



“Navigator”

HO'OKELE

FOR THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TEAM IN HAWAII

JAN/FEB 2024

Capture...Tag...Release

Tagging project aids in endangered sea turtle conservation

Pg. 8



Photo caption:
Airmen assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam participate in a two-mile peace walk at the Missing Man Memorial on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jan. 11. The walk was held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day to replicate Dr. King's historic march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Ricker)

Ho'okele is a free publication.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, JBPHH, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876. This is an authorized publication primarily for members of the uniformed military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, and the military branch of services and do not imply endorsement thereof. A Hui Hou!

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Director of Public Affairs, Navy Region Hawaii

Kris Tanahara
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Chuck Anthony
Director of Public Affairs,
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Lisa Ferdinando
Director of Public Affairs,
Pacific Missile Range Facility

Anna Gonzales
Managing Editor / Writer

Melvin Gonzalvo
Video Editor / Photographer

MCC Christopher Blachly
Military Editor / Media Operations

Elaine Phillips
Contributing Graphic Artist

Jim Neuman
Danny Hayes
Wayne Randall
Raquel Cloma
Civilian Staff

MC1 Jose Jaen
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N-Code Spotlight *featuring*
Federal Fire Department

Firefighters respond to a sudden cardiac arrest emergency situation, save service member's life. Read the full story on page 12.

Your Navy Team in Hawaii
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii oversees two installations: Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Oahu and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, on Kauai. We provide oversight for the 10 surface ships homeported at JBPHH. Navy aircraft squadrons are also co-located at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe, Oahu, and training is sometimes also conducted on other islands, but most Navy assets are located at JBPHH and PMRF. These two installations serve fleet, fighter and family under the direction of Commander, Navy Installations Command.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Black History Month
- Presidents Day
- Photo Highlights

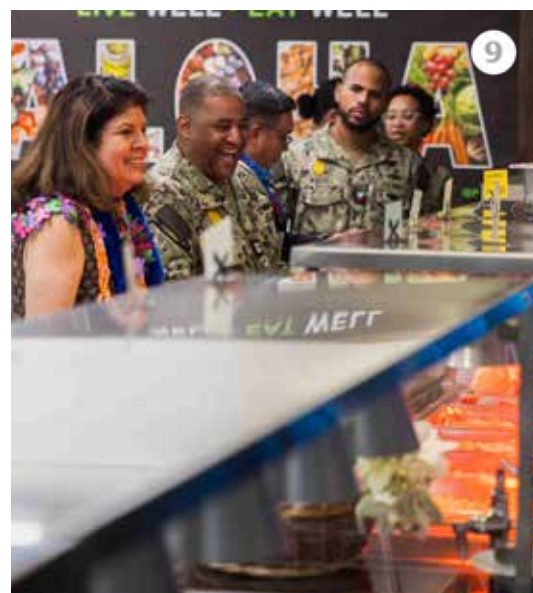
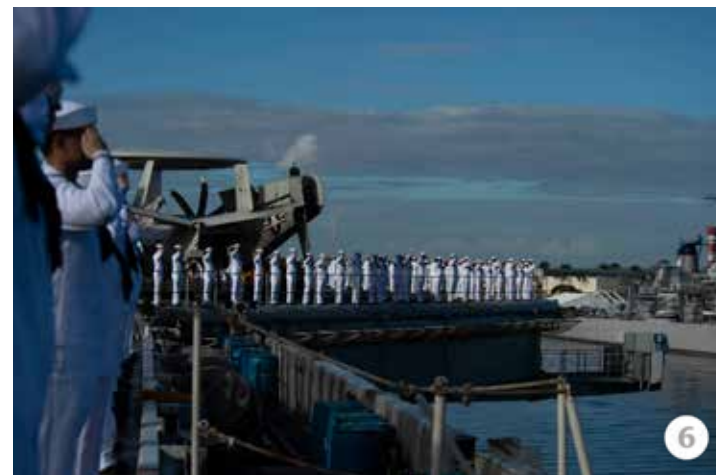
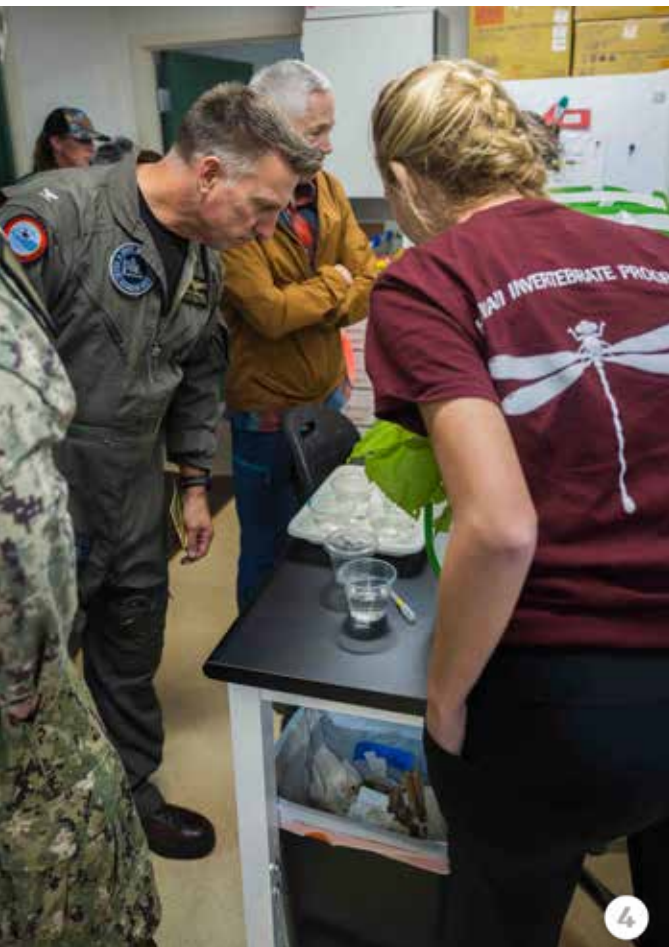
Check out our new lifestyle show:

