

# MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

January 20, 2012

Volume 21

Issue 2

## DON'T FORGET

✦ NEX Closed,  
Jan. 21

✦ Ombudsman  
Training,  
Jan. 24-25

✦ Supply Corps  
Birthday,  
Feb. 17

## INSIDE



2

The Secretary of the Navy urges you to get financially fit in 2012



3

Sailors assigned to DESRON 9 strengthen relations with the Royal Malaysian Navy



4

Military Sealift Command reorganizes for increased efficiency

## Singapore Receives the 2011 Navy Project Good Neighbour Community Service Flag

SINGAPORE -- On Thursday, Jan. 19 two Navy Region Center, Singapore

employees were recognized for their role in Singapore receiving the Navy Project Good Neighbour Award for 2011. Mr. Teo Kok Sing and Mr. Latt Aung Zaw received letters of appreciation for their contributions to the region's community service efforts.

Each year the Navy recognizes commands for outstanding community service projects in five flagship categories: personal excellence partnership; health, safety, and fitness; campaign dug free; project good neighbour; and

environmental stewardship.

Singapore received the Project Good Neighbour Award 2011 for presenting the best year-round volunteer-supported program and their persistence with special projects that promote outreach activities throughout the year.

"A sincere thanks to all for your continued support of the Navy's Community Service Program. Please accept my personal bravo zulu and thanks to the caring and dedicated sailors, civilians, and families who selflessly volunteered and contributed in improving the quality of life within your communities," Vice Admiral Scott Van Buskirk, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, wrote in a congratulatory message announcing the award.



SINGAPORE (Jan. 19, 2012) - Captain Paul Foster presents Mr. Teo Kok Sing with a letter of appreciation for exceptional service as environmental representative for Singapore Area Coordinator. Mr. Teo's hard work and dedication played a key- role in Singapore receiving the Project Good Neighbour Award 2011. US Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Bidwell



SINGAPORE (Jan. 19, 2012) - Captain Paul Foster presents Mr. Latt Aung Zaw with a letter of appreciation for exceptional service as environmental representative for Singapore Area Coordinator. Mr. Teo's hard work and dedication played a key- role in Singapore receiving the Project Good Neighbour Award 2011. US Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Bidwell

# Merlion

## Star

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## Achieve Financial Fitness in 2012

The Secretary of the Navy is encouraging all Sailors and Marines to learn Personal Financial Well-Being practices.

By being pro-active and using the knowledge and tools available, Navy members can become better equipped to handle unexpected cost. Use the tips below to begin your Financial Fitness plan. Sailors are also encouraged to see their Personal Financial Advisor or their Command Financial Specialist (CFS) for more information.

### Saving Tips

#### Tip #1: Save For Emergencies

Having an emergency savings fund may be the most significant difference between service members who manage to stay above water and those who drown in debt. A \$2,000 emergency fund can make the difference between being able to afford an emergency or going into debt to cover the expense. An emergency fund allows military families to easily meet unexpected financial challenges such as:

- repairing the brakes on your car
- replacing a broken window in your house
- flying to visit a sick parent

#### Tip #2: Save To Purchase A Home

Home ownership is a good investment. Today, home equity represents more than four-fifths of the typical family's wealth. If you are thinking about buying a home, be realistic about the home you can afford to buy. The rule of thumb is to buy a house that is no more than two-and-a-half times your annual income.

#### Tip #3: Save For Retirement

It is never too late to start saving for retirement. Military families will need 60 to 80 percent of their pre-retirement income to maintain their present standard of living. The recommendation is saving 15 percent of your annual salary to replace 50 percent of your salary in retirement.

Take advantage of Navy-sponsored retirement programs such as the Thrift Savings Program (TSP) to supplement your retirement income.

#### Tip #4: Save For College

According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, people with a bachelor's degree earn nearly twice as much on average than those with only a high school diploma. Higher education is expensive, but it is a good investment. There is no shortage of college savings plans to choose from. Options to save for college include 529 plans, prepaid tuition plans, educational savings accounts, custodial accounts and savings bonds.

