



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII/
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP
MIDDLE PACIFIC

COVID AWARENESS
MARCH 26, 2020



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

Over the past few days, COVID-19 has driven us to change the way we typically carry out our work not only in our Region, but across the Department of Defense. Teleworking and virtual conferences have become the new norm. Earlier in the week, USINDOPACOM issued an order for commands to transition to Health Protection Condition (HPCON) CHARLIE, which means that there is an elevated risk of sustained community transmission.

By now I am sure you have also seen both Governor Ige and Mayor Caldwell issuing “stay at home / work at home” directives intended to slow the progression of the disease on Oahu. While the implementation of these measures show the serious nature of the virus, it is important for you to know that members of the Department of Defense who are designated essential are exempt from these directives and may continue to work as directed by your chain of command. If you are approached by local law enforcement concerning your presence going to and from your work, you should present your CAC, explain the purpose of your travel and your place of employment. Otherwise, we should all minimize our time around other people as much as possible.

In the meantime, we are committed to protecting our military members, civilian personnel, contractor employees and our families to fullest extent possible. We continue to move towards innovative solutions, such as maximizing telework and alternate work schedules that will significantly reduce the requirements for manning in your work areas while we continue to meet our mission. This is an environment that is ripe for further innovation as we operate as a distributed workforce. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of taking care of yourselves and your families. The recommendations to prevent the spread of the virus have not changed: Wash your hands, keep your area sanitized, practice social distancing, and above all, stay at home if you are sick.

There are plenty of places where you can turn to keep up to date. Tune in Thursday 26 March at 1200HST for a Facebook Live JBPHH leadership virtual town hall meeting designed to share updates and answer your questions. The JBPHH Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/JBPHH/>. I also encourage you to keep up to date via the COVID-19 Update page found at <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirus-disease-2019.html>. Look for regular updates from JBPHH and PRMF to be posted there and on the CNRH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>. Resources and services offered through Military OneSource, the Military and Family Life Counseling program, and the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program will continue to serve the military community:

- A dedicated section is available on Military OneSource to keep service members and their families informed about the impacts of COVID-19 on the military community. - <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus>
- Beginning March 24, Military OneSource will offer non-medical counseling video sessions for children and youth who may feel overwhelmed by the COVID-19 outbreak - <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/confidential-help/non-medical-counseling/military-onesource/non-medical-counseling-for-youth-now-available-by-video>
- Military OneSource will be live on Facebook Monday through Friday at noon Eastern Time to highlight available resources. All videos will be available for on-demand viewing - <https://www.facebook.com/military.1source>

Thank you for your flexibility as we navigate unprecedented challenges. I am proud of the way that everyone has responded and I continue to have the utmost confidence in our ability to see this difficult time through, together.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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