

Engineering Opportunities at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

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Abstract

Navy Yard Pearl Harbor was officially established on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu by the U.S. Navy on May 13, 1908 as a mid-Pacific coaling and repair station. Military facilities on the islands of Hawaii have proven to be vital for the defense of the United States and its interests. Hawaii's strategic location is a vital waypoint and defensive outpost between the U.S. mainland and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region. The Shipyard has continuously improved from its modest creation as a coaling and repair station into a world-class Navy complex; these changes reflect the importance the Shipyard has to the U.S. Navy and the global influence of the region. The capabilities provided by the Shipyard enable the U.S. Navy to secure sea lanes of communication and commerce, effectively projecting power across the expansive Pacific and Indian oceans. Generations of Shipyard workers have witnessed war, conflict, and evolving global interests from this critical geographic vantage point. Our men and women strengthened our nation's rise from an historic attack on their homeland to provide pivotal support and a hard-fought victory in World War II, earning the motto "We Keep Them Fit to Fight!" Shipyarders also supported the Fleet in the Korea conflict, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf War, in combat operations in support of ground Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in a myriad of international affairs today. Paralleling these historic milestones, the Shipyard supported the seafaring transition from sail to steam to nuclear power, and helped our Navy progress from the industrial revolution to today's cutting-edge information-technology domain. Today, the nation reaffirms the Asia-Pacific region as central to global economic development and geopolitical stability in the twenty-first century. The National Leaders and Secretary of Defense pursue a strategic rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, and the United States military continues to increase its role in cooperative security efforts and concentrate its operational focus on the area. These re-balancing actions thrust Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard into a leading support role as the Navy relocates 60% of its Forces to the Pacific. The men and women of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNS) continue the resilient lineage of Shipyarders who have given their blood, sweat and determination in defense of our nation. They are dedicated professionals who repair, maintain and modernize the U.S. Pacific Fleet, while they contribute to the economic and social well-being of the State of Hawaii. Employing over 5000 personnel, the Shipyard is the largest industrial activity in the State.

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