NAVY PROTECTS NATIVE SPECIES AT LUALUALI
Native Hawaiian Organizations came together to build a traditional lava rock wall around the Halealoha Haleamau burial vault on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 24. Service members and volunteers from local Red Hill (left), and Uncle Bruce Yoshio Keaulani, kahu (right), survey a rock wall structure.

Photo caption:

TOP PHOTO

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Women Making History

In celebration of Women's History Month, exceptional women around the region share their stories. See page 12.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Story by Danny Hayes

The U.S. Navy finds opportunities to help protect native species at Lualualei Annex.

NAVY WOUNDED WARRIORS

Story by Raquel Cloma

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam hosts Navy Wounded Warrior Trials.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Story by Anna Gonzales

Several events took place around JBPHH to spread awareness and importance of SAAPM.

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Region Spotlight featuring

Women Making History

In celebration of Women's History Month, exceptional women around the region share their stories. See page 12.
Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro speaks at the transfer of authority ceremony on March 28 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The ceremony marked the official transfer of authority of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility from Joint Task Force - Red Hill to Navy Closure Task Force - Red Hill (Photo by Sgt. Zallar Jones)

Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Col. Michele La Bianco, 15th Wing commander, sign the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation (SAAPM) during the annual SAAPM glow run at Alpha Aina Park, April 5. (Photo by Melvin J. Gonzalvo)

Adm. Samuel Paparo, right, turns over command of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet to Adm. Stephen Koehler during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 4. (Photo by MC2 Jeremy R. Boan)

Cmdr. John Holhaus and Cmdr. Jonathan Greenwald attend a change of command ceremony held aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 19. (Photo by Melvin J. Gonzalvo)

U.S. Navy Sailors aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided missile-cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54) arrive at their new homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 5. (Photo by MCSN Gavin Arnold-Hendershot)

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility commander Capt. Richard Jones joins the shipyard chief petty officer’s mess to celebrate 131 years of the Navy chief rank. (Photo by Dave Amodo)

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro meets with Sailors from across Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, March 28. (Photo by MC2 Jared Mancuso)


Rear Adm. Brett Mietus, director of the Navy Office of Culture and Force Resilience, speaks to Sailors and civilians assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam about Culture of Excellence 2.0, March 27 (Photo by Melvin J. Gonzalvo)

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander Capt. Mark Johany talks with ombudsmen, key spouses, and military members from the base’s tenant commands at the Hickam Chapel, March 12. (Photo by MCO Christopher Beachly)
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Iolani High School hosted the Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW) Team Trials from Feb. 21 to March 4 in adaptive sports and competitions.

NWW gives Sailors and Coast Guardsmen who are seriously wounded, ill and injured the opportunity to compete in a variety of adaptive sports that provide reconditioning including archery, cycling, track and field, indoor rowing, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, wheelchair rugby, sitting volleyball, and wheelchair basketball.

According to the NWW website, the adaptive sports and recreation program promotes the mental and physical well-being of wounded, ill, and injured service members as part of a larger continuum of care that service members receive through Navy Wounded Warrior.

The top athletes from these trials will be selected for a spot on Team Navy to advance and compete against all branches of the military at the Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games in Orlando, Florida from June 21-30.

Formed in 2010, the DoD Warrior Games introduce wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans to Paralympic-style sports that showcase the resilient spirit of the athletes and compete in adaptive sports as part of their recovery journeys. This year marks the 14th anniversary of the games, highlighting members representing the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard and U.S. Special Operations Command.

"The Warrior Games celebrate the exceptional triumph over adversity that many of the athletes have been facing. After getting their diagnoses, many of these service members are told, ‘You can’t do that anymore,’ which is demoralizing," stated Lt. Cmdr. Tockeylar Seals, the Navy Wounded Warrior program manager. "Through the adaptive sports program, they are told, ‘You still can but with some adjustments.’ Adaptive sports rebuild their self-esteem, which ripples into other parts of the service members’ personal and professional lives. They are steadfast and tenacious in a way that should inspire us all to keep going when faced with a challenge that seems unsurmountable."

