



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
SEPT. 2, 2020**



COVID-19 Awareness – Sept. 2, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

It is hard to believe, but the upcoming Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer. Unfortunately, the presence of COVID-19 made this a summer unlike any of us have ever experienced. Under normal circumstances, this season would have been highlighted by RIMPAC 2020, the most important maritime exercise in the Pacific. This past week in particular would have been a time for numerous, large events commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II. On an individual level, the summer would have been full of enjoyable activities, like beach outings, visits to local attractions, command and neighborhood cook outs and picnics, and large, family gatherings. Due to COVID-19, the exercise duration and number of countries participating were cut in half, and all ashore activities other than resupply were curtailed. Events in our personal lives are now restricted in scope or completely eliminated. The local government just renewed restrictions on gatherings and limited unnecessary activities in public places. And officials are strictly enforcing these restrictions, as they should.

As we move into the Labor Day holiday, I reflect on our last holiday weekend, the 4th of July. Although many mitigation measures were in place, we saw some relaxation of many of those measures; at the time, it made sense. On July 4, the number of new COVID-19 cases on Oahu was 24. Only thirty days' later, that number jumped to 202, and unfortunately, they continued to grow for several weeks.

I want to emphasize the vital importance of consistent and sustained vigilance in fighting this foe. Our mitigation measures only work as well as the individual level of execution. It does little good to have a face covering if you refuse to wear it around others. Social distancing is only effective when you follow the guidelines. I ask that each of you continue to take personal responsibility for your actions. Make the right choice to protect not only yourselves, but your shipmates, coworkers, neighbors and families. Enjoy your holiday weekend and stay safe .

Happy Labor Day!

V/r, Robb

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