USS Lassen Sailors maximize visit before departing Bali

Story and photo by MCSN Charles Oki, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) departed Bali Feb. 3, where the crew spent three days taking advantage of Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) opportunities and interacting with sailors from the Indonesian Navy in the world-class tourist resort.

During the port visit to the southern Indonesian paradise, the 330 officers and crew, to include Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) 51, took advantage of MWR contracted tours that offered various activities and sightseeing opportunities around the island.

Popular tours and activities included scuba diving, full day island tours, white-water rafting and deep-sea fishing. Sailors were also able to use their time off to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the island, as well as getting to know the Balinese people better.

"The tours were great," said Damage Controlman 3rd Class Brian Barker, from San Diego, Calif. "I was able to go white-water rafting for the second time, but this was definitely better than when I went in the United States."

Approximately 300 Indonesians, including many personnel from the Indonesian Navy, welcomed *Lassen* Sailors during a sports day event that allowed them a chance to get to know their counterparts better. Events included soccer and volleyball, as well as various games and contests such as potato sack races and tug-of-war. Balinese dancers also treated the Sailors to a traditional dance to live traditional Balinese music.

***USS Lassen* (DDG 82) Commanding Officer Cmdr. Anthony Simmons greets U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Cameron R. Hume following *Lassen's* arrival in Bali Jan. 31 for a scheduled port visit.**

"I am proud that we had a chance to experience such a heart warming welcome from their country's service members," said Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Dan Leonard from Rocky Mountain, N.C.

"The sailors from the Indonesian Navy treated us really well," said Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class (SW) Blake Berry, from Granberry, Texas. "The whole event was great; we were able to get to know our counterparts better and had fun doing it."

Lassen is the first U.S. Navy ship to visit Bali since 2002.

"*Lassen's* crewmembers greatly enjoyed their visit to Bali," said Cmdr. Anthony Simmons, *Lassen's* commanding officer. "I'm hopeful that U.S. Navy ships will continue to stop here to enjoy the wonderful activities, beautiful scenery and warm hospitality that the Balinese people showed us during our stay."

Lassen, is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15 and is currently conducting routine operations in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Navy restores limited paper-based test afloat

By Lt. j.g. Richlyn Neal, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Paper-based Excelsior College and ACT (formerly know as the American College Testing program) exams may now be administered afloat on ships designated as Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education (DANTES) testing sites under new policy guidelines announced in NAVADMIN 029/09.

"This is good for the Navy because it allows Sailors to maintain their educational progress while they serve afloat," said Ann Hunter, the Navy's voluntary education (VOLED) service chief. "The Excelsior College and ACT exams are accepted by many academic institutions, and includes 53 exams testing the arts, sciences, business, education and nursing areas."

In March 2008, DANTES suspended paper-based testing for college-level examination programs across the Navy due to a loss of control of paper-based exams aboard several Navy ships. DANTES testing facilities resumed the administration of paper-based exams on shore installations only in May 2008.

Ships with full-time education service officers (ESO) may request authority to stand up a DANTES testing site. Requests to stand up a DANTES testing site will be forwarded to OPNAV N15 via the immediate superior in charge (ISIC). If the ship's request is approved, OPNAV N15 will review and submit a complete nomination package to DANTES.

DANTES sponsored tests are controlled items and require secure storage and handling. Commanding officers are responsible for the management and oversight of the DANTES-sponsored testing programs onboard their ships and should refer to the NAVADMIN for security guidance.

For more information on DANTES testing and Navy College visit www.navycollege.navy.mil.

Vitale takes reins during CNIC change of command

Story and photo by CNIC Public Affairs

Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC) held a change of command ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Jan. 30 when Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale relieved Vice Adm. Bob Conway, Jr., as the officer leading the Navy's shore infrastructure.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead was the guest speaker for the change of command. Roughead spoke of what Conway and CNIC meant to the Navy.

"They were the integrator for all things related to the readiness of our fleet while the fleet is in port and our Sailors are ashore. Bob knew what to do, how to do it, how to explain it and how to get the most out of every dollar," said Roughead.

(Right) CNIC Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale salutes CNO Adm. Gary Roughead after relieving Vice Adm. Bob Conway Jr., during a change of command ceremony held at the Washington Navy Yard Jan. 30.

Conway credited his staff of Sailors and civilians for overcoming the many challenges finding new solutions to increase their support to the fleet.

"I do consider myself blessed, to be afforded both the opportunity and the challenge to once again command; the opportunity to work alongside many talented professionals both military and civilian throughout the world; the challenge to change the shore establishment into an adaptive enterprise supporting the maritime strategy, the fleet, our Sailors, and their families; and I enjoyed every minute of it."

Conway was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony.

Vitale said he looked forward to the challenges of taking over CNIC.

"Today as I proudly take the helm of CNIC, I can tell you several things about the way we will do business. We will always do our best and we will do it with class and style. We will always do the right thing no matter how hard it is, no matter how long it takes or no matter how much it costs. We will treat everyone with dignity and respect. We will always look for a better way, always trying to improve. Lastly we will remember to enjoy ourselves while we are meeting those challenges because we belong to the world's greatest Navy."

CNIC is an Echelon II command responsible for providing base and operating services to the Navy's 13 regions and 73 installations. CNIC oversees a $9 billion budget, more than 52,000 facilities and more than 53,000 personnel, managed from a single enterprise.