

MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

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EXPANDED AT-SEA TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS U.S., SINGAPORE CARAT EXERCISE

SINGAPORE (August 14, 2011) USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) arrives at Changi Naval Base in Singapore to participate in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Singapore 2011. CARAT 2011 is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia to strengthen relationships and enhance force readiness. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Lily Daniels

SINGAPORE - The arrival of two U.S. Navy destroyers to Singapore, followed by an opening ceremony at Changi Naval Base Aug. 15 marks the beginning of the 17th Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Singapore exercise.

The first phase of CARAT features events ashore, such as a culinary exchange, joint community service action project, and symposia for shipboard medical emergencies, expeditionary medical planning, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, supply logistics, Anti-Terrorism Force Protection and maritime air group operations.

The at-sea phase is focused on developing maritime security

capabilities in areas such as maritime interdiction, combined operations at sea, air and surface gunnery exercises, anti-piracy exercises and medical emergency evacuation exercises. This year marks the first time Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Sikorsky S-70B naval helicopters will participate in the at-sea events.

"CARAT is about cooperating together, and the training topics are focused on our countries' shared interests of combating piracy and terrorism," said Capt. Dave Welch, Commander, Task Group 73.1. "The training will hone our maritime skills when operating in future exercises and missions together," he added.

Approximately 600 U.S. Navy personnel are participating in CARAT Singapore 2011. U.S. Navy ships

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Star

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Military Sealift Fleet Support Command,
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**Supervisor,
United States Coast Guard, Singapore**
Lt. Cmdr. Ken Phillips

**Special Agent in Charge,
U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service,
Singapore Field Office**
Greg Bachman

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 15, 2011 –

By: JIM GARAMONE,
AMERICAN FORCES
PRESS SERVICE

The military retirement system isn't going to change any time soon, Defense Department officials said.

"There's no immediate plan to affect retirement," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen told service members at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 31.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said any changes to military retirement should be studied carefully and should be "grandfathered" so the military doesn't break faith with those in the service.

Pentagon officials are reviewing all areas of the defense budget, and the goal of the review is to "inform the decisions and strategies that we have to make," Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said Aug. 4.

"So that's going to be key to what decisions we make and what areas we look to for savings," the secretary added.

In support of the department's efficiency initiatives, a small group of Defense Business Board members was tasked to develop alternative plans to the current military retirement system. The group briefed its findings

and draft recommendations to the full board during their July 21 quarterly meeting. The full board approved the recommendations, and the group will issue a final report by the end of this month.

The Defense Business Board provides DoD's senior leaders independent advice and recommendations "on effective strategies for the implementation of best business practices on matters of interest to the Department of Defense," according to Pentagon officials.

Meanwhile, a Pentagon spokeswoman said, officials are reviewing the board's recommendations.

"Any recommendation to change the military retirement system must be approached with thoughtful analysis, to include considerations of impacts to recruiting and retention," Eileen Lainez said. "While the military retirement system, as with all other compensation, is a fair subject of review for effectiveness and efficiency, no changes to the current retirement system have been approved, and no changes will be made without careful consideration for both the current force and the future force."



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Singapore Field Representative

Patricia Leone

@ 6750-2350

Email: pleone@asia.umuc.edu

Royal Thai Navy Partners With U.S. Navy For Search-and-Rescue Training

LAEM CHABANG, Thailand - Officers with the Royal Thai Navy's Helicopter Anti-Surface Warfare Squadron (HS) 2 participated in a joint training exercise with USS George Washington's (CVN 73) HS-14 Aug. 5 & 10.

Both squadrons conducted anti-surface warfare (ASW) training on dipping sonar capabilities and search-and-rescue (SAR) techniques during these exercises.

"We began training with HS-14 to learn how to use dipping sonar equipment newly installed on the [Royal Thai Navy's] S-70 Seahawks," said Royal Thai Navy Commodore Somkiat Somksawat, Naval Air Division, Royal Thai Navy. "We have learned a lot from HS-14 and are happy to have this opportunity to conduct military-to-military training."

Seven members of HS-2 visited George Washington for a tour of the ship lead by pilots from HS-14. During the tour, the Thai pilots were shown George Washington's hangar bay, forecandle, flight deck, navigation bridge and the HS-14 ready room; after the tour, they began training on the U.S. Navy's methods of conducting SAR exercises.

