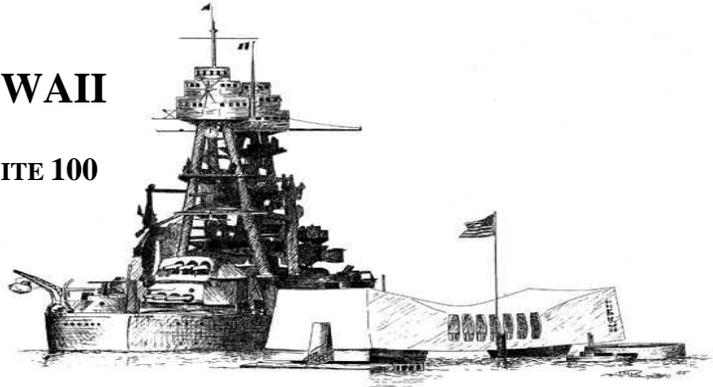


# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**POC: Chief Bart Bauer, 473-3788**

**April 22, 2010**  
**Release # 015-10**

### **USS Hopper scheduled to return from deployment Friday**

**(Pearl Harbor, HI)** – The Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) is scheduled to return from an independent deployment to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Fleets' areas of responsibility in the Middle East and Western Pacific, respectively.

USS Hopper is commanded by Cmdr. Kevin Melody, with a crew of approximately 270 officers and enlisted personnel.

"Hopper's success during this last deployment belongs completely to the Sailors. In all that they were called to do, the crew approached their missions with a professionalism and competence that cannot help but make America proud," said Lt. Cmdr. Al Lopez, Executive Officer.

In support of Maritime Security Operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, USS Hopper conducted baseline operations for Coalition Task Force 152, including maritime patrols, bridge queries and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) approach operations.

Supporting stability and global economic prosperity, USS Hopper performed picket duties for Al Basra Oil Terminal, Regional Air Defense Commander and Regional Maritime interdiction Operation Commander, under Coalition Task Force Iraqi Maritime.

In the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet area of operations, Hopper Sailors volunteered their time and pitched in during several community relations projects with two different schools in Phuket, Thailand, by revitalizing the cafeteria at Baan Ao Nam School and repainting the Baan Para School.

For more information about USS Hopper, visit [www.hopper.navy.mil](http://www.hopper.navy.mil)

*Media interested in covering the ships' arrival are requested to contact Chief Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, by 3 p.m. Thursday, April 22 at 473-3788 or 590-8363. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 23 to be escorted onto the pier.*

**-USN-**