



Crommelin Sailors provide an honor guard and 20-man marching unit for the 40th Annual International Festival of the Pacific parade Aug. 3 in Hilo, Hawaii.

## Crommelin visit to Hilo Aug. 3-5: Participates in 40th Annual Festival of the Pacific



(Left to right) Cmdr. Alan C. Westphal and Lt. Cmdr. Layne Araki participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony with Capt. Michitoshi Isozaki and Chief Engineer Seigo Hashimoto of T. S. Ginga Maru at Queen Liliuokalani Gardens.



Tourists climb aboard USS Crommelin as it sits pier-side in Hilo, Hawaii.



An unidentified officer gives a tour brief to a group of visitors aboard USS Crommelin during the ship's Aug. 3-5 visit to Hilo, Hawaii.



Crommelin's community relations (COMREL) team and members of the American Rhododendron Society Hawaii Chapter, clear a fallen tree and plants orchids at the Panae'wa Rainforest Zoo.

Lt. j.g. Drew A. Kelly  
USS Crommelin  
Photos by K.T. Cannon-Eger

After a demanding two-month dry dock availability and the beginning stages of the inter-deployment training cycle, the crew of USS Crommelin (FFG 37) enjoyed a relaxing visit to Hilo, Hawaii for the 40th Annual International Festival of the Pacific Aug. 3-5. The Hilo Council of the Navy League and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted the event.

Crommelin's activities during the festival included a decorated parade through downtown Hilo, softball with Japanese students from the T.S. Ginga Maru (sister ship of the Ehime Maru), three days of public tours onboard Crommelin, a community relations project at the the Panae'wa Rainforest Zoo, and receptions onboard Crommelin and T.S. Ginga Maru.

On the evening of Aug. 3, Crommelin began the festival in style by providing an honor guard and 20-man marching unit in a parade celebrating the 40th annual event. The parade consisted of various decorated floats and marching units representing local clubs and organizations. Lt. j.g. Cesar Morales and Ens. Jesse Sprague were key personnel in the coordination of Crommelin's honor and marching guard.

The following day Crommelin Sailors enjoyed a fun-filled morning playing softball with the Japan National Institute of Sea Training crew from the T.S. Ginga Maru. And Cmdr. Alan C. Westphal and Lt. Cmdr. Layne Araki had the privilege of participating in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at Liliuokalani Gardens. During their three-day visit, Crommelin Sailors hosted ship tours to the public and welcomed well over a thousand visitors.

The food service division made the most of their opportunity to shine as Crommelin hosted a sunset reception on the flight deck Aug. 4. More than 300 local dignitaries, Navy supporters and crew from the Japanese training ship attended the event which was highlighted by a blue ice sculpture and tropical flower decorations provided by the Navy League under the leadership of the Hilo Council president, K. T. Cannon-Eger.

Crommelin's community relations (COMREL) team, led by Lt. j.g. Ricardo Roman, teamed up with members of the American Rhododendron Society Hawaii Chapter and painted a pavilion, cleared a fallen tree and planted orchids at the Panae'wa Rainforest Zoo. The president of the American Rhododendron Society Hawaii Chapter, Richard Marques, praised the efforts of Crommelin's COMREL team stating, "It is wonderful that the Navy is so conscious of the importance of being a good neighbor in addition to performing its primary mission of protection."

The last event of the weekend festival was a reception on the T.S. Ginga Maru hosted by Capt. Michitoshi Isozaki for the Navy League, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and members of Crommelin's wardroom and chief's mess.

The Sailors of the Crommelin thoroughly enjoyed the festival and various activities Hilo had to offer; however, one of the most memorable events of the visit occurred during the transit back to Pearl Harbor. Commanding Officer Cmdr. Alan C. Westphal invited Adam Sanders and his mother, Ronit Sanders, aboard for the transit back to Pearl Harbor.

Crommelin had the distinct honor of making a very special young man's wish come true. Although Adam Sanders suffers from a condition known as brittle bone disease, with just a little help he was able to observe all aspects of shipboard operations and was awarded an honorary surface warfare officer's pin.

It was a great pleasure to host Adam. Every member of the crew who had the opportunity to meet him was inspired by his incredible energy and good cheer.