



J03 Erin Carlson photo

The British Royal Navy anti-submarine frigate HMS Cornwall is guided into Pearl Harbor by a tug boat. Cornwall along with four other British warships: the anti-submarine frigate HMS Sutherland; the anti-air warfare destroyer HMS Newcastle; and the tankers RFA Bayleaf and RFA Victoria arrived in Pearl Harbor Sept. 28 for a four day liberty port-call. The ships steamed more than 28,000 miles in their first round-the-globe deployment in 14 years before they pulled into Pearl Harbor. This is the first time since 1986 that a British warship has visited Pearl Harbor. They were joined by the French frigate FS Aconit.



PO Dave Combs, Royal British Navy, photo

A Pearl Harbor Sailor (above) stands fast as HMS Cornwall from the British Navy pulls into Pearl Harbor Sept. 28 for a four day liberty port-call. Another Pearl Harbor Sailor (below) helps tie up Cornwall.



PO Dave Combs, Royal British Navy, photo



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A British Sailor stands at attention as he stands watch on one of the five British warships that arrived in Pearl Harbor Sept. 28. The ships will participate in two major naval exercises involving the United Kingdom's Naval Task Group 2000 and the U.S. Pacific Fleet before the ships dock at San Diego Oct. 17.

British, French ships pull in to Pearl Harbor for 'R & R'

By JOC Gerard Sekerak
HAWAII NAVY NEWS EDITOR

It is often said, never mix business with pleasure.

It's tough advice to follow, but there are times when it must be done.

Like when a task group of five British warships and one French warship stopped in Pearl Harbor last week for some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

The ships steamed more than 28,000 miles in their first round-the-globe deployment in 14 years before they pulled into Pearl Harbor for four days of liberty Sept. 28 - Oct. 3.

Five British warships the anti-submarine frigates HMS Cornwall and HMS Sutherland; the anti-air warfare destroyer HMS Newcastle; and the tankers RFA Bayleaf and RFA Victoria make up the UK contingent. They were joined by the French frigate FS Aconit.

This is the first time since 1986 that a British warship has visited Pearl Harbor. But the British Navy - which is composed of more than 100 ships - works closely with the U.S. Navy on a daily basis.

The ships will participate in two major naval exercises involving the United

Kingdom's Naval Task Group 2000 and the U.S. Pacific Fleet before the ships dock at San Diego on Oct. 17. The first exercise will be with two Pearl Harbor-based ships, USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and USS Lake Erie (CG 70) in waters off Hawaii. The second set of maneuvers will be closer to the mainland.

"The Task Group has given us many opportunities to make new friends, experience different cultures and contribute greatly to the UK's defense diplomacy. The opportunity to exercise with the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet, during our combined passage to California, will be highly beneficial and help reinforce our knowledge and understanding of each navy's procedures," said Ainsley.

Ainsley, who holds a rank equivalent to a one-star admiral in the U.S. Navy, has participated in naval exercises with the U.S. 2nd Fleet in the Atlantic, the 5th Fleet in the Persian Gulf and the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean this year.

"The reason for the seven-month deployment was to participate in a major exercise in July with other forces of the Five Powers Defense Agreement, include the United Kingdom, New

Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia," Ainsley said. "The treaty is the commitment to the region. This is our part in the global effort to support the U.S. - our major, ally and partner," he said.

During the task group's stay in Pearl Harbor, two of the visiting ships - Newcastle and Aconit - offered tours to the public.

HMS Newcastle is a type-42 destroyer which forms the backbone of the Royal Navy's anti-air capability. Powered by Rolls-Royce Marine Olympus and Tyne gas turbines, the Newcastle is equipped with the Sea Dart medium range air defense missile system. In its primary role, it is designed to provide area air defense to a group of ships and against surface targets at sea.

France's newly commissioned frigate, FS Aconit, is designed to counter both surface and air threats. One of her most impressive features is the extensive utilization of stealth technology that explains her clean and angular appearance. Aconit is powered by four diesel engines, giving her a top speed of around 25 knots.

For information on the Royal Navy visit their website at www.royal-navy.mod.uk.