



Local conservationists visit PMRF seabirds



(From left) Monique Imberski, Brett Hartl, Andrea Erichsen and Dr. Nick Holmes discuss who will release the rehabilitated white-tailed tropicbird. The group of conservationists brought two such seabirds with them during their training visit to PMRF's wedge-tailed shearwater colony.

Story and photos by MC2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael

Seabirds who call Kaua'i home may not realize it, but they have an impressive team of defenders drawing from many different backgrounds to collaborate and ensure that these feathered friends flourish on the Garden Island. This was demonstrated recently when a team of conservationists from various island agencies converged upon a wedge-tailed shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) colony located at the

Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility.

Sharon Reilly, coordinator for the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's Save Our Shearwaters (SOS) program, brought a team of SOS field technicians to the PMRF shearwater colony to meet and train with Dr. Nick Holmes and Brett Hartl of the Kaua'i Endangered Bird Recovery Group and Andrea Erichsen, the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinator with the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The team went over techniques

for bird handling and banding, as well as methods used for the collection of important population data.

Although each agency has different primary goals, they all share the same basic commitment to the monitoring and protection of the island's various seabird populations.

"We conduct research on the ecology of the bird to understand how it can best be protected," Dr. Holmes explained.

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Commanding Officer's Hot Line: Ext. 4435

You can call the Captain with your question/concern too. Dial 335-4435 any time, seven days a week! The purpose of the hotline (record-a-phone) is to provide all PMRF military members, families, civil service and contractor employees the opportunity to communicate directly with the CO. Some suggestions are:

- Safety suggestions/violations/unsafe practices, ideas on how to improve safety and promote safety awareness.
- Ways to improve morale, working or living conditions.
- Suggestions on how to save taxpayers' dollars, as in cutting costs, saving energy, reducing labor manhours, etc.
- Security violations and/or recommendations for strengthening physical security and safeguarding classified information.
- Any positive things (events, programs, policies, benefits, etc.) that you feel are particularly good.
- Any negative things you feel should have the CO's attention.
- Suggestions for improving disaster preparedness (tsunamis, hurricanes, fires, etc.)

You need not identify yourself to leave a message, but if you would like a staffed response, please do so. If reporting a problem, please try to recommend a workable solution. Some of the questions or problems reported will be answered in the Within Range.

And, remember the chain of command. Your first step with a suggestion should be to try it out on those you work with or the personal responsible for the department.



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Photo by MC2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael

KTF girls save bird! - Kimberley Medeiros and Sharon Cabral of Kauai Test Facility spotted and retrieved a fallen Newell's shearwater recently and contacted PMRF environmental coordinator John Burger to arrange for assistance. John instructed the two to take the bird to the SOS aid station pictured in the back and hand the bird over to SOS field technician Jason Vercelli who later took the bird back to Lihue for treatment.

Within Range is published bi-weekly by the Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs Office. Questions, concerns and comments can be directed to the Editor at tom.clements@navy.mil

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Navy offers advancement points for IA duty

By Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

Sailors serving in designated combat areas around the world are now eligible for points toward advancement as part of the initiatives recently announced aimed at rewarding Individual Augmentees (IA).

The incentive, outlined in NAVADMIN 280/06, awards two points towards advancement to eligible Sailors serving in designated combat zones in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

"We want to show these Sailors that we value their contribution to this long war," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr.

To be eligible for the award points, Sailors must serve for

179 consecutive days in the designated areas during a period after Oct. 24, 2001.

Sailors from E-3 to E-5 are capable of obtaining a maximum of 10 award points, while an E-6 is allowed to earn a maximum of 12 award points under the current advancement system. The two points for these incentives will go toward that total.

"Taking care of our Sailors is one of the CNO's (Chief of Naval Operations) priorities," said Harvey. "These initiatives are a very big step in that direction."

While the award points are not retroactive to past exams, if a Sailor has completed an IA tour in the designated time window, that Sailor will receive the points to-

ward the next exam cycle.

"We have to show our Sailors that we are serious about our commitment to the IA fight, and we are serious about our commitment to take care of them," said Harvey. "If giving two award points to a Sailor who volunteers to go to Al Anbar Province and fight the IED [improvised explosive device] battle helps him to advance, then I think that is the right thing to do."

This initiative is part of a series that are being rolled out over the next several weeks and are the most recent efforts by Task Force IA (TFIA) to improve the quality of life of those Sailors and their families chosen to serve as IAs.

DoD resumes mandatory anthrax vaccinations

By Jim Garamone, American
Forces Press Service

The Defense Department will resume mandatory anthrax inoculations for service members and civilians deploying to U.S. Central Command and Korea, DoD officials said Oct. 16.

