

COLIN BAENZIGER & ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

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*Section 12*

*Mark D. Sohaney*

*Sarasota City Manager  
Candidate Report*

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*Cover Letter and Resume*

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# MARK SOHANEY

PII Military - F.S. 119.071(5)(k)1.a.(I) □

◆ [linkedin.com/in/mark-sohaney](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-sohaney)

January 16, 2025

Dear Members of the Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the City Manager position for Sarasota, Florida. With over 37 years of leadership experience in the military, holding command roles at major installations such as Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Naval Air Station Key West, I have developed a comprehensive skill set in strategic planning, budget management, and community engagement. I am eager to bring these skills to the City of Sarasota, a community renowned as "Paradise" for its breathtaking beauty and vibrant lifestyle.

During my tenure as Commanding Officer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, I managed complex operations that required strategic oversight of multi-branch military initiatives. My experience in budget management and resource allocation ensured that projects were completed efficiently and within fiscal constraints. Additionally, my focus on sustainability and climate resilience during infrastructure projects reflects my commitment to aligning operational goals with environmental priorities, a perspective I am excited to bring to Sarasota's development initiatives.

At Naval Air Station Key West, I honed my skills in collaborative leadership and stakeholder engagement. Leading this installation, I prioritized transparency and community-focused decision-making, consistently striving to build consensus among varied groups. My ability to forge partnerships and foster teamwork will be instrumental in fulfilling the City Commission's vision for Sarasota as a harmonious and thriving community.

In the role of City Manager, I am prepared to lead Sarasota with integrity and vision, supporting the City Commission's mission to effectively balance and integrate diverse community interests. My extensive background in strategic financial planning, intergovernmental relations, and emergency management aligns closely with the requirements of this role. Additionally, my experience with FEMA and grant writing equips me to secure vital resources for the city's development.

I am particularly drawn to Sarasota's commitment to preserving its historical charm while fostering sustainable growth. My leadership style, grounded in active field engagement and team motivation, aligns with Sarasota's need for a leader who transcends office boundaries to connect with staff and the community on the ground.

I am eager to bring my strategic vision and leadership expertise to Sarasota, contributing to a vibrant future for the city. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experience and vision align with Sarasota's needs.

Warm regards,

Mark Sohaney

**MARK SOHANEY**

PII Military - F.S. 119.071(5)(k)1.a.(l) □

[linkedin.com/in/mark-sohaney](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-sohaney)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | CONSTRUCTION, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

With over 37 years of leadership and operational experience, including distinguished naval service, a notable track record in strategic planning, and resource management, significant achievements have been made in construction operations and facilities management. Spearheaded multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects, with a strong emphasis on sustainability, quality control, and strategic development, leading transformative initiatives in complex military and civilian environments. Equipped to drive organizational growth and enhance team dynamics, adept at boosting operational efficiency and fostering a culture of excellence.

- Expertise in construction project management and procurement, ensuring on-time completion and budget adherence while maintaining high safety and quality standards.
- Proven ability to lead and modernize infrastructure and operations, demonstrated through successful management of capital improvement projects and comprehensive facility upgrades.
- Skilled in financial performance analysis and operational metrics, effectively overseeing budgets and driving economic stability in challenging environments.

**Core Competencies:**

Construction Operations | Project Management | Procurement Strategies | Quality Control | Safety Management  
Financial Performance Analysis | Sustainability Initiatives | Infrastructure Modernization | Historical Preservation | Facility Sustainment | Contract Negotiations | Community Engagement | Emergency Preparedness

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**As Chief Executive Officer, JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM**

Led the transformation of the most strategic, historic, and complex military installation in the world. Developed and implemented strategic initiatives for a comprehensive development plan that emphasized major utility and facilities recapitalization while prioritizing sustainability. Oversaw construction, facilities management, and base operations, directly supporting a community of 93,000 people. Managed a dual-use military and civilian international airport, extensive deep-water naval port facility, which included 12 geographically dispersed annexes spread over 15,000 acres with more than 4,000 facilities, all valued at approximately \$30.8 billion.

- **Spearheaded the development of major capital improvement projects**, including a \$1.4 billion Biodiesel Plant and Solar Farm, a \$1.2 billion Wastewater Treatment Plant, and a \$750 million Water Treatment Plant, with a focus on sustainability, sea level rise adaptation, and environmental cleanliness.
- **Directed the modernization of airport infrastructure**, encompassing \$865 million in construction, while collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure smooth coordination with Honolulu International Airport.
- **Led the seamless integration of the Navy's largest construction project to date**, ensured the \$3.4 billion Dry Dock project was executed without disrupting base operations or impacting the community.
- **Directed the continuous integration of \$1.2 billion in repairs** for the base's piers and wharves, enhancing the readiness and resilience of essential infrastructure without interrupting naval operations.
- **Collaborated with city, state and elected officials to create a \$200 million project**, enhancing emergency evacuation for Honolulu County in response to hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters.
- **Established a partnership with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources**, securing funding for collaborative real estate projects, including a \$16 million Watershed Management Project.

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**As Chief Executive Officer, NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST, FLORIDA**

As the largest employer and landowner in the Florida Keys, committed to remaining open for business during the COVID-19 pandemic was crucial not only for the military, but also for the economic stability of the community. Navigated these unprecedented challenges with unwavering resilience and determination, prioritizing the safety and welfare of over 5,000 personnel across our extensive 5,800-acre installation, encompassing 35,000 square miles of airspace, comprising of more than 500 facilities valued at \$2.5 billion.

- **Recognized expert in emergency and crisis management**, collaborated with Monroe County leadership through hurricanes and other emergencies, ensuring safety, sustainability, and resilience.
- **Directed high-performing Parks and Recreation department**, managed a diverse range of facilities and services while implementing operational improvements, resulting in excellent P&L outcomes.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Commanding Officer** (2022 – 2024)

**Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam** – Pearl Harbor, HI

- Directed over 4,300 personnel in integrating projects exceeding \$8 billion, managing a \$243 million budget while achieving construction goals.
- Managed military housing units, optimizing occupancy and maintenance efficiency, resulting in high resident satisfaction and budget compliance.
- Led collective bargaining for 700 employees, securing favorable agreements that boosted morale and reduced turnover.

**Commanding Officer** (2019 – 2022)

**Naval Air Station Key West** – Key West, FL

- Managed crucial Navy installation supporting joint training, ensuring precise operational readiness.
- Developed strategic plans for construction to mitigate sea level rise impacts, guaranteeing infrastructure resilience.

**Executive Assistant to the Director of Maritime Operations** (2017 – 2019)

**U.S. Pacific Fleet** – Pearl Harbor, HI

- Oversaw maritime operations for 200 ships, 900 aircraft, and 145,000 personnel, managing a \$15 million budget for operational readiness against diverse challenges.

**Officer-in-Charge** (2014 – 2017)

**Boeing P-8A Poseidon Fleet Introduction Team** – Jacksonville, FL

Chief Executive Officer leading the Navy's largest maritime aircraft transition program in over half a century. Directed a \$25 billion strategic integration of the P-8 Poseidon aircraft into Navy operations managing diverse teams, stakeholder alignment, and adherence to stringent timelines and budgets.

**Commanding Officer** (2013 – 2014)

**Patrol Squadron Twenty-Six** – Jacksonville, FL

Chief Executive Officer of an aviation squadron, led a diverse team of 525 people while directing all maritime operations during a highly strategic deployment involving intricate coordination with allied forces, enhancing multinational maritime security efforts and ensuring a seamless integration within a coalition environment.

**EDUCATION**

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, MA, **National Security and Strategic Studies**, Newport, RI  
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, BA, **Economics, Summa cum laude**, San Diego, CA

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*Candidate Introduction*

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**MARK SOHANEY**

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**EDUCATION**

Master of Arts, National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College  
Bachelor of Arts, Economics, San Diego State University, Summa cum laude

**EXPERIENCE**

Chief Executive Officer, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI	2022 – 2024
Chief Executive Officer, Naval Air Station Key West, FL	2019 – 2022
Chief of Staff, Director of Maritime Operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet, HI	2018 – 2019
Director of Contingency Plans, U.S. Pacific Fleet, HI	2017 – 2018
Chief Executive Officer, P-8A Poseidon Fleet Introduction Team, Jacksonville, FL	2014 – 2017
Chief Executive Officer, Patrol Squadron Twenty-Six, Jacksonville, FL	2013 – 2014
Executive Officer, Patrol Squadron Twenty-Six, Jacksonville, FL	2012 – 2013
Country Director for Australia and New Zealand, Indo-Pacific Command, HI	2011 – 2012
Executive Assistant to the Director for Strategic Planning and Policy, HI	2010 – 2011
Department Head, Patrol Squadron Nine, Kaneohe Bay, HI	2008 – 2010
Naval War College, Newport, RI	2007 – 2008
Flag Secretary for Commander Carrier Strike Group Five, Yokosuka, Japan	2005 – 2007
Instructor, Patrol Squadron Thirty, Jacksonville, FL	2002 – 2005
Mission Commander, Patrol Squadron Forty-Seven, HI	1998 – 2002
U.S. Navy Flight School, Pensacola, FL	1995 – 1998
SONAR Technician, San Diego, CA	1987 – 1995

**BACKGROUND**

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) is one of the most historically significant and strategically vital military installations globally, located in Oahu, Hawaii. It was established in October 2010 through the consolidation of two significant bases: Pearl Harbor Naval Base and Hickam Air Force Base. This integration serves to promote greater efficiency and operational synergy between the Navy and the Air Force. With its rich history dating back to World War II, JBPHH plays a critical role in supporting United States' military operations in the Pacific. It is home to a vast array of facilities, including a deep-water naval port, airfields, and numerous support and training facilities. The base supports a significant military and civilian workforce and directly contributes to the readiness and mobility of the U.S. Pacific Command.

As the Chief Executive Officer, I led the transformation of JBPHH, focusing on both its strategic and historical relevance while addressing modern operational needs. My responsibility encompassed the development and implementation of strategic initiatives that were central to the base's comprehensive development plan, emphasizing major utility and facilities recapitalization with a strong focus on sustainability.



### MARK SOHANEY

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I directly supported a diverse community of 93,000 individuals. This role included managing an extensive deep-water naval port and dual-use military and civilian international airport, alongside 12 geographically dispersed annexes. These facilities span over 28,000 acres and consist of more than 4,000 infrastructures valued at approximately \$30.8 billion.

Additionally, I directed a team of over 4,300 personnel, successfully integrating projects that exceeded a total value of \$10 billion. This experience honed my skills in managing a substantial annual budget of \$243 million, enabling me to achieve all construction and operational goals while prioritizing sustainability and community engagement.

As I reflect on my experiences at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, three significant issues stand out that I've been deeply involved in addressing.

1. First and foremost is the need for recapitalizing infrastructure and utilities. I spearheaded the development of several major capital improvement projects that have transformed our capabilities. Among these was the \$1.4 billion Biodiesel Plant and Solar Farm, alongside a \$1.2 billion Wastewater Treatment Plant and a \$750 million Water Treatment Plant. These initiatives were essential in upgrading our outdated infrastructure to enhance efficiency and capacity to meet future demands. I directed the modernization of our airport infrastructure, which involved \$865 million in construction work, and made it a priority to ensure smooth coordination with all stakeholders, especially at Honolulu International Airport. Additionally, I oversaw the execution of the Navy's most significant construction project to date—the \$4.5 billion Dry Dock project. We managed to integrate this massive undertaking without disrupting base operations or negatively impacting the local community. Furthermore, I took charge of the ongoing integration of \$1.2 billion in repairs for our piers and wharves, which has significantly improved our readiness and resilience, all while maintaining uninterrupted naval operations.
2. Environmental sustainability and adaptation to sea level rise stand as another critical issue that I have passionately addressed. I focused on promoting sustainability and environmental cleanliness through renewable energy projects, like the Biodiesel Plant and Solar Farm. Prioritizing initiatives that tackle sea level rise adaptation has been crucial in preparing the base for environmental changes while minimizing our ecological footprint. We are committed to meeting these challenges head-on.
3. Lastly, enhancing emergency preparedness has been a significant focus of my efforts. I collaborated with city, state, and elected officials to lead a \$200 million project designed to improve emergency evacuation capabilities for Honolulu County. This initiative was not merely reactive; it showcased our proactive approach to enhancing community resilience against hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. Ensuring that we have robust emergency preparedness plans in place has been a top priority for me, as it directly impacts the safety and security of our community.

**MARK SOHANEY**

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**GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE**

I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to serve as the City Manager of Sarasota for several reasons. As a Florida resident since my time learning how to fly in Pensacola, I have developed a deep appreciation for the state's unique culture, community spirit, and beautiful natural resources. Sarasota is a vibrant community known for its rich arts and cultural heritage, and I am eager to contribute to enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

This role aligns perfectly with my career path, as I have extensive experience in municipal management and infrastructure development. My background in leading significant capital improvement projects—such as large-scale renewable energy installations and emergency preparedness initiatives—has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of urban planning, resource management, and stakeholder collaboration. I believe these skills will directly benefit Sarasota as it continues to grow and adapt to new challenges.

I am especially passionate about fostering strong community engagement and implementing innovative solutions that address both current needs and future opportunities. I view the City Manager position as a chance for me to serve a community that I admire and to be a proactive leader, ensuring that Sarasota continues to thrive.

My management style is collaborative and inclusive. I believe in fostering open communication and engaging with the team at all levels to create a supportive environment where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered. I prioritize transparency in decision-making processes to build trust within the organization. I also focus on results, setting clear goals and expectations and empowering my team to take ownership. I encourage innovation and welcome diverse perspectives, which I believe are essential for effective problem-solving, especially in a dynamic city management context. I also adapt my management style to the needs of individual team members and the specific challenges we face. My goal is to create a culture of excellence and accountability within the organization, all while maintaining a strong connection with the community.

I am often viewed as someone who communicates clearly, supports the team, inspires trust, and fosters a collaborative environment. My staff would likely highlight qualities such as approachability, decisiveness, and the ability to motivate and guide others towards shared goals.

I believe my elected officials would describe me as a proactive leader who values collaboration, understands the importance of community engagement, and always seeks to create win-win outcomes for the city and local communities. My dedication to service and effective communication would be key themes in their reflections about my leadership style.

I believe they would highlight my collaborative approach and commitment to fostering strong relationships with the local communities. During my tenure as the Chief Executive Officer of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, I worked closely with Honolulu Mayor Blangiardi, U.S.

### MARK SOHANEY

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Senator Hirono, and U.S. Congressman Ed Case, focusing on shared interests that benefited both the community and the base. We successfully enhanced emergency evacuation protocols for local residents, prioritized the protection of the surrounding environment, and partnered to address the growing homelessness challenge.

Throughout my tenure as the Chief Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Key West, I fostered productive partnerships with the Mayor of Key West and the Monroe County Commissioners. Together, we implemented initiatives that strengthened community ties and ensured that base operations met the needs and concerns of local residents. Additionally, I cultivated strong connections with the Governor of Florida and U.S. Senator Scott, enhancing collaboration on various common interests.

In addressing my strengths, I highlight my ability to craft and communicate a clear vision, which aligns team efforts with our organization's overarching goals. This skill, paired with my strong communication abilities, promotes collaboration and fosters a culture of transparency, ensuring everyone feels informed and engaged in our collective mission. Moreover, I excel in team building, enhancing morale, and nurturing camaraderie among diverse groups, which is vital for creating a cohesive work environment.

My leadership experience and reputation led to my selection to command Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during the Red Hill Water crisis. I was entrusted with developing a strategic plan to recapitalize essential infrastructure and utilities, drawing on my established ties to the local community. Additionally, my expertise in crisis management allows me to maintain personnel safety and well-being while ensuring operational integrity even in the face of challenging situations.

On the other hand, I recognize that my weaknesses can sometimes impede my effectiveness. For instance, I tend to overcommit, taking on too many responsibilities, which raises the risk of burnout and can affect my performance in key areas. Similarly, striving to meet the demands of leading a complex organization often makes it difficult to maintain a healthy work-life balance, which is crucial for sustained effectiveness.

I utilize various metrics to measure performance and ensure my staff and I meet the organization's goals. I emphasize community engagement metrics, such as participation levels in city programs and feedback from resident surveys and town halls. I analyze financial performance by tracking adherence to budget allocations and examining variances in departmental spending to ensure fiscal responsibility. Additionally, I collect data on service delivery times for essential city services, monitoring average response times for emergency services and the resolution time for public service requests. Employee performance and satisfaction are critical components, and I conduct regular assessments through surveys while monitoring departmental performance metrics like project completion rates and staff turnover. Public safety metrics, including crime statistics and community safety perceptions, are essential to evaluate. I also gauge resident satisfaction through regular surveys, town halls, and track

### MARK SOHANEY

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economic development indicators such as job creation and business retention. Finally, I monitor environmental sustainability metrics, focusing on reductions in carbon emissions and improvements in energy efficiency.

One of my biggest achievements as CEO of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam was leading a collaborative effort with Hawaii city, state, and elected officials to create a \$200 million emergency evacuation project for Honolulu County. This initiative directly addressed growing concerns following the devastating Lahaina fires, which highlighted the vulnerability of our communities to natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires. The people of West Oahu were particularly apprehensive, as that side of the island is susceptible to wildfires during the dry season. Recognizing the urgent need for enhanced preparedness, I spearheaded discussions and coordinated with various stakeholders to design and implement a comprehensive evacuation plan. This project not only provides a critical infrastructure to ensure the safety of our residents but also fosters a stronger partnership between military and civilian entities in disaster response. By proactively addressing these risks, we not only improved public safety but also instilled greater confidence within the community regarding emergency preparedness measures. This achievement stands out to me as a testament to effective leadership and collaboration in the face of challenges.

Reflecting on my career, I consider one of my biggest mistakes to have been early in my tenure as Commanding Officer at Naval Air Station Key West. During a critical project aimed at addressing our military housing shortage, I underestimated the complexities involved in aligning diverse stakeholder interests, which led to delays and frustration among team members and partners. This oversight highlighted the importance of thorough stakeholder analysis and proactive communication. From this experience, I learned to prioritize stakeholder engagement and to actively involve diverse perspectives from the outset of any project.

Yes, I have had to make the difficult decision to terminate personnel, including a time when I needed to let go of my Executive Officer at Naval Air Station Key West. This decision was not made lightly, but it was necessary due to his poor leadership style and inability to align with my command vision and leadership philosophy. I handled the situation with utmost professionalism and sensitivity by first attempting to identify areas for improvement and offering support for development. After repeated efforts to address these concerns without seeing progress, I recognized that it was in the best interest of the team and mission to make a change.

During the termination process, I conducted a candid yet respectful conversation with him, clearly explaining the reasons for the decision and providing constructive feedback. It was important to me to ensure the dignity and respect of the individual throughout the process. This decision was challenging on a personal level, as I am committed to supporting and developing my team; however, the priority was maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of our command. Ultimately, I felt a sense of responsibility to uphold the standards of leadership and ensure a cohesive and aligned team, which was essential for meeting our mission.

### MARK SOHANEY

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The challenges I see facing the City of Sarasota are multifaceted. Managing the evolving relationship with the elected body will be particularly important. We will need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties, foster strong relationships, and establish effective communication. It is essential to assess the Commission-Manager relationship to ensure that everyone operates within their designated roles, and a crucial aspect of this will be creating a shared vision and a strategic plan with the elected officials.

Additionally, balancing infrastructure demands while preserving Sarasota's small-town charm amidst significant growth is vital. My experience as CEO of Naval Air Station Key West, a community with a similar small-town appeal and tourism-based economy, has equipped me well for this challenge.

Emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in the face of hurricanes and other natural disasters will also be a key focus. I draw from my extensive experience in emergency response during my time in both Key West and Pearl Harbor.

Lastly, addressing the issue of affordable housing is essential. I have faced similar challenges during my tenure at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Naval Air Station Key West. These experiences have provided me with the skills and insights necessary to navigate these complex challenges effectively and collaboratively with the community and its leaders.

During the first six months my efforts will involve:

As the new city manager of Sarasota, my priority is to meet with staff, elected officials, and citizens, as well as engage with county and state officials to evaluate city operations, identify concerns, and understand the local dynamics and positions. My primary focus will be to establish a solid foundation for effective governance and community engagement through a series of key initiatives:

- Conduct a thorough review of city departments, programs, and services to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.
- Understanding the goals and perspectives of the city council will guide the formulation of appropriate strategic directions. Collaborating with council members and community stakeholders, we will outline a clear strategic plan that aligns with the city's vision.
- Hosting town hall meetings will be essential to connect with residents, gather their feedback, and understand their priorities. Building strong relationships with community members is vital for fostering trust and collaboration.
- Analyze the current budget and the city's financial position, identifying opportunities for cost savings and areas for increased investment based on community needs.
- Reviewing existing public safety measures and infrastructure projects will be crucial to prioritize improvements that enhance community safety and quality of life.
- Prioritize building relationships with local businesses, non-profits, and other government

### MARK SOHANEY

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entities to foster collaboration on community initiatives, economic development, and infrastructure projects.

- Maintain transparency and accountability by regularly updating the city council and the community on progress made and achievements in our initial months.

In my career, I have worked extensively with various media outlets, and I understand the vital role they play in communicating information to our citizens. As a city manager, I prioritize establishing transparent and constructive relationships with the media to ensure accurate and quality coverage of the City's operations and programs. My approach involves keeping the media well-informed about ongoing initiatives and developments in the city. This proactive communication helps the media report effectively on issues that matter to our residents, fostering an environment of trust and transparency. I also recognize the importance of collaborating with the Mayor and elected officials regarding media appearances. I adapt my level of visibility based on their preferences, ensuring a unified message that reflects the city's goals and priorities. Whether my appearances are occasional or frequent, my focus remains on serving the public interest and ensuring that citizens have access to accurate information about their city.

In my role as City Manager of Sarasota, I believe that social media is a vital tool for enhancing communication with residents. Drawing from my experience as the CEO of Naval Air Station Key West and CEO of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, I have successfully leveraged social media to foster engagement and convey important information.

One effective initiative I implemented was the "Flight Line Friday" social media event at Naval Air Station Key West. This program not only showcased our operations but also created a platform for community interaction and engagement, enhancing the visibility of our work and fostering pride among residents. Additionally, I instituted social media live sessions for town halls in both Key West and Pearl Harbor. These events allowed residents to participate directly, ask questions, and engage with leadership in real-time, improving transparency and responsiveness to community needs.

During Emergency Operations Center activations, I placed a strong emphasis on utilizing social media to ensure that timely and accurate information reached our citizens. This approach mitigated confusion and provided critical updates, demonstrating the power of social media in crisis communication.

For Sarasota, I would prioritize establishing regular social media events like "Flight Line Friday," create live Q&A sessions, and maintain a proactive communication strategy, especially during emergencies. This approach will ensure that residents feel informed, engaged, and connected with their city government.

I do not anticipate anyone contacting the city with negative comments about my background.

In my spare time, I enjoy cycling, running, swimming, and fishing.

**MARK SOHANEY**

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**SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF**

- Collaborative
- Visionary
- Resilient
- Community-focused
- Integrity-driven
- Results-oriented

**REASON FOR DEPARTING CURRENT POSITION**

I retired from the Navy after 37 years of service.

**MOST RECENT SALARY**

\$235,000

## **Section 12**



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*CB&A Background Checks*

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**Background Check Summary for  
MARK DAVID SOHANEY**

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**Criminal Records Checks:**

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Monroe County, FL	No Records Found
Honolulu County, HI	No Records Found
Duval County, FL	No Records Found
State	
Florida	No Records Found
Hawaii	No Records Found

**Civil Records Checks:**

County	
Monroe County, FL	No Records Found
Honolulu County, HI	No Records Found
Duval County, FL	No Records Found
Federal	
Florida	No Records Found
Hawaii	No Records Found

**Motor Vehicle**

Florida	<b>November 2009 – Speeding Disposition: December 2009 – Judgment for State</b>
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**Credit**

Excellent

**Personal Bankruptcy**

No Records Found

**Sex Offender Registry**

Not Listed

**Education**

Confirmed

**Employment**

Confirmed

**Social Media**

Nothing of Concern Found

**Background Check Summary for  
MARK DAVID SOHANEY**

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Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

**Background Check Summary for  
MARK DAVID SOHANEY  
Personal Disclosure**

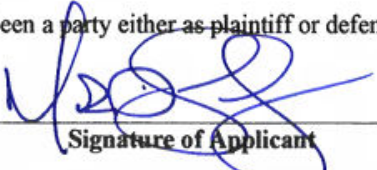
**Personal Disclosure Questionnaire**

Name of Applicant: MARK SOHANEY

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?  
Yes  No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?  
Yes  No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?  
Yes  No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes  No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes  No
6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence, operating a vehicle impaired, or a similar offense?  
Yes  No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?  
Yes  No
8. Please list all your social media accounts (Facebook / X (Twitter) / Instagram / LinkedIn, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one.  
FB: Mark Sohaney    linkedin/in/mark-sohaney  
IG: soho\_md
9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?  
Yes  No
10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.  
N/A

Attested to:   
Signature of Applicant

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*CB&A Reference Notes*

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**Reference Notes**  
**Mark Sohaney**

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**Rear Admiral Stephen Barnett - Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, HI**

PII Military - F.S.  
119.071(5)(k)1.a.(i)

Rear Admiral Barnett has known Mr. Sohaney since 2009, as they both have served in the Navy. Rear Admiral Barnett knew Mr. Sohaney when he was a junior officer and then was promoted to Captain. Rear Admiral Barnett is the Commander of the Hawaii Navy Region where Mr. Sohaney was the Commanding Officer of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from 2022 to 2024.

Mr. Sohaney is present and prepared with all communication. He reports to superiors with regularity. When emergencies occurred at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Mr. Sohaney contacted Rear Admiral Barnett at least twice a day, and even hourly if the situation necessitated it. In addition to this communication, he continued to direct efforts and manpower to solve the issue at hand. Mr. Sohaney is exceptionally good at reading how people understand the data and gives information to match the recipient's background and knowledge. He can give concise notifications to keep communication channels open. He is highly skilled at crisis management and handles himself calmly. His navy background and the high-level issues he dealt with have prepared him to be a steady leader in any government organization.

Rear Admiral Barnett has full faith and trust in Mr. Sohaney's ability. He is good with the public and the press. When infrastructure concerns occurred at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Mr. Sohaney was a major positive force to getting back on track. He began his post after a major problem had occurred with jet fuel leaking into the water supply of the base. He also handled other infrastructural concerns, and ensured they were dealt with and improved for the long term. Mr. Sohaney exhibited sharp management skills by addressing the actual problem, rather than merely constructing a quick cleanup. He communicated well with neighborhood boards, which are an integral feature of the Hawaiian community. He is a qualified public speaker who worked well with the media and helped use that medium to share information. He merged back and forth between groups: navy, community, press, local and federal. Mr. Sohaney was involved in community success.

Mr. Sohaney has advanced from an enlisted sailor to a junior officer, then a senior officer, and a commanding officer of an installation. He was more involved with training as a junior officer. As the Commanding Officer of an installation, Mr. Sohaney was involved in overall operations for the entire Joint Base. He was essentially managing a city. Every building, every repair, every new construction was all during his watch and supervision. The Joint Base supports a population of over 100,000 individuals, including close to 40,000 active duty and reserves. His management and leadership skills managing this installation will be an asset as a municipal manager.

Mr. Sohaney is a rare individual, even among top qualified candidates. He shows up sharp and is present in his work. People appreciate that when they speak with him, they receive his full attention. Commander Barnett hated to see him leave the navy, while recognizing his experience will lead to success anywhere. Mr. Sohaney can talk to everyone, at every level, as he did in the Navy. Mr. Sohaney started as an enlisted sailor, advancing to the officer path several years later. He quickly advanced there and has been a strong leader in every capacity of his service. Mr. Sohaney understands and relates to all individuals at every level; people enjoy working with and

**Reference Notes**  
**Mark Sohaney**

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for him. While serving at Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Mr. Sohaney went into the field and spoke directly to the workers. He then came back and reported what he learned to Navy Commanders, and then to the press. His ability to switch between audiences creates positive working relationships, and respect among various groups.

Commander Barnett gives his full support to Mr. Sohaney, in any new venture. Any community that is lucky enough to hire him is getting the best, a true gem.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Dedicated,
- Sharp,
- Subject matter expert,
- Planner,
- Calming, and
- Well spoken.

**Strengths:** Possesses and executes vision. Strong planning and strategic ability; logical steps to reach goals and maintain positive community. A true leader.

**Weaknesses:** None, except he left the Navy.

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**Colonel Monica Gramling - Deputy Commander, Joining Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI**

PII Military - F.S.  
119.071(5)(k)1.a.(l)□

Ms. Gramling has known Mr. Sohaney since 2022 with their work at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Ms. Gramling is an Air Force Colonel; Mr. Sohaney is a Naval Captain. They are both 06 rank – the different titles are due to serving in different branches of the military. Colonel Gramling reported directly to Mr. Sohaney; Mr. Sohaney was the Chief Executive Officer for the Joint Base.

Mr. Sohaney is a qualified leader. He supports those he serves with, empowering them to grow into their responsibilities. Mr. Sohaney helped Colonel Gramling with budgeting and resourcing money through the navy, as the navy finances the air force section of the base. He also helped her navigate contentious political behavior, so she could do her actual job of caring for the 10,000 airmen on base. He was the best boss and bore the brunt of her discomfort. He stood up for his subordinates and kept toxicity out of the environment.

Mr. Sohaney is a supportive leader, helping subordinates to level up. Whenever one of his staff needed training, Mr. Sohaney ensured it happened. He helped them break through the wall and get to the next step on a project. He was a supportive, coaching type of mentor. He found a balance between stepping in when needed to help, and allowing others to learn and complete projects. He understands the learning curve and helps others reach excellence with his guidance.

**Reference Notes  
Mark Sohaney**

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He is a team player and accessible leader, out in the field working alongside other personnel and community members.

Mr. Sohaney has an extraordinary understanding of finances and budgets. He dealt with Department of Defense contracts, including the largest contract to date of 4.5 billion dollars to build a new dry dock for submarines. There are many rules and regulations for what money can be used for which projects, and in a specific year. Knowing the rules is critical to completing the work, which is why Mr. Sohaney was so successful at Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam.

Mr. Sohaney is an experienced leader during times of emergency. There was a utilities emergency, where the water system for the entire 107,000 people on base was receiving water with jet fuel in it. It was the first time anyone had ever had to deal with that sort of situation. Mr. Sohaney addressed the problem and kept asking hard questions to solve it. He also went the extra step and asked how it had happened, and what needed to happen so it would not occur again. He was looking out for the community in the long-term, far beyond his post assignment. His hard work created support systems that are still running and are helping the current commander be successful and more prepared.

Mr. Sohaney maintains level responses in times of stress, such as when the Maui wildfires occurred. The naval base was tasked with sending supplies and troops to help, as well as hosting the President and Vice President to ascertain the situation. He helped navigate this situation with a positive and level-headed approach. His efforts helped people receive the help they needed.

Mr. Sohaney is absolutely qualified to be a City Manager. In the military, he understood the responsibility of working with taxpayer dollars and was a responsible steward of the budget. He planned well and used knowledge to access available funding. His understanding of the chain of command within the military will serve him well in municipal government, because he will support the elected officials. It would be a new structure for him to learn, but he would learn it very quickly and be a strong asset for any city.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Leader,
- Disciplined,
- Character,
- Full of empathy,
- Listener,
- Depth of knowledge, and
- Expert.



**Reference Notes**  
**Mark Sohaney**

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**Strengths:** Exceptional knowledge of government systems, chain of command, individual possibilities. Empathetic leader that helps an entire system rise to the top, amidst problems and emergencies. Does not let situations derail him from the objective.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Captain Robert Kleinman - Public Works Officer, U.S. Navy, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI**

PII Military - F.S.  
119.071(5)(k)1.a.(i) □

Captain Kleinman has known Mr. Sohaney since 2022. Captain Kleinman was posted on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam when Mr. Sohaney began his post as Commanding Officer of the Joint Base. As Public Works Officer, Captain Kleinman manages all the facilities and public works of the installation. He reported directly to Commanding Officer Mr. Sohaney. Captain Kleinman stated that Mr. Sohaney was the best boss, and the most knowledgeable individual he has ever reported to. The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is the largest installation of the Navy, and Mr. Sohaney's management and leadership were key to their success at working through emergencies and daily work with a calm approach, and extensive knowledge.

Mr. Sohaney was excellent at leading his team to solve problems. The Joint Base had infrastructure issues that started long before Mr. Sohaney's time, but he was the one to resolve them. One such issue was an electrical distribution center that needed to be brought up to date with regulatory compliance. Mr. Sohaney did a great job of leading the team and managing the funding for the project.

Mr. Sohaney operates extremely well during emergencies. He was the liaison to keep communication open between workers and the community. During his time at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, he dealt with several emergencies, including the jet fuel in the water system, and a main water break between the installation and surrounding community. These emergencies impacted 100,000 people, including soldiers, airmen, families, and staff. It required a great deal of coordination with regard to the community and the public. Mr. Sohaney coordinated these efforts and performed well with open and honest communication. He gave live reports, held daily press briefings, and kept the local media informed. He worked with technicians to get the information – and then took the responsibility on himself to get the information to the public so the technicians could finish the work. He ensured that all engineers and workers had time and space to complete their work. He practices supportive leadership, trusting their advice and experience in specific areas of study. This ability helps him to manage effectively. In addition, he studies new information quickly and becomes knowledgeable in areas needed to run an installation.

Mr. Sohaney is comfortable making decisions and consistently makes good decisions. He is not rash with decisions but can also make decisions in time-sensitive situations. His strength is that he understands data and information quickly, can speak to individuals at any level, and then synthesizes that information. His decisions are sound, and those on his staff and on the base

**Reference Notes  
Mark Sohaney**

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supported him. His knowledge and abilities were trusted. He also took extra time to guide and help those he served with, assisting them to learn necessary skills for their own jobs and advancement. He did not micromanage but was instead a supportive and welcome mentor.

There is nothing controversial or embarrassing in Mr. Sohaney's past. When he worked at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the navy received a great deal of bad press regarding Red Hill, which was the fuel that contaminated the water supply. Mr. Sohaney was not on post when that occurred or even the response that lasted for several months. When he arrived at the installation, he addressed the issues and helped navigate the difficult situation. The skills he used specifically as a Commanding Officer of a Joint Base are transferable to municipal management.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Smart,
- Poised,
- Confident,
- Leadership,
- Cool under fire
- Articulate, and
- Ability to engage the public and press.

**Strengths:** Engaged leader. Supportive of all individuals in the navy and community. Works diligently and is respectful of others' efforts; completes projects through leadership.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Jennifer Sabas - Senior Consultant to Military Affairs Council, Chamber of Commerce, HI  
808-292-9234**

Ms. Sabas met Mr. Sohaney when he began his post as Commanding Officer of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in 2022. Ms. Sabas has worked with Mr. Sohaney on many projects with overlapping interests to the base and surrounding community.

Mr. Sohaney was the Chief Operating Officer of the base, overseeing large-scale projects as well as day-to-day work. He performed all responsibilities well and was an effective leader for all officers and personnel. He can make decisions quickly and efficiently. Mr. Sohaney possesses both leadership and managerial skills at an exceptionally high level. He embodies many skills that are transferable to municipal government management, as running a Joint Base is similar to running a city.

Mr. Sohaney can work across different groups. There have been other commanders for the Joint Base that stayed within the base; Mr. Sohaney was one of the rare commanders that worked

**Reference Notes**  
**Mark Sohaney**

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across different lines and extended himself to the community beyond the Joint Base. He put himself in a position to help both communities – ensuring the surrounding community was as strong as the internal base. His excellent outreach beyond the fence line would easily transfer to his ability to lead within a community – and reach both elected officials, staff members, and citizens. He is invested in and involved in the community he serves.

When Mr. Sohaney arrived at the Joint-Base, he arrived during an ongoing problem with the water supply. An underground jet fuel storage unit leaked, seeping into the system that provides drinking water to both military and civilian residences outside the base. Ms. Sabas first met Mr. Sohaney because of this emergency. The Chamber of Commerce was putting pressure on the Joint Base to do the right thing; Mr. Sohaney executed these efforts properly. It was a very stressful period of several months. While some officers were released from their position by the Navy for mishandling the situation, Mr. Sohaney was retained for his qualified ability to follow through on solving the problem. He remained level-headed through this long-term stressful situation and helped others to complete their responsibilities as well.

Mr. Sohaney was a good partner to many agencies throughout the state. He worked with the Department of Transportation and the Army to create an emergency exit route. This route could be used by both military and community members during an emergency. When others had said there were too many barriers to this possibility, Mr. Sohaney worked with others to reach this objective. This is just one of many times he worked with state agencies to create positive outcomes that benefited multiple parties.

Mr. Sohaney has an exceptional knowledge of the chain of command and allows individuals time and space to work through problems. He also takes full responsibility for his work objectives and exceeds all expectations. He is always prompt and prepared, and easy to work with. People enjoy his personality and steady temperament. He handles himself comfortably with individuals and groups.

There is nothing controversial or embarrassing in Mr. Sohaney's background. Any community would be fortunate to have him on board, leading the ranks. His positive leadership has a positive effect on all individuals working with him, and for him.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Steady temperament,
- Exceptional leader
- Qualified manager,
- Ability to work with all people,
- Excellent outreach beyond the Base, and
- Good teamwork.

Reference Notes  
Mark Sohaney

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**Strengths:** Ability to work in high-stress situations, building strong connections with community members. Personable, capable leadership that helps others to rise to a higher standard.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Rick Blangiardi - Mayor, Honolulu, HI 808-768-4141**

Mayor Blangiardi has known Mr. Sohaney since 2022 when Mr. Sohaney began his assignment as Commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. They worked together on many projects that impacted the greater island community.

Mr. Sohaney stands out as a positive liaison between the naval base and the City of Honolulu. He went above and beyond anything the City could ask for. He was a reasonable partner and was attentive to the community. He was a good citizen and showed up to park cleanups to show support for the City. The City of Honolulu would have loved to have him as part of their team after his retirement.

Mr. Sohaney is genuine and consistent. The City experienced many different leaders from the navy, and Mr. Sohaney stands out as the best partner. He was always grounded, very likeable, and very real. He was not caught up in his own status but truly cared about other people and the community. He showed up on Saturday mornings to help with the park cleanings. When the town meetings were held, Mr. Sohaney was present. The Mayor would ask him to sit with the cabinet and share his opinions. He also volunteered to go with the Mayor to neighborhood meetings throughout the community. This was not part of his job but showed that he was genuinely invested in the community.

When there was a problem at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam with the water being contaminated from jet fuel, trust between the community and the base was broken. This was caused when jet fuel leaked from at least one of the twenty storage tanks buried at Red Hill. These storage tanks are massive – each one big enough to hold the Statue of Liberty. The storage tanks had been built during World War II, and they contain jet fuel. The water supply for the area comes from the Pearl Harbor aquifer, which is underneath these storage units. The aquifer supplies water for two-thirds of the island. The drinking water on the base was affected, and people in the community were terrified. The toxicity was very high, leading to high numbers of extreme sicknesses. This was an emergency for the Navy, which then stretched on to a chronic emergency. In addition to the problems on base, the relationship with the surrounding community was broken. Several months into the chronic emergency, Mr. Sohaney was brought in as the new Commanding Officer of the Joint Base. He is the reason why trust was rebuilt. Everything good was a result of his new leadership and commitment to doing the good, difficult tasks.

Reference Notes  
Mark Sohaney

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Mr. Sohaney is absolutely qualified to be a City Manager. If he had wanted to stay in Hawaii, the Mayor of Honolulu would have hired him instantly. People gravitate to Mr. Sohaney because he is smart and genuine. He establishes rapport easily. He understands the chain of command and knows how to build trust.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Leader,
- Charismatic,
- Smart,
- Decisive,
- Helpful, and
- Genuine.

**Strengths:** Exceptional leadership in the face of emergencies; ability to also keep things running daily. Strong character with community outreach and support.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Michelle Lincoln - Former County Mayor, Current County Commissioner, Monroe County, FL 305-292-4512**

Ms. Lincoln has known Mr. Sohaney since 2019. He was posted as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Key West; Ms. Lincoln served as County Commissioner and County Mayor. They worked together on various projects with overlapping interests. Ms. Lincoln appreciated the positive relationship they built between the county and naval base.

Mr. Sohaney was the Commanding Officer of Key West; Mr. Sohaney was involved with the surrounding county for many overlapping interests, such as natural disasters. When the area was in a storm track of a hurricane, Mr. Sohaney worked with the city, county, and naval base personnel and resources to set up an emergency center for everyone. In the recovery phase, all parties had to work closely to keep roads open, and transport fuel and water to the areas that needed it. Mr. Sohaney was more than accommodated with what the Naval Station could provide. He was also familiar with Florida rules and regulations, to keep relations between municipal government and the naval base positively working.

Mr. Sohaney is always prompt. He follows the rule that if you are on time, you are late. He shows up to meetings early and is prepared to begin on time. He is proactive with situations and works on setting up long-term solutions for problems that will succeed even after he leaves a post. His long-lasting positive effect is still appreciated in the Key West area.

Mr. Sohaney is quick to respond and is willing to work with others on solutions. Whenever Ms. Lincoln reached out to him with a request from the county, he responded immediately. One

**Reference Notes**  
**Mark Sohaney**

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example of this is when a parcel of land was owned by the navy but was bordered by a fishing village. They were in accordance with navy regulation, but not village regulation, and the vehicles on the property needed to be removed. Mr. Sohaney responded that day and met her on site to address the situation. By the end of the day, the lot had been cleaned up and was in accordance with village rules. People appreciate that they can reach out to Mr. Sohaney, and he is quick to respond. His ability to stay on top of communication, projects, and deadlines sets him apart from other leaders.

While he understands the full chain of command for the military, Mr. Sohaney helped civilians coming to the base for ceremonies be successful. He provided specific instructions and preparation so that events were enjoyed. Mr. Sohaney made sure that county officials were included in base events, which built positive partnerships. At these events, he always made time to find individuals and help them be successful.

Mr. Sohaney attends and engages in all meetings. He personally showed up for meetings with the community to represent the base. He promoted his staff, standing up and providing examples of how they had performed. He is a team player, and one that does not need recognition alone. He is very good at interfacing with all different disciplines. There is nothing embarrassing or controversial in his background.

Mr. Sohaney would make an excellent City Manager. The Naval Air Force in Key West is a tiny city in and off itself. He managed the barracks, fleet, and all personnel. He was extremely effective in working with both military and non-enlisted civilian employees. He is at ease with individuals and groups from various backgrounds, and people find it easy to approach him. He is well read, educated, and experienced. He is extremely likeable and will be an asset to any community.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Professional,
- Laid-back,
- Extremely intelligent,
- Organized,
- Team player,
- Friendly, and
- Detail oriented.

**Strengths:** An excellent leader who promotes goals, while also building up people. Proactive with situations. Stellar leadership in emergency situations; can handle stress in high adrenaline situations.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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Reference Notes  
Mark Sohaney

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**Sean Brandenburg - Chief of Police, Key West, FL**

PII LEO - F.S.  
119.071(4)(d)2.a.

Mr. Brandenburg has known Mr. Sohaney since 2019. Mr. Sohaney was the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station in Key West; Mr. Brandenburg was the Chief of Police for Key West. They worked closely together on issues that affected both the community and naval base.

Mr. Sohaney is a top communicator. He reached out to the Chief of Police on issues when needed. He made sure that those who needed to enter the naval base were prepared for military procedure and protocol. When crimes occurred on base that needed to be turned over to the Key West jurisdiction, Mr. Sohaney was excellent with the communication and teamwork involved. Mr. Sohaney had a positive relationship with everyone he worked with at the city level.

Mr. Sohaney has experience in emergency management, including management during COVID-19 as well as hurricane preparation and aftermath. When hurricanes hit Key West, Chief Executive Officer Sohaney worked with both FEMA and navy resources to be sure the Key West Base and surrounding areas received help and vital supplies. He ensured that drinking water was distributed to any area and people in need, regardless of military or civilian status. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the base remained open and functioning. His ability to find funding and resources is exceptional and serves the community well.

With his naval training, Mr. Sohaney understands and respects the chain of command. He is supportive of other individuals completing their job, and uses his leadership position to train and mentor, not to overstep or take over. When top-down decisions were made by his superiors, he followed and supported those directives. All these attributes will contribute to Mr. Sohaney being an effective City Manager, because he will work diligently and creatively while supporting the elected officials.

Mr. Sohaney worked well with the Chief of Police on matters of mutual interest. Mr. Sohaney and Mr. Brandenburg enjoyed their time working together and found many ways to support each other. Mr. Sohaney was respectful of Chief Brandenburg's station and they worked together to reach solutions. Mr. Sohaney also welcomed Chief Brandenburg on to base for community building opportunities and guided him through necessary protocol. This sort of relationship building helped both entities be more successful with law enforcement. There was never an issue of pulling rank on each other – they simply worked together and respected each other. Mr. Sohaney understood the chain of command for municipal government and gave full respect to the structure and people from the surrounding area. His ability to understand chain of command will be an asset to any community fortunate enough to hire him.

Mr. Sohaney would make an excellent City Manager. His experience makes him a strong candidate to work in municipal government. He is a born leader, an effective speaker and communicator, and has proven himself time and time again. He has dealt with issues of global impact and can make solid decisions. He handles himself with grace, poise, and clarity. Chief Brandenburg would hire Mr. Sohaney in a heartbeat to work in his department. There is nothing

Reference Notes  
Mark Sohaney

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in Mr. Sohaney's background that is embarrassing or controversial; in fact, everything in his background shines with excellence and value.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Leader,
- Public speaker,
- Collaborator,
- Communicator,
- Knowledgeable, and
- Personable.

**Strengths:** Qualified leader who can create a stable community; encourages collaboration between departments for strong understanding and positive growth. Exceptional preparedness and follow through on objectives.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Jake Johansson - Council Member, Volusia County, FL 410-533-2234**

Mr. Johansson and Mr. Sohaney have known each other since 2003, when they both served in the Navy. They served in the same detachment together during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have crossed paths many times during different assignments since then.

As a Commanding Officer, Mr. Sohaney dealt with multiple bosses that were not always aligned. He had to manage competing requests. He knows how to do what is best for the infrastructure, the community, as well as following the chain of command. He has navigated this path many times and could transition to working with a city council and city staff easily. He consistently cooperates, collaborates, and coordinates with others. Those he reported to, as well as those that reported to him supported him as a leader.

Mr. Sohaney walked into his role as Commanding Officer of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam with many problems occurring. The biggest of these was a situation where jet fuel had seeped into the water supply. He addressed the problem well and helped the Navy deal with this high-stake situation that required coordination from the local, state, and federal level.

Mr. Sohaney was posted at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after his post at Naval Air Station Key West. Not many leaders are put in a position of commanding two naval bases: Mr. Sohaney is a qualified manager and exceptional leader. He can navigate political situations and stay focused on the daily work. He is efficient and effective in leading teams through emergencies.

As a former Naval Officer, it takes a good deal to shake Mr. Sohaney. He is prepared to deal with emergencies. He knows how to look at data and make decisions. In an emergency, he can



Reference Notes  
Mark Sohaney

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make quick and good decisions. Beyond that, he also looks at situations that have occurred and understands how to use data to make decisions proactively that will help them avoid hard times ahead. He can remain strong through difficult times.

Mr. Johansson asserts that Naval Officers who are promoted as a Commanding Officer are the perfect candidates to be City Managers, as they have experience running and managing a navy installation. Mr. Sohaney fits that requirement perfectly. He is qualified to be a City Manager and will do what is best for the community he is serving. There is nothing embarrassing or controversial in his background. Mr. Sohaney would be an asset to any community and is the best candidate for the job with his experience and leadership qualities.

**Words or phrases used to describe Mark Sohaney:**

- Dedicated,
- Mission-driven,
- Poised,
- Fun,
- Considerate
- Can make decisions in the necessary timeframe, and
- Comprehends data to create the big picture.

**Strengths:** Can get along with and work with anyone, finds common ground and moves toward common purpose. Exceptional Leader.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Prepared by:** Brooke Krim  
Colin Baenziger & Associates



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*CB&A Internet Research*

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**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches  
Mark David Sohaney  
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)**

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[CB&A Note: To view this interview in its entirety, please follow the link below.]  
<https://t.co/xOO5uULGnz>

X

Michael Wilkerson

[https://x.com/MW\\_Stormwall/status/1862510853347565849](https://x.com/MW_Stormwall/status/1862510853347565849)

November 29, 2024

**Geopolitics and Leadership: Interview with Captain Mark Sohaney**

Are we at risk of a new world war?

What is it like to be in charge of multiple billions of dollars of invested assets and have leadership responsibility for tens of thousands of lives?

I sat down with Captain **Mark Sohaney**, the recently retired Commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, to discuss some of the military and geopolitical challenges the U.S. is facing going into 2025, and to hear his thoughts on leadership from his 37 year career in the U.S. Navy.

Thanks to Captain **Mark** for a fascinating conversation loaded with practical leadership lessons for all of us!

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Instagram  
July 12, 2024

**Mayor Rick Landgiardi**

Our most sincere mahalo to outgoing Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Commander, Captain **Mark D. Sohaney**. Your leadership, collaboration, and friendship have been truly remarkable and it was an honor to attend your Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony yesterday aboard the USS Missouri. Mahalo for your 37 years of service and we hope you enjoy retirement!

We also wish a warm welcome to incoming Commander, Captain Samuel White. We look forward to our continued relationship and all the ways we can support our military ‘ohana.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Clean Technica  
June 14, 2024

**Powering 10,000 Homes — Ameresco Celebrates the Commercial Operations of Kūpono Solar at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam**

42 MW Solar Paired with 42 MW Battery Storage in ‘Ewa is Now Powering 10,000 Homes with Clean, Renewable Energy

Ameresco, Inc., (NYSE: AMRC), a leading cleantech integrator specializing in energy efficiency and renewable energy, yesterday announced the commercial operations and dedication ceremony for Kūpono Solar. The solar and battery storage facility, located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam West Loch Annex, is now operational and supporting Hawaiian Electric’s grid on O‘ahu.

The dedication ceremony took place yesterday at the Kūpono Solar site in Ewa Beach. Speakers for the event included the Honorable Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Chief Sustainability Officer; Captain **Mark Sohaney**, Commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Shelee Kimura, President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric; and Nicole Bulgarino, Executive Vice President of Ameresco, among others. Key stakeholders and the community came together to celebrate the critical importance of this landmark project that is contributing to Hawai‘i’s clean energy future. The event highlighted the 42 MW photovoltaic solar array and four-hour 42 MW / 168 MWh battery storage facility’s key benefits, including stabilizing energy costs, reducing fossil fuel usage, and advancing Hawai‘i’s goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2045.

Using 131 acres of Navy land under a long-term lease, Kūpono Solar now provides clean, renewable energy to approximately 10,000 homes on O‘ahu while offsetting 50,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually. This initiative paves the way for a diversified portfolio of clean energy solutions, aligning with both the Department of Defense’s and the state’s long-term clean energy goals. “I am thrilled to celebrate the dedication of Kūpono Solar, the largest solar-plus-battery storage facility on O‘ahu,” said Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi. “This groundbreaking project represents a significant step forward in our commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy. I want to mahalo Ameresco and Executive Vice President Nicole Bulgarino, Hawaiian Electric, the U.S. Navy and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Meredith Berger for their dedication to sustainability, because this project showcases their ability to innovate for the benefit of our community and environment. This is a shining example of how we can work together to build a cleaner, greener future for O‘ahu.”

Governor Josh Green, M.D., thanked Ameresco and the Kūpono Solar project for supporting the state’s ongoing efforts to have 100% renewable energy on O‘ahu’s grid by 2045. “I was fortunate to participate in the groundbreaking of this project in October 2022 and it gives me great satisfaction to see it powered up now and operating for the benefit of O‘ahu’s ratepayers. Our congratulations go to Ameresco for launching its first utility-scale solar project in the state of Hawai‘i, and our thanks go to Hawaiian Electric, the U.S. Navy, and our friends in the ‘Ewa

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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community, for being such wonderful, supportive partners of a clean energy project that is significantly strengthening the power grid.” “Congratulations and mahalo to Ameresco, the Navy and all those who worked collaboratively to get this project online, even in the face of challenges that included a worldwide pandemic,” said Shelee Kimura, Hawaiian Electric president and CEO. “These strong partnerships move us closer toward energy independence and help build a more resilient Hawai‘i.”

“The Navy is proud of our partnership with Ameresco, Hawaiian Electric, and the community. Today we celebrate a significant milestone: this project will enhance our shared resilience — ensuring there is reliable energy to support the community and our mission,” said Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment (EI&E) and Chief Sustainability Officer, Meredith Berger. “By sharing our resources, we increase our resilience, and provide renewable, reliable, redundant power that support our shared energy goals and shared energy future.”

“Ameresco is delighted to announce the completion of this significant project and the commencement of operations for this renewable energy resource,” said Nicole Bulgarino, Executive Vice President of Ameresco. “In collaboration with the Navy, Hawaiian Electric, and all of the critical community stakeholders, we have developed energy infrastructure that benefits the residents of O‘ahu and the natural environment. We are proud of the facility’s inauguration and the strides we are making together in sustainable energy development. Our collective efforts are dedicated to providing clean, dependable energy to Hawai‘i.”

Kūpono Solar was a collaborative effort, and the dedication ceremony was marked by the presence of so many pivotal contributors who played a significant role in bringing the project to fruition. This included stakeholders from The United States Navy, Hawaiian Electric, as well as elected officials, policy makers, community members and industry partners.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Garden Island, The (Lihue, HI)  
April 27, 2024

**Officials meet, discuss Makua Valley military training sites**

U.S. Rep. Jill Tokuda joined community members Thursday in tours and meetings with officials at military sites on Oahu's Leeward side. They toured the Army's Makua Military Reservation and the Navy's Lualualei Annex, where they discussed cultural access, emergency response and environmental remediation efforts. It was Tokuda's first time visiting Makua, one of the military's most controversial training sites in Hawaii. Her predecessor, former U.S. Rep. Kai Kahele, introduced the Leandra Wai Act, which would have ordered the Army to leave Makua Valley and return it to the state. Makua includes one of several parcels of land whose leases to the Army, begun in 1965, will expire in 2029. "I've asked that it be really looked at as a whole of defense negotiation, not parcel by parcel, not branch by branch," Tokuda said. "We look at that there are places that they want to keep, and there's places that we can return. And I think what I felt here was huge opportunities for us to find more of that balance point that the community is asking."

The military hasn't fired a shot in the valley since 2004 as a result of a lawsuit brought against it by Earthjustice on behalf of local activist group Malama Makua. Since then the Army has worked to remove unexploded bombs around 22 ancient Hawaiian cultural sites, as well as hosted "cultural access" days led by Malama Makua members twice a month. But the Army still uses Makua for helicopter and drone training, and at a Board of Land and Natural Resources meeting earlier this month, U.S. Army Pacific Commander Gen. Charles Flynn said the service hopes to retain the land to continue that training. Former BLNR Chair William Aila, who was among the community members who joined the tours, said he was "very disappointed" by Flynn's remarks, arguing that much of that training can be done at other training grounds across the islands. Aila has made no secret of his desire to see the military leave Makua.

**Origin of training sites**

After the Japanese navy's surprise attack on Dec. 7, 1941, the U.S. military imposed martial law in Hawai'i and took control of all of Makua for training, which meant kicking out the farmers and ranchers in the valley. Military officials assured them it would be temporary and that they would be able to return when the war was over. But in 1945, World War II ended and the Cold War began. The military asked Hawai'i's territorial government for the transfer of 6,608 acres at Makua for training. In 1964, five years after statehood, the Army paid just \$1 for a 65-year lease from the state to continue training on Makua and the other leased lands.

The Army's largest and most important is the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, which is used extensively both by U.S. and allied troops in the Pacific for large-scale maneuvers and live artillery training. Aila said some Army officials have said they themselves consider Makua their least valuable training ground. "Guys that are in the know, that plan the training, know they don't need it. (But) for whatever reason, policy-wise, people above them have this reluctance to give up any any land," Aila said. "The risk for the Army right now is the longer they let these



### Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches Mark David Sohaney (Articles are in reverse chronological order)

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leases fester without making a decision, the greater the chance for Pohakuloa ... to become the next Mauna Kea."

#### **Renegotiations**

The leases expire in 2029, but negotiations for potential renewals will begin much sooner. In 2025 the Army will have to identify which lands it would like to renew leases on for training. Tokuda said "2025 is coming up fast and quick. So visits like this, conversations like this, are important to start them through that process of really prioritizing but also maybe taking a look at opportunities to remediate the return of certain areas."

Lualualei is home to both a series of munitions storage facilities for both the Army and Navy, as well as a pair of large radio towers that are critical for transmitting orders to submerged submarines using the very low frequency range. But the military is moving munitions to the Navy's West Loch Annex, as part of a long-term plan based on findings from a 1995 land-use study commissioned by then-U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye that found it would simplify logistics, put ordnance in newer facilities and require less transportation of explosive munitions on public roads. As those efforts wind down, several advocates on the West side would like to see similar cultural access programs to those in Makua as well as the potential return of land — some of which was formerly set aside as Hawaiian homestead land before World War II.

#### **Public access**

Community members and state officials also have pushed for roadways in the Navy-controlled land to be opened up to the public as potential evacuation routes in the event of a tsunami, hurricane or wildfire. Many leeward communities lack pathways to higher ground. Particularly since the deadly 2023 wildfire that destroyed Lahaina, concerns over evacuation routes now loom large. Navy officials said they are working with the Army and state officials to look at ways to improve and potentially widen the narrow road on the base into the mountains to make it a more effective evacuation route. Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, said, "The road is definitely expandable. ... It can definitely expand to be better, to save more lives, you know, if that comes to pass; so we're at a good point right now."

But Sparky Rodrigues, a member of Malama Makua and the Waianae Moku Kupuna Council, said access is the principle concern. The base is guarded by armed security with assault rifles. Rodrigues said that during the visit the heavily armed men that stood by as the group entered reminded him of the early days of Malama Makua's cultural access in the Makua Valley when armed soldiers escorted them.

#### **Makua Valley's future**

Today, unarmed Army officials accompany them, and members of the group say despite disagreements over the future of the valley, interactions are much more civil and respectful. "The separation between the Army and the Navy is huge, and how they relate to the community that they're living in," Rodrigues said. "The difference is the Army, we have a court order; the Navy, we only have a handshake. And as command changes you're going to see 'I never said that,' and no matter how many stars they wear, they're not going to make that decision." He said the armed

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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presence could be a problem in the event of a disaster if people need to use the road. He said the Lahaina fire offers a stark lesson that any delay could be deadly. "The instruction is the state's going to call the military to ask permission to enter because it's an emergency," Rodrigues said. "Is the governor or any of the authority going to call them in 15 minutes? I don't think so."

Aila said he was cautiously optimistic about the response of Navy officials to the visit, saying they were much more receptive than previously and acknowledged that the Navy is trying to shift many of the resources at Lualualei to West Loch. Aila told Tokuda, "When you talk to those four stars, they need to understand that a community's not stupid, so we know what's coming. We're asking to be part of that planning process as we transition."

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**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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HawaiiNewsNow  
January 30, 2024

**Health Department investigates dozens of Navy water complaints**  
**The state Department of Health is investigating dozens of new complaints over tap water and air quality in and around Pearl Harbor.**

By Mahealani Richardson

The state Department of Health is investigating dozens of new complaints over tap water and air quality in and around Pearl Harbor. Advocates believe it's related to the 2021 fuel leaks from the Navy's Red Hill tanks. The health department, which has oversight of the Navy's water system, is planning in-home inspections and could conduct its own water tests. A statement said it ordered the Navy to test its Waiawa Shaft which serves as the water source for the Navy water distribution system. Petroleum was not detected from Waiawa Shaft in October 2023.

**Navy Water Crisis**

Clean water advocates and those who were sickened during the 2021 Red Hill tainted water crisis where fuel leaked from the Navy's underground tanks say there's a surge of complaints about water, illnesses, and fumes from the Navy's drinking water system. "Sheens on water, debris on the water to rashes, gastrointestinal problems from ingesting the water or bathing in the water," said Marti Townsend, chair of the Red Hill Community Representation initiative. The group turned over 50 complaints to DOH and the EPA. "Our estimation is that the contamination is in the pipes, in the premise plumbing or in the piping for the water system that the Navy uses to distribute water to these homes," said Townsend.

Pearl Harbor resident Crystal Cheff made a complaint and the Navy and state health department came to her house Tuesday morning. "The Navy came out this morning and took a sample," said Cheff. "They said they are just strictly testing I believe it was for jet fuel," she added. She shared a video of her water. "I'm noticing these little pin drop oil marks on the surface and when I let that sit, it all comes together more," said Cheff.

One person who wanted to remain anonymous lives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam shot a video with a lighter and was concerned about water's appearance. They told HNN an initial water test showed nothing detected and are now waiting two weeks for a more in-depth test result certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Navy Region Hawaii issued the following statement:**

"While drinking water sample results continue to meet all Federal and State safe drinking water standards, the Navy remains committed to identifying the cause of low-level total petroleum hydrocarbon detections, and is working closely with regulatory agencies through the course of its ongoing root cause analysis."

The statement the Navy has not seen an increase in water-related complaints. Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, sent a letter to residents Monday.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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“Concerns should be reported, and in-home testing can be requested, at any time - with no fear of reprisal,” said **Sohaney**. “Our Rapid Response teams will respond within 24 hours. Also, we will provide bottled water to residents until validated test results from the EPA-certified laboratory confirm that the meets State and Federal safe drinking water standards,” he added.

The Navy says since 2021 its water has come from Waiawa not Red Hill where the leaks happened and that the water has met Federal and state drinking water standards. Jamie Simic lived at Pearl Harbor and says she got sick before the 2021 fuel leaks. “As I said in 2021, it’s a cycle and it’s going to keep happening until we truly face the truth and get to the bottom of what is really going on,” said Simic.

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**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Khon2  
March 14, 2023

**Flag finally raised over Ford Island after 2 years**

By: Bryce Moore

Folks at the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum witnessed a historic moment on Tuesday, March 14. An American flag was raised over the Ford Island Control Tower at 8 a.m. on Tuesday for the first time since March 6, 2021. The event was designed to honor the past and inspire the future of flight. Retired Air Force general Raymond Johns said the original pole above the Ford Island Control Tower was not actually a formal flagpole back in 2021. Crews discovered the lack of planning when winds damaged the flag and caused it to wrap around the pole. “So, once we pulled the flag down, instead of just erecting another flag, we actually had to go and do engineering to improve the flagpole,” said Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum chairman Raymond Johns.

**Ford Island Control Tower opens**

Colors were posted above the tower after more than two years of research and fundraising. Retired, Active Duty and a Civil Air Patrol cadet all played a role to showcase continued service to the community. “And it’s just been a real pleasure to be part of this ceremony,” said Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander, “and of course as we’ve got our Air Patrol cadet raising the flag with me this morning, that was something special.”

A big part of the Museum’s mission is to educate and keiki can get great, hands-on experience at the Aviation Learning Center. WWII battleship flag returns to Japan after more than 70 years “To interest new students, new generations of young people in aviation and the enterprise of aviation. To be a pilot, to be an aviation mechanic or nautical engineer, a meteorologist, air traffic control, the whole package,” said Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum education programs Senior Manager William Spincola.

The museum has programs with local and out-of-state schools — a group from Alaska tried out the flight simulators on Tuesday. “No, this is my first time, it was very interesting,” said Lathrop High School freshman Alexander Bredlie, “I’ve played a lot of realistic video games I guess, and this is definitely more realistic.”

Officials said just because Hawaii is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean does not mean that great opportunities for learning can not be found. “It’s not like a thing for only the mainland, right? They can learn to be a pilot right here in Hawaii and we have a critical need for pilots,” Spincola said. “Probably the biggest critical need for pilots since World War II as a whole bunch of older folks are retiring and aviation still expanding in its needs and services.” Officials said Old Glory above Ford Island is there to stay and will be lit 24/7.

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**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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DVIDS

February 21, 2024

**Navy Holds Town Hall for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Leaders Event Focused on Informing Local Command Leadership about Current Water Quality Concerns**

Command leaders, along with representatives of military families and spouses, heard firsthand from Navy leaders on drinking water quality, sampling and testing efforts, and resources for personnel and families at a Town Hall event hosted by Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commanding officer of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), on Feb. 21. "This Town Hall was designed as a venue for communication with the leadership of tenant commands across the installation," **Sohaney** said. "Not only does it allow us to provide updates on the drinking water system and our ongoing environmental efforts, but it gives us the chance to hear from these commanders who may have questions or ideas about how we can better provide information for their service members who live or work onboard JBPHH."

Vice Adm. Scott Gray, commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC); Rear Adm. Steve Barnett, commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH); CNIC Force Master Chief Jason Dunn; and experts from Naval Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) and Defense Health Agency (DHA) provided updates and took questions from command leaders stationed on JBPHH. "We're not only here to engage with leaders across the joint force here in Pearl Harbor and tell them what we're doing but to also offer whatever resources I have at my disposal to help address the concerns of this community," said Gray, who is in Hawaii to support Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) efforts.

The leaders also discussed the Navy's efforts to collaborate closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) to enhance drinking water testing to ensure the water at JBPHH is safe and clean for residents. "Just last week I was alongside our colleagues at the Department of Health getting samples from the Waiawa Shaft," said Barnett. "We were also with them (DOH) and representatives from the EPA at the Community Representation Initiative (CRI) meeting where we spoke directly with elected members of the community on our water quality efforts and our mission to close the Red Hill facility."

The Navy regularly engages the community through events like the Town Hall, CRI, Fuel Tank Advisory Committee, neighborhood boards, monthly information booths, and other events to share information and hear from the community. "Listening and taking on the concerns of these leaders and community is critical," said Barnett. "In turn we ask these leaders, ombudsmen and key spouses here today to ensure their teams are informed and poised to let us know what we can do to ensure they're getting the best information and help for their staffs and families."