The Navy, including your Navy team in Hawaii, builds partnerships and strengthens interoperability in the Pacific. Each year, Navy ships, submarines and aircraft from Hawaii participate in various training exercises with allies and friends in the Pacific and Indian Oceans to strengthen interoperability. Navy service members and civilians conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions in the South Pacific and in Asia. Working with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Navy in Hawaii provides drug interdiction and fisheries enforcement operations for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. In even-numbered years, Hawaii hosts the biennial summer Rim of the Pacific Exercise, the world's largest military maritime exercise, featuring more than two dozen nations and 25,000 personnel.

The Navy family in Hawaii comprises around 50,000 people, most of whom are active duty service members and their families, and includes nearly 15,000 civilians and contractors as part of our workforce.

JBPHH includes the Pearl Harbor waterfront, Hickam flight line, Wahiawa annex and several other areas in West Oahu and provides a major logistics and other support hub for the military and military families. Supporting the nation's ballistic missile defense initiative, the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the western coast of "The Garden Island," is the world's largest instrumented multidimensional testing and training missile range.

We provide services to the U.S. Pacific Command, one of the Department of Defense's six geographic combatant commands, with an area of responsibility covering half the globe. We directly support two component commands whose headquarters are on JBPHH: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, U.S. Pacific Air Force. Close to our own Region headquarters command is Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. With 18 forward-deployable combat-ready U.S. Navy submarines, Pearl Harbor is home to the largest submarine presence in the Pacific. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, on JBPHH, is the largest ship repair facility between the West Coast and the Far East. Within our region, we support more than 100 tenant commands.



1 The commanders and deputy commanders of Joint Task Force-Red Hill and Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (Vice Adm. John Wade, Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, Commander, Brig. Gen. Michelle Link, and Rear Adm. Marc Williams) visit the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF), Halawa, Feb. 6. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. ZaBarr Jones)

2 Military and civilian volunteers conduct a cleanup event at 'Ahua Reef on Joint Base Pearl-Harbor-Hickam, Jan. 26. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Thompson)

3 NFL players host a youth football clinic Feb. 7, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Their visit was part of NFL Pro Blitz, a week of events for military communities leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Thompson)

4 Mr. Ron Tickle, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Real Property, met with Capt. Mark Sohaney, commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and personnel from the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources during a site tour of the JBPHH FY22 REPI Challenge Award: Protecting Watersheds Above JBPHH. (Photo by Melvin J. Gonzalvo)

5 Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during Pacific Partnership 2024, Jan. 30. (Photo by MCC Joseph M. Buliavac)

6 Sailors render honors to the USS Arizona Memorial as Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) pulls into Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for a scheduled port visit, Feb. 13. (Photo by MC2 Larissa T. Dougherty)

