



NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ

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CANADIAN TASK GROUP TO SAIL WITH USS CARRIER STRIKE GROUP TO PEARL HARBOR

ESQUIMALT, B.C. —When the ships of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group depart from Victoria and Vancouver on Monday they will be joined by HMC ships ALGONQUIN, REGINA and PROTECTEUR for the passage to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The three Canadian ships are participating in the 19th RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) Exercise with forces of seven other nations during July. The ships will use the opportunity to work on communications, seamanship and ship handling during the trip. The Coastal Defence Vessel, HMCS BRANDON is already in Hawaii working with US Navy minesweepers in advance of the exercise that includes over 40 ships, seven submarines, 100 aircraft and 18,000 sailors, marines, soldiers, and aircrew.

RIMPAC 2004 brings together maritime forces from seven Pacific Rim nations (Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United States) and the United Kingdom. Ecuador, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, and Singapore are observer nations.

In addition to the Canadian ships, Canada is represented by two CP-140 long range patrol aircraft from 407 Maritime Patrol Squadron at 19 Wing Comox and two CH-124 Sea King Helicopters from 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron at Pat Bay, and a team of divers from Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) at Esquimalt. HMCS ALGONQUIN is the flagship for Commodore Roger Girouard, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific who is the Sea Combat Commander of the Multi-National Force (MNF) to be comprised of the Canadian ships and units from Australia, Chile, the Republic of Korea and the United States.

After RIMPAC, HMCS REGINA will sail with ships of the Japanese Self Defence Force to the Western Pacific to make port visits in Japan, China and the Republic of Korea.

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