

# “Navigator” WHO'OKELE

MAY/JUNE 2023

FOR THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TEAM IN HAWAII



CNSG MIDPAC EXEMPLIFIES  
**FLEET  
READINESS**

Pg. 8

SAFETY \* READY TO FIGHT \* SHIPSHAPE \* TEAMWORK \* MORALE \* FAMILY



# WELCOME HOME, USS COLUMBIA

Cmdr. Corey Barksdale, commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771), embraces his family as Columbia returns to homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, June 12. (Photo by MC1 Scott Barnes)



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**ON THE COVER:**

Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) conduct a helicopter in-flight refueling with an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter from the "Easyriders" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 37 during flight operations in the Philippine Sea.

(Photo by MC3 Mykala Keckeisen)



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## Your Navy Team in Hawaii

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii oversees two installations: Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Oahu and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), 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 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 the Department of Defense'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 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.

## CONTENTS

04-07

### AROUND NAVY REGION HAWAII

- Pearl Harbor Battle of Midway Legacy continues
- Bee-Hind the Scenes: Protecting the Environment, Saving the Bees

08-13

### COVER STORY

- CNSG MIDPAC exemplifies Fleet Readiness

14-15

### SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

- June is Pride Month: Serving openly with Pride

16

### BACK COVER

- Hurricane Preparedness



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# PEARL HARBOR LEGACY CONTINUES

Story by Ana Maring  
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard &  
Intermediate Facility Public Affairs

**E**ighty-one years ago, Sailors and civilians turned the tide of the War in the Pacific. The shipyard each of us call home today played a pivotal role ensuring our Pacific Fleet was ready to surprise the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) at the Battle of Midway.

A couple weeks before the carrier USS Yorktown (CV-5) would arrive at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Navy cryptologists, linguists, and intelligence personnel broke IJN's code in the basement of our historic Building 1 at what was then called Station HYPO. The Nō Ka 'Oi (best) work of this team who were forerunners of modern information warriors gave the Navy critical intelligence to secure its first major naval victory against Japan at the Battle of Midway in World War II.

On May 28, 1942, a war torn and battle damaged Yorktown floated into the very same Dry Dock #1 where USS Hawaii (SSN 776) now sits. A three-month repair estimate from the shipyard was announced. However, intelligence analysts from Station HYPO had convinced Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz that the IJN would strike Midway Island June 4, 1942, resulting in a near impossible repair timeline to return Yorktown to the fleet – three days! This is when our Nō Ka 'Oi legacy was created.

With water still draining from the dry dock, our civilian workforce wasted no time getting the ship back into fighting shape. More than 1,400 tradesmen would work around the clock for 72 hours to get the job done.

Even our island community contributed with a series of rolling blackouts throughout Oahu to support the vast electricity needed for the enormous welding effort. Then on the morning of May 30, with shipyard workers still on board finalizing repairs, Yorktown steamed out of the Pearl Harbor channel on a course straight to the battleground of one of the most decisive victories in history.

In 1942, ahead of the Battle of Midway, our workforce saw the unprecedented challenge of Yorktown and met it with Nō Ka 'Oi work and effort. Eighty-one years later, the legacy continues of repairing our fleet's force on time, every time. Just a few weeks ago, USS Michael Murphy completed its maintenance period three days early.

Pacific Fleet, the most combat ready naval force on the planet, is supported by the vital maintenance done at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Facility. Today's workforce continues the Nō Ka 'Oi spirit set by those who have gone before us, – those who did not back down, did not give up, and gave their best. Our challenges may be different, but our dedication remains the same.

They were Nō Ka 'Oi,  
we are Nō Ka 'Oi!

# BEE-HIND THE SCENES

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, SAVING THE BEES

Story by Anna Marie G. General • Photos by MC1 Greg Hall • Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

**W**hat do you do with 500,000 bees? After Kupono Solar Project personnel discovered a wild beehive on Feb. 13 while working on a berm at the construction site of the future solar panels at the West Loch Annex on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, they focused on relocating the bees to a local bee farm with a view toward protecting the environment.

“A decision was made to not exterminate the bees, which is a standard practice along many construction companies, but rather save the bees and relocate them,” said Alex Volobuev, project manager for Ameresco, a solar project contractor working in partnership with the U.S. Navy.

