



# Project Lifesaver

Newsletter | November 2020



# PROJECT LIFESAVER NEWSLETTER

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# Project Lifesaver 2021 Conference

That's right! We are already gearing up for the 2021 conference! With a jam-packed schedule, we are bringing some of the best experts from a wide range of fields to educate and collaborate!

Registration is open for the Project Lifesaver 2021 Conference! Visit [projectlifesaver.org/conference](https://projectlifesaver.org/conference) to register!

August 30th -  
September  
2nd, 2021



# PEARL HARBOR DAY

THE AMBASSADOR'S COLUMN

BY RON YEAW

## INTRODUCTION

On December 7, Americans around the world will remember the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor by attending ceremonies and services commemorating that fateful event.

Since the mid 1930's, American public opinion had increasingly shifted against Japan as that nation had been prosecuting a brutal war in China since its invasion of Manchuria in 1932, had sunk the American Navy gunboat USS Panay on December 12, 1937, and had invaded French Indochina in 1939. In January 1941, President Roosevelt, hoping to discourage further Japanese aggression in the Far East, moved the Pacific Fleet homeport from San Diego to Pearl Harbor and ordered a military buildup in the Philippines. Increasingly concerned about Japan's expansionist policies, in May 1941 the United States, Great Britain, and the Netherlands East Indies (present-day Indonesia) initiated oil and steel embargos against Japan that caused a crisis in that country. In an attempt to resolve the situation, Japanese Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoe asked President Franklin Roosevelt for a meeting to discuss the issues, but was told that such a conference could not be held until Japan ceased its occupation of China. Reliant on the United States for 80% of its oil, the Japanese were forced to decide between withdrawing from China and negotiating an end to the conflict or continuing to expand to obtain its needed resources elsewhere.

While Konoe was seeking a diplomatic solution, the military was looking southward to the Netherlands East Indies and its rich natural resources such as oil and rubber. Believing that an attack and occupation in this region would cause the United States to declare war, the Japanese began planning for such an eventuality. Japanese military leaders recognized that American



Pearl  
Harbor  
Day



naval strength was the chief deterrent to war with the United States. In June 1941, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the Commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, initiated planning for a surprise attack on the United States Pacific Fleet as the beginning of any further hostilities that the Japanese might undertake. The attack would be intended as a preventive action in order to keep the Pacific Fleet from interfering with military operations that Japan was planning in the region against territories of the United States, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. Drawing inspiration from the successful 1940 British attack on Italian warships anchored in the Taranto, Italy harbor (the first aircraft-only attack against ships in history that employed 21 biplane torpedo bombers launched from an aircraft carrier), the Japanese devised a plan calling for aircraft from six carriers to strike the ships at Pearl Harbor naval base and the aircraft at nearby airfields. Their assumption was that, before the United States could recover from such a blow, Japan would have seized all of its objectives in the region and could hold them indefinitely. Although tensions between the two countries had been rising, and a conflict seemed likely, the Americans did not believe the Japanese would attack Pearl Harbor. United States officials expected that, should the Japanese launch combat operations against the US, they would attack the Philippines due to the threat that the American aircraft and warships stationed at the naval base at Manila would pose to Japanese use of the sea lanes between Japan and the territories to the south where their main objectives were located. In July 1941, following further Japanese expansion into French Indochina, the United States ceased all petroleum exports to Japan. This forced the Japanese to proceed with plans to both invade and occupy the Dutch East Indies to acquire its needed oil and attack Pearl Harbor.

By early September 1941, Japanese training for the Pearl Harbor mission was underway and efforts were being made to adapt their torpedoes to be able to run



properly in the naval base's shallow waters. By the end of September 1941 the Japanese had completed their secret plans for a huge assault against Malaya, the Philippines, and the Netherlands East Indies, to be coordinated with an initial crushing blow on the American naval and air forces on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. On October 18, after arguing for more time to negotiate, Prime Minister Konoe resigned and was replaced by the pro-military General Hideki Tojo. Later that month the Japanese Naval General Staff approved Yamamoto's final plan for the attack that called for air strikes and the use of five Type A explosive-equipped midget submarines. On November 5, with diplomatic efforts breaking down, Emperor Hirohito granted his approval for the mission, but reserved the right to cancel the operation if ongoing diplomatic efforts succeeded.

