

# MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

## DON'T FORGET

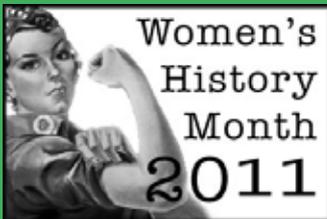
- ✦ St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Mar. 18
- ✦ KAPAP Self-Defense Courses, Mar. 22
- ✦ Town Hall Meeting, Mar. 28

March 18, 2011

Volume 20

Issue 5

## INSIDE



**2**  
Celebrating Womens History Month, a look in the history of women in the military



**3**  
Training will soon begin for the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Repeal



**5**  
Admirals Cup Softball

## NAVY UNITS SUPPORT TSUNAMI-DAMAGED AREAS



NORTHERN JAPAN (March 15, 2011) Japanese citizens move food and water out of an HH-60H Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Black Knights of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Alexander Tidd

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii -- U.S.

By: U.S. PACIFIC FLEET,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pacific Fleet ships in the Western Pacific were converging on Japan to be in the best position to help those in areas damaged by the massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

They include the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), which departed Southern California waters on March 5 for a regularly scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Reagan is the flagship of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, which includes USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and USS Preble (DDG 88). All three

ships were headed to Honshu's east coast. It is too early to say what they will be tasked with once they arrive.

USS Essex (LHD 2), also forward deployed to Sasebo, had just arrived in Malaysia, but is getting ready to return to Japan to rendezvous with USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) and USS Germantown (LSD 42) off Tokyo to prepare for any humanitarian assistance/disaster relief duties.

USS Tortuga (LSD 46), a dock landing ship that carries helicopters and landing craft to support amphibious operations, left its forward deployed port of

— Continued page 4

# Merlion

## Star

**Acting Commander,  
Logistics Group Western Pacific**  
Capt. Matthew Garside

**Chief of Staff**  
Capt. Matthew Garside

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Lt. Cmdr. Mike Morley

**Assistant Public Affairs Officer**  
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class  
Jessica Bidwell

**Commanding Officer,  
Navy Region Center, Singapore**  
Capt. Mike Smith

**Commander,  
Sealift Logistics Command, Far East**  
Capt. Charles "Chip" Denman

**Commander,  
497th Combat Training Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Norman B. Dimond

**Commander,  
Defense Contract Management Agency**  
Lt. Col. Greg Scougall

**Commander,  
United States Airforce, 730th AMS/Det 2**  
Capt. Daniel Nigolian

**Officer in Charge,  
Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Singapore**  
Cmdr. Bobby Pitts

**Officer in Charge,  
Military Sealift Fleet Support Command,  
Ship Support Unit, Singapore**  
Lt. Cmdr. Michael Little

**Supervisor,  
United States Coast Guard, Singapore**  
Lt. Cmdr. Ken Phillips

**Special Agent in Charge,  
U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service,  
Singapore Field Office**  
Greg Bachman

Merlion Star is an authorized publication for the members of the Sembawang military community, published by Logistics Group Western Pacific's public affairs office. Contents herein are not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Navy or the Commander of Logistics Group Western Pacific. All items for publication in Merlion Star must be submitted to the editor ([jessica.bidwell@fe.navy.mil](mailto:jessica.bidwell@fe.navy.mil)) (6750-2431) by noon Friday the week prior to publication.

# Women's History Month

To highlight Women's History Month, the Naval History and Heritage Command Web site, [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil), has unveiled a rich resource of women's history to honor women and their service in the U.S. Navy.

Historical vignettes featuring stories about the contribution of Navy women in aviation, in leadership advancement, even in the space program, are on the Web site, plus the early history of female naval officers and the first African American female officers.

Milestones for women in naval history, ships named after women, oral histories of the attack on Pearl Harbor and perspectives of Navy women who served in Philippines.

Navy uniforms for women in the Naval Reserve in 1918 and service dress blues for the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) from 1944 may be seen on the site.

Art work from the U.S. Navy Art Gallery is featured with depictions of women in service throughout history. Significant first assignments, including the historical background

of breakthrough appointments for women in the Navy, are explained with the art. From the Naval History and Heritage Command photo archives, the site shows female yeoman photographs from World War I, recruiting posters for women from World War II, WAVES photographs from World War II and post-World War II photographs.

