

MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

December 16, 2011

Volume 20

Issue 20

DON'T FORGET

- ✦ Angel Tree Deadline, Dec. 16
- ✦ Christmas Cartoon Night @ Chapel Annex, Dec. 21
- ✦ Terror Club Closed, Jan. 1

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News from within the Sembawang Community



LANGKAWI, Malaysia (Dec. 6, 2011) The guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) arrives in Langkawi, Malaysia for the Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2011. LIMA is one of the major defense and enforcement expositions in Southeast Asia, drawing senior civilian and uniformed leaders from more than a dozen regional countries. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Bidwell.

USS Curtis Wilbur Represent Navy at LIMA 11 in Malaysia

LANGKAWI, Malaysia -The guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) arrived in Langkawi, Malaysia, to represent the U.S. Navy at the Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2011, Dec. 6.

Curtis Wilbur joined more than 36 warships and vessels from 30 countries for LIMA '11, which is billed as the premier defense and enforcement exposition in Southeast Asia. The exhibition will draw in senior civilian and uniformed leaders from more than a dozen regional countries.

The senior U.S. Navy representative at LIMA '11 is Vice Adm. Scott Swift, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, who met with several naval delegations and participated in a chiefs of the navy roundtable discussion. Throughout the week, Rear Adm. Tom Carney, commander of Task Force 73, will join Swift to conduct other office calls and interactions with dozens of foreign dignitaries.

After Curtis Wilbur's arrival, the ship hosted a large reception in the evening for hundreds of visitors, who received a tour of the guided-missile destroyer's spaces.

"We are privileged to receive the

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Star

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MCPON Sends Holiday Message

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following holiday message to the Fleet Dec. 12.

"Shipmates and Navy families,

Can you believe another year is almost over? It's amazing how quickly time passes when you're staying busy! It seems we were kicking off 2011 just yesterday and here we are, about to usher in 2012.

With the traditional festivities of December upon us, I want to wish you all the happiest possible holidays, and to say thank you for the outstanding service and support you provide to our Navy and nation. I continue to be humbled by your selfless dedication and the outstanding job you do every day around the globe.

We faced some challenges this year and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, but we will get through them together as we have done for the past 236 years. The Navy, after all, is a team sport and in 2011, we enjoyed many operational successes together that are worth celebrating. They are your legacy ... the deployments, the steady presence in difficult places, the helping hand when natural disasters left vulnerable people in their wake.

You and your Shipmates worked hard and sacrificed often. As you visit with loved ones, scour the shopping malls, or hit the ski slopes during these joyous weeks, take a moment to reflect on the special appreciation America has for you and your family. Be proud of your accomplishments, and share sea stories with moms, dads, siblings, aunts, uncles, and old buddies.

Most of all, be safe and enjoy the holiday season to its fullest. Celebrate responsibly: You are important to our Navy family and we need every one of you to return recharged for the next adventure. Don't let bad judgment ruin the New Year or your life. Look out for each other, and keep an eye on your Shipmates who may be having a difficult time.

It's also important that we remember the thousands of our Shipmates who are deployed, on station around the world vigilantly keeping the watch, ready to answer our nation's call. They are there ensuring we have this chance to deck the halls, gather around family dinner tables, and belt out Auld Lang Syne in a storm of confetti.

Thank you again for serving our great Navy and preserving our nation's freedom. Sailors and families, you are truly among this country's greatest gifts.

Happy holidays Shipmates and HOOYAH!

Very Respectfully,
MCPON"



Singapore Armed Forces Host U.S. Expeditionary Unit

CHANGI NAVAL BASE,

BY: CAPT. ROGER HOLLENBECK
U.S. NAVY
Public Affairs

Singapore -
Marines and
sailors with

the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit began a cooperative exercise with elements of the Singapore Armed Forces here Dec. 12, focusing on bilateral air-to-air training with the Singapore air force, small unit subject matter expert exchanges, and training in an urban environment.

“We look forward to working with these professional warriors, in the air and on the ground,” said Col. Michael Hudson, 11th MEU’s commanding officer. “We take pride in sharing all that this agile, forward-deployed Marine air-ground-logistics team has to offer.”

The MEU’s AV-8B Harriers will be participating in

Commando Sling, an exercise with the Singapore air force and U.S. Air Force at Paya Lebar Air Base. The ground training will be primarily the Marines and sailors of the MEU sharpening their skills at the Murai Urban Training Facility and Mandai Range. Small unit subject matter expert exchanges during the field training will allow the Marines and their Singaporean hosts to share experiences and best practices.

“This is a great opportunity,” said Hudson. “The venues and



Marines serving with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit prepare to depart USS Makin Island to begin a training exercise here Dec. 12. The Camp Pendleton, Calif., unit embarked three U.S. Navy ships in San Diego Nov. 14 and arrived in Singapore Dec. 12 as part of a regularly scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and Middle East regions. Photo by Cpl. Gene A. Ainsworth III

knowledge offered by our gracious hosts will give our Marines a different kind of training as they stay sharp for their deployment as America’s premier fighting force in the littorals.”