On November 8, Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo was named commander of the Pearl Harbor Strike Force, which had secretly rendezvoused just north of mainland Japan in the Kurile Islands. His force of some 30 ships included six aircraft carriers with about 430 planes. At the same time, a Japanese Advance Expeditionary Force (AEF) of five large submarines was assembled at Kure naval base on the west coast of Honshu to prepare for its participation in the attack. In mid-November, the submarines began their eastward movement across the Pacific Ocean. Nagumo's carrier task force sailed from the Kuriles on November 26. As negotiations continued to fail, on December 1 the emperor gave his final authorization for the attack. The AEF submarines refueled and resupplied in the Marshall Islands and arrived near Oahu about December 5. Very early on the morning of December 7, the five two-man midget submarines, that had been carried "piggy-back" on the large submarines, cast off and began converging on Pearl Harbor. By avoiding the major shipping lanes the carrier task force was able to cross the northern Pacific and arrive undetected at a point about 200 miles north of Oahu at about 0500 on December 7. Beginning at 0600 and ending at 0715, approximately 350 first and second wave aircraft were launched. These planes rendezvoused and then flew southward toward Oahu for their coordinated attacks. Ninety six warships, the bulk of the Pacific Fleet, were in Pearl Harbor at the time. Eight battleships were present but, fortunately, all three Pacific Fleet aircraft carriers were out at sea. The Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet was Admiral Husband E. Kimmel. Army forces in Hawaii, including the 24th and 35th Infantry Divisions, were under the command of Lieutenant General Walter C. Short, Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department. On the five airfields there were a total of about 390 of all types of Navy and Army planes, of which less than 300 were available for combat or observation purposes.







## THE ATTACK

The five midget submarines were launched around 0200 on December 7. Around 0600, Vice Admiral Nagumo began launching his first attack wave of 181 torpedo bombers, dive bombers, horizontal bombers, and fighters. At 0342, while still on the surface, one of the midget submarines was spotted by the minesweeper USS Condor outside the Pearl Harbor naval base. Alerted by the USS Condor, the destroyer USS Ward moved to intercept it and sank the sub with gunfire around 0637. These were the first American shots fired in World War II. A second midget submarine grounded twice, once outside the harbor entrance and again on the east side of the harbor. Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki swam ashore and was captured on December 8, thus becoming the first Japanese prisoner of war.



As Nagumo's aircraft approached Pearl Harbor they were detected by the radar site at Opana Point. This radar intercept signal was misinterpreted as a flight of American B-17 bombers whose arrival from the United States had been expected and no action was taken. At 0748, the Japanese aircraft descended on Oahu. While the bombers and torpedo planes attacked high value targets such as the battleships and cruisers the fighters strafed the airfields to prevent aircraft from opposing the attack. The two air attacks commenced at 0755 and ended shortly before 1000. The first wave struck ships at the Pearl Harbor piers as well as the aircraft located at the Ford Island, Hickman, Wheeler, and Ewa airfields. Achieving complete surprise the aircraft specifically targeted the Pacific Fleet's eight battleships and within minutes seven of them along Ford Island's Battleship Row had taken both bomb and torpedo hits.

Quickly recovering from the initial shock of surprise the Americans fought back vigorously with anti-aircraft fire. Devastation of the airfields was too quick and thorough that only eight aircraft were able to participate in the counterattack, six of which were each credited with the downing of at least one Japanese aircraft.



Several Japanese officers urged Vice Admiral Nagumo to carry out a third strike in order to destroy as many of Pearl Harbor's submarines, fuel and torpedo storage areas, and maintenance and dry dock facilities as possible. However, Nagumo decided to withdraw as American anti-aircraft performance had improved considerably during the second strike, his force was within range of the American bombers, a third strike would have required substantial preparation time and, believing that his main objective had been realized, he did not want to risk further losses. In a conference aboard Admiral Yamamoto's flagship on December 8, the Admiral initially supported Nagumo's decision to suspend the attack. He later regretted it by categorically stating that it had been a great mistake not to order a third strike.



