



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS  
SEPT. 25, 2020**



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**COVID-19 Awareness – Sept. 25, 2020**

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

As the Navy's day-to-day business continues to be impacted by COVID-19, it is important for us to remember that the critical mission of our Navy is still being carried out every day in locations around the globe.

Since our last update, Navy submarines, surface ships, aircraft and other undersea capabilities have trained together to ensure our Sailors are ready for high-end operations against our competitors in Exercise "Black Widow" in the Atlantic. Following operations in the Adriatic Sea, our Navy and NATO units conducted a joint maritime and air training mission in the Black Sea. Our forces joined with the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom to participate in a mine countermeasures interoperability exercise in the Arabian Gulf. USS Antietam (CG 54) conducted a Tomahawk land-attack cruise missile strike scenario on an uninhabited island off Guam's coast as part of Valiant Shield 2020. Elements of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group transited the Strait of Hormuz into the Arabian Gulf.

These types of evolutions happen nearly every day in our Navy. We have always been our nation's forward presence. The fact that these operations are being carried out, despite the COVID-19 environment, demonstrates our unswerving commitment to get the mission done, no matter what the obstacle, while keeping our people safe.

Here at home, the growth in the number of new virus cases is showing signs of moderating. Despite encouraging signs, we are not out of the woods. Our installation commanding officers and the Region staff continue to monitor conditions in the civilian communities while evaluating our local operating environment. In addressing COVID-19, the goal is always to make decisions that will best protect the safety and well-being of our Sailors, civilians, contractors and their families while continuing to execute our essential operations. The key to making this goal attainable continues to be individual responsibility and making the right choices at home, in the community and in the work place. Following the State's latest re-opening plan, we have also followed suit on base. The Joint Base team is getting the word out. It is important that we all remain aware of the latest state and base policies.

As a reminder, September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). Last week I challenged you to develop plans for how you would react and respond during hazardous situations. "Disasters Don't Wait - Make Your Plan Today" is the theme for NPM. A pandemic is a good reason to prepare your plan, but remember that other potential disasters are on the horizon this time of year – hurricanes. We have been fortunate that storms have not created major challenges for us in Hawaii this season, but we cannot afford to drop our guard. Take some time, develop a plan, and then be ready!

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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