



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
OCT 30, 2020**



COVID-19 Awareness – Oct. 30, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

The year that has been unlike any other continues on, with October coming to a close Saturday. Typically, Oct. 31 is highlighted by children suiting up for trick-or-treating and other Halloween festivities. But like so many other traditions, these celebrations will be curtailed in the interest of public health and safety. We have been reminded many times that COVID-19 doesn't observe our holidays, so we must continue with the measures that have flattened the curve in the number of new cases we have seen in recent weeks.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds us that celebrating Halloween will look very different this year. They suggest alternative activities, several of them virtual, for a Halloween that poses a lower risk for transmitting the virus. A full list of suggested activities can be found here - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>.

The City and County of Honolulu and the County of Kauai shared a listing of guidelines for the public to follow for Halloween on the respective islands, and most of these measures parallel the actions we are taking on our bases. This year, large Halloween parties or indoor haunted houses are not allowed, but drive or walk-through holiday decoration displays or decorated car parades are considered to be safe activities. Trick-or-treating in off-base neighborhoods is acceptable, but only if conducted without contact between the "giver" and the "goblin." The same is true for "trunk-or-treat" activities and physically-distanced neighborhood costumed parades.

PMRF MWR is hosting a "Trunk O'Treat" event Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and residents of base housing may participate in "socially-distanced" trick-or-treating Saturday. JBPHH Halloween is Saturday from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. Again, the guidelines for festivities are very similar to those released by the State of Hawaii. No haunted houses or house parties are permitted, and gatherings may not consist of more than five people. Trick-or-treaters should not come to the front door of any house for candy, with options such as creating one-way paths for grab-and-go highly recommended. Everyone should wear an approved face covering, including trick-or-treaters age 5 or up. And no, the mask that came with your child's costume does not qualify as an approved face covering!

The key to a safe and successful Halloween is to keep doing what has worked so far in keeping our Ohana safe – social distancing, face coverings, proper hygiene and good decision-making. We can safely enjoy this holiday, and not fall victim to the ultimate "trick" being played by COVID-19.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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