

Aloha Festival 2000



A Honolulu fireboat provides a brilliant water-cannon display just off Aloha Tower Marketplace Pier 9 last Friday. The fireboat provided an escort to USS Frederick (LST 1184) which pulled into Honolulu to help kick off Aloha Festival 2000.

Story and photos by J03 Erin Carlson
NAVY REGION HAWAII

The public welcomed some of America's finest Sailors as USS Frederick (LST 1184) pulled into Pier 9 last Friday at Honolulu's Aloha Tower Marketplace.

Escorted by a Honolulu fireboat, onlookers enjoyed a brilliant display of water cannons, Hawaiian music, hula dancing and bursting paper streamer cannons as the ship slowly pulled into the harbor.

The port visit was in celebration of the Aloha Festival, Hawaii's largest and only statewide multi-cultural celebration in the nation.

Since 1946, Hawaii has honored and shared its "spirit of aloha" with the world through the Aloha Festivals.

Festival events showcase and embrace activity of both ancient and modern Hawaii and help to preserve and share Hawaii's distinct heritage.

The festival has grown over the past 54 years with servicemembers actively participating in the events with marching unit bands, joint service color guards, parade judges and representation at the opening ceremony and royal ball. The celebration also includes a block party, or ho'olaule'a, which also took place last Friday.

"The celebration went

very, very well. The military bands were super and provided excellent music and coordination of the stages," said ho'olaule'a chairperson Leolani Kini.

As part of the celebration, Frederick's crew offered marketplace visitors tours of their ship on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Ship visitors had the opportunity to learn how the 615-member crew plays a key role in loading and transporting cargo, landing troops, tanks and vehicles of all types to combat areas.

"We just happened to be passing by when we saw they were giving tours," said Leonard Ruiz who was visiting from San Fernando, Calif. "It's great to be able to have a chance to see how a Navy ship works. If (USS Frederick) had not been down here today, we would have missed that opportunity," said Ruiz.

The ship acts as the primary assault training platform for the U.S. Marine Corps in the south Pacific and rapidly deploys humanitarian aid and disaster relief to the Pacific Islands.

"The crew is really excited about being here and interacting with the community, showing them what we do and how we do it," said Lt. j.g. Craig E. Wortham of USS Frederick. "We are very appreciative of the community support and how well we have been treated."



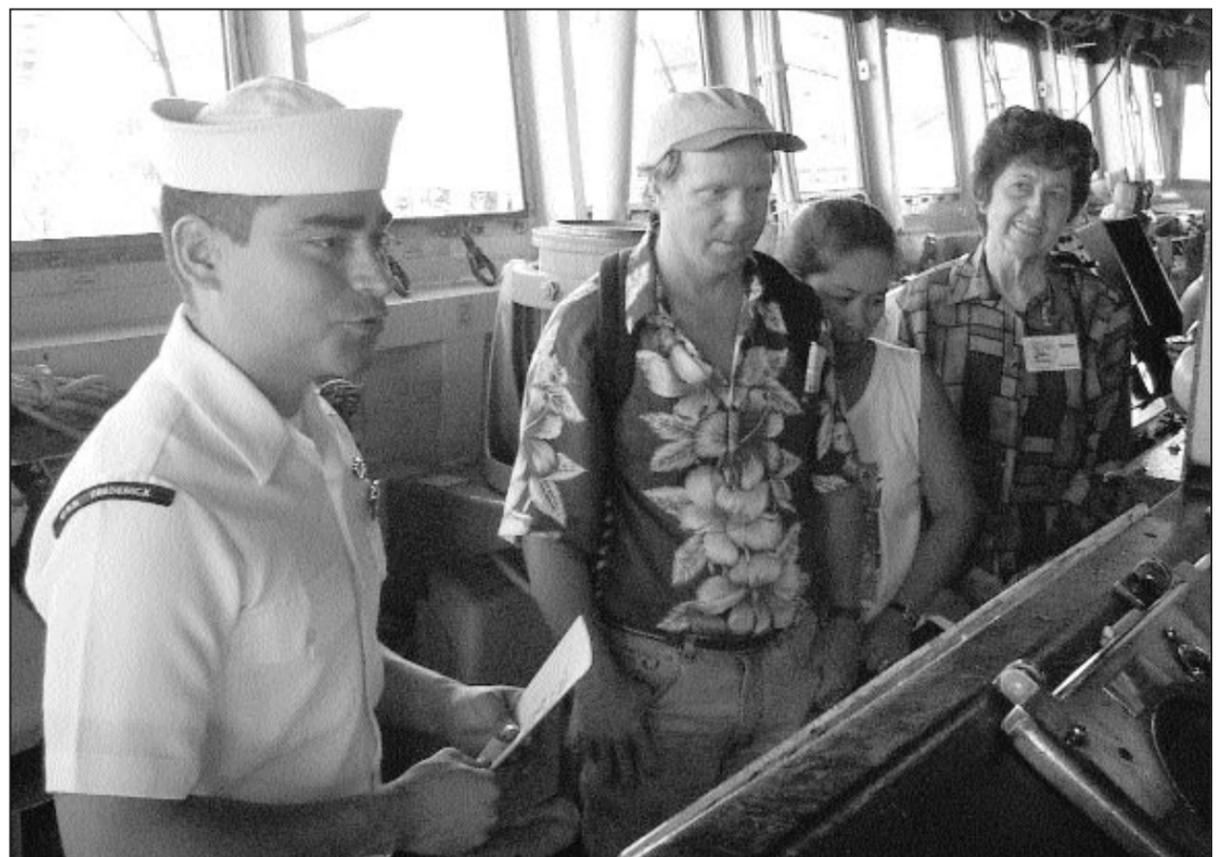
Rene Mansho, Honolulu councilwoman, talks with Frederick Sailors as they prepare to help their ship tie up to Aloha Tower Marketplace pier last Friday. Mansho served as the festival's mistress of ceremonies.



As part of the celebration, Frederick's crew offered marketplace visitors tours of their ship over the weekend. Ship visitors had the opportunity to learn how the 615-member crew plays a key role in loading and transporting cargo, landing troops, tanks and vehicles of all types to combat areas.



Above: A local hula dancer performs and helps welcome USS Frederick and crew to Aloha Tower Marketplace pier last Friday. The port visit was in celebration of the Aloha Festival, Hawaii's largest and only statewide multi-cultural celebration in the nation.



Right: QM2(SW) Joel Gonzales briefs a group of visitors on the operations of his ship's bridge. Frederick's crew offered tours to the public during the ship's port visit to Aloha Marketplace last weekend.