



“Navigator”
WHO'OKELE
FOR THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TEAM IN HAWAII

SEPTEMBER 2022

SEPTEMBER 18

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
U.S. AIR FORCE**

Pg. 12



SERVICE MEMBERS STAND BEHIND THE “WALL OF FIRE”

The “Wall of Fire” explodes behind two U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors during the Joint Air-Ground Task Force Demonstration as part of the 2022 Kaneohe Bay Air Show at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Aug. 13. The air show provided an opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of a joint force in the Indo-Pacific Region. (Photo by Cpl. Arianna Lindheimer)



The Ho’okele magazine is available online:

- CNRH website: <https://cnrh.cnrc.navy.mil/>
- CNRH DVIDS: <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/841/hookele>
- CNRH Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii>
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Director of Public Affairs, Navy Region Hawaii
Lydia Robertson

Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Navy Region Hawaii
Mike Andrews

Director of Public Affairs, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Chuck Anthony

Director of Public Affairs, Pacific Missile Range Facility
Vacant

Ho’okele Editor
Anna Marie General

Military Editor
MCC Christopher Blachly

Production Team
Melvin Gonzalvo
Elaine Phillips
MC2 Gregory Hall
MC2 Samantha Jetzer
MC2 Bodie Estep
Staff Sgt. Jacob Thompson



ON THE COVER:

U.S. Air Force 75th Anniversary Graphic. For 75 years, American Airmen have excelled as they execute the Air Force mission to fly, fight, and win — delivering airpower anytime, anywhere in defense of our nation.

(U.S. Air Force Graphic by Rosario “Charo” Gutierrez)



Ho’okele is a free publication.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, JBPHH, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876. This is an authorized publication primarily for members of the uniformed military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, and the military branch of services and do not imply endorsement thereof. A Hui Hou!

Your Navy Team in Hawaii

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii oversees two installations: Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oahu and Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, on Kauai. We provide oversight for the ten surface ships homeported at JBPHH. Navy aircraft squadrons are also co-located at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe, Oahu, and training is sometimes also conducted on other islands, but most Navy assets are located at JBPHH and PMRF. These two installations serve fleet, fighter and family under the direction of Commander, Navy Installations Command.

The guided-missile cruiser and destroyers of Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific deploy independently or as part of a group for Commander, U.S. Third Fleet and in the Seventh Fleet and Fifth Fleet areas of responsibility. The Navy, including your Navy team in Hawaii, builds partnerships and strengthens interoperability in the Pacific. Each year, Navy ships, submarines and aircraft from Hawaii participate in various training exercises with allies and friends in the Pacific and Indian Oceans to strengthen interoperability. Navy service members and civilians conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions in the South Pacific and in Asia. Working with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Navy in Hawaii provides drug interdiction and fisheries enforcement operations for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. In even-numbered years, Hawaii hosts the biennial summer Rim of the Pacific Exercise, the world’s largest military maritime exercise, featuring more than two dozen nations and 25,000 personnel.

The Navy family in Hawaii comprises around 50,000 people, most of whom are active duty service members and their families, and includes nearly 15,000 civilians and contractors as part of our workforce.

JBPHH includes the Pearl Harbor waterfront, Hickam flight line, Wahiawa annex and several other areas in West Oahu and provides a major logistics and other support hub for the military and military families. Supporting the nation’s ballistic missile defense initiative, the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the western coast of “The Garden Island,” is the world’s largest instrumented multidimensional testing and training missile range.

We provide services to the U.S. Pacific Command, one of DOD’s six geographic combatant commands, with an area of responsibility covering half the globe. We directly support two component commands whose headquarters are on JBPHH: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, U.S. Pacific Air Force. Close to our own Region/MIDPAC headquarters command is Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. With 18 forward-deployable combat-ready U.S. Navy submarines, Pearl Harbor is home to the largest submarine presence in the Pacific. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, on JBPHH, is the largest ship repair facility between the West Coast and the Far East. Within our region, we support more than 100 tenant commands.

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NEXT MONTH’S ISSUE:

In the October issue, Ho’okele will feature highlights on National Hispanic Heritage Month, U.S. Navy birthday, Energy Action Month, Cybersecurity Awareness Month and more.



