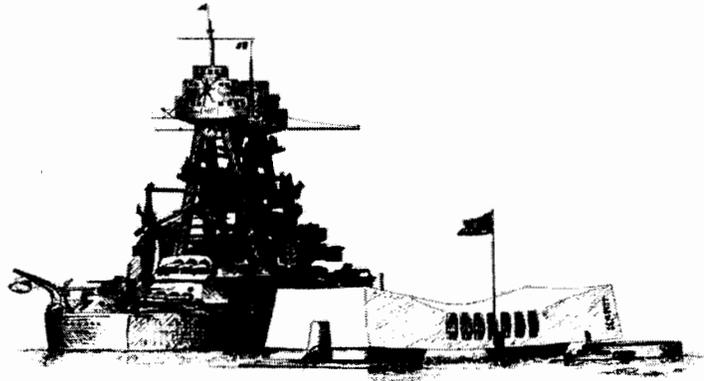


PRESS RELEASE

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

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Navy prohibits cell phone ear devices while driving on Navy installations

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – The Navy has prohibited the use of cellular phone ear devices while driving on Navy shore installations. This is an addition to the current policy that limited use of cellular phones and similar devices unless in a “hands free” mode.

“This is all part of an effort to keep our drivers’ full attention on safely operating their moving vehicles,” explained Mr. C.B. “Buff” Shaw, public safety director for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. “And restricting the use of ear devices such as blue tooth or ear buds will be in accordance with the other services cell phone policies.”

This ‘no ear device’ 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 drivers may not hold, dial, text, use ear devices or adjust the cell phone while the vehicle is in motion.

“We will begin the enforcement of this policy on the first of August, until then our security personnel will warn those found not complying,” said Shaw. “Starting August, Navy Region Hawaii Base Security personnel will begin issuing tickets to motorists found using ear devices and will continue to ticket those found not using hands free devices with their cell phones while driving on Navy property.”

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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