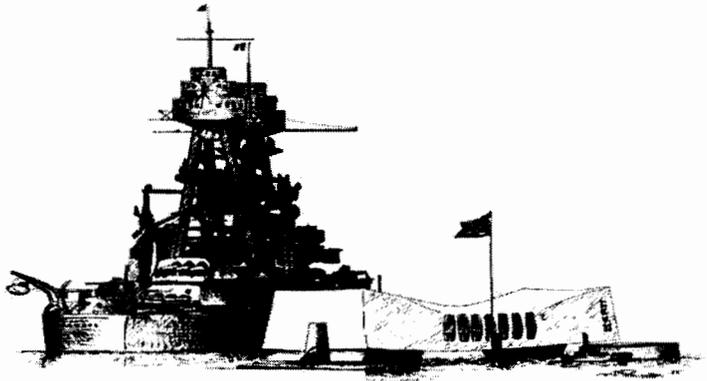


# PRESS RELEASE

NAVY REGION HAWAII  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
850 TICONDEROGA ST., SUITE 110  
PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860

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



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**POC: Chief Joe Kane, 473-3788**

**RELEASE #027-06**

## **Navy Reservists Return from Seven-Month OIF Deployment**

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – Family members and friends are holding a "welcome home" celebration and luncheon May 21 in honor of six Navy Reservists returning from a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

The luncheon will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Navy Lodge on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. The six returning Navy Reservists are: Supply Clerk 1<sup>st</sup> Class Roman Amores, Culinary Specialist 1<sup>st</sup> Class Allan Jensen, SK2 Ronel Catbagan, SK2 David Comeau, SK2 Alvin Villegas, and Operations Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class David Bigelow.

The six represent three different Navy Reserve units. Amores, Catbagan, Comeau, and Villegas are with Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor Detachment 220. Jensen is with Naval Submarine Support Command Detachment C Pearl Harbor, and Bigelow is with Commander Pacific Fleet 120.

The six personnel were among 400 Navy Reservists who were mobilized last year from units across the United States. Under the command of the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF), the personnel provided support for the Department of Defense's customs inspection mission in Iraq and Kuwait.

The personnel worked long hours to ensure that all pieces of returning military equipment did not harbor pests or diseases and conformed to strict United States Department of Agriculture standards. In addition, through their vigilant inspection of baggage, vehicles, equipment, and even of personnel, they ensured all gear returning from OIF complied with U.S. customs regulations.

Personnel were trained at NAVELSF facilities for six weeks in Cheatham Annex, Virginia, and they deployed to the Middle East in September 2005

*Media interested in interviewing the Sailors should RSVP to Navy Region Public Affairs (473-3788) by noon Friday, May 19. Media will be met at the Bowfin parking lot at 9:30 a.m. May 21.*

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