The six-shot series provides immunity from a deadly disease that has been used as a biological attack agent, said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

A small number of service members assigned to homeland defense units will also receive the shots.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, will issue instructions to the services in the next two months.



The program will start soon after.

A court order halted mandatory vaccinations in 2004. In 2005, the order was lifted, and service members deploying to the area or in

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Michael Pendergrass special units could choose to receive the vaccinations or not. Roughly 50 percent of those deploying did opt for the shots.
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The research Dr. Holmes conducts includes all seabirds but focuses more on the Newell's shearwaters (*Puffinus newelli*). While the wedge-tailed shearwaters like those found at PMRF tend to colonize close to the waters of the Pacific, Newells' reside much farther inland and as a result are prone to higher fallout numbers, a fallout being an unintended impact before reaching the ocean resulting in injury or death.

SOS maintains a number of aid stations around the island where people can bring fallen seabirds for evaluation, treatment and release. Birds that arrive at these aid stations are rehabilitated and subsequently released back into the wild.



Andrea Erichsen holds a fledgling while Monique Imberski takes measurements and bands the young wedge-tailed shearwater. The team flagged nests in the PMRF colony and then brought several of the fledglings out for training and banding.



Dr. Nick Holmes releases a white-tailed tropicbird on the beach fronting the PMRF beach cottages. The seabird didn't get very far however, and was taken back for further rehabilitation.

A Newell's shearwater and a white-tailed tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*) were two birds rescued in such a manner and brought to the PMRF outing to demonstrate how to properly release rehabilitated birds. The tropicbird was not ready for prime-time and opted instead to remain in the care of the SOS staff, but the Newell's quickly took flight after release.

The colony was briefly surveyed and several nests flagged. Wedgies, as wedge-tailed shearwaters are known, were extracted, measured and banded under the direction of the accomplished ornithologists.

The team of SOS field technicians, Angela Iwai, Monique Imberski and Jason Vercelli, were all given the opportunity to put these techniques to work as they went through the various steps themselves using the tools and instruments specific to this field of work.

After each tech practiced on several birds, the team wrapped up and made commitments with each other for future partnerships.

Heather Young, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for SOS at KIUC, was pleased with the progress made during the trip and remarked on her own hopes for the future of the shearwaters, petrels, tropicbirds and others.

"I love what we're all doing for the seabirds in this island," said Young.

PMRF Environmental Coordinator, John Burger, expressed his optimism in terms of how the various federal, state and local agencies interact and ensure the seabirds are properly monitored and cared for.

"This is another fine example of the pooling of on-island resources and talents that benefits the native residents of PMRF - furred, feathered, shelled or otherwise."

PMRF celebrates the Navy's 231st birthday



Photos by AW2 Matthew Nikkel

PMRF held the 2006 Navy Ball recently at the Grand Hyatt in Poipu to honor the Navy's 231st birthday. The lavish event featured a grand buffet, spirited toasts, a heartfelt speech from PMRF Commanding Officer, Capt. Mark Darrah, a video on the Global War on Terror and of course lots of music and dancing. The official ball cake was cut by this year's oldest Sailor, Capt. Darrah, and youngest Sailor, AMAA Chris Bostwick.



The Josh Goode Band will perform at Shenanigans on Wednesday, October 25 at 8:30 p.m.

Classifieds

For Sale: Baby items: Pooh infant gear including crib & mattress, stroller, playpen high chair and more. Items range from \$10 - \$75. Call 246-8647.

Room For Rent: Kekaha Gardens, walking distance to ocean. Available Nov 1 to single female, rent negotiable. Call 337-1641, 645-1693 or email chiyoko6@hawaiiintel.net.

For Rent: Kalaheo, 2Bd/

2Ba. home avail. 11/15. Ocean view, hot tub, dish satellite, wide-screen TV, quiet neighborhood on cul de sac. Must love cats. References required. \$2.8k/month + deposit. Call 332-8151.

For Sale: Beer Meister/Kegirator. Kenmore w/all parts functional plus spare CO2 bottle - \$200. Chipper/shredder 10HP 3 way feed. Used twice, like new - \$300. Call 332-8025 or 335-4872.

Room For Rent: 4Bd/2.5Ba home in Waimea. Available 10/15. Call David at 335-7977.

A hui hou! Farewell to:



SK2 Geisser Simo departs for NAS Norfolk to work with VRC-40 after serving more than three years at PMRF.

