

Hazelwood Native Serves at Joint Typhoon Warning Center



Most Americans rely on weather forecasts to plan their daily routine. The U.S. Navy is no different. With numerous ships, submarines and airplanes deployed in the U.S. Pacific Fleet's area of operations, sailors stationed at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Hawaii, make it their primary mission to monitor extreme weather conditions in support of the fleet's daily operations. Lt. David Price, a [2007 Hazelwood West High School graduate](#) and native of Hazelwood, Missouri, has served in the Navy for eight years and is one of these sailors serving at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. Price credits success in the Navy to many of the lessons learned in Hazelwood. "My parents always pushed me to do the best I could and when I start something, see it through to completion," said Price. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center Detachment provides aviation weather support for the INDOPACOM area of responsibility and resource protection to ensure safety of flight and operations for Atsugi, Japan; Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa; Commander Fleet As a Navy meteorologist and operations officer, Price is responsible for coordinating the meteorological support we provide to the building in which he works. A key element of the Navy the nation needs is tied to the fact that America is a maritime nation, according to Navy officials, and that the nation's prosperity is tied to the ability to operate freely on the world's oceans. More than 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water; 80 percent of the world's population lives close to a coast; and 90 percent of all global trade by volume travels by sea. "Naval Oceanography defines and applies the physical environment for the entire Navy fleet from the bottom of the ocean to the stars," said Rear Adm. John Okon, Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command. "There isn't a plane that flies, a ship or a submarine that gets underway without the sailors and civilians of Naval Oceanography. "The U.S. Pacific Fleet is the world's largest fleet command, encompassing 100 million square miles, nearly half the Earth's surface, from Antarctica to the Arctic Circle and from the West Coast of the United States into the Indian Ocean. Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community, and career, Price is most proud of earning his master's degree from the Naval Post Graduate School in 2016 for Meteorology and Physical Oceanography. "It was a big undertaking that set me up for the rest of my career," said Price. Being stationed in Hawaii, often referred to in defense circles as the gateway to the Pacific, means Price is serving in a part of the world taking on a new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy. "Our priorities center on people, capabilities and processes, and will be achieved by our focus on speed, value, results and partnerships," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. "Readiness, lethality and modernization are the requirements driving these priorities." The Pacific is home to more than 50 percent of the world's population, many of the world's largest and smallest economies, several of the world's largest militaries, and many U.S. allies. The Navy has been pivotal in helping maintain peace and stability in the Pacific region for decades. Serving in the Navy is a continuing tradition of military service for Price, who has military ties with family members who have previously served. Price is honored to carry on that family tradition. "My grandparents were in the military during WWII, my dad and both uncles were in the Navy," said Price. "This did have an impact on my joining the military." As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied-upon assets, Price and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes providing the Navy the nation needs. "I was drawn to the skills and demeanor they all contributed to the military service and I wanted to do my part," added Price.