

USS Chung-Hoon joins fleet



Visiting history

Chief selectees visit "Old Ironsides." See story on page A-6.



Purple People

Team in Training sweats for a good cause. See story on page B-1.



Hispanic Heritage Celebration next week

The Naval Station Pearl Harbor Hispanic Heritage Month celebration will be held on Ward Field Sept. 24 from noon to 3 p.m. There will be music, food and giveaways.

Surface Line Week

The 20th annual Middle Pacific Surface Line Week will be held at Naval Station Pearl Harbor next week. Activities will encompass 14 professional skill event competitions among Middle Pacific Navy and Coast Guard afloat commands.

Activities are scheduled throughout the week at a variety of venues around Naval Station Pearl Harbor. They include a RHIB regatta, Damage Control Olympics and shooting competitions. The week focuses on encouraging camaraderie, spirit and command pride in the framework of friendly competition.

Navy birthday celebrations coming up

The Navy enlisted Birthday Ball will be held Oct. 2 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Tickets are \$40 per person. See your command representative for more information. The Officers' Ball will be held Oct. 9 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village from 6 p.m. to midnight. The no-host social call will begin at 6 p.m. and officer's call is at 6:45. Tickets are on sale for \$40 per person for O-3 and below, \$45 per person for O-4 and \$50 per person for O-5 and above and civilians GS-7 and above.

Rooms are available for each celebration. Call 949-4321, press 2 for reservations and identify yourself with either celebration to request the special rate of \$112 per night. Free childcare is also being offered for each celebration.

Department of Defense Release

The newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, Chung-Hoon, will be commissioned tomorrow during a ceremony at Ford Island, at 10:30 a.m.

The ship honors Rear Adm. Gordon P. Chung-Hoon, born in Honolulu, July 25, 1910. Chung-Hoon attended the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in May 1934.

He is a recipient of the Navy Cross and Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism as commanding officer of USS Sigsbee from May 1944 to October 1945. In the spring of 1945, the Sigsbee assisted in the destruction of 20 enemy planes while screening a carrier strike force off the Japanese island of Kyushu.

On April 14, 1945, while on radar picket station off Okinawa, a kamikaze crashed into Sigsbee, reducing her starboard engine to five knots and knocking out the ship's port engine and steering control.

Despite the damage, then Cmdr. Chung-Hoon valiantly kept his anti-aircraft batteries delivering "prolonged and effective fire" against the continuing enemy air attack while simultaneously directing the damage control efforts that allowed his ship to make port under her own power. Chung-Hoon retired in October 1959 and died in July 1979.

Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii will deliver the ceremony's principal address. Michelle Punana Chung-Hoon, niece of the ship's

namesake, will serve as ship's sponsor. In the time-honored Navy tradition of commissioning U.S. naval ships, she will give the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

Chung-Hoon is the 43rd ship of 62 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers currently authorized by Congress. This highly capable multi-mission ship can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of the National Military Strategy.

Chung-Hoon will be capable of fighting air, surface, and subsurface battles simultaneously. The ship contains myriad offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

Cmdr. Kenneth L. Williams, a native of Darmstadt, Ind., is the ship's first commanding officer. With a crew of approximately 330 officers, chiefs and enlisted personnel, the ship will be homeported in Pearl Harbor as a member of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The 20th Aegis destroyer built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems in Pascagoula, Miss., Chung-Hoon is 509.5 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, an overall beam of 66.5 feet, and a navigational draft of 31.9 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the 9,300-ton ship to speeds of more than 30 knots.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more photos of Chung-Hoon's arrival and events over the past week, see pages A-4 and A-5.



Sailors man the rails aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), while arriving in their new homeport of Pearl Harbor. U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin

Chiefs celebrate heritage

JO1 Daniel J. Calderon Editor

More than 250 Oahu-area chief selectees from more than 30 commands and nearly 400 senior enlisted Sailors gathered Tuesday for their annual Heritage Run around Ford Island.

The run is meant to cap off the initiation period of prospective chiefs who have spent the last few weeks receiving training from their mentors on their new responsibilities. At historic spots on Ford Island, the selectees stopped and listened to one of their own talk about the significance of the site. Sites included the USS Utah Memorial, the Battleship Missouri and the banyan tree overlooking the USS Arizona Memorial.

"I've been here since 1996," said Chief Information Systems Technician (SW) Ronald E. Ramsey of Joint Intelligence Command Pacific. "I was really proud to finally get my chance to make this run."

Ramsey arrived here as an E-5. The 34-year-old Albuquerque, N.M., native received his promotion to IT1 in 1999. He has been stationed aboard USS Russell (DDG 59) and at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific. There, Ramsey met ITCM (SW/AW) Clifford Deason.

"He really mentored me," Ramsey said. "He taught me about what kind of chief I want to be."

The 15-year Navy veteran said the initiation cycle was more difficult than he anticipated.

"I thought I was ready," Ramsey said. "Before I was selected, I thought I was acting as a chief, but I didn't realize how much went on in the background of the chiefs' mess."



More than 250 Oahu-area chief selectees from more than 30 commands and nearly 400 senior enlisted Sailors made their annual Heritage Run around Ford Island Tuesday. U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin

The level of authority and responsibility can be intimidating, but I accept the challenge.

"It's not just a promotion," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott who was in Hawai'i to speak with the prospective chiefs. "We selected you because of what you can bring to our Navy. The future of our Sailors and our Navy rest in your hands."

Scott also reminded the assemblage about the core competencies all chief petty officers must keep in mind.

"Chief petty officers are enlisted warriors who lead and manage the Sailor resources of the Navy they serve," he began. "As such, chief petty officers are responsible for, have the authority to accomplish and are held accountable for:

- Leading Sailors and applying their skills to tasks that enable mission accomplishment for the U.S. Navy.
- Developing enlisted and

Sailors man the rails aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), while arriving in their new homeport of Pearl Harbor. U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin



JPAC members carry the repatriated remains of American servicemen onto Hickam Air Force Base Tuesday. Photo by Staff Sgt. Catherine Thompson

Repatriation ceremony held at Hickam on POW/MIA Day

JO3 Michaela Kekedy Staff Writer

The family of Marine Corps' 2nd Lt. Donald J. Matocha have waited almost four decades for him to come home from the Korean War.

On Sept. 14, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, they waited with current service members and veterans groups on the flight line of Hickam Air Force Base for the arrival of the remains believed to be of four other Americans who had served in World War II, the Cold and Korean Wars.

