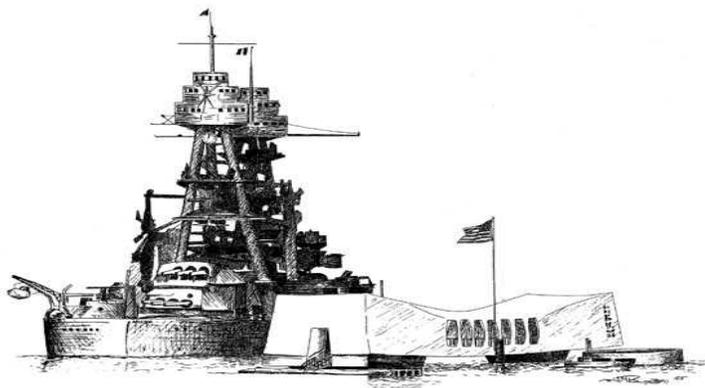


MEDIA ADVISORY

NAVY REGION HAWAII
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA STREET SUITE 100
PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860-5102

Tel: (808) 473-2888
Fax: (808) 473-2876
www.hawaii.navy.mil



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2007

POC: Chief David Rush 473-3788

RELEASE #020-07

USS Lake Erie to deploy to Western Pacific

(PEARL HARBOR) – Following USS Lake Erie’s (CG 70) successful ballistic missile defense exercise conducted on April 26 in the Hawaiian Operating Area, 330 Sailors will depart for a Western Pacific deployment at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 4, onboard the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile cruiser.

USS Lake Erie successfully engaged targets using the Aegis BMD’s shipboard weapon system; the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IA, against the ballistic missile target; and the Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) Block IIIA, against the surrogate hostile air target. The test demonstrated USS Lake Erie’s ability to engage a ballistic missile threat and defend itself from attack at the same time.

This latest Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense “hit to kill” intercept flight test involved the simultaneous engagements of a ballistic missile “unitary” target (meaning that the target warhead and booster remain attached) and a surrogate hostile air target. This marked the eighth successful intercept in 10 flight tests for the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Program.

The Aegis BMD system is the maritime component of the MDA’s Ballistic Missile Defense System, and is designed to intercept and destroy short to intermediate-range ballistic missiles. This test also marked the 27th successful hit to kill intercept in tests since 2001.

Modern U.S. Navy guided missile cruisers perform primarily in a Battle Force role. These ships are multi-mission [Air Warfare (AW), Undersea Warfare (USW), and Surface Warfare (SUW)] surface combatants capable of supporting carrier battle groups, amphibious forces, or of operating independently and as flagships of surface action groups. Cruisers are equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles giving them additional long range strike mission capability.

Commanded by Capt. Randall Hendrickson, USS Lake Erie will depart Pearl Harbor for a Western Pacific deployment to the Seventh Fleet Area of Operations. For more information on USS Lake Erie, visit www.lake-erie.navy.mil.

Media representatives who would like to cover the ship's departure should contact Chief David Rush at 473-3788 by 3 p.m. Thursday, May 3. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Pass & ID parking area on Friday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m.

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