The Town Hall reiterated Rapid Response Team procedures in order to address recent reporting from concerned citizens. Members of the community who have concerns about their water should contact the Navy Rapid Response Team on the 24-hour helpline at 808-449-1979.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Residents with medical concerns should immediately contact their primary care manager. “The Navy is doing all we can to ensure the water is tested and safe to drink,” said Barnett. “We need to hear from the community - if they believe that their water is contaminated, please, call the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Emergency Response center.”

Residents who have concerns about their drinking water supplied by JBPHH or want to request a Rapid Response Test and/or Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring test can call the emergency operations center at 808-449-1979. Validated test results from the Navy’s Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring Plan are posted to [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org).

NCTF-RH is committed to working with all government agencies and community stakeholders to safely and deliberately close the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility underground storage tanks and associated pipelines, conduct long-term environmental remediation, and ensure continued access to safe drinking water in compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws, policies and regulations.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Hawaii News Now  
October 29, 2023

**Community unites to revitalize Pearl Harbor Bike Path**

By HNN Staff

The trail along Pearl Harbor’s waterfront got some much-needed care Saturday morning. Volunteers picked up trash on the Pearl Harbor Bike Path. Volunteers included Honolulu Mayor Rick Blagiardi and Capt. **Mark Sohaney** Commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. “It’s really important for us, obviously; this is such a beautiful area here at Pearl Harbor. We work here, and we’ve got a lot of families that live here.” Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, Commander, said. “Just everybody that just shows up to do something like this on a Saturday morning, your generosity of spirit is humbling.” Mayor Rick Blangiardi said. The 11-mile path stretches from Halawa to Waipahu.



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**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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STARS AND STRIPES  
October 13, 2023

**Navy installs air monitors around Pearl Harbor for ‘early-warning’ of fuel spills**  
By WYATT OLSON

The Navy has installed 40 air-monitoring stations on and near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as an “early-warning” system in the event of a spill as it empties the Red Hill fuel storage facility starting Monday. The stations will remain in place for six months, after which the Navy will reevaluate their need, Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, wrote in a letter Tuesday to military housing residents to clarify the purpose of the stations. Joint Task Force-Red Hill, a Defense Department entity, is handling the three-month process of emptying 104 million gallons of fuel from the World War II-era tanks. Leakage from the tanks in 2021 contaminated one of three wells used by the Navy for distributing water to military housing communities on and adjacent to the joint base. Late that year, residents complained about tap water smelling of petroleum, leading to thousands being temporarily relocated to area hotels as the Navy cleaned up the distribution system. Some were sickened by exposure to the tainted water, and more than 1,000 residents and former residents have joined a federal lawsuit seeking compensation.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in March 2022 ordered the facility to be emptied and permanently closed. The idea of millions of gallons once again flowing through Red Hill pipes to awaiting tankers at the joint base has left some residents of military communities uneasy given what they believe was an inadequate response by the Navy in the initial wake of water contamination. The installation of the stations is an application of “lessons learned from Red Hill,” according to a Navy fact sheet sent to residents. “While air quality monitoring is not a regulator-mandated prerequisite for defueling, these stations can provide an early-warning indicator that improves response time in the unlikely event of an incident,” the fact sheet states. “Ultimately, this reduces risk for the operators and public during Joint Task Force-Red Hill’s defueling and Navy’s closure of Red Hill,” the fact sheet states.

The stations will monitor air for volatile organic compounds, which have a high vapor pressure, such as fuel oil, gasoline and paint, **Sohaney** wrote in his letter. They will also collect atmospheric data such as air speed, temperature, humidity and barometric pressure. The site for each station was chosen based on wind, weather patterns and thorough coverage of all communities, **Sohaney** wrote. “The air monitoring stations are part of the Navy’s plan to establish a baseline of current air quality conditions and will be used to identify potential future changes in air quality,” the fact sheet states. The Navy will issue a comprehensive report on the findings of the stations at the end of six months, but data will be collected periodically during that half year and made available on [jbphh-safewaters.org](http://jbphh-safewaters.org), he wrote.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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America's Navy  
August 11, 2023

**Federal Fire Department trains firefighter recruits, partners with Honolulu**

From Anna Gonzales, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Camaraderie and partnership are some of the key tools that bring firefighters to train together and work as a team. The Navy Region Hawaii Federal Fire Department (FFD) trained 33 firefighter recruits, during a 26-week firefighter recruit drill training that continues to take place until September at the Hickam fire training facility on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, which include 29 FFD, including four women and five paramedics, and four state airport firefighters.

During the first week of training in July, firefighter recruits worked hand-in-hand performing several drills in a simulated setting that included a two-story building housefire, a makeshift ship, aircraft, doorways and garages. It was a playground of firefighting props. From speckles of flame flying from rotary saw drilling to the breaking down of metal and wooden doors, firefighter drill leaders also guided recruits on how to properly wear their gear. "Upon completion, recruits will receive professional Department of Defense (DoD) certification as firefighter I, firefighter II, hazmat awareness, hazmat operations, airport firefighter, and national certification as emergency medical technicians," said Gregg Moriguchi, regional fire chief for Navy Region Hawaii Federal Fire Department.

Once FFD recruits graduate in September, they will be assigned to fire stations on military installations on Oahu. In collaboration with the state airport firefighters, the FFD hosts and trains through a cooperative arrangement and sharing of resources. In addition to FFD hosting training drills for firefighter recruits, they also partnered with the Honolulu Fire Department during a fire drill demonstration on July 7. "The partnership between our Federal Fire Department and Honolulu Fire Department gives both departments an opportunity to create allies in problem solving, innovation and recruitment," said Neil Fujioka, deputy fire chief for Navy Region Hawaii. "Lastly, it also reassures our communities of our resources that all firefighters are trained and certified."

Whether out on a rescue mission risking their lives, firefighters are one team, one fight, as first responders. Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam said FFD and HFD had this partnership for a very long time, and everybody knows it because it's part of living on an island. It is one team, one fight, and taking care of the people in our community. Fire response is a part of that. "We have the Honolulu Fire Department and the Federal Fire Department working together on how to do some basic fire maneuvers," said **Sohaney**. "We'd like to do this more often so that we are on the same page. We also have a mutual agreement with the Honolulu Police Department as well and it is important for us to work together to understand both capabilities because we are going to respond to a fire both on the base and off the base. We are one team, one fight."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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HawaiiNewsNow  
August 8, 2023

**Pearl Harbor commander: Lab error to blame for false detection of petroleum in drinking water**

By Mahealani Richardson

Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, told community members Monday that testing found elevated levels of petroleum in the drinking water at two homes in Radford Terrace and the Doris Miller neighborhood. But a day later, the commander told Hawaii News Now the EPA-certified lab in Colorado made a testing mistake and re-testing the following morning confirmed no petroleum in the water. “We were waiting for the lab to rerun the samples and then give us the results this morning and they gave us the results this morning and the good news is it was a lab error and it was a TPH (total petroleum hydrocarbon) non-detect,” said **Sohaney**.

**Sohaney** says he reported the preliminary lab results as soon as he knew even though they were not validated. Did he make an announcement too soon? “No, absolutely not. My number one priority is the safety and health of our service members, their families, and the community,” said **Sohaney**. He says the water is safe to drink and has no plans to change any protocols despite the concern it caused among some residents.

“I was shocked. I couldn’t believe this was happening again. I almost didn’t want to believe it,” said Radford Terrace resident Mai Hall. She says she didn’t see or smell anything strange in her water today, but was among thousands who got sick during the 2021 Red Hill tainted water crisis. “I think they are afraid because they don’t want it to happen again,” said Hall. Hall says she has been battling gastrointestinal issues and called University of Hawaii scientists to test her water.

On Wednesday, the Navy will host a Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring Booth at the Halsey Terrace Navy Exchange Mini Mart from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Khon2  
August 3, 2023

**Dangerous, invasive coral species found in Pearl Harbor**  
by: Bryce Moore

Navy officials are asking the public not to dump their coral in the ocean after several species of invasive coral were found in waters around Pearl Harbor. Officials said the invasive species likely came from home aquariums.

The Navy said they first noticed an invasive coral species in Pearl Harbor in 2020. It covered around 10 acres and not much was known about it then, but a Venezuelan study in 2023 revealed it could easily overtake native species. “So, when we went back into the water to scope it out, to remove it, that’s when we discovered it was much larger; it had grown over time,” said Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) commander Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. “We’re still looking, surveying it, but give or take about 100 acres is where we’re at now.” Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, JBPHH Comander

A second invasive — but less prolific — species was also discovered and is one of the reasons why officials believe they came from a home aquarium. “Number two, the location where this is at, it’s very accessible; there’s a pier there,” Capt. **Sohaney** said. “Right of the dock and both of those species are prohibitive in the State of Hawaii, and they’re known to be in aquariums in Hawaii.” The Waikiki Aquarium said owning any type of coral — whether it is native or invasive to Hawaii — is actually illegal in personal aquariums. Those who do own coral can drop it off at the Waikiki Aquarium with no questions asked.

“Okay, first thing is, don’t panic. The police won’t come knocking at your door,” Waikiki Aquarium director Dr. Andrew Rossiter said. “We’re the only facility on-island that’s allowed to keep non-native corals, as you can see in this exhibit here. We’ll give you complete amnesty. You’re completely anonymous, and your coral will be taken very good care of.”

Dr. Rossiter said the bigger picture is that invasive dumping is not just detrimental to native coral species. “The fish have co-evolved in context with the corals; and, so, it’s a very special ecosystem. And it’s very sensitive to disturbance such as alien species being introduced,” Dr. Rossiter said, “I know you think you’re doing the kind thing and putting them back in the ocean, but please don’t.”

The Navy said it is currently working out a multi-million dollar contract to eradicate the invasive species and told KHON2.com that it could take up to a year or more.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Honolulu Star-Advertiser (HI)  
August 2, 2023

**Navy plant discharges 14,500 gallons of wastewater**

Author/Byline: Kevin Knodell

The Navy this week reported accidental discharges of partially treated wastewater from its troubled wastewater treatment plant at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam. In separate news releases, the Navy reported that a total of 14,500 gallons was discharged Sunday and Monday into Mamala Bay through an outfall the service uses about 1.5 miles from shore. According to a news release Tuesday on the most recent releases, there are two active projects at the plant tied to a Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement and that to "enable the execution of these projects, the plant is required to perform adjustments which will include a series of deliberate outages, to include partial shutdowns, at the (plant). The team is developing mitigation for future releases but expects the event to occur again tonight."

According to a Monday news release, 9,500 gallons of partially treated wastewater was discharged at around 6 p.m. Sunday as a result of an apparent pump failure that caused the water to bypass the sand filter stage in the facility's four-step process. "The wastewater underwent three steps of a four step process," JBPHH commander Capt. **Mark Sohaney** said in a statement. "The partially treated wastewater was discharged a mile and a half from the shore, therefore, there should be no impact to beaches or nearshore waters along the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam shoreline."

On Monday, also at 6 p.m., 5,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater again bypassed the filtration system, according to the Navy. "Unlike the previous night, the discharge was not the result of a pump failure," a Tuesday news release said. "The initial assessment attributes the bypass to a higher-than-average flow at the plant. The Navy's investigation attributes this higher flow rate to the King Tide that is causing additional water to be introduced into the system."

The Navy said plant modifications to support ongoing improvement projects were in progress and that Navy officials think that "impacted the plant's capacity to handle higher than normal flow rates." Officials added that additional mitigations are being put in place to ensure that higher-than-normal flow rates experienced during the cycle of exceptionally high tides do not cause another bypass. The Navy also said prior water testing has shown in instances when a bypass has occurred that the discharged water was still in compliance with the plant's discharge permit. A spokesperson for the state Department of Health said its Clean Water Branch is awaiting sampling results from Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command to determine whether further action is required. Concerns about the site go as far back as 2019 when officials from the Clean Water Branch tried to inspect the plant but reported they found it in such a state of disrepair that they did not believe they could safely complete the inspection.

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**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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**Inspectors for the U.S.**

Environmental Protection Agency and the Navy followed up and reported that the plant had cracked concrete tanks, warped and disconnected parts in its machinery and severely corroded equipment. The EPA found that the plant was well exceeding its discharge limits for zinc, cadmium, oil and grease, and pH and total waste toxicity under the federal Clean Water Act. In June 2021 the Navy entered a Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement with the EPA that required it to make a series of repairs and upgrades to the facility by the end of 2024.

In September the DOH slapped the Navy with a notice of violation and order that included an \$8.7 million fine over repeated spills and maintenance problems with its wastewater system. DOH cited 766 counts of discharging pollutants into the ocean from January 2020 to July 2022; 212 counts related to operation and maintenance failures; and 17 counts of bypassing filters without authorization. The violation order said the Navy exceeded the limit every day in 2020 as well as 276 days in 2021 and 122 days in 2022.

Just two days after the DOH issued the fine, another wastewater spill of 1,000 gallons poured into Pearl Harbor from a broken 12-inch wastewater line. Utility workers secured the leak and installed a plug, but the Navy said the leaked wastewater was "unrecoverable." In March approximately 14,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater was released from the facility after a power spike at the military base caused the water treatment process to be "interrupted for a few minutes."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Hawai'i Public Radio  
July 24, 2023

**Will Skyline ease traffic in West O'ahu?**

By Catherine Cruz

The long-awaited opening of the Honolulu rail has brought new attention to traffic from O'ahu's west side. Some are concerned that construction underway at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam shipyard could exacerbate congestion on the roads. The \$2.8 billion project — the largest in the history of the Navy — began construction last week. The goal is to modernize the area.

Captain **Mark Sohaney** served five tours on O'ahu. He hopes more workers will use Skyline, which would assuage traffic going toward Pearl Harbor. "How do we streamline the DTS bus system and the transportation incentive program? And how do we get folks on the rail now? So that's the big long view for us," he said.

The transportation incentive program is for any active duty members of the military and for Department of Defense civilians who work at the base. Construction at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will begin in earnest within the next few months.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Khon2  
June 28, 2023

**Incentives offered for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam employees to ride Skyline rail to help ease base traffic congestion**

by: Brigette Namata

Honolulu’s Skyline rail system is set to officially open to the public on Friday, June 30th, and U.S. Military officials are encouraging Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam employees to ride the rail instead of driving to work.

The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in Hawaii, with about 6,000 civilian and military personnel commuting to work every weekday. Military officials estimate that if 10% of shipyard workers take the Skyline to work, it would equate to about 500 cars off the roads during peak travel times. “We’ve got 50,000 cars coming onto the base every day... if we can get just 10% of those 50,000 cars off the highway, it’s a win-win for everybody,” said Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Commander Capt. **Mark Sohaney**.

According to **Sohaney**, the military is collaborating with TheBus to run buses from the Aloha Stadium parking lot, so workers can go directly from the rail transit stop to their place of work inside the installation. The coordination is set to begin by July 10, 2023. He adds that Joint Base employees can get reimbursement for public transportation through The Public Transportation Incentive Program, or PTIP, a transportation benefit program created to encourage employee use of mass transportation to help reduce air pollution and traffic congestion. **Sohaney** says updates will be provided through Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam’s social media.



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Ho'okele Magazine  
March/April 2023

**JBPHH hosts 'Info Fair'**

by Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) hosted an information fair at Bloch Arena, April 5. More than 30 organizations participated and approximately 200 people attended the event. It was designed to be a “one-stop-shop” to provide event goers updated information on Red Hill, as well as roles, missions, and other services provided at JBPHH. The information fair provided Red Hill topics that included remediation, health services, and water testing. The same information was also shared on websites, social media and provided to those who attended the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Open House in January.

Joint Base Commander, Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, conducted a Facebook livestream with Dr. Bill Rice, a board-certified occupational and environmental medicine physician with the Defense Health Agency. They discussed medical issues related to Red Hill and provided an update on clinic operations. “The clinic opened up on Jan. 3, and since that time, we’ve seen about 80 patients,” Rice said. “Largely, their concerns have been gastrointestinal complaints in nature, headaches, and skin irritation.” Rice said it’s normal to expect patients with physical concerns to come to the clinic, but others have presented with mental health concerns as well. “It is certainly understandable that patients would experience anxiety and other related mental health issues,” Rice added.

The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) visited the installation recently. Capt. **Sohaney** discussed the purpose of that visit with Rice. “After exposure happened, the science would tell us that we would expect symptoms to subsume,” Rice said. “But our data showed that we are still seeing patients attributing their symptoms to water exposure. So we asked this agency to come and look at our medical records, and they are going to release their findings on their website early next year.”

Capt. **Sohaney** also interviewed Capt. James Sullivan, Red Hill Environmental Officer in Charge, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Hawaii, regarding the Navy’s Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring program. “The long-term monitoring is a two-year program that started last March after the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) lifted the health advisory, declaring the water was safe to drink,” Sullivan said. “Every period, we’re testing every medical facility, school, child development center, as well as 10% of all the houses on the JBPHH drinking water distribution system for more than 60 contaminants listed in the Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring Plan that was approved by the EPA and DOH last year.”

According to Sullivan, 4,800 tests have been completed so far and 3,000 more will be completed by the end of the program for a total of 7,800. All of the testing results are on the JBPHH Safe Waters website – [jbphh-safewaters.org](http://jbphh-safewaters.org). “If anyone has any questions about if your house has been tested, that information is available on our JBPHH Safe Waters website. We’ve got an

### **Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches** **Mark David Sohaney** *(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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interactive map, where you can find your house, and blue dots show all the tests conducted,” Sullivan explained. “You can toggle it to find your address, your neighbor’s address, anywhere you’re interested in, and all the results are posted on there as well. We are always available to answer any questions related to results.” Eventgoers were invited to ask questions related to Red Hill, and subject matter experts were present to answer questions related to long-term monitoring and to talk through the Red Hill defueling plans. Among the organizations, were the Hawaii Department of Transportation Services and the JBPHH Emergency Management Department, who provided attendees with information on public transit and hurricane preparedness.

Yeoman Third Class Jada Glaspie attended the event and works in the Administrative department for JBPHH that serves as a focal source of information for active duty service members. She hopes to benefit others with the newly found knowledge she gained at the event. “The main part for me is spreading this information to everybody else because we get a lot of people asking us, ‘how do we do this?’ and ‘how do we do that?’ and needing information,” said Glaspie. “We have to find out this information, and it’s not always readily available to the service member, all in one.”

The base experiences a high turnover rate every year due to service members, and their families moving. “We have a large civilian employee population and we have a lot of military retirees. Some of these new families may not know about Red Hill and they don’t know about all the services available to them,” said Capt. **Sohaney**. “This is just one way to get the word out to our base community.”

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam delivers the best service in base operating support to tenant commands to enable operational mission success while simultaneously providing the highest quality of installation services, facilities support and quality of life programs.

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America's Navy  
November 11 , 2022

**Makahiki strengthens military, community bond**

From Anna Marie G. General

The Military and the Hawaii community joined together to celebrate Kapuaikaula Makahiki Nov. 5 at Rainbow Bay Marina on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). The Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Navy Region Hawaii and JBPHH collaborated to preserve the rich heritage by hosting the annual Makahiki festival. This event provided an opportunity for the military and Hawaii community to come together to learn about the rich pre-western Hawaiian traditions and history of the lands surrounding JBPHH. Makahiki is an ancient Hawaiian celebration dedicated to Lono, the god of welfare, agriculture and health; to give thanks for nature's gifts received from land and sea.

“Because of COVID, the last Makahiki was held in 2019, so it's been a while,” said Jeff Pantaleo, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Hawaii archeologist. “But, what's really different this year is the new leadership for the Navy, so this is their first Makahiki experience. They're very supportive and this has been a really strong component for the relationship between the Navy and the native Hawaiian community.”

The event began with a reenactment of the arrival of Lono with his cohort, involving command leadership as the canoe paddlers, traversing across the sea from Rainbow Bay Marina to Loko Paaiau fishpond and back to the shoreline of the marina where they were welcomed with an oli or welcoming chant. Following the arrival, a procession took place for the Hookupo, or offering of gifts, to Lono to give thanks for agricultural bounties. Ceremonial offerings such as leis, plants and fruit were placed on a ceremonial altar as welcoming chants were sung for each offering.

After the offering of gifts, a hula performance took place followed by opening remarks provided by Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, commander, Navy Region Hawaii. “On behalf of our community of Sailors, Airmen and their families, I want to thank you all for taking time to come out today to share your culture and visit with us,” said Barnett. “I look forward to learning even more about Hawaiian culture and traditions from our friends in the community. Mahalo to the Royal Order of Kamehameha and Hawaiian Civic Clubs for this opportunity.”

Barnett concluded his remarks by introducing Shad Kane, cultural practitioner with the Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs to talk about the history and importance of Makahiki. “The significance of the Makahiki in Hawaiian culture was to establish one relationship between chiefs and the people that lived in different districts,” said Kane, who is also a Navy Vietnam veteran. “That was important. Because warfare was so common, people would not fight for a chief unless they knew him. The Makahiki gave them an opportunity for people to get to know chiefs. That's the significance of the Makahiki in addition to celebrating Lono.” “The Makahiki is in celebration of Lono, the god of agriculture, welfare and health. So today, even ancient, it had a party atmosphere to encourage people to attend. The Makahiki was ideal, games were

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played to test the health and welfare of his people,” said Kane. “We’ve been celebrating Makahiki with the Navy for the last 20 years. We used to have the Makahiki on Ford Island and at Hickam Beach. So today, we are simply here [Rainbow Bay Marina] because it’s easy for civilians to get access,” said Kane.

Concluding the event, the military and community joined together for some fun with traditional Hawaiian games including Ulu Maika (stone rolling), Moa Pahee (dart tossing), Makaihe (spear throwing) and Hakamoia (one leg wrestling). “This brings us together, not to talk about projects but just to talk story and to get to know each other better,” said Pantaleo.

Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam concluded the event with closing remarks. “As the admiral mentioned earlier, Makahiki gives us the opportunity to learn more about the culture and traditions of our local Hawaiian friends,” said **Sohaney**. “On behalf of everyone at Joint Base, I want to thank you for such a wonderful morning.”