Ameresco contacted a professional beekeeper who came out the same day and brought a new beehive to provide a new home for the bees at a bee farm located on the North Shore of Oahu. The beekeeper was able to collect 97% of the bees, including the queen bee, estimating a total of 500,000 bees.

“We’re technically just moving the bees from the pile of rocks or underneath the trailer to a bee box and taking them to a ‘Bee’fugee,” said Stanislav Abdullin, owner and beekeeper for HI Honey Farms. “That’s what we call a separate location where we treat them and take care of them, making sure they don’t have any disease so they don’t contaminate the main apiary.”

“We are raising them until they’re ready to give us some wonderful honey,” Abdullin added.

According to Volobuev, bee relocation helps the community and protects the environment by preserving honeybee populations for pollination, maintaining biodiversity, protecting native bee species, enhancing food production while reducing pesticide use, ensuring public safety by removing hives from inconvenient areas, and providing educational opportunities for the community.



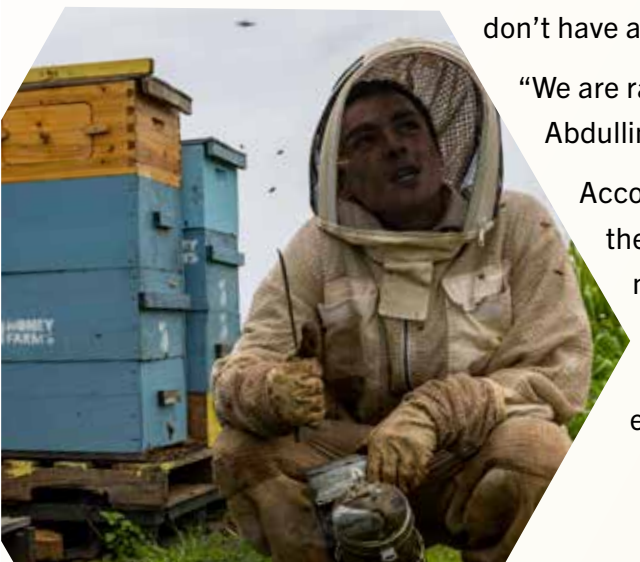
“Protecting bees brings numerous advantages for our communities and the environment,” said Volobuev. “Saving bees yields benefits like improved crop production, sustainable agriculture, wildlife habitat preservation, native bee conservation, and scientific progress. Protecting bees is vital for a healthier environment.”

While continuing to protect our environment, the Kupono Solar project would connect to Hawaiian Electric Company’s Oahu grid for 20 years for use by the public and the U.S. Navy. The project is proposed for development by Ameresco Inc. and Bright Canyon Energy Corporation, which would construct, own and operate 42 megawatts of renewable energy.

When complete, the project’s renewable energy will supply power to Oahu’s local grid, powering 10,000 homes, reducing more than 50,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually from Hawaii’s environment – equivalent to offsetting carbon dioxide emissions from 12,000 cars every year.

In addition to saving the bees on Oahu, the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Barking Sands, Kauai, one of Navy Region Hawaii’s installations, also has a program to help preserve the bees which is fully maintained and operated by volunteers.

The plants found on the installation are all pollinated by the bees that live on the base and their hives come from the pollination of kiawe where fresh honey is produced. Although fresh honey is produced and able to be taken home in jars, the main intent of the program is not profit, it’s preservation.





# CNSG MIDPAC EXEMPLIFIES FLEET READINESS

Story by Lt. j. g. Bo Hyun and Ensign Brianna McLaughlin  
Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

**At the forefront of leading and managing the warfighting capability for the Surface Combatant Force is Commander Naval Surface Group (CNSG) Middle Pacific (MIDPAC). MIDPAC is a U.S. Navy command responsible for the maintenance and training of surface ships homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).**

Their goal is to maintain all ships, special forces, and staff of the Group in an optimum state of training, readiness, discipline, and morale.

CNSG MIDPAC is resourced, postured, and aligned to both generate and employ surface forces in all domain operations in defense of the homeland.

In order to maintain the fleets' maximum readiness for sustained combat operations at sea, MIDPAC works with Commander Naval Surface Force Pacific located in San Diego, California.

