

# Within Range

A photograph of two firefighters working at night. They are illuminated by a strong red light, likely from an emergency vehicle. The firefighter on the right is wearing a black face mask and safety glasses, and is focused on a task. The firefighter on the left is also working. In the background, a red lantern is visible, and the scene is set outdoors at night.

## In this issue:

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
ACCREDITATION AWARD**

**ʻŪNIKI CEREMONY**

**COMMAND PICNIC**

**DARK SKIES PROGRAM**

CONTENTS



**Fire Department Accreditation Award**  
Our amazing team at Barking Sands Fire and Emergency Services once again proves to our community to never settle for less. Join us in celebrating their fourth accreditation status in a row!

**ʻŪniki Ceremony**  
The Mānā plain is home to a rich cultural heritage for the west side of Kauaʻi. See more for photos of hula students that came to PMRF as part of a graduation ceremonial process.



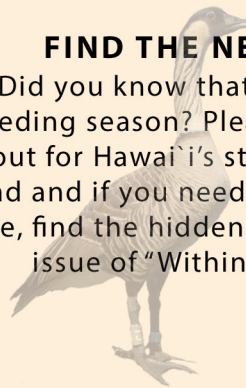
**Command Picnic**  
Let's play ball! Sailors and families came together for some recreational fun during a command picnic hosted by CSADD.

**Dark Skies Program**  
Environmental protection is everyone's responsibility. Make sure you're ready to do your part to protect these endangered species!



**Also in this issue...**  
-Suicide Prevention Month  
-National Preparedness Month

**FIND THE NENE!**  
Did you know that it is Nene breeding season? Please keep your eye out for Hawai'i's state bird on the road and if you need to train your eye, find the hidden Nene in this issue of "Within Range."



Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands (PMRF) is the world's largest instrumented multi-environment range capable of supporting surface, subsurface, air, and space operations simultaneously. There are more than 1,100 square miles of instrumented underwater range, 42,000 square miles of controlled airspace and 2.1 million square miles of extended range when needed.

