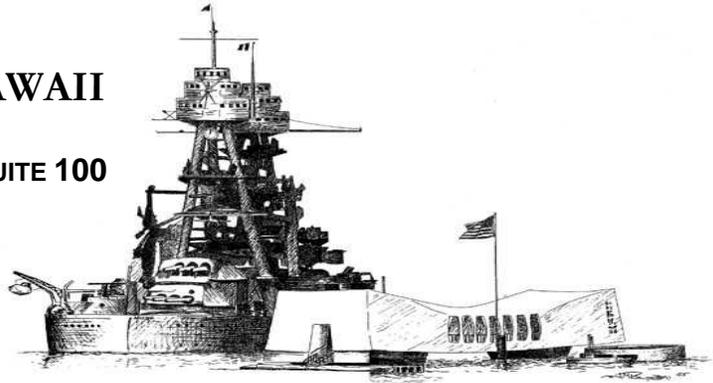


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POC: Chief David Rush

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USS Salvor decommissioning ceremony set for January 12

(PEARL HARBOR) -- The auxiliary rescue and salvage ship USS Salvor (ARS 52) will be decommissioned at its homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor at a 10 a.m. ceremony on Friday, Jan. 12, 2007.

The guest speaker for the decommissioning ceremony will be Rear Admiral T. G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. Also attending the event will be Rear Admiral Robert D. Reilly, Jr., Commander, Military Sealift Command.

The ship, which is designed for salvage of stranded vessels, rescue and assistance, recovery of submerged objects and manned diving operations, was commissioned on June 14, 1986 and first arrived in Pearl Harbor on Nov. 1 of the same year.

The ship has participated in numerous exercises during its more than 20 years of naval service, including Rim of the Pacific Exercise in 1990, Cooperation from the Sea in 1995 with the Russian Federated navy, and SALVEX 96 with the Republic of Korea navy.

Most recently, USS Salvor returned to its Hawaii homeport Oct. 2, after a five-month deployment to Southeast Asia in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise 2006.

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During the exercise, the ship was instrumental in positively identifying the wreck of the sunken U.S. Navy submarine USS Lagarto (SS 371), which was lost in battle in the Gulf of Thailand in 1945, shortly before the end of World War II.

USS Salvor is the third ship of the auxiliary rescue and salvage class of vessel constructed for the U.S. Navy. The rugged construction of this steel-hulled vessel, combined with her speed and endurance, make Salvor well-suited for rescue and salvage operations throughout the world.

The ship will be transferred to the Military Sealift Command (MSC) upon decommissioning, becoming USNS Salvor (T-ARS 52). It will be manned by MSC civil service mariners instead of her previous Navy crew. Since MSC already operates the Navy's ocean-going fleet tugs, which often work in tandem with Navy salvage ships like Salvor, the salvage mission is a natural transition to the command, particularly since it already has civil service mariners experienced in towing and lifting operations.

USS Salvor has been awarded four Battle "E" awards. The Battle "E" award recognizes sustained superior performance in all areas of combat readiness. As part of the competition, ships compete for command excellence in four combat areas: maritime warfare, engineering/survivability, command and control, and logistics management. To receive the nod for battle efficiency, a ship must excel in all four areas.

USS Salvor's commanding officer is Lt. Cmdr. John C. Howard, a native of Norton, Virginia. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia and was commissioned an Ensign in July 1992.

Media interested in attending the decommissioning ceremony please contact Chief David Rush at Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs, (808) 473-3788 by 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Pass & I.D. parking lot at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12.