Over the past year, Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, 64th commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, has released his Fleet Orders that provide guidance and direction to the U.S. Pacific Fleet in six critical areas.

These orders convey his leadership philosophy and guiding principles to military and civilian personnel across the Pacific Fleet enterprise. Paparo references them frequently during discussions with leadership at all levels and during all-hands calls, among other engagements.

MIDPAC ships on the waterfront have instilled all of Paparo's **Fleet Orders** into everyday missions and strive to uphold these standards daily in Pearl Harbor as witnessed in the examples on the next page.

*(Continued on pg. 10)*

# SHIPSHAPE & SEAWORTHY

## SAFETY



Safety and risk management are critical to every mission, and the pursuit of safe operations creates a transfer effect that manifests in operational excellence. It's fundamental to everything we do as a combat-ready fighting force; because we must do everything possible to make the workplace safe and bring our Sailors home unharmed.

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) practiced safety while executing an undocking, which is an operation that takes a ship out of dock and out to sea. This evolution demands procedural compliance and competence at every level. Murphy's undocking teams and leadership prioritize safety by communicating and demonstrating commitment to safe operations.

"Shipshape and seaworthy" is the visible expression of our high operational standards. A clean and well maintained Navy is a measure of our professionalism and discipline, and a reflection of our commitment to high standards and master craftsmanship. It is integral to the management of our responsibilities and it enables the early detection and correction of impending material failures.

USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) remains shipshape and seaworthy during all operations. A clean, well-preserved, and well-maintained ship or shore facility reflects high standards, effectiveness in translating those standards to action, and professional excellence of the crew. The material readiness of our ships, the cleanliness of our workspaces, and the proper operation of our equipment all contribute to the Inouye's preparation for combat.



## READY TO FIGHT

Adm. Paparo demands our Navy is "Ready to Fight" at a moment's notice, with dynamic and overwhelming naval combat power. Being "Ready to Fight" means organizing and manning our warfighting headquarters for combat.

Our nation depends on the U.S. Navy to build and demonstrate combat credible Naval fighting forces to defend our nation and carry out prompt and sustained operations. USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110) remains ready to fight by conducting a live fire exercise to test elements of its integrated defense system and its ability to track and destroy enemy anti-ship missiles. The destroyer maintained a state of readiness by setting clear and achievable goals, and building confidence through a "practice like you play" mentality.



## TEAMWORK



Teamwork is an essential building block of warfighting performance, and perfecting teamwork is a leadership skill that enables stronger combat readiness and mission accomplishment. To cultivate ownership and belonging, teammates must cultivate technical competency, know the clear and singular assignment of responsibility, understand the purpose of the mission, and believe in the importance of their unique role within the team. MIDPAC's ships create an environment in which all Sailors are able to serve to the full extent of their capability.

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) practices teamwork during a fire drill, which highlights not only the critical importance of each individual role on the team, but also the need for one to know how his or her responsibilities fit within the team. Without a sense of belonging and ownership, cracks will inevitably begin to surface and can become obstacles to maintaining dynamic direction during the heat of engagement. Murphy Sailors took initiative in helping their shipmates out and displayed high standards of team performance.



# MORALE

Morale is the key to victory, because it unlocks individual creativity, inspires enthusiasm, and fosters the loyalty necessary for team success. Sailors are the single most important and decisive combat elements of the Navy. In combination with high morale, driven and motivated Sailors are the most compelling and direct predictors of mission accomplishment.

USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93) exemplifies morale by having a Steel Beach, which is a fun and uplifting event onboard ships underway. Sailors get the chance to grill out, socialize, and unwind from the normal operating schedule. Chung Hoon Sailors remain physically and mentally ready to fight, technically competent, and tactically proficient to execute any assigned mission by having the confidence in their ability to prevail due to a sense of connection to our nation, the Navy, and one another.

In conclusion, Adm. Paparo's Fleet Orders explain that safety, readiness to fight, shipshape and seaworthiness, teamwork, morale, and family are six critical elements of a robust organization and Navy.

Although the above examples have been assigned to demonstrate each Fleet Order separately, every event or evolution that a ship conducts to remain in working order can serve as examples of all six aspects working in harmony to result in mission success.