Although the losses were catastrophic, the American carriers were absent and remained available to conduct wartime operations. The Pearl Harbor headquarters building, power station, dry dock, maintenance buildings, fuel and torpedo storage facilities, and submarines were not attacked. These facilities and forces were able to significantly contribute to subsequent salvage efforts and military operations. Military historians have suggested that, had those facilities and forces been attacked during a third strike, America's ability to conduct operations in the Pacific would have had to have been postponed for at least a year beyond the time they actually commenced in May, 1942. Ultimately, targets not on the Japanese list, such as the submarines and shipyard maintenance facilities, proved to be more important than any battleship as it was the submarines that immobilized Japan's commercial ships and brought that country's war fighting industries to a virtual standstill by crippling its ability to transport vitally required oil and raw materials.



## THE LOSSES ON EACH SIDE

a. United States: The Japanese were successful in accomplishing their primary mission of severely damaging the Pacific Fleet. Four battleships were damaged and four were sunk (two of which were raised and operated in the war). In addition, the Japanese either sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, one minelayer, one repair ship, one seaplane tender, and one anti-aircraft training ship. 188 aircraft were destroyed and 159 seriously damaged. The Navy and Marine Corps suffered a total of 2,896 casualties, of which 2,117 were deaths (Navy: 2,008; Marines: 109) and 779 wounded (Navy: 710; Marines: 69). Army casualties included 228 killed and 459 wounded. In addition, 57 civilians were killed and at least as many injured.

b. Japan: Japanese losses included 55 airmen killed, 29 aircraft downed, 9 midget submarine crewmen killed or wounded, one midget submarine crewmen captured, and one large and five midget submarines sunk.

## SUMMARY

While the attack appeared to accomplish its intended objective, it turned out to be largely counterproductive. Unbeknownst to Admiral Yamamoto, in 1940 the United States had decided not to have the Navy charge across the Pacific in response to any Japanese aggression in the Far East. The Americans had adopted a plan that emphasized avoiding war in the western Pacific by having the Navy just keep the Japanese out of the eastern Pacific shipping lanes while concentrating on their efforts on defeating Nazi Germany.

The numerous historical precedents for unannounced military action by Japan, the lack of any formal warning particularly while negotiations were ongoing, and the tremendous loss of life and damage led President Roosevelt, while addressing a joint session of Congress on December 8, to proclaim December 7, 1941 as “a date which will live in infamy”. Immediately following his speech Congress declared war on Japan.


The attack came as a profound shock to the American people and led directly to the United States' entry into World War II in both the Pacific and European theaters. The strong domestic support for American isolationism rapidly disappeared, as exemplified by the United States' clandestine support of Great Britain being quickly replaced by an active alliance. As a result of such actions and, in support of their Japanese ally, despite the fact that they were not required to do so under the Tripartite Pact, both Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11. That action was reciprocated by the United States Congress that same day, including rescinding the article of the Selective Service Act that prohibited the use of American forces beyond the western hemisphere. In one bold stroke, the United States, with the entire nation supportive of the war effort, became fully involved in World War II.



PROJECT LIFESAVER WISHES EVERYONE A

# *Happy Thanksgiving*

This year, we are thankful for the public safety officers that work everyday to keep their communities safe, especially during a global pandemic. Though this year has been hard on everyone, there is always something to be thankful for! Remember to be safe and take the time to remember the reason for the season as you go about your holiday plans.







KultureCity is "the nation's leading nonprofit on sensory accessibility and acceptance for those with invisible disabilities". Their work to train and educate public safety agencies and their communities makes them a valuable resource. Project Lifesaver invited KultureCity to speak at the 2020 Hybrid Conference about their program and how it can benefit the agencies that take the training. KultureCity is training the Salt Lake City Police Department in Salt Lake City, Utah. Check out the press release about it below and if you feel that your agency would benefit from them, check out their website or phone app for more details and how to bring the training to your local agency!

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The Salt Lake City Police department announced today it will become the first police department in the nation to be Certified Sensory Inclusive™ by KultureCity, this November. All of Salt Lake City's first responders—SLCPD, SLCFD and 911 Dispatch—will take part in the training.

KultureCity's training will focus on instilling understanding, acceptance, and empathy in the City's first responders toward those who have sensory needs. The goal of this training is to enhance future interactions between law enforcement and the community to create the best outcomes.

Through its training, SLCPD also hopes to highlight its Autism Safe Registry, a voluntary program where people register to provide 911 and officers responding to a call with important information about the needs of the people they may encounter at their address. Any information entered into the database is for use by emergency responders only.

"It is my sincere hope that SLCPD is known for being the best trained and well-equipped department to respond with empathy, compassion, and the necessary skills – particularly when interacting with those who are the most vulnerable," said Salt Lake City Police Chief Mike Brown. "We want to help in an inclusive way and look forward to working with KultureCity."