The family received Matocha's remains Monday and attended the ceremony to experience the honors that were presented to their loved one when he came home earlier this year, according to Maj. Rumi Nielson-Green, a spokesperson for Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's (JPAC).

"It was so moving, so

heartfelt, so dignified. I'm proud to be an American," said Loretta Eiben, Matocha's sister, after the ceremony concluded.

The repatriation ceremony and remembrance of prisoners of war (POW) and those still missing in action (MIA) signaled another fulfillment of the promise America makes to its military and their families: no one will be left behind.

"We won't forget. It's our blood debt to them," said Brig. Gen. W. Montague Winfield, commanding general of JPAC during the ceremony.

The remains were taken for forensic identification at the Central Identification Laboratory at JPAC.

During his remarks, Winfield stressed the importance of never forgetting those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and JPAC's duty to see that the families

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated

Excerpts from President Bush's speech Wednesday

This is the month we celebrate great contributions of Latinos to our country. It's a special month. It really echoes our diversity and the strength of our great democracy. I spend a lot of time talking about the transformational power of liberty, reminding people that liberty has got an incredible way of taking diverse people and uniting them into one common purpose -- pais, a great land. That's why we believe democracy has a place in our own neighborhood.

People often talk about the Latino culture. Here's how I like to describe it: faith in God, commitment to family, and love of country. In this moment in our history, America is defending -- depending on the unselfish dedication of patriots. Today there are almost 200,000 Hispanic Americans serving in the Armed Forces. Eight of these incredibly brave men and women are with us today. I want to thank you all for coming. Thank you for wearing the uniform.

Latinos have contributed to defense of freedom abroad and to the advance of freedom inside our own country. This afternoon, Laura and I

were honored to meet members of an Hispanic-American family who struggled against discrimination and won a victory for all in this country.

As we celebrate this important month, we also need to celebrate ownership, because that's part of the American experience. We want more people owning their own home. I think there's nothing better than people opening up the door where they live and saying, welcome to my home. Bienvenidos a mi casa. Thanks for coming to my piece of property. And we must be dedicated to the proposition that ownership ought to extend to every neighborhood and every group.

Listen, we're a diverse nation, but there are things that bind us -- our love of freedom, our belief in God, our understanding of the importance of family, our desire to realize dreams, the deep desire for people to live in a free society. I'm proud of your heritage. I'm proud of the ancestry. I'm proud to call Latinos Americans, and I'm proud to be your President. God bless, and welcome to the White House.

For full text of this speech, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/09/20040915-8.html>

There are heroes in Iraq

Commentary

JOC (SW)

Joe Kane

U.S. Navy

Multinational

Security Transition

Command-Iraq

Public Affairs



There are true heroes in Iraq. I'm not talking about the American and Coalition soldiers who have come from around the world to risk their lives for the sake of freedom. That would be a great story to tell; rather, a great many stories to tell. But I'm not talking about them today.

Today I'm talking about a different kind of hero, the kind of men who are blazing a path into unfamiliar territory. The kind of men who step onto an uncertain path with the hope that it is the right one and that there will be no land mines awaiting them. I'm talking about the men and women of the Iraqi armed forces.

I hope this does not sound like a propaganda piece. I'm not trying to sell anyone on the idea that all the problems have been solved in Iraq. I'm convinced the real test will come once the Iraqi elections have been held. I just want to point out that some Iraqis are already learning the value and the price of liberty.

Yesterday a certain Iraqi soldier along with his unit engaged in a fire fight with terrorists in a village outside Baghdad.

During the heat of battle, he took a direct hit from an AK47. He was wearing body armor and the round hit him right in the chest and knocked him down. Now please remember that there have been some incidents of the Iraqi forces, in the early days of the new army, dropping their weapons and running when confronted by danger - not this guy.

He got up and continued to fire back. I don't know first-hand what it must have felt like to get hit -- even with armor -- but I'm told it's like getting hit in the chest with a sledgehammer. It knocks the wind out of you even as thoughts of sheer horror must pass through your mind for the briefest of moments before you realize you cheated death. This guy kept his head together and did not leave his comrades. This guy fought back.

That's when another round tore through his arm. At this point, the thought may have crossed his mind that things were getting bad. The fight was still raging and he's caught in the middle with a wounded arm. If he ever had a reason to run, this may have been a good one. Get to the back and get patched up -- honor intact. But his fellow soldiers were taking heavy fire on that position and already it was obvious that it was going to be a long fight. So this guy went back to work.

Did you ever have one of those days when you knew that you have to work late, and even as you do, you know that you will be dead tired for the next day's work when you really need to be at the top of your game? Catch 22. What else

can you do? Get to work and get it done. This may seem basic. But when you're talking about fighting -- I mean life and death physical fighting in extreme heat with explosions and gunfire around you -- do you KNOW that you would be able to get your back off the wall and face straight back into the oncoming fire? To do this you have to be fighting FOR something... something that means a LOT. You have to be convinced with a moral certainty that you may lose your life and if you do, it will have been worth it. This guy knew it. He turned around. He took aim and fired his weapon as the forces of hatred continued to bear down on his position.

Eventually the tide of battle turned, but not before the bloodied and wounded soldier had taken yet another hit, this time to his Kevlar helmet. And still he had continued to fight. And he survived.

I don't know his name and could not write it here even if I did. I would not put this brave soldier into more danger than he already is. Currently, the Iraqi army has no "Purple Heart" medal like we do. There is no award system to acknowledge bravery. And yet this soldier is one of many, although still too few, who are the hope for Iraq.

He is a hero, and his work has just begun. I only hope the new Iraqi government lives up to this kind of heroism and understands what it costs and what it is worth.

Editor's Note:

Chief Kane is the Navy Region Hawai'i LCPO for Public Affairs. He is TAD to Iraq for six months on special assignment.

Commentary

For Your Security and Safety

Karen S. Spangler, Assistant Editor

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Run red lights -- and you could be dead wrong

Karen Spangler
Assistant Editor

(Some information provided by Naval Safety Center)

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't find myself sitting at a green traffic light, waiting as one or two -- and sometimes as many as several cars -- continue through the traffic light on red.

I have a limited concept of how traffic signals operate, but I know that in order for me to have a green light, the drivers running the red light have had the stop signal for at least a few seconds. It really irks me, but I do the responsible driver thing and wait until they have cleared the intersection before I proceed on my green light.

It's a common problem and one which I'm sure many of our readers have encountered frequently. Or, perhaps there are some readers who are the problem -- the ones who risk themselves and other drivers to beat the light.

Either they are in too big a hurry, or too impatient, or they are convinced that even if they run the red light, no one is going to challenge them.

Well, they're wrong. And they could be dead wrong.

How big is the problem of people running red lights? According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, these people cause an estimated 260,000 crashes each year; of that number, about 750 are fatal. Nationally, fatal motor-vehicle crashes at traffic signals increased 18 percent in a six-year period, far outpacing the six percent rise in all other fatal crashes.

Traffic statistics show red-light running is a big problem. People running red lights and other traffic controls, such as stop and yield signs, are the leading cause of urban crashes.

Institute researchers studied police reports of crashes on public roads in four urban areas and

learned that of 13 types of crashes the researchers identified, running traffic controls accounted for 22 percent of the total.

Running red lights figured in 24 percent of all of these traffic-control-related crashes.

The same study showed that motorists are more likely to be injured in crashes involving red-light running than in other types of crashes. Occupant injuries occurred in 45 percent of such crashes, compared to 30 percent for other types of crashes.

A survey of American drivers showed that 55.8 percent admit to running red lights. Yet, 96 percent of the same drivers admit that they fear that someone will run a red light and hit them as they enter an intersection.

Although social scientists have hypothesized that frustration and road rage would represent what most American drivers in the survey perceived as the cause of red-light running, the results proved otherwise.

Only 15.8 percent cited these reasons, while nearly half (47.8 percent) admitted nothing more complicated than being in a hurry prompted them to run red lights.

Researchers also concluded that red-light runners do not conform to a set demographic. The dangerous practice reaches across drivers of all ages, economic groups and genders.

The perpetrators are everyday people: professionals, white-collar and blue-collar workers, unemployed, homemakers, parents and young adults.

If you have a security or safety question or concern, please send us an email or a fax and we'll obtain an answer.

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Hawai'i Sailors 'talk story'

Damage Controlman 3rd Class Chad Tolman

Damage Controlman 3rd Class Chad Tolman has long loved firefighting and country music.

By day, he works for the building manager and stands watch at building 150's Quarterdeck at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. But many Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights, he's one of the disc jockeys at the Country Bar at Club Pearl.

Tolman started his "music career" by asking the right person the right question.

"I loved the music and one day asked the manager if they needed any help," he remembers.

He said that it's the people who really make the work enjoyable.

"Everyone from 18-year-olds to admirals with their family members come in. You get to know the regulars and everyone knows you," he said.

Some of the best times he has had have been when the club sponsors games for the patrons, such as bubble

blowing contests or the rodeo simulation with "people riding around on a stick with a horse's head on it."

Although he enjoys his night job, Tolman always knew he wanted to be a firefighter. The Freeport, Maine native's grandfather, a retired firefighter, set a strong example for the family. Recently, his father established a firefighting unit at the power plant where he worked.

As soon as Tolman could, he volunteered with his hometown's fire department, helping to save homes and small businesses. Also, he found their community service projects such as family nights and fund-raising events rewarding.

He joined the Navy for more training and plans to again work with a fire department when he completes his Navy service.

In the remainder of his free time, Tolman takes advantage of one of Hawaii's greatest assets:

Vital statistics

Name:
Chad Tolman

Hometown:
Freeport, Maine

Duty station:
Naval Station, Pearl Harbor

Job:
Damage Controlman

Favorite part of the job:
The excitement and adrenaline rush that comes with firefighting.



U.S. Navy photo by JOSN Ryan C McGinley DC3 Chad Tolman prepares to spin the next tune at the Country Bar at Club Pearl.

golf courses.

"I played golf, baseball and basketball in high school," he said. "I've played mostly the military golf courses here, but I want to play Turtle Bay before I leave."

Tolman has spent the last two of his four years in the Navy in Hawai'i, including serving on USS O'Kane (DDG 77). He met his wife Candice here and three months ago, their

first child Madison was born.

He loves the extra time he gets to spend with his daughter while Candice is finishing her bachelor's degree in management from Chaminade University.

They plan to move to Columbia, S.C. near his parents after he completes his tour here next year.

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Adm. Gordon Paie'a Chung-Hoon



U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin

Cmdr. Kenneth Williams, USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) commanding officer, walks with Alois J. Pohl, a veteran of USS Sigsbee. The ship's namesake Adm. Gordon Paie'a Chung-Hoon was commanding officer aboard Sigsbee during his career.



U.S. Navy photo by JO5N Ryan C. McGinley

Sailors man the rails aboard the Navy's newest and most advanced Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), while transiting the channel into her new homeport of Pearl Harbor.



Keel laid January 14,



Launched December 15,



Christened January 11,



U.S. Navy photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
The Navy's newest and most advanced Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) sits moored at Ford Island after arriving at her new homeport of Pearl Harbor.



U.S. Navy photo by PH1 PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin
Cmdr. Kenneth Williams, USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) commanding officer inspects the sword of Adm. Gordon Paie'a Chung-Hoon. The sword was presented to the ship by the admiral's family at a ceremony aboard the ship Tuesday.

The Sword of Honor

Lt. j.g. James McLeod
Public Affairs, USS Chung-Hoon

In the weeks after that devastating attack Dec. 7, 1941, that rocked a nation and forever marked a "date that will live in infamy," a steel helmeted Navy diver worked against all hope in the pitch black darkness that once was the mighty battleship USS Arizona.

Now at the bottom of Pearl Harbor, the Arizona had become a victim of a Japanese bomb that hit her ammunition magazine and took the lives of many of her Sailors, in a flash.

Not counted in the casualties that day was the Arizona's gunnery officer, Lt. Gordon Chung-Hoon.

He was on shore leave at his home in Honolulu, Hawai'i as the bombs began to fall. True to the character of this sea warrior, upon hearing the commotion he quickly returned to man his station aboard the ship only to find that she was no longer there.

Chung-Hoon's nephew, Bob St. Claire, relates the story of that day as passed down in family tradition.

"Uncle Gordon," he said, "then proceeded to look for any available opportunity to assist. He ultimately was able to report back to Pearl Harbor. There he was able to lend a hand in assisting in pressing an effective defense against the ongoing Japanese onslaught."

It was a brutal day in our coun-

try's history and the first taste of battle for the sea warrior, Gordon Chung-Hoon. But in the dark days of the Second World War, it would not be his last.

In the darkness below, the Navy diver could only feel his way around in his search inside the stricken battleship. Upon surfacing, he had recovered various articles, one of which was a sword. Engraved on it was the name of its owner, Lt. Gordon Chung-Hoon.

In a ceremony aboard the USS Chung-Hoon, that same engraved sword was presented to Cmdr. Kenneth Williams, commanding officer of USS Chung-Hoon Tuesday, where it will henceforth be displayed aboard the ship.

