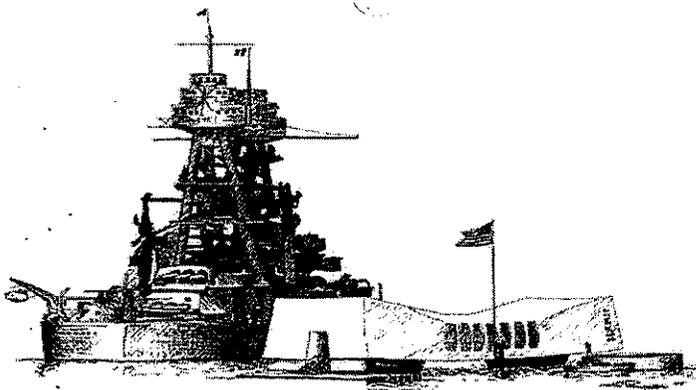


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USS Reuben James returns from deployment

More than 200 officers and Sailors of the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile frigate, USS Reuben James (FFG 57), returns from deployment Friday. Reuben James was deployed to the eastern Pacific Ocean to monitor and detect counter drug activities.

An SH-60B helicopter, from the Kaneohe-based Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Thirty-Seven (HSL-37) Detachment Four, was also embarked on Reuben James. Lt. Cmdr. Hillary Darby is the officer in charge of the detachment and the 22 officers and Sailors assigned.

During their three-month deployment, Reuben James, commanded by Cmdr. John Figuerres, rescued 149 Ecuadorian men, women and children from a sinking vessel, MV Margyl Margarita and transported them back to Ecuador April 1.

Reuben James is a 453-foot-long Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided missile frigate commissioned in 1986. The ship supports a multi-mission platform designed to escort and protect carrier strike groups, amphibious landing groups, underway replenishment groups and convoys. The ship's anti-submarine warfare systems, gun and missile systems combined with quick reaction and high-speed capability make her a valuable asset.

Media representatives who would like to cover USS Reuben James' homecoming should contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office by 9 a.m. Friday, April 23.

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