

Frederick: Deployment strengthens international ties

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mand of the Royal Thai Navy ship Sichang.

A month earlier, Frederick also participated in exercise Balikitan with the Philippine Navy. The annual event is aimed at improving Philippine and United States combined planning, combat readiness and interoperability while enhancing security relations and demonstrating U.S. resolve to support the Republic of the Philippines against external aggression.

Besides participating in international exercises, Frederick's mission is to load and transport cargo, vehicles of all types and troops to a combat area. Designated a tank landing ship (LST), Frederick can launch amphibious vehicles via a stern gate as well as land vehicles to a beach or causeway over a bow ramp. Troops and equipment can also be transported via helicopter. Two 10-ton booms off-load cargo to boats or a pier. Frederick's lift capacity includes 29 tanks and over 350 troops and their equipment. USS Frederick also acts as the primary assault-training platform for the Marine Corps in the South Pacific and to rapidly deploy humanitarian aid and disaster relief to the Pacific Islands.

USS Frederick was commissioned in 1970 as the sixth of the "Newport Class" tank landing ships and represents a complete departure from the previous concept of amphibious tank landing ships. The traditional bow doors, which have characterized LST construction since the first vessels of this type were built during World War II, have been replaced by a 40-ton bow ramp supported by two distinctive derrick arms. The conventional flat bottom hull was redesigned to include a destroyer-type bow enabling Frederick to attain speeds in excess of 20 knots. This feature allows her to operate with modern high-speed amphibious forces.

After commissioning, Frederick was homeported in San Diego, Calif. and made more than 13 major WESTPAC deployments. She participated in the Vietnam withdrawal operation in 1970 and

the South Vietnam refugee evacuation of 1974.

Frederick deployed in support of operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She conducted humanitarian assistance operations during Operation Sea Angel in support of Bangladesh. In 1994, Frederick deployed to Somalia in support of humanitarian aid operations.

Frederick was transferred to the Naval Reserve Force in January 1995 and changed homeport to Pearl Harbor. As the only amphibious ship homeported in Pearl Harbor, she conducts bilateral exercises with Southeast Asian armed forces, continuous training exercises with the U. S. Marine Corps and is on standby to conduct humanitarian assistance/disaster relief missions throughout the Pacific.



J03 Tim Walsh photo

A traditional Hawaiian dancer greets USS Frederick as the ship arrives at Pearl Harbor from a five-month WESTPAC deployment Aug. 31.



PHAA Ben Glass photo

New dad EN2 (SW) Christopher Rogers holds his 9-day-old daughter for the first time after returning to Pearl Harbor Aug. 31 from a five-month WESTPAC deployment with USS Frederick.



J03 Tim Walsh photo

Friends and family board USS Frederick to welcome their Sailors and Marines who returned home from a WESTPAC deployment.



J03 Tim Walsh photo

Above: USS Frederick passes by Hospital Point and the Nevada Memorial on its way to Bravo 20 pier as it returned to Pearl Harbor.

Right: EM1 (SW) Cesaro Roxas kisses his wife, Analiza, and meets his 2-month-old daughter for the first time.



J03 Tim Walsh photo



J03 Tim Walsh photo

USS Frederick Sailors toss heavy lines ashore while pulling into Bravo 20 pier after returning from a five-month WESTPAC deployment.