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Pearl Harbor-Hickam bids aloha to Indonesian Navy Tall Ship

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM – The Indonesian Navy tall ship, KRI Dewaruci, departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Mar. 2 after a brief port visit in Hawaii. The ship arrived here Feb. 29.

“The ship was here primarily for replenishment,” according to Foreign Ship Liaison Officer Lt. Cmdr. Shannon Chong. “While in Hawaii, the crew had a chance for a much-needed rest.”

During the visit the 80 Indonesian Navy sailors aboard hosted more than 250 visitors over two days, mostly U.S. military service members, DoD employees and families. Visitors received information pamphlets about KRI Dewaruci and sightseeing in Indonesia.

“The Sailors are really, really friendly,” said First Class Culinary Specialist (SW) Jerome Condevillamar of JBPHH. They show you around, try to share what they have and answer your questions.”

KRI Dewaruci is on the way to the International Operation Sail (OpSail) 2012 to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812, at the invitation of the Chief of Naval Operations. Dewaruci will join other tall ships, naval vessels and the Navy’s Blue Angels holding demonstrations this spring and summer in New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston and Norfolk, Va.

“This is the bicentennial year of the War of 1812 and an opportunity to reflect on how far our Navy has come since then. Just as they are today, the ships of America’s Navy in 1812 helped to provide maritime security, combating piracy, protecting national commerce and supporting freedom of the seas,” said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. “The Indonesian Navy is an important partner, and it was a pleasure hosting them.”

Dewaruci is the only tall mast ship of the Barquentine class owned and operated by the Indonesian Navy. She is used as a sail training vessel for naval cadets and is the largest tall ship in the Indonesian fleet. The Dewaruci also serves as a goodwill ambassador for the country of Indonesia to the rest of the world.

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