



**COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII/  
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP  
MIDDLE PACIFIC**

**COVID-19 AWARENESS  
July 1, 2020**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

This weekend we celebrate our independence, or more specifically, the anniversary of the signing of our Declaration of Independence. In just over 1,300 words of this history-making document, our founders spelled out the grievances of thirteen diverse colonies and declared to the world that they “are, and of right ought to be free and independent states.”

In the last 244 years, our country faced many crises, demonstrating our steadfast resilience, and devotion to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. The last few months presented us with a challenge unprecedented in our history – a virus we continue to battle. We’ve done a superb job to date, but the fight is not over.

Yesterday, Admiral Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet released new Force Health Protection Condition (HPCON) measures in response to COVID-19. The guidance states that DOD Civilian and Contract personnel and family members are strongly encouraged to comply to minimize the risk of spreading the infection.

This direction calls for the continued use of social distancing, reminding us that when interacting with persons outside of our in-residence family, we should maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from others. To the maximum extent practical, wear cloth face coverings when you are in close contact. These practices are essential to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of our service members and to ensure mission readiness and assurance. It’s important for active duty to know that failure to adhere to this guidance may subject service members to administrative or disciplinary action under the UCMJ.

This guidance aligns with the message to the Fleet on sustaining Fleet Readiness we received from the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gilday, earlier this week. In his message, the CNO reminds us that even though the Independence Day holiday weekend is occurring at a time when we have seen relaxations to some of the measures we have used to combat COVID-19, we cannot afford to let our guard down in our war against this virus. It will not allow us to relax social distancing to accommodate a neighborhood gathering.

The message from our leadership is clear - now is the time to stay the course. “Each of us will be faced with temptations to cut corners and return to the ‘old normal,’” says the CNO. “Do not do it. The health and safety of our Sailors and families is my number one priority. Do not compromise yourself, your family or your friends and become the source of COVID-19 at your command.” VADM Brown (aka SWOBOSS)

put it very well yesterday when he said that “where you are is important, but what you do there is much more important.”

The Navy has also released a “COVID-19 Leaders’ Handbook,” (link below) a guide that has key information on the threat, risk prevention and mitigation procedures. Use this and other resources we provide below to stay informed on how you can continue your important role in keeping yourself and others safe and healthy.

As we approach the holiday weekend, do not forget how treacherous an enemy we are facing. Continue to combat the virus with social distancing, personal hygiene and most importantly of all, personal responsibility. COVID-19 will honor no call for a cease fire for our holiday.

I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

V/r, Robb

Stay up-to-date on the latest developments at the following links:

- CNRH COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirusdisease2019.html>
- CNRH Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>
- JBPHH Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JBPHH/>
- Ensure your family’s readiness for a severe weather and develop your own response plan for hurricane season: <https://www.ready.navy.mil/>
- Fleet on sustaining Fleet Readiness: [https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=113426](https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=113426)
- COVID-19 Leaders’ Handbook: <https://allhands.navy.mil/The-Way-Forward/US-Navy-COVID-19-Leaders-Handbook>

V/r, Robb

RDML Robb Chadwick, USN  
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/  
Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

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