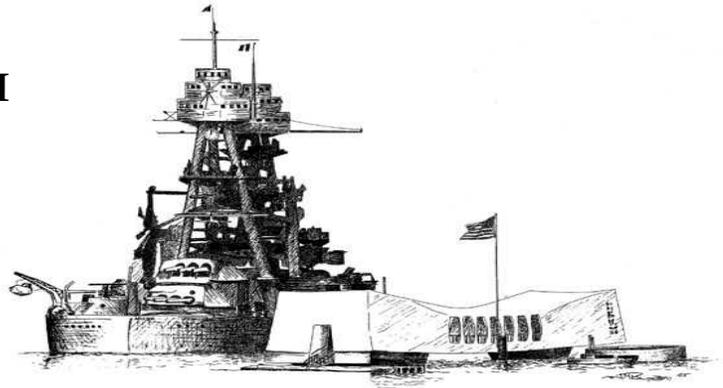


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 29, 2006

POC: Lt. Barbara Mertz

RELEASE #052-06

USS Salvor returns from CARAT 2006

(PEARL HARBOR) -- Family and friends will greet more than 100 Sailors of the crew of USS Salvor (ARS 52), a Safeguard-class rescue and salvage ship, as it returns Monday, Oct. 2 at 9 a.m. following a five-month deployment.

The ship traveled to various locations in the Western Pacific taking part in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, or CARAT 2006 exercise.

Divers from USS Salvor (ARS 52) conducted six-days of diving to positively identify the World War II era attack submarine USS Lagarto (SS 371) as part of the Thailand phase of CARAT.

Eighty-six submariners perished on Lagarto, which was last heard from May 3, 1945, as she was preparing to attack a Japanese convoy under heavy escorts in the Gulf of Thailand. Japanese war records later revealed that the minelayer Hatsutaka reported sinking a U.S. submarine at roughly the same time and location.

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.

Commanded by Lt. Cmdr. John C. Howard, Salvor is 255 feet long, 51 feet wide and displaces nearly 3,282 tons. The ship is capable of many missions, including: salvage of stranded vessels, rescue and assistance, recovery of submerged objects, as well as serving as a manned diving platform. Salvor is able to tow a 1,092-foot-long, 97,000-ton Nimitz-class aircraft carrier.

For more information on Salvor, please visit www.salvor.navy.mil.

For more information on CARAT 2006, visit www.clwp.navy.mil/carat.htm.

Media representatives interested in covering Salvor's arrival should contact Chief David Rush, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, at 473-3788 by 3 p.m. today to arrange an escort. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass and ID Office parking area at 8 a.m. on Monday Oct. 2 for escort to the pier.