



USS Arizona Memorial (USAR)

The most terrible, beautiful, and memorable events in life are often results of collision. Two objects meeting firmly in one location, sometimes in harmony, sometimes in brutal tragedy. Love, birth, and war are all products of two bodies coming together. These moments define us as individuals and a society—the story of Pearl Harbor is no different.

As Japan and the United States stared across the Pacific at one another, two world powers, two cultures, and two agendas poised to collide. Their collision would take lives, destroy families, engulf the world in war, and shape history. 2,454 people died on December 7, 1941, but why here, why Pearl Harbor?

Natural Resources: Hawaii sits atop a hot-spot, a phenomenon where surging magma from deep within the earth shoots up into the Pacific Ocean, building a series of islands. This collision of superheated magma and cold seawater created prime real estate for Polynesians and world powers alike. 2,500 miles from North America and 3,500 miles from Asia, Hawaii is the most remote landmass in the world. It was this remoteness that made Hawaii so attractive. Pearl Harbor's expansive, protected waters made it one of the best harbors in the Pacific. This safe harbor linked Asia and North America. Whoever controlled it could control the Pacific. The hotspot placed Hawaii in the middle of nowhere, yet suddenly, in the middle of a world war.

Cultural Resources: The enormous fireball that engulfed the *USS Arizona* on December 7, 1941, signaled the official collision of the United States and Japan. Nearly 900 men who died on the *Arizona* still lay entombed within its hull, beneath the *USS Arizona* Memorial, beneath the feet of 1,600 visitors each day. This memorial, and all of Pearl Harbor remains important to those who survived.

Every day, at least one survivor spends their morning at the *USS Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center. Survivors like Everett and Miyoko Hyland, Sterling Cale, Al Rodrigues, and Bob Kinzler tell stories, answer questions, and help



the world appreciate Pearl Harbor. Coming face to face with a survivor is unforgettable.

Inventory and Monitoring: The *Arizona* has a new adversary—the sea. For nearly seventy years, saltwater has eaten at the *Arizona* while coral encrusts the wreck, weighing down the fragile structure. According to researcher Tim Foecke, the hull of the *Arizona* “eventually will undergo some sort of catastrophic collapse.” The historical significance of the ship and potential environmental damage prompted studying and monitoring.

The water quality and climate of Pearl Harbor will also be monitored. Both of these natural resources Vital Signs will serve as indicators to assess the condition of the memorial's natural treasures—including the health of the water which envelops the great ship's hull

Current Issues in Management: In an effort to connect today's visitors to the people of the Pearl Harbor attack, the National Park Service is building a new \$52 million visitor center opening on December 7, 2010. Its exhibits aim to tell the Pearl Harbor story through the eyes of the people. Reading quotations from men like Captain R.H. English, “The torpedo struck with a violent explosion on the starboard side” and using interactive oral history kiosks, visitors can appreciate what of the men and women of Pearl Harbor experienced.

This past December 7th the *USS Arizona* Memorial acquired the *USS Oklahoma* Memorial on Ford Island. The *Oklahoma* experienced the second largest loss of life in the bombing of O'ahu. The *Arizona* Memorial works closely with its partners in history at Pearl Harbor; the *USS Bowfin*, the *USS Missouri* and the Pacific Aviation Museum, as well as other sites in the Pacific Theater. As we look to the future, we recognize that through sharing stories and working together with private and public partners, we honor the memories of those that served.

— Will Yavorsky, USAR

Photos from top: *USS Arizona* Memorial, Everett Hyland with guests, aerial view of memorial, explosion of *USS Arizona* in 1941, NPS divers in Pearl Harbor

USAR website: <http://www.nps.gov/usar/>