

# *Within Range*



**In This Issue:**

**Our Kuleana**

**Navy Ball**

**Waimea High School Visit**



# CONTENTS



## Our Kuleana

Western Kauai lineal descendants gathered under the setting sun with PMRF personnel for a Aha Awa ceremony, October 10, 2024, which rededicated the Lua Kupapau O Nohili (crypt) expansion to accept iwi kupuna (ancestral remains).

## Navy Ball

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## PMRF DET FE

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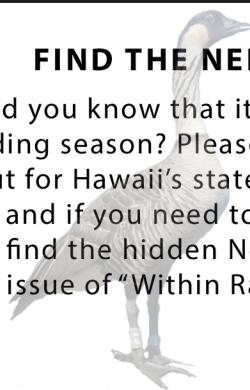


## Also in this issue...

- Welcome Aboard
- Safety Corner
- In Case You Missed It

## FIND THE NENE!

Did you know that it is Nene breeding season? Please keep your eye out for Hawaii'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-domain 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 Officer MC1 Louis Lea

## PMRF TRIAD



**Capt. Brett Stevenson**  
Commanding Officer



**Cmdr. Kacee Jossis**  
Executive Officer



**CMDCS Norman Mingo Jr.**  
Senior Enlisted Leader



# WELCOME ABOARD



FCA2 HERBERT JENKINS



MA2 CAILEY SHELLEY

## SAFETY CORNER

with Floreen Johnson

PMRF Safety and Occupational Health Specialist

### Reducing exposure to seasonal flu virus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that between 9 million and 41 million people in the United States get the flu each year. The CDC also estimates that the flu results in 100,000-710,000 hospitalization annually and 4,900-51,000 deaths annually. The flu season in the U.S. typically ranges from November to April.

The flu is spread through airborne droplets from coughing and sneezing, or by touching contaminated objects. Most healthy adults can infect others from one day before symptoms appear to five days after becoming sick.

There are basic precautions that can protect workers during the flu season. Supervisors can implement a combination of controls to protect workers and reduce the transmission of the seasonal flu virus in the workplace. Workplace controls include:

- Frequently clean commonly touched work surfaces, areas and equipment (e.g., telephones, doorknobs, countertops, copiers etc)
- Encourage sick workers to stay home
- Promote hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- keep the workplace clean

Mahalo for being safe!





# Our Kuleana

## PMRF Hosts Aha Awa Ceremony Rededicating Lua Kupapau O Nohili (Crypt) Expansion for Safe Keeping of Iwi Kupuna

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY, Hawaii – Barefoot and cross legged on mats woven from lauhala leaves Western Kauai lineal descendants gather under the setting sun with PMRF personnel for a Aha Awa ceremony, October 10, 2024, which rededicated the Lua Kupapau O Nohili (crypt) expansion to accept iwi kupuna (ancestral remains).

“Throughout my years at PMRF, I realized that we needed a proper protocol for a reverent and appropriate handling of iwi kupuna,” said Vida Mossman, former PMRF public affairs officer and Mana Plain lineal descendant. “The process for addressing this idea spanned decades. With the support of many of our partners and the commanding officer at the time, Capt. Nicholas Mongillo, we established a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Comprehensive Agreement between the US Navy and members of the Na Ohana Papa O Mana on June 17, 2011. This began the process of the first phase of building the crypt which was first recognized during the 2019 summer solstice ceremony.”

Lua Kupapau O Nohili was constructed as a way to preserve and offer a final resting place for iwi kupuna that are uncovered from natural erosion of the Nohili Dunes. Its original construction was a singular six by six container surrounded by lava rock and ti plants. The expansion includes many smaller containers so that the iwi placed there may be sealed forever – undisturbed the next time the crypt is used.

“As we place our blessing on phase two, just five years later, I would be remiss if I did not thank Capt. Brett Stevenson, the environmental and cultural resources teams, Peleke Flores, our Ohana and all those whose hard work and dedication throughout this process has brought this sacred space to fruition,” said Mossman.

