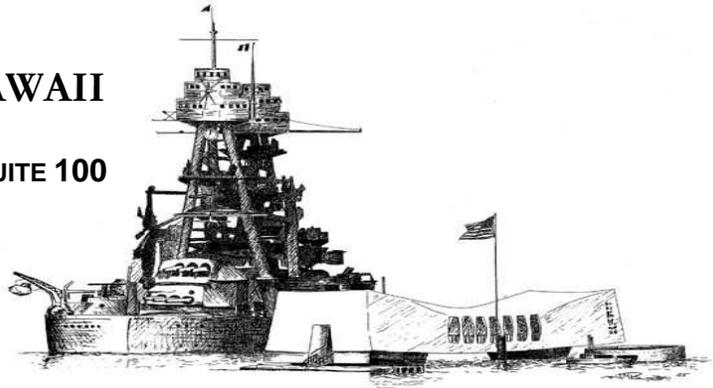


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POC: Chief David Rush

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USS Hopper change of command set for January 12

(PEARL HARBOR) -- Cmdr. Jeffrey W. James will relieve Cmdr. Peter M. Driscoll as commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) in a change of command ceremony scheduled 2 p.m. Friday, onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Driscoll will be reporting as the executive assistant for Commander Third Fleet in San Diego.

USS Hopper has a crew of 330 and is one of six guided missile destroyers homeported in Pearl Harbor. These fast warships provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities, and can operate independently or as part of carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups, and underway replenishment groups.

Destroyers and guided missile destroyers operate in support of carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious groups and replenishment groups. Destroyers primarily perform anti-submarine warfare duty while guided missile destroyers are multi-mission [anti-air warfare (AAW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW), and anti-surface warfare (ASUW)] surface combatants. The addition of the Mk-41 Vertical Launch System or *Tomahawk* Armored Box Launchers (ABLs) to many *Spruance*-class destroyers has greatly expanded the role of the destroyer in strike warfare.

Media interested in attending the change of command ceremony should contact Chief David Rush at (808) 473-3788 by 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11. Media will be met at the Pass & I.D. parking lot adjacent to Nimitz Gate at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, to be escorted to the ceremony.

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