Commander
Navy Region Hawaii
REAR ADM. STEPHEN BARNETT




Commander
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
CAPT. MARK SOHANEY




Commanding Officer
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2022 WATER QUALITY REPORTS ANNOUNCED

Story by Theanne Tangen
NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs

The Navy's 2022 Water Quality Reports, also known as Consumer Confidence Reports, provides information and data on its four water systems from 2021 and may be viewed online by water consumers.

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Hawaii (NAVFAC Hawaii) operates and manages the Navy's water systems at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Camp Stover, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS), and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai. The Environmental Protection Agency requires community water systems to provide an annual report on the quality of drinking water to their customers.

Many military personnel, their families, and civilian employees with the Navy, Air Force, Department of Defense (DoD), as well as non-DoD users living and working on JBPHH, various housing areas in the vicinity of the installation, and at PMRF Kauai, receive their drinking water from Navy sources.

Reports are available online at the following web addresses:

• **Navy Region Hawaii:** <https://cnrh.cnric.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Environmental/Water-Quality-Information/>

• **Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Hawaii:** <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/Facilities-Engineering-Commands/NAVFAC-Hawaii/About-Us/Hawaii-Documents/Water-Quality-Reports/>

Navy water consumers who have questions, or would like to request a hard copy of a 2022 Navy Water Quality Report can do so by contacting the NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs office at (808) 457-7497.

Diverse VIEWS

“What are your plans for Labor Day weekend?”

By Melvin Gonzalvo and Anna General



Senior Airman Joseph McCabe
647 Force Support Squadron

“My plan is to spend time with my wife. We are spending our one year anniversary and we wanted to go out on a nice date.”



Gary James
Hickam Fitness Center

“Labor Day weekend is my birthday, so I will be doing whatever my wife has planned, which I'm sure is a nice dinner and a couple days resting on the beach for the weekend.”



Tina Iha
JBPHH Fitness Center

“Fishing with my husband and relaxing outdoors. We live on an island and we are very fortunate to be surrounded by nature and it is the best activity to do with your family like I tell my kids, ‘get some sun, and get out and play.’”



PEARL HARBOR NEX WINS BINGHAM AWARD



Story by Anna Marie General, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs
Photos by Melvin Gonzalvo

The Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) won the 2021 Bingham award for sales Category 1 in which the store generated over \$50 million during the fiscal year, according to a recent Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) press release.

The award was presented during a ceremony at the Pearl Harbor NEX, Aug. 16, and is the highest achievement a store can receive as the best in class. There were a total of nine sales category award winners announced throughout the NEXCOM enterprise. Eight other NEX stores worldwide won in the remaining sales categories, and nine runner-ups were also recognized.

NEX CEO, retired Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi, presented the 2021 Bingham award to Capt. Mark Sohaney, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Steve Morales, general manager of Pearl Harbor NEX, during the ceremony.

“Each year, we recognize our ‘best of the best’ NEX locations with the Bingham award,” said Bianchi. “While 2021 continued to be a challenge due to the ongoing pandemic, staffing and supply

chain disruptions, our NEX locations didn't miss a beat and continued to provide premier customer service to all our deserving patrons.”

The award recognizes outstanding performance in operations, excellence in customer service and community support. Established in 1979, the Bingham award is named after the late Capt. W.H. Bingham, Supply Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve who was the chief executive officer of the R.H. Macy's company and was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy in 1946 to lead an advisory board for establishment of what is now the NEXCOM.

“NEXCOM contributes to the Navy's mission readiness with each of our NEX locations working hand-in-hand with their base commanding officers to support quality of life for the military community,” said Bianchi. In recognition of this great partnership, the Bingham award is presented to both the NEX and installation.

NEXCOM provides authorized customers quality goods and services at savings and to support Navy quality of life programs for active duty military, retirees, reservists and their families.



Blue Angels
 tour Pearl Harbor, Arizona Memorial



The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, tour Pearl Harbor with family and friends. The Blue Angels were in Hawaii for the 2022 Kaneohe Bay Air Show, Aug. 13-14. (Photos by MC2 Gregory Hall)



In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the lead federal agency, in partnership with the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs, working to make the promise of 988 a reality for America. Moving to a 3-digit dialing code is a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** to strengthen and expand the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (the Lifeline).