In an undocking evolution, if Sailors did not familiarize themselves with the procedure and did not stay "ready to fight," or if they did not prioritize the preservation and upkeep of lines or anchor, they would have in fact neglected to protect the safety of the crew and ship.

Additionally, failure to understand the importance of taking care of the people who keep the ships operational causes dire consequences in deteriorating the cohesion of the team, which in turn impacts the safety of the crew during fire drills when Sailors cannot rely on each other.

The application of all six Fleet Orders in daily operations is therefore pivotal to the U.S. Navy, so that we may successfully defend our beloved families and friends who rely on us to successfully protect the privileges and homes we are blessed with every day in our country.

# FAMILY

MIDPAC serves our nation to protect our families, safeguard their fundamental freedom and ensure they can live in peace. Family forms the foundation of what the Navy stands for and motivates our virtues and values. Looking at Sailors as a whole, unless our family life is balanced, it is hard to perform to our full potential on the job. Command and leadership responsibility makes it a primary mission to strengthen personal and family ties. We recognize the sacrifices our families endure while Sailors are hard at work and appreciate the importance of our families' support.

USS Wayne E. Mayer (DDG 108) steams amongst the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group while out on deployment in the 7th Fleet area of operations. Family is an integral part of our Sailors life's all the time and especially important during deployment where everyone eagerly awaits the ship's return. The spouses, children, and other family members have molded the professional and personal character of the men and women aboard the ship and continues to inspire the hard working crew. Happy and healthy families improve morale, driving the operational readiness of the MIDPAC Fleet. With their help and love, the ship will return to open arms and long awaited reunions.



**SAFETY    READY TO FIGHT    SHIPSHAPE**  
**TEAMWORK    MORALE    FAMILY**



*“Being a part of a community with such a deep history of connectedness and taking care of one another has definitely made me a strong leader, a better mental healthcare provider and an officer who values and is dedicated to taking care of our Sailors.”*  
- Lt. Nick Grant

Story by Anna Marie G. General / Photos by MC2 Greg Hall  
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Community, connectedness and an opportunity to be amongst members of the LGBTQ+ community are some of the examples that Lt. Nick Grant, an embedded mental health officer at Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, shared about on his feelings about Pride Month.

When the “Don’t ask, Don’t tell” (DADT) policy was repealed in 2011, Grant remembered thinking for the first time that serving in the Navy might finally be an option for his future career.

“I remember feeling both excited and relieved when DADT was repealed,” said Grant. “At that time, I was a graduate student working on my PhD in clinical psychology and specifically focusing my research in LGBTQ mental health.”

At that moment, as Grant was thinking of the opportunity it presented to himself, he was excited for this monumental step forward in the LGBTQ movement because it would not close off part of who he was.

“Today, one of my favorite parts of sharing my story is sharing with people that I am an out and proud gay naval officer who gets to provide direct support to the surface warfare community and the ships homeported here in Pearl Harbor, which is truly something that would never have been possible under DADT,” said Grant.