MWR Happenings

Halloween Party For a frightfully good time, join MWR at Shenanigans on Saturday, October 28 in your best Halloween costume and get ready for some tricks and treats.

Halloween Decorating Contest Decorate your house and lawn in Navy Housing in the "Spirit of Halloween" and win a spook-tacular prize! We will also be judging your jack-o-lanterns so have them lit and ready for the judges.

MWR Outdoor Theater

* October 20 *
Garfield: Tail of Two Kitties (PG)
The Break-up (PG-13)
 * October 21 *
Charlie's Angels (PG-13)
The Lake House (PG)
 * October 22 *
Braveheart (R)

* October 27 *
Click (PG-13)
White Coats (R)
 * October 28 *
The Break-up (PG-13)
Animal House (R)
 * October 29 *
Jaws (PG)

Waimea Theatre

Showtimes 7:30 p.m.

* October 18 - 22 *
Open Season (PG-13)
 * October 25 - 29 *
The Guardian (PG-13)
 * November 1 - 5 *
The Departed (R)

Safety Corner

By The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Halloween Driving Safety

More than 40 percent of the fatalities in motor vehicle crashes on Halloween night in 2005 involved a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

That is why local law enforcement officials will be out in force conducting sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and other activities to save lives by getting more drunk drivers off our roadways this Halloween.

Make no mistake. Our message is simple. Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest. If we catch you driving impaired this Halloween, we will arrest you. No exceptions. No



excuses.

Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime. In 2005, nearly 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a BAC of .08 or higher, according to NHTSA.

Halloween has become particularly dangerous. In fact, 41 percent

of all highway fatalities across the nation from 6 p.m. on Halloween night until 6 a.m. the following morning in 2005 involved a driver or a motorcycle operator with a BAC of .08 or higher, which is illegal in every state.

Drunk driving is not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant. Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, big attorney fees, unpaid time away from work, and dozens of other expenses.

Don't let your Halloween turn into a nightmare. Remember, we will be watching. Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.

Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state. Yet, drunk driving fatalities across the nation were up last year after slight declines the previous two years. Moreover, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, more than 1.4 million people were arrested for driving under the influence during 2004.



of all highway fatalities across the nation from 6 p.m. on Halloween night until 6 a.m. the following morning in

ANTHRAX, Contd. from Page 3

"The anthrax vaccine is safe; it is effective for all forms of anthrax spore exposure," Winkenwerder said. "Time and again [this vaccine] has been looked at by experts, ...and each time the conclusion is the vaccine is safe and it is effective."

The assistant secretary said the anthrax threat is still out there. "Our adversaries continue to remind us that they are determined to obtain nuclear, chemical and biological weapons," he said. "We do not yet know who perpetrated the attacks of October 2001." In that incident, letters filled with anthrax spores killed

five, sickened 17 and contaminated the Hart Senate Office Building so badly it was months before the building was deemed safe.

It's important to make the vaccination program mandatory, Winkenwerder said. "There is a signal sent if a program is voluntary that perhaps it is just not that important," he said. "Our actual view is that it is very important. We believe it should be mandatory, because we want to protect every person to the maximum degree possible who might be a target."

While the program is mandatory for those deploying to threat areas, the program will be voluntary for service members and civilians who

started their vaccine series but had to stop because of the judge's order. "If they wish to continue with their vaccine series, we will make it available," Winkenwerder said.

Research continues on the anthrax vaccine. The assistant secretary said DoD is looking at studies conducted with the Centers for Disease Control that may allow the department to reduce the number of shots from six to five or even four.

"We don't have FDA concurrence or approval for that yet," he said.

There is no shortage of the vaccine, Winkenwerder said.

Wish you were here - Photos from the Fleet



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jayme T. Pastoric

Rocky, a military working dog, grabs onto a biting wrap worn by U.S. Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Adam Leeds during a canine demonstration on Naval Support Activity Bahrain. The demonstration is to show the armed forces community the capabilities of Naval police dogs. Leeds is a canine handler assigned to Naval Security Force Bahrain's K-9 unit.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jayme T. Pastoric

Shane Huffman, driver of the number "88 Accelerate Your Life" Chevrolet Monte Carlo, shown in the garage area at the Lowe's Motor Speedway prior to the Dollar General 300 race. The car has been given two special ship decals for the race, one of the USS Harry S. Truman and the USS Constitution.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Scott Taylor

A U.S. Navy Blue Angel F/A-18 solo aircraft pulls up hard for a high-performance takeoff during the team's performance at the Miramar Air Show on board Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. This year's air show was themed "The Sound of Freedom: Celebrating the Blue Angels' 60th Anniversary."