Of course, 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Preparing for full 988 implementation requires a bold vision for **a crisis care system that provides direct, life-saving services to all in need.**

SAMHSA sees 988 as a first step towards a transformed crisis care system in much the same way as emergency medical services have expanded in the US.



In pursuit of this bold yet achievable vision, SAMHSA is first focused on strengthening and expanding the existing Lifeline network, providing life-saving service to all who call, text or chat via 988. Longer term, SAMHSA recognizes that linking those in crisis to community-based providers—who can deliver a full range of crisis care services—is **essential to meeting crisis needs across the nation.**



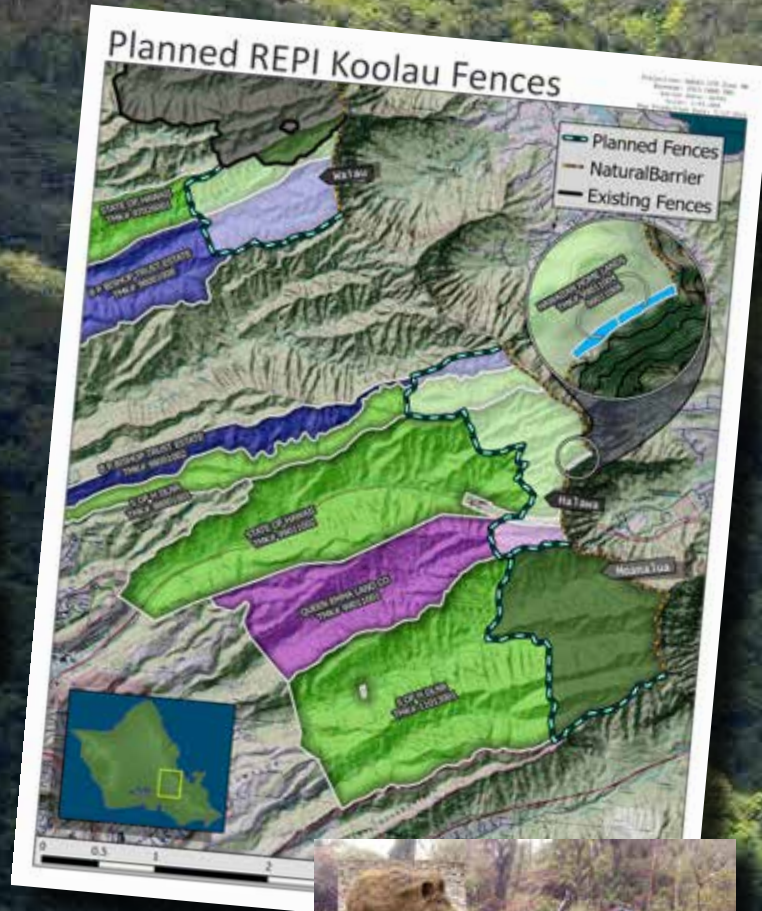
Developed in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Navy partners with Hawaii to improve Waiawa Watershed

Story and photo by MC2 Greg Hall
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs



(Courtesy illustrations)

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), in partnership with the State of Hawaii, were the recipients of a \$14,881,880 grant from the Department of Defense (DoD) through the DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) Challenge Program.

“We depend on these local communities for support, and look for ways that we can provide support in return. The REPI Challenge Program is an exciting way to directly impact our surrounding environment and create change that will have a lasting effect.”

- Capt. Mark Sohaney, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

The grant funds a project to improve 7,155 acres of upland forests in the Waiawa Watershed, which, according to Susie Fong, JBPHH REPI program manager, will help lead to the sustainability of Oahu’s only aquifer.

“The project will protect and restore the native upland forests which are home to the island’s watersheds and aquifers,” said Fong. “The State of Hawaii and the Navy have been working on this collaborative effort for a couple of years, and we have been fine tuning the project and the scope of work to align with State of Hawaii’s Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) goals of natural resource management and the Navy’s goals of long-term mission sustainment and operations.”

The REPI program is a key tool for combating encroachment that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations. While REPI’s primary mission is to protect military readiness, REPI also benefits the environment by conserving land near military installations and ranges.

