



RED HILL HIGHLIGHTS

31st Edition; Jan 6, 2026

The mission of Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) is to execute the permanent decommissioning of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) safely and expeditiously, and continue long-term environmental remediation in coordination with State and Federal regulators in order to protect public health and the environment.

Rear Adm. Lester Ortiz Assumes Role of Deputy Commander, NCTF-RH

Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill (NCTF-RH) welcomed a new deputy commander aboard Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Jan. 5, 2026.

Rear Adm. Lester Ortiz relieved Rear Adm. Marc Williams, who assumed the role of deputy commander of NCTF-RH on Nov. 18, 2023. NCTF-RH was established to safely and expeditiously decommission the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) and continue long-term environmental remediation in coordination with State and Federal stakeholders to protect public health and the environment.

Ortiz assumes responsibility for NCTF-RH after serving as commander of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27 and 7th Naval Construction Regiment. He is a native of Puerto Rico and graduated from the University of Puerto Rico where he earned a Bachelor and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

"Over the past few months, I've worked closely with Marc to ensure a smooth leadership transition for the team, our partners and the community," said Ortiz. "Coming from the island of Puerto Rico, I have a profound respect for the deep connection between people and their land. As I take over this important mission, my focus continues to be on the safe closure of the RHBFSF, and a commitment to transparency, as well as a deep commitment to ensuring we care for Oahu and protect the environment for generations to come."



[Click here to view Ortiz's biography.](#)

2026 Community Engagement Events

Keep an eye out for upcoming 2026 events on the NCTF-RH website, mobile app, Let's Talk Red Hill podcast and Red Hill Highlights.

Beyond scheduled community outreach and engagement opportunities, the public is also encouraged to submit questions and comments at any time to NCTF_PAO@us.navy.mil. Frequently asked questions can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/NCTF-RH-FAQs>.



For further information, please visit
www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil
www.jbphh-safewaters.org



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