NWW organizes the non-medical care of Sailors and Coast Guardsmen and makes available the resources and support to families and caregivers along their path to recovery and gives them an opportunity to meet other wounded warriors who face similar challenges. Wounded warriors enrolled in NWW are encouraged to include adaptive sports in their recovery plans to build strength and endurance in order to build self-esteem, lower stress levels, and prevent secondary medical conditions from developing.

Sailors and Coast Guardsmen may self-refer to the NWW program or be referred by a family member, their command leadership, or their medical team.

Contact the NWW call center at 1-855-NAVY-WWP/1-855-628-9997
Email for more information navywoundedwarrior.ft1@navy.mil
Follow them on Facebook facebook.com/navywoundedwarrior

The Warrior Games celebrate the exceptional triumph over adversity that many of the athletes have been facing. They are steadfast and tenacious in a way that should inspire us all to keep going when faced with a challenge that seems unsurmountable.
NAVY PROTECTS NATIVE SPECIES AT LUALUALI'U

A U.S. Navy environmental team discovered that with some planning, an auspicious wetland, and the use of creative designs, there are opportunities to protect and study native Hawaiian species at a small military facility in west Oahu.

Story and photos by Danny Hayes
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Naval Magazine Lualualei Branch, is home to several native and endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and plants. It is the Navy’s job to protect these natural resources as long as it continues to operate at this location.

The Lualualei Annex is located in the coastal town of Nanakuli, about 30 miles from Honolulu.

The installation sits near mountains in an area where brushfires are a concern during the summer months due to the dry weather conditions on the island’s leeward side. The Navy environmental team took the brushfire concerns and wove them into methods used to design and plan for native wildlife and plant protection.

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During a recent visit to the Lualualei Annex, Kimber Troumbly, a terrestrial natural resource specialist with Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Hawaii, noted the many protected native plants that reside in and are close to grassy fields that are fire prone.

“So we’ve got these big antenna fields, and then there are these invasive grasses and these dry, wooded areas,” she said, pointing toward the dry brush that expands out and comes near the protected area. “We have this convenient road here that starts to create a firebreak, and then we have these nice weed mats in here.”

Troumbly said the roadway would help slow the progress of fire flames rushing across the grassy land area if there was a brushfire. If the flames continued, they would run to a line of native — but not endangered — plants called “A‘ali‘i” on the other side. This plant stands up well against wind and is fire tolerant. She then motioned toward a large black tarp laid across a row of invasive weeds on the other side of the road between protected native plants.

“We laid the weed mat down and then planted all of these non-endangered plants around our endangered species inside.”

This next layer of vegetation would also slow down the flames. That layer is made up of native plants called “Ma‘o,” which is a coastal species adapted to dry conditions and can assist in holding moisture into the soil. The Ma‘o creates an additional buffer.

Although these outplants are protected native species, they are not as rare as the endangered plants located here at Lualualei.

“By planting the native non-endangered plants, the natural resource team hopes to not only shield the endangered plants from potential fire threats but also promote native vegetation in the area allowing the endangered plants to self-propagate and grow within healthy native habitat,” Troumbly said.

Additionally, these methods add to native plant populations, increasing the resilience of native ecosystems and native plant survival.

The natural resource team planned the firebreak design, like the extended layers of an onion ensuring the most endangered plants are protected at the center.

“If the fire did come through, they would stop on it, and not reach those endangered plants that we’re trying to protect,” said Troumbly.

Deeper into the vegetation live the abutilon momi, or Ko‘olau‘ula. These plants are native to Hawaii and are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The JBFH natural resource team manages the protection of the plant, and they work with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to ensure this species does not go extinct.

“We work with DLNR and Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership,” said Troumbly. “The Navy works with the state’s Rare Plant Protection program to collect ESA-listed plant seeds to put them into a rare seed bank, and the state can also use the seeds to propagate seedlings.”

She added that “by slowly expanding these conservation areas utilizing the firebreak method, the natural resource staff envisions a future where Lualualei landscape is characterized by native vegetation, less invasive grasses, and mitigated fire risk conditions.”

The U.S. Congress passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and according to the document, it was because the law makers determined various wildlife and plants were going extinct due to growth and development. Fifty years later, the Navy continues to comply with these laws of protection.

“We have the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), which is our guidance document,” said Nicole Olmsted, Navy Region Hawaii’s conservation manager. “It has our requirements for compliance, and we have projects that show us what we can do for management and improve habitat quality for our species because we want to be good stewards of the land that we use.”

