



Score another win
Navy brings home the trophy at the HECO Electron Marathon. See story on page A-5.



Junior at the gym
MWR's Kids Club offers childcare for parents who want to exercise. See story on page B-1.

CNI stops in Pearl Harbor

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

Rear Adm. Christopher Weaver, the Commander, Naval Installations, stopped by Naval Station Pearl Harbor Monday to discuss how to fully utilize "combat capabilities emanating from Hawai'i." Weaver was in Pearl Harbor during his tour and inspection of naval installations across Hawai'i.

"As CNI, you can only do so much while sitting in a chair in Washington D.C.," Weaver said about his visit. "You've got to physically set boots on the ground. This [visit] is not all about inspection. It's about learning."

Along with the learning process, Weaver said change is inevitable. However, he also said CNI does not have any preconceived ideas of changing anything on Hawai'i bases.

"Your own healthy, aggressive region business philosophy will probably generate process changes for the better," said the

CNI. "Change will come from a little guidance from the CNI and a lot from the region staff and cooperation from the commanders here. Without change, you don't get better."

One of the changes Weaver discussed was the possibility of bringing a carrier to Hawai'i.

"There has been a lot of discussion and a number of studies that have to do with the capabilities of our forces being in the right place on earth at the right time," Weaver said. "We have known since before 1941 that geography is on our side. Hawai'i's future and basing is all part of the larger global view of where we need to be. Geography is extremely important to maritime power."

The office of the Commander, Naval Installations has been in existence for less than a year to maintain the projection of maritime power. It was stood up in October 2003. The mission, according to the official Website at www.cni.navy.mil, is "to provide consistent effective and efficient shore installation services and

support to sustain and improve current and future Fleet readiness and mission execution." Its purpose is to bring together what were once thought to be disparate entities in the Navy's organization under one cohesive unit. Although there are business practices in use throughout the Navy, Weaver proposed a basic caution.

"We never want to be the 'U.S. Navy, Inc.," Weaver said. "We do want to adopt business practices, however. The key is merging the best of our military culture with the best of the business culture."

While discussing the Base Realignment and Closure program, Weaver said CNI is responsible for collecting data from installations around the world. The 17 Navy Regions around the world fall under the CNI's guidance. According to Weaver, there are members from more than 700 commands that provide his office with raw data about how that unit operates. Weaver's office then analyzes and collates the data, verifies it then certifies it



Photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón

Rear Adm. Christopher E. Weaver, the Chief of Naval Installations, discusses his vision for CNI during a visit to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Weaver's vision for CNI is to empower shore personnel, both military and civilian to provide optimum support for seagoing assets around the world.

before sending it on to the assistant chief of naval operations for logistics.

"We add the verification step to the process so they don't have to," said Weaver.

Weaver likened the CNI concept to civilian business models.

He said the organization would rank at 190 if it were placed among the other Fortune 500 companies.

"The Navy is an output-driven organization. I'm the chief

▼ See CNI, A-3

Olympians: Damage Control Olympics provide Lake Erie Sailors with fun, training



Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

Sailors from USS Lake Erie (CG 70) participate in a "tug-of-war" as part of the Damage Control Olympics. Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific hosted the event, which aimed to improve knowledge of damage control. The olympics had five simultaneous events that included pipe patching, hose wrapping, dressing out in firefighting ensembles and working with a wet trainer.

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

USS Lake Erie (CG 70), in conjunction with Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific, competed in the Damage Control Olympics March 19. The D.C. Olympics were held on Naval Station, Pearl Harbor to help train Sailors in a hands-on environment and have fun at the same time.

"We just wanted to make sure the crew had awareness of damage control and they think about their basic skills before we start getting underway again," said Lt. Cmdr. Heedong Choi, executive officer for Lake Erie.

Eighty Lake Erie Sailors participated in the half-day event that included five simultaneous but different damage control stations. The D.C. Olympics were part of the ship's Captain's Cup, which divided the Sailors into four teams: Combat Systems, Engineering, Operations and Supply/Naval Administrations.

The first station was the "modified" wet trainer where each team conducted shoring on the second floor.

"That's something that we can not simulate on the ship at all," said Lt. j.g. Shawn R. Phillips, damage control assistant for Lake Erie.

