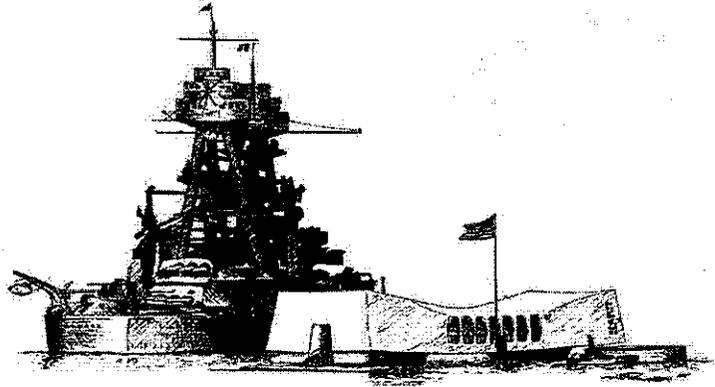


# PRESS ADVISORY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULY 21, 2004**

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**RELEASE # \_\_\_\_\_**

## **Navy helicopter airlifts injured divers from cruise ship**

A UH-3H helicopter from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands, Kauai, airlifted two injured men from the cruise ship *Pride of Aloha* five miles off the Kaua'i coast late Tuesday afternoon. The cruise ship had picked up the two men after they suffered injuries while diving off the Na Pali coast.

The Navy helicopter, flown by pilots Lt. Bill Reilein and Lt. Adam Schultz, launched within 15 minutes of receiving a request for assistance from the Coast Guard at about 5 p.m. The helicopter hovered 20 feet over the cruise ship while Petty Officer Christopher Szabo was lowered onto the ship and worked with the ship's medical crew to prepare the injured men for hoisting. Petty Officer Damon Baggs operated the hoist and secured the injured men onboard the helicopter. Both Szabo and Baggs are qualified rescue swimmers.

By 5:45 p.m. the injured men were aboard the helicopter and on their way to Lihue Airport where an ambulance transported them to Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

Reilein and Schultz are the same pilots who flew water drops in support of the Kaua'i Fire Department during the Lihue Transfer Station fire last week.