Not far from where the protected plants are is a fenced-off area with signs informing people of a designated wildlife refuge location. This area is an unexpected wetland that is home to several ESA-listed waterbirds.

“We have a wetland here at Lualualei, and it’s home to native birds, including the endangered Hawaiian coot,” said Olmsted.

The ‘A‘ale keokeo, or Hawaiian coot, is native to the state, and according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, is smaller and generically distinct from the American coot on the North American continent.

“And they are nesting out here,” said Olmsted. “We’ve seen more nesting, and we’ve done invasive weed removal from the ponds to open up the wetlands so that they have habitat. They are increasing in population size here, so it’s exciting to see.”

The work that the Navy environmental team is doing here might not be noticed very often. However, tucked away here at Lualualei Annex is a quiet natural resource management program designed to protect native wildlife and plants, and continue the Navy’s conservation and land stewardship mission.
Spotlighting Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

When sexual assault occurs, an entire command is affected.

That’s why every April, military communities across the world call attention to the prevalence of sexual violence and educate its members on how to prevent it.

At Navy Region Hawaii, Capt. Jessica Beard leads the charge to raise awareness about this critical issue.

It is important that leadership show how committed they are to ensuring every member of the team, both active duty and civilian, is valued and respected and that sexual violence will not be tolerated at any level,” said Beard, who serves as the region’s sexual assault awareness and prevention officer (SAPRO).

This year’s theme is “STEP FORWARD. Prevent. Report. Advocate.” This is a call to action for military and civilian individuals at all levels to use their personal strength to bolster prevention, increase reporting, and promote advocacy for a safer Department of Defense (DoD) community.

Last year, more than 2,000 reports of sexual assault were made in the Navy and 600 cases were Sailor-on-Sailor allegations, according to the Navy Culture and Force Resilience Office. The likelihood of sexual assault increases significantly when a command, department, division, shop or work center has a history of sexual harassment, gender discrimination, workplace hostility, a lack of respect, poor unit cohesion, and/or disengaged leadership.

Beard’s goal is for everyone to know what sexual assault is, how it hurts the Navy, how to play a role in prevention and how to report it.

To kick off Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Col. Michele Lo Bianco, 15th Wing commander, signed a proclamation urging everyone to do their part to prevent sexual assault.

“Awareness is more than just acknowledging that sexual assault affects our community,” said Barnett. “Instead, we should try to understand the issue and its impact on victims and their families, both at home and at work. Therefore, we need to familiarize ourselves with the resources available.”

As the region SAPRO, Beard’s role is to advise the region commander on all things related to the sexual assault awareness and prevention program, including preparing reports with data and trends for sexual assault cases, ensuring the command is aware of all updates, changes, and modifications of the program, and ensuring the instructions are aligned with Commander Navy Installations Command, Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Defense Health Agency, DoD, and Secretary of Defense.

WHAT IS DENIM DAY?

In 1999, an Italian court overturned an alleged sexual assault of an 18-year-old young woman by a cab driver. The court ruled that the young lady was wearing tight jeans and that she had to assist the perpetrator in removing the jeans, implying consent. This became known as the “jeans alibi.” The importance of Denim Day is to show support and stop blaming sexual assault victims for their choice of clothing.

Story by Anna Gonzales
Photos by Mel Gonzalvo
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

HOW TO GET HELP

If you are the victim of sexual assault or know of someone who has been assaulted, call (808) 722-6192 for immediate crisis intervention and access to confidential resources. Support and assistance are also available through the DoD Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247. For more information, contact Capt. Jessica Beard at Jessica.d.beard.mil@us.navy.mil or (808) 220-5439.
This March, we honor and pay tribute to the women – active and reserve, uniformed and civilian – who have served our Navy and our nation. There is no doubt, our Navy is full of trailblazing pioneers who paved the way for more than 134,000 women serving in our Navy today. These Sailors and spouses, mothers, daughters, and sisters, have served in every rank – from seaman to admiral, and in most every job, from naval aviators to explosive ordnance disposal technicians.

