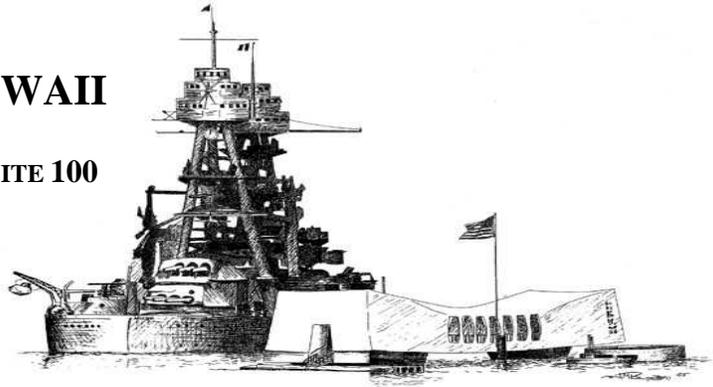


# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **NAVY REGION HAWAII**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**850 TICONDEROGA STREET SUITE 100**  
**PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860**

Tel: (808) 473-2888  
Fax: (808) 473-2876  
[www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii)



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

**Nov. 26, 2010**  
**Updated Release # 036a-10**

### **Grace Tarawa Tran to visit birthplace, Ex-USS Tarawa** *Corpsman who delivered child of former Vietnam refugee plans surprise visit*

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, HI – Grace Tarawa Tran was born on the USS Tarawa (LHA 1) on May 10, 1979 after her mother and 441 other Vietnamese refugees were rescued at sea. USS Tarawa decommissioned in 2009 and is now located in the Naval Inactive Ships Maintenance Facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Unbeknownst to Tran, the Navy corpsman who delivered her will meet Tran at her “birthplace” – Ex-Tarawa – on Nov. 29, 2010 at 10 a.m.

The refugees were aboard the USS Tarawa in 1979 for five days, during which time Tran was born and immediately became a U.S. citizen. She was delivered with the assistance of a Navy corpsman, then-HM2 Richard A. Reed, Jr, who is now a reverend from Indiana.

The Marine Corps’ Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 2/3, based at Kaneohe Bay, was embarked on the USS Tarawa in May 1979. John Ishikawa, a Hawaii resident who was with the 2/3 in 1979, along with other Marine Corps representatives, also plan to meet Tran at the ship on Nov. 29 at 10 a.m.

Tran currently lives in Philadelphia and has not returned to the USS Tarawa since her birth. She, along with her mother, two brothers and uncle, are now US citizens and recently attended the reunion of the BLT 2/3 of 1979 that was held last month in Phoenix, Arizona.

Documentation of Tran’s birth is on line: <http://www.history.navy.mil/shiphist/t/lha-1/1979.pdf> (see May 10, 1979 entry).

***Media interested in covering Tran’s visit are requested to contact Chief Bart Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 473-3788 or 590-8363 by 0830, Monday, Nov. 29. Media will be met at the Naval Inactive Ships Maintenance Facility in Middle Loch, at 93-051 Waipio Point Access Rd., Waipahu, HI 96767.***

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Waipio+Point+Access+Rd,+Waipahu,+HI+96797&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=30.461748,78.837891&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Waipio+Point+Access+Rd,+Waipahu,+Hawaii+96797&ll=21.383393,-157.975245&spn=0.034926,0.07699&z=14](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Waipio+Point+Access+Rd,+Waipahu,+HI+96797&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=30.461748,78.837891&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Waipio+Point+Access+Rd,+Waipahu,+Hawaii+96797&ll=21.383393,-157.975245&spn=0.034926,0.07699&z=14)