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Lima

US TO SEND WARSHIP FOR LIMA

LANGKAWI, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- The United States will be participating in the maritime segment of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima 2001) exhibition here on Oct 9-14 despite the terrorist aircraft attacks on New York and Washington on Tuesday.

Deputy Navy Chief Laksamana Madya Datuk Mohamed Ramly Abubakar said today the US would send its warship USS John Paul Jones.

"So far, the destroyer equipped with guided missiles and sophisticated control system will be taking part in the maritime segment. I hope they will not withdraw," he told reporters after chairing a meeting on the preparations here.

He was commenting on the hijacked aircraft attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington and the crash in Pennsylvania which left thousands dead.

He said that so far, about 300 firms from 22 countries including Germany, Russia, Italy, France and India were expected to exhibit their defence products in the maritime segment.

This year's edition of the maritime segment will also see the Ukraine, China, Belgium, Spain and New Zealand participating for the first time.

He said 21 foreign navy chiefs or their representatives were expected to attend the maritime segment where 18 foreign ships would assemble in the waters of Tanjung Malai.

The Royal Malaysian Navy would have 20 ships including the KD Jebat and KD Lekiu besides patrol and inspection boats.

Several maritime-related government departments and agencies including the Royal Customs and Excise Department, Immigration Department, marine police and the Fisheries Department would also be taking part.

Members of the public might get to view the ships up close because the organisers were making arrangements to take them to the ships by boat, he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to open the maritime segment on Oct 9.

-- BERNAMA

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