7 Musician 3rd Class Damien Chambers sings the National Anthem during a Plank Owner Ceremony for the newly formed Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill at Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam, Jan. 18. (Photo by MC1 Luke McCall)

8 Family and friends of the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) crew watch as the submarine returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after a seven-month deployment, Jan. 31. (Photo by Cmdr. Amelia Umayam)

9 Mrs. Patricia "Patty" Barron, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, conducted an installation visit at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jan. 30. (Photo by Melvin J. Gonzalvo)

10 Staff Sgt. James Fearney and Airman Tavake Marquez, 747th Cyber Security Squadron expeditionary communications specialists, complete a climbing certification class at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jan. 11. (Photo by Senior Airman Mackenzie Cooper)



Early in 2024, an ash scattering was held at the USS Utah Memorial, where the family of Chief Machinist Mate John Simms gathered to honor his passing and his legacy as a member of the Greatest Generation.

John Simms was a quiet man from Denville, Kentucky, just outside of Lexington. In 1936, he joined the United States Navy, a decision that would eventually thrust him to the epicenter of the Day of Infamy. As a young Sailor stationed at the naval air station on Ford Island, Simms witnessed firsthand the carnage wrought by the Imperial Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 as America was plunged into World War II.

His experience was felt so deeply that he never talked about it openly, not even to those closest to him.

"He never talked about the attack, or the war in general," relates his daughter, Shirley Marseilles. "Every year, on Dec. 7, I would take him to the local commemoration of the attack and all of these veterans would stand up and talk about where they were and what they saw as Pearl Harbor survivors, but my father would never say anything. Sometimes he would just get very emotional."

Several times she asked him to open up on his experiences that day, but he would always respond with "no." Ms. Marseilles believes that he suffered too much from the painful memories of losing friends and witnessing death and simply did not want to relive that horrible scene.

Though he divulged precious little about his service record, Chief Simms served aboard several ships before and during World War II, including the USS Tracy, USS Nitro and even aboard one of the ships from the iconic Battleship Row, the USS Nevada.

According to the National World War II Museum, only 119,000 of the 16 million veterans who served during World War II remain. That represents less than 1% of the total. One hundred thirty-one veterans, like John Simms, pass away each day, and that number will no doubt increase as the years roll on.

Too many, like Chief Simms never relayed their experiences out of trauma or out of sense of feeling that their contributions did not warrant recognition. Thankfully his family was intent on honoring his wishes to have his ashes scattered on Pearl Harbor, where on this day they were mingled with the remains of the 49 crew members of the USS Utah, who remain entombed within her hull.

On Jan. 8, Chief Simms, representing the quiet warriors of the Greatest Generation was laid to rest in the waters of the harbor that serve as a bellwether of the Navy's legacy of honor, courage and commitment.

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- Sara Marseilles, daughter of John Simms



Sea turtles are an important part of the culture and natural resource heritage of Hawaii and are a key part of the marine ecosystem, reminding us that it is our responsibility to protect threatened or endangered species in our ocean.

Recently, researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) attached satellite transmitters to the shells of green (honu) and hawksbill (honu’ea) sea turtles in Pearl Harbor to begin collecting data about their daily behaviors and movements to understand and reverse declining population trends.

The telemetry tagging effort is part of a 10-year Interagency Agreement (IAA) between Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and the NMFS PIFSC. The joint program is being funded by the Navy and is the first ever turtle tagging study to document the movements and ranges of endangered sea turtles in Pearl Harbor.



Capture...Tag...Release

Tagging project aids in endangered sea turtle conservation

Story by Anna Marie Gonzales / Photos by Melvin Gonzalvo, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

“We are excited about this project because we’ve had conversations with our Navy partners since at least 2020 about the need for data on sea turtles in Pearl Harbor,” said Summer Martin, NOAA research biologist supervisor. “We all worked together to make this project happen, and it’s one that aligns well with our mission to produce high quality scientific data to understand and recover sea turtle populations.”

“Our mission is to support the recovery of threatened and endangered sea turtle populations which include conducting surveys and tagging to understand how many turtles there are, where they are, how they use and move between different areas such as those used for feeding and breeding, which are typically in separate locations,” added Martin.

The IAA provides an opportunity to streamline and expedite agreements through the coordination of resources and

elimination of unnecessary duplication, without entering into a memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding.

