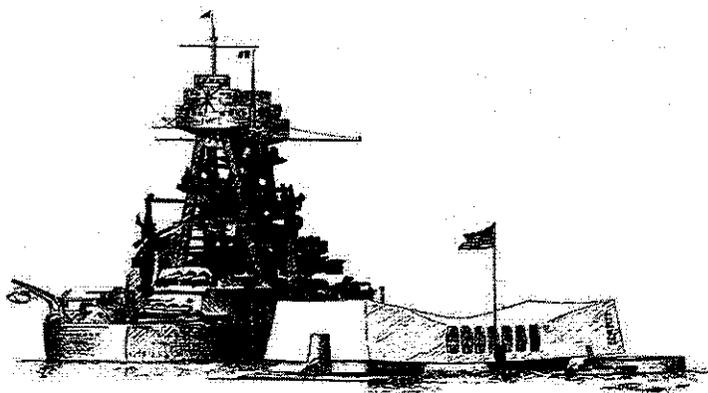


PRESS ADVISORY

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 22, 2004

Contact: JOC Joe Kane
Phone: (808) 473-2888

RELEASE #042-04

USS Hopper deploys in support of Global War On Terrorism

Belleau Wood ESG, Hawaii - Pearl Harbor-based USS Hopper (DDG 70) departs June 28 to the Western Pacific and Central Command Area of Responsibilities in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Under the command of Cmdr. Michael W. Selby, USS Hopper is equipped with the Navy's Aegis combat weapons system, which combines space-age communication, radar and weapons technologies in a single platform.

Commissioned in Sept. 6, 1997 in San Francisco, Calif., USS Hopper is named after Rear Adm. Grace Murray Hopper, whose development of the first computer compiler and the first computer programming language helped revolutionize the world of computers.

USS Hopper is part of the USS Belleau Wood Expeditionary Strike Group, which includes amphibious ships, USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3), USS Denver (LPD 9), USS Comstock (LSD 45) and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). The strike group left San Diego May 27 to meet U.S. Central Command's request for forces to support the Global War on Terrorism and to conduct future operations as directed.

More than 600 Sailors from the USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) and USS Preble (DDG 88) deployed June 17th in support of the strike group.

This deployment will increase military capabilities and enhance flexibility in the region. The USS Belleau Wood ESG's ability to tailor its forces and deployment schedule is an example of the Navy's new operational construct, the Fleet Response Plan.

Under the Fleet Response Plan, naval forces respond immediately to a crisis or contingency with the required combination of power. This "progressive readiness" was developed to meet today's quick response requirements. The Fleet Response Plan gives the Regional Combatant Commander persistent combat power, providing options for an immediate, credible response to crises and support for our national interests.

The USS Belleau Wood ESG is capable of conducting operations across the spectrum of conflict. This includes such missions as humanitarian assistance and non-combatant evacuation operations, as well as combat operations in support of joint force commanders throughout the Western Pacific and Central Command AORs.

The USS Belleau Wood ESG includes the staff of Expeditionary Strike Group Three, Amphibious Squadron Five, USS Belleau Wood, USS Denver, USS Comstock, USS Mobile Bay, USS Preble, USS Hopper, USS Charlotte (SSN 766), and the proven combat power of the special operations capable 11th MEU, including Battalion Landing Team 1/4, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, and Marine Service Support Group 11.

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

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: *Interested media contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs (808) 473-2888 no later than 3 p.m., Friday, June 25, to arrange an escort.*

--USN--

*Will meet media at Pass and ID near Nimitz gate 7a.m.
Monday, June 28.
Joc Kane-478-1805*