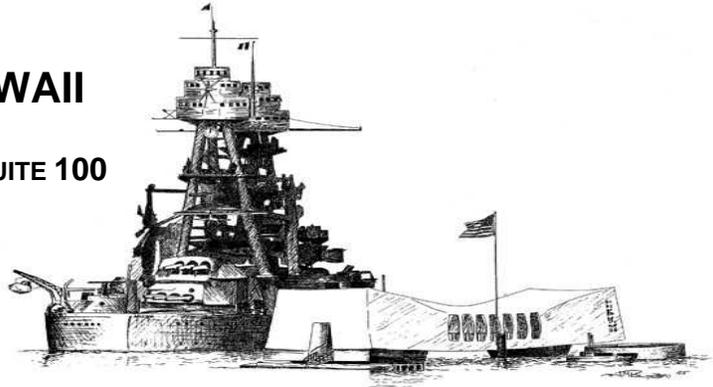


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USS O'Kane (DDG-77) Ready to Deploy

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – Guided-missile destroyer, USS O'Kane will depart from Pearl Harbor Friday, July 9th on an independent deployment to the Middle East and Western Pacific, the 5th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Cmdr Derek Trinque, Commanding Officer, will take the ship on deployment following an accelerated training and maintenance period in Pearl Harbor. "We look forward to the missions in 5th Fleet, which differ somewhat from those we executed during our last [Western Pacific] deployment. The ship will support ballistic missile defense requirements in the Central Command region, though I expect we will take part in a host of other missions as well," said Trinque.

Commenting on his crew, CDR Trinque said, "throughout the compressed training timeline, the maintenance period, and most recently the Electronic Navigation certification, this crew has inspired me with their sense of commitment and their resilience. I know they are looking forward to the deployment, where they can see the direct results of all their hard work."

Guided-missile destroyers are multi-mission surface combatants, capable of Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW) missions. They operate independently for support of carrier and expeditionary strike groups.

For more information visit the ship's website:
www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg77/Pages/default.aspx

Media interested in covering the ships' departure are requested to contact Chief Bart Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, by 5 p.m. Thursday, July 8, 2010, at 473-3788 or 590-8363. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 9:00 a.m. on Friday July 9, 2010, to be escorted onto the pier.