Legacy of the Tomcat

U.S. Navy Photo

An F-14D Tomcat is tied to the deck of USS John C. Stennis while on deployment in the Pacific Ocean. The Tomcats were first introduced to the Navy in the 1970s. The Tomcats will soon be decommissioned. The VF-31 Tomcatters, attached to the Stennis, are flying the Tomcats on their last West Pacific deployment.

After 30 years of service, the F-14 Tomcat prepares to retire

Devin Wright

It is one of the most recognizable and capable aircrafts in the world. With its variable wing sweep, the F-14 Tomcat is a powerful deadly "beast" and was the real star of the motion picture "Top Gun."

With over 30 years of service, the Tomcat will soon be decommissioned. VF-31 Tomcatters stationed aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) are flying the aircraft on its last Western Pacific deployment.

"It's going to be sad when this aircraft is retired," said radar intercept operator (RIO) Lt. Eric McMullen of VF-31. "There is just something cool about the Tomcat. It looks different than other fighters out there. It's big, beefy and fast. It's like an iron beast. At the same time, it is getting old and you can tell. It takes a lot of time to maintain. I really feel for the maintainers who spend countless hours working on this aircraft for every hour we spend flying it," said McMullen.

Many of the VF-31 ground crew who work a vast amount of hours on the jet would rather continue the workload than see the aircraft retired.

"As much as a problem child as this jet is, I love it and I think we've made a bad choice of getting rid of it," Aviation Electrician 2nd Class (AW) Dennis Stephenson. "It has a great fuel load, great speed and isn't afraid of anything."

The Tomcat's legacy started as a dog fighter. In August 1981, leader of Libya Muammar Qaddafi decided to test the United States' resolve by sending two Sukoi Su-22 fighter jets up against a couple of the F-14 Tomcats: The result was the loss of two Su-22 jets.

Again, in January 1986, Qaddafi challenged the naval forces by sending two MiG-23 Floggers to test the American military and find out how far they could push. What is probably the most publicized air-combat sequence took place. The end result was still the same.

These victories struck fear in minds of would-be adversaries and put the Tomcat in the forefront of dog-fighting aircraft.

Designed specifically to operate as a carrier-borne fighter aircraft, its primary role is to provide long-range air defense for the U.S. Fleet, but as a secondary role it can also operate in a low-level attack role.

This role was put to the test in Yugoslavia. The Tomcats earned the nickname "Bombcats" during this war for delivering its payload of laser-guided bombs to the doorstep of the unsuspecting Yugoslavian military.

During Operation Enduring Freedom, the F-14 remained the platform of choice for precision targeting by again handing out a surplus of explosions in the United States' shock and awe campaign during the initial strike on Iraq.

The F-14 Tomcat remains the fastest Navy aircraft with the ability to reach the speed of mach 2. It is also the only aircraft with the ability to carry the Phoenix, which has a range of over 100 miles.

The Tomcat also has the best air-to-air radar in the world that can track over a dozen contacts at once and can engage half of them.

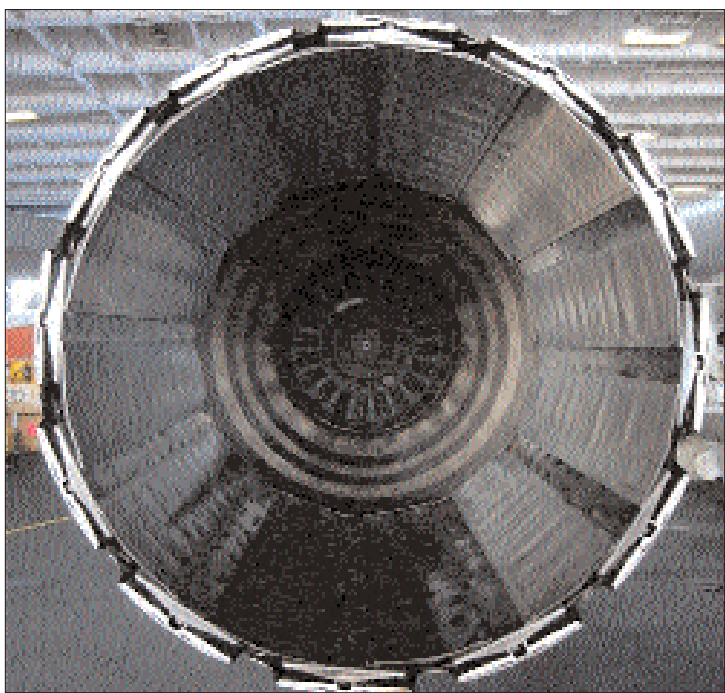
For 30 years, the F-14 Tomcats have been the hammer of freedom. The roar of their jet engines screamed the phrase, "life, liberty and the pursuit of all who threaten it."