At Navy Region Hawaii, we’ve spotlighted our own trailblazers. Each of them has a powerful drive for excellence – in both their personal and professional lives – and has played a pivotal role in public service.
Throughout her 30 years of civilian service and 24 years of military service, Trish has continued leadership and guidance,” said Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, commander, Navy Region Hawaii. “Her diverse work advising Princess Aisha of Jordan and her staff on mutual issues of interest with the Jordanian government.”

Trish began her Navy civilian career in 2018 as Region Counsel for Navy Region Southwest in San Diego, where she was part of the legal team during wildfire evacuations and the China Lake earthquake in 2019.

She joined NRSW from the International Joint Commission, where she was appointed director of the Great Lakes Regional Office in 2014. The UC is comprised of three U.S. and three Canadian commissioners who are appointed by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada to adjudicate, protect, and preserve the Great Lakes. She joined NRSW from the International Joint Commission, where she was appointed director of the Great Lakes Regional Office in 2014. The IJC is comprised of three international commissioners who are appointed by the governments of the United States and Canada to adjudicate, protect, and preserve the Great Lakes.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities are the qualities that Faith looks for in job candidates. As director of human resources at Navy Region Hawaii on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, her team scout resumes in search of qualified individuals for a host of positions ranging from first responder personnel to environmental specialists to information technology, financial, housing management, and business managers. Her team also provides employee and labor relations advisory services and support.

At the time of her appointment, Trish said: “This job combines two of my passions – helping nations stay out of conflict and honoring our universal connection to fresh water and the incredible importance that it will play in the future of our nations and our planet.”

From 1995-2019, Trish served as an Army Reserve Judge Advocate and Civil Affairs officer, commanding at the age of 35. She served in numerous Civil Affairs units, deploying to Afghanistan in 2002 and Iraq in 2003-2004. She returned to Afghanistan in 2010.

“While I was serving in Iraq, I was selected to lead the first ever program to recruit and train Iraqi women into the Iraqi Army, guiding the recruits through completion of three basic course classes in Jordan before I was redeployed,” she recalled.

Trish received two Bronze Stars for her work in the Middle East. The first for her work advising Princess Aisha of Jordan and her staff on mutual issues of interest with women serving in the military, and the second for her work in 2010 forming the first U.S.-Iraqi military civil affairs project team to develop and fund projects for Afghans to rebuild schools, clinics, and markets.

In 2005-2008, this trailblazer served as the first female Division Counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Baghdad, where she supervised civilian, military, and Iraqi counselors to vet development projects, secure contracts as well as funding. She earned the Corps of Engineers’ Outstanding Attorney of the Year award for her leadership.

“We are truly lucky to have someone of Trish’s caliber leading our legal team,” said Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, commander, Navy Region Hawaii. “Her diverse experience, expertise and wealth of knowledge are invaluable. I am grateful for her continued leadership and guidance.”

Throughout her 30 years of civilian service and 24 years of military service, Trish has made impressive strides in her field, helping pave the way for generations of female lawyers who have followed in her footsteps.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities are the qualities that Faith looks for in job candidates. As director of human resources at Navy Region Hawaii on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, her team scout resumes in search of qualified individuals for a host of positions ranging from first responder personnel to environmental specialists to information technology, financial, housing management, and business managers. Her team also provides employee and labor relations advisory services and support.

Faith’s own 38-year career in federal service are of humble beginnings and quite by chance.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Faith had a head for numbers. She loved math and had an interest in business in high school. She enrolled in accounting courses at Leeward Community College which unexpectedly led to her decision to enlist in the Air Force in San Diego.

“Joining the Air Force was coincidental and unexpected for me,” she recalled. “It all started when I went on a trip to California to visit a good friend and colleague of mine. She had an appointment to meet with an Air Force recruiter so she brought me along. While I was waiting for her in the lobby, one of the recruiters pulled me to his office and started giving me all this information and was showing me all the job positions. I was excited to see accounting on the list.”

“But he said there weren’t any jobs available in accounting at the time, and showed me a job that was available with military personnel,” she added. “I told him I prefer accounting, but the recruiter convinced me that when I come in to the military personnel career field I have six years to cross-train into finance field. So I thought about it and ended up signing up for the Air Force. What was supposed to be my friend signing up, ended up being me enlisting in the Air Force instead.”

