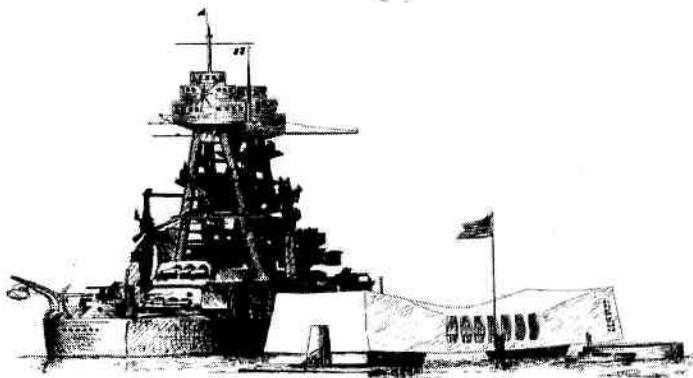


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POC: MCC David Rush 473-3788

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USS Reuben James, USS Port Royal return to Pearl Harbor

(PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII) -- Pearl Harbor-based ships including the guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) are returning to their homeport of Pearl Harbor Saturday, Aug. 5, along with visiting ships of Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG 3), following a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Fifth Fleet area of operations.

Nearly 6,000 Sailors and Marines and six ships of ESG 3 departed San Diego Feb. 15 for a six-month deployment in support of the global war on terrorism. USS Port Royal and USS Reuben James departed Pearl Harbor on Feb. 27.

The ships of the ESG operated in the Pacific and Indian Oceans in support of the global war on terrorism, and other missions required by the combatant commander.

In addition to USS Reuben James and USS Port Royal, ESG 3 is comprised of Amphibious Squadron (COMPHIBRON) 3, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), USS Peleliu (LHA 5), the guided-missile destroyer USS Gonzales (DDG 66), the amphibious transport dock USS Ogden (LPD 5), the dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42), Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) 11, and the "Black Jacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21.

For more information on USS Port Royal and USS Reuben James, visit their websites at www.port-royal.navy.mil, and www.reuben-james.navy.mil

Media interested in covering the homecoming please contact Chief David Rush at the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs office by noon Friday, Aug. 4 at (808) 473-3788. Media will be met at Nimitz Gate Pass and ID at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 and escorted to the pier.

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