"As we work to deepen and diversify the training of our City's first responders, this KultureCity training provides crucial perspectives and tactics for improving interactions with the people we serve, and taking into account needs we might not be able to see on the surface," Mayor Erin Mendenhall said. "We're honored to be working with an organization like KultureCity to take this important step in extending our training."

KultureCity will bring a team of occupational therapists, behavior therapists, and other members of the medical community to Salt Lake City in November for the training. The training will consist of one-hour learning sessions which will be followed by testing. Once trained, first responders will retest annually for certification, and new hires will also undergo the training.

“We are very honored and excited to work with the Salt Lake City Police Department. We are appreciative that SLCPD, and specifically Chief Brown, is stepping up to really move his department in a direction of understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of those with invisible disabilities and sensory needs,” said Founder and CEO of KultureCity Dr. Julian Maha.

Joe Ingles and his wife Renae sit on the board of KultureCity and have helped ensure that arenas both in Utah and their native Australia are sensory inclusive. Both have been integral to bringing this training to SLCPD and the City's first responders.

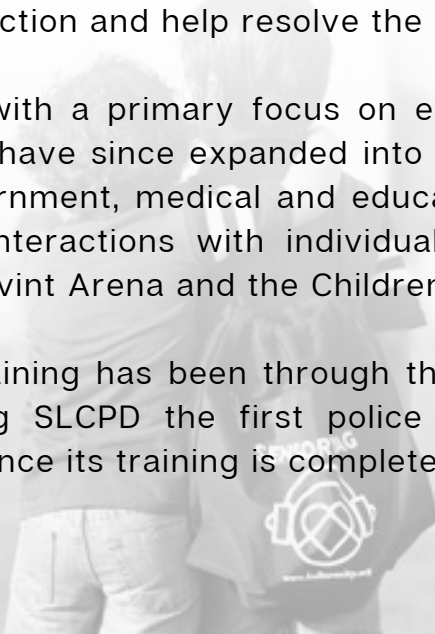
“As members of this community and advocates for autism awareness it's important to my wife and I that our police department and first responders are equipped with this important training for their day-to-day interactions with people who have sensory needs or invisible disabilities,” Ingles said. “One in six people have sensory needs or invisible disabilities. When you think about the number of people officers and first responders encounter every day, it illustrates how important training like this is to creating positive and productive interactions. We're thrilled SLCPD has committed to making this a part of their ongoing training.”

According to Maha, KultureCity's training focuses on four factors when interacting with people who have sensory needs or invisible disabilities:

- The importance of empathy towards someone with an invisible disability or a sensory need and how common these needs are in society today.
- What to do when engaging with someone who has an invisible disability or a sensory need, and how to recognize that they might have a need.
- Strategies that can be used to help individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities to adapt to a situation that may be overwhelming.
- How best to close that interaction and help resolve the situation in a positive way.

KultureCity began its training with a primary focus on entertainment and social venues across the United States. They have since expanded into four other countries around the globe and now work with government, medical and educational facilities. KultureCity has trained over 700 venues on interactions with individuals that have sensory needs or invisible disabilities, including Vivint Arena and the Children's Museum in Salt Lake City.

KultureCity's first responder training has been through the trial phase, with a test phase completed in Alabama, making SLCPD the first police force to be Certified Sensory Inclusive™ in the United States once its training is complete.







# CHECK OUT OUR **NEW** **MERCH**

We are unveiling new products on our merch store! Get them while you can, as they are going fast!

[www.projectlifesaverstore.com](http://www.projectlifesaverstore.com)

# 2020 Conference Quotes

Haley Moss

"...Let's have this conversation in a way that involves the people we serve. So, for those of you who are in law enforcement, definitely talk to people with disabilities about their experiences. Listen. It's scary interacting with people who are different than you and the fear of the unknown is something I realize a lot, especially in law practice."

"...This incredible field that so many practitioners have been involved in and dedicated so much of their lives to, and so I stand in awe of all of you both as part of the audience of this virtual conference, as well as the leadership of PLI, who I think have done incredible work over these last twenty-one years."

