



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS  
June 24, 2020**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

Every day, I do what I imagine a lot of you do – check the news. We do not have to look far to see the many important missions our Navy is doing around the world. Earlier this week, I saw a report that for the first time since 2017, the Navy has positioned three aircraft carriers on the doorstep of the disputed South China Sea. I saw headlines reporting that one of our guided missile destroyers was challenging Venezuela's excessive maritime claims in the Caribbean Sea, while two other ships conducted training with Georgian naval counterparts in the Black Sea. This is what our Navy does best – be on the world stage to protect our nation's interests.

Many other issues and topics are crowding the news, but though we may not be talking as much about the pandemic, the danger it represents is still very real. After weeks of operating under COVID conditions, we are moving towards a new normal, learning more about the spread of this and other diseases. We know personal hygiene, social distancing and judicious use of PPE make a real difference in slowing the spread of this virus. We discovered our capacity to execute many mission responsibilities via remote means. We understand the importance of protecting the members of our ohana who may be high-risk – and have taken steps to protect them.

Now is not the time to drop our guard. Vigilance and flexibility were critical to our success so far, and they will continue to be. Stay plugged into multiple information resources, such as the CNRH and installation Facebook pages. Keep doing the great work you have been doing, and continue sharing your ideas for addressing this unique challenge with your chain of command.

I ask you to remember the vitally important mission we must continue to execute during these times – ensuring the readiness of our Fleet, our Sailors, our workforce, and our families. We will continue to balance how we do our work to keep ourselves and our communities safe while we contribute to keeping the Navy present and on watch around the world.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

Stay up-to-date on the latest developments at the following links:

- CNRH COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirusdisease-2019.html>
- CNRH Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>

- JBPHH Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JBPHH/>
- Ensure your family's readiness for a severe weather and develop your own response plan for hurricane season: <https://www.ready.navy.mil/>

V/r, Robb

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