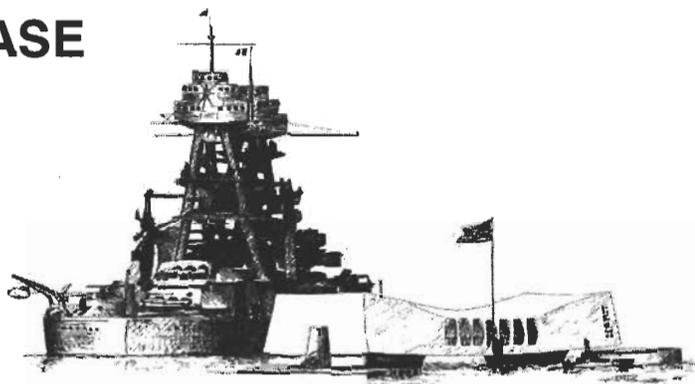


NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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Peleliu strike group arriving Friday

PEARL HARBOR – Three ships from Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG 3) will arrive in Pearl Harbor Feb. 24 en route to a scheduled Western Pacific deployment. USS Peleliu (LHA 5), USS Ogden (LPD 5) and USS Germantown (LSD 42) left their homeport of San Diego, Calif. Feb 15 and while in Pearl Harbor will meet up with USS Port Royal (CG 73) and USS Rueben James (FFG 57), who will depart with them on their six-month deployment. The ships of the ESG will operate in the Pacific and Indian Oceans in support of the global war on terrorism, and other missions as required by the combatant commander.

Brig. Gen. Carl Jensen, USMC, commands ESG 3 from his flagship, USS Peleliu (LHA 5). Embarked Marines from the Camp Pendleton-based 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) are part of ESG 3.

Media representatives who would like to cover Peleliu's arrival should contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs by noon Thursday, Feb. 23. A media escort will be at the Nimitz Gate Pass and ID office parking area at 7:30 a.m. Friday.