“The focus of the project is to safeguard drinking water supplies at JBPHH by protecting and restoring 7,155 acres of forested lands that replenish the Pearl Harbor Aquifer,” said Katie Roth, a planner with the Commission on Water Resource Management, a division of the State of Hawaii’s Department of Land and Natural Resources. “These native forests are the source of drinking water for Navy personnel at JBPHH and provide a buffer from major storm events that cause erosion and flooding.”

Roth said that there are numerous conservation organizations participating in the Waiawa Watershed restoration including the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the University of Hawaii, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership, the Oahu Invasive Species Committee and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Hawaii organization.

“Allying Joint Base with our neighbors is vitally important to our success as an installation,” said Capt. Mark Sohaney, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. “We depend on these local communities for support, and look for ways that we can provide support in return. The REPI Challenge Program is an exciting way to directly impact our surrounding environment and create change that will have a lasting effect.”

Safeguarding the Pearl Harbor water supply is the desired result of the program, but there are several challenges that must be overcome.

“The watershed is currently being destroyed by the presence of large amounts of ungulates (feral pigs),” said Fong. “Project restoration of these forests through removal of invasive plants and ungulates as well as outplanting of native species will provide for a healthier watershed that can more effectively recharge the aquifer and capture the groundwater.”

Roth added that the long-term focus of the project has been broken down into short-term goals to help restore the Waiawa Watershed with native plant species. The projects will be worked on concurrently with a performance period of five years.

Those projects include:

- Constructing a 1,400-acre fence and removing feral pigs from the fenced area.
- Expanding the acres of invasive plant control into adjacent watersheds.
- Restoring areas with common, threatened and endangered native species.
- Constructing three ungulate-proof fences in the Waiau, Halawa, and Moanalua watersheds.
- Collecting aerial imagery and developing artificial-intelligence methods to detect, monitor and control invasive plants.
- Controlling the spread of the invasive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.
- Baseyard, or facility, improvements and facility upgrades needed for project implementation.

Securing sustainable sources of water is critical for people living on the world’s most isolated archipelago. Contributing to the viability of one of those sources of water directly impacts mission success.

“Oahu’s native forests allow rainfall and mist to be captured and slowly infiltrate into the ground and replenish streams,” said Roth. “Protection of the forests above Joint Base guarantees there will be water in the future, not just for the installation but also surrounding communities that rely on drinking water from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply and the perpetuation of traditional and customary practices that may rely on ground and surface water.”



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

(Photo courtesy of NOAA)

Story by Anna Marie General
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

September is National Preparedness Month. Are you ready? Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. Throughout the season, an average of three tropical storms and two hurricanes occur in Hawaii. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces a below-normal 2022 Central Pacific hurricane season with two to four tropical cyclones predicted this year.

- BE INFORMED
- MAKE A PLAN
- BUILD A KIT

Helpful resources:

- [Ready.Hawaii.gov](https://www.ready.hawaii.gov)
- [Ready.navy.mil](https://www.ready.navy.mil)
- www.beready.af.mil

Although forecasters predict less tropical storms than normal, emergency management officials urge residents to make a family plan and to prepare an emergency kit in case of a potential storm.

“One of the most important pieces of advice to prepare for hurricane season is to start now,” said Will Luna, emergency management manager for Navy Region Hawaii. “Often times you see people don’t take hurricane preparation seriously until the hurricane is upon us. It’s better to have an emergency preparedness kit all filled out so you don’t need to worry about fighting the crowd to get supplies.”

One of the most common habits that people often run into is complacency. Warren Ferguson, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam emergency management manager emphasizes the importance to prepare.

“When you’re living in Hawaii with blue skies and wonderful temperature, it is easy to forget about the things that can potentially go wrong. It is very common for people to get complacent,” said Ferguson. “One of the things that I continue to stress to people is to plan ahead - make a plan, build a kit and stay informed during hurricane season.”

“One of the biggest issues we have is that we are on an island, 95% of our supplies come in from the mainland through the Port of Honolulu,” added Ferguson. If during a hurricane that port was taken out or deemed unusable, we could potentially wait for a long time before we get our supplies reestablished, so it’s important in Hawaii for everyone to have a 14-day supply of food and water ahead of time to be prepared.”

