



THE WEEKLY MO'OLELO

Wednesday, December 17, 2025



Keep up with the latest news from across Navy Region Hawaii. Click on any story to read the full version online. Some networks do not allow access to embedded links. For those readers, right click the PDF and open in your internet browser.

Where To Go For Red Hill Updates

Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill remains committed to maintaining open lines of communication and collaboration with the public and continues to actively engage community leaders, stakeholders, and regulators in various forums. Task Force leaders use these opportunities to communicate information about their progress and challenges. Feedback from the community helps shape future activities. For more about NCTF-RH, download the NCTF-RH app from the Apple Store or Google Play or visit:

<https://www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil/>



Rear Adm. Collins Visits Pacific Missile Range Facility

During a site visit last week to Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands on Kauai, Rear Adm. Brad Collins, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, met with installation staff, toured living quarters for junior enlisted service members, inspected Mana Well and learned about preservation practices being conducted at Lua Kupapau O Nohili crypt. PMRF is the world's largest instrumented multi-domain range, capable of supporting surface and sub-surface, air and space operations simultaneously.



Fed Fire Recruits Practice Firefighting Skills

Federal Fire Department (FFD) recruits practiced their firefighting skills last week in preparation for the Fire Fighter I practical skills exam, which tests hands-on firefighting capabilities such as ladder operations, hose deployment and forcible entry. The Navy has 13 FFD stations distributed across every Department of Defense installation on Oahu. Nearly 300 civilian men and women provide fire and emergency services and support the state Airports Division, Honolulu Fire Department, and Honolulu EMS with mutual aid response.



USS Hawaii Returns Home from Deployment

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam last week following a scheduled deployment during which Hawaii and its crew performed a wide range of operations in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. Hawaii is assigned to Submarine Squadron 1 and is capable of supporting various missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare, special operations forces support, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.



Canoe Paddling Helps Rehabilitate Wounded Veterans

Once a month, wounded service members board double and single hull canoes and paddle along the Ala Wai Canal out to the ocean as a form of rehabilitation. The outings are organized by the Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering post-9/11 wounded veterans with free programs to support their transition to civilian life. "Being out here is healing for me," said retired Chief Navy Diver Val Lapena, who served for 27 years.



Caring for PMRF's Nene Population

Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands on Kauai is home to one of the largest populations of nene and during nesting season, September - April, goslings can be seen waddling around base. Considered endangered by the state and threatened by the federal government, the nene population reached a low of roughly 30 individual geese in the 1950s. Conservation efforts spurred a significant comeback and now, as many as 637 individual nene are documented at PMRF alone.



This Week in History: December 17, 1941

On Dec. 17, 1941, due to extensive damage following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the battleship USS West Virginia (BB-48) was placed in a temporarily unrecoverable status. However, as a result of one of the largest salvage efforts in history, the West Virginia was eventually repaired and served throughout the latter part of World War II. On Sept. 2, 1945, she joined the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay to receive the surrender of the Japanese Empire.



Laulima Navy underscores our responsibility to the community and the ways we work alongside partners to help and support our neighbors. Service to others and a commitment to the greater good are values we hold in high regard. It is a privilege for all of us to call Hawaii home and we seek every opportunity we can to show how much we treasure this place. Scan the QR code to learn more about Laulima Navy.



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