

Ships: Depart for six-month deployment

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submarine warfare, and has the most advanced underwater detection and fire control systems for surface ships. Fletcher is equipped with the Harpoon anti-ship cruise missile system and Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles.

Soon following the departure of USS Fletcher, USS Paul Hamilton, an "Arleigh Burke-class" guided missile destroyer commanded by Cmdr. Dennis O'Meara sailed off into the Pacific.

USS Paul Hamilton is a multi-mission platform designed to conduct simultaneous operations against land, air, surface and submarine targets. The ship can operate independently, or in support of carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious groups and replenishment groups. Paul Hamilton combat systems centers around the Aegis combat system and the SPY-ID, multi-function phased array radar.

Master Chief Mess Management Specialist (retired) Juanito Delacruz waved goodbye from the pier to one of his two sons, Mess Specialist 2nd Class Gary Delacruz. "For so many years I had been in the Navy, they were the ones waving to me from the pier. Now it's the reverse. Now I'm the one on the pier, waving goodbye," he said. "I have mixed feelings because as one son is leaving today



USS Fletcher (DD 992) gets underway from Naval Station for its six month deployment to the western Pacific and Indian Ocean last Saturday. The Fletcher is a "Spruance-class" destroyer is a versatile, multi-mission ship, fully capable of operating independently and as a unit of carrier battle groups such as the Lincoln battle group she will deploy with.

onboard USS Paul Hamilton, which is sad, however I'm happy my other son [Chief Mess Management Specialist Jonathan Delacruz] is coming back next month on USS Hopper."

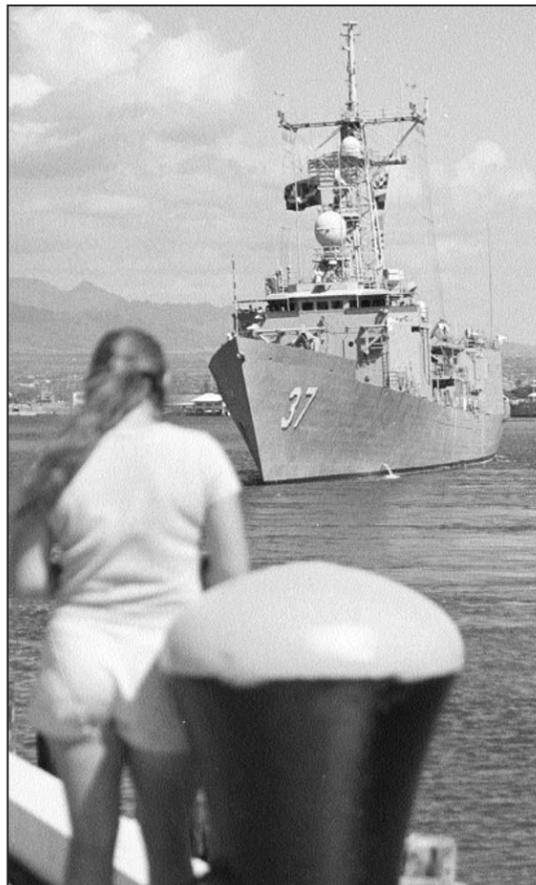
"It's really very unique that the three of us all spent time in the Navy's kitchen. I haven't seen anything like that in terms of three family members being the same rating. I wish my son a pleasant deployment, and a safe return for my other son

aboard the Hopper. I'm really very proud of both of them."

USS Crommelin, an "Oliver Hazard Perry-class" frigate is a multi mission platform designed to escort and protect carrier battle groups, amphibious landing groups, underway replenishment groups and convoys. Commanded by Cmdr. Alan C. Westphal, Crommelin is capable of conducting independent operations in support of counterdrug surveillance, maritime

interception operations, and bilateral exercises with other nations.

"I know I'm going to miss my husband," said Crommelin Delia Thomas. "Right now we're going to do our best over here to regroup the wives. But we can't wait until they get home. That's what we're looking forward to. Right now we can say that they are leaving, but after today, all we can say is that they're coming home."



A spouse watches (above) USS Crommelin (FFG 37) pull away from Bravo piers last Saturday. Crommelin left for a six-month deployment with the Abraham Lincoln Battle Group.



Carol Jesus and her sons Roel and Paul wave goodbye to her husband OS1 Romero a crew member onboard the USS Crommelin (FFG 37). Crommelin departed last Saturday with its crew of 16 officers and 188 enlisted on a six-month deployment. USS Crommelin, an "Oliver Hazard Perry-class" frigate is a multi mission platform designed to escort and protect carrier battle groups, amphibious landing groups, underway replenishment groups and convoys.



Fire Controlmen (above) 2nd Class Dustin Brown gets in a few last words to his girlfriend Mayra Munoz before USS Paul Hamilton gets underway. The lines (right) are cast and USS Paul Hamilton gets underway for WESTPAC last Saturday.



Photos by
PH2 Chad McNeeley