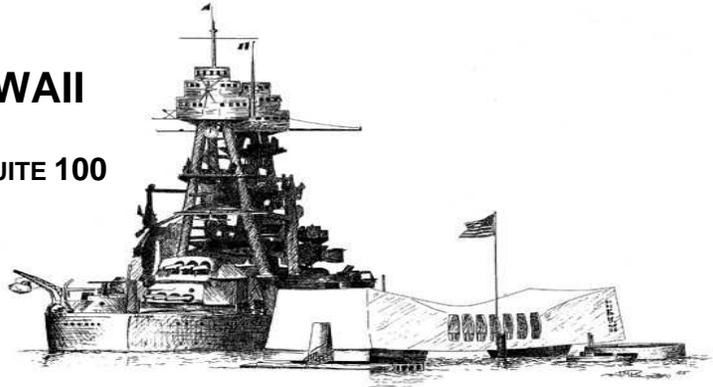


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Chief Bart Bauer, 590-8363

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USS Russell (DDG 59) deploy

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – Guided-missile destroyer, USS Russell (DDG 59) will depart Pearl Harbor Tuesday, January 5th for an independent deployment to the Middle East and Western Pacific, the 5th Fleet and 7th Fleet's areas of responsibility.

Russell, commanded by Cmdr. Rodney M. Patton is deploying under the Middle Pacific Surface Combatant (MPSC) deployment concept in which Pearl Harbor based ships deploy in support of operations in the Fifth and Seventh Fleet operating areas. Her crew of about 24 officers and 247 enlisted Sailors will conduct integrated operations in conjunction with coalition partners deployed to the Middle East and with the Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) Carrier Strike Group.

Guided-missile destroyers are multi-mission surface combatants, capable of Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW) missions. CDR Patton also expects to support the wider mission areas of Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) and Theater Security Cooperation (TSC). When asked about deployment preparations, CDR Patton said, "For the last month, Russell has been busy conducting repairs and training. We have also tried to maximize the time at home with family and loved ones. If we are asked to track submarines or ballistic missiles, I think that Russell Sailors are prepared for any Fifth or Seventh Fleet tasking. It should be a very successful deployment."

USS Russell will participate in integrated training while operating in the Western Pacific. Operating in the Western Pacific will afford the crew the opportunity to improve their operating proficiency in Seventh Fleet's Naval Presence and Theater Security Cooperation missions.

Media interested in covering the ships' departure should contact Chief Bart Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, by 3 p.m. Monday, January 4, 2010, at 473-3788 or 590-8363. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 07:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 to be escorted onto the pier.

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