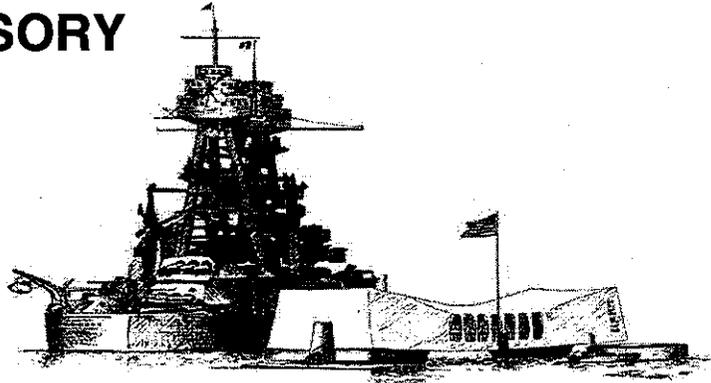


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: LCDR Jane Campbell

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USS CROMMELIN RETURNS

PEARL HARBOR – Family and friends will welcome home the more than 200 officers and Sailors of the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile frigate, USS Crommelin (FFG 37), which returns from deployment tomorrow. Crommelin was deployed to the Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility engaged in the monitoring and detection of counter drug activities.

A detachment of two SH-60B helicopters, from the Kaneohe-based Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Thirty-Seven (HSL-37), was also embarked on Crommelin. Lt. Cmdr. James Taylor is the officer in charge of the detachment and the 22 officers and Sailors assigned.

Throughout their 6-month deployment, Crommelin, commanded by Cmdr. Bruce Stewart, detected several vessels transporting narcotics and recovered several tons of cocaine worth an estimated street value of over \$70 million.

The guided missile frigate also rescued 174 Ecuadorians from a leaky vessel along with being involved with the rescue of two other fishing vessels. While the crew was on liberty in different Central American countries, they devoted their free time to numerous community service projects.

Three press releases from Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command are provided with this advisory. These releases give further details into some of the highlighted events described above.

USS Crommelin is one of two Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigates based in Pearl Harbor. Commissioned in June 1983, Crommelin was originally home ported in Long Beach, California. In September 1991 the ship shifted homeports to Pearl Harbor. The ship is named after the Crommelin brothers who were distinguished Naval Aviators during World War II.

For more information about USS Crommelin, visit <http://www.Crommelin.navy.mil>. For more information about the Navy in Hawaii, visit <http://www.hawaii.navy.mil>.

Media representatives who would like to cover the crew's arrival please contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, 473-2888 by 8 a.m. on 22 April. Media representatives will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass Office parking lot at 9:45 a.m. for escort to the pier.

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