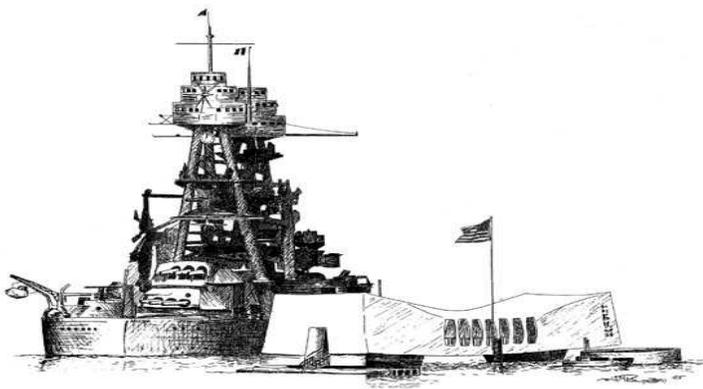


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 3, 2008

POC: Chief David Rush

RELEASE #001-08

Kearns to relieve Stewart as Commander Destroyer Squadron 31

(PEARL HARBOR) – Capt. William A. Kearns III will relieve Capt. Robert B. Stewart as Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, at a change of command ceremony on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Friday, January 4 at 2 p.m.

Stewart will be reporting to Commander, Pacific Fleet as the Deputy Director of Operations. Kearns is reporting from Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Stewart is a 1982 graduate of the University of North Texas, in Denton, Texas where he earned his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. Additionally, he received postgraduate degrees in Business Administration from Boston University and Military Studies from USMC Command and Staff College. Stewart received his commission through the Officer Candidate School in 1983.

Kearns received his commission through the Naval ROTC program upon graduation from the University of Colorado. He is also a graduate of Harvard University where he earned a master's degree in public administration.

Destroyer Squadron 31 is based in Pearl Harbor and includes USS Chafee (DDG 90), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Russell (DDG 59), USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and USS O'Kane (DDG 77).

Media interested in attending the change of command ceremony must contact Chief David Rush of the Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office (590-8363) by 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 4. Media will be met at the Pass & I.D. parking lot adjacent to Nimitz Gate at 1:30 pm on Friday, Jan. 4.

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