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency website at [ready.hawaii.gov](https://www.ready.hawaii.gov) provides a plethora of information to get ready such as knowing the nearest hurricane shelters, a boater’s hurricane safety manual, and building a kit.

“Another good thing is to do a lot of research in terms of preparation. There are a lot of good websites, most notably [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) that provides a lot of information such as how to make a plan, how to build your kit and how to understand the different TCCOR (Threat Condition of Readiness) terms on what they mean,” said Luna.

Check out Navy Region Hawaii’s video on how to build a hurricane preparedness kit at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/855703/prepare-hurricane-season-informed-make-plan-build-kit>



BUILD KITS

Have smaller kits for work, for every family member, and pets. Have a vehicle safety kit too.

PLAN TO BE ON YOUR OWN FOR AT LEAST 2 WEEKS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water (1 gal. per person/day) | Flashlight | Pet Supplies |
| Food (Non-perishable) | Can Opener | Fire Extinguisher |
| First Aid Kit | Tools | Glasses/Eye Care |
| Face Masks/Sanitizer | Warm Clothes | Cash |
| Medications | Sturdy Shoes Personal | Identification |
| NOAA Alert Radio Extra Batteries | Hygiene Items Toilet Paper | Important Documents |
| | | Comfort/Entertainment |

Understanding TCCOR

TCCOR is a system that is used on military installations to help prepare for destructive weather from a Tropical cyclone.

Five stages of TCCOR: (according to Ready.navy.mil):

TCCOR 5: Indicates that we are in hurricane season. This is not the absence of threat; it just indicates that any storm/hurricane is greater than 72 hours away.

TCCOR 4: Indicates that a possible threat of destructive winds will occur in 72 hours.

TCCOR 3: Destructive winds of force are possible within 48 hours.

TCCOR 2: Destructive winds of force indicated are anticipated within 24 hours.

TCCOR 1: Destructive winds of force indicated are occurring or anticipated within 12 hours.



INNOVATE, ACCELERATE, THRIVE - THE AIR FORCE AT 75

For 75 years, American Airmen have excelled as they execute the Air Force mission to fly, fight, and win — delivering airpower anytime, anywhere in defense of our nation.

Airmen are called to “Innovate, Accelerate and Thrive” as the U.S. Air Force and Department of the Air Force approach their 75th anniversaries on Sept. 18.

Airmen will always be there to provide America with the airpower it needs to defend the nation, deter or defeat our adversaries, reassure our partners and allies, and help diplomacy proceed from a position of strength.

Sept. 18, 2022 marks the 75th birthday of both the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard. The official birth date of the Air National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force is Sept. 18, 1947.

The National Security Act of 1947 became law on July 26, 1947. It created the Department of the Air Force, headed by a Secretary of the Air Force. Under the Department of the Air Force, the act established the United States Air Force, headed by the chief of staff, U.S. Air Force. On Sept. 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington became Secretary of the Air Force, and on Sept. 26, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz became the U.S. Air Force’s first chief of staff.

INNOVATE

Innovation, fueled by Airmen, is our heritage. Airmen continue to push technological and cultural boundaries which make America the leader in airpower and spacepower. Innovation is an integral part of how we train and employ our squadrons, develop our capabilities, and continue to move toward an even more effective Air Force.

ACCELERATE

From their inception 75 years ago, the U.S. Air Force and Department of the Air Force have excelled at keeping pace with rapid changes in technology and in the demands placed on the Air Force’s five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and command and control.

THRIVE

We are the world’s greatest Air Force because of those who have gone before us — particularly those who weren’t afraid to break barriers. Empowered Airmen are the competitive edge we have over our adversaries and the reason we are the world’s greatest Air Force.



End of World War II Commemoration

Service members, civilians and veterans commemorated the 77th anniversary of the end of World War II aboard Battleship Missouri Memorial, Sept. 2. During the joint ceremony, keynote and guest speakers spoke about the end of the war and some of the major milestones that helped bring the war to an end, such as the Battle of Midway. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Thompson)



KNOW YOUR DRONE ZONE

- ▶ JBPHH is a NO DRONE fly zone
- ▶ Fly at off-installation designated sites only
 - ▶ Never fly near other aircraft or ships
 - ▶ Never fly over groups of people
 - ▶ Stay informed of policies and rules
 - ▶ Report suspicious activities



AIRMEN, SAILOR ASSIST INJURED HIKER

"I asked her some questions like if [the pain] was shooting up through her spine and I felt her leg as well to make sure that there was nothing that was shattered or completely broken or any bleeding."

