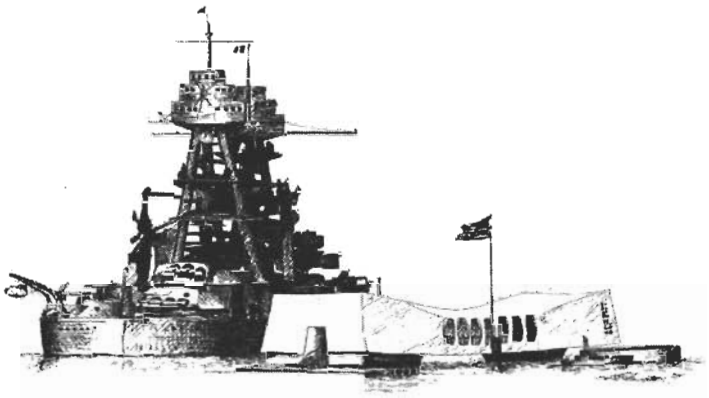
PRESS RELEASE

NAVY REGION HAWAII
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA ST., SUITE 110
PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860

Tel: (808) 473-2888
Fax: (808) 473-2876
www.hawaii.navy.mil



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POC: Lt. Barbara Mertz **RELEASE #016-06**

Navy restricts cell phone use on installations

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – In an effort to keep drivers' full attention on safely operating a moving vehicle, the Navy has begun enforcing the Department of Defense's policy prohibiting the use of cellular phones and similar devices unless using a "hands free" device while driving on Navy shore installations.

This policy will apply to all military personnel, civilian employees, family members, contractors, tenants and visitors operating motor vehicles on Navy shore installations. This includes all areas where the Navy provides law enforcement such as the Navy Exchange complex, non-Public Private Venture housing, and Navy- Marine Corps Golf Course. For drivers on Navy property in Hawaii, this means cell phones may only be used while in "hands free mode." Drivers may not hold, dial, text or adjust the cell phone while the vehicle is in motion.

Mr. C.B. "Buff" Shaw, public safety director for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii explains, "Our interest is in improving driving safety. Cellular phone use has been recognized as a growing cause of driver distraction and contributes to unsafe driving and accidents."

According to Shaw, Navy Region Hawaii will implement these restrictions in phases. The phases include an education and awareness phase of the new restrictions that begins on April 1 and includes warnings being issued by Navy Region Hawaii Base Security to those observed using non-hands free cell phones.

"We will begin the enforcement phase on the first of May. At that time Navy Region Hawaii Base Security personnel will begin issuing tickets to motorists found not using hands free devices with their cell phones while driving on Navy property," said Shaw.

Military members, civilians, contractors and visitors to an installation who fail to comply with the policy are subject to administrative action that could include loss of driving privileges and removal from and/or denial of re-entry to Navy property.

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