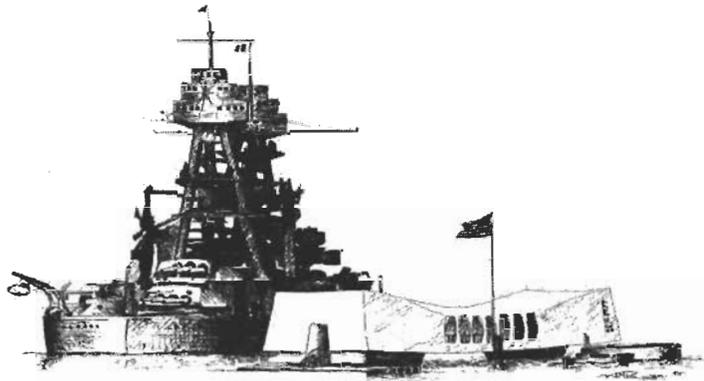


PRESS ADVISORY

NAVY REGION HAWAII
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA ST., SUITE 110
PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860

Tel: (808) 473-2888
Fax: (808) 473-2876
www.hawaii.navy.mil



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POC: Chief Joe Kane, 590-8363

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USS Chosin returns from deployment

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – Family and friends welcome back the more than 390 Sailors of the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile cruiser, USS Chosin (CG 65), when they return from a six-month deployment Monday, Jan. 9 at 8 a.m.

Chosin, commanded by Capt. Doug Venlet, departed Pearl Harbor in July as a part of the USS Tarawa (LHA 1) Expeditionary Strike Group.

During deployment, the Sailors from Chosin and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Squadron 37 Detachment Four supported Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the global war on terrorism. While in the Arabian Gulf, Chosin's primary mission was to work with a multinational coalition in support of maritime security operations. These operations set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. They also deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons, or other material.

Over the course of two months in the Arabian Gulf, Chosin worked alongside Iraqi forces and forces from other nations providing security for Al Basrah Oil Terminal and Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal. During this time, nearly 4.75 billion dollars of Iraqi crude oil was pumped and delivered while Chosin took a lead role in the development of new security initiatives by taking part in local operations. These operations helped to combat maritime piracy to create the conditions for the Iraqi people to become self-sufficient. Chosin conducted a full range of activities ranging from assisting mariners in distress, to combating piracy, to visit, board, search and seizure operations.

Chosin made port calls to Singapore, Thailand, Bahrain, Dubai, Australia, and American Samoa and participated in community relations' projects in Thailand and Australia.

Media representatives who would like to cover the ship's arrival must RSVP to Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs by 4 p.m. Jan. 6 to arrange an escort. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass and ID Office parking area at 7:30 a.m., Jan. 9 for escort to the pier.

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