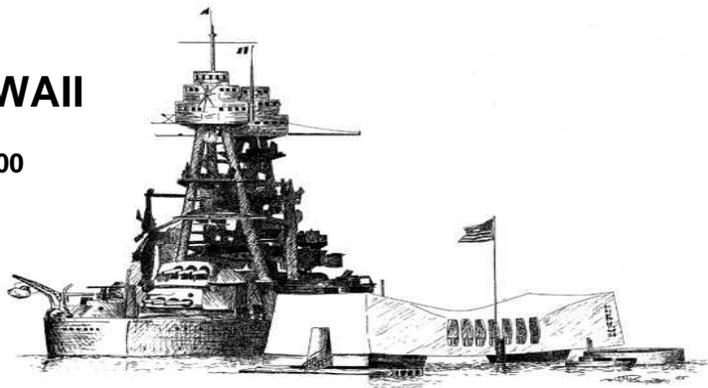


# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **NAVY REGION HAWAII**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**850 TICONDEROGA STREET SUITE 100**  
**PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860**

Tel: (808) 473-2888  
Fax: (808) 473-2876  
[www.hawaii.navy.mil](http://www.hawaii.navy.mil)



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 16, 2007**

**POC: Chief David Rush 473-3788**

**RELEASE # 026-07**

### **Pearl Harbor ships and carrier strike group return from deployment**

**(PEARL HARBOR, HI)** – On Monday, August 20, USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) and USS O’Kane (DDG 77) are returning to their homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor following a deployment with the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Group.

The Bremerton, Wash.-based carrier USS John C. Stennis (JCSSG) will also be making a brief port visit while en route to its homeport.

JCSSG includes the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), embarked CVW-9, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21, the guided-missile destroyers USS O’Kane (DDG 77), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Preble (DDG 88), the guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54), and the fast combat support ship USNS Bridge (T-AOE 10). More than 6,500 Sailors and Marines are assigned to JCSSG.

Stennis' embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 flew more than 7,900 sorties coinciding with more than 22,000 flight hours during its deployment. Approximately 90,000 pounds of ordnance was dropped in support of coalition forces operating on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The strike groups supported Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, and conducted Maritime Security operations. They also work closely with allies to build regional security and long-term stability.

**- MORE -**

## **STRIKE GROUP 2-2-2**

The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (JCSSG) successfully wrapped up Exercise Valiant Shield 2007 while operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) Aug. 14.

The eight-day exercise conducted off the coast of Guam tested the military's ability to rapidly bring together joint forces in response to any regional contingency. It also enabled the United States to contribute to regional security and stability and demonstrated U.S. commitment in the Pacific.

The Pearl Harbor ships deployed on Jan. 26, and operated in the Persian Gulf region along with the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, which was already in the Central Command Area of Operations.

USS O'Kane's commanding officer is Cmdr. James Joseph Duke, Jr., and USS Paul Hamilton's commanding officer is Cmdr. Christopher Bushnell.

Guided missile destroyers operate in support of carrier strike groups, surface action groups, amphibious groups and replenishment groups and are multi-mission [Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW)] surface combatants.

**Carrier Embark: Media representatives are invited to board a U.S. Navy helicopter to the aircraft carrier and ride the ship into port. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 7:00 am on Monday, Aug. 20, to be escorted to Hickam Air Force Base.**

**Ship Homecomings: Media representatives are invited to cover the Pearl Harbor-based ships return to port. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 7:45 am, on Monday, Aug. 20, to be escorted to the pier.**

**Carrier Arrival: Media representatives interested in only covering the carrier arrival will be met at the Pass and ID Parking Lot at 9:45 am, on Monday, Aug. 20, to be escorted to the pier.**

**Contact: Chief David Rush, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, at 473-3788 or 590-8363 by 3pm Friday, Aug. 17**

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