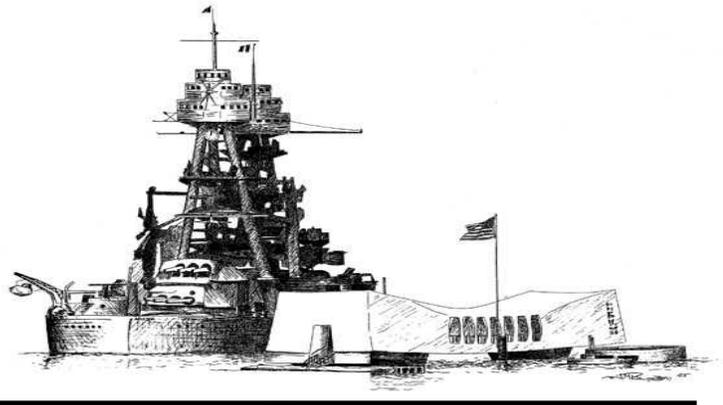


# PRESS ADVISORY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sept. 6, 2006**

**POC: Lt. Barbara Mertz**

**RELEASE #044-06**

## **Pearl Harbor to host two Chinese navy ships**

**(PEARL HARBOR)** – Two ships representing China’s navy, the destroyer Qingdao (DDG 113) and the oiler Hongzehu (AOR 881) will arrive in Pearl Harbor today, Sept. 6, 2006, for a routine port visit. During their visit, China’s sailors will have the opportunity to interact with their U.S. counterparts and experience the unique culture of Hawaii.

Upon conclusion of this port visit, there is a bilateral communications exercise (COMMEX) planned in Hawaiian waters with the Pearl Harbor-based destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). COMMEX activities build proficiency in the use of internationally accepted communications protocols that are key to how sailors communicate with one another at sea. Following the COMMEX, a passing exercise (PASSEX) is planned with Chung-Hoon. The PASSEX is a routine exercise that focuses on basic safety of navigation at sea. U.S. Navy ships regularly participate in passing exercises with foreign navies around the world.

These exercises will be the first phase in a two-phased approach as agreed upon by both countries in the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement and are not complete until the second phase occurs off the coast of China.

These exercises directly contribute to Military Maritime Consultative Agreement objectives of improved air and maritime safety and underscore the U.S. Pacific Fleet’s commitment to supporting ongoing cooperative efforts in the Pacific region. Exercises help establish long-term working relationships. They act as foundation for increasing disaster responsiveness and promoting regional security.

For more information, visit the U.S. Pacific Fleet Web site at [www.CPF.Navy.mil](http://www.CPF.Navy.mil)

*Media representatives who would like to cover the ships arrival in Pearl Harbor must contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 808-473-2888 to arrange access to the base. Media will be met and credentialed at the Nimitz Gate Pass & ID parking area at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 6.*

**- END -**