

Within Range

Sincere condolences

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PMRF personnel are excited
to prepare or eat for
Thanksgiving!

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Veterans by talking to some
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Pitch Black & Dark Skies
The low, moaning call of the
Wedge-tailed Shearwater
may spook many, but don't
be alarmed. Preserving
the habitat of endangered
seabird species is a mission of
the Natural Resources team.

FIND THE NENE!

*Did you know that it is Nene breeding
season? Please keep your eye out for
little goslings on the road and if you
need to train your eye, find the hidden
Nene in this issue of "Within Range."*

Also in this issue...

- Thank you to our NMRTC Sailors
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Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands (PMRF) is the world's largest instrumented multi-environment range capable of supporting surface, subsurface, air, and space operations simultaneously. There are more than 1,100 square miles of instrumented underwater range, 42,000 square miles of controlled airspace and 21 million square miles of extended range when needed.

PMRF Public Affairs: Tom Clements, MC1 Erickson Magno

PMRF TRIAD



Capt. Tim Young
Commanding Officer



Cmdr. Rich Schmaeling
Executive Officer



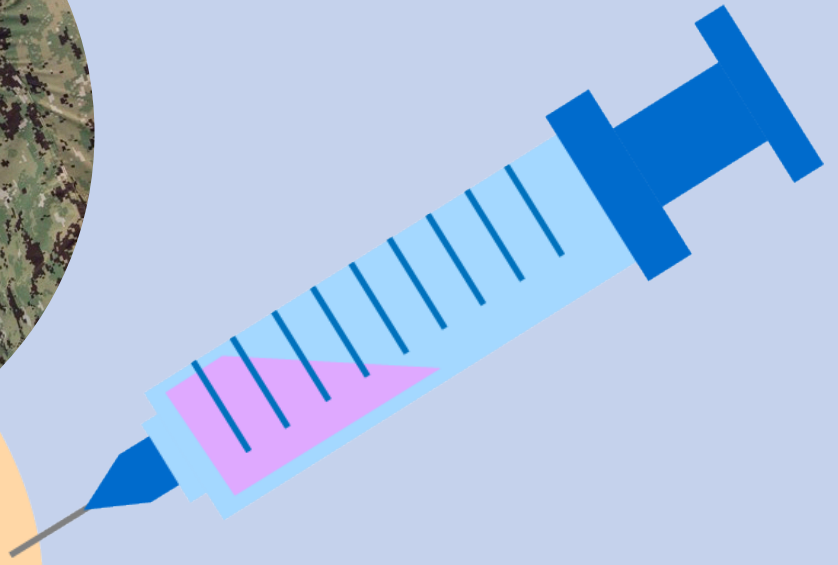
CMDCS William Eickhoff
Senior Enlisted Leader



EVERYBODY.... SHOTS, SHOTS, SHOTS!

FLU SHOTS THAT IS

A special PMRF thank you to our ohana from NMRTC Pearl Harbor for coming out and administering flu shots to our personnel and families.



What's on Your Table?



Definitely, my mom's mac and cheese. She taught me how to make it. It's quick and easy to make plus it tastes amazing. Also have to have the ham. I prefer ham because depending on how you make it, it just comes out real juicy. Last but not least, I have to make mashed potatoes for my wife. She's obsessed with mashed potatoes.

- Naval Aircrewmen 2nd Class
Gordon Reilley,
Air Operations



I'm excited to have my deep fried turkey. Growing up, turkey was the driest and my least favorite thing to have for Thanksgiving. When I went on my first deployment, the Chief's mess got me on the fried turkey and I wanted to bring that to the Wardroom. That was in 2011 and I've been deep frying turkeys ever since. Also, you've got to inject the turkey with cajun butter. It just makes everything better.

- Lieutenant Commander Terrence White
Public Works Officer, PMRF



I'm excited to eat fried Bok Choy and some yams!

- Master-at-Arms 2nd Class
Yoshi Yamashita,
Security



I'm looking forward to having some ham. My uncle makes the best ham!

- Dylan Okada,
Public Works



If you're eating turkey for Thanksgiving in Hawaii, it means that all the good stuff is already gone. I am really looking forward to having a whole hog in an Imu.

