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## **USS Arizona Memorial Repairs Nearing Completion**

**By Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs**

Navy Divers, Seabees, Air Force civil engineers, crane operators, safety inspectors and others have been working night and day and through last weekend to complete repairs to the floating dock and access structure leading to the USS Arizona Memorial.

Today divers successfully adjusted anchor chains to have the floating platform at the correct distance and in the right position. The brow will be installed today and monitored overnight for stability. (The brow is the passenger gangway leading from the boat and pier to the memorial.)

Overall repairs, which were expected to be completed this afternoon, are continuing into the evening. Safety is a top priority throughout the repair process, and thorough safety assessments, structural inspections and quality assurance checks are being conducted.

“We know this situation is causing a great deal of inconvenience this week, and we certainly appreciate the understanding and forbearance of veterans, visitors and kama‘aina,” said Capt. Stan Keeve, Commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“This continues to be a tremendous team effort – both with our military-civilian team and together with our partners at the National Park Service,” Keeve added. “We’re working as quickly as possible – but as safely as possible – to complete the repairs.”

Paul DePrey, National Park Service Superintendent of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument stated, “The National Park Service appreciates the dedicated hard work that the Navy has put into repairing the floating dock for the USS Arizona Memorial. The National Park Service’s top priority is visitor safety. Public visitation on the memorial will resume as soon as the NPS and Navy have evaluated the repairs for safety.”

The National Park Service anticipates that safety inspections could take 24 to 48 hours to complete. One aspect of this safety inspection is to verify that the replaced brow (connector between the floating dock and stationary memorial) adjusts to tidal fluctuations. If repairs are completed by this afternoon (June 3), then the memorial might reopen on Friday or Saturday. Updates will be posted on [www.nps.gov/valr](http://www.nps.gov/valr) and [www.facebook.com/valorNPS](http://www.facebook.com/valorNPS).

All other Pearl Harbor Historic Sites have remained open during the dock repairs: USS Oklahoma Memorial, Battleship Missouri, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum, and (for those with military base access) the USS Utah Memorial. Modified boat tours to Battleship Row have continued to give visitors a view of the USS Arizona Memorial.

On May 27, the Hospital Ship USNS Mercy was being maneuvered by two tugboats to transit Pearl Harbor from its berth at Hotel Pier as it prepared to go to sea. As the Mercy turned to head out to the channel, the ship may have made contact with the floating dock leading to the USS Arizona Memorial. Strong prop wash from the ship pushed the floating dock and access structure (brow) approximately ten feet toward the memorial, damaging handrails and the dock's infrastructure.

There was no damage to the remains of the USS Arizona vessel and no apparent damage to the Mercy. The memorial experienced minor superficial damage. There were no injuries.

Investigations are well underway and being led by U.S. Coast Guard and Military Sealift Command.

For information about visitor impacts or reopening of the USS Arizona Memorial, please contact Abby Wines, Public Information Officer for the National Park Service at World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument: [abby\\_wines@nps.gov](mailto:abby_wines@nps.gov), 808-422-3311 (office), or 808-225-2268 (cell). For information about repair work done by the military, contact Bill Doughty, Deputy Director for Public Affairs for Navy Region Hawaii at [bill.doughty@navy.mil](mailto:bill.doughty@navy.mil).