

MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

November 11, 2011

Volume 20

Issue 18

DON'T FORGET

- ✦ SRRC Chicken and Rice Sale , 28 Oct.
- ✦ Marine Corps Ball, 18 Nov.
- ✦ SRRC/SAC Holiday Party, Dec 9.

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Allied Pickfords Charity Golf Tournament 2011 coming up on Thanksgiving weekend

CARAT Enables Return to Homeland for Three Sailors

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia

By: MCI ROBERT CLOWNEY,
7TH FLEET,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- When The U.S. and Royal Cambodian Navies began their 2nd annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Cambodia exercise Oct. 20, three Sailors assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Kidd (DDG 100) were looking forward to the week ahead more than others. For them, it would be their first visit to their ancestral homeland.

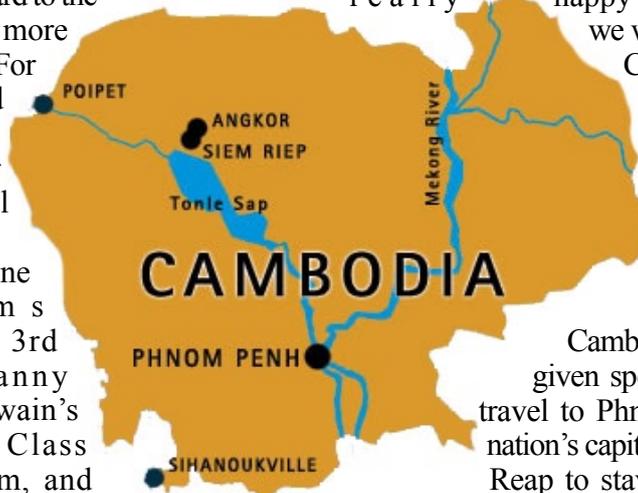
Gas Turbine Systems Technician 3rd Class Channy Sath, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Suorth Suom, and Storekeeper 2nd Class Sokchamroeun Yous were all born in, or grew up in, the U.S. after their parents fled the genocide of Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia from 1975-1979, and the nearly two decades of civil war that followed. Sath grew up in Lowell, Mass; Suom in Philadelphia, and Yous in Texas. All three eventually joined the Navy and, in a twist of good fortune, were able to visit their homeland when Kidd was selected to participate in CARAT Cambodia.

"This is my first time to visit Cambodia," Suom said, explaining how his family slipped across the border with Thailand in 1979 to escape the war.

"My family, they miss the country and their way of life before the war."

For Sath, whose family left Cambodia for America in 1990, the visit was an opportunity to meet several relatives, for the first time.

"My dad used to tell me about Cambodia, and how I was fortunate to come to America, because the war was unforgettable," Sath said. "I was really happy knowing that



we were coming to Cambodia, and I was looking forward to meeting my family members I've never seen."

While in Cambodia, Sath was given special liberty to travel to Phnom Penh, the nation's capital, and to Siem Reap to stay with family.

"I couldn't help it - when we saw each other we all started crying. My family members were so happy that I had come to visit them."

For Yous, the exercise presented an opportunity to embark a Royal Cambodian Navy patrol craft for the first dedicated at-sea Naval exercise between Cambodia and the U.S. Navy in nearly 40 years.

Though he didn't get to visit relatives on this trip, Suom said the experience was unforgettable. "I was excited to come here, even though I just stayed in the Sihanoukville area," he said. "I was excited and humbled to come here."

Merlion Star

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Navy Program Helps Enlisted Sailors Aim for the Stars

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – More than 70 top-performing Sailors from the enlisted ranks were selected to pursue a commission through Navy's Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) program, officials said. "These highly motivated men and women will be among the leaders of our Navy well into the 21st century," said Navy Personnel Command Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port. "All those who applied should be very proud of their accomplishments and continue their outstanding performance to ensure professional growth and increase their chance of selection in a future board."

NAVADMIN 316/11 contains a complete list of selectees and alternates for this fiscal year.

STA-21 is a commissioning program that provides a path for qualified Sailors to receive a college education and earn a commission as a naval officer. Selectees are authorized a maximum 36 months of full-time, year-round study to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Participants in the STA-21 program remain on active duty while attending college and benefit from an education voucher valued at up to \$10,000 per year to cover tuition, fees and book costs. STA-21 participants must become members of and drill with a local Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) unit while attending school. Upon graduation, STA-21 participants will be commissioned as ensigns and return to active duty in the fleet.