The wet trainer filled with water as Lake Erie Sailors worked to stop the leak.

"I think it's important because you start to understand the actual amount of water that you're going to have to deal with in certain circumstances, the power of the water and how much force you have to use to stop these leaks," said Seaman Cail Stewart.

Sailors also participated in a pipe-patching relay in which they manufactured all of the materials needed for soft patches and banding patches. The burst pipe was then charged to test the quality of each patch.

"They're taught how to do it, [and] actually have pressurized water coming out at [them] and ... [learn] how to do it properly as fast as possible," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert S. Moskwa. "The guys that ... did it right and were able to stop the water flow, there's a lot of satisfaction right there."

The next event had each team learning about P-100's. The P-100 is a self-powered de-watering pump. They broke up into a hose team and a de-watering team. The de-watering team drained the wet trainer while the hose team dressed out in firefighting ensembles and rigged a hose off the P-100 to fight a fire. The hose team then attempted to knock over five canisters while relieving the nozzle and cycling through all the nozzle patterns.

"It's more of a hands-on training and it sticks in your head a little better," said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Stephen Benitez. "If anything was to really happen, knowing you've already done this [you] have a little more confidence, you just jump right in there instead of wandering around [wondering] what every different tool is. You have a broader knowledge because you used it."

The next event was a hose team challenge where Sailors rolled a one-and-one-half inch hose and a two-and-one-half inch hose as fast as

▼ See DC, A-4

Seabees build new quarterdeck for security

Self Help Sailors assist commands around Naval Station Pearl Harbor

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

The Self Help side of Construction Battalion Unit 413/Self Help has reconstructed the security building's quarterdeck, providing a newer and more user-friendly environment, said Lt. Charles Walker, security officer.

"Instead of us having to look up at the customers that we have coming in, we feel more like a police precinct now," said Walker.

The crew built the countertops, installed wiring and created a seal for the quarterdeck. Making the countertops was a first for the Self Help team.

"Anything new they (the crew) love doing," said Builder 1st Class (SCW/SW) Kevin Herman, assistant operations chief.

The crew completed the project in 10 days. They saved weeks off the schedule by constructing the countertops from scratch rather than buying them already built.

The five-man crew put forth 80 man-hours helping to train themselves and provide a service to their neighbors. The security quarterdeck is located across the street from the CBU-413/Self Help building.

"We owe it all to the Seabees," said Walker. "They did it in record time, and we'll always be indebted to them."

Self Help saved the government almost \$7,000 by taking on the project themselves instead of using outside contractors.

"They (the crew) even surprise themselves sometimes, on how well something turned out," said Herman.

Construction Engineer 2nd Class (SCW) Robert Santiago from the Self Help unit created the seal for the security quarterdeck.

"Every job site is a different challenge," said Herman. "It's never the same."

"Right now we don't mind coming to work. Simply because of the fact that we have a new domain to come into," said Walker.

Commands can contact CBU-413/Self Help for all types of small construction projects, whether it is to request a full

▼ See SEABEES, A-6

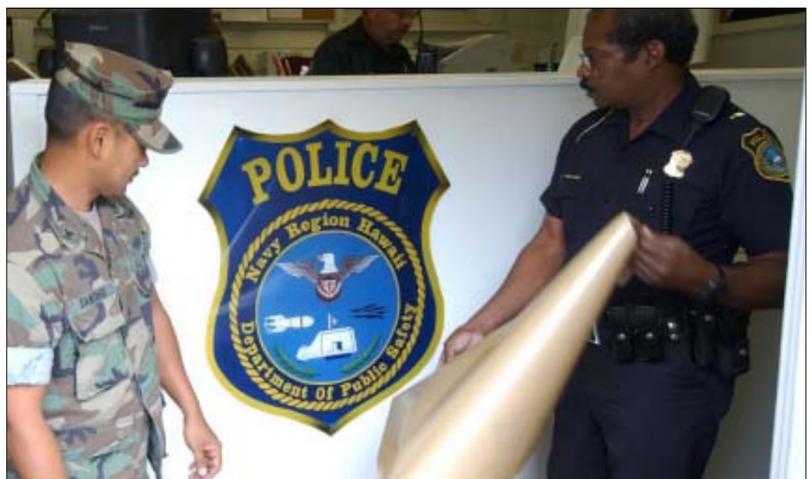


Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

Construction Battalion Unit 413/Self Help presents the new security quarterdeck to Lt. Charles Walker. The seabees constructed the quarterdeck in 10 days saving security almost \$7000.