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

An F-14D Tomcat flies off the flight deck of USS John C. Stennis during flight operations in the Pacific Ocean. VF-31 "Tomcatters" Squadron, attached to the Stennis, fly the jet on its final deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

The maintenance crew for the Tomcats work long hours to keep up with the aging aircraft and often take on 50 to 60 percent more of a work load than other squadrons.



U.S. Navy photos by JO2 Devin Wright

(Above) An F-14D Tomcat lands aboard USS John C. Stennis during flight operations in the Pacific Ocean.
(Right) The jet engines of the Tomcats enable the aircraft to reach mach 2, faster than any other Navy aircraft. The Tomcat is also the only jet with the capability to carry the Phoenix missile which has a range of more than 100 miles.

Commentary

Spouse to Spouse

Andrea Kane

ablekane@verizon.net

Live the life you dream and start your own home-based business

"You can't just up and start your own business. That kind of thing costs a lot of money."

"You're not a young woman anymore, you need to start thinking about security."

"The time for living dreams is long gone. Just get a job like the rest of us and hope you win the lottery."

If you've discussed your ideas of starting your own business with other people, these remarks may sound familiar to you. Realize that to have your dream, the only voice you need to listen to is your own.

In my opinion, military spouses are presented with a unique opportunity for success. We move every two to three years and this makes it a little difficult to hold down a "traditional professional" career.

Having a home-based business or a business that can easily transport is often the ideal situation for the military spouse. Massage therapy, child-care providers, artisans, these are great careers that can move when you move and can ultimately lead to a business of your own.

My last six months in the Navy I decided that I wanted to start my own company making natural body products. Today, I am doing just what I said I would do and recently received my first big wholesale account. You can live your dreams. You can start your own business. It's not easy, but you can do it. So let me share some insight on how you can live your dream.

1. Take advantage of the system. There are many county, state and federal programs designed specifically for the small business owner. Most are free and many are very accommodating in insuring you receive the information you need to get started. Some organizations even have counselors that will come to your home to make it convenient for you.

2. Be ready to work harder and longer. Most of us may have the illusion that working from home means hours spent at the TV waiting for the cash to be delivered in the mail. Not so. Be prepared to work 18 hours days, into the early morning hours, with no vacation or sick time. Get ready to read how-to books on everything from Web design to marketing. And beyond that, the kids still need to get to school, the spouse needs dinner and the clothes have to be cleaned. Just remember, you are living your dream.

3. Discover creative ways to make some cash for your business. All of us have items that we pack up and move from place to place and seldom use. Somewhere along the line, we end up just trashing it. Instead of sitting it outside on trash collection day, take a snapshot and post it for sale on an Internet auction site.

Better yet, get together all your stuff and have a garage sale or take it to the flea market. You may be pleasantly surprised.

4. Live within your means. This is a hard one for many people, but very important when starting your own business. Shopping sprees and expensive dinners downtown will have to take a backseat in the beginning. Any money you make, you want to use for buying more equipment or supplies. Try not to use your personal credit card, just cash that comes in through sales. This is great debt prevention and this will also make you work harder to find creative ways to fund your endeavor.

5. Find a mentor and do it. You cannot begin this type of undertaking alone. Hopefully, your spouse is behind you. If not, find someone who will keep your spirits up. They are out there. Find an organization or group. Network. Don't let the negativity of others stop you from pursuing your dream. Give yourself a timeline and once you have all those things, there's nothing left to do than to just do it. There is nothing worse than looking back at a life full of things you wish you could have done.

Bottom line, not everyone is disciplined enough to start a new business. For some, it will always be a dream. But if you want to try, if your dreams keep you up at night, give it a try. And forget the nay sayers, because ultimately, the only voice you need to listen to is your own.

If you have questions or comments or have a topic you'd like to see in this column, please email ablekane@verizon.net.

Navy commissions military's first Buddhist chaplain

JO1 (SW) Hendrick L. Dickson
Navy News Service

The Navy commissioned the military's first Buddhist chaplain in a ceremony at the Pentagon July 22.

Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Adm. John G. Cotton commissioned Lt. j.g. Jeanette G. Shin in front of several of her family members and friends, making her the Department of Defense's first Buddhist chaplain.

After taking her oath of service, Shin expressed her gratitude to her peers, and said she looks forward to making a difference in the fleet.

"I am very grateful to have the opportunities to serve the sea services – regardless of their religious faith," said Shin. "I will do my best to help you [Sailors and Marines] in any way I can."

Shin's commissioning is an important moment for the Navy's Chaplain Corps, as it continues to improve its diversity to serve Sailors and Marines from a variety of religious backgrounds. Shin was praised for her tremendous accomplishment and welcomed to the Corps by her peers.

"This is another historical moment for the Chaplain's Corps of the United States Navy, as we reach out to provide for the religious needs of our people," said Chief of Navy Chaplains, Rear Adm. Louis V. Iasiello. "You are most welcome to our ranks as a chaplain, and we look forward to working with you in the future."

