Instead of having each division in the unit collect, turn in, and take inventory on all their hazardous materials, there is now one place where they all have their hazardous materials necessities taken care of. Oftentimes, one section had hazardous materials that another section needed, and another section had materials they never used; the new centralized work section, however, eliminates this type of waste.

"We're constantly tracking the incoming and outgoing hazardous materials," confirmed Smith.

"Having HAZMAT consolidated into one central site will minimize the amount of money being spent on supplies (that are not being used) and maximize efficiency for production."

"It's been an ongoing effort to get this started," said Smith. "Consolidating everything to one point will save MALSEK money and work hours."

As a result of the Consolidated Hazardous Resource Information Management Program, each division of the support element — avionics, air frames and hydraulics, support equipment, power plant, cryogenics, and flight equipment — can get a daily issue of hazardous material from the consolidated office.

And with possible Environmental Protection Agency reduction policies for hazardous materials in the upcoming year, this program will help to reduce hazardous materials and waste, said Smith.

"The work centers won't have to be concentrating on the inventory of hazardous materials," explained Smith. "Instead, they can concentrate on production efforts to meet the mission of the command."

Ashville skipper wins most prestigious Navy leadership award

By JO3 McClain Shewman
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Cmdr. Bruce Grooms, commanding officer of the submarine USS Asheville (SSN 758) was selected as this year's winner of the Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award for inspirational leadership for the year of 1999.

"Cmdr. Grooms is a top-notch performer and an ideal leader," said Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "He's the best of the best and I couldn't be happier for him and his great crew," added Konetzni.

This award was established in honor of Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale, whose distinguished Naval career symbolized the highest standards of excellence in both personal example and leadership. The award is presented annually to two commissioned officers on active duty below the grade of Captain who are in command of a ship, submarine, or aviation squadron at the time of nomination. Candidates are nominated by peers who themselves must be eligible for the award.

"This is most deserving to the crew. If it wasn't for the great things that each man did to make Asheville the wonderful ship it is I would have never earned this," Grooms said.

The 1999 winners were chosen from among seven outstanding finalists in a review process which included screening at the fleet Commanders level and final selection by a board of senior officers in Washington.

"It's extra special to me because I had the tremendous opportunity to meet Adm. Stockdale and to earn something reflecting this level of distinction is about as high an honor as I could hope to achieve," Grooms said.

Vice Adm. James B. Stockdale served as a naval aviator in the Vietnam War and was a prisoner of war for approximately seven years. After his release, Vice Adm. Stockdale resumed his naval career.

Grooms will be presented the award by Stockdale and Adm. Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in October.

PACFLT band jams at Aloha Festival

PA3 Sarah Foster-Snell photos

(L to R) MU2 Rodolfo Flores wails on the bass, MU3 April Wright belts out a song, band leader, MU1 Dennis Garza taps his 'high hat' while MU3 Christopher Bunton strummed up some sweet melodies during their performance at the opening days of the annual Aloha Festivals.

Developing coping skills during deployments

American Forces Press Service

When service members deploy to world trouble spots, it's tough on the spouses and children they leave behind.

Toddlers don't understand why mom or dad has left, but only that they're gone. Frequent separations are equally hard on spouses. Not only are they left to deal with the home front, they also fear for their loved ones' safety since media coverage often features each deployment's dangerous realities.

As a result of the increasing level of military operations, defense officials want to better prepare service members and spouses for their intermittent role as single parents.

Officials here say the unique challenges associated with separations may not be adequately addressed in parenting training offered at base family centers, chaplain and family advocacy programs and medical clinics.

DoD's Office of Family Policy, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension System, has launched a two-year, $1.5 million initiative to develop military-specific parenting resources. The Air Force is the executive agent for the project.

The goal is to develop informational material that can be distributed in classrooms and via the internet, telephone, flyers, audiotapes or other means. A conference Sept. 22 to 24 in Leesburg, Va., is scheduled to design material content. Military family members and family support program specialists will attend the hands-on, working conference, aimed at meeting military parents' critical needs now and into the next decade.

"Demands on parents are greater than ever before," said an Air Force family advocacy program manager. Military missions have changed since the Cold War ended, he said.

"We've drawn down about a third, but demands are up about 40 percent."