Faith began her career with the federal government as an active-duty Airman in 2005 in the military personnel career field where she held junior and senior enlisted positions ranging from installation level to major command.

Her tours of duty have taken her across the world including assignments at the consolidated base personnel office at Royal Air Force Bentwaters, United Kingdom; A1 directorate at Sembach Air Base, Germany; A1 directorate at Bolling Air Combat Command (ACC) at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia; and then to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii in the A1 directorate of Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) and superintendent of career enhancements for the Hickam Military Personnel Flight.

After 20 years of active-duty service, she became part of the Hickam civilian personnel office as a human resource technician. She later crossed over to the Navy human resources office (HRO) at Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) in 2008 and worked her way to a specialized development position at both CNRH PRO and Pacific Fleet Command (PACFLT) when Hickam and Pearl Harbor became Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) in 2010, and through the Navy Human Resources Service Delivery restructure in 2013.

“In my years of service, I am most proud of the opportunity to serve with the culmination of an Air Force career in military personnel and then an opportunity again to serve with the Department of the Navy in civilian personnel at CNRH and JBPHH,” she said. “I remember those years that has had a hand in where I serve today and cannot thank each enough for their support and guidance along the way.”

Faith has held the position of human resource director of CNRH since 2019 and had to navigate keeping the region staffed and ready during times such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Red Hill crisis. Faith has some advice for anyone looking to enter the field of human resources.

“Embrace human resources as a career and learn as much as you can. Experience various disciplines and the business operations side too,” she said. “Interact with HR colleagues to learn from each other for new or different methods to accomplish HR missions for the command and business.”

“Connect and provide management and customers with value-added options and the support necessary services they need from you,” she added. “Do your best. Don’t give up. Remain flexible, open, go with the flow, and think and fluid. Each day is a new day to pick up and persevere through your HR journey again.”
SPOTLIGHT: TIFFANY LIGA-SAOLE

Story by Raquel Cloma / Photos by Anna Gonzales

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

When she was a child, Tiffany liked to take things apart and put them back together to see how they worked.

“I was the kid that stuck the tweezers in the outlet in science lab,” she said in a 2021 interview. “I had a thing for electricity.”

The interview was with Pacific Islanders Encouraging Fun Engineering, Science and Technology and Tiffany was featured as part of a series on Pacific Islanders in STEM. An electrical engineer, Tiffany is working to complete her Master of Science in electrical and electronics engineering from Ohio University; she received her B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As a non-traditional college student, she juggled raising a family with schoolwork.

“There was so much studying and homework. It wasn’t easy to stay on top of everything or to stay motivated. What I learned was to break up my study/work sessions between real life – making dinner, putting my kids to bed, going to the store, cleaning house – then a few more hours of studying/work. It was crucial in my success and helped me to balance school, work, and family,” she recalled.

Today, Tiffany is deputy assistant regional engineer (DARE) for Navy Region Hawaii N4 regional engineer’s office – under Capt. James Sullivan (regional engineer) and Cmdr. Brendan Gosh (assistant regional engineer) – where her goal is to balance efficiency and engineering with the impacts on the island’s land, resources, and culture.

She says a big part of her job is informing leadership about “how the decisions and investments made today directly impact the Navy, our Hawaii neighbors, and the future that we hand to future generations tomorrow.”

Tiffany points out that N4 regional engineer’s office is more than just facilities.

“It spans across major facility investment to janitorial services, land use and planning to community outreach, communication, and much more,” she explained.

Although she has been in her role for just about a year, Tiffany is not new to Navy Region Hawaii. She was previously the N4 facilities investment regional program director for Military Construction/ Facilities Sustainment Restoration and Modernization, where she oversaw facility investments that averaged $200 million annually.

In her current role, Tiffany and Cmdr. Gosh have been working to rebuild their team of professionals.

“We’ve focused on instilling the importance of communication and collaboration,” she said. “In this last year, we’ve worked toward coordinated responses to infrastructure failures, extensive assessments and workarounds for mission critical components – all while supporting the future tenants of Navy Region Hawaii and their mission needs.”

Cmdr. Gosh describes Tiffany as an incredible engineer and teammate.

“It has been wonderful to see, on top of her technical acumen, Tiffany leveraging her energy, passion, and an innate ability to connect with others to work towards closing our shore infrastructure gaps while managing hundreds of millions of dollars each year,” he said.