"This really is your statement of care and love and concern for us," said Rear Adm. (sel.) Harold L. Robinson, Special Assistant Reserve Manpower Chief of Naval Chaplain's Office. "It's a call of the Chaplain Corps to serve every human being we encounter, and that's what we are saying. We are very blessed to have you among us."

Photo by Damon J. Moritz

Lt. j.g. Jeanette Gracie Shin signs her Oath of Office paperwork in the Pentagon.

Shin earned her bachelor of arts degree from George Mason University in philosophy and religious studies in May 2000. She earned her master of arts degree in Buddhist studies from the Graduate Theological Union/Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, Calif. in May.

Shin is currently stationed at the Navy Reserve Center in Alameda, Calif.

National Call to Service Program offers alternatives to recruits

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

Navy Recruiting Command's (CNRC) National Call to Service Program (NCS) gives potential applicants another avenue to serve in the Navy.

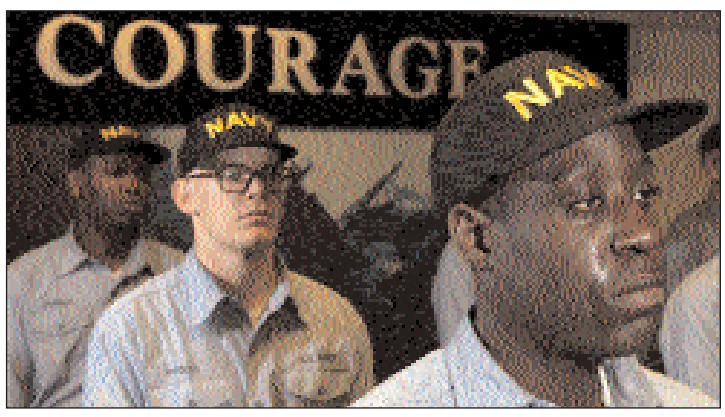
The NCS program offers applicants an alternative to the traditional four-year enlistment, with recruits incurring a 15-month active duty obligation following recruit training and A school. After fulfilling their initial obligation, recruits may re-enlist for additional active duty service, or transfer to the Selected Reserve for a 24-month obligation as a drilling Reservist.

"NCS provides the Navy a new way to reach a group of young Americans who otherwise might not serve in the military because of the length of traditional enlistment options," said Cmdr. Glen Kaemmerer, director of enlisted programs at CNRC. "It also attracts college-bound youth who might volunteer to take a short period out between high school and college to serve their nation."

The program is open to applicants who are non-prior service, high school diploma graduates, and have an armed forces qualification test score of at least a 50 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

Selected ratings are available to applicants. Air traffic controller, aviation machinist's mate, aerographer's mate, aviation structural mechanic, aviation ordnanceman, dental technician, engineering aide, hospital corpsman, intelligence specialist, master-at-arms, mineman, operations specialist and aircrew survival equipmentman are available to those who join under this program.

For more information on the National Call to Service Program, contact a local recruiter.



U.S. Navy photo by PHC Chris Desmond

SR Joseph Sandiford sheds tears upon his successful completion of the "Battlestations Drill" at Great Lakes, Ill.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements:
Phone: (808) 473-2888
Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com
Hawaii Navy News

MWR brings Sunset in the Park to Pearl Harbor

Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker

Karen Force of Aloha Clowns uses an airbrush to paint on a girl's arm at Sunset in the Park Sunday. Aloha Clowns participate in a variety of Morale, Welfare and Recreation events throughout the year. Approximately 35,000 people attended Sunset in the Park at Pearl Harbor Saturday and Sunday. The event was open to the public and took place at Richardson Field across from Aloha Stadium. A host of restaurants, marketplace vendors, and entertainers such as Junior Kekuewa, 'Ike Pono, Son Caribe, Pacific Fleet Band and a variety of others were attractions throughout the two days. Blockbuster movies, "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" and "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" lit up the giant movie screen at dusk.

Sunset in the Park

AT PEARL HARBOR

Photo courtesy of Lt. Cmdr. Todd Offutt, U.S. Coast Guard

Youth performers from the Leeward Dance Stars entertain the audience at the Sunset in the Park Event held July 24-25 at Richardson Field at Pearl Harbor.

Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker

MA3 Eliot Fiashi of Navy Region security shows off his dog, Arpi, during a K-9 unit demonstration at Sunset in the Park.

Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker

A young event attendee plays a keiki game.

Navy spouses paddle toward fitness, fun

Aimee Huepenbecker
Quality of Life Marketing

Outrigger canoeing in Hawai'i dates back to 300 A.D., when the first Polynesians arrived in Hawai'i. For over a century, canoeing was a necessary means of inter-island transport. Today, it is one of the state's most unique and revered sports. The Navy Spouses Paddling Club has teamed up to experience the popular, unique and ancient sport of outrigger canoeing.

Outrigger canoeing offers many benefits. There are a variety of reasons the paddlers in this club choose to paddle outrigger canoes. Fitness and increased upper body strength aside, communing with nature and spending an enjoyable day on the water with people who have similar interests are great pay-offs.

