



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA STREET, SUITE 110
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860
PHONE: 808-473-2888 FAX: 808-473-2876
www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTN: Kathy Isobe, Environmental PAO
(808) 473-0662; Duty PAO phone: (808) 371-5189

June 20, 2017
Release #17-025

Water Remains Safe to Drink, Navy Continues Commitment to Red Hill Effort

(JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM) – Commander, Navy Region Hawaii issued a seventh Red Hill Fuel Facility “stakeholder letter” to local community leaders, neighborhood board members and elected officials June 20.

The letter, signed by Rear Adm. John Fuller, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, acknowledges the end of his command here in Hawaii, welcomes the new commander, and provides an update on the latest Administrative Order on Consent progress.

“This is my seventh and final Red Hill stakeholder letter,” said Rear Adm. John Fuller, Commander Navy Region Hawaii. “It has been my absolute honor and privilege to serve with the `ohana in this beautiful and strategic location.

“Soon Rear Admiral Brian P. Fort will assume command of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. He understands our imperatives, our mission and the significant responsibility the Navy must uphold when preserving both our nation’s security and our natural resources.”

After reporting in the letter that both Navy and Board of Water Supply drinking water wells in the area continue to test well within federal drinking water standards, Fuller expressed the Navy’s commitment to the AOC process. “The Navy fully supports the AOC. It provides the structure and governance that is enabling us to scientifically address the technical challenges we committed to take head-on and overcome.”

“A last point I want to make. Yes, the Red Hill fuel storage facility is 70 years old, but the fact is, the facility is in great condition. The steel-lined concrete tanks are in good condition and they don’t leak, we are continually modernizing the facility, and the fuel release in January 2014 was due to human error, not simple material failure.” Fuller further emphasized by saying “Additionally, there is no fact-based evidence to conclude that the tanks are at risk for any material failure.”

The admiral ended his letter with a heartfelt salutation. "I will always remember my time here fondly, and will carry my love for Hawaii everywhere the Navy takes me."

The EPA and Hawaii Department of Health, along with the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency, will host a meeting on June 22 at Moanalua Middle School beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Open House will provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and hear the latest update on the AOC. The public is invited to attend.

Stakeholder letters from Rear Adm. Fuller, along with other information and photos, are available at www.cnmc.navy.mil/redhill. The Red Hill information video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Bx81rD206A&feature=youtu.be>. Other information, including a sign-up form for EPA Red Hill updates, is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/red-hill>

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