The Marines and sailors taking part in the exercise came ashore from the amphibious assault ship Makin Island which departed its San Diego homeport Nov. 14.

USS Curtis Wilbur at LIMA 11 in Malaysia



LANGKAWI, Malaysia (Dec. 6, 2011) Vice Adm. Scott Swift, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia Paul W. Jones, Royal Malaysian Navy Vice Adm. Dato’ Jamil Bin Osam and Cmdr. Christopher Monroe, commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54), cut the official cake at a reception aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Bidwell.

to the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN),” said the Curtis Wilbur’s Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Chris Monroe. “Working with the RMN and our partners allows us to further our friendships, while also giving the crew a chance to see this great country first

services will showcase aircraft and warships via static displays and demonstrations, exhibiting a snapshot of the diverse inventory of the U.S. military. Exhibitions such as LIMA ‘11 provide an ideal forum for countries to share capabilities, and form relationships that ultimately contribute to increased interoperability between the U.S. other countries’ navies.

“This visit represents an opportunity for the crew of Curtis Wilbur to represent the U.S. in promoting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region,” Monroe said. “It demonstrates U.S. commitment to existing regional partnerships while fostering emerging relationships here.”

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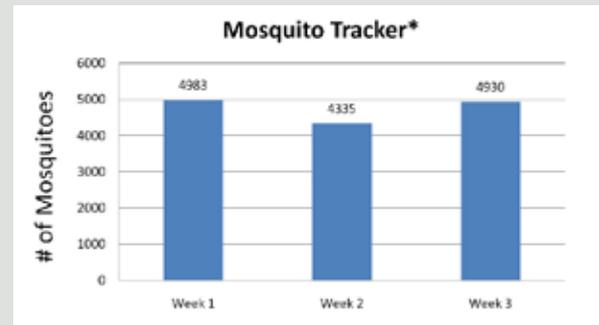
opportunity to represent 7th Fleet

hand.”

The U.S. Navy and other

Mosquito Survey Update

Preliminary results from our mosquito trapping study so far indicates the numbers of mosquitoes catch seem to be holding steady. The Research Team is not seeing a significant increase in the numbers of mosquitoes caught in the traps since the fogging in the study sites has stopped and the start of the study.



New Bicycle Safety Rules

Please take note of the changes in the way bicycles are dealt with when approaching and transiting the IAPF ECP.

1. Website < http://www.pedal.sg/pedal/Singapore_Laws.html > is Singapore Law dealing with bicycles. It is clear, bicycles are considered vehicles and they are to use the left side of the roadway unless there is a designated bicycle path.

2. Approaching the IAPF ECP, bicycles will travel on the left side of the road and not on the designated pedestrian walkway. In turn, following the ID check, bicycles will be cleared along the roadway through the ECP. If the IAPF officer desires a greater level of inspection, he/she will direct the bicyclist into the parking area and conduct a backpack or bicycle bag search.

3. PPE requirements and applicability are being discussed. However, US DoD and NZDF personnel will follow their respective policies relating to bicycle helmet requirements, etc. There will be more to follow on this subject.

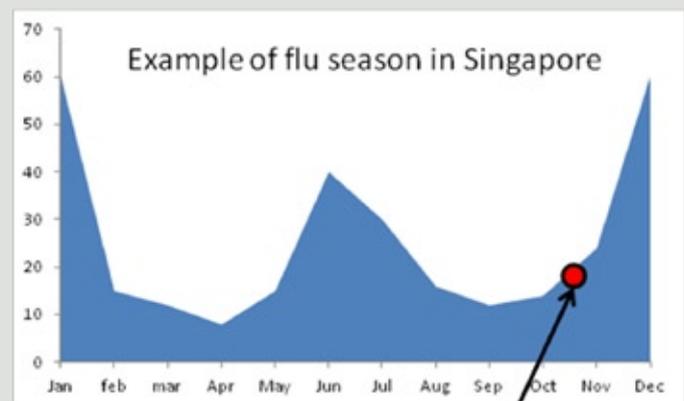
Additionally, the US Navy and New Zealand DSU will work with PSA/AETOS to identify other concerns and recommend / take corrective action. Future changes will be vetted and discussed amongst key stakeholders before implementation. Notifications will precede any approved change. If you have any questions, please contact the US Navy, Singapore Area Coordinator's Public Safety Department.



Influenza Shots Available

Don't get caught under the weather this flu season. The Medical Aide Station (MAS) currently has flu vaccine available for active duty military and eligible beneficiaries. Roll up your sleeves and help us fight this annual epidemic disease! Please call 6257-4233 to make an appointment to get your immunization.

The MAS is also working with the Naval Medical Research Unit No 2 (NAMRU-2) in Singapore to identify causes of respiratory illness in our community. If you have a cold or flu, we would like to enroll you in our expat influenza studies. Please stop by the MAS to receive your sample collection kits, information sheets, and digital thermometer. You can also call 9657-6238 or email help@myrunnynose.org to have the kits delivered to you.



You are here!