



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

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



COVID-19 Awareness - April 22, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

I begin my update by thanking you for the great job you continue to do, adapting the way you conduct our commands' work while we fight the COVID-19 virus. You have become so capable at maintaining connectivity via teleconferencing and teleworking that it is becoming second nature to you. At home, you have adjusted your shopping trips to follow special hours or face-covering requirements, and you have become accustomed to having your dinner delivered instead of making a trip to your favorite restaurant. In short, you have adapted. It remains to be seen what the "new normal" will look like on the other side of this pandemic, but the habits and skills we have developed will undoubtedly remain useful.

This ability to adapt and the associated willingness to do things differently will be key components in our ultimate victory over this unseen foe. But as we continue to adapt in this current environment, some of our old adversaries are still out there, waiting to strike. One adversary doesn't particularly care when it strikes or where, or if it strikes military or civilian targets. The adversary I am referring to is a hurricane.

June 1 marks the opening of hurricane season here in the Hawaiian Islands. On average, about four or five of these tropical cyclones appear, but as recently as 2015 we saw 15. Usually these storms have limited impact on the islands, but with a shift in winds or currents, they can turn into monsters with destructive winds and torrential downpours. It has not been two years since Hurricane Lane slowly approached the islands from the southeast, peaking as a powerful Category 5 storm that prompted the issuance of hurricane watches and warnings for every island in Hawaii. While Lane weakened considerably as it moved through the islands, the storm still produced record rainfalls with as much as 52 inches in parts of the Big Island in just one day.

Much of our efforts in recent weeks have been devoted to precautionary measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. While we have no way to slow the movement of a hurricane, we can take measures to ensure we are ready if one of these potentially deadly storms takes aim on us. In order to exercise the Region's ability to prepare for and react to a hurricane, we will participate in HURREX 2020 in early May. In the past, this exercise was conducted by U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Navy Installations Command to test the Navy's ability to respond to adverse weather conditions in U.S. coastal regions and maintain the ability to deploy forces under the most severe weather conditions. This exercise was primarily directed towards forces along the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico. This year's HURREX will focus on the Fleet and Forces in the Hawaii Region, during and before a hurricane in the Hawaiian Islands.

Conducting an exercise like HURREX is important to us on an organizational level, but it's not enough. Preparation is a command-wide responsibility, but it is also an individual responsibility. We each need to prepare our own personal plans in case a hurricane heads our way. COVID-19 has tested our ability to adapt in the way we do business and lead our daily lives; now we must consider other impacts as we make plans to prepare for a hurricane. You are not alone as you devise plans for you and your ohana. Many resources are

available to assist you in preparing for an emergency like a hurricane or typhoon, most notably the Ready Navy webpage, which can be found at:

<https://www.ready.navy.mil/>

In the meantime, please continue to stay up to date on the latest information related to COVID-19 at the CNRH COVID-19 webpage at: <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirusdisease-2019.html>

Stay up to date by following the CNRH Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>

If you have questions, I urge you to participate in the JBPHH leadership virtual town hall meeting on Facebook Live on Thursday, 23 April at 1200HST at: <https://www.facebook.com/JBPHH/>

As always, thank you for the tremendous effort and hard work you display as you continue to support our mission. And if you have any ideas, concerns, or questions as they relate to our current campaign, please pass them up 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/
Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific
