Republic of Singapore Navy sailors visit *George Washington*

By MC2 Juan Pinalez, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

SINGAPORE – The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) gave tours to more than 300 Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) sailors during a port visit to Singapore, Oct. 14.

The tour group was the largest military groups to visit *George Washington* since the ship began its 2011 patrol. The RSN sailors took the opportunity aboard *George Washington* to get an up-close look at the ship's aircraft, hangar bay, flight deck and navigation bridge.

"The RSN was offered a visit to *George Washington* so we opened up the opportunity to our navy family and more than three hundred sailors came aboard today," said Major Choo Wai Kit, RSN Fleet Headquarters. "We learned a lot about carrier operations and how a ship with more than 5,000 people can work together cohesively for a long period of time at sea."

To get to the flight deck, the RSN sailors got the rare opportunity to take a ride on one of the ship's four aircraft elevators to the flight deck where they learned about flight deck operations and the different types of aircraft, including F/A-18E Super Hornets, SH-60F Sea Hawks, E-2C Hawkeyes and EA-6B Prowlers.

"We find a lot of value from learning from others and as a small navy, we can learn a lot from the U.S. Navy," said Choo. "Ultimately we are all sailors and operate at sea so there are many similarities; just the scope of operations is different."

The tour group was led by Aviators from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 and enlisted sailors from *George Washington* who together, proudly showed off the ship, the aircraft and explained how the two organizations work together to fulfill their mission in the western Pacific.

"A lot of what we do in this area of the world is to show that the U.S. Navy is here to help—I mean any kind of disaster pops up and the Navy is ready to respond," said Lt. Aaron Castro of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 14. "And that's really one of the most important things we can do as a forward-deployed force."

In 2011, *George Washington* made port visits to Sasebo, Japan, Laem Chabang,Thailand and Busan, Republic of Korea. Port visits increase mutual understanding through positive interaction events such as tours of the ship, receptions, sports event and sports and community service projects. This supports regional cooperation on common concerns which are of the utmost importance to continued progress.

Lt. Matthew Howell, attached to the "Gauntlets" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 136, gives Sailors from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) a tour of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) flight deck, Oct. 14, during a port visit to Singapore. More than 300 Sailors were invited to tour the ship during the port visit.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Marcus D. Mince

Smart energy choices can save lives, improve combat capability

From Task Force Energy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Navy held its 3rd annual Naval Energy Forum Oct. 13-14 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington.

Highlighted were energy efficient technologies and alternative energy sources that enhance combat capability of warfighters and improve energy security for the Department of the Navy (DON) and the nation.

The forum, hosted by DON with help from the National Defense Industrial Association, brought together energy experts from DON, industry, and academia to explore the importance of energy as a combat enabler and strategic advantage, especially in the pursuit of national energy security and independence.

"When it comes to energy, everything we're doing is to make us better warfighters and more secure," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. "Energy conservation and efficiency increase our combat range and endurance."

His message was echoed by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert. "Energy translates to warfighting now and it translates in the future," said Greenert. We are making tangible progress on the [energy] challenge the Secretary has given us.

Greenert also emphasized that in light of budget challenges ahead that it is important to be judicious with all resources. "We have to be deliberate and disciplined and continue moving forward," said Greenert. "We are entering a time of judiciousness in just about everything we do. We need to be judicious with people's time, with people, with money and with energy."

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert delivers the keynote speach at the Naval Energy Forum at the Ronald Reagan Building Oct. 13.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Shannon E. Renfroe

The distinguished list of speakers addressed a wide variety of energy issues that impact DON and the nation, such as retooling the existing fleet for better energy efficiency, changing the culture to a more frugal Spartan mindset that values energy as a vital resource, mandating energy efficient acquisitions, and seeking game-changing solutions that enhance energy security.

Some of the other distinguished speakers included Dr. Arun Majumdar, director, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy; Tom Vilsack, secretary of Agriculture; James Hornfischer, New York Times Best-selling author; Adm, John C. Harvey Jr., commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Vinod Khosla, Khosla Ventures; and Tom Hicks, deputy, assistant secretary of the Navy.

Rear Adm. Philip Cullom, director, Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, and director, Task Force Energy, summarized the event. "This Forum was about taking an unflinching look at our new and enduring energy reality, a reality driven by volatile global forces that demand innovative solutions to our most pressing challenges, both today and in the future.

"There's still time to get it right and secure our energy future, but no one group-not the military-and not industry- can do it alone. We must leverage our combined skills and resources and form an enduring synergy. Each of us must continue doing our part-becoming modern-day Spartan energy warriors, in perpetuity. In doing so, we will successfully confront our energy challenges as a Navy, as a government, and as a nation. Nothing less than our future depends on it."