The ceremony tied the events of that challenging day of the Second World War with these current times as we battle for our freedoms against the often unseen enemy of terrorism.

This "Sword of Honor" will remain reminiscent of all of those core Navy values so important to each of us...honor, courage and commitment.

Remembering those who sacrificed all aboard Arizona and lived out in the life of Gordon Chung-Hoon, these values are symbolically passed on to a new generation of Sailors and their latest tool to carry out their vital mission, the USS Chung-Hoon.



U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin
Veterans of USS Sigsbee prepare to board USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) Wednesday. The ship's namesake Adm. Gordon Paie'a Chung-Hoon commanded Sigsbee during his career.



U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin
The Navy's newest and most advanced Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) is welcomed into her new homeport of Pearl Harbor by a tugboat's water cannon. After the arrival, the ship's crew will prepare for their commissioning ceremony Sept. 18.

 Left Pascagoula
June 10, 2004

 Arrived at Pearl Harbor
September 10,

 Commissioned
September 18,

Chief selects experience life aboard 'Old Ironsides'

JOC(SW/AW) David Rush
COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

In early September, submariners from Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) and its support commands had the opportunity to visit and get underway aboard USS Constitution.

One hundred fifty chief selectees from around the country gathered in Boston from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3. The tall warship made two 'turn-around cruises' in Boston Harbor, where a 21-gun salute was rendered off Castle Island's Fort Independence in South Boston.

As they were when the rank of chief was created more than 100 years ago, chiefs are to this day the cornerstones of U.S. Navy heritage. They represent years of experience and leadership that help to plot the course for the Sailors and junior officers who work with them.

According to Chief Sonar Technician (sel) Rory Wohlgemuth, Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, the visit was an unforgettable experience. "The entire experience re-energized my feelings



U.S. Navy photo by STC(sel) Mark Williams

One hundred fifty chief selectees from around the country, including six submariners from Pearl Harbor, visited USS Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," Aug. 30 to Sept. 3.

towards my country and the Navy. I feel as if I was given a breath of fresh air and will do everything in my power to pass that feeling on to

those who work for me as well as those I work for," said Wohlgemuth.

As for the morale of the crew, Wohlgemuth said he was impressed with their enthusiasm.

"The crew of USS Constitution was incredible," said Wohlgemuth. "All of the training we received on setting sails and performing gun drills was supervised by undesignated deck seamen. Their level of knowledge and enthusiasm throughout the entire ship impressed me. They were asked to work very long hours to support our training and I never heard a complaint."

"My favorite moment was the 21-gun salute right off Fort Independence. I wish that I could describe the feeling as the cannons were going off to my shipmates, but unless you're there to experience it for yourself, it's just not possible to understand the true feeling," added Wohlgemuth.

Another Sailor who had the opportunity to get underway on Old Ironsides was Chief Electrician's Mate (sel) Matthew Mason, Naval Submarine Support Command.

According to Mason, the Navy

really hasn't changed in more than 200 years. "It taught me that some of the traditions from the old sailing days of the Navy still apply today."

As for what he gained from the experience as a chief select, Mason's words were simple. He plans to put his experience to work, "leading by example."

Another chosen Sailor, EMC (sel) Toshinobu McCormick, USS Louisville (SSN 724), described his experience as unforgettable.

"They only set sail two times a year," said McCormick. "We just went out to the end of Boston Harbor, turned around and came back, but it was a great honor to actually go out on that ship. Getting the feel for how Sailors lived on the boat, and actually sailing it, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Chief Sonar Technician (sel) Mark Williams, fellow submariner who is stationed aboard USS Columbia (SSN 771), was honored to visit Boston. "We marched, we sang, we helped out at a homeless shelter. I visited a veteran's home in Chelsea, Mass. and spoke to a World War II submarine veteran from

USS Spadefish (SS 411). He and I sat and talked for three hours. It was great," said Mason.

As for his time underway on a rather different Navy vessel, Williams was happy to be a part of the chief selects to visit the ship. "From the Sailor's perspective, just seeing the 206 year-old wood was just awesome. As a chief select, it was great because we came from all different walks of life and various Navy communities," said Williams.

"There were a lot of teamwork activities, like raising the sails, lowering the sails. But if you think you can move a 5,400 pound cannon by yourself, you're wrong," added Williams.

In all, six Sailors from the submarine community in Pearl Harbor were given the chance to participate in the chief select training aboard 'Old Ironsides.'

Homeported in Boston, USS Constitution is the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Commissioned on Oct. 21, 1797, the ship is known as 'Old Ironsides' because enemy cannon balls would simply bounce off her hull.

Chiefs: MCPON discusses upcoming changes

Continued from A-1

In addition to discussing heritage, Scott also took time to let the new chiefs know about some of the changes in store for the Navy.

"Our Sailors told us we have too many uniforms," he said. "Our Sailors told us the sea bag they have is not always the most practical for the working conditions we expect them to work in."

According to the MCPON, the most satisfied Sailors in the Task Force Uniform Survey were E-7 and above males.

"And who's been writing the uniform regulations for the last 228 years," he asked. "If you're satisfied, it's hard to be empathetic for those who need new uniforms."

As a result of the uniform survey, however, Scott said the Navy would

unveil its line of "concept uniforms" this winter. The uniforms will be tested throughout the Navy and will be displayed in every uniform shop in the fleet. Sailors will be able to submit their input regarding the uniforms. Scott said it didn't matter if the Sailors were actual wear-testers or if they simply had opinions on the look or feel of the concepts. He stressed everyone's ideas were important if the new uniforms were to be truly representative of the needs of the Sailors.

"Once you tell us what you want, we will take these concepts and create a production model," he said. "If you come back and tell us all eight of them are no good, then we'll go back to the drawing board."

Scott also outlined a few of the

changes to the uniform regulations already in place.

"We've removed the authority of COs to prescribe females to wear skirts," said the MCPON. "They can if they want to, but they can no longer be told they have to."

Scott also pointed out cell phones are authorized for wear. Backpacks, as long as they meet regulations, are also authorized to be carried.

"If you want to throw a backpack over your left shoulder, you can as long as it meets certain requirements," Scott said. "We don't need a bunch of individualization. We're still evaluating a number of other issues, though."

Cruz said the talk by the MCPON and the run went very well.

"I would like to personally thank everyone who helped coordinate the

last island-wide event of the transition season," he said. "I especially would like to thank those who participated in [Tuesday's] CPO heritage run. As you witnessed first hand, the turnout was phenomenal."

