



**COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII /
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP
MIDDLE PACIFIC**
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA STREET, SUITE 110
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860
PHONE: 808-473-2888 FAX: 808-473-2876
www.cnmc.navy.mil/hawaii



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Agnes Tauyan, 473-2875

July 3, 2012
Release # 030-12

Navy responds to State Dept. of Health

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM - The Navy received a Notice of Violation from the State Department of Health (SDOH) in June 2012 for non compliance activities discovered during an inspection at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii in August 2011. The Navy took immediate corrective action, provided refresher training, and increased internal reviews to ensure compliance. An unannounced follow-up visit by SDOH in February 2012 revealed no negative comments or report. The Navy is committed to protecting and preserving the environment.

The Navy has formally requested a hearing to contest the Notice of Violation and Order and penalty.

During an unannounced inspection in August 2011, one (1) open hazardous waste drum in a hazardous waste accumulation site and three (3) open paint-related cans were identified as being improperly managed under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The Navy addressed the concerns immediately and implemented procedures to ensure these actions are not repeated. Internal periodic reviews by subject matter experts indicate that the facility remains in compliance.

“The Navy in Hawaii takes its environmental stewardship very seriously and is constantly working towards being in compliance with all hazardous waste laws,” said Aaron Poentis, Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Program Director. “In this case, SDOH inspectors found concerns at one of our local commands in August 2011 which we immediately corrected. A follow up SDOH visit occurred in February 2012 which did not generate any comment or report. I am confident that after our requested hearing for the Notice of Violation and Order much of the allegations will be resolved to the satisfaction of the SDOH.”

The Navy plans to discuss SDOH’s allegation and assessment. The Navy received the inspection report in November 2011, and a summary of our efforts and corrective actions was immediately forwarded to DOH in a January 2012 correspondence.

As always the Navy is committed to operating in a manner protective of the environment. The Navy has a long history of demonstrated environmental compliance. National defense and environmental protection are, and must be, compatible goals.