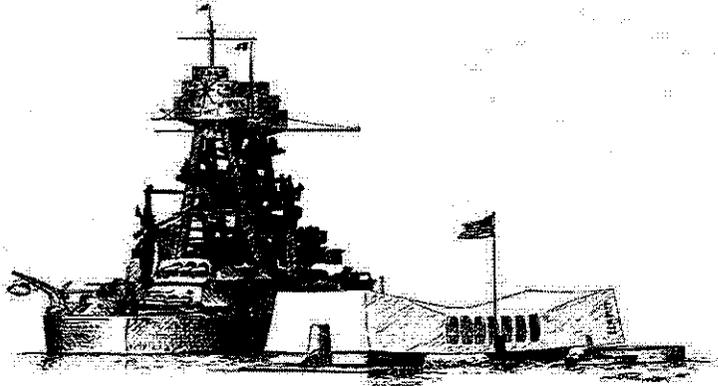


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 20, 2004

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RELEASE #049-04

USS Lake Erie to deploy

PEARL HARBOR - The Pearl Harbor-based guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) will depart Pearl Harbor Aug. 23 at 1 p.m. for a four-month deployment to the Western Pacific. During the deployment, Lake Erie will also observe the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu and Liberation of Palau during a port visit to Guam.

Lake Erie is commanded by Capt. Joseph A. Horn, Jr., and has a crew of 24 officers and 340 enlisted personnel.

Commissioned in July 24, 1993, Lake Erie is equipped with the Navy's Aegis combat weapons system, which combines space-age communication, radar and weapons technologies in a single platform, and has served as the test platform for the Missile Defense Agency's AEGIS ballistic missile defense program.

Lake Erie is 567 feet long, and capable of steaming at more than 30 knots.

For more information about USS Lake Erie, visit <http://www.lake-erie.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 9 a.m., Monday, August 23, to arrange an escort.

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