

From immigrant to patriot

Sim volunteers for Afghanistan team



By Rick Saltzman

Henry P. Sim, who traveled to many nations during his three decades with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific, left Hawaii on Dec. 7 to add another land to his federal government globetrotting history.

Sim, whose middle name for the purposes of this article could easily be *patriot*, volunteered for a one-year individual augmentation assignment in Afghanistan. A patriot is someone who loves, supports, and defends one's country.

"Every time I returned home from previous trips out of the U.S. I always had a feeling of gratitude that I live in this country," said Sim, product line manager for NAVFAC Pacific's Public Works Business Line Facilities Management and Sustainment Branch. "This country gave me many opportunities."

The intolerance of some in Afghanistan who recently tossed acid in young girls' faces because they wanted to attend school to get an education outraged Sim. He vowed to do something meaningful for the citizens of Afghanistan.

"I have a girl of my own who is still in college. Need I say more?" asked Sim.

"Friends and co-workers wondered why I volunteered. That's simple. I was inspired by Jay Cooper," he explained. Cooper, NAVFAC Pacific comptroller, returned from Iraq last April after one year as a volunteer helping U.S. State Dept. Reconstruction Teams throughout the country.

"I told Henry to go to Afghanistan thinking what you can accomplish as a



team of professionals working in the entire region," advised Cooper. "Your sense of satisfaction will be improved if you look at it from that standpoint."

Sim emigrated to Hawaii from Hong Kong, and his family encouraged his patriotic decision to do his part for their adopted country. Sim's primary function will be maintenance work with the Army Corps of Engineers, who need maintenance professionals in Afghanistan.

"Maintenance is my bag," added Sim, "At NAVFAC Pacific I'm responsible for maintenance for our three facilities engineering commands, NAVFAC Hawaii, NAVFAC Far East, and NAVFAC Marianas.

"Right now my travel order says Afghanistan but it doesn't say where," said Sim. "That's all they told me. Except for some training in Virginia, I have no idea."

Sim appeared less concerned about his unknown destination in Afghanistan than the 12-hour-long flight to Dubai from Virginia. He even joked about it. "Straight through! It's going to kill my back because I cannot sit still."

"I very much appreciate the admiral (NAVFAC Pacific Commander Rear Adm. Michael Giorgione) for giving me the opportunity to serve my country," said Sim, who added he will miss everybody and miss coming to work at NAVFAC Pacific.

NAVFAC Pacific's Henry P. Sim (above) tied up loose ends in December before departing Hawaii for a year in Afghanistan.

The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Civilian Personnel Policy) has been designated by Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) as the lead in expanding the opportunities for Department of Defense (DoD) civilians to fill global expeditionary augmentation requirements.

As a result of this initiative, they have received from the Joint Staff a list of requirements for DoD civilian volunteers to serve. These opportunities are on Joint Task Force Headquarters staffs supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations worldwide.

**For more information go to:
www.cpmis.osd.mil/expeditionary**