



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS  
DEC 9, 2020**



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**COVID-19 Awareness – Dec. 9, 2020**

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

This week we observed the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the pivotal moments in the history of our Navy and our nation: the attacks on Oahu on December 7th. Those attacks did not have the intended effect of sidelining the United States as an effective military power in the Pacific. Rather, in the words attributed to the Imperial Navy commander, they awakened “a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve.”

We are fortunate to live in a place that is so rich in history. There are not many places where you feel so close to events that shaped the course of our nation. For anyone who has spent more than a year in Hawaii, the December 7<sup>th</sup> commemoration is an occasion for reverent reflection and remembrance at ceremonies held at the scenes of these battles across our island. Because of COVID-19, only one ceremony was held this week – the principal ceremony at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial. And only the official party was able to participate in-person in the ceremony. For the first time in memory, no Pearl Harbor survivor or World War II veteran were able to attend the ceremony.

COVID-19 did not weaken our resolve to honor the sacrifices of these heroes. The ceremony was conducted in a virtual fashion and was streamed live via several channels, reaching thousands of people around the globe. The result was a commemoration that, while small, had a more intimate feel, as observers were closer to the event than in previous years. If you were not able to watch the event live, I encourage you to do so - <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/775532/79th-national-pearl-harbor-remembrance-day-commemoration>.

While we still feel the impacts of COVID-19 in our daily life, we are fortunate that Hawaii's number have remained relatively low. This has nothing to do with luck. Hawaii's low numbers are a result of cautious planning and a willingness on the part of the population to take responsibility for the safety of themselves, their families and their community. Adhering to the guidelines we have been following for months will show our “terrible resolve” to defeat this unseen enemy.

Keep doing what you are doing. We are getting closer every day to a vaccine that will become our most important weapon in this battle. There are many moving parts that are going into the planning, but as more information becomes available on vaccine distribution, I will ensure you are informed.

Until that time, keep maintaining social distancing, wear your face coverings and practice good personal hygiene.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.  
V/r, Robb

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Page 1 of 1