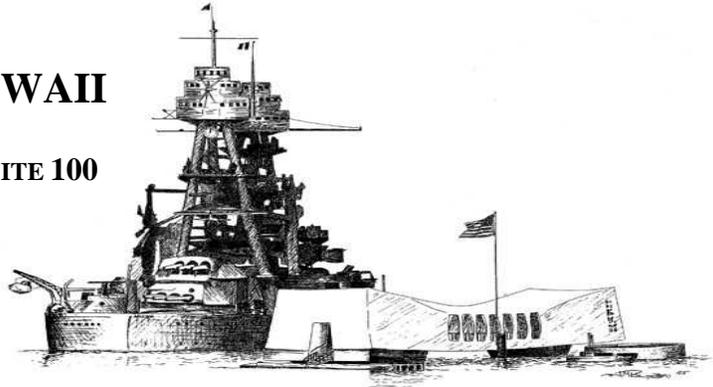


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Chief Bart Bauer, 473-3788

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Hospital Ship Mercy to visit Hawaii, Pacific Partnership begins

(Pearl Harbor, HI) – U.S. Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) is scheduled to arrive at Pearl Harbor May 8 in support of Pacific Partnership 2010 (PP10).

Pacific Partnership 2010 is the fifth in a series of annual U.S. Pacific Fleet humanitarian civic assistance endeavors aimed at strengthening regional relationships with host nations and partner nations in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

“This deployment offers an incredible opportunity to continue to build the relationships and capabilities that will be essential in responding to real world disaster in the region,” said Capt. Lisa Franchetti, PP10 mission commander.

The deployment which is scheduled to take place through late September 2010, is designed to enhance relationships through medical, dental and engineering outreach projects that reinforce the mutually supporting roles between participants.

Mercy, as lead vessel, is scheduled to visit Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The medical treatment facility includes multiple operation rooms, sophisticated X-ray capabilities and more than 500 volunteer and military staff. Two additional visits will be made in Palau and Papua New Guinea by other Navy and partner nation ships as part of PP10.

Mercy is one of two U.S. Navy hospital ships and is crewed by 66 civil service mariners of the U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command, who navigate the ship to each mission stop, run the ship’s engineering plant and transport patients and mission personnel between ship and shore in small boats.

Pacific Partnership conducts humanitarian and civic assistance by working with and through host and partner nations, non-governmental organizations and other U.S. government agencies. In addition to providing humanitarian assistance, Pacific Partnership also provides valuable experiences to learn from host nation military and civilian experts. This experience helps ensure the U.S. military is able to rapidly respond in support of emergency relief efforts in the future.

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Media Availability and Tour

- 1130 USNS Mercy arrives
1200 Media availability with Capt. Lisa Franchetti, PP10 mission commander;
Capt. David Bradshaw, Mercy's civil service master; and Capt. Jeffery
Paulson, commanding officer of Mercy's shipboard hospital.
1230 Media availability concludes; USNS Mercy media tour commences

(Public tours are not available.)

Media interested in covering the ships' arrival should contact Chief Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, by 3 p.m. Friday, May 7 at 473-3788 or 590-8363. Media will be met at the Pass and ID parking lot adjacent to the Nimitz Gate at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 8 to be escorted onto the pier.

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