

Within Range



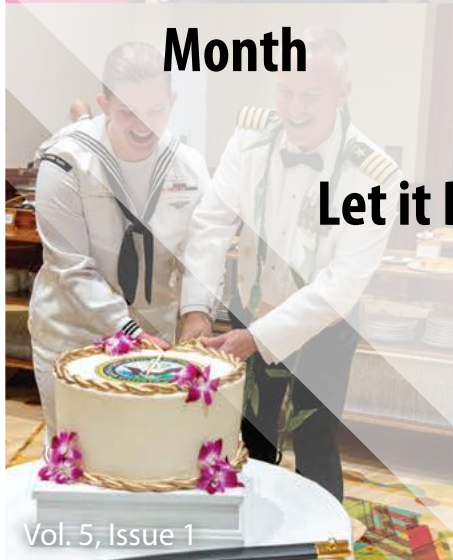
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Month**



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OPSEC Awareness Month

Operational security is a risk on and off duty, make sure you are up-to-date on your training!

Let it Bee

Learn about the bee hives located right here on PMRF, fully run by volunteers!



Also in this issue...

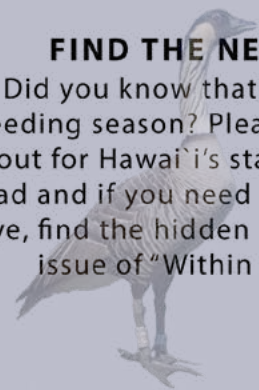
-New Parental Leave Policy

Year in Review

Come take a look at some of the amazing things we did throughout 2022!

FIND THE NENE!

Did you know that it is Nene breeding season? Please keep your eye out for Hawai'i's state bird on the road and if you need to train your eye, find the hidden Nene in this issue of "Within Range."



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 2.1 million square miles of extended range when needed.

PMRF Public Affairs: MC2 Samantha Jetzer, MC2 Bodie Estep

PMRF TRIAD



Capt. Brett Stevenson
Commanding Officer



Cmdr. Kacee Jossis
Executive Officer



CMDCS William Kalmbach
Senior Enlisted Leader

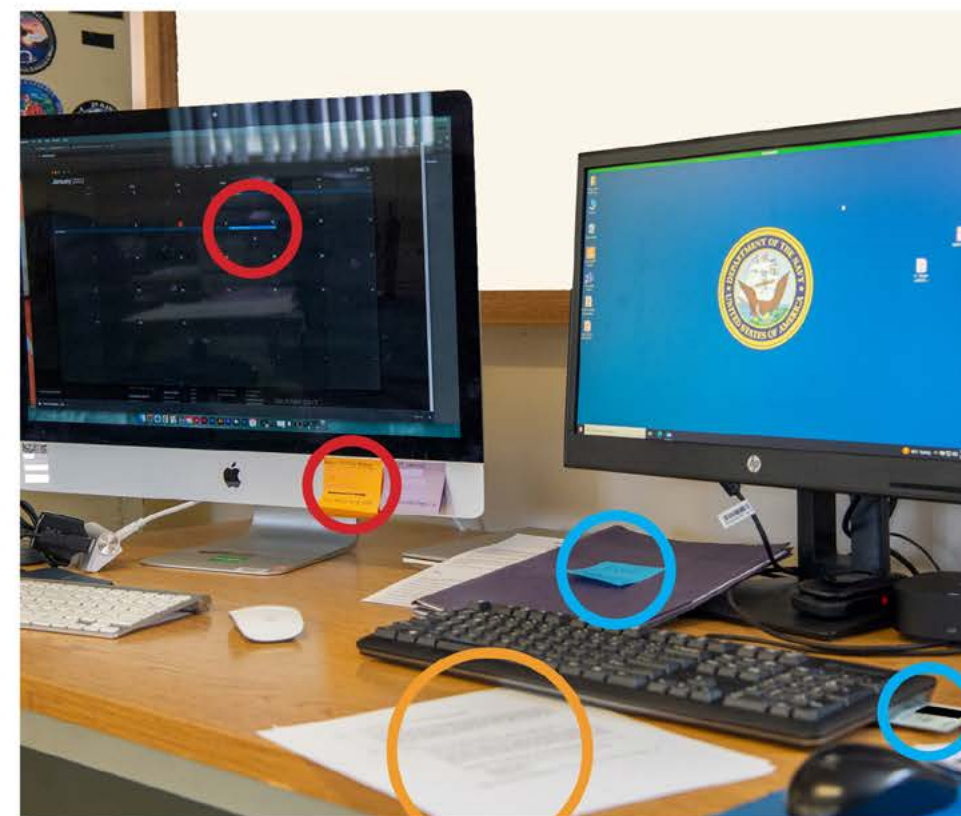


- No loose documents
- All potential OPSEC risks put away
- Desk clear
- Computer logged off



OPSEC IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

THE ENEMY IS LISTENING



- Sensitive information out in the open (i.e. passwords, important dates, etc.)
- Classified documents left on desk
- Personal Identifiable Information unattended



Let it Bee

Story by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Bodie Estep

Photos by Mass Communication Specialists Second Class Bodie Estep and Samantha Jetzer



Title photo courtesy of pexels.com

Pollinators play a vital role in life on Earth. Seventy-five percent of the world's flowering plants and approximately thirty-five percent of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce. One of the world's top eight pollinators is bees.

