



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII/
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP
MIDDLE PACIFIC

COVID-19 AWARENESS
APRIL 2, 2020



COVID-19 Awareness – April 2, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

The developments of the last few days have further highlighted the impact that COVID 19 is having on every aspect of our lives. The virus continues to spread, and DOD and Navy leadership continue to stress the importance of protecting our people and continuing to carry out our mission, even as we are actively involved in minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

As always in the face of adversity, the men and women of our nation's military continue to rise to these unprecedented challenges. The Navy's two hospital ships, USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort, deployed to Los Angeles and New York City to augment the medical response to this crisis. Nearly 12,300 National Guard professionals are currently mobilized to support COVID-19 response at the direction of their governors.

Here in Hawaii, Governor Ige placed additional quarantine requirements on inter-island travel, and the state-wide "stay at home/work at home" restrictions remain in place. Just like around the world, the Hawaii armed services Ohana has stepped up to the challenge. To achieve guidelines of social distancing and reduce the possible spread of the virus, base commanders at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam and Pacific Missile Range Facility have closed or restricted operating hours to many facilities on their installations. Our chaplains are conducting worship services using streaming video capabilities, while family support programs have launched and expanded innovative ways to serve the changing needs of their customers. **It is truly an all hands effort and is not an overstatement to say that every individual can be a strategic actor (good or bad) in our fight to prevent the spread of COVID 19.**

In addition to practicing social distancing, I ask you to stay informed and connected. Telework and alternate work schedules have become the cornerstone of our daily work. The creative use of virtual meetings and teleconferencing keeps our workforce connected, and technologies like Facebook Live are an increasingly valuable information link to our team and our families.

I encourage you to continue to make use of these and other technologies and resources:

- Participate Thursday, 2 April at 1200HST in the JBPHH leadership virtual town hall meeting on Facebook Live for the latest updates and answers to your questions. The JBPHH Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/JBPHH/>.
- Read about Region, JBPHH and PMRF updates on the Region's COVID-19 Update page found at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirusdisease-2019.html> and on the CNRH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>.
- Joint Base worship services are being livestreamed and stored on the Chapel's webpage (<https://jbchapel.info/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/JBPHH.CRP/>).

- Navy leadership updates are relevant to all of us, and I encourage you to read and view the following:
 - The Chief of Naval Operations' and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy's message to the Fleet - <https://navylive.dodlive.mil/2020/03/30/covid-19-navy-update-cno-and-mcpon-message-to-the-fleet/>
 - The Vice Chief of Naval Operations' message to Navy leadership here - https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=112518

We will do our part to protect our Sailors, civilians, contract workers, and families and help the Navy maintain warfighting readiness. Thank you for the great work you continue to perform and your innovative approach to accomplishing our mission. Do not hesitate to let your leadership or me know of any ideas, concerns, or questions you have.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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