

Republic of Korea visits Pearl

ROK Navy stops in Hawaii during world cruise

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Three Republic of Korea (ROK) navy ships visited Pearl Harbor earlier this month for a four day visit as part of a tour around the Pacific.

The destroyer ROKS Kwanggaeto The Great (DDG 971), oiler ROKS Tae Chung (AO 58), and the frigate ROKS Chung Ju (FFG 961) arrived here Nov. 1 and were welcomed at a pier-side ceremony by U.S. Navy officials, the Consul General of Korea, and members of the Korean American Society of Honolulu.

Other activities held during the port visit included an official reception, a wreath-laying at Punchbowl National Cemetery, sight-seeing, and a Taekwondo and Korean dance exhibit.

The public was invited to

attend a cultural demonstration performed by the ships' crews, which took place on Magic Island at Ala Moana Beach Park.

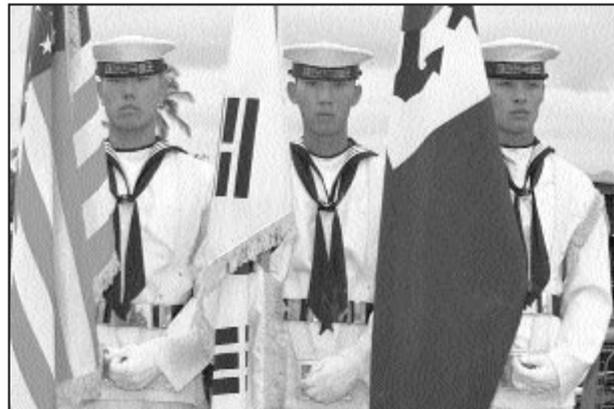
Accompanying the prospective graduating class of the ROK Naval Academy was their senior navy representative, Rear Adm. Byung-Chil Chung, Commander, Republic of Korea Navy Cruise Training Unit.

Sailors aboard the Pearl Harbor based frigate and host ship, USS Reuben James (FFG 57) also got an opportunity to visit with their Republic of Korea counterparts.

The ROK Training Unit's last Hawaii visit took place in 1997. In addition to Hawaii, this year's world cruise includes port visits to Russia, Guam, California, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, France, Australia, The Philippines, and Japan.



Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway, Commander Navy Region Hawaii/Surface Group Middle Pacific, salutes Republic of Korean (ROK) sailors aboard one of the three Korean ships that pulled into Pearl Harbor for a four-day visit Nov. 1. They were welcomed by U.S. Navy officials, the Consul General of Korea, and members of the local Korean-American Society.



A Republic of Korean honor guard stands tall with the United States and ROK flags after pulling into Pearl Harbor Nov. 1.



The oiler, ROKS Tae Chung (AO 58), from Republic of Korea ties up on Bravo pier in Pearl Harbor for a four-day port visit.



Republic of Korean sailors tie up their ship after pulling into Pearl Harbor Nov. 1 for a four-day port visit. The ROK Training Unit's last Hawaii visit took place in 1997.



Republic of Korean (ROK) sailors stand at attention during the arrival ceremony at Pearl Harbor Nov. 1. Three ROK ships pulled into port for a four-day visit to Hawaii. The sailors participated in many activities including an official reception, a wreath-laying at Punchbowl cemetery, sightseeing, and a Taekwondo and Korean dance exhibit, while in Hawaii.

Photos by PH2 Chad McNealey