Historically, the military has provided parenting classes which have been helpful to the relatively small percentage of people who attend, the official said. The Healthy Parenting Initiative is designed to reach the larger percentage that doesn't attend and to make the information useful and accessible, he said.

The military has a wealth of material on parenting and on deployments, "but no one has ever pulled it all together," the official said. "We want to do a better job of providing this content in a wide range of formats to a high number ofpeople in ways they can use it."

USO, a great place for servicemembers, their families

By RMC (SW) Dalton Mills
NCTAMS PACIFIC

On Aug. 28, Chief Petty Officer selectee's and Chief Petty Officers of Naval Computers and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, Wheeler Air Force Base, Naval Security Group, Kunia, Naval Magazine Lualualei, and Naval Reserve Center Honolulu gave a "helping hand" to the Honolulu Airport Branch of the USO (United Service Organization).

The staff and personnel of the USO were overwhelmed with appreciation of the volunteers as they repaired ceiling tile, repainted offices and supply rooms, touched up berthing areas, and did a general "Navy Style" field day. All of this was done at no cost to the USO.

"The USO is a valuable asset to all military branches. It should continuously be supported and remembered by us all", said Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) John Veverka, NCTAMS Command Master Chief.

The USO is a welcome place to spend some inexpensive time before or after liberty.

At the airport branch of the USO, military personnel and their families can enjoy refreshments, a warm shower, and a place to catch a nap during a flight layover or during the required two hour check- in period.

The executive director of the USO (Hickam AFB and airport branch), Connie Kraus, was especially grateful to the help provided by the CPO community. "The work was fantastic! I have never seen so many people working together at one time as an organized group. Our crew here is very small and there is no way we could have done the moving and cleaning that they did. They were great!", said Kraus.

During your next visit to the airport, whether dropping off, picking up, or flying, stop by and locate the USO for future use for yourself or your shipmates.

The Honolulu branch of the USO is located between gates E and F in the arrival area. They can be contacted by calling 836-3351.

'NAVSUP's 'critical in supporting the fleet' - CNO

Navy Wire Service

Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jay L. Johnson, recently thanked Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) for its outstanding performance in supporting the fleet when he spoke at a ceremony during which Rear Adm. Keith Lippert relieved Rear Adm. Donald Hickman as NAVSUP commander.

The CNO spoke about the command's importance in meeting Navy mission requirements worldwide.

"The Naval Supply Systems Command touches everything in the Navy," said Johnson. "It undergirds and enables our fleet to support our warfighting commanders-in-chief. In peacetime, NAVSUP keeps our forward-based forces supplied.

"In times of emergency, such as the terrible ongoing tragedy in Turkey or in Kosovo earlier this year, NAVSUP finds ways to support our Sailors and Marines as they provide life-sustaining food, shelter and clothing to those who have suffered. In peace and war, the Naval Supply Systems Command steps up to the awesome truth that when this nation needs to operate quickly, efficiently and without the benefit of host-nation support, the only way to do so is by sea."

The CNO told the audience of military and civilian supply professionals that none of the successes of NAVSUP is possible without its people.

"From the reserve officer contracting the new attack submarine, to the food services officer planning a special meal for Sailors and Marines at sea, to the civilian contracting for the best repair parts, today, at the tip of the spear - people are what make our supply organization great," said Adm. Johnson.

The Naval Supply Systems Command is an organization with a rich naval history and unbreakable links to operating forces afloat. The Navy operates around the world 365 days a year with about 50 percent of the 322 ship fleet underway and 31 percent of the force forward deployed on any given day.

"Everyday, in every time zone, Naval Supply military and civilian personnel support the fleet, providing it with the fuel, bullets and beans it needs to carry our vital mission forward," said the CNO.

"Simply put - we cannot do the things we need to do without the Naval Supply Systems Command."

The CNO presented Rear Adm. Hickman the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for his work in implementing strategic partnerships and re-engineering business processes that culminated in radically improved and cost-effective service to the war-fighter and reduced life-cycle logistics costs.

"Whether by cost avoidance or direct savings, Rear Adm. Hickman's spectacular work will save the Deptpartment of the Navy hundreds of millions of dollars in the next five years, money directly helping to re-capitalize the Navy," said Johnson.