In addition to the \$10,000 per year voucher, Sailors receive their basic pay and basic allowance for housing and are eligible for advancement and may be eligible to reside in military family housing if available.

The STA-21 board meets annually and Sailors interested may apply for either the STA-21 Core Option or the STA-21 Target Option. The STA-21 Core Option allows officer community assignment to an unrestricted line designator during the final year of college based on the needs of the Navy, individual qualifications, aptitude, experience and preferences.

The STA-21 Target Option allows Sailors to choose a career path in one of 17 officer career fields including Pilot, Naval Flight Officer, Surface Warfare Officer, Surface Warfare Officer/Information Professional, Oceanography, Special Warfare, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Nuclear, Medical Fields and Supply.

All STA-21 officer candidates will attend the Naval Science Institute (NSI) course at Officer Training Command, Newport, R.I., prior to beginning college studies at an NROTC-affiliated college or university. NSI is an eight-week course of intense officer preparation and indoctrination. Course enrollment is timed to allow college entrance during fall, spring or summer semesters/quarters.

For a complete list of requirements and more information on STA-21, see OPNAVINST 1420.1B and visit the STA-21 Web site at <https://www.sta-21.navy.mil>.

*TUNE INTO THE BLUE SCREEN FOR THE
LATEST INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY
EVENTS*



Many Sailors believe that there is too much information to study or they don't know what exactly to study. Other questions that come up are where to get the references and how early is too early to start studying. We will try to answer these questions and provide some insight to better help you prepare for your upcoming Navy-Wide Advancement Examination (NWAE).

Comments/Questions from the Fleet

1) What do I study?
 A) There is a lot of information that you can study but the only reference material you should be studying should be from your Bibliographies (BIBS) which are released six months prior to the examination. This is the time to start studying. Go ahead and get the BIBS as soon as they are released and don't wait. The BIBS are comprised of all of the references that were used to come up with the questions on the particular test that you will be participating. If you study any other reference material then what is listed in your BIBS then you are studying to become a better Sailor but not for the examination. The BIBS can be found on [HTTPS://WWWA.NKO.NAVY.MIL](https://wwwa.nko.navy.mil) under the Career Management Tab and Selecting Navy Advancement Center (NAC). There you will find them based on examination date.

B) In the same area where you

will find the BIBS there is a section with the topics that could be on your examination. An example on how to use this resource:

If you are a PSSN and your topic is "Pay Entitlements" you should look at the references on your BIBS. If there is a reference that discusses "Pay Entitlements" I would study that material. "Beware" that not all topics advertised in this section were used to develop your examination.

C) Previous profile sheets are great report cards on what you need to study more and what you need to study less of. Profile sheets provide you how many questions you answered correctly on each topic that was utilized on the previous examinations. We need to emphasize: no matter how well you do you should always study the topics you did poorly but don't forget to at least review those topics that you did well on (things do change).

2) How do I study? Who do I turn to for help?

A) There is no one way to study. Some like to study as individuals and some as a group. Commands/ Departments/Divisions have used Jeopardy games and have provided study time. The answer to the "who" you study with is easy. Other Sailors in your rate is a great way to use your coworkers to help each other succeed. As an example, in a PSD if all PSSN came together and divided the reference material and the topics that could be on the examinations (see 1B and 1C above) and each individual created questions for each

topic that they were responsible for then you just divided the work by as many Sailors that are involved. One could have ESO, Pay Entitlements, Travel Pay and so on.

B) Don't forget your mentors and your senior enlisted. Don't forget the motto, "Ask the Chief". Although, don't forget the Petty Officer Second Class or First Class who are even just as good a resource since they are still taking examinations. They are a great resource of information for prior examinations. Ask them as to how to get the references that are on the BIBS and not about particular questions (they change all the time). If you are a first timer taking an examination ask them on what to expect on the day of the exam. Things like making sure you are early or the doors will close if you are late and you will not be able to take the examination. Six months is a long time to wait for the next examination.

C) As we discussed earlier (see 1A above), the NKO website for the Navy Advancement Center is an excellent tool with answers to questions such as these and much more.

The Navy Advancement Center (NAC) has also gone to the 21st century and has a Facebook page. There you will get great information and even ask questions to the people who are responsible in developing your examinations. As of December 2010, over 15,000 Sailors have become fans and continues to grow.