There is also a section on interesting stories and reading material to strengthen your perspective of female service in the Navy, to include the following articles:

- I was a Yeoman
- Establishment of Navy Nurse Corps, 1908
- Women on Navy Ships in 19th Century
- Navy Department Press Release, 30 July 1942
- Congratulatory Letter from President Roosevelt on 1 year anniversary of WAVES
- Establishment of Women's Reserve, 1942
- Z-gram (Equal Rights and opportunities for women), 1972

- Assigning Women to Ships, 1978
- Role of Women in Theater during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The Naval History and Heritage Command Web site is one of the most frequently visited Navy resources with tens of thousands of pages of history, photographs and historical art available to the fleet and the American public.

For more news from Naval History and Heritage Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/navhist/](http://www.navy.mil/local/navhist/).



# Training for “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) Repeal

*“We must train our force on the spirit and intent of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” repeal without impacting mission readiness. The training focuses on leadership, professionalism, discipline and respect -- ideals already familiar to Sailors.”*

- Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10, Navy DADT Repeal Implementation Task Force Execution Lead

On December 22, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the provision into law to repeal Section 654 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code, commonly known as the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law. It is important to understand that the current DADT policy remains in effect. U.S. Fleet Forces Command is the executive agent for training delivery and tracking of Navy personnel on the educational content concerning the repeal. Training will be delivered to all active and Reserve personnel, Navy civilians who supervise military personnel, and DoD contractors, as required by their position and responsibilities.

## Training Via a Tiered Approach

- Master Mobile Training Teams (MMTTs) are trained and certified by USFF’s Center for Personal and Professional Development to conduct Tier 2 training. Seventeen MMTTs are traveling to more than 70 destinations worldwide to provide Tier 2 training to command leadership teams, flag officers and senior executive service personnel.
- Command leadership teams, consisting of the commanding officer, executive officer and command master chief (or officer-in-charge, assistant officer-in-charge and senior enlisted advisor when applicable) of each Navy command, will then conduct Tier 3 training with their Sailors, emphasizing Navy policies and expectations of personal behavior.
- Professional communities who may deal frequently with repeal policy issues must also undergo Tier 1 training. Chaplains, judge advocates, military law enforcement personnel, human resource officers, public affairs officers, personnel support professionals, equal opportunity advisors, recruiters and Fleet and Family Support Center personnel, have each developed community-specific, OPNAV-approved Tier 1 training. All communities must schedule training and identify personnel required to attend in accordance with USFF guidance.



## Delivery to Sailors Around the World

- Tier 3 training will consist of observing a DoD-developed slide show while command leadership teams verbally address the needs of their Sailors through two-way discussion and question and answer sessions.
- Details of training and implementation for some Sailors in combat zones will be issued in the near term.

## Tracking in the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS)

- Documentation of training, a critical element of the training delivery process, will be recorded for each individual Sailor using NFAAS.
- Command-designated training representatives will document completed training within three business days following the training session.

# U.S. Military in Japan for Disaster Relief

Sasebo in Southern Japan last evening to embark MH-53 heavy lift helicopters.

USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), the U.S. Seventh Fleet command ship, had arrived in Singapore yesterday for a port visit, but immediately changed its focus to loading humanitarian assistance/disaster relief equipment and preparing to return to Japan to provide support as directed.

“We obviously have huge sympathy for the people of Japan, and we are prepared to help them in any way we possibly can,” Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in a statement. “It’s obviously a very sophisticated country, but this is a huge disaster and we will do all, anything we are asked to do to help out.”



**SOUTH CHINA SEA (March 11, 2011)** Hull Technician 2nd Class Seneca Jernigan, left, and Yeoman 3rd Class Steven Tai move pallets of humanitarian assistance supplies across the flight deck of USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) during an underway replenishment with the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aaron M. Pineda



**PACIFIC OCEAN (March 16, 2011)** Sailors load bottled water on an HH-60H Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Black Knights of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Ronald Reagan is off the coast of Japan providing humanitarian assistance to Japan as directed in support of Operation Tomodachi. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Dylan McCord



**NORTHERN JAPAN (March 15, 2011)** Naval Aircrewman 2nd Class Chris Carringer, assigned to the Black Knights of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4, passes a Japanese citizen a case of fresh water out of an HH-60H Sea Hawk helicopter. after the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Alexander Tidd



**NORTHERN JAPAN (March 15, 2011)** Japanese citizens move food and water out of an HH-60H Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Black Knights of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Alexander Tidd

# *ADMIRALS CUP SOFTBALL*

