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PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USS Tarawa To Participate in Rim of the Pacific 2004

By Tarawa Public Affairs

ONBOARD USS TARAWA – The three ships of Amphibious Task Force CTG 177.2 are headed to the waters off Hawaii where they will participate in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2004, a major maritime exercise that includes six Pacific Rim nations and the United Kingdom.

The amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA-1), the dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) and the amphibious assault dock USS Dubuque (LPD 8) will join the multinational training operations being conducted through July 27. The three-ship amphibious task force will be led by Capt. Dennis D. Dubard, Commander, Amphibious Squadron One. More than 4,000 Sailors and Marines aboard the three ships will participate in the 19th in a series of Pacific naval exercises that began in 1971.

The purpose of RIMPAC is to enhance the tactical proficiency of the participating units in a wide array of combined operations at sea. The exercises also help build cooperation and foster mutual understanding between the participating nations. Among the countries participating this year are: Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea and the United States. More than 35 ships, 7 submarines, 90 aircraft and 11,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coastguardsmen will participate in this year's RIMPAC training operations.

USS Tarawa participated in the last RIMPAC exercises in mid summer of 2002. The primary mission of the Tarawa ARG is to land and sustain U.S. Marines on any shore during hostilities. Tarawa can embark the Marine Corps' AV-8B Harrier attack jets, the CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters, the CH-46 Sea Knight medium lift helicopters, the AH-1W Cobra attack helicopters, the UH-1N Huey multi-purpose helicopters and the U.S. Navy MH-60S Seahawk multi-mission combat support helicopter. Tarawa can also embark landing craft air cushion (LCAC) surface assault craft and landing utility craft (LCU).