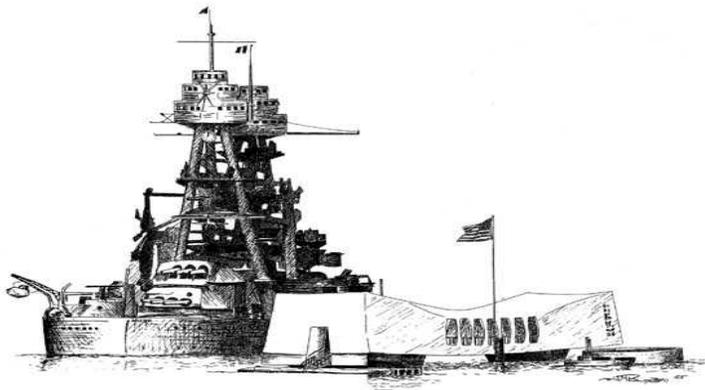


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Chief David Rush 590-8363**

**April 17, 2008
RELEASE #011-08**

USS Reuben James, USS O’Kane to surge with Nimitz Strike Group

(PEARL HARBOR) -- The Pearl Harbor-based guided missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG-57) and the guided missile destroyer USS O’Kane (DDG 77) are departing Pearl Harbor Friday, April 18 to join the Nimitz Strike Group.

The Nimitz CSG is comprised of Commander, CSG 11, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz; its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11; embarked DESRON 23; the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59); the guided-missile destroyers USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), USS Higgins (DDG 76), and USS Chafee (DDG 90); USS Pinckney(DDG 91); Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 49 “Scorpions,” HSL-37 “Easy Riders”; and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11.

CVW-11's squadrons include the “Tophatters” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 14, the “Black Aces” of VFA-41, the “Sunliners” of VFA-81, the “Wallbangers” of Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117, the “Red Devils” of Marine Corps Strike Fighter Squadron 232, the “Black Ravens” of Electronic Warfare Squadron 135, the “Providers” of Carrier Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the “Indians” of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6.

The surge deployment of the Pearl Harbor-based ships is part of the Navy's commitment to maintaining warfighting readiness and developing its Sailors, essential elements of America's Maritime Strategy.

USS Reuben James is a 450-foot long Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided missile frigate with a mission to escort and protect carrier battle groups, amphibious landing groups, underway replenishment groups and convoys. Commanded by Cmdr. Joseph Naman, the ship has a crew of 221 Sailors.

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USS O'Kane, commanded by Cmdr. Tom Druggan, is a guided missile destroyer, and is a multi-mission [Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW)] surface combatant. The addition of the Mk-41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) to the destroyer armament has greatly expanded the role of the destroyer in strike warfare.

Media representatives interested in covering the pierside departure should contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 17, by calling (808) 473-2888, or 590-8363. Media must be at the Pass & ID parking lot outside of Nimitz Gate by XX a.m. to be escorted to the pier.

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