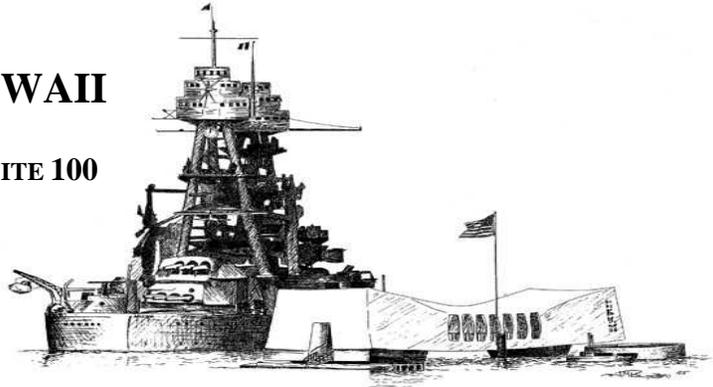


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Chief Bart Bauer, 473-3788

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USS Lake Erie scheduled to return from deployment Thursday

(Pearl Harbor, HI) – The Pearl Harbor based guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) is scheduled to return from deployment in the Western Pacific on Thursday, April 1.

USS Lake Erie is commanded by Capt. Ronald Boxall, with a crew of approximately 340 officers and enlisted personnel.

USS Lake Erie while on deployment hosted senior enlisted military service members from the Republic of the Philippines Navy, Marines and the Air Force during a port visit to Manila, Philippines.

Lake Erie Sailors volunteered their time and pitched in during a Habitat for Humanity community relations project in Thailand. There, Sailors assisted in the construction of a new Habitat house for a needy Thai family. Continuing their volunteer efforts throughout the deployment, Lake Erie Sailors again pitched in to help bring vital supplies to the Banglamung Hospital in Thailand, unloading a pallet full of medical and hygiene supplies.

Other highlights of Lake Erie's deployment included being assigned to Commander Seventh Fleet and Commander Task Force Seven Zero as part of the Forward Deployed Naval Force. They also conducted PASSEX's with the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy and Royal Thai Navy. Lake Erie Sailors also participated in Visit, Board, Search and Seizure drills with ROK Navy Sailors, improving tactical performance for each Navy.

For more information about USS Lake Erie, visit www.lake-erie.navy.mil

Media interested in covering the ships' arrival are requested to contact Chief Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, by 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 31 at 473-3788 or 590-8363. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 1 to be escorted onto the pier.

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