Royal Australian Air Force chaplain visits *George Washington*

Story and photo by MCSN Erin Devenberg, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

INDIAN OCEAN – Sailors aboard the full-time forward-deployed nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73) were visited July 25 by Chaplain Flight Lt. Mark Kleemann from the Royal Australian Air Force as part of the joint military exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

Members of Australian military forces visit *GW* during the exercise, which gives the religious leaders a chance to meet their counterparts.

"One of the benefits is that it opens up the possibilities when responding to the needs of our people," said *GW* Command Chaplain Cmdr. Brian Haley. "Not only do we have our own assets, but our coalition partners as well and have put together a roster of all of the religious ministry assets, so that we have the ability to move those personnel to where they're needed the most."

Kleemann spent only half a day aboard *GW*, but that didn't stop him from taking time to administer Lutheran church communion services to members aboard a ship without a Lutheran pastor.

"Being able to come aboard the *GW* is certainly a great opportunity to worship, to talk to the other chaplains and to get an understanding of the care and support provided on the other ships." said Kleemann. "*George Washington* has great support from the chaplains who have good self-care programs and are known and recognized and appreciated for what they do."

Talisman Sabre 2011 not only provides opportunities to communicate navy-to-navy, but chaplain-to-chaplain as well.

"The significance is that this is not a Australian navy chaplain, it is an Royal Australian Air Force chaplain," said 7th Fleet Chaplain Capt. Sal Aguilera, aboard *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19). "It shows that not only can we work with our coalition partners and cross deck, but we are doing it with all component chaplains. From everyone that I have asked, it has never been done in the history of this exercise."

As a result of the visit, Haley hopes to provide a Saturday Protestant worship service for the Lutheran members aboard the *GW*.

Chaplain Flight Lt. Mark Kleeman of the Royal Australian Air Force administers Lutheran religious services to members aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) July 25. Kleemann visited the ship to connect with U.S. naval forces chaplains on a mission to expand religious support between military allies.

GW is currently participating in the exercise Talisman Sabre 2011, a bilateral exercise designed to train Australian and U.S. forces in planning and conducting Combined Task Force operations in order to improve Australian and U.S. combat readiness and interoperability.

Naval Academy accepting class of 2016 enlisted applications

From U.S. Naval Academy Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – The Navy announced July 12 the U.S. Naval Academy's admissions cycle for the class of 2016, entering in July 2012, is open to enlisted Sailors.

Top enlisted performers who possess strong leadership potential, have been recognized as junior Sailors or Bluejackets of the Quarter or who graduated in the top 20 percent in their "A" and "C" schools are encouraged to apply by Jan. 31, 2012.

To be eligible, top quality Sailors and Marines must meet competitive standards based on academic, military and physical performance.

Academically, applicants must possess strong high school grade point averages and SAT scores, and have completed four years of mathematics and English and one year of chemistry.

Applicants are required to be physically fit with no record of disciplinary action within three years preceding application.

They must not have passed their 23rd birthday by July 1, 2012, and cannot be married, pregnant or have incurred obligations of parenthood.

The deadline for initial application to the class of 2016 is Jan. 31.

All completed applications and recommendations must be received by March 1 to be considered.

The Naval Academy, located in Annapolis, Md., provides approximately 1,000 officers to the Navy and Marine Corps every year, with many entering as prior enlisted men and women from the regular and reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Plebes from the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2015 wait to be officially sworn in at the conclusion of Induction Day in Annapolis Md. June 30, marking the beginning of Plebe Summer, six-weeks of training intended to transition the students from civilian to military life.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Chad Runge

Students at the U.S. Naval Academy are designated midshipmen and receive midshipman pay plus tuition, room and board.

Upon graduation, they receive a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the Navy or Marine Corps.

The Naval Academy offers 23 academic majors in engineering, science, mathematics, social sciences and the humanities. In addition to the academic curriculum, students also take military professional courses in navigation, naval engineering, weapons, leadership, naval history and law.

The deadline for initial application to the Class of 2016, is Jan. 31, 2012. All completed applications and recommendations must be received by March 1, 2012, to be considered.

Further information on enlisted applications to the Naval Academy can be found in All Navy (ALNAV) 046/11 at www.npc.navy.mil.

For more information about the U.S. Naval Academy enlisted admissions process, visit www.usna.edu/admissions/step.htm.

The U.S. Naval Academy is the premier educational institution for developing future naval officers to serve and lead our nation as honorable leaders.

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