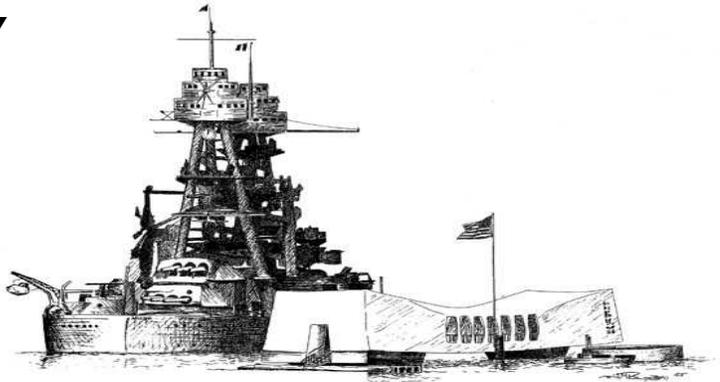


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**POC: Chief David Rush, 590-8363**

**March 21, 2008**  
**RELEASE # 006-08**

## **USS Russell to deploy with Abraham Lincoln Strike Group, Peruvian ship Bap Mollendo arrives at Pearl Harbor**

**(Pearl Harbor, HI)** – The Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS *Russell* (DDG 59) is scheduled to depart March 24 to join the *Abraham Lincoln* Carrier Strike Group (CSG-9).

USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), led by Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine, Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, departed its homeport of Everett, Wash. March 13 for San Diego to embark personnel and aircraft before deploying overseas.

The strike group is deploying in support of the global war on terrorism as part of the strike group's regular deployment rotation.

In August 2006, the *Lincoln* CSG returned home from a six-month deployment to the Arabian Gulf and Western Pacific. During its 2006 deployment, they supported Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, conducted maritime security operations and participated in joint and coalition military exercises and operations.

The primary mission of USS *Russell* is to destroy enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines, surface ships, and land targets. USS *Russell* is normally assigned to a carrier strike group and brings significant capabilities to the battle force, carrying the latest technology in all areas of modern warfare. Cmdr. J.D. Weston is the ship's commanding officer.

For more information about USS *Russell*, visit [www.russell.navy.mil](http://www.russell.navy.mil).

**-MORE-**

## **RUSSELL 2-2-2**

*Lincoln* CSG, led by Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine, is comprised of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) Two, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) Nine, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), the guided-missile cruiser USS *Mobile Bay* (CG 53), the frigate USS *Curts* (FFG 38), guided-missile destroyers USS *Momsen* (DDG 92), USS *Russell* (DDG 59) and USS *Shoup* (DDG 86) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 11.

In addition, the Peruvian navy transport ship *Bap Mollendo* (ATC 131) will pull into Pearl Harbor on Monday, March 24, for a three-day port visit. The crew members are scheduled to lay a wreath at the Arizona Memorial, visit various military and state representatives, as well as tour USS *Lake Erie* and Marine Corps Base Kaneohe. The ship will be open for tours on Tuesday, March 25, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for DoD ID cardholders and their guests.

The ship's commanding officer, Cmdr. Gonzalo Carrera, is holding a media availability following USS *Russell*'s departure for media interested in covering the ship's visit to Hawai'i.

***Media representatives interested in covering USS Russell's departure, and/or Bap Mollendo's arrival, must contact Chief David Rush at 473-3788, or 590-8363 by 4 p.m. March 21, to arrange pier escort. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Pass & ID parking at 12:45 on Monday, March 24.***

**- END -**