PMRF Public Affairs: MC2 Samantha Jetzer, MC2 Bodie Estep

PMRF TRIAD



**Capt. Brett Stevenson**  
*Commanding Officer*



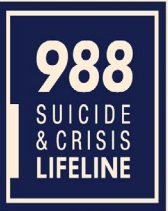
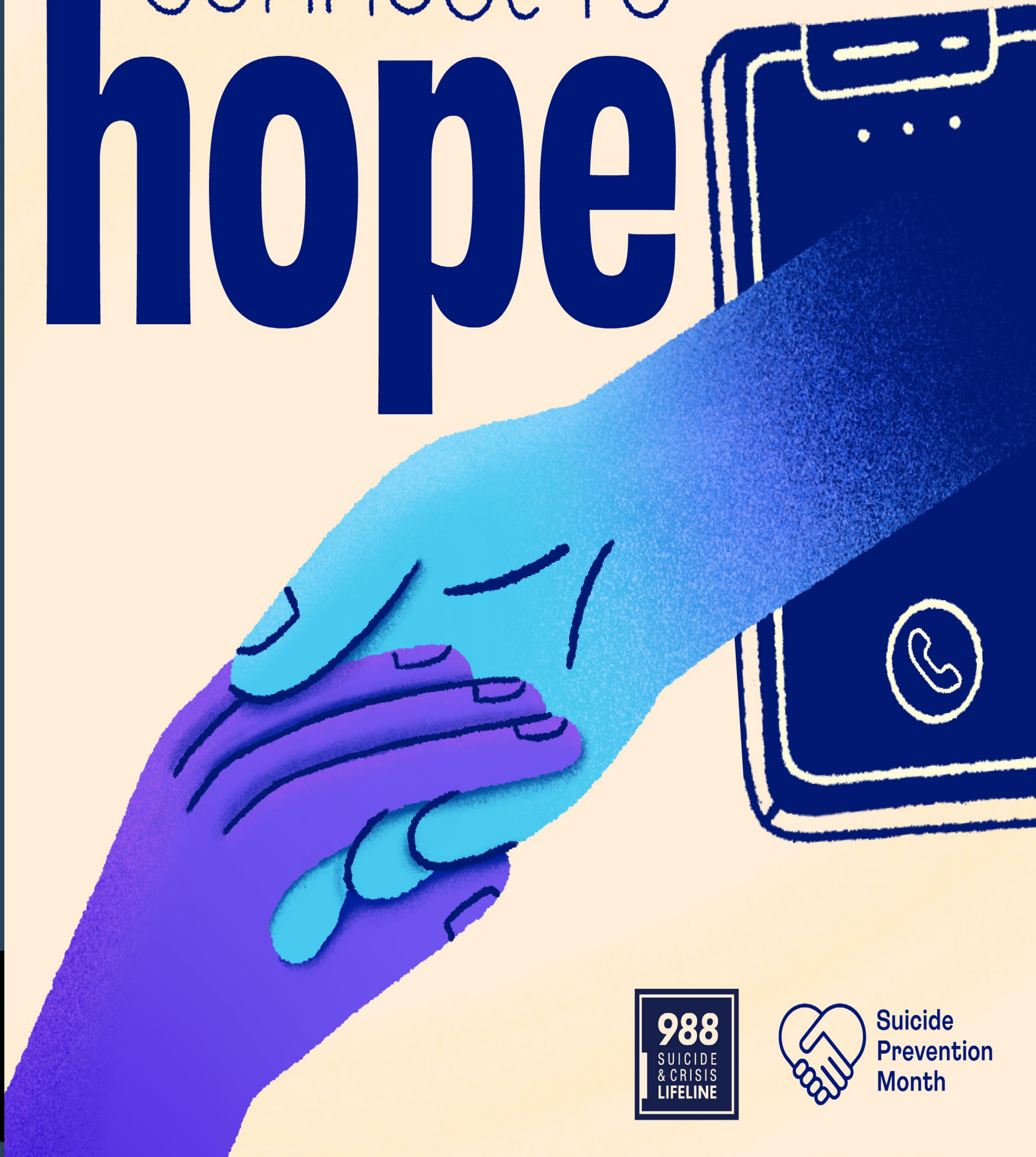
**Cmdr. Kacee Jossis**  
*Executive Officer*



**CMDCS William Kalmbach**  
*Senior Enlisted Leader*



connect to  
**hope**





Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Samantha Jetzer

Oric Kuapahi, fire chief of Barking Sands Fire and Emergency Services (BSF&ES), was joined by Capt. Brett Stevenson, commanding officer of Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), to hang an accreditation plaque during a ceremony on Aug. 29 at the base fire house.

BSF&ES was awarded international accreditation status on Aug. 16 from the Commission on Fire Accreditation, International (CFAI). CFAI is the only accrediting body for U.S. fire departments. This latest accreditation is the fourth in a row for PMRF's fire department and is valid for five years.

"I want to emphasize that this has been a department-wide effort and not just the work of the team in the picture," said Kuapahi. "We are always looking for ways to improve our training and capabilities. This award shows our continued dedication to the community."

CFAI's purpose is to promote the highest quality fire support to the community. This is done through a very comprehensive, intense process involving a departmental self-assessment, an on-site assessment from fire

professionals on the mainland, and an appearance before a commission hearing for a final decision.

"Our mission is to provide fire and emergency services to PMRF to minimize the risk of injuries, loss of life, damage and loss of property," said Scott Taylor, PMRF's security and emergency services manager. "This accreditation signifies that we are performing this mission to the highest possible standard. Our job now is to continuously improve for even better execution."

This year's commission hearing was in Denver where three Koa Lani representatives defended BSF&ES, consisting of Kuapahi, Taylor, and Bill Mielcke, BSF&ES's assistant fire chief.

"As a matter of perspective, of the thousands of fire departments in the U.S. and elsewhere, there are only 301 CFAI-accredited departments," said Taylor. "Seventy two of them reside within the Department of Defense and 18 reside within the U.S. Navy. In the state of Hawaii, there are only three. Needless to say, the fire department is very proud."



Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Bodie Estep

Hula master Puna Kalama Dawson came to PMRF on Sept. 1 with some students as part of an 'ūniki ceremony. This event is one of multiple events leading up to a graduation ceremony for students to become hula masters. The group visited multiple sites at PMRF with cultural significance including the Lua Kupapa'u O Nohili Crypt.