“Having an interagency agreement with the science center also allows us to look into other projects that we can partner on together so it opens a wide door for us to collaborate,” said Nicole Olmsted, natural resources specialist for NAVFAC Hawaii.”

The NOAA team began the project in January conducting small boat surveys and turtle capture operations every week and shared the process of the project.

“Two freedivers conducted snorkel surveys to observe turtles and were strategic about their captures,” said Martin. “Once they get a turtle they bring it safely to the surface and work together with the team to transfer the turtle to the boat where they typically capture several turtles in one spot and then bring them back to the dock for processing.”



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Summer Martin
NOAA research biologist supervisor

Before the processing began, the team ensured the turtles were calmed by putting a towel over their eyes and letting them settle into a comfortable position.

“The processing includes all the biological measurements, ID tags, photos, and tissue samples for molecular studies and then the satellite tag is attached using epoxy and a thin strip of fiberglass which is a painless process for the turtle,” said Martin. “The tags are painted with antifouling paint and then the turtles are released back into the water where they were captured.”

Telemetry tagging is a device that uses sensors on aquatic animals, like sea turtles, to record data about the animals and the ocean which helps researchers discover where the animals go and the environment they are in.

“Our goal is to place satellite tags on 20 turtles this year, and so far the team has deployed 13 satellite tags on green sea turtles over the course of four field days,” said Martin. “Telemetry tagging has been around for a few decades and technology has gotten better, especially with Fastloc GPS capability which is accurate to about 20 meters (65 ft.). Packets of data are transmitted to satellites and available for us to download and analyze.”

Over time the collected data will help scientists produce a better understanding of their habitat, growth rates, migration maps and more.

“While you can also find other types of turtles in Hawaii, this project focuses on green and hawksbill turtles because we know they exist in Pearl Harbor and we want to understand how they are using this local habitat,” said Martin.

Green Sea Turtles also known as *Chelonia mydas* grow to about 3-4 ft. long, weighing 250-400 lbs. and living for 70+ years; while Hawksbill turtles, also known as *Eretmochelys imbricata* grow to about 2-3.5 ft. long, weighing 100-150 lbs. with a lifespan of 50+ years.

In addition to the tagging, white alpha-numeric numbers are etched onto the turtles shells where people who find these turtles can help report their location.

“The shell etching numbers start with “P” for Pearl Harbor and are going in sequence for captures that are part of this project. Anyone in the area that sees one of these turtles can report it online through our Honu Count Program,” added Martin.

“Entanglement is a huge hazard so one way to protect turtles is to remove trash from the ocean including fishing gear and nets,” said Olmsted. “Maintain a safe distance from them and do not attempt to touch them. It’s also important to follow speed limits during boating to avoid strikes.”



Helpful tips to protect aquatic animals

1 Space

Give turtles space in and out of the water 10 feet is a respectful viewing distance

2 Nesting

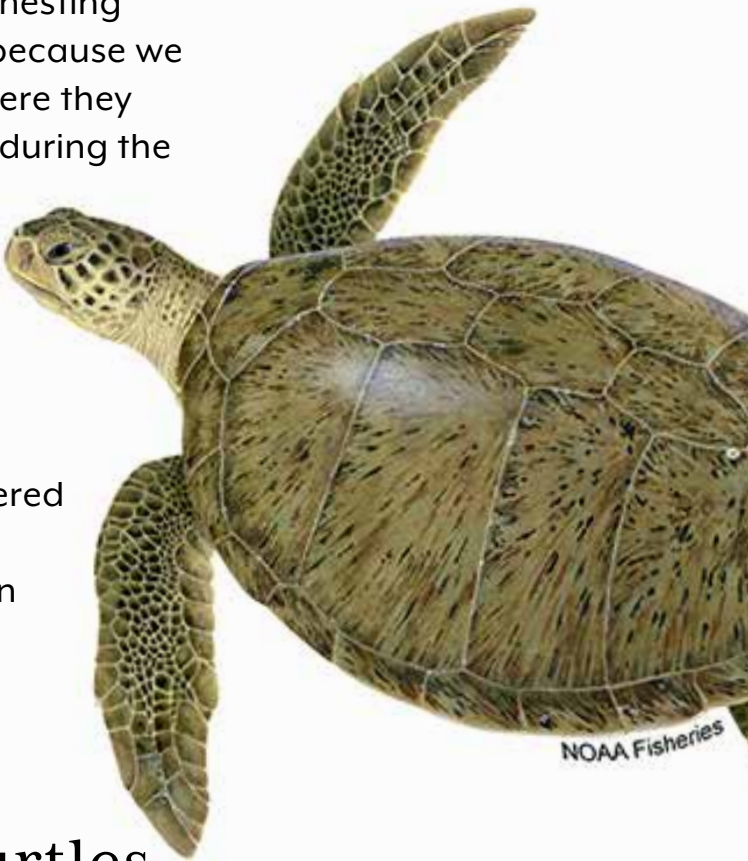
Report any suspected nesting activity or hatchlings because we don't always know where they are. Nesting season is during the summer months.

