



Moroni, September 12, 2007

USS Forrest Sherman arrives in Comoros

MORONI – Guided missile destroyer USS Forrest Sherman arrived off the coast of Moroni, Comoros, September 12, as the first U.S. Navy ship to visit the island nation in more than 30 years. The country is made up of three islands situated in the Mozambique Channel in the Indian Ocean, between Madagascar and the east coast of Africa. Sailing as part of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa's newly established Southeast Africa Task Group CTG 60.5, Forrest Sherman is in the region to build partnerships and promote maritime safety and security initiatives.

“Being the first U.S. Navy ship to come to Comoros in 33 years is a unique and exciting experience for everyone aboard Forrest Sherman,” said Capt. Nicholas H. Holman, Commander, CTG 60.5. “We are thrilled to be here and hope to forge strong relationships with the people and government of Comoros. Safe and secure oceans are the building block of long-term stability and economic development for every nation in the world. We look forward to partnering with Comoros and other countries in Southeast Africa to combat maritime security threats like piracy, unlawful fishing and smuggling.”

Forrest Sherman left her homeport in Norfolk, Va., July 9 and operated in the Black Sea and Tanzania before sailing to Comoros. While assigned to CTG 60.5, the ship will continue to operate in Southeast Africa, working to strengthen regional maritime partnerships.