In her current position for less than a year, she has built an N4 team (many of whom are also new to their positions – me included!) with a growth mindset and really created something special,” he added. “She has also pushed the bounds of the DARE position and become integral to external engagements – certainly not a typical engineering gig.

“It has been flattering to work side by side with Tiffany, she’s one of the hardest working people here at region. For the most part, we’re able to play to our individual strengths to tag-team the tough challenges, but if I’m being honest, she could do my job; I couldn’t do hers!”

B on in the Dominican Republic, Lt. Cmdr. Beatriz Talerico came to the United States when she was seven years old. Living on the outskirts of Brooklyn, New York, she found herself headed down the wrong path during her high school years.

“I was kicked out of my house by my mother when I was 17,” said Talerico. “At the time I was very upset, but now looking back, it was the right thing to do. I needed an awakening and I sure got one.”

Talerico lived with friends and her ex-boyfriend but quickly realized that moving every few weeks wasn’t sustainable.

“One day, while I was cutting class to go to work, I ran into a Navy recruiter. Quartermaster 1st Class Tamara Olivo,” she recalled. “She changed the trajectory of my life and I am so thankful for the encounter. I feel like I was fate showing me my path.”

Talerico’s path led her to enlisted in the Navy in 2003. Her first duty station was Yokosuka, Japan, where she worked as a Hospital Corpsman with duties as a surgical technologist.

“I served as the leading petty officer of the main operating room and truly enjoyed being stationed in Japan,” she said. “The OR nurses saw something in me and provided amazing mentorship.”

She remembered how her dad would always emphasize the importance of an education. Early in her Navy career, she took advantage of tuition assistance and attended school in the evenings to complete her college general education course. From there, she quickly excelled.

“I became a second class petty officer in a little over three years. My second duty station was Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton in California where I was selected for the Seaman to Admiral Officer Program. I was ecstatic!” she exclaimed.

She rose from the enlisted ranks to a naval officer. Talerico earned her commission as a Surface Warfare Officer through the University of South Florida, graduating in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Cellular Molecular Biology.

Her sea tours included serving as the communications officer aboard USS Roosevelt (DDG 80), assistant future plans and tactics officer for Destroyer Squadron 23, weapons officer aboard USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), and plans and tactics officer aboard USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121).

Her shore tours included serving as the surface action group, over the horizon targeting, and surface search subject matter expert for the anti-submarine / anti-surface warfare tactics instructor schoolhouse in San Diego, California and is currently serving as the operations planner for Task Force Middle Pacific at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“My time in the Navy has been exceptional,” Talerico added. “Don’t get me wrong, I’ve experienced many hard days, but the good ones continue to outweigh the bad.”

Through the Navy, Talerico was able to complete her college education and gain valuable leadership skills. She was accepted into the Secretary of the Navy Tours with Industry Program, where she was immersed in an industry to learn and observe corporate processes and best practices. She was able to fully integrate with a corporate team and learn other ways of leadership and project management – skills that she took back with her to the Navy.

“This was the second-best experience the Navy has given me followed by my education,” she added. “During my time in the Navy I also volunteered to help with the community such as beach cleanups, Operation Smile, local soup kitchens, Meals on Wheels and helping out at food banks.”

Talerico said her husband is a source of support and inspiration.

“My husband is my rock, my biggest fan, my best friend, and the one who keeps me grounded,” she said. “His name is Brian and is a prevention officer with the U.S. Coast Guard stationed at Sector Honolulu. His positive outlook on life and reasonable way of thinking, is the Yin to my Yang.”

Her advice to young female Sailors who want to succeed? Find your tribe.

“Find the friends and peers who are where you want to be and learn from them and surround yourself with those who are moving in the same direction as you,” she advised. “Find male and female mentors who can guide you in your Navy career.”

Talerico capped her advice with her favorite quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: “Never allow a person to tell you ‘no’ who doesn’t have the power to say ‘yes.’”
FROM MILITARY CHILD TO MILITARY OFFICER

No matter what life throws your way, Cmdr. Kellie Smith is adamant about one thing: Never give up.

Perseverance is what contributed to Smith’s rise from surveillance technician to warship commander.

