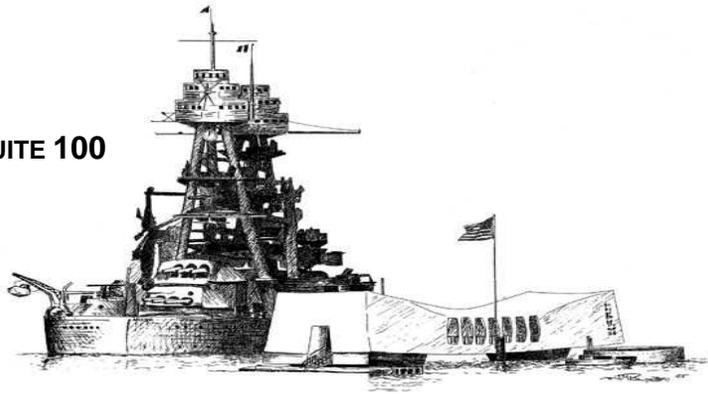


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Chief David Rush**

**Nov. 8, 2007
Release # 032-07**

USS Port Royal, USS Hopper to deploy Nov 12

(PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII) -- On Monday, Nov. 12, guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), and guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) are scheduled to depart their homeport of Pearl Harbor to join the San Diego element of the Tarawa Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG), which departed Nov. 5 for a six-month deployment to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operations.

Units from San Diego include Amphibious Squadron 1, USS Tarawa (LHA 1), USS Cleveland (LPD 7), USS Germantown (LSD 42), 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and elements of Naval Beach Group 1. USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS Ingraham (FFG 61) will join the Tarawa ESG in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

More than 5,500 Sailors and Marines make up the Tarawa ESG, which has the flexibility and power to conduct strike warfare and engage enemy forces in the air, on the sea's surface and beneath the surface. In addition, they provide support capabilities using landing craft air cushion and landing craft utility vehicles, CH-46s, CH-53s, AH-1, UH-1, SH-60 helicopters and AV-8B Harrier jet aircraft.

During a 2005 deployment, the Tarawa ESG conducted maritime security operations, participated in Exercise Bright Star and served as an afloat staging base in the North Arabian Gulf, where they trained with the Iraqi navy and protected key Iraqi oil terminals.

Guided missile cruisers perform primarily in a Battle Force role. These ships are multi-mission [Air Warfare (AW), Undersea Warfare (USW), Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) and Surface Warfare (SUW)] surface combatants capable of supporting carrier battle groups, amphibious forces, or of operating independently and as flagships of surface action groups. Cruisers are equipped with *Tomahawk* cruise missiles giving them additional long range Strike Warfare (STRW) capability. Some Aegis Cruisers have been outfitted with a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability.

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DEPLOYMENT 2-2-2

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.

Media interested in covering the departures please contact Chief David Rush, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, by 3pm Friday, Nov. 9, at 590-8363. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 9 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 12, to be escorted to the pier.

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