Sea Power 21 vision advancing

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The Navy continues to transform itself into the Sea Power 21 vision. A step toward that goal includes boosting its anti-submarine warfare capabilities with the creation of the Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Command (FASWC) in San Diego April 8.

The new operational command's mission will include integrating advanced ASW networks, establish doctrine and new operating concepts, fleet ASW training, and assisting naval leadership with ASW policy.

Rear Adm. John J. Waickwitz, who currently serves as commander, Iceland Defense Force; Fleet Air Keflavik; U.S. Anti-Submarine Warfare Reconnaissance Forces Eastern Atlantic and Island Commander Iceland, has been selected by the Navy as FASWC's first commander.

The Spencer, Mass., native will be the Navy's foremost ASW advocate, re-directing the focus of the Navy back to ASW and overhauling it as a critical core competency for Navy warfighters.

FASWC's primary goal will be to ensure Navy warfighters



Photo by J03 Devin Wright

ST1(SS) Decker Jordan, sonar supervisor aboard USS Tucson (SSN 770), sits at a sonar console and coordinates contacts in and on the ocean. The job consists of listening for contacts and charting their movements visually on the console's computer screen.

can neutralize enemy submarine threats. To do this, Navy ASW must be able to detect and engage ASW threats at will. It must also be able to form maritime shields against submarines and mines that will permit U.S. and coalition forces protected passage to and from operational theaters.

Adm. Walter F. Doran, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, recognizes the need for increased emphasis in ASW excellence.

"When I look at the threats we may face in the 21st Century, one emerging challenge is

the improved diesel submarine technology, and the threat that technology poses. Antisubmarine warfare is a Navy core competency, which needed a reinvigorated focus. We have recognized that we must take positive action re-organize to meet this challenge ... and why I have made ASW as my number one warfighting priority," said Doran recently.

To help the Navy get "closer," the CNO-directed review, Task Force ASW, has started two teams of planners and fleet operators to work on the chal-

lenges of operations and technology.

Team "A" looks at the science and technology aspects of ASW, aligning themselves with the defense industry to pinpoint key requirements and emerging new technologies. That partnership will help transform ASW capabilities to improve littoral effectiveness and reduce the time between finding a threat and neutralizing it.

Blending the science and art is the training and operational concepts mission for Team "B." This team will be constantly testing and evaluating ASW tactics, improving on them and developing better training in order to improve warfighting skills. This includes integrated training on a fleetwide scale under the guidance of FASWC.

As the Navy brings to bear its resources and sophisticated technological prowess on the ASW issue, it is somewhat ironic that the challenge comes from older diesel technology thought by many to be outdated.

But as vision, tactics and technology work together, the Navy continues to prepare its ships and Sailors to meet this threat head-on.

Commentary

Your Money Matters

Maintaining a healthy checking account

Frank Tomaszewski

your check register. Check off all checks.

Many of us have had a checking account since entering military service. But just because we've had one for years, that doesn't mean that we manage it properly.

Sure, more than half (almost 57 percent) of us regularly balance our checkbooks, but that still leaves 43 percent of us who don't.

These six simple steps can help you keep your checking account under control:

1. Keep good records.

The more informed you are about your checking account, the better equipped you'll be to read and analyze your bank statement.

That means keeping track of account activity. You can keep a handwritten record of transactions using the register that comes with your checks. Have a record of every check, deposit and electronic fund transfer involved with your account.

2. Open your mail.

When the bank statement arrives, open it and put your record keeping to good use.

It's better to examine your bank statement sooner than later for two reasons.

First, banks usually will disallow errors if they are reported more than 60 days after you received the statement.

Second, the fewer days that pass between when the bank issues a statement and when you read it, the more in synch your records will be with the bank's numbers.

3. Spend quality time with your account.

Most people will scan their statement but spending quality time with your account is also important.

Go over the deposits and the checks. Check all checks from your bank statement against

4. Call your bank immediately if you find a problem.

You'll be glad you closely followed your account's paper trail if you find yourself in a situation like one encountered by a financial planner.

The financial planner received a notice from her bank saying that her youngest son's checking account was overdrawn by 56 cents. It wasn't much, but it didn't sound right. When she called the bank, an officer there told her the account wasn't in arrears.

The story had a happy ending (the bank acknowledged its mistake), in large part because she was paying attention and immediately acted on a discrepancy.

5. Check daily balance summaries.

Many people don't need to analyze their daily balance summaries. However, there are exceptions: consumers with interest bearing accounts or those who must maintain a minimum average balance.

Folks that fall into these categories may want to keep closer tabs on daily balances to make sure their accounts are in compliance or to make sure they are paid the appropriate amount of interest.

6. Keep tabs on your account between statements.

OK, maybe only obsessive people review their accounts daily via phone or the Net.

But periodic checking on your account between printed statements does sometimes make sense.

Most of these tips don't take much time. And once they become a part of your financial routine, you'll find it's easy maintaining a healthy checking account.

Hawai'i Navy News

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CNI: Quality of Sailors, civilians in Navy today 'phenomenal' says Weaver

Continued from A-1

executive officer of this global enterprise of support to the war fighter," he said. "As CEO, I'm about standardization of the process to the extent that standardization is good."

Across the Navy, Weaver said the level of professionalism is impressive.

"The enlisted members, officers and civilians are all amazing," he said. "The quality of people is just phenomenal. You can see it reflected in the output. I don't know if we've ever been this good."

Weaver said one of his goals is to produce business output from shore facilities to support afloat units in the Navy. Another is to foster personal development.

"As CEO, I think we need to be aware of how we look at our human capital," he said. "How can we enable our human capital to allow them to generate combat power from the shore? I have to help find a way for them to make their contributions more effectively."

Weaver said the ideas behind change are not reserved for those in the higher echelons of the Navy. Sailors and civilians in every office on every installation should feel empowered to bring their ideas forward.

"The CNO said it best when he said 'challenge all assumptions,'" Weaver said. "If you're doing something just because it's the way you've always done it and you don't know any other way to do it, then that should be a sign that you may need to change things. Communicate to your chain of command better ideas and ways to get your job done. Every Sailor and officer needs to have a sense they can have an input on the effectiveness of the Navy."

"Everyone needs to have a sense of part ownership in this corporation of the U.S. Navy," Weaver continued. "Your sense of contribution will differentiate you from someone who doesn't have any sort of stake in our success. That sense of part ownership will be better for the Navy and it will be better for the country."

Navy celebrates Women's History at Pearl Harbor



(left to right) OS2(SW/AW) Kristie Wilson, CTRS Jarreau Moore and MA3 Roitresha Watkins perform the song, "Someday," Thursday at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Women's History Month Celebration at Club Pearl. Moore wrote the words and composed the music for the song. The celebration highlighted contributions to society by women throughout history. The Naval Station Pearl Harbor Multicultural Committee organized the celebration and featured poetry recitals, a "Six Ladies and One Gentleman" group performance, singing and dance. In addition, MWR donated five prizes for the winners of the trivia contest the committee organized. The next cultural observance will be the Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month event to be held in May.

Photo by J01 Daniel J. Calderon

NJROTC: Hawai'i high school students learn about Navy during camp



JO3 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Almost 130 Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets took part in an annual four day spring camp beginning March 19.

The spring camp consists of a day of boot camp-style instruction on military protocol, a basic seamanship course that includes sailing and kayaking. There is also a physical readiness portion in which cadets hike Diamond Head and complete second class swimming qualifications. Cadets also receive a historical overview of the Navy here in Hawai'i including a tour of Ford Island, and a tour of USS Hopper (DDG 70).

Although early training of potential Naval officers is one intent of the NJROTC program Another is building well-rounded Americans.

"The intent of the program is to develop responsible citizens in our high school students," said Lt. Cmdr. Hank Van Oss, Senior Naval Science Instructor at Kalaheo High School. "The Navy also gets a big benefit because a large percentage of these men and women will affiliate with the Navy.

