



**COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
850 TICONDEROGA STREET, SUITE 110  
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR  
HICKAM, HAWAII 96860  
PHONE: 808-473-2888 FAX: 808-473-2876  
[www.cnicy.navy.mil/hawaii](http://www.cnicy.navy.mil/hawaii)



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**For Immediate Release**

**Kathy Isobe: 808-473-0662**

Duty cell: (808) 371-5189

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**Link to Red Hill B-Roll:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/628960/red-hill-bulk-fuel-storage-facility>

## Red Hill: Navy to Update State Senate Task Force

(JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM) – The Navy plans to present the latest information about Red Hill improvements and upgrades to elected officials and regulators at the annual state Senate task force meeting Oct. 3.

In June, the Navy initiated a study to validate its methods of assessing and testing its tanks. Contrary to some reporting, the study is ongoing and has not been completed. Results are expected in late October.

Steel liner samples – “coupons” – were taken from one inactive tank and were selected after collaborative discussion between the Navy and regulators, Environmental Protection Agency and Hawaii Department of Health, under the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) process.

“The coupons were chosen to evaluate our non-destructive examination scanning process,” said Lt. Cmdr. Blake Whittle, Fuels Director at Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor. “Ensuring tank integrity is the top priority and key to the exhaustive review approach we’ve agreed to.”

After the AOC was signed in 2015 the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency spent \$45.3M to identify the best alternative to improve the facility while conducting scientific studies on groundwater to include increasing the number of monitoring

sites. This is in addition to the roughly \$260M spent by the Navy and DLA since 2006 to maintain and modernize the Red Hill facilities and conduct environmental testing to protect the drinking water.

Rear Adm. Brian Fort, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, said studies, workshops and reports are part of the Navy's continuing efforts to inform the public and invest in the integrity of the Red Hill facility.

"We have not and will not rush to judgment or conclusions, and we will continue to keep the drinking water safe, no matter what," Fort said. "There is much more work to do in studying, analyzing and then implementing all the right initiatives at Red Hill."

The facility's clean, inspect, and repair maintenance program is certified by the American Petroleum Institute. The program is built on a process of continuous improvement, and provides an enduring framework to validate tank and system integrity. Engineers and subject matter experts committed to making informed decisions are wary of conclusions based on incomplete information.

"We must understand every potential action, reaction and consequence of our decisions, but this is also a good time to recognize how much progress we have made and continue to make," Fort said.

"We're eager to present the science, facts and evidence behind our decision-making process," Fort noted. "For more general information from the Navy about Red Hill, I invite you to visit our website: [www.cnic.navy.mil/redhill](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/redhill) <<http://www.cnic.navy.mil/redhill>>. Regulators confirm our drinking water continues to be safe to drink and the Red Hill tanks are not leaking," Fort said.

Red Hill is considered a national strategic asset, which is vital to the nation's defense. Fuel from Red Hill is used by each of the military services, including the U.S. Coast Guard as well as the Hawaii National Guard.