# COMMAND PICNIC

*Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Samantha Jetzer*

Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) partnered with Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to host a water day event to bring Sailors, family and Department of the Navy personnel at PMRF together for a day of fun in the sun on August 26.

The event kicked off with a presentation from Diversity Committee about women throughout history in honor of Women's Equality Day, followed by a formal

introduction from the triad.

After the presentations, attendees enjoyed food and drinks provided by the First Class Petty Officer Association and the Chief's Mess, slip and slide kickball, and a bounce house water slide. Service members and families also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Hunt Housing, Military and Family Support Center, and PMRF's environmental team.



# DARK SKIES

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Bodie Estep

Kaua'i is home to a wide variety of bird species. Of these species there are a few that rely on natural light to guide them to sea.

Newell's shearwater, Hawaiian petrel and band-rumped storm-petrel, listed under the Endangered Species Act, plus the wedge-tailed shearwater, which is protected by the Migratory Bird Species Act of 1918, are all drawn to bright sources of light, man-made or otherwise. In an effort to protect these birds, the Dark Skies program runs every year from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15 to limit the amount of man-made light shining after dark.

Brooke McFarland, the natural resources manager for Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), explained more about the program and its importance.

"This program is beyond turning off many lights," said McFarland. "Events are planned around high-risk times (related to moon phase), surveys are conducted to ensure any birds that have fallen out on base are found, and there is a Save Our Shearwaters (SOS) aid station at Pass and ID to provide a safe place for birds that are found on base and need to be rehabilitated."

It is important that everyone plays a part for this program to be successful and stop the extinction of these birds. The Newell's shearwater, which is of particular concern, decreased 94% between 1993 and 2013. There are many simple ways to support

the program. Keep outdoor lights turned off and use a flashlight or phone if a light is needed outside after dark. Being cognizant of any light possibly escaping from indoor lights through blinds or skylights can prevent birds from circling a light until they fall out from exhaustion. Also make sure to keep any pets on leashes and always keep an eye out for any fallen fledglings.

"If you see an awkward-looking dark bird with a white belly sitting on the ground, please stop nearby (where safe) and call the Natural Resources Hotline at **(808) 208-4416** or (regional) dispatch at **(808) 474-2222**," said McFarland. "If it is one of these seabirds, we will catch the bird for rehabilitation at SOS, where it will stay until it can be released. Please note the precise location (the bird may hide) and whether it is injured."

If for any reason a light must be kept on, a valid waiver is required. This is the same for any scheduled event. To start the process of receiving a waiver, please contact **[brooke.a.mcfarland.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:brooke.a.mcfarland.civ@us.navy.mil)**.

"Everyone on base is critical to the success of the Dark Skies program, and critical to ensuring the mission of PMRF continues through these fall months," McFarland said. "We have had four successful years, which is really a story of the base pulling together. Each light turned off and eye-on-the-sky is a step towards another season without fallout."



Volunteers added visor shields to the lights lining the path of Waiokapua (commonly known as Major's Bay) in support of the Dark Skies program on Sept. 12.



PMRF's environmental team, volunteers, and members from Save Our Shearwaters (SOS) band wedge-tailed shearwaters to help track their movements on Sept. 13. They also collected additional scientific data because there is not much known about these birds due to their low population. There are SOS teams at every firehouse to track the birds across the island.



# National Preparedness Month

**Stay Ready, Stay Resilient**

National Preparedness Month is held each September to encourage Americans to take simple actions to prepare for disasters.

## Week

# 1

### **Make a Plan**

Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

## Week

# 2

### **Build a Kit**

Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.

## Week

# 3

### **Low Cost Preparedness**

Natural disasters don't wait for a convenient time. Preparing for them shouldn't wait either. Start today by signing up for alerts, safe-guarding important documents, and taking other low cost and no cost preparedness actions to lessen the impact of disasters and emergencies for you and your family.

## Week

# 4

### **Teach Youth About Preparedness**

Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about what they should know and how they can get involved.

For more information about National Preparedness Month,  
please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)