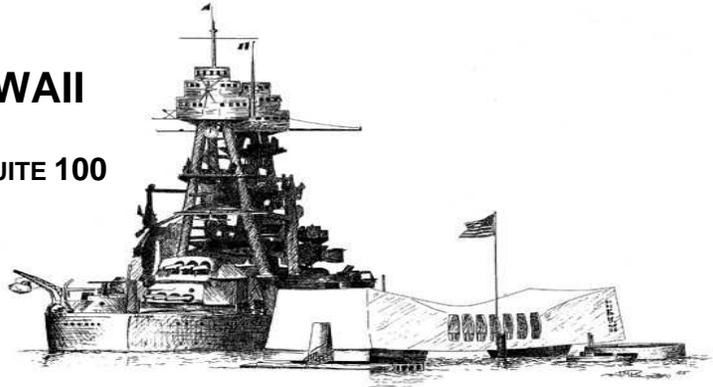


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Chief Bart Bauer, 590-8363

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USS Reuben James (FFG 57) deploys

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – Frigate, USS Reuben James (FFG 57) will depart Pearl Harbor Friday, January 15th for an independent deployment to the 7th Fleet's area of responsibility.

Reuben James will be operating in 7th fleet, conducting a joint fisheries patrol with the USCG, as well as with local nations, through Oceania to protect vital natural resources. Additionally they will be conducting humanitarian relief and goodwill projects, including Project Handclasp distributing medical and hygienic supplies, in the Republic of the Philippines. Furthermore, they will be participating in Subject Matter Expert exchanges and several multinational military exercises to demonstrate their commitment to our regional allies and move towards our goal of increasing regional stability.

Reuben James is commanded by Cmdr. David Miller and has a crew of about 250 officer and enlisted Sailors. Reuben James was laid down on November 19, 1983 and she was commissioned into the Fleet under the command of CDR John J. Kieley, III on March 22, 1986. Initially assigned to Surface Squadron One during post-commissioning trials and shakedown, Reuben James joined the Red Stallions of Destroyer Squadron Thirty-One in June 1987. In August 1991, Reuben James moved from Long Beach, California to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On October 1, 1998, she joined the "Ke Koa O Ke Kai", Destroyer Squadron Thirty-One.

Frigates fulfill a protection-of-shipping mission as Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.

Media interested in covering the ships' departure should contact Chief Bart Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, by 3 p.m. Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 473-3788 or 590-8363. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 08:30 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2010 to be escorted onto the pier.

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