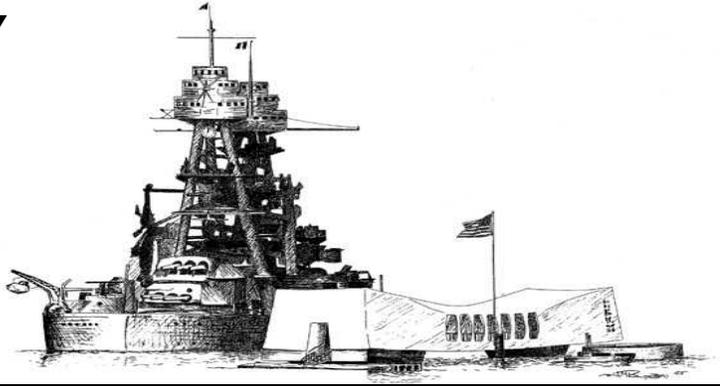


MEDIA ADVISORY

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
POC: Chief David Rush, 473-3788

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USS Lake Erie returns from missile shoot, USS Reuben James returns from Western Pacific deployment

(Pearl Harbor, HI) – Two Pearl Harbor-based ships, the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), and the guided missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), are scheduled to return Feb. 22

On Wednesday, Feb 20, Lake Erie fired a single modified tactical Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) and successfully hit a malfunctioning U.S. reconnaissance satellite approximately 247 kilometers (133 nautical miles) over the Pacific Ocean, as it traveled in space at more than 17,000 mph.

USS Lake Erie is commanded by Capt. Randall M. Hendrickson. For more information on USS Lake Erie, visit www.lake-erie.navy.mil.

In addition to USS Lake Erie, the Sailors of the Pearl Harbor-based Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate, USS Reuben James (FFG 37), are scheduled to return from a Western Pacific deployment on Friday, Feb. 22.

Commanded by Cmdr. Joseph Naman, Reuben James departed Pearl Harbor to the Western Pacific in support of the global war on terrorism. The ship departed Hawai'i on Aug. 24, 2007.

Armed with anti-air and anti-ship missiles, an automated three-inch (76 mm) gun, an anti-missile defense system, and two SH-60 Seahawk anti-submarine helicopters, Reuben James is tasked with hunting submarines as well as strike group escort and maritime interception.

Frigates fulfill a Protection of Shipping mission as Anti-Submarine Warfare combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.

For more information on USS Reuben James, visit www.reuben-james.navy.mil

Media representatives interested in covering the ships' arrival must contact Chief David Rush at 473-3788, or 590-8363 by 4 p.m. Feb. 21, to arrange pier escort. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Pass & ID parking at 8:30 AM on Friday, Feb. 22.

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