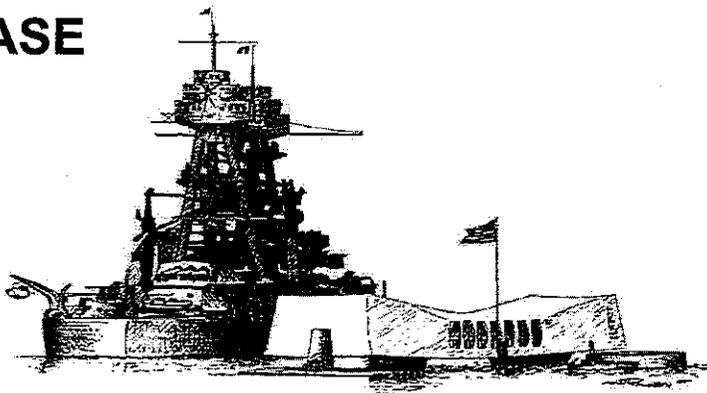


# NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**POC: Agnes Tauyan**

**RELEASE #013-02**

## **USS Russell returns from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom**

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) and her crew of over 330 Sailors will return to Pearl Harbor on Friday, April 19 from a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Media are invited to cover the ship's homecoming.

Commanded by Cmdr. Hank Miranda, Russell was the first Pearl Harbor ship to deploy after the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> -- deploying on October 25 to enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq in the Arabian Sea. USS Ford and USS John Young accompanied Russell during her deployment, and both of those ships are returning to their homeport of San Diego.

While on deployment, the destroyer rescued four crewmen of a U.S. Air Force B-1B bomber aircraft that crashed in the Indian Ocean, 60 miles North of Diego Garcia on December 12. The B-1B bomber had been flying missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

When Cmdr. Miranda learned of the aircraft's in flight emergency, he said the ship "immediately vectored all aircraft in the area" to where the plane went down and the ship immediately responded to the location where the plane was last seen on radar.

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## USS Russell returns from deployment

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Several aircraft also participated in the search and rescue efforts for the B-1. They included a Navy P-3C Orion from VP-4, currently deployed from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and a U.S. Air Force KC-10 Tanker.

Russell was commissioned on May 20, 1995, and is 505 feet long, 66 feet wide and displaces nearly 9,000 tons when fully loaded. The ship is equipped to carry Tomahawk Land-Attack cruise missiles and standard surface-to-air missiles; two fully automated radar controlled Phalanx close-in weapons systems, Harpoon anti-ship cruise missiles, two five-inch guns as well as powerful command-in-control and electronic warfare systems.

USS Russell honors a father and son for nearly 90 years of service to the Navy and Marine Corps. Rear Adm. John Russell was commended for his heroics and courage as a young Navy lieutenant during the Civil War commanding gunboats in the battles for Pensacola, Houston, Baton Rouge and Vicksburg. His son, Marine Corps Major Gen. John Russell earned the Navy Cross and saw action in the Spanish-American War, Haiti, China and World War I before ending his career as Commandant of the Marine Corps. He is often credited with developing the fleet marine force tactics that would later prove decisive in World War II.

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***MEDIA ADVISORY: Media representatives who are interested in covering the Russell's arrival should contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 473-2888 by 10 a.m. on Friday, April 19 to arrange an escort. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass Office parking lot at 12:30, for transportation to the pier. Additional information about Russell is available on the ship's website [www.russell.navy.mil](http://www.russell.navy.mil) or on the Navy website [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil).***