



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**



COVID-19 Awareness – September 17, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

Fall is here, bringing it with it start of the college and professional football seasons. Even though for many football is part of what is normal, the games appeared very different from previous years. In many cases, the typically-packed stands of mammoth stadiums were empty or filled by photographic cut-outs of fans. Coaches wore face coverings and even broadcasters were socially distanced as they called the games. These changes, like so many others during most of 2020, were necessitated by COVID-19, the opponent who does not respect our pastimes nor favor any team.

Here in Hawaii, the number of new cases reported continued on a downward trend, showing that our hard work seems to be paying dividends. We have seen daily new case numbers drop back into double-digits for the first time in weeks. We also received another reminder of how random and relentless the virus can be, when we learned that Hawaii's Lieutenant Governor Green, himself a doctor, tested positive for COVID-19.

Controlling the spread of the virus remains a top priority, not just for the Department of Defense, but also for our local governments. Governor Ige said Monday that he will likely delay again the start of a pre-arrival testing program from people coming to Hawaii. This is frustrating not only to the local tourism industry, but to anyone who wants to travel to or from the mainland. But the fact that caution is being exercised before making such a move shows that caution remains vital in our ability to overcome this in the long-term. I ask each of you to continue to make responsible choices in the way you combat COVID-19.

COS Guenther reminded you last week that September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), and I encourage each of you to prepare for potentially hazardous situations, not just at work, but also in your home and community. This year's theme for NPM is "Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today." We are still in the midst of hurricane season, and we had an early season close brush with Douglas. Hurricane Sally on the Gulf Coast is a grim reminder of why we must be prepared. My brother is in Pensacola and dealing with the aftermath, including no electricity or running water. We have to be ready. Many resources are available, including the links at the bottom of this e-mail, to help you with your preparation for any situation. If you haven't started a disaster plan, I strongly encourage you to start now.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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