# *USS Cowpens* promotes good will at senior citizens home

**Story photo by MC1 (SW/AW) N. Ross Taylor, *USS Cowpens* Public Affairs**

BUSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA – Sailors from the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) visited the Junghwa Noin Yoyangwon home for senior citizens during a community service (COMSERV) project Sept. 30.

"I love going to these projects," said Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Vincent Wenzel. "It gives us a chance to see more of the country and talk with the people, not just sample the local food and enjoy the sights and shopping."

The 25 volunteers from *Cowpens* were joined by 10 sailors from the Republic of Korea navy ship (ROKS) Daecheong.

"Community service projects are about outreach and globally coming together," said Ensign Djuan Wilcher, COMSERV coordinator. "Today we had a chance to do that with not only the citizens of Busan, but our counterparts in the ROK navy as well. It was a great experience."

The Sailors built flower boxes outside, helped with yard maintenance and cleaned up living quarters.

They also had a chance to spend some quality time with the residents of the home, sing karaoke and enjoyed a performance of traditional Korean song and dance.

"Although the language barrier was there, I think we were able to communicate through smiles and music," said Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Jessica Bonilla, a native of Los Angeles. "When we started singing karaoke, they were smiling, waving their hands in the air and clapping. It seemed like everyone really enjoyed themselves," she said.

*Cowpens* is forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan, and is underway in the 7th Fleet area of operations.

**CTT1 Vincent Wenzel, right, and FC3 Rhonda Armstead, left, participate in a traditional Korean dance at a performance at a senior citizens home during a community service project Sept. 30. Wenzel and Armstead are assigned to the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser *USS Cowpens* (CG 63).**

# *USS Fitzgerald*, *USS McCampbell* to Participate in Pacific Eagle 2011

**By Nicole Collins, SPAWAR Systems Command Public Affairs**

The guided missile destroyers *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) and *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) will join Russian Federation Navy (RFN) forces to conduct Exercise Pacific Eagle 2011 (PE-11) Oct. 13-15, 2011.

The exercise is conducted to improve the U.S. Navy (USN) and RFN maritime relationship.

This exercise consists of a series of maritime activities during two phases: an in-port phase in Guam and an at-sea phase in the Philippine Sea.

Events will likely include naval ship maneuvering and communications drills at-sea and various seminars and subject matter exchange discussions.

Additionally, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief may be a component of the exercise while in Guam.

Along with the participation of *Fitzgerald* and *McCampbell*, USN forces include a contingent from Destroyer Squadron 15.

In total, approximately 500 U.S. Navy personnel will participate.

The Russian Pacific Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet have a common understanding and knowledge of a shared working environment at sea.

This exercise helps to advance the level of understanding between our Sailors and we hope to be able to continue this process over time.

The United States and Russia share common interests in the Pacific, including weapons of mass destruction counter-proliferation, counter-terrorism, and regional stability.

These areas of strategic alignment are the focus of military-to-military cooperation in the future. Events like this are part of building the friendship and respect between the navies of the United States and Russia.

For a list of participating RFN forces, please contact the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

For information regarding U.S. Navy participation, contact U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs Officer Cmdr. Ron Steiner at +1-808-653-2152, or by e-mail: ron.steiner@c7f.navy.mil.

**"Hispanic Heritage"** *cont. from pg 1*

"The future of America is inexplicably linked to the future of the Hispanic community," said Morales. "Our country thrives on the diversity and ingenuity of all our people and this nation's ability to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world. We are doctors, lawyers, activists, educators, entrepreneurs, scientists, civil servants and [military members] who defend our way of life at home and abroad."

Each year, Americans observe Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from the Caribbean, Mexico, Spain, and South and Central America.

Hispanic Heritage Month's starting date of Sept. 15 coincides with the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

As the Navy's only full-time forward deployed aircraft carrier, *George Washington*'s mission is to help ensure security and stability in the western Pacific Ocean and work with regional partners and allies of the United States.