Dale  
Neuburger

Uma  
Srivastava

"And so now, as a first responder, you're approaching an individual who already knows they might be in trouble, but is also feeling very overwhelmed, anxious and flustered. How do you mitigate that situation to make sure that, you know, you're not going to escalate then and you're also being respectful of their space?"

"But improving the lives of all individuals with autism and allowing them to feel that freedom so that they don't feel like they have to just be scared all the time, that there's equipment out there that can help them feel at ease and safe for their loved one that might be more prone to elopement."

Vanessa  
Rovig

Ron Yeaw  
Jr.

"Everything you guys do, every person you save, is like a rock in a pond: the ripple effects. You save that person's life. It affects their family, it affects their community, it affects their children."

# A Message from Chief:

## Project Lifesaver's Future Looks Bright

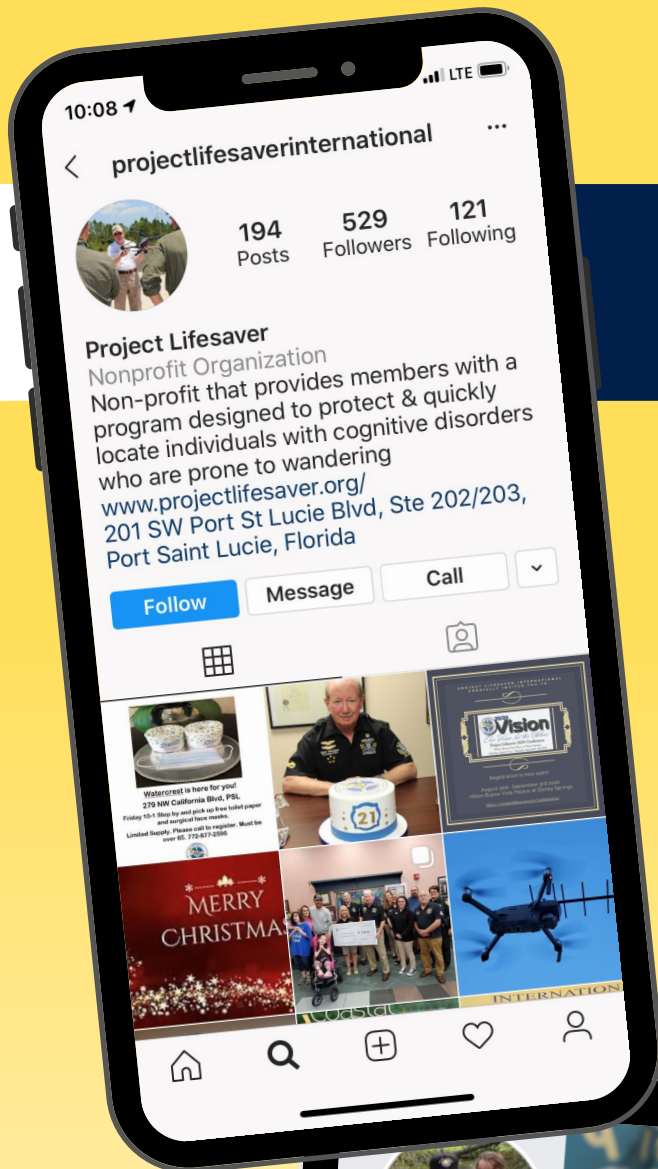


All of us at Project Lifesaver are extremely proud of the PLI member agencies that respond to hundreds of calls each year, and always demonstrate an incredible ability to de-escalate and resolve sensitive situations. We're not here for us. We're here for you. You make the program, you're out there on the front line. You're the ones that do the searching. You're the ones that bring loved ones home. And we thank you for that.

This year's conference, "Our Vision for the Future", was one of the best conferences we have ever had despite the many obstacles and unprecedented changes we all faced this year. We had no idea everything this country would go through when we first began planning. However, with the hard work of our team and the strong dedication of our members, we are positive embracing whatever may come next. We will continue working to make this Project Lifesaver an even better program for you. If you have anything that you think would make it better, please do not hesitate to let us know. We look forward to seeing everyone for next year's conference: "The Impact of You".

**Chief Gene Saunders**  
**Founder and CEO**





# CHECK US OUT!

We enjoy interacting with you on social media!  
We also post articles, events, and updates so it's a great way to stay informed!

**Twitter: @Projectlifesavr**

**Instagram: @projectlifesaverintl**

**Facebook: Project Lifesaver International**

**Youtube: Project Lifesaver International**

