Sailors take part in tours, COMREL events during Busan port visit

By Lt. j.g. Colleen R. Praxmarer, *USS McCampbell* Public Affairs

Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) arrived in Busan, South Korea, July 21 for a port visit along with the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) and guided-missile destroyer *USS John S. McCain* (DDG 56).

"We are happy to be back in Busan," said *McCampbell* Commanding Officer Cmdr. Charles Johnson. "We've always enjoyed a warm welcome in the Republic of Korea. The crew is happy for an opportunity to relax and to enjoy Korean culture."

Many Sailors looked forward to experiencing Korean culture and exploring the many sights of Busan during their four-day port visit. Some Sailors planned to take advantage of Navy sponsored tours offered through Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Among the tours are the United Nations Cemetery, Busan Aquarium and tours of temples in the surrounding area.

Yeoman 2nd Class Justin Conley of Atlanta, signed up for two tours, explaining, "I've never been to Busan before and I'm really looking forward to exploring. I just wanted to get out and see all of it."

McCampbell Sailors will also be giving back to the local community during their time in Busan. Many are choosing to spend their time at Mi-Ae-Won, a children's welfare facility, which provides care for children ages infant through 18 years old. They will clean the facility, perform yard work and have the chance to interact and play with the children.

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) Fireman Mandela Murray of Nacogdoches, Texas, is looking forward to the event. "It will be a good event to help others," Murray said.

On the second day of the port visit, the *McCampbell* soccer team is scheduled to play against the Republic of Korea Navy.

"We are really excited to play because we don't get a chance to do this very often," said *McCampbell* soccer team captain Ensign Omar Carlo of Bayamon, Puerto Rico. "While the language barrier might be a little challenging with the calls, I think it's going to be great."

McCampbell is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15 and patrols the 7th Fleet area of responsibility conducting routine operations. Operating in the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, the U.S. 7th Fleet is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets covering 48 million square miles, with approximately 60-70 ships, 200-300 aircraft, and 40,000 Sailors and Marines assigned at any time.

Members of the Republic of Korea Navy Band perform during the arrival of *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85), *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) and *USS John S. McCain* (DDG 56) in Busan, Republic of Korea July 21. The Republic of Korea and the United States conducted a combined alliance maritime and air readiness exercise "Invincible Spirit" in the seas east of the Korean peninsula July 25-28.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Justin E. Yarborough

George Washington Sailors visit wreckage of ROK ship *Cheonan*

Lt. Cmdr. Severn Stephens, assigned to CTF 70, embarked aboard the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), looks at the damage to the Republic of Korea corvette *Cheonan* (PCC-772) at Pyeongtaek naval base July 22, during a visit to the wreckage as part of the carrier's four-day port visit to Busan, Republic of Korea.

By MC3 Danielle A. Brandt, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

Sailors from *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) and Carrier Air Wing 5 visited the wreckage of the Republic of Korea ship *Cheonan* July 22 as part of the ship's four-day port visit to Busan.

The *GW* Sailors, who took part, looked at schematics and evidence of damage the ship received when it sank March 26, killing 46 of the ship's 104-man crew.

"This was an excellent opportunity for our continued relationship with Korea and a way to strengthen our bonds of alliance," said *GW* Executive Officer Capt. Daniel C. Grieco.

The *GW* crew flew from Busan to the wreck site in Pyeongtaek via a U.S. Army helicopter. The one-hour flight gave them an opportunity to not only witness the destroyed ship, but also a chance to see much of the southern peninsula from the air.

"This is an absolutely amazing country," said Cmdr. John Lund, *GW* engineering officer. "It's not just the terrain that's beautiful; it's how they laid out their infrastructure, that was amazing to see."

The combined alliance maritime and air readiness exercise "Invincible Spirit" involving the Republic of Korea and the United States took place in the seas east of the Korean peninsula July 25-28.

This was a first in a series of joint military exercises that will occur over the coming months in the Sea of Japan and Yellow Sea.

GW is the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed nuclear aircraft carrier, which operates from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) in Yokosuka, Japan. It is currently on its summer patrol ensuring security and stability in the Western Pacific.

The editor asks:

"Did you know that on this date, July 30, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed an act establishing Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)?

"During World War II, more than 80,000 officer and enlisted women served in the WAVES to release male naval personnel for sea duty.

"In August 1942, Lt. Cmdr. Mildred Helen McAfee was sworn in as the first female commissioned officer in U.S. Navy history to be director of the WAVES.

"WAVES served in communications, air traffic control, naval air navigation and clerical positions in the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska and the Caribbean. When recruiting ended in 1945, there were well over 8,000 female officers and some ten times that many enlisted WAVES, about 2.5 percent of the Navy's total strength. In some places WAVES constituted a majority of the uniformed naval personnel.

"After passage of the Women's Armed Service Integration Act in 1948, women were enlisted into the regular Navy, and many remained in uniform to help get the Navy into, and through, the post-war era."

Lt. Cmdr. Mildred Helen McAfee, the first female commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, was appointed director of the WAVES in 1942.

Official U.S. Navy National Archives photo

Got a "Did You Know" you want to share in "The Editor Asks" column? Send your submissions to seahawk-umitaka@fe.navy.mil. A legitimate fact source must be provided with the submission before it will be considered for publication. Contact the Seahawk-Umitaka editor at the e-mail address mentioned above for more information.