

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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*Page 1 of 1*

### **FOURTH OF JULY WILL BE HUGE IN CAIRNS**

Cairns is ready to welcome 4000 US military personnel on a week of shore leave from the USS Essex and the USS Tortuga, docking in Cairns on Sunday 29 June. The week in port includes the important US holiday Fourth of July. Locals are looking forward to the most exciting celebration of the holiday in Cairns for many years.

It's unexpected and very welcome news for the tourism operators in Cairns and Great Barrier Reef region. Tourism Tropical North Queensland CEO, Rob Giason said "This is a great prelude to the traditional peak holiday season so the timing is terrific for us and the crew will really enjoy this region."

Immersing themselves in the local tropical lifestyle and culture is high on the list of priorities for the sailors as well as enjoying a huge range of local tourism experiences and activities. In the US they would need to travel vast distances between scuba diving, white water rafting and island based activities that are all available in the Cairns and Great Barrier Reef region.

Restaurants, hotels and clubs are expecting celebrations for Fourth of July to be huge this year as the tourism industry joins US visitors and their friends partying.

**ENDS**

**For more information, contact:**

**Stevie King**

**Corporate Communications Executive**

Tourism Tropical North Queensland

Direct Ph: 07 4015 1207 | Mobile: 0420 746 053 | Fax: 07 4051 0127

51 The Esplanade, Cairns 4870 | PO Box 865 Cairns Qld 4870