Every Monday and Thursday, from 8:30-10:30 am, the nearly 24 members of the club get together to learn and practice techniques and the art of paddling from fellow canoe enthusiast and coach, Joe Ah-yuen.

Outrigger paddling groups can be found throughout the island, but this one is open only to Navy spouses. Currently, the group is comprised solely of women, but men are welcome and encouraged to participate. According to Tamara Janicke, Navy family member, "Each day brings about 20-24 women out on the water." And for only $1 per day, most of these paddlers are keen to experience one of Hawai'i's greatest water sports. Janicke said, "I really want to take advantage of this sport while we're here. It's very unique to Hawai'i."

Janicke said she was interested in paddling and approached Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) at Rainbow Bay Marina about organizing a morning paddling group. John Mosley, marina recreation assistant, helped Janicke turn her vision into a reality.

"There was interest in paddling during the day when kids were in school. We have the resources here and I used to paddle years with the old canoe club that was down here. So I helped the ladies get their group going with the basics and getting boats on the water. It took off from there," said Mosley.

Janicke gives much credit to Mosley. She said, "John made this club happen for us. I rounded up six people and it's been awesome ever since. I felt like he really cared. He even found a coach for us. We have continued to grow by word of mouth." Janicke also mentioned "the location is the best because most of us live in the area. We come over here, get the boats in the water and go."

Some clubs are all about training sessions and winning, while others offer a sense of fun with a casual feel. This club is about both.

Members can and do compete in outrigger regatta paddling events. Six members from the Navy Spouses Paddling Club will participate in the Queen Lili'uokalani Long Distance Canoe Race in Kona on Sept. 4.

Photo by Aimee Huepenbecker

Navy spouses paddle around Rainbow Bay Marina in an outrigger canoe Sunday.

Participants will paddle a single-hull canoe for 18 miles from Kailua Bay to Honaunau.

This club is open to men and women and all skill levels are welcome. Training is not progressive, so anyone who is interested can start at any time.

Janicke said, "Many of the paddlers out here had no prior experience. Our coach, Joe, is great. He has the patience of a saint."

For more information on the Navy Spouses Paddling Club, call Rainbow Bay Marina at 473-0279.

Wishes come true for two Pearl Harbor visitors

Lacy Lynn
Staff Writer

Two boys from Pennsylvania, Joseph Buglio and David Guman, had their wishes granted July 26 when they visited Pearl Harbor - courtesy of Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The boys and their guests began their time at Naval Station Pearl Harbor with a tour of the USS Lake Erie (CG 70), including the ship's bridge, racks and torpedo room.

After the ship tour, the tour group had lunch at the Silver Dolphin Bistro.

They spent the remainder of the afternoon on a barge tour of Pearl Harbor with Capt. Ronald Cox, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i. The tour stopped briefly at the Arizona Memorial.

Guman celebrated his 19th birthday the day of the visit. The teenager from Jessup, Pa. traveled to Hawai'i with his parents, Elaine and David, and his high school friend, Louis Ruspi.

Photo by Lacy Lynn

Make-A-Wish kids David Guman and Joseph Buglio receive a Pearl Harbor tour.

Guman said he has been interested in World War II history since he was nine years old, including movies, video games and books. Even Guman's favorite TV show, "Hogan's Heroes," is set in a concentration camp in World War II Germany.

There is also a big military influence in Guman's family. He has one uncle in the Air Force, another uncle in the Army who recently returned from Baghdad, and a grandfather who was in the Navy.

Diagnosed with disseminated germinoma when he was 16, Guman dealt with the disease throughout high school.

According to his mother, many doctors did not want to operate on him because his tumor was in the central part of his brain, but later, the tumor was found to be "pure" germinoma, which is treatable.

After receiving treatment, the cancer is in remission and Guman will graduate with an associate's degree this spring.

Joseph Buglio from Conyingham, Pa. is already a history buff at age 10. He traveled to Hawai'i with his parents, John and Kim, and his little brother, John.

Buglio has been diagnosed with congenital heart disease, a condition where the heart or blood vessels near the heart do not develop normally before birth.

Buglio said he wanted to come to Pearl Harbor because he "likes history." His favorite movie is "Pearl Harbor" with actor Cuba Gooding Jr. and his hobby is building model airplanes.

When he grows up, Buglio would either like to be a history teacher like his uncle who collects war memorabilia or join the military because he likes anything historical, especially armed forces history.

Along with their day at Pearl Harbor, both families were allowed time to vacation on Oahu. As with all wishes granted by Make-A-Wish, expenses were fully covered, including travel and spending money.