The cadets benefit the most because this program prepares these young men and women for leadership in the military or as civilians."

Kalaheo high school senior and NJROTC Cadet Commander Christine Fukada said the spring camp gives her the chance to decide if the military is something she intends to pursue.

"It gives us an opportunity to see what's out there, what our options are," said Fukada. "A lot of us will end up joining the Navy or going to the Academy and for the rest of us who choose a different path at least we know we've explored our options. NJROTC gives us that opportunity."

Some cadets believe that the NJROTC program is building tomorrow's Naval leaders today.

"A lot of the Navy future leaders are in NJROTC and I think the Navy recognizes that by giving us tours and Navy experiences," said Cadet Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathan Lee'kunishite. "When we join the Navy we will have already been on a ship, know a little about the Navy's history, basic seamanship and we will be one step ahead."

Photo by JO3 Devin Wright

FC2(SW) Brad Haydell gives NJROTC cadets a tour of USS Hopper's (DDG 70) pilot house. The tour of the Hopper was part of the cadets' four-day Spring Camp Which consisted of a boot camp-style instruction on military protocol, a basic seamanship course and other military instruction.

DC: Competition fosters learning

possible with emphasis on keeping the hose tight and correctly rolled.

"A lot of those people aren't in repair lockers," said Phillips. "It's good to know that even though they're not designated in the repair lockers, these people still know what they're doing in other parts of the ships"

The final event was a damage control test comprised of 50 questions testing Sailors knowledge in all areas. Not only were enlisted Sailors participating in the event, but officers and the executive officer as well.

"I think it's important that the guys see the leadership their khakis, chiefs, senior chiefs, the XO along with division officers [and] that we actually know how to do stuff too," said Choi. "They can see that we're a participating member of the DC organization."

The purpose of the event was to allow the Sailors to have some fun while learning important information.

"Today's evolution broke the monotony of ship-board life training," said Chief Damage Controlman (SW) Mike D. Kaszubowski, event coordinator. "It's invaluable training. They had fun and they were getting trained at the same time. You can't beat that."

The competition ended with a modified tug-of-war. ATG MIDPAC attached an AFFF canister to a line supported by two poles. The teams then used a hose to try and push the canister to the opposing team's side. Sailors drenched each other in water while trying to win the competition.

"People were having so much fun out there they didn't even know that they were getting trained at the same time, which is unique," said Kaszubowski.

"Training wise, you have the accuracy of where you're putting your nozzle as well as being able to advance and retreat from the actual fire," said Moskwa.

The event ended with a barbecued lunch and an awards ceremony.

"I think the format with the cookout brings out more camaraderie," said Choi.

This was the first time that ATG MIDPAC hosted a damage control Olympics for a ship ported in Pearl Harbor. The hope is that more ships will want to organize an event similar to this.

"We want to open it up to ships that are coming out of the yard or that are preparing to go on deployment that want to see how well their Sailors are doing," said Moskwa.

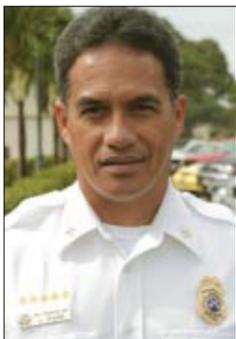
ATG MIDPAC hopes to improve on the event helping ships prepare for getting underway. They even offer a Chemical, Biological Radiological course for ships preparing to go to sea.

"There's always room to grow," said Kaszubowski. "There's always room to innovate things and make things better."

The D.C. Olympics gave Lake Erie Sailors practice for a real situation, in a relaxed environment.

"It's ... good to get off the ship and come out here with the guys you work with and have some fun," said Stewart.

Navy News asks: Why is the JROTC program good for high schools?



Jake Chung
Federal Fire Department

It is a good program because there's discipline, and they get to see what it's like in the military and if that's the case, maybe they'd want to be a part of it.



CTTCS(SW) James Harris
NavSta Pearl Harbor Equal Opportunity Advisor/DAPA

I think it's a good program when run correctly. It's a good stepping stone for a young person who has early aspirations of joining the military and it's good leadership training.



IT2 Carla Robinson
USS Chafee (DD690)

It's another form of stability and it gives kids another option for going into the military.