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**Mark David Sohaney**  
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Honolulu Star-Advertiser (HI)  
October 22, 2022

**Navy lifts boil water advisory after water main repairs**

Author/Byline: Star-Advertiser staff

The Navy has rescinded a boil water advisory for the 93,000 people that draw from its water system on Oahu. Navy leadership today rescinded the advisory, which had been in effect since Oct. 14, after test results reportedly showed no bacteria present in the water system. Water samples were taken from multiple points and tested at a local third-party laboratory, and tests were shared with the state Department of Health.

The Navy had issued the advisory after three water main breaks in its water system last week made contamination a possibility. Repairs to the water mains were completed Thursday. "Based on those results residents on the Joint Base water system no longer have to boil their water before consumption," said Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander, in a statement. "I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding while we worked to restore our water system to normal."

Residents may initially see sediment in their water as the system returns to full functionality, the Navy said. Citing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Navy said it's recommended that water users flush their water lines for five minutes following the lifting of the boil water advisory. Users should also empty their ice bins and allow them to fill again. Then they should throw away that batch of ice and clean their ice bins with a cleaning agent. The Navy has distributed about 170,000 gallons of bottled water to its water users during the week that the boil water advisory was in effect. Distribution sites will end at 6 p.m. today, the Navy said.

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Honolulu Star-Advertiser (HI)  
October 18, 2022

**Fourth rupture in Navy's water system means more delays for 93,000 users**

Author/Byline: Jack Truesdale

The Navy announced it would further delay removing fuel from its three pipelines at Red Hill after a fourth main in its water system was reported to have broken Monday morning, reducing water access for some 93,000 people connected to the system. "They've postponed their unpacking operations," said Navy Capt. **Mark D. Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, at a midday news conference. Once the water is restored, **Sohaney** said, "I would anticipate they would notify the public on when they're going to resume those unpacking operations."

Before the first main break occurred Friday, the Navy had planned to begin draining approximately 1 million gallons of fuel from its Red Hill pipes on Monday. The fuel has sat in the pipelines since operations at the facility near Pearl Harbor were halted in 2021 when fuel from Red Hill contaminated the Navy's drinking water system. Removing it will allow the Navy to begin pipeline repairs in preparation for draining about 100 million gallons from its underground tanks and permanently closing the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Facility.

Repairs needed on the water mains are expected to be underway for at least a week, **Sohaney** said. Meanwhile, the Navy is urging residents "out of abundance of caution" to boil their water even though "our latest water samples are all negative" for bacteria, **Sohaney** said. After the first break — in a 36-inch main at the Waiiau Hawaiian Electric power station — a second one followed, **Sohaney** said, but it was "unrelated" and "due to a vehicular accident near the Navy Exchange."

In response, the Navy diverted water around the first break. Then another water main broke at West Loch, and the fourth followed Monday on Pearl City Peninsula, flooding the yards of nearby homes. "When you divert this much water around to lower- diameter piping, you expect some type of breakage," **Sohaney** said. Noting that the first water main to break was constructed in 1951, **Sohaney** said, "It's just like any municipality. We've got old structure, new infrastructure. ... Things like this happen." The Navy is now distributing about 20,000 gallons of water a day, but people are limited to one gallon per day. For military personnel and others, picking up gallons of drinking water at military distribution sites serves as a reminder of the Red Hill water crisis. In November, residents living in neighborhoods around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam began complaining of nausea, vomiting and skin rashes, as well as fuel smells coming from their faucets and sprinklers. Days later, water samples and a visual inspection of the Red Hill shaft found it was polluted with jet fuel.

"This most recent water issue definitely echoes a lot of the stuff that was going on back in November with the original water issue," said Jeanina Powell, a base resident on Ford Island whose husband is in the Navy. Powell said she suffered neurological symptoms and daily

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headaches in the aftermath of the contamination. "We definitely do not feel safe, and we definitely don't believe anything the Navy is saying" about the water being safe to wash dishes and shower in, Powell said. "We've heard that all before," she said.

Powell said while she had to shower Monday, "It doesn't feel great having to step in water that is not safe." The Red Hill crisis prompted her to install a filter on the shower head. Still, she said, "It seemed about normal, but I really tried to get in and out of there as fast as I could." Moving forward, Powell isn't sure how much she can trust the Navy to tell the full story of what happened. "I would love for them to be forthcoming about what's causing all these main breaks," Powell said. "I just feel like they're not being truthful with us. One break, two breaks — sure, that's a coincidence. But four or five? A lot of us are wondering what's really going on," she said.

During a livestreamed virtual town hall held Sunday, **Sohaney** said the first break was most concerning, describing it as a crack along the entire edge of a 20-foot cast iron pipe. Monday's main break resulted in flooding in a park commonly frequented by dogs, thereby ferrying their excrement toward nearby homes, residents said. "Logs!" said Michael Washington, a petty officer in the Navy. His house is situated downstream, and an inch of water flooded his garage. To stop it, he threw down a rolled carpet that got soaked. The damage appears to be nothing major, compared with the fact that he hasn't used his water since Red Hill, Washington said. "I'd rather be able to use the water," he said.

Sheri LeDue lives in Kapilina Beach Homes, a civilian development on Iroquois Point that was once Navy housing and remains connected to the Navy's water system. Before she heard any announcement, LeDue took a shower Friday morning. "I got a little bit of a rash," she said. Now she has just enough water pressure to fill up a pan, "but it takes a while," she said. She has been boiling water to do dishes, but she won't drink or cook with it — she hasn't since December. Her daughter and her family live on Schofield Barracks grounds, and during 2021's water crisis LeDue would do laundry and shower at the Army base. She has now resumed the old routine. "It's bringing back all of the nightmare from the Red Hill disaster," LeDue said. "Living should be so much easier."

In a recent report, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it had found that the Navy might have violated multiple federal and state laws pertaining to safe drinking water in its maintenance and operation of the Pearl Harbor water system. Joint Base Pearl Harbor- Hickam started relying entirely on its Waiawa shaft for its water supply in December, following the precautionary closure of the Aiea Halawa shaft after the Red Hill shaft's contamination. JBPHH was pumping 17 to 18 million gallons a day from the Waiawa shaft, despite only being permitted to pump 14.7 MGD, the EPA said. The Waiawa pump shaft was rusted, the EPA found. Inspectors also "observed significant rust and pitting on piping," the report said.

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HawaiiNewsNow  
October 18, 2022

**Parents scramble to find child care as military facilities remain closed due to main breaks**  
**After a day of shutdowns, the military’s child development centers are scheduled to be closed again Tuesday.**

By Jolanie Martinez

At least 11 child development centers on Oahu were closed again Tuesday as crews work to make repairs to the Navy’s water line. The situation is leaving thousands of military families scrambling for child care.

Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, said the closure of child care facilities is impacting about 3,000 families. The commander said that one might open for mission essential personnel, but he didn’t elaborate.

Navy water system sees fourth main break as boil water advisory remains up  
“They need to specify whose mission essential,” said Kalana Webber, of Hale Moku military housing. Webber, who works full-time, is among the military families facing another day of disruptions. For Webber and her active-duty husband, it’s a question of who cares for their 1-year-old son. “Today, my husband stays at home, but he won’t be able to do that, so tomorrow, I’ll stay home,” said Webber. “It’s like we kind of switch in and out.”

The state Department of Education said Iroquois Point Elementary has adequate water pressure to flush toilets so the school will reopen on Tuesday. It’s a big relief for single mom of nine, Leipunahale Cleaver. “I’m probably going to send them, I don’t want to, but they’re hungry for education,” said Cleaver, who lives in Kapalina Beach Homes. She appreciates the boxes of water the military gave her, but she’d like more support. “How come we don’t have the water trucks in here to supply us?” asked Cleaver. “It’s really frustrating and it makes me feel like I should not have moved in here.”

The commander said there’s still no timeline for repairs. Families with both parents working, should contact their chain of command if they’re unable to find childcare. On Monday, Army officials rescinded the boil order for Aliamanu and Red Hill families. But all other Navy properties are advised to boil their water for at least a week because of possible bacteria contamination. “My goal here is to really make sure I have the pulse of the community as we move forward throughout this difficult challenging repair,” said **Sohaney**.



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Honolulu Civil Beat  
October 17, 2022

**Families Demand Answers After Navy Water Main Breaks Near Pearl Harbor**  
**Officials advised people to boil water used for drinking and cooking as a precaution to prevent bacteria after four water main breaks occurred.**

By Cassie Ordonio

The Navy urged residents to conserve water after a fourth water main break occurred on its system Monday, adding to the list of problems for some 93,000 people near Pearl Harbor who faced a fuel contamination crisis last year. Military officials said people should continue to boil water for drinking and cooking as a precaution against bacteria until the system is deemed safe. “My main concern is the sediment and bacteria,” Navy Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, the commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, said at a news conference.

The previous three water main breaks occurred Friday, prompting the Navy to order residents to boil their water and forcing the closure of child development centers, gyms and other facilities. The problem also caused the Navy to delay plans to start draining fuel from three pipelines at the Red Hill fuel storage complex on Monday in the first step toward closing the World War II-era facility. Officials had said they would remove more than a million gallons of fuel, paving the way toward making repairs and emptying massive storage tanks.

A Red Hill task force said the defueling process would begin after the broken water lines are repaired. “The water main breaks identified by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam impacted systems being used to prepare for unpacking operations at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility,” spokeswoman Tiffani Walker said in an email statement. She stressed that the task force’s priority is safety and it “will continue to adjust the unpacking schedule as necessary to decrease risk and ensure the safest possible execution.” **Sohaney** estimated the water main breaks will take seven to 10 days to fix. The first three water main water breaks happened Friday by the Hawaiian Electric Co. power station on Kamehameha Highway, Salt Lake Boulevard and Namur Road, and the Joint Base Annex at West Loch. The fourth break happened Monday at Pearl City.

The Navy has been providing potable water and has said that water is safe for showers and other uses while ordering the boil advisory as a precaution. But many residents vented their frustrations at a town hall meeting on Sunday, asking for hotel vouchers, transparency on the water issue and recognition of their concerns.

Halsey Terrace resident Amanda Zawieruszynski said she’s not surprised at the water main break. Zawieruszynski said the Navy was supplying affected individuals a gallon of potable water per day but no hotel vouchers. “The Navy keeps putting Band-Aids on the situation regarding the water crisis, none of which has worked,” Zawieruszynski said in an interview. “It continues to show now through these water breaks that are happening all of a sudden, which is very odd timing.” The first three water main breaks on Friday occurred around the same time the

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Red Hill task force was to host a media tour of the defueling operation. **Sohaney** said the fourth water main break would not affect the Navy’s scheduled repairs. “My No. 1 concern is for the health, safety and well-being of our community,” **Sohaney** said. “We’ll make that assessment, and we’ll take care of those families.”

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*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Honolulu Star-Advertiser (HI)  
October 15, 2022

**Navy reports 3 water main breaks, affecting 93,000 in Pearl Harbor area**

Author/Byline: Kevin Knodell

The Navy responded to three water main breaks on its Oahu system Friday, urging water conservation and issuing a boil-water advisory to the 93,000 people served by the system.

Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, told reporters during a Friday news conference that the breaks had affected joint base facilities, housing, child development centers, schools, the Navy Exchange and "some of our non-Department of Defense customers." Child development centers and public schools were closed for the day. **Sohaney** set up an Emergency Operations Center to deal with the situation. He didn't have a timeline for when the breaks will be repaired, but said he hopes to fix the problem swiftly. "I think the question on everyone's mind is, When will it be safe to drink the water again?" **Sohaney** said. "So we've got repair crews on-site doing an assessment, and that all will drive the timeline." In the meantime, water distribution sites have been established at the Hickam Main Exchange parking lot near Burger King and the main Navy Exchange parking lot for JBPHH military family housing residents affected by the water main breaks. The sites will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily until further notice, the Navy said. **Sohaney** said the Navy is working with the state Department of Health to address any concerns about water quality once repairs are completed.

In a statement to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, DOH spokesperson Kaitlin Arita- Chang said, "We are the regulator, not the operator of the system. It's incumbent on the Navy as the operator of the system to fix the breaks and restore service, just like how other public water systems like the Board of Water Supply fix their own breaks." Navy officials say that while there is no indication of contamination at this time, the breaks could potentially open up the system to contaminants. "Any time you have a main break, there's obviously going to be a void in the water, and we've lost pressure and there's a possibility of infiltration," **Sohaney** said. "So out of an abundance of caution — this is normal practice of protocol for any type of break like this — I issued that boil- water advisory to make sure folks remain safe."

The Navy is removing fuel from the pipe system connecting its underground Red Hill fuel storage facility to JBPHH, the first step in ultimately defueling and shutting down the facility permanently. In November, fuel from the facility made its way into the Navy's water system, leading to contamination that sickened hundreds of residents. The facility's underground storage tanks sit 100 feet above a critical aquifer that provides drinking water for the majority of urban Honolulu. The incident has strained relations between Navy officials and military families on base, as well as state officials and residents in surrounding communities. Though both the Navy and DOH say the Navy's water system is now safe to drink again after extensive cleaning efforts, many residents fear residual contamination. "I'm not concerned about fuel whatsoever," **Sohaney** said. "What I'm concerned about is potentially soil and bacteria. It's a low possibility, but I want to make sure that our water is safe." On Oct. 7, Tripler Army Medical Center experienced a

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water main break, forcing the hospital to cancel patient appointments for the day. The hospital ultimately called the Honolulu Board of Water Supply requesting additional water.

Navy officials told reporters Friday they did not think that would be necessary to address the current water main breaks. "We don't meet the conditions in which we would call them for additional water; we're OK for now," **Sohaney** said. But when reached for comment by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, the BWS said the Navy had reached out with a "preliminary request" to send water to its system. "The BWS has asked the Navy to provide more information about their water needs — including the amount of water and duration of assistance being asked for — to adequately determine if we can accommodate the request without negatively impacting the BWS's system and its customers," said BWS spokesperson Tracy Burgo. "The BWS has been dealing with its own water supply challenges resulting from the shutdown of three of its own sources due to the Navy's 2021 Red Hill facility fuel leak."

The Navy had asked residents of its bases to scale back water use in the aftermath of the contamination and the loss of its Red Hill water well, which is undergoing remediation efforts. The Navy has since had to rely on its Waiawa shaft for water, but in June the Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management warned the Navy that it was over-pumping that well.

According to the Navy, the first main break Friday occurred at about 4:15 a.m. at the Waiiau Hawaiian Electric power station off Kamehameha Highway. Then about 30 minutes later, a car crashed near a Naval Exchange around Pearl City. "Apparently, that vehicle struck a riser and created a leak as well, and that leak has been secured and isolated," **Sohaney** said. He said the third leak, at the Navy's West Loch Annex, was an anticipated effect of efforts to contain the first two leaks. "What we did is we isolated both of those, and when you isolate the main break ... (and) divert that water, now you're bringing a lot of pressure back into the system. We expect other potential weak areas in the system to potentially have a leak," he explained. "And that's what we have: We have a smaller line leak that is not a major concern."

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*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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US Fed News (USA)  
September 6, 2022

**NAVY PARTNERS WITH HAWAII TO IMPROVE WAIAWA WATERSHED**

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, issued the following news release:

The grant funds a project to improve 7,155 acres of upland forests in the Waiawa Watershed, which, according to Susie Fong, JBPHH REPI program manager, will help lead to the sustainability of Oahu's only aquifer. "The project will protect and restore the native upland forests which are home to the island's watersheds and aquifers," said Fong. "The State of Hawaii and the Navy have been working on this collaborative effort for a couple of years, and we have been fine tuning the project and the scope of work to align with State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) goals of natural resource management and the Navy's goals of long-term mission sustainment and operations."

The REPI program is a key tool for combating encroachment that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations. While REPI's primary mission is to protect military readiness, REPI also benefits the environment by conserving land near military installations and ranges. "The focus of the project is to safeguard drinking water supplies at JBPHH by protecting and restoring 7,155 acres of forested lands that replenish the Pearl Harbor aquifer," said Katie Roth, a planner with the Commission on Water Resource Management, a division of the State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources. "These native forests are the source of drinking water for Navy personnel at JBPHH and provide a buffer from major storm events that cause erosion and flooding."

Roth said that there are numerous conservation organizations participating in the Waiawa Watershed restoration including the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the University of Hawaii, Pacific cooperative Studies Unit, Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership, the Oahu Invasive Species Committee and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Hawaii organization.

"Allying Joint Base with our neighbors is vitally important to our success as an installation," said Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. "We depend on these local communities for support, and look for ways that we can provide support in return. The REPI challenge program is an exciting way to directly impact our surrounding environment and create change that will have a lasting effect."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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<https://cnrh.cnrc.navy.mil/News/Article/3142054/pearl-harbor-nex-wins-2021-bingham-award/>

America's Navy  
August 25, 2022

**Pearl Harbor NEX wins 2021 Bingham Award**

From Anna Marie G. General

The Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) won the 2021 Bingham award for sales Category 1 in which the store generated over \$50 million during the fiscal year, according to a recent Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) press release.

An award presentation ceremony took place at the Pearl Harbor NEX, Aug. 16 to recognize their highest achievement a store can receive as the best in class. There were a total of nine sales category award winners announced throughout the NEXCOM enterprise. Eight other NEX stores worldwide won in the remaining sales categories, and nine runner-ups were also recognized.

NEX CEO, retired Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi, presented the award to Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Steve Morales, general manager of Pearl Harbor NEX, with the 2021 Bingham Award during the ceremony. "Each year, we recognize our 'best of the best' NEX locations with the Bingham award," said Bianchi. "While 2021 continued to be a challenge due to the ongoing pandemic, staffing and supply chain disruptions, our NEX locations didn't miss a beat and continued to provide premier customer service to all our deserving patrons."

The award recognizes outstanding performance in operations, excellence in customer service and community support. Established in 1979, the Bingham award is named after the late Capt. W.H. Bingham, Supply Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve who was the chief executive officer of the R.H. Macy's company and was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy in 1946 to lead an advisory board for establishment of what is now the NEXCOM.

"NEXCOM contributes to the Navy's mission readiness with each of our NEX locations working hand-in-hand with their base commanding officers to support quality of life for the military community. In recognition of this great partnership, the Bingham award is presented to both the NEX and installation," said Bianchi.

NEXCOM is headquarters for the worldwide NEXCOM enterprise. Its mission is to provide authorized customers quality goods and services at savings and to support Navy quality of life programs for active duty military, retirees, reservists and their families.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/08/09/navy-no-pfas-forever-chemicals-detected-red-hill-water.html>

Military.com  
August 9, 2022

**Navy: No PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Detected in Red Hill Water**  
By Patricia Kime

Tests conducted in December by the Hawaii Department of Health found no traces of PFAS, potentially cancer-causing compounds widely known as 'forever chemicals' because they don't break down over time, in the well contaminated by petroleum in a massive spill the month before. A Navy official said Monday that the health department tested the water for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, after investigators found that the fuel that tainted the drinking water at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam last year had been pooled for months in a fire suppression system line meant to hold firefighting foam containing the chemicals. But the fire suppression system had never been activated, nor had foam ever been discharged into the system and no PFAS chemicals were detected, a Navy spokesperson told Military.com in an email. "A full system activation, e.g., in the event of a fire, would spray [aqueous form filming foam, or AFFF] into the tunnel. This would be a significant event and it has never occurred since the system has been in place," the spokesperson said.

The question of PFAS contamination of the water has been a concern since the Navy released the results of its investigation into spills that occurred last year at the service's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the U.S. military's largest fuel depot in the Pacific, capable of holding up to 250 million gallons of jet fuel, diesel and gasoline. PFAS are a collection of nearly 9,000 compounds that have numerous industrial uses but can accumulate in the body and do not break down into soluble components. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that they are unsafe at any level, and they are associated with infertility, some types of cancer and birth defects.

The investigation revealed that a spill during transfer operations in May sent roughly 19,000 gallons of fuel into the facility's collection sumps, which were to hold runoff following the activation of its fire system. When those sumps were accidentally filled with fuel, pumps transferred the liquid into PVC pipes that were designed to retain foam and water runoff. But, the official noted "no AFFF was released on May 6, and therefore no AFFF was pumped from the sump to the reclamation line." "The fuel was spilled from an AFFF recovery line, but the AFFF system has never been activated, and therefore the recovery system has never been exposed to PFAS/perfluorooctanoic acid/perfluorooctane sulfonic acid from AFFF," the spokesman said. When asked during a congressional hearing July 19 about the possibility of PFAS contamination in the runoff, Vice Adm. Randy Crites, deputy chief of naval operations for capabilities and resources, told Rep. Kaiuli'i Kahele, D-Hawaii, that he didn't know the answer.

In November, the thousands of gallons of fuel from the May spill that were contained in the line were released into the tunnels at the facility after an employee struck one of the pipes with his

### **Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches** **Mark David Sohaney** *(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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vehicle. The contamination sickened military and civilian families living in base housing on or near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, sending dozens to hospitals and forcing thousands from their homes for up to three months. The lack of transparency regarding the May spill and the slow response by the Navy to residents' complaints in November that their water smelled like petroleum and they were experiencing unexplained symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, burns and rashes, have left families deeply disaffected. Initially after the November spill, the Navy said tests found the water didn't contain fuel, despite resident concerns. Some have moved out of their homes or left the islands altogether, while more than 100 have filed claims against the Navy under the Federal Tort Claims Act seeking compensation for their health problems.

Their attorneys say the families are at risk for long-term conditions such as leukemia, immune disorders, kidney disease, heart conditions, gastrointestinal problems and neurological effects. "There is enormous fear ... They are watching what happened at Camp Lejeune and saying, 'Is my kid going to die of leukemia; am I going to die of leukemia? How long am I going to be healthy for? Should I start planning for my long-term health now? Those are very real fears,'" said Kristina Baehr, an attorney with Just Well Law in Austin, Texas, during an interview July 29 on Military.com's Fire Watch podcast.

A new research tool unveiled last week by the University of Hawaii has caused further concern among family members who believe that contaminants remain in their drinking water supply. By using a process called fluorescence spectroscopy, researchers can detect levels of hydrocarbons as low as 10 parts per billion -- much lower than the Hawaii Department of Health's maximum allowable threshold of 211 parts per billion.

As recently as May, this screening detected contamination at the Hickam, Ford Island, and Red Hill Mauka neighborhoods, likely residual contaminants from the November fuel release, according to the researchers. The researchers cautioned that the screening method, used usually to monitor oil spills, is a preliminary test, and further testing is recommended after any positive findings. They also noted that the method is not certified by the EPA for detecting specific contaminants nor for assessing risk to human health. But families were swift to react.

After Navy Capt. **Mark Sohaney** posted a letter on the base's Facebook page Friday reiterating that the water was safe to drink, residents took to the site to express outrage. Amanda Feindt, whose entire family was sickened by the water in November and her children hospitalized, posted a video of her daughter having a meltdown about drinking any water. The Feindts have left Hawaii but still have health problems, she said. "Our sweet girl is still traumatized by WATER ... she still believes that WATER will make her 'throw up' and put her back in the hospital ... Unfortunately, this is her reality as she still suffers with many unexplained health issues," Feindt wrote.

Attorneys representing Red Hill families also implored the Navy to move affected personnel out of military housing. "Data released by the University of Hawaii Red Hill Task Force this week confirms what our clients already knew to be true: their water is still contaminated," wrote Baehr and her colleagues at Just Well Law to Navy officials on Thursday. "It's time to evacuate



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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families affected by the horrific jet fuel spills at the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Storage Facility in Hawaii." **Sohaney** said the base continues to use only water supplied by a well that was unaffected by the spill. "JBPHH continuously tests the water you use and provides those water test results to the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency who continue to confirm that the JBPHH water remains safe," **Solaney** wrote in the letter posted online.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Stars and Stripes  
June 16, 2022

**Capt. Mark Sohaney assumes command of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam**  
By SHIFRA DAYAK

Capt. **Mark Sohaney** relieved Capt. Erik Spitzer as the commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a ceremony Tuesday, June 14, aboard Battleship USS Missouri Memorial. At the ceremony, Spitzer — who has been the commander at the base since July 2020 — received the Legion of Merit Award for his service. “I cannot thank you enough for all you do each and every day for this amazing and historical installation,” Spitzer said at the ceremony. “Your commitment, resilience and teamwork here is phenomenal and what you accomplish each and every day, despite the obstacles and challenges, is truly inspirational.”

**Sohaney** comes to the base in Hawaii after completing a tour as commanding officer at Naval Air Station Key West. He previously served in several other capacities, including in Hawaii assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 onboard NAS Barber’s Point, and as the director of Contingency Plans and executive assistant to the director of Maritime Operations at U.S. Pacific Fleet. “My philosophy is: ‘people first, mission always’. The men and women of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are the most valuable resource,” **Sohaney** said.

Covering 44.7 square miles, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is home to the Air Force’s preeminent flight line in the Pacific and the Navy’s most strategic and historically significant installation. The base is homeport to 10 warships, 15 submarines and 47 aircraft in seven fixed wing aviation squadrons.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
May 13, 2022

**ON BOARD - Second female commanding officer takes over at Naval Air Station Key West**  
Author/Byline: ELLIOT WELD

Just as it is every three years, command of Naval Air Station Key West passed Thursday morning from Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, who took command in June 2019, to Capt. Elizabeth Regoli. The ceremony marked just the second time that a female officer has commanded the station. The first was Lynn Hutton, who commanded the base from 1995 to 1997. In an island paradise such as Key West, it's naturally a sought-after destination, according to Regoli. "Everybody dreams of getting to be the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Key West," Regoli told The Citizen. "I'm the one who won the lucky prize."

Present at the ceremony were several community leaders including Key West mayor Teri Johnston, city commissioners Greg Davila and Mary Lou Hoover and county commissioners Craig Cates and Michelle Coldiron. It's the bond and cooperation between the local Navy personnel and the civilian community that makes this station unique, Regoli said. "You know, the most unique thing about this location is the relationship that the naval air station has with the local community," she said. "I haven't seen many other locations where there's such a tight bond between the military side and the local community so I'm very much looking forward to working with the Key West community as we work together to achieve the common end-state goal."

Regoli is a native of San Jose, California and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1999 before obtaining a masters degree in global leadership from University of San Diego and a masters in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in Rhode Island. She was assigned to several different aviation units, including command of the notable Golden Eagles of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. She was later a naval military aide to then-vice president Joe Biden and a battalion officer at the U.S. Naval Academy.

**Sohaney** will be taking over command at another tropical destination base at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, a state that he has already served several assignments in. "Running a base is a lot to learn, and I thought I figured it out but apparently not. The Navy's gonna give me another crack at it for three more years and I'm okay with that" he said.

**Sohaney** was praised for his leadership of the base through the COVID-19 pandemic, and keeping operations going through it, and his community outreach. In particular, his Facebook fame. **Sohaney** said COVID was the biggest challenge of his time at command, and made a point of thanking health department director Bob Eadie in his remarks. "He would take my calls day or night," **Sohaney** said. "He would give me sound advice to make sure we were doing the right thing."

**Sohaney** remarked that his emphasis on social media and community outreach made his face notable in the community. People would even recognize him in the grocery store. But the

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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outgoing officer said Key West was “the best kept secret in the Navy,” adding that it was a great place for an officer to live and work. “Hawaii may have big fish, but there’s no place like the Keys,” he said. “You can reel in Mahi, spear grouper, net lobster, crack open a beer can all before noon.” **Sohaney** said there had been five near-miss hurricanes in his time at command, which he was grateful for, and joked that he had “gained 30 pounds eating my hurricane stash.”

To the crowd, Regoli spoke briefly, which she said is in the tradition of the incoming officer, thanking **Sohaney** for his leadership and hospitality. She thanked her parents and family, professors, law enforcement, and fellow pilots. In her career, she has over 4,300 flight hours.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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News Miami  
April 25, 2022

**Crocodile on Key West naval air base causes runway shutdown**

By 7 News WSVN

A predator soaking up the South Florida sun interrupted business at a navy base. A seven-foot crocodile was seen sunbathing on a runway at the Naval Air Station in Key West. The reptile quickly wore out its welcome when it wouldn't budge, causing the runway to shutdown.

“We take protecting the environment as serious as we do protecting our country,” said NAS Key West commanding officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. “We’re in the middle of a national marine sanctuary, so when we’ve got an obstruction on the runway that’s federally protected, like this crocodile, we call in backup.” The station called the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, along with a trapper, and they safely captured the croc and released it outside the base.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
February 23, 2022

**Two Navy buildings set to be vacated**

About 30 sailors are being asked to vacate their housing by May 1 in order to clear their tenements for maintenance and repairs, U.S. Navy officials said Monday. The units being vacated are spread over two buildings in the Truman Annex property. They are all “unaccompanied housing,” meaning bachelor service members. Those being asked to vacate will have the option of moving into other quarters on base or trying out the rental market in Key West, said public information officer Trice Denny.

Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commanding officer of the Naval Air Station in Key West, issued a memo that said there is no projected reopening date for the facilities, “which could exceed more than two years.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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US Fed News (USA)  
October 12, 2021

**EPA TO RECOGNIZE THE BRAC-TRANSFERRED PROPERTIES AT NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST, FLORIDA WITH 2021 NATIONAL FEDERAL FACILITY EXCELLENCE IN SITE REUSE AWARDS**

The Environmental Protection Agency issued the following news release:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host a virtual award ceremony to recognize the U.S. Navy, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), city of Key West, Charley Toppino & Sons, Inc. and MSE for their site reuse efforts at the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)-transferred properties at Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida.

The event will be conducted virtually through Zoom Webinar Link.

WHO: EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Carlton Waterhouse

EPA Acting Region 4 Deputy Regional Administrator Carol Monell

Naval Air Station Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**

City of Key West Mayor Teri Johnston

FDEP Division Director for Waste Management Tim Bahr

WHAT: Virtual award ceremony recognizing U.S. Navy, FDEP, city of Key West, Charley Toppino & Sons, Inc. and MSE for their site reuse efforts at the BRAC-transferred properties at the Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida.

WHEN: Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Zoom WebinarEXIT (click hyperlink)

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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America's Navy  
August 4, 2021

**Climate Change Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy, Acting Principal Deputy ASN for Energy, Installations & Environment Visits Southeast**

From U.S. Navy Office of Information

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy for Climate Change Deborah Loomis, and Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment (EI&E) James Balocki traveled to the Navy's Southeast Region Aug. 4 to tour bases affected by Hurricane Elsa and meet with Sailors and key community partners.

Loomis and Balocki traveled to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Kings Bay, Georgia, where they observed base facilities recently impacted by tornadoes from Hurricane Elsa, and installation resiliency efforts to restore the facilities to full operational status. Clean up and recovery efforts were underway, with the storm damage and impacts to the mission still evident. "Natural disasters, such as Hurricane Elsa, can have devastating effects on our installations and communities," said Loomis. "Our Navy team of civilian, military and supporting contractors really came together to get the base back up and running in a very short period of time. Their tremendous efforts really were the key to being able to recover quickly from this damaging extreme weather event and minimize impacts to mission."

During their visit, Loomis and Balocki met with Rear Adm. John Spencer, Commander, Submarine Group Ten, base commanding officer Capt. Chester Parks, Capt. Edward Robledo, commanding officer of Trident Refit Facility, and Capt. Miguel Dieguez, public works officer. They toured the Trident Refit Facility to observe ongoing infrastructure projects and dry dock facilities. "We know that extreme weather events, like those that affected Kings Bay, are going to keep happening and with greater intensity, which is why investing in climate resiliency is key for maintaining readiness ashore and for supporting the warfighter." said Loomis.

Following their visit to NSB Kings Bay, Loomis and Balocki traveled to Naval Air Station Key West, Florida. They met with Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, commanding officer NAS Key West and base leadership as they evaluated the conditions of the Installation, which was impacted in 2017 By Hurricane Irma. During the visit, Loomis and Balocki toured sites affected by the hurricane as well as several family housings sites to assess recovery progress. "I am impressed by our Sailors and the quality and continued maintenance and upkeep of both Kings Bay and Key West," said Balocki. "Their efforts to maintain our installations during extreme adverse weather events and recover from them contributes directly to warfighting readiness."

Loomis was appointed for the role as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy and sworn in on Monday, August 2, and in her capacity will advise the Secretary of the Navy on climate change.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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America's Navy  
May 14, 2021

**New hangar for squadrons at NAS Key West**  
From Susan Brink

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded a \$67.1 million firm-fixed-price contract, May 13, to Korte Construction Company from St. Louis, Missouri, for construction of a new Aircraft Maintenance Hangar at Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West, Florida. Upon completion, the new hangar will replace the current one that houses Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 Key West Detachment – F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets and adversaries Fighter Squadron Composite (VFC) 111, who fly F-5N Tiger II aircraft.

“Thanks to NAVFAC’s diligence and expertise, we’re finally getting started on this much-needed project leftover from Hurricane Irma,” said NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. “A new hangar will greatly enhance our mission to support warfighters, and it’s exciting to know that its capabilities will put the air station at the forefront of Naval Aviation training.”

An aircraft maintenance hangar is designed and built with the sole purpose of conducting major aircraft repairs, as opposed to routine aviation maintenance and general servicing. The work to be performed provides for full design and construction of a two-module Type I aircraft maintenance hangar, approximately 110,000 square feet in size. Type I maintenance hangars are primarily designed for carrier aircraft, but are adaptable to meet requirements for rotary wing and various types of other small aircraft.

The new facility will contain high-bay spaces, shops and maintenance spaces, operation, training, and administrative spaces. The hangar will require a special foundation, overhead bridge crane, and elevators. The project also includes all pertinent site improvements, site preparations, mechanical and electrical utilities, telecommunications, emergency generator, landscaping, drainage, parking and exterior lighting.

Mechanical systems will include compressed air, HVAC systems, potable and fire protection water distribution, aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) system, sanitary sewer, and storm water systems. The existing hangar will be demolished upon completion of the new aircraft maintenance facility. Work will be performed in Key West, Florida and is expected to be completed by October 2023.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
April 9, 2021

**Navy jet training set for weekend**

The U.S. Navy will conduct afield carrier landing practice detachment operation at Naval Air Station Key West's Boca Chica Field, Friday through Sunday, April 9-11, with Super Hornet aircraft deployed from Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia,

The FCLPs are scheduled during NAS Key West's published flight hours and also from 7 to 10 p.m. over the weekend. This training is required for all Navy and Marine Corps aviators before actual landing practice on at-sea aircraft carriers. Boca Chica Field has two runways that are painted and lighted to simulate the deck of an aircraft carrier; a third runway is painted but not lit.

"This type of training provides aviators with realistic carrier landing practice," said Naval Air Station Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. "It's high intensity for the aviators, Sailors working the field and even the local communities who will notice an increase in noise and flight activity during the evenings this weekend."

Residents in the neighborhoods around Boca Chica Field will notice an increase in jet noise during the FCLP training periods. "We try to get this information out to everyone as early as possible so residents can plan accordingly," said **Sohaney**.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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DVIDS

January 21, 2021

**NAVFAC Southeast awards contract for SOF facility at NAS Key West**

By Susan Brink

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded \$16.2 million firm-fixed-price task order, Jan. 15, to EG Designbuild, LLC (small business) from Germantown, Maryland, for a Special Operation Forces (SOF) Watercraft Maintenance Facility at Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West, Florida. The new maintenance facility will directly support the U.S. Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School, a tenant command of NAS Key West since 1965. “This contract demonstrates the great collaboration between the Navy and Army for supporting military training at NAS Key West,” said NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. “One of our core missions is to support warfighters, and NAVFAC’s expertise in these construction projects is key in enabling us to accomplish that mission.” The work to be performed includes the construction of a new maintenance facility for the repair of SOF hard-hulled and soft-hulled watercraft, including electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fire protection utilities. The contract includes demolition of the existing bunker, KW-800, which is currently used as a climate-controlled exercise facility. It also includes construction of a new vehicular entrance ramp and exit ramp to the maintenance facility. The options, if exercised, provide for a hard hull shop, vehicular ramp and overhead cooling door, and furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The contract will also allow for modifications to the existing storm water permit to address the new construction.

Small businesses play a vital role in the American economy - employing half of our country's workforce, creating nearly two out of every three new American jobs, and often being the source of the next great American innovation. NAVFAC Southeast strives to meet its goals and build on its successes by providing contract opportunities to these businesses. “NAVFAC Southeast invests in small businesses to support our national defense,” said John Bazylewicz, NAVFAC Southeast assistant deputy director for Small Business. “Small businesses fuel the American dream, which grows the local and federal economies that ultimately strengthen the warfighter.” Bazylewicz explained that small businesses provide construction, professional and supported services expertise that support the Navy’s mission and the men and women in uniform. It is through strong policy and sound business processes that NAVFAC is able to develop capabilities based strategies that consider program risks, cost, schedule and technical requirements that help meet the expectations of supported commanders while supporting public policy objectives. Each year NAVFAC establishes target goals for Small Business, Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Historically Underutilized Business Zone Small Business (HUBZONE), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), and Women-Owned Small Business categories. Utilizing these small business concerns to the maximum extent practicable is a matter of National interest with both social and economic benefits. Work will be performed in Key West, Florida, and is expected to be completed by October 2022.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Virginian-Pilot, The (Norfolk, VA)  
November 12, 2020

**Military working dog retires from NAS Key West**

Author/Byline: Danette Baso Silvers

Military Working Dog Jessy was honored for her service at a retirement ceremony at Naval Air Station Key West's Boca Chica Field November 5, 2020.

NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney** presented Jessy with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and a Certificate of Meritorious Service at the ceremony. Jessy, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois, was trained for patrol and explosives detection at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, before being stationed at NAS Key West in 2014. While at NAS Key West, she has worked with 10 canine handlers. Her services include two overseas deployments, 38 presidential missions and Fleet Week New York City. Most recently, she and her handler were in New York City on standby to provide services for U.S. Naval Hospital Ship Comfort in New York City at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Jessy was recently adopted by canine handler Master-at-Arms 1st Class Joshua Schellenger and his family.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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US Fed News (USA)  
June 15, 2020

**KEY WEST SAR TEAM PERFORMED TWO RESCUES, ASSISTING THREE CIVILIANS**

Navy Region Hawaii issued the following news release:

Sailors assigned to Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West provided quick-action search and rescue (SAR) during two separate events on June 1. The MH-60S helicopter SAR crews responded to a small plane crash 30 miles north of Key West rescuing two people, and a few hours later rescued one other person from a 26-foot vessel sinking near Big Pine Key. Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Schilling, NAS Key West Search and Rescue officer-in-charge emphasized the team aspect that contributes to successful SAR events. "It was great teamwork by all, and it takes every single person assigned to this unit to make these aircraft available and mission ready. Whether you were in the aircraft, turning the wrenches, cutting the MAFs, ordering the hazmat, or keeping the records it all matters and nothing could be done without the entire team," said Schilling. Schilling emphasized the training involved to respond to the various types of rescue responses SAR teams called away to support. "Anytime we can provide assistance with our SAR capabilities, they become true force multipliers for the Coast Guard in the Florida Keys, given their vast area of responsibility," said NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. "I'm proud of our SAR team, who executed both missions safely and professionally."

Hospitalman Kumar Mahabir, of Plantation, Fla., participated in the plane rescue and emphasized being ready at a moment's notice to respond and assist when called upon. "It was a great experience to see how our consistent training and teamwork can translate to an effective rescue. I'm fortunate to be a part of the Key West Search and Rescue team and always be ready to help out the local community whenever needed," said Mahabir. Responding to the second rescue on June 1, was Naval Aircrewman 1st Class Michael Magee, from Orlando, Fla. Magee is trained as an aircrew rescue swimmer and discussed the required training needed for these types of events. "These types of rescues remind me why we do so much training and repetition, and that it truly pays off," said Magee. "The rescue felt like just another day in the pool. We are always eager to help the Coast Guard and the locals. Glad I was there to aid someone in a time of need."

Capt. Shawn Bailey, Commodore, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic praised the Sailors for their agility and professionalism. The Wing, located at Naval Station Norfolk, provides support and maintenance personnel to NAS Key West to assist the SAR teams. "The Sailors provided two solid rescues in one day," said Bailey, who added they are true professionals at their tradecraft. Schilling added that two different SAR crews performing the rescues demonstrated their agile ability to respond quickly to those in distress. "With the first rescue, our SAR team rescued two people from a civilian aircraft," said Schilling, who added that U.S. Navy air traffic controllers, who were actively monitoring the situation, were critical in quickly tasking the SAR team to respond to the incident.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Facebook  
June 1, 2020

**NAS Key West's Post**

**2ND SAR RESCUE TODAY!** At approximately 5:15 p.m., Naval Air Station Key West's Search and Rescue (SAR) crew airlifted one female from a sinking vessel in the Pine Channel off Big Pine Key.

While conducting training, NAS Key West SAR responded to a 26' Robalo vessel in distress signal at Pine Channel. Upon arrival, they discovered two people aboard and after communicating with the vessel via radio, the rescue swimmer dropped into the water to medically evaluate the passengers. The female was determined to need medical attention and was hoisted into the Navy MH-60S Knight Hawk helicopter and transported to Lower Keys Medical Center in stable condition.

"Bravo Zulu to both our search and rescue crews, especially for responding to multiple emergencies today," said NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. "It's what we train for and we are pleased to have executed both rescue missions safely and professionally. We are truly honored to help our community any time we can."

The SAR crew consisted of Aircraft Commander Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Schilling, Copilot Lt. Sean Smith, Crew Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Brasfield, Rescue Swimmer Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Magee and SAR Medical Technician Hospital Corpsman Grace Lamoy.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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<https://www.wlrn.org/news/2020-05-26/how-a-city-within-a-city-key-wests-navy-base-has-responded-to-the-coronavirus>

WLRN Public Media  
May 26, 2020

**How A City Within A City — Key West's Navy Base — Has Responded To The Coronavirus**

By Nancy Klingener

Capt. **Mark Sohaney** is the commanding officer at Naval Air Station Key West. Naval Air Station Key West is like a small city within the Keys — so it's had its own response to COVID-19. There are about 5,500 employees and dependents, with an airfield, a port and annexes all over the island.

With 30,000 square miles of unencumbered air space and warm weather year round, it's an important training base for Navy pilots. And it brings almost \$1 billion a year to the local economy. Capt. **Mark Sohaney**, the base's commanding officer, recently spoke with WLRN's Nancy Klingener about how NAS Key West has responded to the coronavirus. This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

WLRN

*When the coronavirus started spreading, what was the response for the Naval air station and was it different from the city, county or state response?*

We were very aggressive. Of course I've got complete authority as a base commander to establish protocols and orders within my purview so I was able to lock down the base much faster. I've got about 1,000 hotel rooms and 500 RV spots and a lot of vacation rentals so we had to tell those leisure travelers that we need to shut down. It was getting the nonessential personnel off the base so we could focus on the active duty people and make sure that there was enough food and paper products in the commissary. And then simultaneously, the challenge was I have a Navy health clinic here and it's vital that we lock that down early. We only have a few doctors and they're kind of ground zero in something like COVID.

*And that health clinic doesn't have overnight beds or an ICU or anything?*

No overnight and no ICU so we're relying on Lower Keys Medical Center. If we were to see a surge in COVID cases and Lower Keys Medical Center was overwhelmed,, we have plans already on the shelf to evacuate active duty and their dependents via military air to other hospital facilities within the region.

*Even though the numbers in the Keys have been pretty low and you haven't had to lay people off like a lot of people in the tourism industry, it's still a scary time for pretty much everyone. Have you been concerned about morale or people's emotional states and have you been doing anything differently because of that?*

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Yeah. When you start taking people away from social interaction and then you add on the fact that their kids are not in school and the parents are basically having to facilitate schooling — high stress environment. We recognize that. Different people handle it different ways, but we're definitely starting to see some people stressed out, a little stir crazy, cabin fever, things of that nature and we're concerned. We've provided a lot of different outlets for service members to phone in and seek counsel before they do anything that they would regret. And I think right now we're getting over that slightly because I think the fact that they relaxed measures last week and they're going to reopen the Keys June 1, I think people are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel.

*If the role of the military is to keep us safe and presumably that's why a lot of people sign up, is it frustrating to be in a pandemic situation where that's beyond your control just like it is everybody's?*

No. For me, I've done a lot of humanitarian assistance, disaster relief operations in my career and I've been in the Navy for 33 years. So I've seen major earthquakes, I've seen impacts from 2013's Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, I've seen the 2011 tsunami in Japan. I think we in the military, we do a lot of those missions so we understand some of the fear associated with them and dealing with the public on recovery operations and those type of things and how challenging it can be. We train to this mission set, even though it's not our primary mission and we're very comfortable when we get called upon to execute that, we know how to do it.

