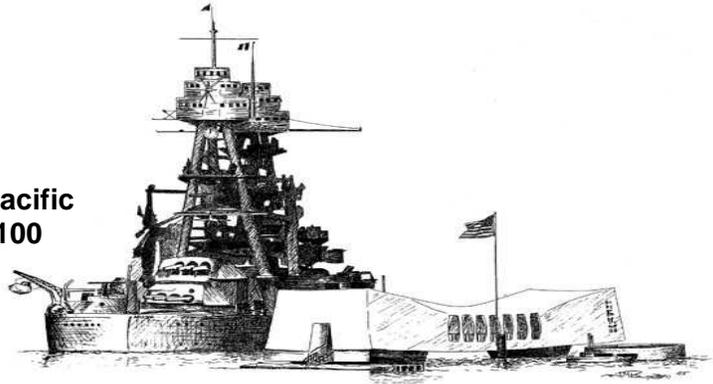


NEWS RELEASE

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February 7, 2009
Release #009-09

NAVY ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT PORT ROYAL UNSUCCESSFUL

PEARL HARBOR, HI - USS Port Royal (CG 73) remains aground after an unsuccessful attempt by USNS Salvor (T-ARS-52), M/V Dove and Navy tugboats to extract it early this morning. Navy officials plan to exercise another option of defueling and dewatering the ship, before attempting to extract it once again.

The Clean Islands spill response vessel remains on the scene as a precaution. There has been no indication that any fuel has leaked. An Incident Management Command Center has been activated, with the Navy, Coast Guard and state Department of Health coordinating information and actions.

No one was injured in the grounding, which occurred around 8:30 p.m. on February 5. The extent of damage to the ship and the cause of the grounding on a sand and rock bottom just a few miles from the entrance to Pearl Harbor are under investigation.

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

The Pearl Harbor-based ship, which was commissioned on July 9, 1994, has a crew of about 320.