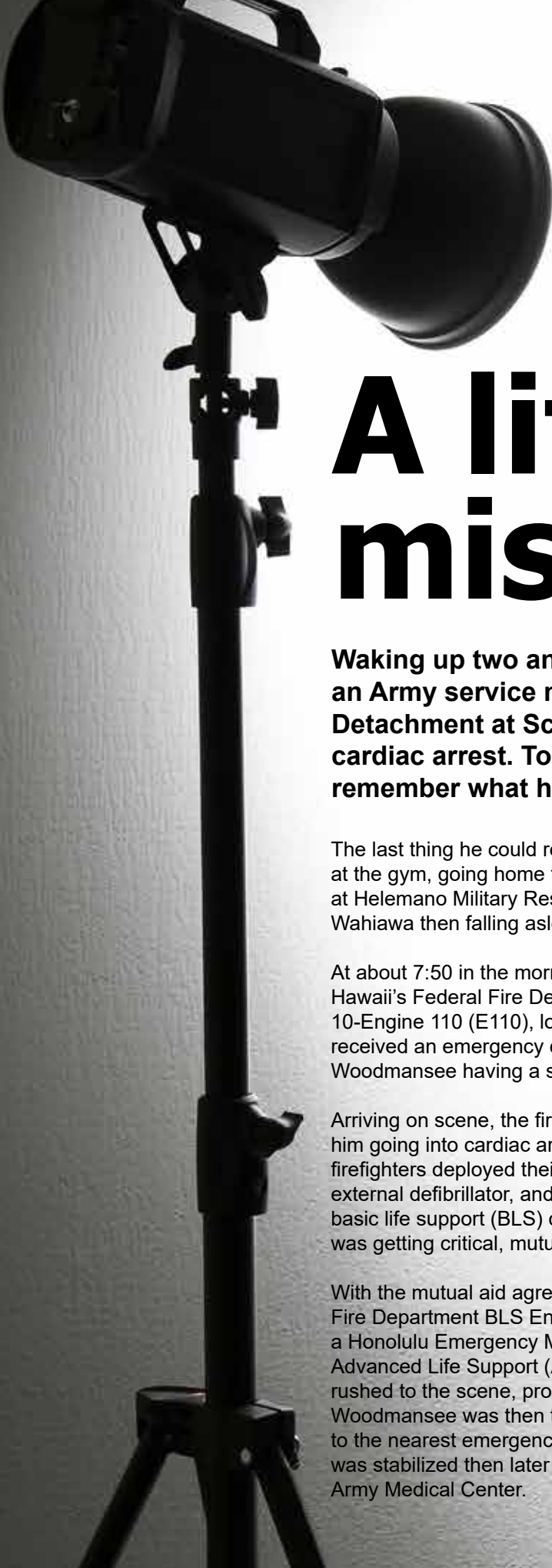
3 Numbered Turtles

Report any sightings of numbered turtles to Honu Count (find the Honu Count Sighting Survey on www.fisheries.noaa.gov) It's a great way to contribute to research and monitoring.

4 Stranded Turtles

Report any sick, injured, or dead turtles to the statewide NOAA hotline (888) 256-9840.





IN THE SPOTLIGHT *featuring* Federal Fire Department

A life-saving mission

Story by Anna Marie Gonzales
Photos by Melvin Gonzalvo
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Waking up two and a half weeks later, Sgt. Dustin Woodmansee, an Army service member assigned to the 13th Military Police Detachment at Schofield Barracks, experienced his first sudden cardiac arrest. To his surprise, he woke up in a hospital bed unable to remember what had happened or how he ended up where he was.

The last thing he could recall was working out at the gym, going home to his Army residence at Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) on Wahiawa then falling asleep.

At about 7:50 in the morning, Navy Region Hawaii's Federal Fire Department Station 10-Engine 110 (E110), located on HMR, received an emergency call and responded to Woodmansee having a seizure at his home.

Arriving on scene, the firefighters discovered him going into cardiac arrest. Immediately, the firefighters deployed their AED, or automated external defibrillator, and started CPR along with basic life support (BLS) care. As the incident was getting critical, mutual aid was requested.

With the mutual aid agreement, the Honolulu Fire Department BLS Engine company and a Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance rushed to the scene, providing prompt care. Woodmansee was then taken in critical condition to the nearest emergency department where he was stabilized then later transported to Tripler Army Medical Center.

Among the FFD firefighters who performed this life-saving event were Curtis Yoshikane, Tyler Agtang, Norman Lugo and Stephen Taheny.

Yoshikane, driver operator and emergency medical technician, established incident command, communicated with the Regional Dispatch Center, coordinated BLS resuscitation efforts, and ventilated the patient.

"As the lieutenant, I was focused on effectively communicating the game plan with my personnel based on the nature of the call to ensure we were all on the same page," said Yoshikane. "It is important that we clarify what each of our roles and responsibilities are on each emergency response prior to arriving on scene."

Agtang, firefighter and emergency medical technician, applied AED, delivered defibrillation, performed manual CPR and assisted with extrication of Woodmansee for transport.

"The first thing that ran through my mind was making sure we arrived at the address as quickly and safely as possible," said Agtang.



Lugo, firefighter and emergency medical technician, performed CPR, ventilated and assisted with extricating him for transport. Lugo shared his thoughts on how it made him feel to save a life.

"After seeing Woodmansee walking and talking so shortly after the event, all I could feel was relief," said Lugo. "Knowing that everyone on my team contributed to saving a life made me feel proud and validated that the continuous training we go through on a daily basis paid off."

Taheny, firefighter and emergency medical technician, inserted BLS airway adjunct, ventilated Woodmansee and assisted with extrication for transport.

"What I learned from this life-saving effort is that every member of the team plays a vital role in every emergency response that we have," said Taheny. "Communication is very important."

As a first responder himself, Woodmansee understands being in an emergency and thanked the firefighters and emergency medical technicians for a job well done in saving his life.

"So I'm really grateful for them as a survivor, the witnesses, firefighters and first responders, you guys executed extremely well." And as a first responder, I've worked with a lot of you and I'm grateful for the outcome. I'm just grateful to be here and to the people that helped me survive."

The CNRH FFD firefighters' motto is "Protecting those who defend America" which proves them to be the Department of Defense's role model for fire and emergency services. Teamwork is what really made the difference among these first responders, not just within the federal department but partnering with Hawaii's emergency medical technicians to save a life.

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Claude Crawford II joined the U.S. Navy to see the world. While serving our country, he was surrounded by great people who helped him earn his anchors and become a chief petty officer. Some people may not know that once a U.S. Navy chief petty officer receives his or her anchors, more is expected of you. More is demanded of you. You humbly accept challenges. You constantly face adversity. Now, after serving honorably for 24 years, Claude Crawford has humbly accepted the biggest challenge of his life...fighting prostate cancer.



WITH

Interview by Melvin Gonzalvo
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Mr. Claude Crawford

Retired Master Chief on his fight with prostate cancer



FEBRUARY IS CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Q. When did you decide to join the U.S. Navy?

A. I decided to join the Navy when I was in high school. Originally, I was going to the Air Force, but then I had a Navy recruiter come up to me and ask me why I wanted to go in the Air Force. He said, "Why don't you just join the Navy? It's a lot more fun and you can go to a lot of places around the world." So I ended up joining the Navy in 1981 when I graduated high school.

Q. What were your favorite port visits while you were in the Navy?

A. My favorite places that I really liked going to were Hong Kong, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and Australia. I want to go back to Japan, but I never could get orders back there. But I was able to come to Hawaii a couple of times and being stationed here twice was a good area for me.

Q. How did you end up in Hawaii?

A. So because I was a grocery manager in Bremerton, Washington, the detailer asked me if I would like to go to Hawaii as a deputy commissary officer. So I took the job because it was really interesting and it was something I was already familiar with. And once I started learning the techniques on how to run the grocery store and how to make sure I had the best reports, I had the best audit and I had the best commissary out of all 44 commissaries. And I had great folks around me, 54 civilians and seven military. That helped me become who I was in the Navy. I really

appreciate those folks that were there for me because you can't do everything alone.