- Thomas Nizo,
Public Works

(On the phone with Thomas) I'm excited for turkey! It's tradition. For a little bit more of a local flavor, definitely love some pumpkin crunch.

- Lora Bolyard,
Formerly Public Works



That's a good question. I haven't really thought about it. Maybe some pancit.

- Electrician's Mate 2nd Class
Christopher Elbancol,
Seaborne Power Targets

*Note from your Safety Officer:
Did you know? Thanksgiving is
the peak day for home cooking
fires. Be alert to the dangers if
you are thinking of celebrating
the holidays by frying a turkey.*



Follow this link for more information:
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/turkey_fryers_flyer.pdf



Service with Honor, Courage and Commitment



Photos and story by MC1 Erickson Magno

In medieval times, knights were known around the world for their service to the king. Today, service members are present-day knights who have spent some time of their lives serving in the U.S. military. The tradition, history and heritage of the military have been preserved through the lives of our veterans. This Veterans Day, honoring the lives of veterans should be a topic of reflection and there are many ways to give honor or remembrance. Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) honor guard provides services to those who have served before them.

The PMRF honor guard is no stranger to paying respects to Veterans. They have participated in 3 ceremonies since the start of COVID-19. Their presence supports local Kauai veterans who have passed.

Led by Master-at-Arms 1st Class Corey Hribar, PMRF's honor guard plays Taps with a bugler, performs flag ceremonies and presents the flag to the families of veterans who've passed and.

"Veterans Day is a very solemn and humbling holiday to me," said Hribar. "Much like Memorial Day, it is a great opportunity to honor and reflect on the sacrifices of the men and women that have gone before us. Those who have paved the way for our current military and more importantly our country."

Honoring Veterans is part of the responsibility of current service members. It is often mentioned in the ethos of most services. In the Navy's Sailor's creed, it states "I represent the fighting spirit of the

Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world." That phrase represents our duty to honor those who have served and are currently serving.

"I think in recent years, it has become more important to celebrate Veterans Day and to let veterans know how much we continue to support them," said Hribar. "Suicide has become so prominent that we need to take every opportunity to support our brothers and sisters. Veterans Day is no exception."

Oftentimes, veterans are struggling both physically and mentally. It's an unfortunate truth that many people can see when they look in their communities. Their sacrifices can come in all forms. Some sacrificed their bodies, their mental health or even their families. Veterans Day is a day to forget about our individual problems, remember our veterans and support their loved ones.

"I am so honored and humbled to connect with the families of veterans and retirees," said Hribar. "It is an incredible experience to personally thank the family members for their loved ones' service to their country."

Being a part of the honor guard takes lots of discipline and military bearing. Those two traits add to the delivery of a precise and professional performance in ceremonies for families and other audiences.

"I was super nervous to do my first funeral with honor guard because I didn't want to mess it up, but I soon realized it was not about me and my nerves," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Claudia Shafer. "It was such a privilege to stand before the family and friends and honor someone who served. All of my nerves and fears were not important when I stood back and looked at the bigger picture. I was scared that I would be too emotional or too skittish to be able to perform my duties, but when it came down to it, all I felt was extreme honor. It was a weird feeling, standing before the family—I hate when I'm standing in the vicinity of the center of the room—, but once I let go of all of my irrational fears I realized that I was part of something much bigger."

For PMRF and the island of Kauai, the honor guard continues to pay respect to our local community members by supporting events. Though community events are limited and restricted due to COVID-19, the honor guard will continue to adapt and provide their services when needed.

A black and white photograph of two albatrosses in flight. The bird in the foreground is seen from below, with its wings spread wide, showing the underside of the primary and secondary feathers. The bird in the background is seen from the side, flying towards the right. Both birds have dark plumage on their heads and necks, contrasting with their lighter bodies. The background is a dark, clear sky.

PITCH BLACK & DARK SKIES

Walking through PMRF can be a little spooky when the sun falls. No lights, pitch black and sounds like that of crying babies--some say the low moaning call of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater sounds like this--are some common things when the Dark Skies program is put into effect. It can be either inconvenient or frightening for some but there is an important mission behind this initiative. The Dark Skies program, running from September 15 to December 15, is crucial in preserving the lives of our seabirds that navigate above the installation.

