

MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

DON'T FORGET

- ✦ Black History Celebrations, Feb. 25
- ✦ Space A Travel Workshop, Feb. 7
- ✦ E-6 Exam, Mar. 3

February, 18 2011

Volume 20

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U.S. Navy Supply Corps Celebrates 216th Birthday

USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN ARRIVES IN SINGAPORE



SINGAPORE (Feb. 18, 2011) USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) alongside the pier and Changi Naval Base. USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 arrived in Singapore, Feb. 16, (SALVEX 2011). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Bidwell

SINGAPORE - USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2

By: USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

arrived in Singapore, Feb. 16, to enjoy liberty, meet with local professionals and colleagues, and serve the community.

Approximately 5,000 Lincoln and CVW 2 Sailors will visit the island to experience the rich culture and history of one of the world's most thriving nations.

While in Singapore, Lincoln will host a reception for nearly 400 distinguished visitors. Guests of honor include Republic of Singapore Navy Fleet Commander, Rear Adm. Joseph Leong and U.S. Ambassador to Singapore David Adelman.

"Singapore continues to be one of our strongest strategic partners in Asia and a key contributor to international maritime security; the region is more stable, secure and prosperous than ever thanks to our maritime cooperation efforts," said Rear Adm. Mark Guadagnini, Commander, Abraham Lincoln Strike Group.

During the reception and following days, more than 1,000 visitors are expected to tour the ship, including notable guests from the Singapore Sailing Federation, members of the Republic of Singapore Air Force, numerous international ambassadors, law enforcement officials, and Ms.

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Quote of the Week

Love is much like a wild rose,
beautiful and calm, but willing
to draw blood in its defense.

-- Mark Overby

Merlion

Star

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Singapore Rules of the Road

There has been a general increase in traffic within the PSA Sembawang driving areas. Public Safety is presenting this Traffic Bulletin to remind our drivers about Singapore Rules of the Road. It is important that we, as guests, operate our vehicles in accordance with Singapore laws and remain aware of traffic safety in our area and on the roads of Singapore.

Top 4 infractions

(1) Stop at Stop signs. It is illegal to proceed through a stop sign in Singapore without coming to a complete stop prior to proceeding into the intersection. Failure to comply with this law may cost the violator a significant fine

(2) No "left on red." It is improper and unlawful to make a left turn at red signal lights unless there is a sign designating the turn as lawful. This can be very dangerous as on-coming traffic may not be aware of you making that illegal turn. There is no "left on red" on Deptford Road.

(3) Speeding. Speeding is a serious infraction of Singapore law. Please observe the speed limit within our area and especially in the housing area and local community. When not posted (housing) the speed limit is 50 kph. Not only is speeding illegal; it is also very dangerous.

(4) Illegal U Turns. U turns may only be made where indicated by a "U Turn" sign. The cut-outs on Admiralty are for crossing traffic and not U-turns.

Infractions of proper safe driving or parking on the installation area may result in penalties ranging from suspension to revocation of driving privileges in Singapore. Contact NRCS Public Safety if you have any questions.

Signs to be aware of:



U-Turn Allowed



Legal Left turn on red



Max speed 50KPH



Free Tax Preparation

VITA/ELF tax assistance will be available by appointment, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please schedule an appointment by emailing clwptaxes@gmail.com or calling LT Gehlen at tel: 6750-2305.

Live-fire Training Unites U.S. and Thai Troops

THAILAND - Two division-level generals from the Thai Army attended a live-fire exercise Feb. 11 combining troops from the Thai Royal Army and U.S. Army Alaska's 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

By: STAFF SGT.
MATTHEW E. WINSTEAD,
4/25 ABCT

The live-fire training was part of exercise Cobra Gold 2011, a regularly scheduled joint and coalition multinational exercise in Thailand designed to ensure regional peace and stability. The exercise also strengthens the Thai government's self-defense capabilities and its ability to respond to regional contingencies.

Maj. Gen. Phi Boon Khoomchaya, deputy commander of the 1st Army Area Thailand, and Maj. Gen. Kampanart Ruthdit, commander of the Royal Thai Army's 1st Division observed the joint U.S.-Thai training with members of their staff and the commanders of the 3-509th and the Royal Thai Army's 3-31st Infantry Regiment, King's Guard at Pulon Range.

The live-fire exercise involved a wide variety of weapon types and squad movement techniques. Both Thai and U.S. elements were intermingled as they moved toward their objective.

Snipers from the 3-509th took the first shots on targets on a



Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Winstead, 4/25th ABCT PAO. The barrel of an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon smolders between bursts as Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment lay down suppressive fire along with Thai forces in live-fire training Feb. 11, at Pulon Range, Thailand.

nearby mountainside. Immediately following the sniper engagement a U.S. mortar team opened fire with volleys of 12 high explosive 60 mm mortar rounds from a firing position just a few feet from the commanders' vantage point.

"Prep fire from [high explosive] rounds suppresses the enemy and softens them up for when the infantry moves in," said Sgt. Lance Lacey, section sergeant for Headquarters Platoon, A Co., 3-509th. "Each shot has a 35-meter kill zone, so in the unlikely event there's anything left when we stop firing, the flanking infantry squads will take care of it."

As the mortar team fired rounds at the target area, teams of Thai and U.S. M-240 Bravo machine gunners and riflemen moved in on line and directed suppressive fire on the objective. That combination would have locked down any potential enemy in the

target area and ensured maximum damage and cover for flanking infantry elements moving on the enemy location.

In unison, the suppressive fire gunners shifted nearly 45 degrees to the right of the objective and a massive squad of Thai and U.S. infantry forces began to bound from the tree line to assault the battered objective.

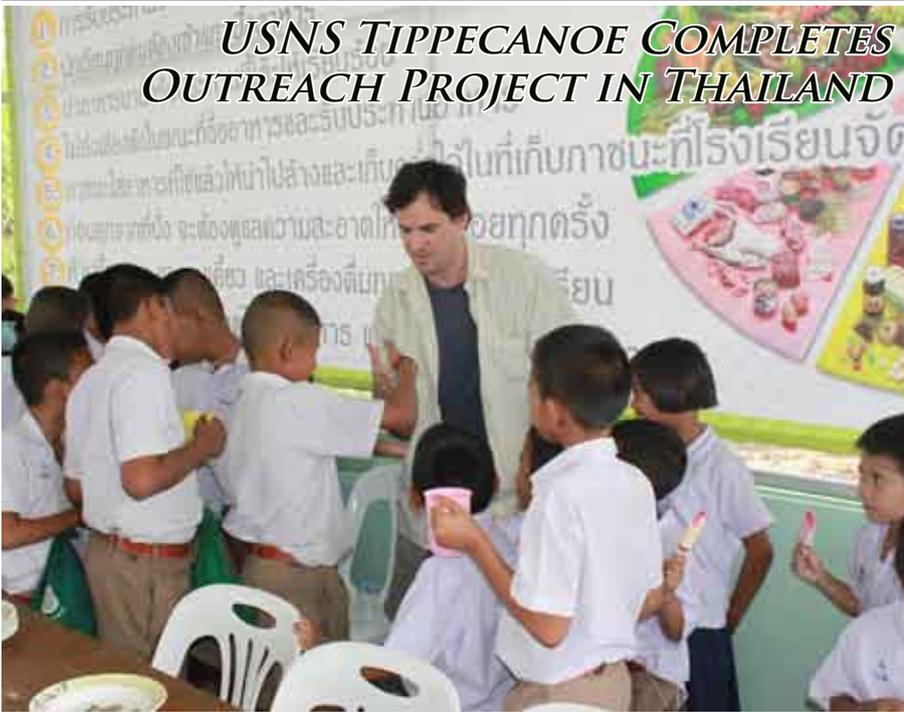
Covering each others' teams as they dashed forward and shredding the targets with cover fire from their M-4 and TAVOR-21 rifles, the mix of lethal ground forces quickly swept the target area and cleared it of any potential threat. A mix of red and purple smoke slowly began to rise from the right most edge of the engagement area, a signal that the troops had reached their limit of advance and the end of the training event.

The Thai dignitaries stepped forward to inspect the weapon systems the indirect fire teams and the machine gunners used. After assessing the weapons and even firing off three mortar rounds of their own, they left the training area to observe a Thai-U.S. Marine mission.



Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Winstead, 4/25th ABCT PAO. Thai and U.S. forces maintain radio communication with the flanking infantry element as they lay down suppressive machine gun fire during joint training at Pulon Range, Thailand, Feb. 11, during Cobra Gold 2011.

USNS TIPPECANOE COMPLETES OUTREACH PROJECT IN THAILAND



Thailand (Jan. 20, 2011) Civil service master Captian Jonathan Olmstead, assigned to USNS Tippecanoe interacts with the children at Bang Lamung school located in a rural area near Pattaya during a community relations project. U.S. Navy photo by Lt.Cmdr. Kenny Lee, SSU,

USS Abraham Lincoln Visits Singapore

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Singapore 2009 Rachel Kum.

Students from the National University of Singapore's School of Public Policy will also receive a tour and a special presentation on women in leadership roles from Capt. Carol A. Hottenrott, Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9.

While in Singapore, Lincoln Strike Group Sailors will participate in six community service events, including a visit to the Riding for the Disabled Association of Singapore, an organization which provides free, therapeutic horse riding lessons to children and adults with disabilities from all over Singapore.

"By working together to expand our partnership, Singapore and the United States will continue to foster and enable the conditions for prosperity within the Southeast Asian region, and free use of the sea lanes by all peaceful nations of the world," said Guadagnini.

The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group is in the U.S. 7th Fleet's area of responsibility as part of a routine deployment to promote peace, cooperation and stability in the region. The ships of Lincoln Strike Group currently reach all corners of 7th Fleet, from the USS Shoup in Australia, to USS Halsey underway near Hong Kong, and USS Cape St. George visiting Phuket, Thailand.

Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group consists of flagship USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, San Diego-based guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71), and the embarked Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9. Ships assigned to DESRON 9 include the Everett-based destroyers Momsen (DDG 92) and Shoup (DDG 86), as well as USS Halsey (DDG 97) and USS Sterett (DDG 104).

THAILAND - Civil service mariners and Navy Sailors assigned aboard Military Sealift Command's fleet replenishment oiler USNS Tippecanoe participated in a community relations project at a local school near Pattaya, Thailand on Jan. 20.

Tippecanoe was undergoing routine maintenance at nearby Sriracha, Thailand when civil service master Capt. Jonathan Olmstead, along with Navy Chaplain Lt.Cmdr. Kenny Lee, led the group to the Bang Lamung school located in a rural area north of Pattaya, about a hundred miles east of Bangkok. The school enrolls 200 children from kindergarten to sixth grade.

Chaplain Lee is part of Ship Support Unit Singapore, a staff of 17 civil service and Navy personnel which provides engineering, logistics, information technology, medical, financial management and religious services to MSC's fleet of government-owned, government-operated ships in Southeast Asia.

A total of 26 civil service mariners and Navy Sailors went to work right away, painting the school's lunch room and

community center with a fresh coat of bright green paint.

Later, as students cheered from the sidelines, five crewmembers took on eight students in a friendly game of basketball. "There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and cheering on both sides as the school's team delivered a victory for the pride of their school," Lee said.

Using funds donated privately by the ship's crew, soccer balls, basketballs, volleyballs, ping pong paddles, and hula hoops were donated to the kids. Capt. Olmstead presented the goods as he addressed a large group of students and teachers in the newly-painted lunch room.

After the game, all 200 students received an individual gift bag of candy and snacks donated by Tippy's crew. Crewmembers then staffed the kitchen area serving a tradition Thai lunch to the children. "This event was an exciting exchange of culture, smiles and fun for all," Olmstead said.

Tippecanoe is one of MSC's 15 fleet replenishment oilers. The 678-foot, 42,225 ton ship is crewed by 89 civil service mariners, as well as a small detachment of four U.S. Navy Sailors.

By: Lt. CMDR. KENNY LEE, SSU,
SINGAPORE
AND ED BAXTER, SEALOGFE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Navy Supply Corps 216th Birthday Celebration

As the United States Navy Supply Corps marks its 216th birthday, we look back at its illustrious legacy and see that it can be partitioned into five major time periods surrounding American historical events and innovations.

- “The Birth of Navy Supply” (1775-1799): President George Washington created the position of Purveyor of Public Supplies within the U.S. Treasury to oversee the supply system and appointed Tench Francis as the first purveyor.

- “Supplying a Growing Navy” (1800-1909): As the wooden ships became increasingly obsolete and steam propelled vessels made their way into the Navy of the future so did expanding the supply chain.

- “Supporting Two World Wars” (1910-1945): As the Supply Corps experienced WWI and WWII there was a vast expansion, in personnel, stores, logistics depots and materials. No longer did we resupply the Navy from our home shores, but evolved into a global operation.

- “Innovating Navy Supply” (1946-1973): Logistics support requirements increased not only to maintain a maritime fleet to reach a war zone some five thousand miles from the U.S. West coast, but also to support an increased aviation force. This era saw the birth of computer automation to streamline routine functions to satisfy afloat supply and accounting requirements.

- “Supporting 21st Century Seapower” (1974 and beyond): Navy supply personnel proved we are ready to support at a moment’s notice as we have been integral to humanitarian efforts, such as the relief mission after the Indonesian Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the recent earthquake in Haiti.

This past weekend the Singapore Supply Corps Association celebrated its 216th birthday with a small island themed function held at the Sembawang White Ensign House. The guest speaker, Rear Admiral Jon Yuen, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, U.S. Pacific Fleet, not only touched on the wonderful achievements of the Supply Corps but also the crucial relationship we have nurtured with our allies throughout history.

“The relationships we’ve built here and values we share work to serve as a guide to others as they establish new identities. In our shared allied experiences and history, I think we can all agree that during times of crisis, our mutual support for each other serves as shining examples of highly effective partnership efforts.... We have learned that it’s not the plan that’s key, but the establishment of relationships that know how to plan.”

With more than 52 million square miles of ocean, six of the world’s largest armed forces, 24,000 Sailors and 2,400 Marines operating in theater, logistics in 7th Fleet is a center of gravity and Supply Corps officers will continue to make an essential contribution to the operational efficiency and fighting effectiveness of U.S. naval and joint forces here and around the world.

Happy Birthday, Supply Corps!



Members of the U.S. Navy Supply Corps celebrate the 216th birthday of the U.S. Navy Supply Corps. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Bidwell



Rear Admiral Jon Yuen delivers his speech at the Supply Corps 216th birthday celebration. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Bidwell