After speaking about heritage and new issues, Scott also admonished the new chiefs to use their added influence wisely.

"Have you ever heard a Sailor say, 'Sorry honey, but I can't have tomorrow off because the CNO said I can't,'" he asked. "Nobody is going to have the impact you will on your Sailors. Have you ever heard the expression, 'Ask the chief?' Well, my charge to you is don't wait to be asked. Get out in front and talk to your Sailors. If you're not talking with them, who is?"



U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin
MCPON(SS/AW) Terry Scott addresses chief selectees on Ford Island Tuesday.

Patriotic doctor yearns for U.S. citizenship

Margaret Tippy

Tripler Army Medical Center
Public Affairs Office

Dr. Anton C. Nicolescu is a passionate physician who has a history of doing everything the hard way – not because he wanted to – but because that's what life presented to him.

The former Romanian who works at Tripler Army Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System at Tripler said, smiling, "I feel very American as I don't take freedom for granted."

His dream is to become an American citizen after escaping from Romania in early 1990, ending up in jail in Sweden and a refugee camp during his odyssey, eventually making it to Palau with the help of his faith and church, marrying his Palauan wife, Kezia, and now the proud father of two boys.

In between, he was present in New York during the suicide terrorists' attack and destruction of the World Trade Center in 2001 and now is living happily in Hawai'i.

This is his life story. He went to medical school in Romania but "there was no freedom to advance or to move anywhere. The medical profession was a way to survive intellectually under an oppressive regime while helping my fellow countrymen in a tangible way. ...We weren't allowed pass-



Photo by Margaret Tippy
Capt. (Dr.) Jonathan S. Pederson, intern, right, talks to Dr. Anton Nicolescu, center, in one of Tripler's Intensive Care Units (ICUs) during Grand Rounds Sept. 3rd, as other interns listen in and take notes.

ports so I couldn't even go to Bulgaria, can you imagine?" he remarked.

Nicolae Ceausescu, the "leader of Romania" described in history as the "megalomaniac Communist dictator of Romania for 25 years," was tried and executed for his crimes Dec. 25, 1989. His policies held Nicolescu to "marginal jobs based on what I had accomplished professionally."

He received training in anesthesiology in Romania.

Nicolescu felt "... a breeze of freedom coming from Poland and some of the other countries (around)."

Nicolescu wanted freedom. "When you are in a Communist country, the state owns everything. There is no private sector, no competition."

During the political turmoil of early 1990, he crossed into Hungary knowing he had a friend there. He had no way back to Romania as repression was expanding. Sweden was his next destination and he had

to pass through Czechoslovakia and Poland on the way there – all without proper traveling documents.

"I reached the Baltic Sea just trying to survive – sleeping in railroad stations or wherever," Nicolescu said. "Finally, I got on a ferry boat to Copenhagen and then made it to Sweden."

He surrendered to the police at the border, was interrogated and got thrown in the city jail waiting for his case to come up. He chose Sweden because it was the only country that responded to his request for political asylum. Eventually, Nicolescu ended up back in Denmark in a refugee camp.

Denmark is a very small country that can only absorb so many refugees, he explained, so it is a very long process. His stay lasted more than a year. While paperwork was being processed – even though he was a doctor – he was not allowed to work, which "is professional suicide," he said.

While all this was going on, he and his wife, Kezia, had two sons – Philip, born in 1992, and Cristian, born in 1994.

He finished his internal medicine residency at Loma Linda in 1997 and was accepted by the University of Pittsburgh for a fellowship in critical care medicine. He was four months into the program when he had to leave based on the decision of the deportation and detention branch of U.S. Immigration. As he said, "I accomplish everything through the hard way."

He allowed his story to be told, hoping to inspire others. "If you really want something and you dream, it will come true sometimes," Nicolescu said.

Now he dedicates himself to teaching and working with what he calls the "high professionals" at Tripler. "They are really good (physicians)," Nicolescu said.

"Tony has a compassionate and caring approach to the sickest patients and their families," Col. Benjamin Berg, chief of the Directorate of Health, Education & Training said. "He is a role model for both younger and more experienced physicians, and I am very lucky that he is a colleague."

Nicolescu owes much of his success to what he calls "divine protection."

"I have great job satisfaction," he said, "taking care of the sickest of the military veteran, retiree and active duty population of the United States. It is a great position of trust. It also gives me the opportunity to serve the Pacific Islanders referred to Tripler, particularly the people of Palau, whom I have deep affection for."

"I am really enthusiastic (about) being a part of the ICU team," Nicolescu said. "Together we started the Fundamentals of Critical Care Support Course," the only course of its kind offered in the state of Hawai'i, and work closely with the eICU at Guam Navy Hospital."

His future plans include creating a palliative care service and multi-disciplinary simulation center for teaching purposes.

Fleet ASW focuses on training the fleet

JO2 Jessica B. Davis

U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

Fleet Anti-submarine Warfare Command (FLTASWCOM) began training its Sailors and civilians in June to integrate the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) concept, readying them to take this expertise to the fleet later this year.

All training and assessment team members from FLTASWCOM are required to go through the 10-week course, teaching them to combine air, sea and submarine warfare tactics.

"The U.S. is a maritime nation and the core of our maritime mission is to be able to move around the world's oceans independently, operate and carry out the mission of our national military," said Capt. Steve Johnson, director of training and acting chief of staff for FLTASWCOM.

According to Johnson, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., ASW is part of our overall Navy mission. Our ability to perform ASW allows us to be free from any submarine threat.

"We've used a number of different venues for our training program," Johnson said. "We've brought in a variety of experts, developed some of the curriculum ourselves. We've used opportunities to visit different installations, ships, aircraft and submarines, and we've sent people to sea to observe exercises."

The FLTASWCOM team members are taught about oceanography, sonar, tactics, resource management, surface ships, submarines and aircraft, as well as the systems of foreign submarines.

"I think the importance of this training is to make sure that everyone coming through the training is up to speed on how to integrate the three warfare areas – air, sea and submarine," said Senior Chief Sonar Technician (SS) Robert Palek, assessment team member for FLTASWCOM.

Palek is one of 35 other people who recently finished the training and will take qualification boards before going to the fleet.

"I'm enjoying the training," said Palek, a native of Titusville, Fla. "I'm learning something new every day."

The students are first experts in a specific ASW area, either aircraft, surface or submarine. The training teaches them the main ideas in the other two areas and gives them the skills to inte-

grate all three major aspects of ASW together.

"In order to be the operational center of excellence, our personnel have to be credible," said Johnson. "They have to have a level of knowledge that gives them the requisite status that they need to teach and evaluate other Sailors in the fleet."

Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Command is the Navy's newest and first command of its kind - designed to focus on quality and integrated fleet ASW training and to assess ASW performance.

"There are a number of commands that have to do anti-submarine warfare, but there has never been a single command that has worked across the various warfare communities together to improve and work on optimizing integrated ASW," Johnson said.

Fleet ASW Command has been operational since April and will be fully staffed early next year with about 150 personnel and detachments in Norfolk, Va. and in Yokosuka, Japan. During this phased staffing plan, the command is wasting no time getting its Sailors and civilians trained and out to the fleet.

"Initially, the training will be focused in the strike group area," Johnson said. "But over time we'll probably expand our training capabilities into different levels of the anti-submarine warfare mission, including up to the theater level in support of joint warfare."

Personnel from FLTASWCOM will train Sailors with the Nimitz and Roosevelt Strike Groups. Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Command will also send an assessment team to the Composite Training Unit Exercise aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) later this year. These ships will be the first to receive FLTASWCOM's expertise in integrated ASW training and assessment. These first deployments of FLTASWCOM personnel are keeping with the high priority that the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Walter F. Doran, has set for fleet ASW training.

"Anti-submarine warfare is a uniquely maritime mission," Johnson said. "As a maritime nation, we're required to operate when and where the president and our national policy and strategy tell us to operate. In order to do that, we need to conduct effective ASW to be able to conduct our overall mission of presence, power projection or whatever that mission may be."

Port Royal changes commanding officers



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Jonathan Fagnano

Capt. Matowitz took command of USS Port Royal in a scheduled underway change of command ceremony on the cruiser's flight deck Sept. 10. Matowitz, formerly of Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Staff in Washington D.C., succeeded Capt. Patrick E. Allen, who will continue his career as Chief of Staff Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic. During the underway ceremony held in Hawaiian waters, Allen was awarded the Legion of Merit, his second award.

Navy 'Tsunami' storms into India

JO1(SW) Alyssa Batarla

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The Pacific Fleet rock band, Tsunami, performed for the 450 children at Prayas Children's Home in New Delhi, India Sept. 4.

Prayas, a home for children that helps get some of India's 10 million children off the street and out of exploitation in three states of India, hosted the Navy band for an hour-long concert.

The band performed a high-energy mix of current rock and disco hits and while the majority of the children could not understand the words, they understood the music and spent the hour dancing and clapping along.

Prior to the band's performance, the nine-member ensemble arrived to a traditional greeting by the children, which included a drummer, dancer and a welcome ceremony. After getting set up, the children performed several traditional Indian songs and dances for the Sailors.

Tsunami was at the shelter as part of a 19-day friendship and cultural exchange tour in India. During the five days in New Delhi, the first stop on a trip that will take the band to Chennai, Vizag, Kolkata, Kharagpur, Mumbai and Goa, the band played a variety of venues for everyone from the street children to the U.S. ambassador to India.

"That was great," said Ambassador David C. Mulford, about an hour-long performance at his home, the Roosevelt House, for 100 guests of the embassy. "That was absolutely wonderful."



U.S. Navy photo by JO1(SW) Alyssa Batarla
Members of the Pacific Fleet rock band watch children from the Prayas Children's Home in New Delhi perform Sept. 4.

While in New Delhi, the band also performed a concert at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi's premium cultural venue for a crowd of 500 who clapped and cheered the band.

Aside from performing for the public, Tsunami also spent a day with their counterparts in the Indian navy.

The Indian Navy Band and Tsunami spent the afternoon performing for each other in various styles of music, from classical Indian, to American and Indian jazz, rock and pop, and they were able to learn about each other's instruments, lives and cultures before performing a joint concert that night.

"I wish I could have stayed here longer and learned some of the traditional singing techniques," said Musician 2nd Class Mallory McKendry, Tsunami's vocalist.

The concert brought about 300 guests to the Naushala auditorium

where the Indian Navy Band performed several selections, including a traditional song made popular in India by a Pakistani singer and "White Lightening" by Deep Purple.

After the Indian Navy Band performed, Tsunami took the stage, playing everything from disco to jazz, to current rock hits. Their new friends, the Indian Navy Band, stood in the back of the auditorium dancing, cheering and clapping along.

"We have just been privileged to view a musical feast. Tsunami, I'm told, is a wave in the sea caused by a volcano," said Commodore Ravinder Dutha, Delhi station commander, after listening to the joint concert. "In the meaning of Tsunami, this Pacific Fleet band has proved worthy of this name. They have created waves of pleasure."

Tsunami's visit to India is just one of many levels of cooperative interaction between the U.S. and Indian navies. Both nations share many common interests, which include protecting national security and a mutual desire for peace and stability in the South Asian region.

Another opportunity for joint support and cooperation is the upcoming annual exercise with the Indian and the U.S. military called Malabar 2004 that helps develop an environment of cooperation and interoperability with the two allies' military forces, to achieve the goals of regional peace and stability.

"We look forward to join hands, not only in music, but in everything else the two navies do," said Dutha. "Until you come back, we will remember you."

USS Crommelin officer earns leadership award

OS1 Daniel W. Roberts

USS Crommelin

Public Affairs

The Women Officers Professional Association (WOPA) announced the selection of USS Crommelin's (FFG 37) Lt. Courtney Minetree as a recipient of the 2004 Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award. The award was presented at the annual National WOPA Symposium held in July at the National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. Recipients received an engraved silver bowl and an award citation.

Two women (one officer and one enlisted) from Navy and Marine Corps are selected each year to be awarded for their outstanding leadership. The award's namesake, Capt. Joy Bright Hancock, served in the Navy from 1918 to 1953 and played a crucial role in the integration of women into regular active duty.

Minetree was recommended for the Joy Bright Hancock award for superior leadership while serving aboard Crommelin as auxiliaries officer and fire control officer, where her leadership proved to be the driving force behind a marked increase in effectiveness and efficiency in both divisions.

Throughout her tour on Crommelin, officers aboard said Minetree was one of the ship's most capable officers – she readily accepted

new challenges and always succeeded in overcoming them.

"I was a little shocked to be winning such a prestigious award," said Minetree. "It is one of those awards I have always thought it would be nice to win, but one I never thought I would actually be selected to receive. It's quite an honor."

Minetree, a native of Dinwiddie, Va., attended the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned in May 2000. Her first assignment was to USS Hopper (DDG 70) where she qualified as a surface warfare officer and served as boarding officer during a deployment to the northern Arabian Gulf.