Movie Call

Sharkey Theater, Pearl Harbor (473-0726)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Dodgeball (PG 13)
SATURDAY
2:30 p.m. Around The World in 80 Days (PG)
5:00 p.m. Stepford Wives (PG 13)
7:00 p.m. Chronicles of Riddick (PG 13)
SUNDAY
2:30 p.m. Harry Potter (PG)
5:00 p.m. Dodgeball (PG 13)
7:00 p.m. Day After Tomorrow (PG 13)
TUESDAY
1:00 p.m. Garfield (PG)
THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. The Terminal (PG 13)

$3 adults; $1.50 children (6-11)
*Special: $2 adults; $1 children (6 -11)

Memorial Theater, Hickam AFB (449-2239)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Dodgeball (PG 13)
SATURDAY
7:00 p.m. Dodgeball (PG 13)
SUNDAY
7:00 p.m. Dodgeball (PG 13)
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. Two Brothers (PG)

$3 adults; $1.50 children (6-11)
*Special: $2 adults; $1 children (6 -11)

Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks (624-2585)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. The Terminal (PG 13)
SATURDAY
2:00 p.m. Garfield (PG)
7:00 p.m. The Terminal (PG 13)
SUNDAY
7:00 p.m. Around The World in 80 Days (PG)

$3 adults; $1.50 children (6-11)
*Special: $2 adults; $1 children (6 -11)

MWR

Editor's note: Every effort has been made to provide the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. However, scheduling of these events is subject to change. It is recommended that you call the contact numbers for the individual events to determine whether or not the activity will be held.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EVENTS

- **Aug. 1:** Kualoa ATV ride and beach picnic, 9:15 a.m., $45. Call for information.
- **Aug. 4:** Underwater photography workshop, 6 p.m., $5. Register by **Aug. 2.**
- **Aug. 7:** Intro to surfing workshop, 9:30 a.m., $15. Register by **Aug. 4.**
- **Aug. 7:** Waikiki parasailing, 10 a.m., $35. Register by **Aug. 4.**
- **Aug. 8:** Ka'ena Point tide pool hike, 9 a.m., $5. Register by **Aug. 4**.
- **Aug. 11**: Basic rock climbing workshop, 5:30 p.m., $10. Register by **Aug. 9**.
- **Aug. 14**: Chinaman's Hat kayaking, 7:30 a.m., $15. Register by **Aug. 11**.
- **Aug. 14**: Shark's Cove snorkeling, 8:30 a.m., $12. Register by **Aug. 11**.
- **Aug. 15**: Mountain horseback riding, 2:30 p.m., $55. Register by **Aug. 11**.
- **Aug. 18:** Advanced rock climbing workshop, 5:30 p.m., $10. Register by **Aug. 16**.
- **Aug. 21:** North Shore tandem skydiving, 8 a.m., $135. Register by **Aug. 18.**
- **Aug. 21:** Surf kayaking workshop, 9 a.m., $15. Register by Aug. 18.
- **Aug. 22:** North Shore shark watching, 10 a.m., $65. Register by **Aug. 18**.

WIN CONCERT TICKETS TO SEE "THE WHO"

Stop by Travel Connections at Bloch Arena and enter to win tickets for "The Who" concert. The concert is at Blaisdell Arena on **Aug. 3**. A drawing will be held **today**. No purchase is necessary. For more information, call 422-0139.

HYSL FLAG FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING

Registration for HYSL flag football and cheerleading will be held **Aug. 2-13** at the youth sports office. Eligible participants must have been born between 1988-1998. The cost is $60 and includes uniform and trophy. Practice begins in September and games are in October/November.

To register, parents should bring the child's birth certificate and current physical dated no more than one year ago. Parents should also bring their child to get proper sizing for shirts or uniforms. For more information, call 474-3501.

"KING OF THE BEACH" SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The King of the Beach sand volleyball tournament will be held **Aug. 6-7**. Register by **Aug. 2**. The tournament is for doubles only. The cost is $5 per person. The tournament will be held at Wentworth sand volleyball court. For more information, call 473-0610.

INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Intramural flag football season begins **Aug. 20**. Games will be played at Ward Field. A coaches' meeting will be held at 1 p.m. **Aug. 4** at Bloch Arena main basketball court. Intramural leagues are open to active duty from Pearl Harbor, NCTAMS, Barbers Point, West Loch and NSGA Kunia. For more information, call 473-2437.

BARRACKS BASH AT SEAWOLF TOWER

A Barracks Bash for single Sailors will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. **Aug. 5** at Seawolf Tower. The event is free and will offer food, fun and entertainment featuring a DJ. For more information, call 473-4279.

YOUTH FITNESS ORIENTATION PROGRAM

A youth fitness orientation program will be offered at 9 a.m. **Aug. 7** at Bloch Arena, and at 9 a.m. **Aug. 14** at Power Point at Barbers Point. This program is designed to familiarize youth ages 10-15 with the fitness facility. Visit www.greatlifehawaii.com for complete details on this program. To register or for more information, call Bloch Arena at 473-0793 or Power Point at Barbers Point 682-5243.

SUPER GARAGE SALE

Dig through your closets, rummage through your storage shed and get ready for the next super garage sale event on **Aug. 14**. Visit any Navy ITT office or www.greatlifehawaii.com for a participant application. Slots are filling quickly. For more information, call 473-0606.