Fossils of honey bees have been found dating back 150 millions years ago, however, the earliest depiction of humans collecting honey only goes back about 10,000 years ago. In addition to honey's sweet taste, it has a variety of medicinal uses and benefits. Honey possesses antibacterial properties, meaning it can be used to fight infections. It can also be used to treat burns, fight cold symptoms, reduce stress, and aid in many other illnesses and ailments.



In the continued effort to keep a positive working relationship with the environment, Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, has a program to help preserve these essential pollinators. The installation's bee program is fully maintained and operated by volunteers.

"I always try to let people know they are not my bees, I don't own them, they're the base's bees," said Kenny Thompson, a control tower operator and lead for the bee program. "Honestly, I think as a community we should be maintaining the bees the best we can."

PMRF may not have many flowers, however, the plants that are found on the installation are all pollinated by these bees. The majority of the honey from the base's hives comes from the pollination of kiawe. Although volunteers may be able to take home some of the fresh honey from the hives, the intention of this program is not profit, it's preservation.

"We're maintaining our footprint here on Kaua'i," said Thompson. "We want to maintain a good relationship with our environment and I think having the bees on base, we're doing that."



There are currently four regular volunteers who go to check on the hives every two to four weeks. The first thing the beekeepers are looking for is any sort of infestation. The primary pests that pose a threat to the hives on PMRF are hive beetles and wax moths. Once any pests are taken care of, the beekeepers can focus on retrieving honey and ensuring the hives are clean and healthy for the bees.

"We're looking for fully combed honey, but we don't want to take all of it because that's also the food for the bees," said Thompson. "So there's usually a give and take of what you want to take and what you want to leave in the hives. The process is really simple. The bees do all the work, I just come to collect the honey and clean out the hive."

Not harvesting the honey poses no real health-threat to the hives, however it is important that the honey is harvested. If all of the honey is left in the hives, the colonies will simply outgrow the hive. When this happens, the queen will have no room to lay her eggs leading to her and around sixty-five percent of the colony leaving to find a new home.

"Last time we got four gallons of honey and it was just the three of us," said Thompson. "That's quite a lot of honey for just three individuals, so we jar it up and try to give it away to as many people as possible."

The honey is jarred and given away to friends, family, coworkers, or other people in the community. Thompson's



wife works at the National Tropical Botanical Garden and will often take the honey to give away there as well. None of the honey given away is for profit.

"The biggest thing is the fact that we do have them," said Thompson. "People need to understand that just because you don't like bees doesn't mean we should exterminate them, maybe we slow down a little bit and see about maybe maintaining those honey bees."

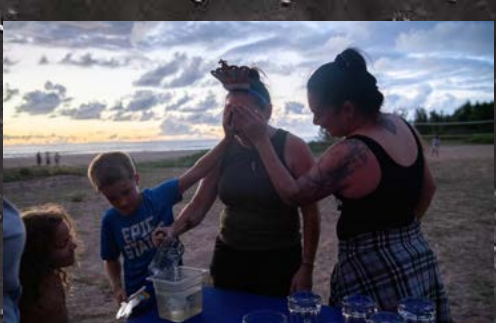
One of the main concerns when people are considering bee keeping is getting stung. Of course when tending to the hives, the bee keepers are always wearing proper clothing to reduce the risk of getting stung, however Thompson admitted that he is occasionally stung, even through his bee suit, but that is few and far between. The likelihood of the bees stinging anyone is fairly low. As long as the bee keeper moves methodically but quickly, it is fairly unlikely that a bee will sting.

For more information about PMRF's bee program or to become a volunteer, contact Kenny Thompson at (360)929-0297 or email him at Kenneth.m.thompson2.ctr@us.navy.mil.





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Year in Review



With the new year came new challenges and opportunities. Each of us at PMRF, Sailor, civilian, or contractor, played an important part in all of our accomplishments this year. Whether it was day-to-day operations, large scale events, or volunteer opportunities, we excelled at everything presented to us. Our continued ability to work hand-in-hand with the local community and our sister branches proves our resiliency and dedication. As 2022 ends and we launch into 2023, we'd like to thank everyone for all of their hard work over the last year. We look forward to taking on the new year with all of you!





PARENTAL LEAVE UPDATES

- Parents are authorized twelve weeks of parental leave.
- Authorized to birth parents, non-birth parents, foster parents, and adoptive parents.
- Must be used within one year of birth/adoption.
- Can be taken in one or more increments of at least seven days.
Member may only take a maximum of twelve increments.

For more information please view MILPERSMAN 10500-415 or talk to your chain of command