#### Tip #5: Save To Buy A Car

Don't be driven to debt by car loans and repairs. When saving to buy a car, calculate what you can afford. Remember to consider insurance costs, state registration fees, car insurance, fuel, and routine maintenance. A good rule of thumb is to plan on spending 10 to 15 percent of your total monthly budget on automotive expenses.

#### Tip #6: Save For Vacation

Most vacation-goers plan for the big expenses - transportation, lodging and meals - but forget to plan for hidden expenses: tips/gratuities, parking, souvenirs, tickets, fuel, travel insurance, etc. Take advantage of your local Information Ticket and Travel (ITT) office discounts on tickets to local and national attractions, discounted cruises, land travel packages and military vacation rentals.

# Lincoln Strengthens US, Thai Relationships

LAEM CHABANG, Thailand -- Aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), accompanied by guided-missile cruiser Cape St. George (CG 71), departed Laem Chabang, Thailand, Jan. 10, following a four-day port visit.

By: USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lincoln (CVN 72), accompanied by guided-missile cruiser Cape St. George (CG 71), departed Laem Chabang, Thailand, Jan. 10, following a four-day port visit. Mess visited with HIV/AIDS-stricken children and adults at the Camillian Relief Center in Rayong. Chief Religious Program Specialist Elliot Warley said spending time with the children was the most

worthwhile part of his time in Thailand.

“Even though these kids are sick, they’re still kids,” Warley said. “We interacted with them, we

— Continued on Page 5

While in Thailand, Sailors from the two ships visited with the people of Thailand, experienced the local culture and participated in a series of community service projects (COMSERVs) to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Sailors painted schools, cleaned local temples and visited with children at schools and medical facilities as part of the COMSERVs.

The Lincoln Chiefs



RAYONG, Thailand (Jan. 7, 2012) Master Chief Susan Whitman, command master chief of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), shares candy with a young girl during a community service project at Camillian Social Center for children and adults living with HIV and AIDS. Members of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) chief’s mess visited the center during a port visit to Thailand. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Eric S. Powell.

## DESRON 9 SAILORS FOSTER RELATIONSHIP WITH ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY

PORT KLANG, Malaysia -- Fourteen Sailors from guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Momsen (DDG 92), ships assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9, participated in a soccer game against members of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) during a recent port visit to Port Klang, Malaysia, Jan. 9.

By: ENS. STEVEN MULHERIN,  
USS STERETT,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The soccer game was one of many events during the visit geared toward fostering a strong military partnership between Malaysia and the United States. Other events with the RMN included a tour of the Malaysian National Hydrographic

Centre for 11 U.S. Navy officers followed by a USS Sterett ship tour for 22 Malaysian sailors, Jan. 10.

“It’s a great experience to interact with a foreign navy on a professional and recreational level,” said Cmdr. Rich McDaniel, USS Sterett commanding officer. “Visiting the Malaysian Hydrographic Centre gave us insight on the strategic importance of Malaysia and the Strait of Malacca for Southeast Asia and the world economy. It was also great to see our Sailors competing against the Malaysian navy in a friendly game of soccer.”

Upon getting underway from Port Klang, the two destroyers participated in a passing exercise

with two RMN ships, culminating with the four ships sailing in formation and conducting formation maneuvers.

DESRON 9 is part of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9, which also includes USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 and the guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71). CSG 9 is in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) as part of a deployment to the western Pacific and Indian Oceans en route to support coalition efforts in the 5th Fleet AOR. The visit to Malaysia was the first port call for Sterett and Momsen during the 2011-2012 deployment.

# Military Sealift Command Restructures

The U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command today announced an organization re-alignment designed to increase efficiency while maintaining effectiveness.

