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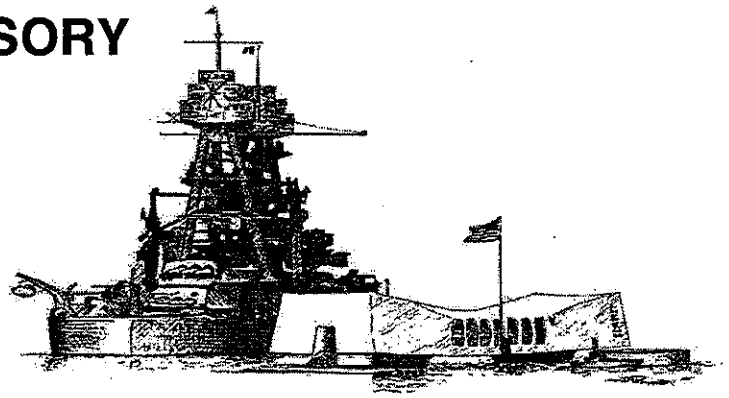

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **January 16, 2003**

POC: LCDR Jane Campbell **RELEASE #004-03**

USS O'KANE DEPLOYS

PEARL HARBOR – Family and friends will say goodbye to the more than 350 officers and Sailors of the Pearl Harbor based guided missile destroyer, USS O'KANE (DDG 77), as they depart tomorrow.

O'Kane deploys as the United States is repositioning some of its military forces where required to prepare for and support the President's campaign against terrorism and to support efforts to identify, locate, and hold accountable terrorists and those who support and harbor them.

Under the command of Cmdr. Michael Viland, Pearl Harbor's newest guided missile destroyer was commissioned on Oct. 23, 1999, the second U.S. Navy ship ever to have been commissioned in Pearl Harbor. O'Kane is 504 feet long, 66 feet wide and displaces nearly 9,000 tons when fully loaded. The ship is powered by gas turbine engines, similar to the type used in jet aircraft.

The ship's second deployment comes just a week shy of the anniversary of the homecoming from her first. Last January friends and family members stood on the pier to welcome their loved ones home. During the twelve months at home in Pearl Harbor, the crew of O'Kane spent a lot of their spare time actively supporting the local community. The ship was recently awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Good Neighbor Community Service Flagship Award for 2002.

Built at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, O'Kane is the 27th destroyer of her class and the 16th built by Bath Iron Works. The ship was built at a cost of $900 million.

For more information about USS OKANE, visit http://www.o-kane.navy.mil. For more information about the Navy in Hawaii, visit http://www.hawaii.navy.mil.

Media representatives who would like to cover the ship's departure must contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, 473-2888 by 7 a.m. Jan. 17 to arrange for an escort. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass Office parking lot at 9 a.m., Jan. 17, for transportation to the pier.

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