

Within Range



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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



Turkey Bowl

*Photos by Mass Communication Specialist
Second Class Bodie Estep*

PMRF Sailors hosted a game of Flag Football to kick off Thanksgiving morning.

Turkey Bowling

MWR hosted a Thanksgiving feast for single Sailors on November 21, followed by a friendly competition of bowling with a frozen turkey.





On December 1st, MWR held a tree lighting ceremony featuring a buffet and the opportunity to meet Santa.

On December 9th, Sailors and their families were invited to our command holiday party. Guests were able to enjoy a buffet, a raffle, and a variety of activities that were fun for parents and kids, including face painting and a dance contest.

Happy Holidays!!

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Bodie Estep



A Discovery Worth Shell-ebrating



Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Samantha Jetzer. Title photo courtesy of Pexels.com.

A rhythmic tune of breaking waves was the only sound that could be heard in the calmness of night as the tide methodically rolled over the nearby coral reef. Gentle waves of frothy sea foam cascaded across the soft pale sand of Kohomahana. The beach was narrow and lay over some small hills next to the airfield at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands. This was the site that offered sanctuary to one green sea turtle in search of a place to nest.

Despite the peaceful night, the beach was steep which offered a challenge to the nesting mother to climb. She dragged her body across the sand to reach the safety of the vegetation near the top of the dunes. From here, she burrowed to create a

hole about a yard deep in order to lay her eggs. When the last egg was laid and the last of the sand had been shoveled over them she abandoned her nest and journeyed back to sea.

This was the only sea turtle nest discovered at PMRF this year, continuing the trend of one turtle nest per year since 2020. Historically, nests have been found along PMRF's entire coastline, so it is very important to be aware of what these nests look like and to keep an eye out for them.

"Anyone on the beach could find one during the season, so I wish more people knew how to identify them," said Stephen Rossiter, PMRF's field biology coordinator with Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. "If you're out on the beach during the summer

time, you may find one. It usually consists of a pit and a mound next to each other and potentially tracks leading from the water to the nest and back. They'll lay their nests above the tide line around where vegetation begins to grow."

PMRF's environmental team was joined by biologists with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to excavate the nest.

"They are the experts," Rossiter said. "They are the ones that keep track of turtle nests all across the island and, through their organizations, all across the state. I think we were lucky to have that level of expertise

available and willing to come out and evaluate what we have here at PMRF."

The team hiked out to the site Nov. 10 where the nest had been surrounded with wooden stakes and flags to identify it. Normally, the nesting season is between the months of May through July and hatching season is between July and September, so this was a late nest. During the nesting season, the environmental team, along with volunteers, walked the entire coastline of PMRF twice a week in search of nests to ensure they were identified and properly marked to help keep them undisturbed.

"It was good to see a lot of people interested in it this year," said Rossiter. "A big part of my job is preventing and mitigating human and wildlife conflict. It's a good case where the species can benefit from the resources at PMRF with a little protection."

Once the team arrived at the site, they took turns with shovels and dug into the small mound. At around three feet deep the crew started to shave around the edges of the pit's wall until someone spotted it, a small white fragment. An egg shell! After a quick exclamation of excitement from the team, they began to remove the sand closer to the top of the mound until they hit the jackpot. Egg

shells popped up like bubbles in the sand, and each one was removed from the nest and carefully counted. Fifty seven hatched eggs were found in the nest.

"We greatly appreciate our partnership with the PMRF biologists to help us conserve our endangered marine life," said Mimi Orly, a Kaua'i marine mammal response field coordinator with DLNR. "Currently the greatest threats to sea turtles is human activity causing habitat loss to nests on beaches due to development and human activities."

There are many dangers influencing the decline of sea turtles today, most of which are human impacted. Vehicles driving on the beach can crush eggs in nests. Fishing lines and nets left out on the reef can entangle and drown sea turtles. Boats traveling at high speeds near shore waters can break a turtle's shell by the bow or propeller. Even artificial light can disorient hatchlings when they emerge from their nests.

"The PMRF biologists do an excellent job monitoring the endangered marine wildlife at PMRF," Orly said. "They work closely with us, NOAA Fisheries and Hawaii DLNR Protected Species Program to report all wildlife and follow all protocols we provide for wildlife conservation."



Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

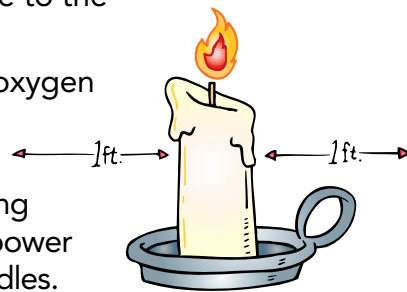
"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ❗ **December** is the peak month for home candle fires.
- ❗ More than **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ❗ **Three of every five** candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

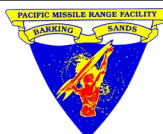
Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ❗ **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ❗ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ❗ A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



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Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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