

VP-9's CSADD participates in trail hike and clean-up day at Maunawili Falls

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay, HI Patrol Squadron Nine's (VP-9) Sailors continued to strengthen their greater civilian-military ohana on Oahu by offering their time and labor. On Jan. 28, VP-9's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) coordinated a cleanup of Maunawili Falls.

Established in 2008, the Navy created CSADD to provide military members and spouses of all branches with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with issues of drinking, reckless driving and other destructive decisions. Since then they have grown Navy-wide into many chapters directed at Sailors between 18 and 25 years old.



VP-9's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions enjoy the Maunawili Falls. The Sailors participated in a trail hike and cleanup project. U.S. Navy photo by LG1 Rocky Esquivel

"During my first tour, Sailors tended to drink a little more than they should. For those that didn't drink, they had nothing to do.

Today CSADD helps provide that outlet. Seeing these types of programs being integrated into the military life really encourages members to make life changing decision that will help maintain a positive lifestyle in keeping with military personal values," said VP-9's Naval Air Crewman Avionics Chief Daniel Cox.

The organization also uses social media such as Facebook and You Tube to educate their Sailors in a manner in which they can relate. Topics range from responsible drinking to suicide prevention.

Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Orlando Soto, VP-9's CSADD activities coordinator, said, "The hike is a fun get together. It motivates them to do greater things, to teach them what is in the community, and help out." The coordinator mentioned that VP-9's next outing will be a snorkeling trip to Hanauma Bay.

While hiking the trail to the waterfall, Sailors and spouses contributed by cleaning up trash and other articles left behind by previous visitors. Throughout the hike, passersby joined in to help preserve one of Hawaii's most visited hiking attractions.

Once at the falls, a brave and cautious traveler can jump into the pool at the base of the fall. "The water is colder then you think in the spring time," said Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Nicholas Schier, VP-9 CSADD president.

Anyone who desires to experience this local gem can find directions to the trail head by asking around or

searching online. The trail is located just outside of Kailua, Hawaii on Maunawili Road. After exiting Kalaniana'ole Highway, simply follow the signs to Maunawili Falls. It is a beginner's trail, and trekkers may want to consider bringing their own sunscreen and bug repellent.

Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) is located at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The squadron is better known as the Golden Eagles and flies the P-3C Orion.

The P-3C is land-based and the Navy's premier long-range maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, operating from locations throughout the world. Her missions range from submarine tracking to search and rescue, as well as overland missions, working alongside Navy, Army or Marine ground units. More information can be found at the website at: <http://www.vp9.navy.mil/> or on Facebook.