Checking aboard Crommelin in January 2003, she made quick work of all required requalifications and served for 14 months as the ship's auxiliaries officer and six months as the fire control officer. Minetree is currently attending the Naval Post Graduate School where she is studying for her masters degree in science in undersea warfare.

"Minetree embodies all the qualities we seek in young surface warfare officers," said Cmdr. Donald D. Hodge, commanding officer of Crommelin. Her drive, determination, thirst for knowledge and her strong desire to take care of her division all made Crommelin stronger. I was privileged to serve with her. No stronger commitment to leadership exists in a junior officer."

NEX associates members of the military community

Tricia Conaty

Navy Exchange Marketing

Navy Exchange associates serve the military community every day, but for many employees, the connection runs deeper than just providing good customer service. Nearly half of all Navy Exchange associates are military dependents or active duty, reserve and retired military members.

"We emphasize hiring members of the military community because it's our mission to serve them," said Veronica Manz, Navy Exchange human resources manager. "We know how difficult it is for family members in particular to find a job when their sponsors are required to relocate."

Thirty-six percent of associates are military dependents, seven percent are members of the reserves and about two to four percent are active duty military. Active duty associates may only work for the exchange on a part-time basis.

The employee turnover rate at the Navy Exchange Hawaii is only 38 percent compared to the national retail average of 68 percent. This, said Manz, occurs despite the approximate three-year rotation of half the staff. "Associates who are also members of the military community understand our environment. The learning curve is lower, therefore our turnover rate is lower," she said.

Because military dependents are often single parents for long periods of time while their spouses are deployed, the Navy Exchange man-

agement looks for ways to accommodate their special schedules. Nerissa Lapoint, a camera department associate whose husband is an active duty Navy submariner, said she is often expected to be both mom and dad to her children in addition to her work duties.

"I have two children who I need to pick up from school and help with their homework so working evening hours would be difficult for me, especially when my husband is at sea," said Lapoint. "The managers and supervisors here have always understood my situation and have scheduled my hours so that I can be with my children when they need me."

Many active duty and retired military personnel also work at the Navy Exchange in addition to their duties, or upon completion of their military service. For these associates, the exchange offers similar work ethics and serves the same purpose as their primary careers.

"I wanted to do a job that worked every day with our military," said Bill Maxwell, front end operations manager and retired Air Force first sergeant. "We have many USAF patrons here and it's great to be able to work alongside them. I can look back at a time when I was a military customer and I'm able to empathize with their needs."

James Turner, distribution center associate and active duty Navy logistics support specialist at the Pearl Harbor Supply Center, said working part time for the Navy Exchange is a chance to give back to an organiza-

tion that gives to the military. "The Navy Exchange supports our forces. We are our best customers and if we're happy, everything works," said Turner.

Other associates said their military careers have prepared them well for their current duties at the Navy Exchange. Dion Galon, distribution center, spent 32 years in the Army including service during the Vietnam War. He said the military taught him how to get along with people of all backgrounds and cultures.

"When you're in a combat situation, you learn to take care of your friend, because your friend is going to take care of you," said Galon. "The same theory applies to working here. We need to treat our customers well because they are taking care of us."

The Navy Exchange takes pride in its associates and its mission to serve the military community. Customer feedback is taken seriously and associates are regularly rewarded for outstanding performance.

"If we hire someone great, we don't care if they are only here for two months," said Manz. "We would rather have a great person working here for a short time rather than a terrible employee forever."

The Navy Exchange is currently hiring associates for the holiday shopping season. Applications may be obtained at the drop boxes located in the first floor rotunda and the second floor cash wrap area of the Mall at Pearl Harbor. Those interested may also call 423-3278 to learn more about current openings.



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Hawaii Navy News

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Soccer players wrap up '04 Summer season

MM3 Greg Bookout

Staff Writer

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation summer soccer league teams wrapped up their season last weekend with a single elimination playoff tournament at Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Ward Field.

The playoff tree was based around seven teams, with the top seeded team from the regular season receiving a first round bye. The eighth and last place team from the USS O'Kane (DDG 77) was unable to participate in the playoffs since the ship was out to sea during the playoffs.

The bracket consisted of various ashore and afloat commands from around the region. In the first game of the tournament, the fourth seeded team from Naval

Security Group Activity, Kunia, 4-3 on the season, overcame the 3-4 fifth seeded Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific team 3-1 to move on to meet the top seeded bye team in the second round.

In the second game of the day, second seeded team 'Wolf Pac', 6-2 in the regular season, defeated the seventh seeded team 'Pasadena', 0-7 on the season 1-0 in a tight match. They moved on to face the third seeded team 'Bremerton', 5-2 overall who easily got by the sixth seeded 'Columbia' team, 2-5 coming into the contest, with a 4-1 victory.

Teams 'Bremerton' and the first seeded Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) team, 6-1 entering the tournament, emerged victorious in the

semi-final round to move into the title contest. The top seeded 'PHNSY & IMF' team prevailed in close battle, 2-1 to take home the summer soccer league title.

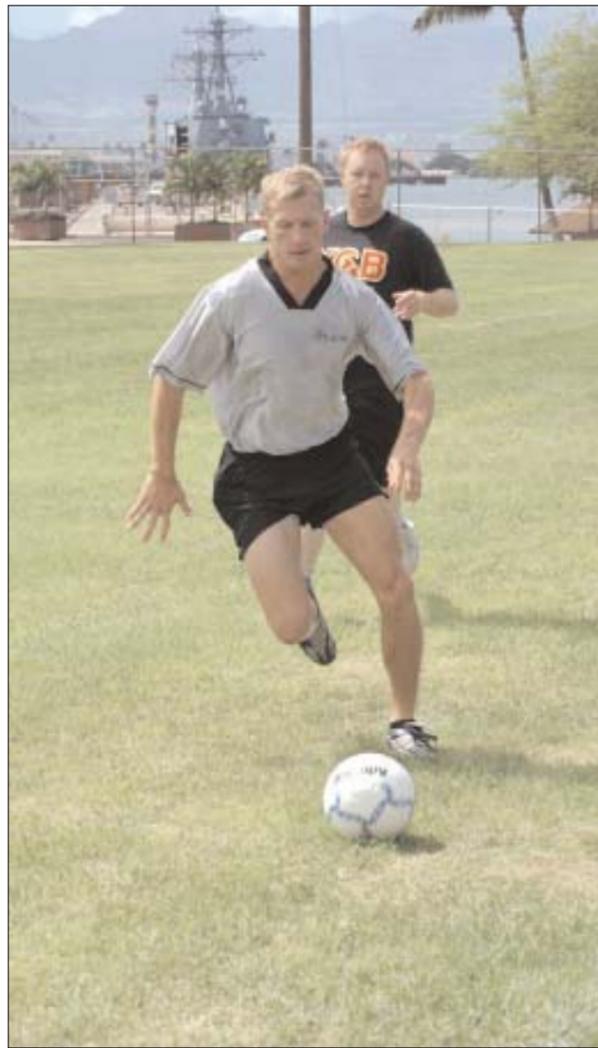
The coordinator of the runner-up team from the USS Bremerton (SSN 698) noted the positive impact that sports leagues can have on a command.

