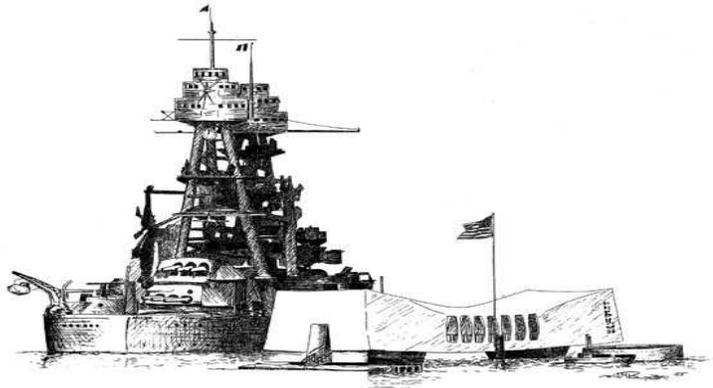


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USS Crommelin to visit Hilo for Merrie Monarch Festival

(PEARL HARBOR)—The Pearl Harbor-based guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG-37) will visit Hilo April 8-10 to participate in the 47th annual Merrie Monarch Festival. Rear Admiral Dixon Smith, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will also attend the festivities.

USS Crommelin will greet the Merrie Monarch Royal Court during a pierside welcome ceremony at Hilo Harbor Pier 1 on Friday, April 9 at 11 a.m. USS Crommelin Sailors, along with Rear Adm. Smith, will attend the hula competitions and participate in the Merrie Monarch Royal Parade on Saturday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. along downtown Hilo. The Navy's Pacific Fleet Band will also participate in the parade.

A select group of Waiakea High School Navy JROTC cadets will have the unique opportunity to embark the ship on its return trip from the Big Island to Pearl Harbor.

USS Crommelin is a 453-foot long Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided missile frigate with a mission to escort and protect carrier battle groups, amphibious landing groups, underway replenishment groups and convoys. Commanding officer Cmdr. Joseph Keenan leads a crew of about 200.

Media representatives interested in covering the pierside welcome ceremony on Friday, April 9 should contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office by noon, Thursday, April 8, by calling (808) 473-2926 or 781-4617.

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