Smith grew up in Germany and followed in her dad’s footsteps and joined the U.S. Navy in 1995 as a cryptologic technician.

“I joined the Navy because I wanted to take care of myself. It was an opportunity to learn a trade, and I wanted to contribute to my country,” said Smith. “I understood firsthand that it was a blessing to be an American and it was worth protecting.”

After achieving the rank of E5, she competed for a spot in the BOOST program, a nine-month program that offers active duty enlisted men and women between the ages of 18-24 the opportunity to receive 10 months of extensive academic preparation in order to become more competitive for selection to the Naval Academy.

In 1999, she received the appointment to BOOST. After completing the program, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Tulane University.

Smith is currently the commanding officer aboard the USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110), guided-missile destroyer, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

“Once I got my Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) pin, I knew one day I wanted to command a warship,” she said. “After my first tour as a SWO, I knew where I wanted to be. I was connected to all of it from driving and fighting the ship to serving with Sailors who put in their best every day.

“It is an awesome opportunity to work with a team dedicated to maintaining and operating America’s most complex and sophisticated warfighting system, fearlessly pushing into our adversaries’ battlespace to hold them at risk and limiting their options to threaten our allies and partners.”

Smith’s sea tours include serving as the repair officer, auxiliary officer and main propulsion assistant aboard USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79), navigator aboard USS Denver (LPD 9), and weapons and combat systems officer aboard the USS The Sullivans (DDG 68).

On shore, she served as the senior watch officer for NCIS Multiple Threat Alert Center, DCG liaison to the III Contininent-Terror Watch, and global force management action officer at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

As she advanced in her career, Smith leaned into the struggles and difficult lessons.

“In my experience, the harder the tour, the more rewarding it is, especially when you turn around and see how much you were able to accomplish,” said Smith. “I do view challenges as opportunities in disguise, when you receive ‘feedback’ that you didn’t meet the mark, lean in and go after it again.

“Success takes multiple forms and is often difficult to recognize, if someone tells you that you can’t. Consider what question you asked and what answer they provided. Use your resources and the powerful team of mentors around you to help you evaluate what you want to accomplish from multiple perspectives and then re-attack.”

Once I got my Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) pin, I knew one day I wanted to command a warship. After my first tour as a SWO, I knew it was where I wanted to be. I was connected to all of it from driving and fighting the ship to serving with Sailors who put in their best every day.

- Cmdr. Kellie Smith

SPOTLIGHT: CMDR. KELLIE SMITH

Story and photos by Anna Gonzales
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

SPOTLIGHT: YN2 JADA GLASPIE

Story and photos by Anna Gonzales
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

DEVOTING TIME TO COMMUNITY, COLLEAGUES

“Remember your ‘why’ is a great fuel to becoming successful in your career,” she said. “Anytime my chain of command said they needed people I was always there.”

Glaspie’s favorite quote from writer Kate Hodgensenspired her to become the Sailor she is today. Behind every great woman... is another great woman.

“This quote is really inspirational to me,” she said. “I wouldn’t be where I am as a Sailor if I wasn’t for Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Shivers and Senior Chief Yeoman Harris, two powerful women who I always looked up to.”

Throughout her service, Glaspie has contributed over 600 hours to her community by giving back during the water crisis.

“During my tour here at joint base, I have contributed over 600 hours to my local community by going to cleanups during the weekend, helping the youth with my church, providing meals to the elderly, cleaning up the highways, and volunteering in retirement ceremonies,” she explained. “Working with different branches of service was one of the best things about helping the community, especially during the water crisis.”

Glaspie’s many achievements at JBPWH include receiving the presidential outstanding volunteer medal, the Navy and Marine Achievement medal, and two Flag letters of commendation, Meritoriously Advanced Program, Warrior of the Month, and Sailor of the Year nominee, and Sailor of the first quarter of fiscal year 2022.

“Remember your ‘why’ is a great fuel to becoming successful in your career,” said Glaspie. “Having a mentor and putting myself out there also was a great help. Anytime my chain of command said they needed people I was always there.”