- Airman 1st Class Darwin Cedillo, 15th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alan Ricker
15th Wing Public Affairs

When a Sailor and a group of Airmen spotted a woman on a hiking trail too injured to walk, they took action administering first aid while signaling a medical airlift.

"I was not in a good way because I was in pain," said Diane Heard, 15th Wing Violence Prevention investigator. "I'm at the bottom of these rocks and I'm hurt and I had no idea how I was gonna get out of there."

Heard was hiking with her sister, Mavis, at Waimano Falls hiking trail, when she sustained her first injury returning from the waterfalls. After falling, Mavis went off to find help.

While Heard was repositioning herself to allow hikers to get past her, she tried to grab for a boulder when she slipped and fell, injuring her knee as well.

While Heard was in pain and trying to stay composed, a Sailor, Petty Officer 2nd Class Erin Walsh, and a group of Airmen arrived inquiring about her injuries.

One of those Airmen was Airman 1st Class Darwin Cedillo, 15th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron aerospace medical service technician. Cedillo and Walsh, both having first aid and medical training, evaluated her injuries.



"I asked her some questions like if [the pain] was shooting up through her spine and I felt her leg as well to make sure that there was nothing that was shattered or completely broken or any bleeding," said Cedillo.

The five Airmen and Sailor worked together to create a splint out of rope and branches in order to stabilize Heard's injured ankle and knee, preventing any further damage while they awaited for a medical airlift helicopter.

Heard described the airlift rescue as a scene that was taken directly from a survival movie.

"The first time they passed over, they didn't see us," said Heard. "So, they're shaking tree branches and trying to wave."

The rescue crew eventually located Heard after spotting Walsh and the Airmen on the trail and lowered emergency medical technicians that secured Heard in an emergency airlift basket stretcher, airlifting her to a nearby ambulance to take her to the hospital.

Cedillo said the entire experience was overwhelming and that he was happy to see that Ms. Heard received the help she needed.

"First and foremost, it's the right thing to do," said Cedillo. "Secondly, even if I was off duty, it's my job. If I know that I have some knowledge on the subject, I have to help just because I wouldn't want someone to just pass me by."

Heard described how thankful she was for the help Walsh, Cedillo, Airman 1st Class Millan Owens, 15th Operations Support Squadron airfield management journeyman, Airman 1st Class Jace Grayson, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, Airman 1st Class Zane Kowalski, 8th Intelligence Squadron imagery analyst, and Senior Airman Josua Owens, 747th Cyberspace Squadron mission defense team cyber defense operator, provided while she was injured.

"I did not expect that at all," said Heard. "I thought they would go on and go to the falls and go on with their day, but for them to actually show concern and wanting to know that I was okay — that just shows what kind of character they have."



Airman 1st Class Jace Grayson, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, receives a coin from Col. Michele Lo Bianco, 15th Wing commander, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



THEIR Sacrifice | OUR Pledge



investigate



recover



identify



returned

14th annual JBP HH Half-Marathon

Runners participate in the 14th annual Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Half Marathon Aug. 20 at JBPHH. The race, which returned after a two-year hiatus, takes runners on a route through historic Hickam Field. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Thompson)



National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 16, 2022 | #theirsacrifice | www.dpaa.mil





BEACH WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM



Story and photos by MC2 Bodie Estep, Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

With the summer heat comes more families spending days on the beach. Barking Sands Fire and Emergency Services (BSF&ES) wants to help the community in a way other than casualty response. By partnering with Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), BSF&ES has been able to introduce the beach wheelchair program as a way to give back to disabled patrons.

Ryan Kooser, a BSF&ES firefighter and paramedic, is the lead for this program and shared his thought process behind starting it.

