



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
MAY 15, 2020**



COVID-19 Awareness – May 15, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

The focus of my weekly updates to you recently have been mostly local in nature and the most significant local development is the extension of the state's stay at home order and 14 day ROM requirement through June 30. It may seem like a mixed message since they are also opening retail establishments today. Regardless of the mixed message, the need for continued vigilance remains to keep the virus out of our shore and fleet commands. So, while we continue to pay attention to matters closest to home, it is also important to look at the big picture. Last week I asked you to read the Chief of Naval Operations message to the Fleet. Admiral Gilday zeroed in on the Navy's unique role as the forward deployed force of our country. U.S. Navy operations are ongoing: more than a third of our ships are underway, and we have assets operating forward in every fleet.

This week, I'd like to call your attention to the critical role played in this campaign by the unified combatant commander responsible for our part of the world.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, led by Admiral Davidson, is responsible for enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region and is postured and ready to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific in the face of all adversaries, both seen and unseen. USINDOPACOM is focused on providing military manpower and equipment – both capacity and capability – to state and local authorities to help combat this virus, and is coordinating with USAID in designing, reviewing, and implementing Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid-funded minimum cost projects in eleven Asian nations, providing medical supplies, hand washing stations, generators, tents to house medical supplies, portable toilets, and cleaning supplies.

INDOPACOM is providing this aid because pandemics and public health threats don't respect national borders and helping other countries improve public health protects Americans here at home.

As I indicated above, we are seeing signs that appear to point to a return to normal. While this is encouraging, I continue to caution you against complacency. We need to closely monitor our status and remain ready to react as circumstances dictate. We have embraced the challenge of COVID-19 and are learning, adapting, and improving continuously. At the same time, remember the importance of being ready for a potential next challenge - the hurricane. Yet another storm is being tracked in the waters of Southeast Asia. While it poses no threat to us, it is notable that this is the second storm that has caught our attention already this year, and Hurricane season does not officially open until 1 June.

Staying informed is an important part of our readiness, and we continue to have great resources at your disposal. Stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 information at the CNRH COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirusdisease-2019.html>, which includes local updates on

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operations and services. Also, follow the CNRH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/> to get updated information. Ensure your family's readiness for a severe weather event by developing your own response plan. Plenty of tips can be found here - <https://www.ready.navy.mil/>.

You continue to perform your duties with the highest degree of professionalism and creativity, and for that, I could not be more proud. I encourage you to continue to share your ideas, concerns, lessons, or questions as they relate to our current campaign.

As always, please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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