By: TRISH LARSON,  
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MSC is implementing the plan to realign three core aspects of the Washington, D.C.,-based command's shore side operations: the roles of three of the command's Senior Executive Service personnel, the number and structure of programs that conduct the command's seagoing missions, and the reporting structure of several field activities.

MSC is repositioning three of its key Senior Executive Service members to better manage this new program structure. One SES will be the program executive over MSC's government-operated ships, a second SES will be the program executive over contract-operated ships, and a third SES will oversee total force manpower management for MSC worldwide.

To increase effectiveness in MSC's operations, the command is also realigning two of its four mission-driven programs and adding a fifth. The new program structure is:

- **Combat Logistics Force:** Includes the 32 government-operated fleet underway replenishment ships from the former Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force (NFAF): dry cargo/ammunition, fast combat support, ammunition, and fleet replenishment oilers.

- **Service Support:** This new program is composed of four government-operated ships formerly in the Special Mission program (two submarine tenders, one command ship and one cable laying and repair ship), as well as 10 government-operated ships formerly from NFAF (hospital ships, fleet

Military Sealift Fleet Support Command in Norfolk, Va., will now report to the MSC operational area command in their respective areas of responsibility. MSC's area commands are MSC Atlantic in Norfolk, Va.; MSC Pacific in San Diego; MSC Europe and Africa in Naples, Italy; MSC Central in Bahrain; and MSC Far East in Singapore.

MSC will also establish a competency-based support structure to provide the technical knowledge, skills and abilities to the two program executives.

Functions such as human resources, logistics, engineering, information technology and others will be competency aligned in support of the programs.

"MSC is an agile force, and we are proactively streamlining and improving our organization so that we will be ready for anything that comes our way in this challenging fiscal environment," said Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, commander, MSC. "I am confident going into the future."

MSC operates approximately 110 noncombatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners.



- **ocean tugs, and rescue and salvage ships).**

- **Special Mission:** Maintains all of its 24 contract-operated ships: missile range instrumentation, ocean surveillance, submarine and special warfare support, oceanographic survey and navigation test support.

- **Prepositioning:** Maintains its current inventory of 31 ships

- **Sealift:** Maintains its current inventory of 16 ships

In addition, MSC's 12 worldwide MSC Ship Support Units, which previously reported to MSC's

# Lincoln Concludes Thailand Port Visit

*Continued from page 3 -*

played with them, and we gave them toys. It was a really good experience.”

Other highlights from the port visit included tours of temples and historic sites, elephant rides, jungle adventure tours and visits to the Sriracha Tiger Zoo.

The visit also included military-to-military talks and ship tours for several local groups including Royal Thai navy personnel, local businesses and school children. Additionally, Lincoln Sailors delivered Project Handclasp supplies to local organizations. Project Handclasp, the Navy’s worldwide outreach program, donates humanitarian, educational and goodwill materials to people in need overseas.

Lincoln, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9, is in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) as part of a deployment to the



**INDIAN OCEAN, (Jan 18, 2012)** The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) transits the Indian Ocean. Abraham Lincoln is in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility as part of a deployment to the western Pacific and Indian Oceans to support coalition efforts. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Eric S. Powell.

western Pacific and Indian Oceans en route to support coalition efforts in the 5th Fleet AOR. The visit to Thailand was the first port call of Lincoln’s 2011-2012 deployment.

CSG 9 is comprised of Lincoln, Cape St. George, Carrier Air Wing

(CVW) 2 and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9, which includes guided-missile destroyers USS Momsen (DDG 92) and USS Sterett (DDG 104).

## NOW OPEN!

### HOURS OF OPERATION

	<b>Dining Room</b>	<b>Bar</b>
Sunday	0930-1330	Closed
Monday	0700-1400	1600-2200
Tuesday	0700-1400	1600-2200
Wednesday	0700-1400	1600-2200
Thursday	0700-1400	1600-2200
Friday	0700-1400	1600-2300
Saturday	Closed	Closed



The dining area and outside patio are available for private parties after 1500 from Sunday thru Friday and all day Saturday.