

Hawaii Sailors get hooked on CSADD

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Navy Region Public Affairs

More than 600 Hawaii-based military personnel recently attended a Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) safety stand-down at Sharkey Theater at Pearl Harbor on Nov. 8.

Hosted by Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) and Commander Surface Group Middle Pacific (MIDPAC) Hawaii CSADD chapter, the program's mission is to provide military members of all branches with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the issues of drinking, reckless driving and other destructive decisions, while maintaining good order and discipline.



Commander Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Marcos Sibal makes the opening remarks and speaks about the dangers of the holiday period at the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) all hands safety stand-down. The goal of the CSADD program is to encourage positive social interaction and development of leadership and decision-making skills. CSADD reinforces a culture of shipmates helping shipmates and contributes to command unity and mission readiness.

"The program is important because it's all about promoting good decision-making among junior Sailors, and the program is built by junior Sailors, E-5 and below," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Lonnie McDade, the Hawaii CSADD president.

With the holidays coming up, McDade said the season can be hazardous for military service members.

"This is when we lose a lot of our Sailors," McDade said.

Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Lane Jones, the CSADD Hawaii regional team leader, agreed with McDade and said that holidays are statistically very dangerous.

"A lot of mishaps happen around the holidays due to people not paying attention. That's why we do a safety stand-down to keep people aware of what's going on," Jones said.

During the program, CSADD provided information on identity theft and credit card fraud, alcohol abuse, "Spice" awareness training, theft of government and personal property, and motorcycle safety.

CNRH Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Marcos Sibal made the opening remarks during the event and said he was very proud of the people taking charge of this coalition and the idea of shipmates helping shipmates.

"Almost 28 years ago, you wouldn't see E-5s and below taking charge and making this happen like they are doing today," said Sibal, who has been in the Navy for just as long. "It just tells me that we have come a long way, and I'm so very proud. If we had this kind of program when I first came in the Navy, the guys I joined the Navy with in boot camp in San Diego would probably be still in the Navy, if they had some kind of intervention like this from their peers," he continued.

CSADD began in 2008 when Rear Adm. Mark Boensel and Fleet Master Chief (AW/SW/SCW) Scott Benning, while assigned at Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, wanted to create an organization similar to MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). The concept evolved as it addressed the basic decision-making process in many areas affecting Sailors on and off duty. With strong support from the Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, CSADD became an official Navy peer mentoring program in June 2010.

For more information about the Hawaii CSADD chapter, you can visit their Facebook page by searching "NRH MIDPAC CSADD."