The actual construction of the new additions may have only taken four and a half days, but in reality it took over two decades of planning, coordination, and dedication from servicemembers and civilians who passed the torch as they came and went from PMRF.







“What an amazing journey we’ve been on to get to this place,” said PMRF Commanding Officer Capt. Brett Stevenson. “This day is for you; I want to acknowledge that and thank you all for making PMRF part of your Ohana today.”

Everyone in attendance played a role in building not only a strong foundation for the crypt, but a foundation built from heritage and tradition.

“They did the best that they could for the first phase and it served its purpose but this time was about getting it right,” said Kumu Pohaku (stones teacher) Peleke Flores. “We start with the Kanu I’a (planting fish) because it sets our foundation and our intentions for the area.”

During the Kanu I’a family members with ancestral ties to the land worked with cultural practitioners to bless the crypt and asked for a period of Noa (freeness) so that construction may begin.

With gentle but deliberate motions they wrapped four fish in ti leaves to be planted in the cardinal points of the crypt’s foundation. The planting of each fish symbolized a different ike (knowledge) : Aholehole for new beginnings; Kala to unburden and forgive; Kumu to establish or teach; Aweoweo for enlightenment.







“It is important to have the ‘Ohana there from the start so they can connect with the space and to their kupuna ‘ike (ancestral knowledge),” said Peleke. “Working with stones is something we used to do all the time. At first it feels unfamiliar to the family, but once their hands start moving it all begins to click – it’s in our blood and part of our heritage.”

The care and consideration did not stop after the blessing. Each stone that was laid was done so according to ancient traditions that have been passed through generations. The stone masons know that each piece of rock has a place that it is meant to be and using traditional dry stacking methods they put each piece in its rightful place in the structure.

The structure also included careful markings for culturally significant celestial waypoints such as the exact angle of sunset during summer and winter solstices, and the fall and spring equinox.

“Thank you to Uncle Kunane, Thomas, Tara, Kaulana and the entire team that worked so hard to get this right,” said Stevenson. “I saw Peleke and his team work diligently, hand over hand and stone over stone, to make this amazing sanctuary that we may share.”

The crypt serves as a place for lineal descendants to pay respects to their ancestors, and for PMRF to honor the living Ohana as partners in stewardship of cultural resources.

“When I think of my Kuleana (responsibility), I think of this place where we have a protected sanctuary for your family amidst what the US Navy does every day to protect our country,” said Stevenson. “At the end of the day if we don’t care for places like this and preserve them for all of you to come here and share this area then we are not fulfilling our Kuleana.”









# Navy Ball

PMRF hosted the 249th Navy Birthday Ball on Friday, October 11th. The theme of this year's birthday was "Warfighting, Strength and Readiness" which highlights our Navy's historical and long standing commitment to being forward deployed, highly trained and dedicated to defending American interests at sea, on land and in the sky.

Mahalo to everyone who contributed to making this event possible and to all who attended in honor of those who serve, past and present!









# PMRF Detachment Far East

PMRF Barking Sands' sister command in Okinawa Japan at PMRF Detachment Far East conducted a man overboard drill this month as part of Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT). During the drill sailors demonstrated their skills in identifying and rescuing a simulated man overboard. Skilled maneuvering, a calm mind, and complete concentration are necessities when rescuing a person in the water. Changing sea state, poor visibility and weather conditions can make a huge impact on a boat crew's ability to pull someone out of the water which is why ensuring our sailors are highly trained and proficient is so important. Bravo Zulu to our sailors at PMRF Detachment Far East for a job well done!







Capt. Brett Stevenson speaks at the 100th Infantry Battalion memorial.

PMRF personnel man a simulated emergency operations center during an installation attack drill

BM2 Fabien fires an M500 Service Shotgun during quarterly gun qualifications .

PMRF Sailors and Kauai Chamber of Commerce members pose for a group photo.

ET1 Martinez is meritoriously advanced to First Class Petty Officer.