Q. When did you find out you had prostate cancer?

A. On Dec. 27, 2022, I went to my regular doctor's appointment at the VA. And then the VA doctor said, "Mr. Crawford, I'm not worried about what you're here for, I'm worried about what I see. Your PSA (prostate-specific antigen). We're going to need to recheck you." So I went and got another PSA that same day. Then two weeks later it came back. My original number was at 11. I came back the second time and my number went up to 12.7. Normally, your PSA should be between zero and three, anything over three is real concerning. The doctor said that with a 12.7, I needed to get a biopsy to test for cancer. I think it was March 13 or 14, 2023. The doctor called me on my phone and said that he had some bad news for me. He said I have cancer.

Q. What did you do after your diagnosis?

A. I went and did another PSA, or actually a blood test. And the doctor told me he had bad news for me. My PSA went up. He said it went up to 27.7. He said that means I have a real aggressive cancer. He didn't know what was going on, but it was going up fast. On April 20, I went ahead and had a prostatectomy where they took out the prostate.

Q. Was the prostatectomy procedure successful?

A. In July, I had another PSA. I was happy to have my PSA because when I got my results, I can see my results say 0.6. I thought that's a good number because it isn't 27.7. So I called the doctor to talk to him. But he said 0.6 is bad. He said that I should be between 0.3 or 0.5. That means I still have cancer.

Q. What were the courses of action after that?

A. I was able to start radiation, 38 treatments, and it wasn't easy. But you meet so many people at the cancer center and everybody's going through the same thing. And you end up getting friends at the cancer center with different people going through almost the same thing. And it really gives you an appreciation for life and it really makes you think about how short life is.

Q. Anything else you would like to say to our readers?

A. I have a little sticker on my car that I got from my pastor and it says "Don't worry about anything, pray about everything." So I'm praying about everything. I'm praying for everybody that I know who has cancer. I'm praying for their survival. I'm praying for my survival. My family and friends. And I'm praying for the men out there in the community to not get what I have. And that's what I want to say. To hopefully push people into the direction of educating on prostate cancer and cancer in general. And if you don't take anything else from this interview, just take this thing... get tested!

CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

FEBRUARY IS

— BLACK HISTORY MONTH —



Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. Each year the Department of Defense (DoD), along with the rest of the Nation, recognizes the important contributions and rich culture of African Americans.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History has chosen for the 2024 theme, "African Americans and the Arts."

Lt. James R. Europe brought African American music genres international while leading the 369th Infantry Regiment "Hell Fighters" band.

His Black musicians proudly played their own original music, including jazz, blues, ragtime, and patriotic tunes, amazing European audiences who were unable to replicate their unique sound. Lt. Europe and his band were celebrated as heroes upon their return at the war's end.

Europe was one of the first mainstream African American musicians. He is recognized as a composer, arranger, and American band leader and is credited as a major figure in transitioning ragtime into jazz and popularizing social dancing across the social class spectrum.

Leonora Hull Brown, a Women's Army Corps member during World War II, was crucial in creating the military's only all-Black female band.

Brown helped form the group after being denied participation in the all-White band. As the only one with musical experience, and with just 8 weeks until their first performance, Brown taught the women volunteers how to play instruments. Their first performance far exceeded expectations.

This group became recognized as the 404th Armed Service Forces band as it fought an uphill battle against discrimination and sexism. After several performances, they were defunded by the Army. However, through community activism, they were reinstated.

Horace Pippin is one of the most celebrated African American painters of the 20th century and a veteran of World War I. Being self-taught, Pippin used a linear art style with powerful design and expressive color. Pippin enlisted in what would become the Army's 369th Infantry Regiment. During his service, a sniper shot permanently disabled his right arm.

Pippin wrote a vivid account of his wartime service and experiences in a 61-page journal which contains numerous battlefield illustrations detailing his injury and which inspired his later work.

The stories of incredible artists like Lt. James R. Europe, Leonora Hull Brown, and Horace Pippin exhibit just a few of the countless contributions to the arts made by African Americans. Their complex, trailblazing work has impacted the hearts and minds of millions of people.

During this special observance, the DoD honors the contributions made by African Americans in the arts and celebrates diversity, inclusion, and accessibility for all Americans.

