



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
July 22, 2020**



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Region Hawaii and MIDPAC Ohana,

All last week, we observed a sobering reminder of the dangers inherent to service in our Navy, as Sailors, Federal Firefighters, and local first responders bravely combatted a devastating fire aboard USS BONHOMME RICHARD in San Diego. We do not typically associate a ship moored at the pier as a dangerous environment, but this fire reinforced the message that we must be ready to respond to any contingency, no matter the time, no matter the place. Fortunately, none of our shipmates have been seriously injured as a result of the blaze, but the damage to the ship is extensive. Please include the BONHOMME RICHARD Sailors, their families, and the emergency responders who battled the fire in your thoughts and prayers.

We are also tracking Tropical Storm Douglas, currently east of our islands but it could come to the Central Pacific late this week. The link to “Ready Navy” is at the bottom of this e-mail. Please review the sections that address how to stay informed, make a plan, and build a kit to be ready for a disaster. I strongly encourage you to continue to prepare yourself and your families for the possibility of significant storms this hurricane season.

We continue our ongoing battle against COVID-19. Numbers of new cases on the mainland have grown at an unprecedented pace. Even here in Hawaii, where the spread of the virus has been at a far lower rate than other localities, the numbers continue to grow. Recently, Governor Ige announced that the state will maintain its mandatory 14-day quarantine for new arrivals at least until the end of August. We are still working closely with local authorities, and we will consider their changes in policy as we move forward.

Although we keep hope alive that this situation will improve, we have always known that we may have to slow the pace for restoring operations on our installations. Our priority remains protecting our people while carrying out our mission. This remains a dynamic situation, but we have learned much over the past few months. Three months ago, we faced a steep learning curve about the virus, building our models and mitigations as the situation developed. Today we are applying the lessons we have learned, and we are better able to adjust our actions in alignment with the evolving situation on the ground. You have proven our ability to conduct operations under trying circumstances, and those skills will give us the edge as we move forward.

I call upon each of you to carry out the drumbeat of actions to protect you and your shipmates from this virus. Personal responsibility is the single most effective way to counteract COVID; continue wearing face coverings, exercise good hygiene habits and observe social distance practices. Your personal choices will be critical to our success in this fight.

You have done a superb job in carrying out our mission, and I encourage you to share your ideas, and well as any concerns or questions you may have about our current campaign, to me via your leaders.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

RDML Robb Chadwick, USN
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/
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