"I noticed a young boy that was wheelchair bound at Shenanigans, PMRF's all-hands club, and his family was down at the beach while he was posted up on the deck," Kooser said, "I noticed, also, the potential for disabled veterans and their families to rent one of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) cottages. They are on the hottest, widest beach on the island and it is kind of the same thing as the boy at Shenanigans."

The beach wheelchair is a specialized wheelchair with oversized, soft, inflated wheels that make movement on the sand easier. It is fitted to accommodate for paraplegic and quadriplegic injuries. The benefit of this program is to assist disabled veterans staying at the Americans with Disabilities-Act-approved beach cottages as well as the 'Ohana of PMRF personnel with disabilities.

"It just felt like the right thing to do," Kooser said, "To partner with MWR to facilitate the purchase of the chair for recreational use."

It is completely free for patrons to rent the beach wheelchair. Reservations are made through MWR, who will collaborate with BSF&ES. Fire department personnel will transport the wheelchair to Majors Bay or to Shenanigans and assist the patron from their street wheelchair into the beach wheelchair.

They will also help the patron and their family to a safe zone on the beach. Once on the beach, they will speak to the family about beach and water safety to ensure that they have a fun and safe beach day that otherwise may not have been able to happen.

"I used to use these when I worked for city of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue to Ocean Rescue," Kooser said, "We had two sets of beach wheelchairs and it was just awesome to see the reaction of not just the person who was wheelchair bound, but the family members as well."

The beach wheelchair program plans to expand as more people start to take advantage of it. Kooser hopes to get more chairs and eventually partner with KORE, a program that gives disabled patrons an opportunity to surf, to put together a day for disabled patrons to have a group beach day.

"I would volunteer my off time to bring this chair wherever someone wanted. That's how important this is to me," Kooser said, "Everyone deserves at least one day, and that's what this whole program is about, creating a moment and giving them that day."

Now thru Oct. 13 Registration for MWR's Powerlifting Competition is open. Event is on Oct. 15 at JBPHH Fitness Center. \$20 registration fee. Open to all DoD ID cardholders. Call 808-471-2000 for more information.

SEPT. 1 ARTS IN THE ARMED FORCES

6p.m. at Sharkey Theater, enjoy a FREE reading of **Lobby Hero**, by Kenneth Lonergan followed by a Q&A session with the actors. Open to DOD ID cardholders and their sponsored guests.



#greatlifehawaii

A quick guide to what's going on with MWR, CYP and MFSC.

SEPT. 1-30 START SMART FLAG FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

Ages 3-5, \$25, practices from Oct. 14-Dec. 2. Parent and Child Participation Program. YSF Staff will teach the parents the skills and drills, then parents will teach their youth.



Sept. 8 Football Season begins! Watch the games live at The Sandbar at Kona Winds Complex! Mondays, Thursdays & Sundays!

SEPT. 30 OKTOBERFEST

5-10p.m. at Kona Winds Complex, Paradise Lounge. FREE admission, 18 and over.



THIS MONTH'S EXTRA:

NATIONAL RICE MONTH/NATIONAL FRIED RICE DAY SEPT. 20

A staple here in Hawaii, there are countless ways to enjoy rice. We can't talk about rice and not mention the famous FRO (Fried Rice Omelet) at Harbor Grill in the Pier Side Bowling Center. Try it for breakfast at least once this month; just don't be surprised if you need to stand in line.



[More to see on the other side!](#)

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

U.S. Air Force 75th Birthday (Sept. 18)
A milestone year for the best in the air, this year's theme is "Innovate, Accelerate, Thrive - The Air Force at 75." Congratulations to our airmen of JBPHH and the Dept. of the Air Force at large.



#greatlifehawaii

A quick guide to what's going on with MWR, CYP and MFSC.

Scan our QR codes!

Arts & Crafts Center
See the full calendar of classes.

Liberty Program
See this month's Liberty activities calendar.

Outdoor Recreation
Need some gear for your next adventure? Check out our rentals here!

Makai Recreation Center
See our full list of classes here.

Military & Family Support Center
See our full list of classes here.



Arts & Crafts

The Fall Craft Fair is Back!
Interested in being a vendor? Call the Arts & Crafts Center at 808-448-2392 for more information.