Over the last few decades, recent studies show the Newell's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel numbers have declined by 94 and 78 percent respectively.

Kauai is home to three endangered seabird species, the Newell's Shearwater, Hawaiian Petrel and band-rumped Storm Petrels. Newell's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel are endemic to Hawaii. Out of all the Hawaiian Islands, Kauai contains the last substantial breeding colony of Newell's Shearwaters. The Hawaiian breeding population of band-rumped Storm Petrels is estimated in the low hundred and most of the population is thought to breed on Kauai. For these reasons mitigating threats to these seabird species on Kauai is of special importance.

One of the main threats is light pollution. These species of seabirds are nocturnal, and fly in and out of their mountain breeding colonies at night. Artificial urban lights confuse seabirds, particularly fledglings during their very first journey from their colony out to sea. The birds become disoriented by bright lights, become exhausted and fall to the ground where they are susceptible to predators or getting hit by cars. This occurrence is called "fallout."

"These seabirds fly over PMRF to get to and from their colonies in the mountains," said Brooke McFarland, PMRF's Natural Resources Manager. "We can do our part to help save these species from extinction by turning off unnecessary lights during Dark Skies, the period when fledglings would be making their first journey out to sea, when they are most vulnerable. These young birds only have the moon and stars to navigate by as they have never made the journey before. These seabird species are also important ecologically, as they bring essential nutrients from the sea to the mountains that help protect our watersheds."

Many people will assume, "They're birds. They can take off and fly, right?" Not in the case of Shearwaters.

"Shearwaters belong to a family of seabirds that require strong head-on wind in order to take off on their own," said McFarland. "They often take off after jumping off a cliffside which allows them to catch the wind. Oftentimes shearwaters collide with buildings while they are disoriented by artificial lights and sustain injuries that prevent them from flying off on their own. Additionally, the birds most likely to suffer from fallout are young birds without well-developed flight muscles--the birds that need the extra help from the wind or a take-off

point the most."

Fallout occurrences are possible at PMRF. If encountering a downed seabird, please remain calm, drape a clean towel over the downed bird and pick it up. Then bring the bird to the Save Our Shearwaters box located near the front gate of PMRF, along the visitor check-in building.

"The box is checked daily, and the EV team would call a wildlife rescue program called Save Our Shearwaters (SOS) to pick up the bird," said McFarland. "They are the only permitted program on the island to rehabilitate native birds and they have a full facility housed at the Kauai Humane Society. Upon intake, SOS assesses the bird for illness or injuries. The bird will receive care and be fed, exercised on pools and receive medication until it is healthy enough to be released. Additionally, the EV team would contact whoever found the bird for information on its location in order to identify fallout hotspots and potentially turn off those lights."

Losing too many shearwater can have a detrimental effect on the installation.

"If we exceed our take of shearwaters, the overall mission success can be greatly impacted," said McFarland. "For instance, night operations may have to cease, and PMRF could face legal actions and considerable fines. Newell's shearwaters are considered a species that could go extinct if the current human-caused death rate does not decrease, and that includes fallout at PMRF."

Due to the risk of fallout, the Dark Skies program was implemented and has yielded some considerably positive results.

"PMRF has been extremely successful in reducing our amount of fallout to zero for two years running, with a rigorous Dark Skies program," said McFarland. "Everyone suffers some inconvenience in order to make the base truly dark, so it is a reflection of the care that everyone who lives or works on base takes to protect this corner of the world. Dark Skies is the definition of a success story."

After a series of years with low numbers, PMRF's natural resources and environmental teams want to continue the success of PMRF and continue good practices when the Dark Skies program is in effect.

"Turn off all outside lights when not in use and close blinds," said McFarland. "Be mindful when driving around at night as there may be downed seabirds in the road. Have a towel and cardboard box in your car in case you find a bird in need. Bring the seabird to the SOS box and let the EV team know you found a downed bird."

Call the PMRF Natural Resources Hotline (808) 208-4416 immediately if you find a downed seabird. If they do not answer, please leave a message and call dispatch or the Command Duty Officer.



Many Nations,
One *fight*!

HONORING THE PAST, SECURING THE FUTURE!

National American Indian Heritage Month

