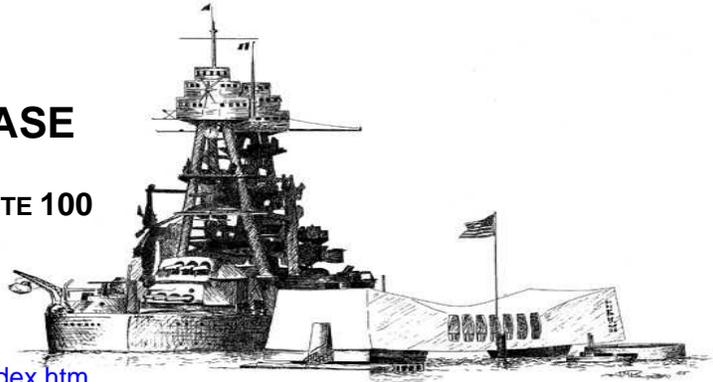


# NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**March 17, 2009**  
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## **Navy League honors Individual Augmentees**

(Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i) – The Honolulu Council, Navy League of the United States, will honor more than 150 Sailors and Marines who have served as Individual Augmentees (IAs), at an awards luncheon at the Hickam AFB Officers Club, on March 17, at 11:30 a.m.

Admiral Robert F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, is the keynote speaker.

IAs are active duty and reserve Sailors and Marines who serve in diverse capacities including customs operations, security forces, explosive ordnance disposal, construction battalions and electronic warfare, and usually serve in-country on duty in hostile conditions. They deploy alone, report to their assignments, fulfill their duty, and return often without the usual fanfare or celebration of a unit homecoming. This awards luncheon is the Navy League's way of recognizing the IAs for a job well done and to welcome them home.

There are currently about 6,500 Navy personnel on the ground in Iraq; and about 2,500 of those are IAs. In Afghanistan, there are about 1,700 Navy personnel on the ground of which about 1,300 are IAs. More than 500 Hawaii-based Sailors are serving in IA assignments.

**News media who are interested in covering this event must arrange an escort by contacting Chief Rush, at the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, cell 590-8363. News media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Pass & ID parking lot at 11 a.m. for escort to the Hickam AFB Officers Club.**

**- USN -**