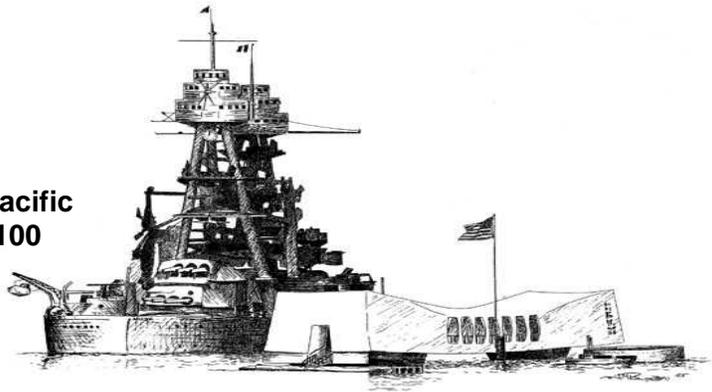


NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Navy, Coast Guard, State respond to grounding of USS Port Royal

PEARL HARBOR – The Navy, Coast Guard and state of Hawaii are working to refloat USS Port Royal (CG 73) after the guided missile cruiser ran aground last night about a half-mile south of Honolulu International Airport's Reef Runway.

No one was injured in the incident, which occurred around 8:30 last night. The extent of damage to the ship and the cause of the grounding on a sand and rock bottom a few miles from the entrance to Pearl Harbor are under investigation.

Navy and Coast Guard personnel are monitoring the surrounding area from shore, from the air and from the sea for any signs of leaking fuel. There has been no indication that any fuel leaked. An Incident Management Command Center has been activated, with the Navy, Coast Guard and state Department of Health coordinating information and actions.

The safety of the crew and those involved in the operation, and preventing harm to the environment are top priorities, along with minimizing damage to Port Royal.

An initial attempt to free Port Royal between 11 p.m. Thursday and high tide at 2 a.m. Friday was not successful.

USS Port Royal, based at Pearl Harbor, was commissioned on July 9, 1994, and has a crew of about 360.