Everything Food & Drink

Friday Rooftop Pau Hana at Wright Brothers Cafe & Grille
Fridays, 4-8p.m.
Enjoy drinks and a limited pau hana menu while watching the sun set at our open-air rooftop lounge.

DJ Bingo at Tradewinds
Saturdays, 7p.m.
Test your song knowledge & win prizes!

DJ Trivia at Tradewinds
Tuesdays, 7p.m.
Think you know it all? Prove it at Trivia night!

Everything Food & Drink (continued)

Planning a Holiday Party?
Don't wait! Book now to secure your date! Call Catering at (808) 448-2271.

Liberty Programs

Tournaments at Kona Winds
Get your competitive fire stoked with fun tournaments happening every month at Kona Winds. From video games to cards, pool to ping pong, there are different tournaments almost every week, with fun prizes up for grabs. Visit Liberty at Kona Winds Complex to find out more!

Outdoor Recreation

MWR Recreational Equipment Rental
MWR Recreational Equipment Rental is your one stop shop for all your party and outdoor recreation equipment! Among the items MWR offers are bounce houses, patio chairs and umbrellas, coolers, grills, cotton candy and popcorn machines, and more!

Makai Recreation Center

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
Tuesdays & Thursdays (Youth) | 5:30p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays (Adult) | 6:30p.m.
Learn a complete grappling system, using clinches, takedowns, ground defenses and submissions for competition or self defense. Try a FREE class with coach Tyler BJJ Black Belt! Email vma.vmah@gmail.com for more information or to sign up!

MFSC

School is back in session and the holidays are right around the corner. Prepare with a class on self care or budgeting! Classes available in financial planning, personal development, relocation, transition & employment. To register or check out the available class listings at jbphh.greatlifehawaii.com/support/military-family-support-center/mfsc-class-schedule-registration.



STAY CONNECTED AND FOLLOW US ONLINE!

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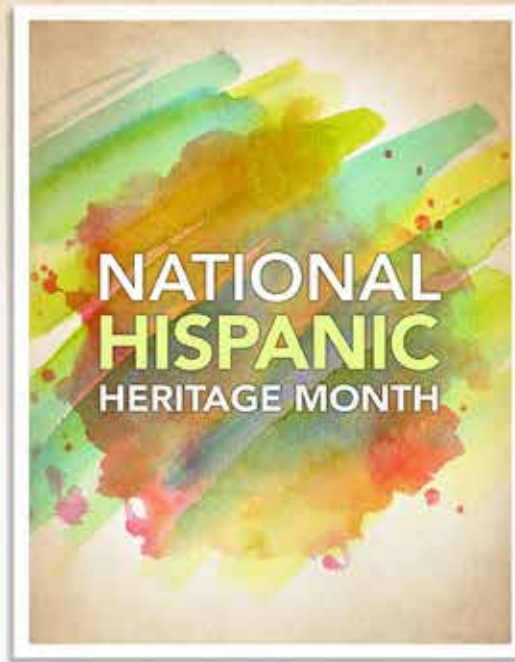


CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

National Hispanic Heritage Month



FACTS

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th through October 16th. Each year the Department of Defense (DoD), along with the rest of the Nation, recognizes the important contributions and rich culture of Hispanic Americans.

This year's theme is: *Unidos – Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation*. Unidos can be roughly translated to mean united, connected, or close. This concept of unity and togetherness giving us strength is one that has been long held by the DoD, and it is a driving factor in our strive for inclusivity and equal opportunity.

Hispanic Heritage Month began as a commemorative week when it was first introduced in June of 1968. The push to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic community had gained momentum throughout the 1960s during the civil rights movement with the growing awareness of the United States' multicultural identities.

From 1968 until 1988, Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan all issued the yearly proclamations, setting aside a week to honor Hispanic Americans.

In 1987, U.S. Representative Esteban E. Torres proposed the expanding the observance to cover its current 31-day period. Torres wanted more time so that the nation could *“properly observe and coordinate events and activities to celebrate Hispanic culture and achievement.”*

In 1988, Senator Paul Simon, submitted a similar bill that successfully passed Congress and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988.

On September 14, 1989, President George H.W. Bush (who had been a sponsor of the original Hispanic Heritage Week resolution while serving in the House in 1968) became the first president to declare the 31-day period from September 15 to October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.