Enrique Uy
Retired Navy veteran

It starts them with training early. It helps them to prepare and make a choice of whether to go into the military.



FC1(SW/AW) Lonnie Peek
Afloat Planning Systems, Pacific

It not only prepares them for the military, it's just like the Boy Scouts or any organization like that. It gives them something to do. It gives them organization, keeps them off the street and keeps them away from the drugs.

Annual marathon draws military, civilians

Navy edges out Air Force to take top spot at HECO race

Story and photos by Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Staff

For the second consecutive year, a Pearl Harbor Navy racing team beat the Air Force, Marines and Army across the finish line in the inter-service race at the 9th annual Hawaiian Electric Electron Marathon on Ford Island March 20.

Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 2nd Class Mike Dooner beat a self-built Air Force electric car across the finish line with less than two seconds to spare. Dooner finished the course in 7 min., 30 seconds at speeds up to 33 mph in front of a crowd of more than 3,000 spectators.

"The adrenaline was pumping pretty fast," exclaimed Dooner. "I passed the first Marine car and shortly after that, the second Marine car passed me and got ahead by a half-car length. Then I passed them and never saw them again."

The second Navy entrant driven by Operations Specialist 2nd Class Michael Bonincontri crossed the line 15 seconds behind Air Force, followed by Army and the Marine Corps. The inter-service race consisted of 10 laps around a half-mile, closed-loop LeMans-style course.

The HECO Electron Marathon is sponsored by the Hawaiian Electric Company to showcase the many uses of elec-

tricity and also featured a race between 24 local high schools. HECO and its subsidiaries provide all competitors with kits containing identical one-horsepower engines. Each school team then designs and assembles a car from scratch, with a \$3,000 spending cap to race in the event.

After the inter-service race, the high-school competitors raced around the track with the winner completing the most laps in one hour. The top high school finisher was Kapolei High School who finished with 56 laps.

"We do this for the kids," said Jose Dizon of Hawaiian Electric Company. "We want to educate our future leaders of the uses of electricity. The get a good understanding of what teamwork is all about, of what it takes to succeed and an appreciation of what it takes to use electricity safely and maybe this can be a stepping stone for them to look at other ways to use electricity."

"A lot of things they have to do here kind of mirror what they have to do in life," Dizon continued. "And we're very grateful to the Navy for allowing us to use their facilities on Ford Island and providing all the wonderful security and hospitality."

The local high schools were also judged for best documentation, oral presentation, construction and safety, vehicle performance and best of show.



GSM2 Mike Dooner of Naval Station Pearl Harbor races down a straightaway at nearly 40 mph in front of a crowd of 3,000 spectators at the 9th Annual Hawaiian Electric Company Electron Marathon on Ford Island. Dooner and the Navy team took first and third place against the Hawai'i-based U. S. Army, Air Force and Marine teams in the competition. The HECO Electron Marathon also hosted 24 area high schools who competed in a separate race. Both the military teams and the high school teams designed self-built electric vehicles around identical one-horsepower electric engines provided by the Hawaiian Electric Company.

Although there seemed to be a great deal of pride and competitiveness among the military entrants, they also seemed to take away some very valuable lessons.

"I just have a blast competing here," said Marine Sgt. Scott Momper of Marine Corps Air Base, Kaneohe, Hawaii. "You get to spend time with people who enjoy the same thing you do. It comes down to teamwork. The guys in the Air Force gave us a wheel and we helped them with their electrical. Out here, it's a level playing field, but everybody's here to help each other and I think that's one thing we can use to show as an example that we're here to help each other. It was probably one of the best races we've had out here in a couple of years."

Teamwork was especially important for the Navy team. The mechanic on their two electric cars was Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 3rd Class Nicholas Villalon, who also worked on the winning car last year.

Commander, Naval Facilities

Engineering Command, Pacific Division engineers also provided their technical expertise.

"We provide a continuity to the race since we've been involved for the past five years" said Kendall Kam, utilities management engineer at PAC-DIV. "We know what works and what doesn't, what they should be focusing their attention on and how to get parts. We look over the design and make suggestions on what to change. We also have a guy who's a former race car driver and he assists with driver training."

