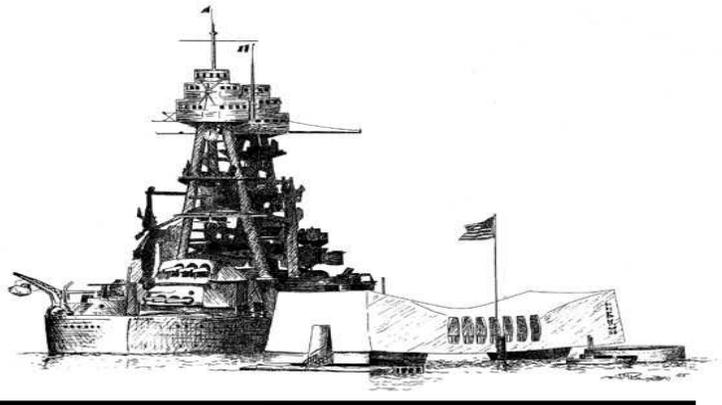


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sept. 14, 2006**

**POC: Lt. Barbara Mertz**

**RELEASE #050-06**

## **USS Crommelin, USS Hopper return from CARAT 2006**

**(PEARL HARBOR)** -- Family and friends will be on hand to welcome home more than 500 Sailors of the frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), and the guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) when they return to Naval Station Pearl Harbor tomorrow, following a four-month deployment to the Seventh Fleet area of operations.

The Hawaii-based ships departed Pearl Harbor on May 5 and took part in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, or CARAT 2006 exercise. CARAT is a regularly scheduled series of military training exercises with Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines, designed to enhance interoperability of the respective sea services.

The other CARAT task group ships included USS Salvor (ARS 52) and the United States Coast Guard Cutter Sherman (WHEC 720). Salvor is homeported in Pearl Harbor and Sherman is homeported in Alameda, Calif.

For more information on Hopper and Crommelin please visit their Web sites at [www.hopper.navy.mil](http://www.hopper.navy.mil) and [www.crommelin.navy.mil](http://www.crommelin.navy.mil).

Additional information on CARAT 2006 can be found at [www.clwp.navy.mil](http://www.clwp.navy.mil)

*Media representatives interested in covering the pier side arrivals should contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 473-3788 by 4 p.m. today to arrange access to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass and ID Office parking area at 9 a.m. on Sept. 15 to be escorted to the pier.*

**- END -**