"We showed our Thai counterparts what our responsibility with George Washington is and what equipment we use in the helicopters including how to identify it and properly use it," said Lt. Michael Hsu, HS-14's aviation armament division officer. "We also had a SAR swimmer

dressed out to show them the equipment we use during SAR."

The U.S. and Thai pilots also practiced an example of a SAR scenario when a pilot ejects from the aircraft and needs retrieval, said Hsu.

During the training exercise, HS-14 went over the types of rescue search patterns for day and night rescues, the equipment used to retrieve crash survivors out of the water, survival equipment pilots use and how to calculate all factors of a situation to receive the search area's radius and the speed at which the rescue must be done.

"We have truly enjoyed this chance to tour the ship with HS-14 and learn from them," said Lt. Cmdr. Rachan Jaroen, U.S. Task Force 73/Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific theatre security cooperation. "The amount in which

both militaries learned during this training was excellent and we look forward to next time."

According to Jaroen, the training was held as a direct response to the Kingdom of Thailand's request for a subject matter expert exchange on SAR operations; by conducting these military-to-military exercises, the two countries could increase their bilateral relationship and in the near future help the Royal Thai Navy develop their own SAR officer course.

George Washington spent five days in port in Thailand as an opportunity to strengthen ties with the partner nation. Port visits increase mutual understanding through positive interaction events such as tours of the ship, receptions and community service projects. This supports regional cooperation on common concerns which are of the utmost importance to continued progress.



LAEM CHABANG, Thailand (Aug. 8, 2011) Capt. Kenneth Reynard, executive officer of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73), presents a commemorative plaque to Thailand's Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana after her tour of the ship. George Washington is on a port visit to Thailand to strengthen ties with the partner nation. U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Tatiana Avery.

Biofuels Research to Reduce Foreign Oil Dependence

WASHINGTON - The Department of the Navy is providing the market share for the nation's nascent biofuel industry as part of a White House initiative to kick-start the alternative energy sector, administration officials announced Aug. 16.

By: MCC SAMUEL SHAVERS, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Navy, in partnership with the departments of Energy and Agriculture, is working with the private sector to create a sustainable U.S.-based alternative energy industry as part of a plan President Barack Obama announced in March to reduce American dependence on foreign oil.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, along with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Energy Secretary Steven Chu, announced the latest part of the plan in a conference call with reporters Aug. 16.

Under the plan, the Navy, Agriculture and Energy departments will share equally in a \$510 million investment over three years -- estimated at half the private sector's cost -- in the production of advanced "drop-in" aviation and marine biofuels, which can be used with existing fuels to power military and

commercial vehicles, they said.

The White House's Biofuels Interagency Work Group and Rural Council will oversee the initiative with the simultaneous goal of boosting America's rural economies, they said.

"America's long-term national security depends upon a commercially viable domestic biofuels market that will benefit taxpayers while simultaneously giving sailors and Marines tactical and strategic advantages," Mabus said.

"Having energy independence in the United States is one of the most important things we can do from a security standpoint," he added.

The United States imports more than \$300 billion in crude oil annually, and "price shocks and supply shocks" of the international oil market are "too much for the military to sustain," Mabus said. Every dollar per barrel increase in oil adds \$30 million annually to the Navy budget, he said.

"Today's announcement not



only leverages our home-grown fuel sources to support our national security, but also helps advance the biofuels market, which ultimately brings down the cost of biofuels for everyone," Mabus added.

The initiative is in line with Mabus' goal to cut in half the Navy's oil usage by 2025, supply its growing use of biofuels, the secretary estimated at 8 million gallons per year.

"We've already flown an F/A-18 on biofuels," said Mabus. "We've flown a MV-22 Osprey on a mixture of biofuels and petroleum. We've tested our riverine craft, our sea hawk helicopters, so we are, well down the road to making sure we meet this goal tactically and strategically."

"The Navy can be the market," Mabus said. "We have a need for biofuels. It will make us better warfighters, it will save lives, and it will reduce a vulnerability in our military that we simply shouldn't have."

