



Royal Canadian Photo by MCpl Marc-Andre Gaudreault

# Welcome RIMPAC

COMMENTARY

WINDOW ON JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

## Welcome to our RIMPAC friends

**Karen S. Spangler**  
Managing Editor

Our friends from 21 Pacific area nations – Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga and United Kingdom – are currently here in the Hawaiian Islands to participate in Rim of the Pacific exercises 2012 with the United States Navy.

This is the 23rd year since 1971 that the RIMPAC participants have converged on Hawaii for “war games on a global scale.”

Although the duration of time that the RIMPAC participants will spend here in the islands is brief – only about a month – the joint exercise will help them to hone their warfighting skills, test their capabilities, and practice a variety of scenarios, including executing amphibious operations, counterpiracy, mine clearance operations, and disposal and diving and salvage operations.

Through it all, approximately 25,000 military per-

sonnel will have the opportunity to improve communication and teamwork, develop even better cooperation with other RIMPAC allies, and establish solid military relationships and friendships with other nations from the Rim of the Pacific.

The show of international presence integrates 42 ships and the might of the aircraft carrier, USS Nimitz, along with six submarines and more than 200 aircraft.

But although RIMPAC is all about improving multinational cooperation and inter-operability between allies on the high seas and in a combat scenario, it also affords numerous opportunities to build friendships and camaraderie among nations. It offers the chance for some stiff, but friendly competition in sports and athletic events.

It provides the chance for RIMPAC participants to learn about each other's countries and cultures. And, since it all takes place here in paradise, it gives those of us who live here the opportunity to extend to our visitors the spirit of aloha and ohana for which Hawaii is well-known.

Hopefully, while they are

here for RIMPAC, our visitors from many nations will have the chance to try a snorkeling or scuba diving adventure or just relax on a sunny beach overlooking the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean. Maybe they will enjoy a climb to a perch on Diamond Head – high above Waikiki. Perhaps they will take advantage of the varied music venues at the island's popular nightspots.

And, certainly, they will have many chances to appease their taste buds with a variety of foods from many cultures – our very untypical “local” cuisine.

But mostly, we hope that they will return to their native countries with pleasant memories of time spent in a paradise in the middle of the blue Pacific – imbued with the welcoming spirit and hospitality from this land of aloha.

As we foster a spirit of cooperation and communication between our allied nations, we also extend our sincerest welcome.

Aloha to our RIMPAC friends!

We welcome photos, stories and comments from readers. If you have comments, please send them to: Karen.spangler@navy.mil.

## Take care of Hawaii's environment during RIMPAC

**Rebecca Hommon**

Navy Region Hawaii  
Environmental Counsel

Many Hawaii residents believe in the concept of “aloha aina” – love of the land, which is marked by stewardship and reverence for the environment, attributing spiritual power to the earth and its features as well as wildlife.

• While on rest and relaxation or during an operation, watch out for the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal resting on beaches as well as turtles near coral or in the near shore.

Both are endangered species and have the right of way. Don't get near them even though others might do so. Take pictures with high-powered lenses.

• While snorkeling or diving, do not step on or hit coral with fins. Please watch where you put your feet. Coral is alive, and hitting it breaks and kills it.

• Exposing your bare skin to coral can result in painful cuts and possible infection.

• Hiking near or in fresh water streams has two invisible risks beyond the usual trip and fall: flash floods and catching a disease called leptospirosis due to wild animals (pigs mostly) that live in the uplands.

Their feces contains bacteria that drains into the streams. The disease can cause severe nausea, chills, high fever which manifests seven to 14 days after exposure and in worst cases can be fatal.

Hikes that lead off usual trails can lead to a very nar-

row, steep path where turning around is impossible.

Deaths have recently occurred when hikers lost their way or tried to take short cuts only to fall to their deaths. Don't make a rescuer risk his or her life to come get you based on your bad choice.

• Kayaking to, or landing on several of the islands offshore of Oahu is illegal as they are bird sanctuaries and monk seal resting places. People are on shore watching with binoculars and will report the trespass. Authorities could be waiting upon your return to shore.

• Rip tides kill several every year as people swim far off shore and get caught, then try to fight their way back. Swim parallel to the shore until the tide shifts which could be a very long time.

• Jellyfish can be seen in the water and cause burns as they tangle around feet or arms. Signs are usually posted when they are present. They usually arrive on the tides seven to 11 days after full moon.

• Portuguese man-of-war are present year-round, usually on windward (east-facing) beaches such as Bellows. Both stings can be extremely painful.

Reef fish are not good eating as they may contain a toxin (ciguatera) and are usually too small to be of much value.

While no fishing license is needed to fish from shore in Hawaii, there are size minimums and catch limits for many kinds of fish. The best choice is to leave the fish in the sea and enjoy them while snorkeling rather than injuring and wasting them.

### RIMPAC ship tours

RIMPAC ship tours will be available to those with base access and sponsored guests. Please check the RIMPAC 2012 website at <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac/2012/> for the most current information.

## Sports of all sorts and special events planned during this year's RIMPAC 2012 exercise

**Don Robbins**

Assistant Editor

In addition to the numerous sporting and special events planned for this year's RIMPAC 2012 exercise, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will be sponsoring the RIMPAC Cup.

The cup is a perpetual trophy presented to the ship or command which earns the most total points during RIMPAC 2012. The first in-port sporting events scheduled June 30 through July 9 will count toward the RIMPAC cup.

During the second in-port period scheduled Aug. 2 to 6,

points will not count toward the cup, but awards will be given. Competition points are awarded for teams or individuals winning selected tournaments or competitions.

The sports competition program allows maximum participation by all RIMPAC 2012 participants and accounts for the dates that forces arrive in Hawaii.

Visit RIMPAC Central located across from Bravo Piers 23 and 24 and at Hotel Pier for MWR RIMPAC information including trans-

portation for scheduled off-base excursions, food and beverage vendors, tickets and more.

RIMPAC Central (Bravo Piers and Hotel Piers) will be open 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. June 27 to July 9 and Aug. 1 to 6.

JBPHH MWR will host a variety of athletic and special events during RIMPAC, including tournaments in basketball, soccer, indoor and sand volleyball, softball, singles and doubles tennis and bowling. A RIMPAC 5K run will take place July 5 at 9 a.m. A second 5K run will be held at 9 a.m. Aug. 3. Deadline for entry for the second run is July 11.

The race course will start and finish at RIMPAC Central on Bravo Piers. Water and beverages will be provided and trophies will be awarded.

Other scheduled RIMPAC events include a bench press contest, indoor triathlon, versa climb challenge, swim meet, international military boogie board and surf meet, belly flop contest, kayak race competition, RIMPAC king and queen of the beach and golf tournament.

During RIMPAC there are special rates for bowling. Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., open bowling will be \$2 per game. Cosmic bowling on Friday nights from 5 to 11 p.m. will be \$2 per game.

A RIMPAC strong-arm contest is scheduled for 9 a.m. Aug. 4 at the JBPHH Fitness Center. The deadline for entry is July 11. The contest will consist of the most pull-ups contest and longest chin-up hang.

The RIMPAC sailing regatta is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 3 at Rainbow Bay marina. Deadline for entry is July 11.

A RIMPAC golf tournament will be held at 12:30 p.m. Aug. 6 at Navy and Marine Golf Course. Deadline for entry is July 11.

Subject to availability, RIMPAC T-shirts will be provided to tournament participants.

For entry fees and up-to-date information on how to sign up, visit the website [www.greatlifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com). Complete RIMPAC schedules, standing, events and activities are available on the website.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker