

LIBERTY CALL

It's a Family Affair



BM1(MS/AW) Marvin Munsavac spends some time chatting with his son during a recent family cruise to Maui.



Crommelin Sailors (above) enjoy barbeque chicken and hamburgers at a steel beach picnic on the ship's fantail. EN2 Corbin Stalcup and his wife Mary (right) enjoy the spectacular view of Molokai's waterfalls on the return trip to Pearl Harbor.

Crommelin's cruise to Maui offers Sailors, families fun time together, better understanding of Navy life

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USS Crommelin's (FFG 37) mission is straightforward - "provide air, surface and undersea protection for underway replenishment groups, convoys, amphibious forces, and other military and merchant shipping." When the ship and crew aren't forward deployed performing that mission, they're hard at work, training and preparing for the mission.

But, in the middle of all that training, the crew took some time to have a little fun, spend some time with their families and give them a taste of life aboard a Navy ship on a recent family cruise to Lahaina, Maui.

"Family cruises give Sailors the chance to show off their ship to their families, combined with the opportunity to go someplace exciting and new," said Crommelin's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Craig Kleint.

Fifty family members and friends of Crommelin crewmembers boarded the ship in Pearl Harbor on July 22 and got underway for the trip to Maui, which took them past Waikiki and Diamond Head, then past the southern coast of Molokai and northern coast of Lanai, and into Lahaina Harbor.

"One of the things we did to prepare for this family cruise was to do a couple of test runs to find the most scenic route with the calmest seas," said Lt.j.g. Tyler Dunaway, Crommelin's public affairs officer who helped coordinate the event.

On Crommelin's return trip to Pearl Harbor on July 26, the ship traveled along the northern side of Molokai, providing a spectacular view of the island's lush green cliffs and scenic waterfalls, as well as a look at the for-

mer site of Father Damien's leper colony.

In addition to taking in the sights, guests enjoyed a steel beach picnic on the ship's fantail, as well as an up-close look at a Navy ship in operation. The cruise was also a chance for Sailors to spend some time with their wives and kids.

"We're leaving for deployment [in August], so this was a good opportunity to spend some time with each other before I head out," said Sonar Technician 2nd Class Tim Wright, with his wife, Wendy.

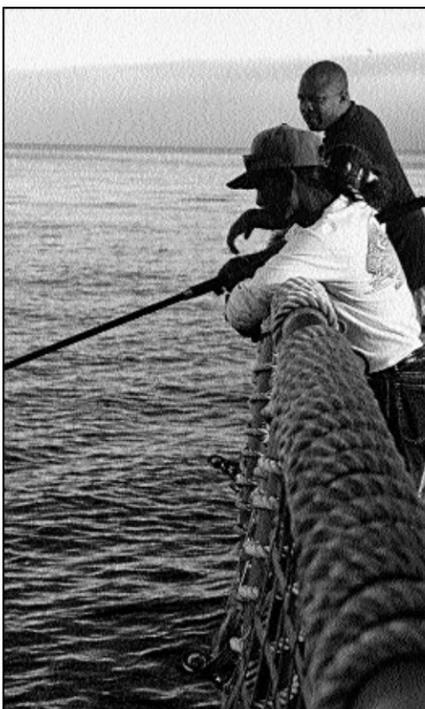
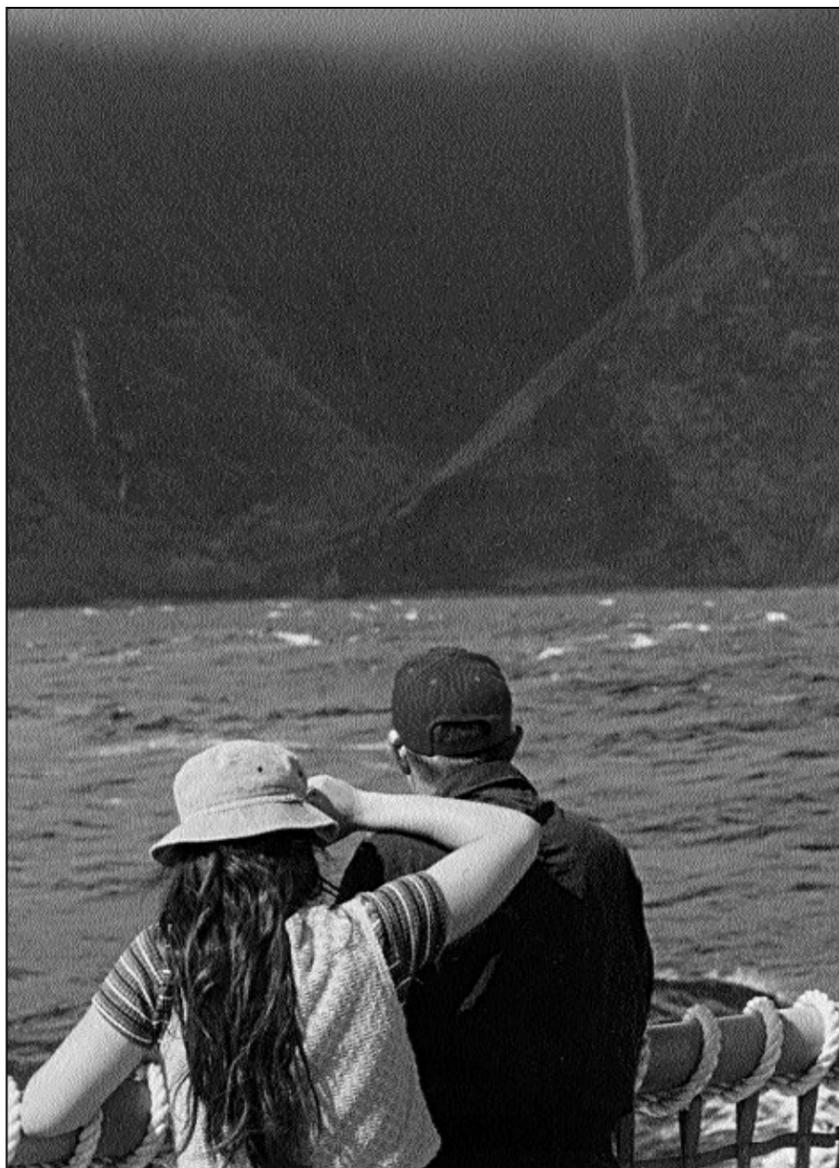
The cruise was also an opportunity for many to enjoy one of the neighbor islands. Sailors and family members alike took advantage of the sights and recreational activities on Maui, including snorkeling, trips to the beach and driving the legendary road to Hana.

But, for STG3 Jacob Salomon and his wife Laurel, the trip had a little more special significance. Salomon, who was married in March, reported to Pearl Harbor two days after the wedding. So, the family cruise also served as the couple's honeymoon, and gave Laurel better insight into Navy life.

"I wanted to see what its like for him [aboard ship]," said Laurel. "He goes to work every day, and the ship goes out often, so I wanted to see what he did, especially with the ship leaving for deployment soon. It was also nice to meet the people he's going to be with on the ship."

"My husband showed me around the ship, and I have a better understanding of his routine," added Wendy Wright.

Soon, Crommelin and her crew will be back on the open seas for another WESTPAC, leaving their loved ones behind. But, thanks to things like family cruises, the ones left behind keep some nice memories of time spent together, and a better understanding Navy life.



Crommelin's Command Master Chief MM-CM(SW) John Baldwin lends a hand to a young visitor as he looks through the ship's binoculars.

The family cruise to Maui offered Sailors and family members a chance to see a Navy ship, enjoy the sights of a neighbor island, and even do some fishing (left).