However, all that support for the Navy team doesn't seem to deter the other military competitors.

"We're going to have two brand new cars for next year," said Momper. "We've already started on the new design and manufacturing. We're going to have a brand new start next year."

The HECO Electron Marathon is co-sponsored by the State Department of Education and the Navy, and is partnered by the U. S. Department of Energy.



Racers from high schools across Hawai'i compete in the best vehicle performance portion of the Electron Marathon. The winner of this portion was not determined by how fast racers went around the course. Instead, it went to the team whose vehicle could complete the highest number of laps in the allotted hour.



The Sacred Hearts Academy team poses behind their self-built electric car. This year they were closing in on their second consecutive victory when they lost a wheel on the 35th lap. In addition to competing for the best vehicle performance on the race course, the schools also competed for Best Documentation, which went to Iroquois Point, Best Oral Presentation, Sacred Hearts; Construction and Safety, Kapua High from Kauai, and the top three slots for Best of Show.

Preparation: New Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Master Chief meets with submariners



Photo by JOC David Rush
Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet's Force Master Chief Michael Benko takes time from his busy schedule to listen to junior enlisted submariners.

J03 Corwin Colbert
COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

Missile Technician Master Chief Michael Benko relieved Electronics Technician Master Chief Rick West as Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet's (COMSUBPAC) Force Master Chief during a ceremony held in January.

Since then, Benko has been familiarizing himself with the force by visiting the squadrons, groups, submarines and departments that make up COMSUBPAC. Even though COMSUBPAC has a command master chief, Benko explained his job is somewhat different.

"The command master chief works with the staff whereas I deal mainly with the master chiefs of the different squadrons and groups. My job is directly linked to the admiral in relating issues and concerns of enlisted Sailors from all our SUBPAC submarines. I tour, and if I have the time, ride our different submarines

to hold crew calls," said Benko. "I provide our Sailors with information on the tools and programs available to enhance their careers, such as the Thrift Savings Plan, the Navy Knowledge Online Website and the Five Vector Model. I also listen to the crew's concerns, which I send up the submarine chain of command and to the admiral," he said.

According to Capt. Bruce Smith, COMSUBPAC's Chief of Staff, the force master chief plays a vital role in the success of the command. "It is crucial to have a force master chief on staff. The force master chief is the admiral's connection with the Sailors onboard our submarines, master chiefs throughout the force and the chiefs of the boat," said Smith. "Our junior Sailors benefit by having an advocate in the force master chief position who not only understands their views and conveys their message upward, but who also gains a higher level perspective in which he can convey to the Sailors

with a higher degree of fidelity," said Smith.

Benko said with teamwork, the force will maintain the high standards that were passed down to him by West. In addition, he has a few issues to address in 2004.

"Manpower utilization is one area I want to cover. Making sure that Sailors get the right training they need while making sure the ship is properly manned for watch bills, maintenance and damage control efforts. Also, I want to emphasize the responsible use of alcohol, and try to identify what methods are working well and share them throughout the force in efforts to cut down on alcohol related incidents," he said.

Benko is not new to the COMSUBPAC team. He was command master chief of Submarine Squadron Seventeen and said he feels privileged to be the force master chief.

"I have been working in SUBPAC for about 13 years. I am honored to be here as force master chief. I re-

lieved the very successful Force Master Chief, Rick West, who did a fine job for the force and I hope to continue the work he started in maintaining open lines across the submarine community to ensure everyone's success," Benko concluded.

Benko enlisted in the Navy in 1979. His first assignment was onboard USS Von Steuben (SSBN 632) (BLUE) home ported in Charleston, S.C., where he earned his submarine qualification. Other assignments include USS Canopus (AS-34) stationed in Kings Bay, Ga., and USS Florida (SSBN 728) (Blue) home ported in Bangor, Wash. He served at the Naval Recruiting District, Cleveland, Ohio and on the staff of Commander, Submarine Squadron Seventeen.

Benko served as the chief of the boat onboard USS Michigan (SSBN 727) (GOLD), which earned three Battle Efficiency "E" Awards during his tour, and as the command master chief of Submarine Squadron Seventeen.