BARBERS POINT TUESDAY SCRAMBLE

A scramble three-person blind draw golf tournament will be held every Tuesday afternoon at Barbers Point. The competition (nine holes) begins at 4 p.m. with check-in at 2:30 p.m. The cost is $20 for authorized patrons and $25 for each guest. The fee includes cart, green fees and prizes. For more information, call 682-1911.

MWR AUTO SKILLS CENTERS

Does your automobile need a little TLC? Is your safety inspection current? Need a place to store your vehicle while on deployment? MWR Auto Skills Centers offer several options for vehicle care and maintenance. If you have questions or need mechanical advice, stop by and speak with a technician on duty. Hawai'i auto safety inspections can be done at any Navy MWR Auto Skills Centers for $14.50. For more information, call 471-9072.

Liberty in Paradise Single Sailor Activities

- **July 31**: North Shore tandem skydiving, 8:30 a.m., $135.
- **Aug. 1:** X-Box Halo Tournament, 5 p.m., $3.
- **Aug. 3:** Makapu'u Lighthouse hike, 9 a.m., $5.
- **Aug. 6:** Sea Life Park tour, 10 a.m., $20.
- **Aug. 7:** Haleiwa Town day trip, 10 a.m., $2.
- **Aug. 10:** Glow in the Dark pool tournament, 6 p.m., $3.
- **Aug. 13:** Fear Factor Liberty Style, 1 p.m., $5.
- **Aug. 14:** All night movie marathon, 11:30 p.m., $3.
- **Aug. 15:** Chess tourney, 6:30 p.m., $3.

Weekly events:

Sunday: Chess tournament, 6:30 p.m.
Monday: WWE wrestling, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8-Ball tournament - 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Game show - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: 9-Ball Pool tournament - 7 p.m.

At the movies & Movie Takes

Around the World in 80 Days: Passepartout steals a valuable jade Buddha and then seeks refuge in the traveling companionship of an eccentric inventor who has taken on a bet that he can make it around the world in 80 days.

The Chronicles of Riddick: Riddick, on the run from mercenaries eager to claim the price on his head, seeks refuge on the planet of Helion, only to discover he's walked into a world in chaos.

The Day After Tomorrow: A climatological disaster ravages the world beyond recognition. As millions of terrified survivors flee the south, Professor Adrian Hall heads to New York City in search of his son Sam who may still be alive.

Dodgeball: When corporate workout center Globo Gym moves to town, locally-owned fitness center Average Joe's loses business. Faced with going under, the crew enter a high-stakes dodgeball tournament in order to save their local gym.

Garfield: Garfield's owner takes in sweet but dimwitted pooch Odie, turning Garfield's world upside down. But when the pup is kidnapped, Garfield feels responsible and springs into action to return the pup.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban: See review.

The Stepford Wives: Joanna and her husband move into the suburban community of Stepford, where she soon notices that the housewives seem too perfect. After some investigation, she uncovers the town's secret.

The Terminal: An immigrant is forced to live at Kennedy Airport when his former war-torn country's borders are erased, voiding his passport and leaving him with no political home.

Two Brothers: Twin tigers are born in French Indochina and are soon captured. They then find themselves reunited--but as forced enemies, pitted against each other in a fighting match.

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Chris Columbus saturated the first two Harry Potter films with gloss and prepubescent storytelling, apparently synonymous with J.K. Rowling's first two books. However, Alfonso Cuaron has transformed the third, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," into an independentesque drama that has allowed the story to grow as well as its character's acting abilities.

From the beginning of the film, Cuaron creates an independent and dark feel to the film, implementing a grainy yet well crafted picture devoid of any simplistic cinematography indistinguishable with Columbus. While Columbus was effective and true to the first two books, Cuaron's new direction and style represents a shift in not only the story, but in Rowling's writing disposition.

In this third year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the film develops around the escape of Sirius Black from Azkaban Prison. Everyone, including Harry, thinks Black has come back to kill him after being implicated in Voldemort's plot to kill Harry's parents.

All the main characters are back, including Harry, Ronald and Hermione. They have grown considerably both in age and acting ability. Columbus used computer generated images and cutaways to mask his young heroes' lack of talent. Cuaron, however, apparently taught them a trick or two, holding close-ups longer, and allowing more emotion and depth to creep into the story.

The third installment allows for some new talent to immerse itself, including Professor Lupin, who tutors Harry, and Professor Sybil Trelawney, who adds nothing more than a few laughs and a subtle plot addition.

Altogether, the progression and style Cuaron brings to the picture is the most noteworthy addition to the franchise, allowing a more sophisticated story to develop. As Harry goes deeper into the mysteries, the audience seems rejuvenated in its interest toward a character and story that might have become tiresome.

OVERALL RATING:

Community Calendar

To have your activity or event featured in the Community Calendar, e-mail your requests to hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or fax 473-2876. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's issue. Items will run on a space available basis.

