

Navy Report – December 2023

Red Hill Topics:

1. Joint Task Force - Red Hill (JTF-RH)

- JTF-RH completed gravity defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility's storage tanks and pipelines. JTF-RH completed removing the “tank mains” Nov. 17, safely removing over 103 million gallons of fuel. JTF-RH completed removing the “flowable tank bottoms” Dec. 7, removing a little less than one million gallons, and completing the removal of usable fuel from the storage tanks. With regulator approval and on an accelerated timeline, JTF-RH completed unpacking the pipelines on Dec. 15, which was the last step in gravity defueling. Pending regulator approval, JTF-RH will begin removing the residual fuel in January. JTF-RH will remove approximately 60,000 gallons of fuel from the pipelines beginning in January.
- [JTF-RH commander Vice Adm. John Wade provided a defueling update](#) in a video released Dec. 13. Watch the video on the JTF-Red Hill mobile app or on JTF-RH's DVIDS webpage at dvidshub.net/unit/JTF-RH.
- [DoD released Supplement 3 to the Defueling Plan Nov. 14](#). Supplement 3 reflects the outcome of continuous coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health to defuel and close the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF). Defueling Supplement 3 updates the DoD Defueling Plan to refine the distinction between defueling tasks and closure tasks, particularly with respect to residual fuel - the fuel that remains in the facility following gravity defueling's completion. It also discusses the transition of responsibility for RHBFSF from Joint Task Force-Red Hill to Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH).
- To stay up-to-date with the latest information about defueling the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, visit pacom.mil/jtf-red-hill/ or download the JTF-RH mobile app by searching for “JTF-Red Hill” in the Apple App store or Google Play store.

2. Air Quality Monitoring. Navy contractors have installed air monitoring stations at various locations of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Kapilina Beach Homes, and around the exterior of the Red Hill facility, to collect and monitor air quality data across the installation to establish a baseline of current environmental conditions. The measure is part of a greater spill response strategy to identify, quantify and assess potential threats to public safety. This deliberate, proactive approach will ultimately better inform the Navy, and improve its ability to respond to future contingencies. Air quality monitoring data is located on the Environmental section of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Safe Waters website www.jbphh-safewaters.org.

3. Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring. The Navy completed the first year of Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) in March 2023. The Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST) developed a long-term plan to monitor drinking water quality. LTM results are posted the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Safe Waters website -- <https://jbphh-safewaters.org/>. With more than 7,300 tests taken to date, the Navy water system drinking water remains safe to drink. Navy remains focused on the safety and protection of the environment and community. Period six of the LTM program began July 1 and will end in December 2023. Period seven will begin in January and is scheduled to end in March 2024.

4. **The Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring Information Booth** has been an important information tool in our outreach to families impacted by the Red Hill spill. The booth provides information regarding the LTM plan and allows affected residents to view testing results from their homes and neighborhoods, request sampling for their residence, and ask questions.

The next long-term monitoring booth will be:

- Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 4-8 p.m. at the Kapilina Night Market
- Thursday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ford Island Lodge Navy Exchange mini mart

A community outreach schedule is now available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at

www.jbphh-safewaters.org

5. **The 2023 Navy Water Quality Report is Available.** The report can be viewed online. It contains information about the water delivered during the 2022 calendar year – information on where the water comes from, what is inside it, and there’s information on how the water compares to regulator standards for safe drinking water. You can find the report here: <https://cnrh.cnic.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Environmental/Water-Quality-Information/>

6. **The Navy continues to work with the stakeholders and regulators on operations and work regarding Red Hill.** While DoD is working through the process of defueling, the Navy is working with regulators on tank closure planning. The most recent closure plan – supplement 2 submitted May 31 – identifies the removal of the three Red Hill fuel pipelines. This key update demonstrates the DON’s commitment to never use the tanks for storage of fuel or other hazardous substance storage. More information is available at <https://cnrh.cnic.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Red-Hill/> - all info on defueling, closure.

- The Navy submitted its initial tank closure plan Nov. 1, 2022. The analysis of alternatives (4 options) was submitted Dec. 22, 2022, and the supplemental 1 went to the regulators Feb. 28. This supplemental provided amplifying information on the first major milestone in the Tank Closure Plan for cleaning the tanks. While DOH reviews the closure plan, Navy has provided them Supplement #1 (cleaning) and responded to all their RFIs that they had submitted.

7. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** The Navy is aware of several invasive aquatic species in Pearl Harbor and understands how important it is to work with local, state and federal agencies for effective management, and the development of methodologies for strategic removal, eradication, and long-term adaptive management in preventing the spread of it here in Hawaii waters. In addition to the invasive octocorals being found on the base side of the harbor, one of the octocoral species was also found in the vicinity of the marina and lagoon at Kapilina Beach Homes at Iroquois Point. NAVFAC Environmental and Real Estate offices contacted the Kapilina Beach Home management about this issue and provided 45 days' notice that contracted work will begin this month. The eradication method was approved by a multi-agency working group called Hawaii Invasive Octocorals Working Group. Contact with octocoral should be avoid, especially physical trampling, fishing, diving, boating, and anchoring. These octocorals are fast growing soft corals of which are

not native to Hawaii. They quickly take over native coral beds, suffocating them. The Navy does not know definitively how these invasive octocorals came into the area. They are not known to attach and travel on the hulls of ships, but they are a popular aquarium species and have been recently sold illegally on island.

- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam recently issued an updated base instruction that re-stated the Hawaii Department of Health 1998 health advisory that states fish and shellfish from Pearl Harbor should not be eaten. In addition to stating that fishing in these areas is “catch-and-release” only, the new instruction also restricts fishing in other designated areas due to the invasive octocorals.