During her tour as a midshipman, Glaspie was selected to be the midshipman who would serve as the ship’s sponsor for the USS The Sullivans (DDG 68), guided-missile destroyer, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

“YN2 Glaspie was my sponsor, she took me under her wing, guided me through and became one of my closest friends,” said YN2 Selina Swisher. “Working with her is amazing! She always gives a helping hand with a smile on her face, and she also brings a positive perspective working alongside her. I will miss her when she leaves Hawaii next month.”

When Glaspie joined the Navy in 2021, she wanted to be a role model for her younger brothers.

“When I was 11 years old, I was sent to my grandmother and uncle to have a better life,” she recalled. “My uncle was a retired Army veteran and he was taking care of my grandmother (his sister). Moving in with my uncle and transitioning from poor to middle class was an eye opener, and I wanted to set the example for my younger brothers just like my uncle did for me.”

With her determination to strive for a better life, she aspires to be a naval officer in the next five years and is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Human Resources at American Military University.

Despite a hectic work and school schedule, she still makes time to help others.

“During my tour here at joint base, I have contributed over 600 hours to my local community by going to cleanups during the weekend, helping the youth with my church, providing meals to the elderly, cleaning up the highways, and volunteering in retirement ceremonies,” said Glaspie. “Working with different branches of service was one of the best things about helping the community, especially during the water crisis.”

“I joined the Navy because I wanted to take care of myself. It was an opportunity to learn a trade, and I wanted to contribute to my country,” said Smith. “I understood firsthand that it was a blessing to be an American and it was worth protecting.”

Remember your ‘why’ is a great fuel to becoming successful in your career. Having a mentor and putting myself out there also was a great help. Anytime my chain of command said they needed people I was always there.

- YN2 Jada Glaspie
**#greatlifehawaii**

A quick guide to what’s going on with MWR, CYP and MFSC.

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**Liberty Programs**

Single active-duty military E1-E6?

Our Liberty Programs offer an exclusive space with awesome amenities at the Kona Winds Complex, plus free and low-cost activities all month long! We’ll take you to eat local grindz, sailing, hiking, zip-lining, and more. Find our Liberty calendar at greatlifehawaii.com or call 808-422-1769 for more info.

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**Outdoor Recreation**

Soak up some sun with ODR!

We’ve got the gear you need to get going on your next adventure. Whether you’re surfing, sunbathing, or taking a scenic hike, we’ve got you covered. Check out our rental office on Kuntz Avenue or dial 808-449-6870 for more info.

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**Makai Recreation Center**

Music Lessons at Makai!

We offer pro-level instruction for piano, guitar, drums and voice. Private sessions available for all ages and skill levels. Call 808-449-3354.

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**Makai Recreation Center**

See our full list of classes here.

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**Month of the Military Child**

While our military members serve our country around the world, there are more than 1.6 million military children who also serve. They face unique experiences and challenges due to their parents’ service.

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**Arts & Crafts**

Basic Digital Painting w/ Jenni Clark

Learn how to draw and paint digitally on your smartphone, tablet, or laptop. This class will go over what the basic tools are and how to use them. $45 for ages 16+. Sign up on greatlifehawaii.com or view our other classes.

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**Arts & Crafts Center**

See the full calendar of classes.

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**Liberty Programs**

See this month’s Liberty activities calendar.

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**Outdoor Recreation**

Need some gear for your next adventure? Check out our rentals here!

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**Makai Recreation Center**

See our full list of classes here.

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**Military & Family Support Center**

See our full list of classes here.

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**Music Lessons at Makai!**

We offer pro-level instruction for piano, guitar, drums and voice. Private sessions available for all ages and skill levels. Call 808-449-3354.

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**Month of the Military Child**

While our military members serve our country around the world, there are more than 1.6 million military children who also serve. They face unique experiences and challenges due to their parents’ service.

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**Arts & Crafts**

Are you hoping for a meal with a view?

Stop by Wright Brothers Cafe & Grille for breakfast or lunch and enjoy delicious dining with stunning scenery.

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**Everything Food & Drink**

See our full list of classes here.

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**Makai Recreation Center**

See our full list of classes here.

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**MFSC**

The Military Family Support Center provides support and services to help you balance military life! Whether it’s financial planning, personal development, relocation, or transition & employment, MFSC is here to help! Register for classes today at greatlifehawaii.com. Find MFSC under our “Support” section.

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**STAY CONNECTED AND FOLLOW US ONLINE!**

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