"The soccer league is an important thing for MWR to coordinate for the Navy," said Sonar Technician-Submarines 3rd Class Seth Grondin. "Playing team soccer boosts crew morale in and out of work. It keeps everyone in better shape, increasing overall command health, and since we do it as a team it increases camaraderie."

A Japanese submarine Sailor joined as a guest on the second place team for the tournament. The 'Bremerton' team hosted Yukihiro Takashi, an E-3 equivalent radioman stationed aboard the Japanese submarine Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Ship (JDS) Uzushio (SS 592).

"We are hosting Takashi on our team while they are here in port," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jeremy Tria. "He's a good player and it's great to have him on the team."

The hard fought soccer playoffs were a pinnacle to a competitive and entertaining season for all teams involved and gave Pearl Harbor a chance to host a foreign player in goodwill.



U.S. Navy photo by MM3 Greg Bookout
A member of the Bremerton team drives the ball up the field during the summer soccer playoffs on Sept. 11. Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard captured the title over the Bremerton team.



U.S. Navy photo by MM3 Greg Bookout
A member of team Bremerton slides in for the steal against a team Columbia member during a first round game in the summer soccer tournament.

Navy spouses paddle Kona to Honaunau

Amiee Huepenbecker

Client Relations Specialist
Navy Region Hawaii

The Navy Spouses Paddling Group paddled their way into 57th place at the Queen Liliuokalani Outrigger Canoe Race Sept. 4. The paddlers finished the 18-mile race from Kona to Honaunau with a time of two hours and 47 minutes. Crew members include: Alma Grocki, Suzy Dobiam, Tracy Taylor, Doni McClain, Tamara Janicke and Marie Ponce. Janicke was very impressed with the crew's performance considering they have only practiced together for about a month. In one word, Janicke summed up the event, "Amazing!"

Paddlers from around the world took part in the event. Janicke noted, "There were teams from Korea, Japan and all over, a total of 109 women's teams." Hawaiian traditions were prevalent at the race, the world's largest long distance outrigger canoe race. "Everything from the blessing to singing was very Hawaiian and a good feeling of aloha. The experience was truly unforgettable. We'll definitely try to do it again next year," said Janicke.

Anyone interested in outrigger canoe paddling can check out the Navy Spouses Paddling Group. Any MWR authorized patron may participate. They practice Monday and Thursday mornings at Rainbow Bay Marina, Pearl Harbor. For more information, call 473-0279.

JPAC: America fulfills its promise to the fallen 'no one left behind'

Continued from A-1

receive their loved ones home.

"We are the only nation in the world who does it," said Nielson-Green. "Other nations leave their dead where they fall."

Teams of 10 to 14 military members and civilians search very remote locations around the world in the hope of bringing closure to the families of MIAs.

Maj. Stacy Eiben, Matocha's nephew who currently serves in the U.S. Marine Corps, recounted the events of the past 36 years. On April 5, 1968 his uncle's reconnaissance team was investigating caves near Cam Lo, Quang Tri Province, Republic of [South] Vietnam. The team was ambushed by North Korean soldiers. Matocha was killed by a gunshot to the neck.

During the recovery operation, a corpsman, Dan Sellers, was able to verify that the lieutenant had died, but the backwash from the helicopter caused the body to fall into a ravine. The team came under enemy fire and had to evacuate the area.

"We received the news on April 11, Good Friday, the day before Donald's oldest nephew turned a year old," said Loretta Eiben. "It was the saddest day in my life."

Those days were marked by the additional concern that her husband Jim, also a Marine, was fighting in Denang.

The follow-on mission again located Matocha's body. It had been booby-trapped and when the team tried to move it, they suffered further losses. The area was bombed and sprayed with napalm.

Before any other recovery attempts were made, North Korean Army (NKA) soldiers found the body, moved it to a bomb crater and buried it. Maj. Eiben said that the NKA soldiers were not hiding the body to prevent its discovery, but showing the proper respect all soldiers show for a fallen soldier, whether friend or enemy.

Although Maj. Eiben was born two years after his uncle died, he said his large but close-knit family kept the memories of Matocha alive, especially on his birthday and the anniversary of the day he was lost. A picture of his uncle hung in his grandparents' home.

He attended the same university as his uncle, Texas A&M. He met individuals

who knew Matocha and had additional stories to share with him.

"I have a sense of wanting to make him proud," said Eiben.

Between September 1993 and May 2003, five joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam teams surveyed the area where Matocha's body was last seen.

Maj. Ryan Wolfgram, currently the operational teams chief for JPAC, was investigation team leader for Vietnam in May 2003. He listened to a former NKA soldier who told him about the bomb crater.

"I had my linguist check him out. He seemed very credible," Wolfgram said.

Wolfgram had seen where earlier teams had dug. However, he recommended that the area the witness identified as the burial site be excavated.

Matocha's remains were found in March 2004. Another team went back in May 2004 to finish the excavation of the site without finding any additional remains.

The identification was based on witness statements of survivors of the firefight, dental records, items recovered at the site, and DNA from his sister Linda Masure, who also attended Tuesday's repatriation ceremony. DNA identification through relatives in the individual's maternal line is one of the best types of evidence.

The identification on June 17, 2004, in only 27 days, was the fastest identification JPAC ever completed because the family's DNA was already on file. This achievement is even more remarkable because the highly acidic soil of Southeast Asia normally leaves few remains for JPAC's scientists to study, according to Nielson-Green.

Although this chapter of the Matocha family's life will close on Saturday with his burial in the town cemetery of Smithville, Texas, they plan to begin a new one.

"We will continue to work with the National League of Families of POWs to help other families keep hopeful," said Loretta Eiben.

Their experience underscores Wolfgram's advice to the families who are still waiting for the return of their loved one.

"The chapter is never closed. Never give up hope. We're here to get you the answers," he said.

Swimmers relax on the North Shore



Photo courtesy of Debbie Pfirrmann

Members of the Pearl Harbor Aquatics Tsunamis relax after participating in the North Shore Series this summer.