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Back on solid ground – HSL-37 Detachment Two returns home

Story and photo by Lt. j.g Stephen Smith



After more than 130 days at sea, HSL-37 Detachment Two has returned home. Deployed on board the guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), Detachment Two completed a deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility in the western Pacific. Detachment Two participated in multiple exercises and operations ranging from freedom of navigation operations to joint international training exercises. The detachment demonstrated its ability to perform a variety of missions.

After departing from its homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Crommelin and Detachment Two began its mission enforcing the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) off the islands of the central and western Pacific, locating multiple ships operating in violation of international law. Crommelin and Detachment Two then enjoyed port calls to the islands of Saipan and Guam before participating in Operation Valiant Shield 2010 in concert with the USS Essex (LHD 2) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG).

Following the exercise, Crommelin and Detachment Two proceeded to the Republic of the Philippines to support the Philippine Navy and deployed joint special operations task force in combined visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) training.

The next stop for Crommelin and Detachment Two was a port call in Singapore, followed by Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercises with the Philippine Navy and later the Cambodian Navy. The CARAT exercises preceded a liberty port visit in Malaysia, followed by a transit to the South China Sea. During the transit, aircraft from Detachment Two provided vertical replenishment support alongside USNS Pecos (TAO 197). Crommelin and Detachment Two made one last stop in Okinawa, Japan to refuel before proceeding to Yokosuka, Japan for the Thanksgiving holiday. While in port, the ship prepared a traditional Thanksgiving meal for the crew. Following the holiday festivities in Yokosuka, Crommelin and Detachment Two began the transit back to Hawaii for the conclusion of the deployment.

USS Crommelin is one of two surface ships home-ported in Hawaii as part of Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. It is one of two guided missile frigates of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31.