NRCS Mosquito Trapping Study

NRCS Environmental will be teaming up again with the scientist from the Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU-2) in Singapore and the Duke/National University of Singapore to deploy mosquito trapping devices to capture those nasty pests!

The study will compare different kinds of trapping devices (pictured below) to see how effective they are in reducing numbers and controlling mosquito populations. The study design will allow us to compare which trap works best for the different kinds of mosquitoes in Singapore. The study will also provide data to determine if these devices can be used as an eco-friendly replacement for insect fogging, which can harm friendly insects

and promote insecticide resistance in the mosquito populations. This study will run for 10 weeks and will start on November 14th and will run until end of January. The results of the study will be reported in the Merlion once the analysis is completed. The traps will be clearly marked with signs that read “DO NOT DISTURB-Study in Progress”. The study investigators respectfully request that you don’t interfere with the traps and report any interference you observe to Environmental. If you have any questions about the study, the traps and the effects of the traps on you, or your family, or any other concerns, please contact Alice Wilson in Environmental at 6750-2052.

In addition to the mosquito trapping study, DPWO would like to remind residents of some personal prevention steps that can be useful:

- Change water in vases/bowls on alternate days
- Turn over all water storage containers
- Cover bamboo pole holders when not in use
- Clear blockages and put BTI insecticide in roof gutters monthly
- Remove water from flower pot plates on alternate days



● Mosquito Magnet
● BG sentinel & CDC trap
● BG sentinel & CDC trap

Allied Pickfords AmCham Charity Golf Tournament 2011

Are you ready for one of the best days of the year for fun, sun, and exercise? Thanksgiving is coming and so is AmCham charity golf! It's not too early to put Wednesday, 23 November into your diary. If you enjoy camaraderie, a Thanksgiving feast, and fantastic prizes you'll definitely want to join us.

The day begins with a morning check-in at Orchid Country Club and breakfast for would-be champions. You'll be given a bag chock-full of gorgeous golf gear. Then you and 143 of your next best friends will zoom out for a Game Of Luck and Fantasy, aka golf!

While you defy gravity with the little white ball the AmCham staff will offer you million-dollar smiles, very cool refreshments, and tasty tidbits. For a charity donation you can "beat the pro" on a par-three and win a nifty prize. There will also be skill prizes, team prizes, and the lucky draw!

It's for charity -- last year we gave \$11,500 to "Club Rainbow." This

year at least 30% of net proceeds will go to "Very Special Arts" Singapore (<http://www.vsa.org.sg/>). The format will be a Merlion Scramble which is a lot of fun, very fair to golfers at all levels, and makes the game move quickly. It's the best ball for each shot, giving each group four chances to get it right!

Prior to lunch there will be a selection of wine, beer, and a unique cocktail. Then we'll sit down to turkey, ham, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, i.e., the works. You will need to listen carefully as our gregarious golfer cum emcee will be calling out the lucky draw prizes faster than a speeding bullet.

Even if you are not a golfer you are most welcome to join us for the Thanksgiving feast anyway, at a very reasonable price. We'd love to have you join us! It's for charity!

Please see: www.amcham.org.sg/2001_1123-Thanksgiving-Golf for details. For more information please contact Stephanie Pao at spao@amcham.org.sg.

Photocopying of Military ID Cards Prohibited

WASHINGTON -- Commander,

By: MC2 MONIQUE K. HILLEY,
NAVY INSTALLATIONS COMMAND,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

N a v y
I n s t a l l a t i o n s
C o m m a n d

issued an announcement reminding all personnel that the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC) is strictly prohibited, Nov. 1.

There have been recent incidents reported of commercial establishments photocopying U.S. government identification to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service. These incidents

are a violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Although commercial establishments may request to see military/government identification, they may not photocopy or duplicate it in any way.

Because of the access the cards grant, criminal elements and terrorist organizations place obtaining U.S. government identifications at a premium when planning acts against the U.S. military. If a copied military or government identification fell into the wrong hands, it could spell disaster for the Armed Forces and the nation.

There are no safeguards in place to prevent a counterfeit military/government identification card from being produced based on a photocopy provided to a commercial establishment. For this reason, personnel are requested to remain vigilant in ensuring they do not allow anyone to photocopy their identification cards.