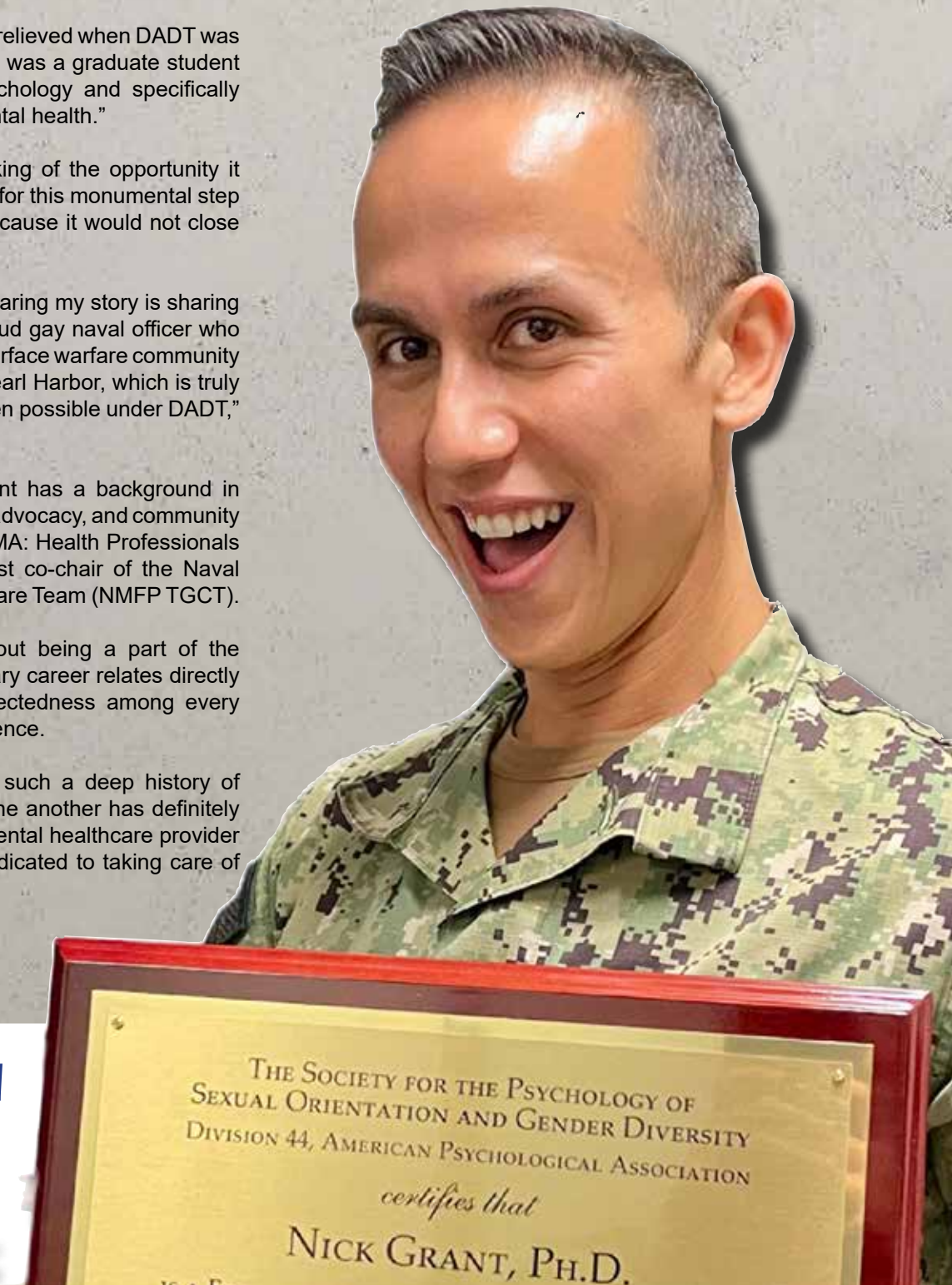
As an out gay cisgender man, Grant has a background in LGBTQ+ research, public policy and advocacy, and community engagement. He is currently the GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality and past co-chair of the Naval Medical Force Pacific Transgender Care Team (NMFP TGCT).

One positive aspect he shares about being a part of the LGBTQ+ community is how his military career relates directly to the Navy’s commitment to connectedness among every Sailor as part of our culture of excellence.

“Being a part of a community with such a deep history of connectedness and taking care of one another has definitely made me a strong leader, a better mental healthcare provider and an officer who values and is dedicated to taking care of our Sailors,” said Grant.

June is Pride Month. It is observed in June to commemorate the riots that occurred in June 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, New York, and became the catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world. Today, Pride Month recognizes the achievements of this movement and continuing efforts to ensure equal rights for those whose sexual orientation or gender identity falls outside the mainstream.

This year’s theme is **“Equality without Exception.”**



**SERVING WITH PRIDE**



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU



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## ARE YOU 2 WEEKS READY?

### BUILD KITS

Have Go Bags ready for work, each family member, pets, & a vehicle safety kit too.



### PLAN TO BE ON YOUR OWN FOR AT LEAST 2 WEEKS

Water (1 gal. per person/day)  
Food (Non-perishable)  
First Aid Kit  
Medical Equipment  
Medications  
NOAA Alert Radio  
Extra Batteries

Flashlight  
Can Opener  
Tools  
Warm Clothes  
Sturdy Shoes  
Personal Hygiene Items  
Toilet Paper

Pet Supplies  
Fire Extinguisher  
Glasses/Eye Care  
Cash/Identification  
Masks/Sanitizer  
Important Documents  
Comfort/Entertainment