Reuben James Sailors volunteer in Panama to help local school

Reuben James Public Affairs

Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG57) donated their time to complete a service project at the Escuela Republica de Venezuela in Calidonia, Panama. A group of 20 volunteers chose to spend their liberty helping to finish a library at the school in early March.

The project included putting up dry wall, caulking, painting, general cleaning and replacing two sets of doors. The library now has a doorway to its balcony with a view of Ancon Hill.

This service project is part of the U.S. Navy's Community Relations Program through which Navy crews have an option to

do volunteer projects during their free time at port. Crews have \$500 to spend on materials, and the funding comes from the Naval Headquarters. The projects chosen are typically renovations of schools or non-profit organizations. So far, Sailors have completed four volunteer projects in Panama, and there will be more to come in the future.

Volunteer projects in foreign ports allow Sailors to gain a perspective on the culture and people of that area that they would otherwise not see. Humanitarian aid plays a large part in many of the deployments with which the U.S. Navy tasks its men and women. Much of the time, though, the ships themselves largely work with other Navy or

joint assets far away from the communities in which the people they help are living. Liberty in a foreign port remains one of the best opportunities for Sailors to understand the people their service benefits. The 20 Sailors of the Reuben James who helped to work on the school's library learned about the educational resources in Panama, and contributed to the many groups that have donated time and books to help the children of Escuela Republica de Venezuela. Some Sailors remarked the state of the school looked much like the elementary school they attended, thus their motivation to participate in the betterment of the next generation's educational experience.

While the commanding officer and the executive officer both volunteered their time at the school, the majority of the Sailors were junior seamen. Many of these Sailors joined the Navy to find opportunities for job skills, education, and travel unavailable at home. Sailors said they enjoyed spending hours painting and cleaning a school they may never see again. They spoke of feeling an obligation to add their skills, whether it be in hanging doors or painting and cleaning the library, as well as a kinship to less privileged children. Their efforts ensured that when Reuben James left Panama on 15 March, children at Escuela Republica de Venezuela had a library in which to read.

Seabees: Construction unit's work is seen throughout region

Continued from A-1

job or just supplies.

"The Self Help program ... provide(s) quality construction and improve(s) the quality of life and the quality of service here on Pearl Harbor," said BUC(SCW) Bill C. Sarratt, operations chief.

Self Help's work can be seen all over Pearl Harbor in its sidewalks, berthing remodifications and aesthetic moss rock.

"Self Help is like a construction S.W.A.T team for Region getting things done on short notice," said Sarratt.

The unit not only works on Naval Station Pearl Harbor

but all over O'ahu on anything from interior work, electrical work, plumbing, sprinkler systems and flooring. The Self Help unit also brings any project up to modern day building codes and specifications.

Sarratt said the unit has a broader knowledge base because of the work done on Pearl Harbor.

"We're well versed in each other's rates," said Sarratt. "There's nothing limiting us from cross-rate training,

which makes us more diverse and more marketable worldwide, whether our customer is special operations or the Marine Corps or big Navy, and we're proving that right now

in Iraq and Afghanistan."

All work the CBU-413/Self Help unit does in peacetime, and not in wartime is considered training.

"It's training when we're not in a contingency because we need to keep going and learning, and when we get out there we know how to do what we need to do," said Herman.

The program also allows for customers to complete projects themselves with supplies and technical assistance from CBU-413/Self Help.

"The way the program is designed is that we provide technical assistance to help people help themselves," said Sarratt. "We can get you on the right

path, give you all the correct tools to do it with, and show you how to do a quality job. And when you take all the tape and the drop cloth away you have a certain sense of pride knowing that you did it."

CBU-413/Self Help is currently remodeling the Explosive Ordnance Disposal range to help them expand training and allow for a more diversified program.

"We've got a real good service that a lot of people don't know about," said Sarratt. "If anybody wants to utilize or improve their situation or quality of service they can go to building 226 and submit a request through Self Help."



Photo by JCSN Ryan C. McGinley

EOCN Jeff Glass of Construction Battalion Unit 413/Self Help helps to refurbish the Explosive Ordnance Disposal range with the help of a 40-ton cruiser crane. Self Help's work can be seen all over Pearl Harbor, which includes office remodeling, sidewalks and the aesthetic moss rock.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements:

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