



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
June 3, 2020**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

With each passing week, we have continued to see the kind of flattening of the spread of COVID-19 that helps us to ease some of the measures we've had in place. More services are opening, more restrictions are relaxing and we are on the right track for establishing the "new normal" in our operations.

From the very first response from the Navy to the emerging threat of COVID-19, our leadership has steadfastly reaffirmed the commitment to carrying out our most important mission – the defense of our nation. This was reiterated last week by our 77th Secretary of the Navy, Kenneth J. Braithwaite, in his first message to the Department of the Navy. "Our Nation is up against perhaps the greatest test of our commitment to the ideals we hold dear than at any time in our history...surely since the end of World War II...However, our Navy and Marine Corps have faced tough times before. Each time we have prevailed and we will persevere again."

Last week we also witnessed the passing of the leadership of Navy Installations Command from Vice Adm. Jackson to Vice Adm. Lindsey. While Adm. Lindsey assumed command in the midst of the COVID-19, he will continue to provide the steady leadership and support to the shore infrastructure that characterized Adm. Jackson's time in command. In his remarks at the change of command ceremony, Adm. Lindsey saluted the "Enterprise that is operating literally around the clock and around the world providing outstanding support to the Fleet, the Fighter and the Family."

I am always awed by the smooth manner in which the Navy transitions leadership, particularly during times of unprecedented adversity. Nearly 80 years ago, Adm. Chester Nimitz took the reins of leadership over a fleet which faced a disaster of unparalleled proportions following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Just six months later, thanks in large part to the intrepid work of Navy codebreakers of Station HYPO and the herculean efforts of shipyard workers returning USS YORKTOWN to operational status in three days, the warriors of Adm. Nimitz's Pacific Fleet dealt a blow to their Japanese adversaries at the Battle of Midway from which they never recovered.

I encourage you to join us virtually as we commemorate the 78th anniversary of this historic victory with a small ceremony to be held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial Visitors Center. While the restrictions of social distance make your attendance of this commemoration impossible, you can see it live via our Navy Region Hawaii Facebook page.

Changes continue to take place in the operating hours of many of the facilities on our installations. I invite you to join the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam leadership in a Virtual Town Hall meeting that will be carried on the JBPHH Facebook page this Thursday at 1200HST. We are now into June, and that means Hurricane Season. If you do not have a personal plan for your family, now is the right time to start.

You continue to do a great job navigating these uncharted waters. Stay the course, and as always, share your ideas, concerns, lessons, or questions as they relate to our current campaign.

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