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Hickam/Pearl Harbor Region 188 will hold the final registration for fall youth soccer from 2-6 p.m. **July 31** at the Hickam AFB BXtra. Registration is open to boys and girls ages 4-18. The season runs from August through early November. The registration fee is $55. Proof of age is required for first time registrants. Pre-register online at www.aysoregion188.org. For more information, call 834-5979 or email registrar@aysoregion188.org.

USS Hopper Ohana will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. **Aug. 3** at the fellowship hall of the Pearl Harbor Base Chapel. A guest speaker from FFSC will discuss stress management. The ohana will also discuss the ship's lei, deployment events and committees. Childcare will be provided free of charge. The ohana will host its monthly breakfast club at 9 a.m. **Aug. 21** at the Eagle Cafe on Nimitz. Breakfast is Dutch treat. For more information, email hopperohana70@yahoo.com or call Sabrina at 625-5438.

CPO Selectees, Bravo Zulu. The Navy Exchange wants to celebrate your big career achievement. Visit the NEX Uniform Center for refreshments, giveaways and fun from 6-9 p.m. **August 10-11.**

A shark presentation will begin at noon **Aug. 15** at the Wyland Gallery at the Navy Exchange.

Patrons can learn all about the wonderful world of sharks.

USS O'Kane Ohana will host an end of summer picnic from 1-4 p.m. **Aug. 15** at Honeymoon Beach on Hickam Air Force Base. There will be door prizes, games and fun for the entire family. The event is potluck; those whose last name starts with A-M should bring an appetizer or side dish. Those with last names starting with N-Z should bring a dessert. Families who plan to attend are asked to e-mail Kim at okaneohana@yahoo.com to RSVP and let her know what dish you will be bringing. The ohana is also hosting a food drive and asks attendees to bring non-perishable food to donate to the Food Bank. Volunteers are still needed to help with the picnic. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact Kim at the above e-mail address.

A blood drive will be held **Aug. 26** from 9 a.m.-noon at U.S. Air Force, Hickam Community Center. For more information, call 433-6148.

Meet the author, James D. Hornfischer, author of "The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors," from noon-1 p.m. **Aug. 29** at the Navy Exchange book department. The book is a stirring account of the U.S. Navy's impossible victory during the Battle off Samar, October 1944.

How to contact TriWest/TRICARE services - Beneficiaries can contact TriWest with enrollment; Primary Care Manager and address changes; program benefits questions; claims status; fee payments and locating network providers in the area by calling 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378), visiting their web site at www.triwest.com, or visiting TRICARE Service Centers located at Makalapa Medical Clinic and Kaneohe Bay Medical Clinic. The TRICARE Service Center located at the Pearl Harbor Makalapa Clinic is open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The TRICARE Service Center located at the Kaneohe Clinic is open from 7-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m.

The University of Oklahoma offers a master of arts in managerial economics and a master of public administration. The non-thesis programs can be completed in about 18 months. The school offers one-week classes that are TDY/TAD friendly. For more information, contact OU at 449-6364 or aphickam@ou.edu or visit www.goou.ou.edu.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a nonprofit, noncommercial weight-loss support group, meets every Wednesday at the Armed Services YMCA, Aliamanu location. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:15 p.m. Membership fees are low and includes the T.O.P.S. magazine. There are also incentive programs offered. The first meeting is free.

T.O.P.S. in Hawai'i is a support group for helping members Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group recently held its state convention and crowned the state queen. She had lost all her weight by the end of December 2003 and lost 163 pounds. The first meeting of T.O.P.S. is free. If you need support in your weight loss efforts, the group offers low monthly fees and a low joining fee. Call Delcie at 623-1403 for information on the several chapters and meeting places on the island. For more information, call Delcie at 623-1403.

Welcome Baby support group: All expectant and new moms are invited to attend. The group meets twice a month. Children are welcome to attend. For more information or to reserve a spot, call Terri or Susan at 363-1897.

The Children's Waiting Room is a place where parents can drop off their children if they have a doctor's appointment. The Armed Services YMCA is in need of volunteers to keep this program running at Tripler Army Medical Center. The hours of the waiting room are from 8 a.m.-noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Those who are interested in volunteering or who wish to place an appointment should call 833-1185.

The Pearl Harbor Aquatics Tsunami is a competitive swim team that practices daily at Richardson Pool. It is open to both military and civilian swimmers ages six years and up. The team is a USA swimming affiliate. For more information, visit the team's Web site at www.tsunamis.homestead.com or contact at 471-9181or email: phsc@inix.com.

STORY IDEAS?
Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements
Phone: (808) 473-2888
Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com
Hawaii Navy News

The MCEC in the Pacific Fleet: Helping with education

JO1 Phil Hasenkamp
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

With a new Secretary of the Navy memorandum in hand, Adm. Walter F. Doran, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, helped usher in a new era of educational focus for Navy service members and their families here July 22.

The memo, which directs the Navy and Marine Corps to fund Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) activities at all CONUS [continental U.S.] and Hawai'i schools, will help educators, students, principals and families tap into the organization's unique services, aimed at enriching educational opportunities and easing transitions for military children.

"This really is a great step for the Department of the Navy, and it will really help us in promulgating all of the work that this organization does," said Doran during a roundtable discussion in Colorado Springs attended by teachers, principals and military students from around the world. "I couldn't be happier for all of the families of the Navy and Marine Corps who will be beneficiaries of that."

The significance of the memo's words lie in the actions it will allow educators and their families to take in ensuring the best educational experience for military children. Some of the big picture initiatives are already underway.

"Two Pacific Fleet regions - Navy Region Hawai'i and Navy Region Northwest - have hired school liaison officers," he said. "One of their accomplishments in the past year [has] included increasing the number of Navy commands who partner with local schools. We're identifying resources and developing training for parents and students, and we're partnering with local schools and other organizations to develop solutions for successful education transition for students."

Dr. Mary Keller, executive director for MCEC, said programs for the unique challenges military children face provide a case study for other groups of students with special needs.

"The lessons we learn in helping military children help us to work with children of other highly mobile populations," she said. "With the military child, there are more challenges because of separation and deployment of the parents. Strategies for transition and mobility are useful for any child, especially the military child."

Many of MCEC's initiatives center on training teachers and other educators in schools with military children in the special techniques needed to deal with the hurdles facing military children.

"I believe that our major accomplishments have to do in the area of professional development of our educators and teachers," Keller said. "We have trained more than 2,000 counselors and other educators, and others who serve in schools. We've also trained other people on military bases who provide family support and transition programs."

Other programs MCEC proposes include using existing information technology resources, such as computer networks on military installations or video teleconference facilities.

According to Keller, one of the newest pieces of interactive gear is destined to become a big part of a military child's move from one school to another. The Interactive Counseling Center (ICC) isn't a technological revolution by any means. The system is basically a computer with a web cam and fax machine, but its impact on military children is significant.

U.S. Navy photo by PH1 Toiete Jackson
AW2(AW) Mario Gomez reads to students at Cedar Hills Elementary School in Jacksonville, Fla.

"The ICC allows you to plan with the receiving school and avoid surprises during the student transfer process," Keller said. "With this technology, a family and their child can talk with counselors, teachers, coaches, or even another student at the new school."

Air Force Gen. Ralph "Ed" Eberhart, commander, U.S. Northern Command, said organizations like MCEC provide a boost for students as they grow, and become citizens and leaders. He said using lessons learned can help military children in the future.

"Although we can talk about the past, what is really important is the future of our children," Eberhart said.

"They are literally and figuratively our future. They are the future of our families and the future of this great nation," he continued. "That is what MCEC is all about."

PACFLT Band hosts Australian Navy Band for RIMPAC

JO2 Jessica B. Davis
U.S. Pacific Fleet, Public Affairs

For the first time in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise history, members of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Band performed with the U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) Band during July.

While their ship, the HMAS Parramatta (FFH-154) was involved in exercises with five other countries, four RAN band members conducted a Navy musician's version of RIMPAC.

"One thing I'm really blown away by the U.S. Navy is how many people they have and the large amount of resources they have," said Able Seaman Musician Isaac Lo, piano and side drum player for the RAN Band. "I think there is just so much more that you can do with such a large number of people."

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Jessica Davis
PACFLT band performs with the RAN band.

There are 110 active duty band members in the RAN today. The U.S. Navy Band is currently about seven times larger.

"They're a very good, strong, professional band," Lo said. "I've been really interested in their management structure and how they do business. I've learned a lot from them."

"Australia has always had strong ties and a significant relationship with the United States," said Able Seaman Musician Lachlan Macfie, bass guitar and drum player for RAN Band. "Sometimes our countries' governments are not always popular with the people, but that doesn't seem to affect (the band's) foreign relations."

The RAN band members and the PACFLT band have performed together at various change of commands, retirement ceremonies and had a few occasions to perform for a local audience.

"(Americans) are really patriotic here and we are very patriotic in Australia as well," said Able Seaman Musician Tracy Burke, vocalist for RAN Band.

"For us to come out here is basically to show what Australia does and what we believe in as well," she continued.

The four Australian musicians have bonded with the PACFLT band members as a family and grown professionally.

"I think the biggest thing we've done here is formed a strong bond between the American and Australian bands," said Seaman Musician Carl Riseley, RAN band trumpet player. We've been staying at their homes and hanging out. Now there is quite a strong bond."

"We've found friends," Burke said. "They've just opened their arms to us and it has been fantastic."

The four band members were originally scheduled to deploy with the Paramatta during RIMPAC, but fortunately were able to stay under the supervision of PACFLT Band's Senior Chief Musician Robert Bowman, the leading chief petty officer.

"It has been a great pleasure having them here," Bowman said. "They have made a lasting impression on us. They're very talented musicians and they're good Sailors. But above all that they're nice people. We're going to miss them."