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**News from Naval Station Everett, Washington:**

**USS Gridley and USS Sampson Return Home from Deployment**

Two Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers, USS Gridley (DDG 101) and USS Sampson (DDG 102), returned home to Naval Station Everett August 11 after completing a seven-month deployment. Both ships departed Everett in route to U.S. 7th Fleet on Dec. 30.

Gridley served with Carrier Strike Group 3 as an air defense and anti-submarine unit and as an escort for the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). The ship conducted operations in the South China Sea, Gulf of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Pakistan.

Gridley’s commanding officer Cmdr. Meghan Bodnar said, "I am tremendously proud of my Sailors and their accomplishments during this highly dynamic deployment, which featured new, demanding and often-changing mission sets. They demonstrated an awe-inspiring level of tenacity, grit and sheer talent on a daily basis and it is truly an honor and a privilege to serve with them at sea."

Sampson conducted independent operations in and around the South China Sea that included providing humanitarian aid to Tonga following tsunami damage. They also helped to recover and salvage the downed F-35C Lightning II from Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). The crew participated in multiple exercises in locations such as the East China Sea and the Taiwan Strait.

Sampson’s commanding officer Cmdr. Mike Bencini said, “No matter the mission set on deployment, Sampson sailors epitomized America's fighting spirit, toughness, endurance, and tenacious resolve to never give up and never give in. Deployment provided readiness-strengthening opportunities for Sampson and our multiple partners throughout the Indo-Pacific region. My crew seized the opportunity to conduct missions smartly and they thrived operating alongside one another. I am humbled and inspired by them daily. All of the friends and families supporting them should be very proud of their service."

For more details about each ship’s deployment, visit <https://cnrnw.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Everett/>.

USS Gridley on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/gridley101/>

USS Sampson on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USSSampson>

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