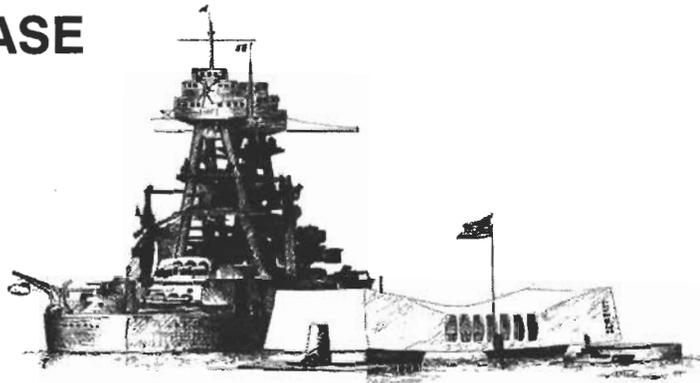


NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POC: JOC (SW) Joe Kane 473-3788

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Two Pearl Harbor ships to join Peleliu strike group

PEARL HARBOR – Media are invited to join the friends and families of the more than 700 Sailors of Pearl Harbor based ships, USS Port Royal (CG 73) and USS Reuben James (FFG 57) as they say goodbye Monday, Feb. 27 at 9:30 a.m. The two ships will join Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG 3) as they depart Hawaii for a six-month Western Pacific deployment.

ESG 3 includes USS Peleliu (LHA 5), the guided missile cruiser Port Royal, the guided missile frigate Reuben James, the dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42), the guided missile destroyer USS Gonzales (DDG 66) with the crew of the guided missile destroyer USS Laboon (DDG 58), the amphibious transport dock USS Ogden (LPD 5), the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, TACRON 11 and the “Blackjacks” of Helicopter Sea Squadron Two One (HSC-21). Brig. Gen. Carl Jensen, USMC, commands ESG 3 from his flagship, Peleliu.

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.

Reuben James is a 453-foot-long Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate captained by Cmdr. Logan Jones. The ship is a multi-mission platform designed to escort and protect carrier strike groups, expeditionary strike groups, underway replenishment groups and convoys in addition to conducting anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare. For more information on Reuben James, please visit www.reuben-james.navy.mil.

Port Royal is the Navy’s 27th Aegis-class guided missile cruiser, and the last cruiser to be constructed in the 20th century. Port Royal is designed to conduct prompt, sustained combat operations at sea in support of carrier battle groups, expeditionary strike groups, surface actions groups, amphibious assault groups, and as an integral part of maritime interdiction forces. For more information on Port Royal, please visit www.port-royal.navy.mil.

Media representatives who would like to cover the ships’ departure should contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs by 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24. A media escort will be at the Nimitz Gate Pass and ID office parking area at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27.

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