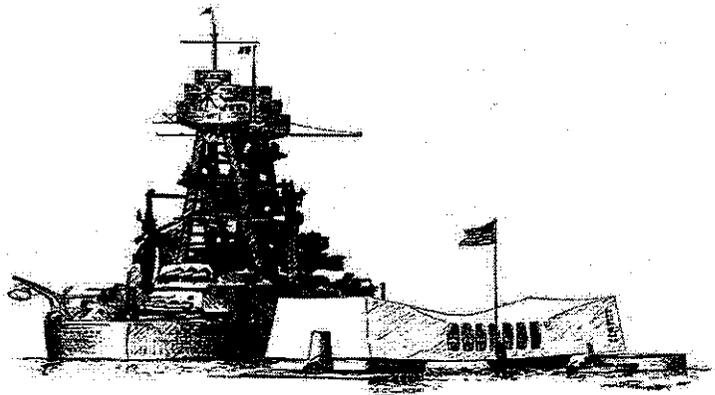


# PRESS ADVISORY

NAVY REGION HAWAII  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
850 TICONDEROGA ST., SUITE 110  
PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860

Tel: (808) 473-2888  
Fax: (808) 473-2876  
www.hawaii.navy.mil



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**POC: Agnes Tauyan**

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## **U.S. and Canadian Minesweepers to Visit Pearl Harbor**

PEARL HARBOR – Three mine countermeasures ships will arrive in Pearl Harbor Saturday, June 12 following their deployment in support of operations and exercises in the Pacific. The Ingleside, Texas-based mine countermeasures ships USS Avenger (MCM 1) and USS Defender (MCM 2) will arrive with Canadian minesweeper HMCS Brandon (MM 710), having transited approximately 7,500 miles since departing Ingleside in March.

During its deployment, Avenger transited the Panama Canal en route San Diego, Calif., and conducted mine warfare engagement and capabilities briefings with Destroyer Squadron and Expeditionary Strike Group staffs based in San Diego. The ship then provided support to USS Belleau Wood Expeditionary Strike Group exercises in preparation for the strike group's deployment.

The transit between San Diego and Pearl Harbor allowed the three ships to conduct evolutions rarely attempted by ships of their class. The three ships transferred supplies from USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204) by connected replenishment; stores are typically transferred by small boat. Avenger also conducted connected refueling with Brandon.

Avenger is the namesake for the entire class of mine countermeasures ships in the U.S. Navy's inventory. Avenger class ships are designed as mine hunter-killers capable of finding, classifying and destroying moored and bottom mines. There are 14 fully deployable, oceangoing Avenger class ships.

Avenger has a crew of approximately 90 Officers and Sailors and is commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Glenn Kuffel.

**Media interested in covering USS Avenger's arrival should contact Agnes Tauyan at the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 864-2453 no later than 9 a.m. Saturday, June 12. Media representatives will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass Office parking area at 2:00.**