Symptoms of Dengue Fever
登瘧熱症的症狀

- High fever 高熱
- Severe headache 劇烈頭痛
- Nausea and vomiting 嘔吐
- Muscle pains and joint pains 肌肉及關節疼痛
- Rashes 紅疹

Check for Aedes mosquito breeding areas in your home.
檢查在您的家中的伊蚊滋生處。

WHEN NOT IN USE
不在家時
Turn over all water storage containers 倒轉所有儲水容器
Cover gully traps or install anti-insecticide valves 蓋住地漏或安裝防蚊劑閥
Clean all containers that contain water 清潔所有儲水容器

ONCE A MONTH
每月一次
Clear blockages and add 40 insecticide in roof gutters 清除屋頂排水槽阻塞並加入40蚊藥
Add insecticide or oil insecticide to other places where stagnant water is unobscured 在無遮蔽的積水處加入蚊藥或油蚊藥

ONCE A WEEK
每個星期
Clear fallen leaves in drains and gutters 清除排水槽及天溝的落葉
Remove stagnant water collected on leaves, in drains, gutters and in containers 清除積在葉子、天溝、排水槽及容器中的積水

APR-CON TRAY
伊蚊繁殖盤
Remove an apr-con floor traps 移除伊蚊繁殖盤
Engage a contractor to reflect water from apr-con trape to the bathroom 僱用承包商將伊蚊繁殖盤的水反射到浴室

ON ALTERNATE DAYS
隔一天
Change water in flower vases 更換花瓶的水
Flush the inside of vases to remove mosquito eggs 沖洗花瓶內部以清除蚊卵
Wash vases of plants with running water 用流動水清洗植物的花瓶

IF YOU ARE VACATING YOUR HOME FOR HOLIDAY
如前往遠處旅行
Turn over all water storage containers and keep them dry 倒轉所有儲水容器並保持乾燥
Cover all gully trapped and bowls 蓋住地漏及碗
Seal off the overflow pipe of flushing cisterns 封住沖水水箱的溢流管

DO NOT LITTER
不要亂丟垃圾
Discard unwanted cups and bottles, which collect rain water and breed mosquito, via bins 將收集雨水及繁殖蚊蟲的廢杯及瓶丟入垃圾桶

INSPECTION COVER
檢查蓋
Close covers properly after maintenance and seal up ventholes and gaps around doors 維修後正確關閉蓋子並密封通風孔及門縫

FLOWERPOT PLATES
花盆碟
Avoid using flowerpot plates 避免使用花盆碟
Remove water from flowerpot plates on alternate days 隔日清除花盆碟上的水
Rinse the plates thoroughly to remove mosquito eggs 徹底清洗碟子以清除蚊卵

DANGER can be this close
危險可能在您的周圍
BAHAYA mungkin sedekat ini
அவ்வூட மிக அருகாமையில் இருக்கலாம்

DO THE 5-STEP MOSQUITO WIPEOUT TODAY. IT'S YOUR LIFE. IT'S YOUR FIGHT.

Congratulations Chief Selectees



Five Sembawang Sailors received news on August 1 that they had been selected to be amongst the newest addition to the Navy's Chiefs Petty Officers (CPO) Mess. They are: HMC (Sel) Akira Radke, LNC (Sel) Rachel Allen, LSC (Sel) Chris Lapid, AOC (Sel) Chris Egan, LSC (Sel) Andy Zhang. These Sailors must follow tradition and complete a 30-day induction into the CPO Mess. If you see them around, congratulate them on this accomplishment and support them through their induction.

Joint Training at CARAT Singapore

Continued from page 1 -

from Task Group 73.1 include the guided-missile destroyers USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) and USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54). Additional participants include a U.S. Navy Maritime Security Team, a U.S. Marine Corps Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team, and P-3C Orion and SH-60 Seahawk aircraft.

CARAT is a series of bilateral military exercises between the U.S. Navy and the Armed Forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Additionally, Vietnam participates in a CARAT-like skills exchange.



SINGAPORE (Aug. 16, 2011) USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) Combat Information Center Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Chris Threatt, left, and Republic of Singapore Navy Capt. Oh Zongbo, right, operations officer 3 aboard RSS Stalwart, go over a mission oriented exercise plan for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Singapore 2011. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Katerine Noll