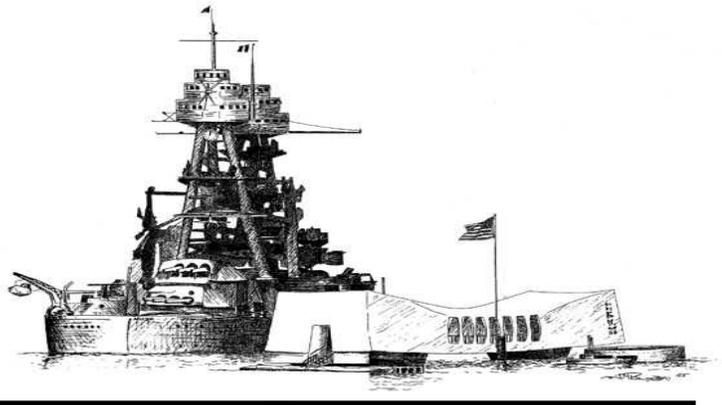


PRESS ADVISORY

NAVY REGION HAWAII
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA STREET SUITE 100
PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860-5102

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POC: Lt. Barbara Mertz

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Chinese navy ships depart Pearl Harbor

(PEARL HARBOR) – Following a short departure ceremony Sunday, Sept. 10th on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor, two ships representing China's navy, the destroyer Qingdao (DDG 113) and the oiler Hongzehu (AOR 881), will depart Pearl Harbor.

The ships arrived in Hawaii on Sept. 6 for a routine port visit during which China's sailors had the opportunity to interact with their U.S. counterparts and experience the unique culture of Hawaii.

The ships are next scheduled to take part in a bilateral communications exercise (COMMEX) 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.

Media representatives who would like to cover the ships departure ceremony 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 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, Sept.10.

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