*Naval Air Station Key West, along with everyone else, is getting ready for the start of hurricane season. How has COVID changed those preparations for you?*

It's changed it significantly. You know, if we have positive cases at the time of a hurricane, we've gone through scenarios of how would we evacuate those positive cases to keep them quarantined and isolated and move them to another facility so those COVID-like drills are what we added this year to our hurricane planning.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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US Fed News (USA)  
May 4, 2020

**NAS KEY WEST PROJECT FOR NEW NGIS GETS UNDERWAY DURING COVID-19**

Navy Region Hawaii issued the following news release:

Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West Public Works Department conducted an informal groundbreaking ceremony April 24 symbolizing the beginning of construction for a new Navy Gateway Inn & Suites (NGIS) facility. Due to COVID-19, a traditional groundbreaking ceremony could not be held.

"We really wanted to be able to let the contractor get started on this project," said NAS Key West Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Mike Duffy. "We were hoping to hold a formal ceremony, but that cannot happen with the current travel restrictions and the need to keep social distancing among the team. It is about keeping our staff safe and continuing our mission."

The new NGIS facility will have at least 244 rooms to accommodate transient personnel associated with year-round training operations and will serve as a satellite facility for the adjacent NGIS "Fly Navy" lodging facility at NAS Key West's Trumbo Point. "This project will replace three existing lodging facilities on Boca Chica Field that suffered extensive damage from 2017's Hurricane Irma," said Duffy.

"We are very excited about what we like to call 'Fly Navy 2,'" said NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. "Having new space away from our flight paths and high noise areas to house our transient personnel will greatly help the mission as we train year-round here in Key West."

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded the \$55.9 million contract Sept. 27, 2019, to Korte Construction Company out of St. Louis, Missouri, for design and construction of the new NGIS facility. The contract also has options, if exercised, which would add 134 rooms and provide for furniture, fixtures and equipment and bring the contract award total to \$76.3 million. The work is expected to be completed by January 2022.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
April 9, 2020

**NAS KW standing ready for challenges**

Author/Byline: DANIEL KELLY

With 5,500 people, active duty and families, Naval Air Station Key West has reported no known cases of the coronavirus, according to commanding officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. The general feeling on the Florida Keys base regarding the pandemic, however, mirrors that shared throughout the globe. “It’s the same as the rest of the world; concern about the virus, protecting our personnel.” Capt. **Sohaney** said. “We also have to help people understand that the Navy is not shut down, we have to continue our mission.” And it’s that very mission has them standing and ready for anything the Department of Defense or any federal agency may send their way. While training is continuing as usual throughout the U.S. Navy, locally there’s a slight adjustment as no new squadrons or units are coming in at this time, according to Capt. **Sohaney**. There’s another adjustment: the financial impact the pandemic is having on the southernmost base. “Our recreational facilities are closed, which is a financial impact to our Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs,” he said. These programs are quality-of-life programs on base that help to create happy, healthy families, which directly contributes to a service member’s mission readiness, according to Navy officials. All monies generated in these programs go back into the programs, creating future family and recreational events and allows discounted tickets to be extended toward service members and their families. And there are other, pressing concerns. If an outbreak occurred or medical treatment was needed, Capt. **Sohaney** said the base has the same protocols in place as the community regarding potential medical treatment. “If hospitalization were required, they would use Lower Keys Medical Center,” he said.

While there’s no hospital on base, there is the Naval Branch Health Clinic, which is a part of the U.S. Naval Hospital Jacksonville system. The clinic is for active duty personnel and their families. All other base personnel use local health care providers. There is a VA outpatient clinic next to the Health Clinic, but it has limited resources. “Unless directed through FEMA channels, which would originate from Monroe County, the air station can’t provide supplies, materials or manning to the community,” Capt. **Sohaney** said. “We can support immediate life-saving measures, but we can’t set up tents or quarantine centers without direction from FEMA.” Although a challenging time for many, Capt. **Sohaney** said he was impressed with how the entire community remains connected to one another. “We’re communicating pretty well considering the amount of information out there today. Thank goodness for social media, teleconferencing, all the tools we have today to talk to each other.” As a community, we all have important roles -- whether that’s staying home to help prevent spreading the virus or on the front-lines of our nation’s defense. “We are a part of this community, too.” Capt. **Sohaney** said. “We look out for each other and that’s the only way we’ll all get through this.” Sherri Grabus, Public Affairs Officer for JIATF South, Tenant Command in Key West, echoed Capt. **Sohaney**’s words. “We understand and place high importance on keeping those [here] safe, as well as our neighbors in Key West and in the Florida Keys. What impacts the Lower Keys, impacts us.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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FLKeysNews (Marathon, FL)  
March 27, 2020

**A military base in Key West has its first confirmed case of COVID-19 at a local command**  
Author/Byline: Gwen Filosa

Naval Air Station Key West has its first case of COVID-19 at a local military command located in Key West, the Navy’s Florida Keys commanding officer said Friday. The patient is not with the Navy but works at the Joint Interagency Task Force South, which monitors operations aimed at stopping illicit trafficking, and has a facility located at the Navy’s Truman Annex base in the city’s downtown, a task force spokesman said. Details, including the patient’s age and sex, were not immediately available.

The case was confirmed Thursday and the patient has been isolated at home since first reporting symptoms and getting tested over a week ago, said Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. “This is truly an isolated case as our Navy health professionals traced all contacts in the area and found none that met the criteria for further testing,” **Sohaney** said, in a video statement posted on the air station’s Facebook page. “Of course, our first case of someone who works on base makes us all wonder, and this is natural, if we may have come in contact with this person,” he said.

**Sohaney** urged people to adhere to social distancing and trust the system of notification. “As we continue to navigate what will most likely be more positive cases I want to reiterate the system is working as long as we work together and practice social distancing,” **Sohaney** said.

As of Friday night, Monroe County had 19 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus — three more than the total reported earlier Friday.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
November 25, 2019

**NFL great Walker talks about mental health issues**

Author/Byline: TIMOTHY O’HARA

When most sports fans think of Herschel Walker, the picture of a big, strong Heisman Trophy running back running over defensive linemen and scoring touchdowns. Nobody pictures the “fat, little, stuttering kid,” as he referred to himself, who was beat up by a school bully in eighth grade. But Walker took that experience to push him to become star athlete and student, he told a group of U.S. Navy recruits and officers last week when he visited the Naval Air Station Key West. “I heard a voice in my head saying you will never beat up again,” Walker said. “That day I started working out. I did 5,000 pushups a day. I went to the library and read books in front the mirror. Every day, my speech got a little better.” Walker grew into a college stand-out athlete who became a star professional football running back.

While most people would look at him a success story of a child who overcame his disabilities and became a rich successful professional athlete. But he called athletics as a coping mechanism for inner anger and he was eventually diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder, commonly referred to as multiple personality disorder. After retiring from professional sports, the coping mechanism of athletics was gone and Walker found himself in a dark place. He eventually went to a residential mental health facility in California for treatment.

Walker, who wanted to join the Marine Corps more than becoming a college athlete, came to the Navy base to build awareness about mental health issues. “We all go through things in our lives that we don’t understand,” Walker told the sailors. “There is nothing wrong with getting help.”

Naval Air Station Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney** called Walker’s visit “an honor.” “Hearing about his personal success and mental challenges reminds us that these issues can affect anyone and no one should ever hesitate to ask for help,” **Sohaney** said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
November 16, 2019

**It's going to be noisy as US Navy tests carrier landings**

Author/Byline: TIMOTHY O'HARA

Lower Keys residents should be prepared for it to be noisy in the next week, as the U.S. Navy will conduct field carrier landing practice. The training will be Saturday morning and evening, and then in the daytime and the evening on Monday and Tuesday above the area around the Naval Air Station Key West's Boca Chica Field. The training will involve F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft from the Virginia-based fleet replacement squadron Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106. The training schedule calls for flights from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

“Our location is ideal in providing aviators with the best training possible, especially now when other parts of the country are experiencing inclement weather,” Naval Air Station Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney** said. “Field carrier landing practice is high intensity for the aviators and Sailors working the field and our local communities will notice the increase in noise and flight activity over the next few days, except for Sunday.”

This training is required for all Navy and Marine Corps aviators prior to actual landing practice on at-sea aircraft carriers. Boca Chica Field has two runways that are painted and lighted to simulate the deck of an aircraft carrier — a third runway is painted but not lighted.

NAS Key West maintains a noise concern hot line at 305-293-2166.

The Public Affairs Office can be reached at 305-293-2027.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
October 2, 2019

**NEW DIGS COMING**

Author/Byline: TIMOTHY O’HARA

The U.S. Navy is moving forward with a second Fly Navy hotel to replace barracks at Boca Chica Field damaged two years ago in Hurricane Irma. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast this week awarded a \$55.9 million contract to Korte Construction Co. of St. Louis, Missouri, for design and construction of a new Navy Gateway Inns and Suites at Naval Air Station Key West, according to command officials in Jacksonville. “We are very excited about what we’ve been calling ‘Fly Navy 2,’” NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney** said. “Having new space away from our flight paths and high-noise areas to house our transient personnel will greatly help the mission as we train year-round here in Key West.”

This project provides for the design and construction of a new hotel with at least 244 rooms. The new facility will be located at Trumbo Point, behind the current Fly Navy hotel, and will require the demolition of four buildings located on Boca Chica Field, near the main NAS Key West airfield. The contract also has options that could add 134 more rooms and provide for furniture, fixtures and equipment. The work is expected to be completed by January 2022. The new Fly Navy facility is the second Irma-related, high-dollar construction project in the Lower Keys the Navy has proceeded with in the past month.

In September, NAVFAC awarded a \$7.8 million contract to Desbuild Incorporated, a small business out of Hyattsville, Maryland, for construction of a new fire station in Sigsbee Park Annex at Naval Air Station Key West, according to Navy command officials in Jacksonville. The new 7,438-squarefoot, one-story fire and rescue station will replace the existing Trumbo Point Annex fire building, located inside a 1940s World War II seaplane hangar, which was severely damaged by the Category 4 storm. “Not only will it provide our fire and emergency services team with a proper station for them to live and work in, it will be located in a place where the largest portion of our military and civilian families live, which makes the most sense,” Capt. **Sohaney** said.

The fire station will support operations at Trumbo Point Annex, Fleming Key and Sigsbee Park, all of which include a Navy Research Lab, Special Forces underwater operations, military housing and community support facilities. South Florida Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, who represents the Florida Keys, said she appreciated the Navy’s interest in maintaining the infrastructure at the Key West base. “We should be doing everything possible to improve our Navy’s readiness,” she said. “Our base in Key West is too important to our national security for it to fall into disrepair.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
September 28, 2019

**Fire station, hotel part of Navy’s Irma recovery work**

Author/Byline: TIMOTHY O’HARA

The U.S. Navy has embarked on several projects in Key West, including a new fire station and Fly Navy hotel, as part of a post-Hurricane Irma capital project strategy. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast awarded a \$7.8 million contract this month to Desbuild Incorporated, a small business out of Hyattsville, Maryland, for construction of a new fire station located in Sigsbee Park Annex at Naval Air Station Key West, according to Navy command officials in Jacksonville. The new facility will replace the existing Trumbo Point Annex fire station, located inside a 1940s World War II seaplane hangar, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Irma in 2017.

“I’m very happy that the contract for a new fire station has been awarded,” NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney** said. “Not only will it provide our fire and emergency services team with a proper station for them to live and work in, it will be located in a place where the largest portion of our military and civilian families live, which makes the most sense.”

The fire station will support operations at Trumbo Point Annex, Fleming Key and Sigsbee Park, all of which include a Navy Research Lab, Special Forces underwater operations, military housing and community support facilities. The fire station will provide fire protection for building structures, brush fires and support fire protection education and training, according to the Navy. Construction plans call for a 7,438 square-foot, one-story fire and rescue station. The facility will include administrative areas, single-occupancy rooms for firefighters, restrooms, showers, kitchen, break room, laundry and apparatus bays, Naval representatives said.

Three Naval Air Station Key West fire stations are in service providing support to the local community under a mutual aid agreement for fire department services, along with the surrounding military facilities. Navy representatives said the company was chosen because small businesses play a vital role in the American economy — employing half of our country’s workforce, creating nearly two out of every three new American jobs, and often being the source of the next great American innovation. “NAVFAC (Naval Facilities Engineering Command) Southeast strives to meet its goals and build on its successes by providing contract opportunities to these businesses,” the Navy stated in its press release.

Naval Air Station Key West also has plans to place a second Fly Navy hotel behind the current facility, which will replace barracks at Boca Chica Field that were damaged in Hurricane Irma, and replace a hanger at Boca Chica Field that was also damaged in the storm, base spokeswoman Trice Denny said. The costs of those projects still have to be determined, Denny said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
August 3, 2019

**Search continues for pilot of drone**

Author/Byline: ALEX WILSON

Law enforcement continues their search for the pilot of a drone that was spotted Wednesday flying at an altitude of approximately 800 feet in restricted airspace near Naval Air Station Key West.

A Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter pilot first spotted the drone as he was coming in to land, and the proximity of the drone required the pilot to fly around it, according to U.S. Navy officials. The incident required the pilot to land on a different runway than originally planned. No injuries or damage to aircraft were reported following the incident. “Flying drones near a military installation, and especially near military aircraft is a very dangerous thing,” said NAS Key West Commanding Officer Capt. **Mark Sohaney**. “It puts our aviators at risk, as well as gives us cause for concern regarding security. We’ll support the Sheriff’s Office with whatever they need to ensure this doesn’t happen again.”

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office had not located the drone operator as of Friday. The operator may have violated a number of regulations surrounding the use of unmanned aircraft systems (or drones), according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Federal aviation regulations require that pilots refrain from flying more than 400 feet above the ground, avoid flying near other aircraft and avoid flying within 5 miles of an airport. Additionally, it is illegal to fly a drone over controlled military airspace, such as the airspace near and around Boca Chica Field. Violation of FAA regulations regarding drones could result in the implementation of heavy fines.

The Sheriff’s Office considers the case open and under investigation. Anyone with information about the incident should contact the Sheriff’s Office at 305-292-7060. For information about drone regulations and FAA guidelines, visit [https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/).



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
July 31, 2019

**Right at Home - 5,000 miles later, Capt. Sohaney arrives**

Author/Byline: ALEX WILSON

Capt. **Mark “Soho” Sohaney** moved nearly 5,000 miles for his new position, but he already feels at home. Naval Air Station Key West’s newest commanding officer was previously stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he served as executive assistant to the Director of Maritime Operations at U.S. Pacific Fleet, but the 50-year-old captain said that the biggest change for him is that he can’t quite surf like he did in Hawaii. “There are a lot of similarities, it’s a small town; we love the small-town atmosphere,” said **Sohaney**. “I think the biggest difference for me, recreationally, is that I’m a big surfer.”

Despite the lack of waves, **Sohaney** said that he and his family have been residents of Florida for some time, and his two children already attend school in Florida. His daughter, Madison, 21, is a senior studying marketing at Lynn University, while his son, Ethan, 18, will be starting as a freshman at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, eventually hoping to become a commercial airline pilot. With the arrival of his wife, Zina, on Tuesday, **Sohaney** said his family is thankful he received his position in Key West. “For us, we’re coming home,” said **Sohaney**. “It’s just a dream for us to get back to Florida and live in this paradise.”

Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, **Sohaney** initially enlisted in the U.S. Navy right after high school as a means to an end. “I knew I needed to go to college, but I wasn’t ready for college and I didn’t have the money,” said **Sohaney**. “My plan was just to join the Navy for four years, go to night school and then get out and go to college, but that didn’t happen.”

During his first few years in the Navy, **Sohaney** worked as a sonar technician on Navy vessels. Toward the end of his first four years, his commanding officer convinced him to work to become commissioned as an officer. Initially, **Sohaney** planned to move on to work as an officer on another ship, but once again his plans changed. While playing golf, **Sohaney** met several aviators, and they were able to convince him to pursue a career as a naval aviation officer. Once commissioned, **Sohaney** became an officer aboard a P-3 Orion airplane, whose primary missions include anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance. **Sohaney**’s initial experience as a sonar technician served him well, and soon he was excelling in what he calls the “P-3” community. “I kind of thrived in it, because of my training and background,” said **Sohaney**.

In addition to the autonomy and trust that **Sohaney** found as a naval aviation officer, it also gave him a chance to explore the world like he never had before. In his 32 years of experience, he managed to visit Thailand, Japan, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Australia, South Korea and Singapore; however, **Sohaney** said two of his most memorable experiences were found elsewhere. “I had the opportunity to be our liaison officer for General [David] Petraeus and his staff in Baghdad,” said **Sohaney**. “As a P-3 guy who’s used to anti-submarine warfare over water, the fact that you’re flying out of the desert in a hostile environment is a whole new challenge.” While a war

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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zone may present one type of “hostile environment,” he would later be faced with the challenge of a hostile environment created by nature itself. In 2013, **Sohaney** witnessed firsthand the destruction brought by Typhoon Haiyan as it struck the Philippines and ultimately killed more than 6,300 people, making it the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record. However, while the destruction was unprecedented, **Sohaney** said he and his men had a chance to help as first responders to the area. “We helped out a lot of people and saved a lot of lives, at the end of the day,” said **Sohaney**.

His newest challenge is working as the commanding officer at NAS Key West, and he said it’s the exact opposite of being in command of a squadron. “So when you’re a CO of an aviation squadron, fundamentally you know everything there is to know about that squadron. The only thing you really have left is learning how to lead, learning how to be a CO,” said **Sohaney**. “Here, it’s the reverse. You know how to lead and be a CO, but you don’t know public works. How do you run the bowling alley; how do you run the hotel?”

Luckily, **Sohaney** said, his staff is remarkable and the community has been more than welcoming, making the transition that much easier. “We share the same issues at the end of the day: housing, employment, the environment. We’re all on the same mission really,” said **Sohaney**. “I’m proud to be here, and fortunate to be in this position.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Keys Weekly  
June 21, 2019

**Meet Capt. Mark Sohaney, Boca Chica’s new commander**

By Sarah Thomas

Capt. **Mark Sohaney** may seem like he lives a charmed life: having just left a post in Hawaii, as executive assistant to the director of maritime operations of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, he’s now been selected as commander of the Naval Air Station in Boca Chica. Like a true island-hopper, **Sohaney** likes to travel light, favoring flip-flops over formal Navy dress, and his whole family loves the sunshine (he also graduated magna cum laude from sunny San Diego University). **Sohaney** and his wife, Zina, have been married for 27 years and have two children: Madison, 21, a senior at Lynn University in Boca Raton and Ethan, 18, who will be a freshman at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona.

“We have a very big, very close family,” **Sohaney** said, “and in the big picture, my whole family considers Florida home.” His parents live in Port Orange, and he calls himself “blessed and fortunate” that his kids chose colleges in the state. His military family remains close by, too — retiring Commander Captain Bobby Baker’s son already attends flight school at Embry-Riddle. “They are going to kind of hook up, and he’ll show Ethan the ropes,” he said. So, not only do Baker and **Sohaney** have over 3,000 logged flight hours in common, their sons also follow in their footsteps ... in the sky.

**Sohaney** is also already accustomed to some of the charms and challenges of the tight-knit Key West community. “Literally on day one, I was introduced to most of the community leadership, and it was clear that bond was so crucial not only for the city and county, but the base as well,” he said. What’s the number one concern, managing a work force here? “I think what’s difficult is hiring people: the cost of living, the cost of housing, and it affects all of us in the whole base.” Despite the difficulty of turnover in such a small, expensive outpost, **Sohaney** sees the benefit of our idyllic little town. “It’s the close proximity and the size that makes it so unique. It’s great for me, as a family person, to be in an environment where I can effect change.” Zina, too, is accustomed to effecting change, having worked in real estate and education in Hawaii. She took on classroom challenges at one of the poorest schools in the area, and is excited to engage with the Lower Keys community on new endeavors.

But before we start asking the **Sohaney**s to join our clubs and causes, hopefully they can settle in and enjoy their new island home. **Sohaney** still marvels at his luck at being stationed in the Southernmost City. “In the Navy, when you screen for a major command, you get 16 bases, and we put Key West as number one.” He and Zina didn’t anticipate getting their first selection, but “Lo and behold, they selected me,” he laughed, “and it was hard for me to come off Cloud Nine.” Well, the good news is, when you’re a jet pilot, you can visit Cloud Nine whenever you like.

Full Name? Nickname? **Mark David Sohaney; ‘Soho.’**

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Did you always know you wanted to fly jets in the military? **Yes.**

Do you have a life credo or motto? **Family First.**

What's the difference between Key West and your last place of assignment, Hawaii? **Key West has great fishing, and Hawaii has great surf.**

What's on your bucket list? **A trip to Italy.**

What is your idea of perfect happiness? **Good health and great friendships.**

What is it that you most dislike? **Shoes other than flip-flops.**

Which TV, movie or super hero character is your alter ego? **Indiana Jones.**

What is the best part of working for the Navy? **The people.**

What are three things you could not live without? **The ocean, coffee and my cell phone.**

If invisible in Key West what would you do? **Spend a night in the Truman Little White House.**

On what occasion do you lie? **None.**

Favorite guilty pleasure? **Good whiskey.**

What talent would you secretly love to have? **Gourmet chef.**

What advice would you go back and give yourself when you first joined the Navy? **Call your parents more often.**

Lunch with one famous person, who would you choose? **Jonathan Goldsmith.**

Finish these sentences..

My friends and family would describe me as ... **talkative.**

My autobiography would be titled ... **Uncharted Waters.**

I can never refuse ... **a good piece of chocolate cake.**

When I go, I will go ... **Satisfied.**

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Key West Citizen, The (FL)  
June 7, 2019

**CHANGES GALORE - NASKW bids farewell to Baker, welcomes Sohaney**

Author/Byline: ALEX WILSON

More than 300 people gathered at Naval Air Station Key West on Thursday to witness the dual ceremony for NAS Key West's change of command and Capt. Bobby "Beetle" Baker's retirement from his 26-year-long military career. Two VFC-111 "Sun Downers" fighter jets and a NAS Key West search-and-rescue helicopter flanked the stage, while a massive American flag hung from the rafters of the hangar as both the base and the community bid farewell to Baker and welcomed the new commanding officer, Capt. **Mark "Soho" Sohaney**, with the ceremony punctuated by the roar of a fly-by from several fighter jets.

Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, commander of Navy Region Southwest, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony. Bolivar previously served as the commander of Navy Region Southeast, and as such she was Baker's direct superior for the majority of his tenure in Key West. "For the last three years, there has been no doubt that Capt. Baker has been the guy in charge," said Bolivar. "His accomplishments have truly reflected our mission to enable our war fighter regiments. Everything he has done has lived up to and supported that mission." Bolivar also added that Baker's scrupulous oversight led to NAS Key West beating every airfield in the country. "NAS Key West was named the best airfield in the United States Navy after a 2017 [inspection,]" said Bolivar. "He's met numerous challenges and exceeded all expectations."

After Bolivar's speech, Baker addressed the crowd and acknowledged the sacrifice of soldiers during the Normandy landings, as the change of command ceremony happened to fall on the 75th anniversary of D-Day. "D-Day was the largest seaborne invasion in military history," said Baker. "It seems fitting to me in many ways, and I am honored that today I'll turn over command over NAS Key West to Capt. **Sohaney**." He went on to thank friends, family and colleagues for their support over the years. "Many of my family members are here today to share this timeless tradition with me, or perhaps you just needed an excuse to visit Key West," said Baker. "Kidding aside, many of you helped me to achieve success with your personal and professional support, and I thank you all in helping me fulfill my dreams." At the conclusion of his farewell speech, Baker welcomed **Sohaney** to his new command. "I'd like to welcome the **Sohaney**s to Key West," said Baker. "Naval Air Station Key West is lucky to have you. Everyone is looking forward to serving with you, and I know under you this air station will continue to thrive."

**Sohaney**, whose previous assignment as executive assistant to the Director of Maritime Operations at U.S. Pacific Fleet brings him from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, addressed the crowd with an "Aloha" after he and Baker read their respective orders. He then thanked Baker and promised to follow in his footsteps as a quality leader. "It is great to be in Key West, and it's an honor to become the commanding officer of the world's finest naval air station," said **Sohaney**. "Capt. Baker has recounted many successes over the past three years. I look forward to continuing this upward trajectory." **Sohaney** added that he was grateful for the opportunity to work with Key

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
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West’s military community. “It is a privilege to work with, and especially to lead, such a great team. We are not only fortunate to have the finest state-of-the-art training venue in the world, we are privileged to have the best sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen here in Key West,” said **Sohaney**.

The ceremony concluded with Baker’s official retirement, which included a flag-passing ceremony that featured his son, Justin Baker, who currently is attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. Rear Adm. Gary Mayes, commander of Navy Region Southeast, presented numerous awards to Baker, including recognition from President Donald Trump, as well as former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Baker, while not entirely sure where he will move to, plans to go to work with Delta Airlines as a commercial pilot. Prior to the ceremony, Baker said one of his last acts as commanding officer was to take one last flight in a fighter jet. “I flew in an F-5, my son was in the back of an F-18, and we went out and did some dog fighting,” said Baker. “I’m going to miss it, but I’m definitely looking forward to my next career.”

After the ceremony, **Sohaney** said he that moving to Key West was a dream come true. “We are very, very excited to be here. We’ve always dreamed of coming to Key West,” said **Sohaney**. “My wife and I talked about it 25 years ago, and we kind of laughed about it. Who would’ve thought? Here we are living this dream. It’s kind of a special place for us, from that perspective.”

**Sohaney** has served an extensive 32 years with the Navy, starting with his enlistment in 1987 as a sonar technician. Since then, he’s been deployed in numerous capacities, including tours overseas during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His commendations include the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service medals and five Navy and Marine Corps commendation medals.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
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Florida Times-Union, The: Web Edition Articles (Jacksonville, FL)  
May 14, 2014

**Expediting IMC on 765**

By Lt.j.g. Joseph Bayo, VP-26 Public Affairs Officer

VP-26 Maintenance Duty Section 3 recently completed the annually required intermediate maintenance concept (IMC) inspection on P-3C Orion 765 at NAS Jacksonville's Hangar 1000, home of the "Tridents." Aircraft maintenance encompasses a very broad range of activities, ranging from a few minutes of aircraft servicing (checking oil levels or taking fuel samples, for example) to months of overhaul in an industrial facility.

In naval aviation, aircraft maintenance is divided into three distinct levels: organizational maintenance; intermediate maintenance; and depot maintenance. Task complexity, space requirements, level of skill of assigned personnel, and scope of support responsibility are the basis for determining which tasks are completed at each maintenance level.

The mission of intermediate level maintenance is to sustain the combat readiness of a squadron by providing quality and timely material support at the nearest location with the lowest practical resource expenditure. It includes shop-type repair and test work on aircraft, components and equipment from supported units. In the case of aircraft 765, which was deployed to the U. S. 4th Fleet area of responsibility with the VP-8 "Fighting Tigers," the nearest suitable location for intermediate maintenance was NAS Jacksonville.

The lowest practical resource expenditure required assistance from the P-3 maintenance professionals stationed here. As Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) -11 hosting squadron VP-26 provided critical assistance to execute the IMC. While the average IMC on a P-3C Orion takes approximately 16 days in accordance with the sequence control chart, Duty Section 3 and a supporting element of VP-8 maintainers, led by AE1 Slempe, completed the work in just 12 days by working three continuous 8-hour shifts around the clock and through a three-day weekend. Although the IMC team discovered an unexpected fuel cell leak, they were able to repair the leak and return the aircraft to VP-8 ahead of schedule.

Cmdr. **Mark Sohaney**, commanding officer of VP-26, had words of praise for Duty Section 3. "They demonstrated the dedication and professionalism that have kept the P-3 flying in support of our country for more than 50 years. The teamwork demonstrated across CPRW-11 ensured a critical asset was returned to deployment in minimal time. I couldn't be more proud of Duty Section 3 and all of Trident Maintenance."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Florida Times-Union, The: Web Edition Articles (Jacksonville, FL)  
March 19, 2014

**VP-26 recognized by CNAL**

By Lt. j.g. Joseph Bayo

VP-26 PAO

Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic (CNAL) recently recognized the “Tridents” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 as winner of both the 2013 Maritime Patrol Battle Efficiency Award, or Battle “E” – and the 2013 Arnold Jay Isbell Trophy.

Capturing both awards in a single year is a rare occurrence in the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, but as the last NAS Jacksonville-based P-3C Orion squadron scheduled to transition to the P-8A Poseidon, VP-26 was given several unique operational opportunities in 2013, and they delivered with characteristic “Trident Pride.” The Battle “E” is presented annually to the CNAL unit in each aviation community that best demonstrates warfighting efficiency and operational proficiency. The Arnold J. Isbell Trophy is awarded for anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare excellence.

The Tridents began 2013 in the second half of their 12-month Inter-Deployment Readiness Cycle (IDRC). With the support of Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 11, they were preparing for an historic deployment to the 7th Fleet area of responsibility, where Commanding Officer Cmdr. **Mark Sohaney** would take charge of two task groups – including aircrewmembers and maintainers from two P-3C reserve squadrons and Whidbey Island’s VP-1.

In 2013, VP-26 also took on a lion’s share of the P-3C maintenance workload at NAS Jacksonville because three local squadrons were transitioning to the P-8A. VP-26 maintenance completed 14 modification line inductions, 15 aircraft acceptances, 13 aircraft transfers and 15 intermediate maintenance concept (IMC) inspections.

In early 2013, when CPRW-11 was tasked to respond to a foreign out-of-area deployer, they assigned VP-26 as the task group commander. Supported by NAS Jacksonville’s VP-30, VP-10, VP-16 and VP-62, the Tridents led a successful 24-hour operation for 19 continuous days.

“It is an honor to be a part of this outstanding organization,” said **Sohaney**. “These awards highlight for the rest of naval aviation the hard work and professionalism that I am privileged to witness every day. It is humbling to lead such great men and women. To see their efforts recognized in this way is truly rewarding.”

Also during the IDRC, VP-26 collaborated with the CPRW-11 Weapons School to launch an AGM-84D Harpoon and AGM-65F Maverick from the same aircraft on a single sortie. This team effort was the first time a CPRW-11 aircraft launched dissimilar anti-surface warfare missiles on a single flight. These experiences and an Advanced Readiness Program syllabus run by CPRW-11 weapons and tactics instructors prepared VP-26 to perform superbly during its pre-



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deployment certifications — an Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) and an Aviation Warfare Training Improvement Program (AWTIP) assessment – during which VP-26 earned the highest scores in the Wing in 2013.

During its U.S. 7th Fleet deployment, VP-26 assumed command of both Task Group 72.2 and Task Group 72.4. The squadron was augmented by six reserve crews from VP-62 and VP-69, as well as six crews from VP-1, maintaining 18 combat-proficient crews in theater throughout the deployment. VP-26's successful integration of aircrews from four squadrons was unprecedented and established the model for future active-reserve integration. Overall, VP-26 led more than 533 active and reserve sailors, including 24 aircrews and 12 aircraft achieving a 99.6 percent mission completion rate.

The squadron also conducted 36 detachments to 14 countries and supported 28 multinational exercises and 20 U.S. maritime exercises. Among the highlights from this demanding schedule were VP-26's interactions with allies and partners, including the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) and Royal Australian Air Force. In July, VP-26 detached a P-3C to New Zealand, yielding strategic gains as the first U.S. P-3 to fly there since 1984. In November, a combined active-reserve detachment went to Chennai, India to support Exercise MALABAR-13. During that detachment a mixed crew of VP-62 and VP-26 aircrewmen conducted the first "hot ASW" turnover with a Russian-made TU-142. VP-26 also advanced the bilateral relationship with Japan and enhanced interoperability with the Japanese Maritime Defense Force (JMSDF), through numerous exchanges with JMSDF Patrol Squadrons 5 and 2 and hosting the three-star Commander, Fleet Air Force JMSDF at Kadena Air Base.

These planned engagements are an important reason U.S. P-3Cs deploy to the Western Pacific, but Jacksonville squadrons also operate forward in order to respond rapidly to crises. VP-26 was deployed and responded superbly in October 2013 when Super Typhoon Haiyan devastated portions of the Philippines. Within hours of the government of the Philippines' request for assistance, CTG 72.2 P-3Cs were on station to assess the damage. Aircrews and maintainers from VP-26 and VP-62 supported search and rescue missions and provided critical overhead imagery to help those on the ground identify areas in need and deliver humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Overall, VP-26 flew 4,268 flight hours with 412 hours of anti-submarine warfare contact time, and surpassed 51 years and 342,908 Class A mishap-free flight hours in 2013. The squadron's superlative performance across all maritime patrol and reconnaissance mission areas, unmatched maintenance effectiveness, and outstanding leadership during the first integrated active-reserve deployment were honored by CNAL with the 2013 Battle Efficiency Award and Arnold Jay Isbell Trophy.

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*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Florida Times-Union, The: Web Edition Articles (Jacksonville, FL)  
December 11, 2013

**VP-26 ‘Tridents’ return to NAS Jacksonville**

By Lt. Dan Baker

**VP-26 PAO**

The men and women of VP-26 are returning to their home base of NAS Jacksonville after a dynamic, seven-month deployment. Operating primarily from Kadena Air Base on the island of Okinawa, Japan they supported Commander, Task Force 72 executing operations across the Pacific. The deployment was the first integrated active-reserve P-3C deployment to the 7th Fleet area of responsibility. Augmented with reserve aircrews and aircraft from NAS Jacksonville’s VP-62 and NAS Whidbey Island’s VP-69, the squadron formed two forward-deployed task groups, Commander, Task Group (CTG) 72.2 and 72.4. Through teamwork and dedication, the aircrews, maintenance professionals and support personnel of CTGs 72.2 and 72.4 stood watch over the 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) and are now returning home to the cheers of their loved ones.

VP-26 flies the P-3C Orion, The U.S. Navy’s legacy maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. While the P-3 is being replaced by the Boeing P-8 Poseidon it is still an effective weapons system, in high demand across the fleet. Traveling from Jacksonville, Fla. in May 2013, Team Trident undertook the significant logistical feat of picking up and moving more than 350 personnel, aircraft, tools and equipment to the island of Okinawa, located approximately 600 miles south of the main islands of Japan. From Kadena Air Base the squadron conducted a wide variety of airborne anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, and theater security cooperation missions.

CTG 72.2 conducted regular detachments, comprised of aircrew and supporting maintenance personnel, to support partner and allied nations, build international partnership and improve multinational interoperability. During the deployment Task Group 72.2 completed 29 detachments to 13 countries, including Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, The Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand,. The majority of the detachments involved scheduled multinational exercises.

Among these were SEASURVEX-2013 with the armed forces of Indonesia, a series of cooperation and readiness afloat training exercises with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Talisman Saber with the Australian Defense Force, AnnualEx in conjunction with the Japanese Self Defense Forces, Malabar-13 with naval forces from India, and numerous bilateral exercises with Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea. These multilateral efforts build ties between nations and allow for greater coordination and interoperability between forces. Other detachments were executed in support of operational requirements, such as Operation Big Eye which supports our partners’ attempts to curb illegal

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fishing within the territorial waters of Micronesia; search and rescue detachments to Guam; an historic detachment to New Zealand (the first by a U.S. Navy P-3C since 1984); and the humanitarian assistance detachment to the Philippines in response to Typhoon Haiyan last month.

Typhoon Haiyan made landfall on Nov. 7, 2013, killing thousands and devastating many islands along the nation's eastern coast. The men and women of VP-26 and VP-62 were among the first on the scene to support the humanitarian assistance/disaster relief mission after the government of the Philippines requested U.S. assistance. The P-3s played a vital role in damage assessment, providing a bird's-eye view of the areas devastated by the typhoon so government officials could direct aid to those most in need. Aircrews performed reconnaissance of roadways and bridges, located personnel isolated from aid, and scouted the islands for suitable helicopter landing sites to allow badly needed supplies to be delivered. The successful response to this crisis demonstrated both the value of maintaining forward deployed naval forces the level of integration achieved by the active and reserve maritime patrol forces who were ready to respond and executed flawlessly. In addition to VP-26, VP-62, and VP-69, aircrews from VP-1, stationed in Whidbey Island, Wash. also supported CTG 72.2 and 72.4 throughout the deployment.

Led, by VP-26 Commanding Officer Cmdr. **Mark Sohaney**, the integrated team was tasked to meet all maritime patrol requirements across the Pacific Fleet AOR, while paving the way for the first operational deployment of the P-8A Poseidon. **Sohaney** and his team will turn over CTG 72.2 to NAS Jacksonville's VP-16, the first P-8A squadron, later this month.

Although **Sohaney** and Team Trident are returning home to NAS Jacksonville, they will remain ready to answer the call. "The chance to lead these fine men and women in support of such an important mission is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity," said **Sohaney**. "I could not be more proud of what they accomplished over the past seven months."

With the last aircraft scheduled to arrive on home soil in mid-December, VP-26 Sailors will be re-uniting with their families just in time for Christmas. But **Sohaney** and the Tridents will soon be back at work training aircrews, repairing aircraft, and preparing for the squadron's next deployment. Their tireless dedication ensured a successful deployment and is a testament to the squadron's mantra that, "Trident Pride runs Bone Deep."

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*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Florida Times-Union, The (Jacksonville, FL)  
November 21, 2013

**2 patrol squadrons at Jacksonville NAS helping Philippines P-3C Orion units are concentrating on aid for smaller islands**

Author/Byline: Clifford Davis

As relief efforts in the Philippines continue in the aftermath of the category 5 Super Typhoon Haiyan, detachments from two Navy squadrons from Jacksonville are among other U.S. forces in Operation Damayan. U.S. Navy Patrol Squadrons 26 and 62 fly P-3C Orion aircraft, usually performing anti-submarine, as well as reconnaissance missions in anti-piracy and anti-terrorism roles. But like many in the military, they can adapt. "We're providing real-time aerial surveillance back to headquarters and the Philippine government to figure out where they want to focus aid," Cmdr. **Mark Sohaney** of VP-26 said.

The Philippines are a chain of more than 7,000 islands. The main islands have decent roads and airfields that make delivering aid easier. However, many of the smaller islands in more rural areas were among the hardest hit. "What we're focused on right now are these smaller islands: Samar Island, Leyte Gulf and Homonhan Island," **Sohaney** said. Homonhan was in the direct path of the super typhoon's 200-mph winds. "We were the first on scene here. There was no sign of life on the first pass. Every building was on the ground except for one building on the southwest corner of the island that was a church," **Sohaney** said. But as the plane made subsequent passes with roaring engines, survivors began to emerge. "On our third pass, about a hundred people or so came out and began to display different SOS signs," he said. "On the fourth pass, it was more of a pass of hope and we were able to call in the Marines, identify a helicopter-landing zone and coordinate aid."

The mission over Homonhan was the first of many like it in recent days, **Sohaney** said. Sixty sailors and three planes from VP-26 could be on the ground and in the air over the Philippines for some time to come. "Words cannot describe the devastation here," **Sohaney** said. But Filipinos are no doubt glad for the assistance. "When our detachment arrived, we were greeted with 'The Americans are here to help.' "

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**Mark David Sohaney**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Florida Times-Union, The: Web Edition Articles (Jacksonville, FL)  
November 20, 2013

**VP-26 and VP-62 join in typhoon relief**

By Lt. Dan Baker

**VP-26 Public Affairs**

In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan's devastation in the Republic of the Philippines, a massive multinational effort, dubbed Operation Damayan, is underway to bring aid to those affected by the unprecedented storm. Navy patrol squadrons VP- 26 "Tidents" and VP-62 "Broadarrows" – based at NAS Jacksonville and currently deployed to Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan with Commander, Task Group (CTG) 72.2 – have contributed to this effort by repositioning three P-3C Orions, three aircrews, and a detachment of maintenance professionals to Clark International Airport near Manila.

As the storm approached on Nov. 9, these aircrews were placed on an alert status prior to the storm's landfall in preparation for the search and rescue missions. When the government of the Philippines requested assistance and declared a national state of calamity on Nov. 11, the aircrews were able to reposition to the Philippines in just a few hours. Immediately upon arrival, they began working with the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade that was in charge of the U.S. military effort, to ensure every hour flown provided benefit to disaster relief operations.

The Tridents and Broadarrows P-3C aircrews have flown missions over the hardest-hit areas since Nov. 11, assessing damage and searching for populations cut off from sources of food, clean water and medical care. The geography of the Philippines makes the determination of where to focus relief efforts particularly difficult. The archipelagic nation, comprised of more than 7,000 islands, includes countless remote and isolated populations in desperate need of relief. P-3C aircrews help solve this problem by searching for and reporting high-need areas so rescue and relief efforts can arrive as quickly as possible. Among the hardest-hit areas is the small island of Homonhan, in the province of East Samar. The 12-mile long island lay directly in the path of Typhoon Haiyan and was devastated by winds that measured more than 200 miles per hour. A CTG 72.2 P-3C was the first aircraft on scene and the first to make contact with those on the ground in Homonhan.

VP-62 P-3C Mission Com-mander Lt. Cmdr. Jace Dasenbrock described what his crew witnessed on Nov. 12 as they first approached the Island. "We arrived on scene at noon in the and immediately saw devastation throughout the entire island. Our first pass around the island saw no sign of life below. Buildings were destroyed, with few structures surviving. The only building left intact was the church that stood on the southeastern edge of the island. A sailboat was in a tree about 20 feet off the ground. After a second pass, a few heads popped out. A third pass around the tiny island saw about 100 residents sending S.O.S. signals. A fourth pass was made to give hope to the survivors. With roads washed out, relief needed to be brought in by air. We were able to identify several areas suitable for helicopters and Marine Ospreys (MV-22B) to land." This discovery was the first of several like it for the CTG 72.2 aircrews. The information

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and photographs they collect are sent in-flight to intelligence specialists who collate the products and provide them to the Marines coordinating U.S. military relief efforts on the ground. This enables U.S. and Philippine commanders and government officials to identify and prioritize humanitarian assistance requirements.

Within days of the first P-3C flight over Homonhan Island, the USS George Washington (CVN-73) Carrier Strike Group re-positioned close enough to bring relief to citizens as well as other communities in the region. SH-60 Seahawks and Ospreys fly countless round trip sorties carrying 20-pound bags of food, water, and medical supplies ashore. The air space has become so crowded with relief aircraft that E-2C Hawkeyes are now orbiting overhead to direct and de-conflict air traffic. The P-3C and E-2C aircrews are coordinating to pass locations of suitable landing zones as well as locations of more un-reached disaster areas to relief aircraft in real time.

The magnitude of the destruction in remote areas like Homonhan Island make restoring infrastructure and rebuilding communities a slow process. For now the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, with their ever-vigilant forward presence in the Asia-Pacific region, are on station bringing needed support and hope to the people of devastated locations in the Philippines.

VP-26 and VP-62 were among the first to provide crucial information about where to best focus relief efforts in response to this crisis. The Commander of CTG-72.2, Cmdr. **Mark Sohaney**, is extremely proud of the opportunity to support this effort. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the Philippine people, and we are honored to help them in their time of need,” stated **Sohaney**, “We are postured to remain as long as the Philippine and U.S. government needs us.”

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Research Compiled by:        Shannon Farr  
   Colin Baenziger & Associates

## Public Records Exemptions

Enclosed please find a copy of the response documents for your public records request. The following information is provided to explain the process employed to review and produce the response documents.

Reason	Description	Pages
PII Military - F.S. 119.071(5) (k)1.a.(l)	Home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of current and former military personnel, and the telephone numbers associated with the personal communication devices of current and former military personnel.	4-6, 22, 23, 25
PII LEO - F.S. 119.071(4) (d)2.a.	The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of active or former sworn law enforcement personnel or of active or former civilian personnel employed by a law enforcement agency, including correctional and correctional probation officers, personnel of the Department of Children and Families whose duties include the investigation of abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal activities, personnel of the Department of Health whose duties are to support the investigation of child abuse or neglect, and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.	31