

Salvor, MDSU1 to explore presumed site of WWII sub USS Lagarto (SS 371) See page A2

"The crew of Salvor is especially honored to participate in an operation that may identify the final resting place of Lagarto and pay tribute to her brave crew."

— Lt. Cmdr. John Howard



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USS Buffalo gets underway for Western Pacific

Commander Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Friends and loved ones said aloha to the submariners of USS Buffalo (SSN 715) as the Pearl Harbor-based, nuclear-powered attack submarine departed for the Western Pacific on June 12. Cmdr. Brian Humm, Buffalo's commanding officer, said the crew and the submarine are prepared. "This is our first deployment after the submarine's overhaul and it's been about a year-long process of ramping up. We just finished our advanced certifications last week and now we're ready to go," said Humm.

This is the last time the submarine will depart Pearl Harbor for a deployment as it is slated to move to Guam next summer where it will become an asset of Submarine Squadron 15. "Part of this deployment is stopping in our new homeport. I love Hawai'i and so does a lot of the crew, but I don't think there's a great deal of anxiety because they are getting a lot of familiarity with Guam," said Humm.

Humm added that thanks to his ombudsman, the families are in good hands and his submariners are ready to focus on their jobs. "What we will be doing is for the Navy and for the country. We're actually delivering a product and the crew gets a lot of satisfaction in that," concluded Humm.

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Erick Roberts said he is looking forward to the travel. "This is my first WESTPAC so I am looking forward to the liberty ports, especially Japan and Guam," said Roberts, who added that although it's hard to say goodbye to his family, they know the routine and stand behind their submariner.

"Leaving my family is the hard part. However, I have been away numerous times in my career and I feel my family is prepared for my departure," Roberts added.

His wife agreed. "As far as the families of the Buffalo, we will have meetings with the family support group to come up with ways and events to keep us occupied. I support my husband 100 percent - this is his choice and I feel it is the right one."

Buffalo is the Navy's 25th Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine. The keel was laid Jan. 25, 1980 and was launched by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in Newport News, Va. on May 8, 1982.

The submarine was commissioned Nov. 5, 1983 in Norfolk, Va. and one year later conducted an inter-fleet transfer to the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force via the Panama Canal. Buffalo has been homeported in Pearl Harbor since 1984.



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Corwin Colbert

Friends and loved ones said aloha to the submariners of USS Buffalo (SSN 715) as the Pearl Harbor-based nuclear-powered attack submarine departed for the Western Pacific on Monday.

Labor of Love



U.S. Navy photo by J0C Joe Kane

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Casanova Romeo Love cuts down a tree with a chain saw near Pearl Harbor's McGrew Point housing area. Love is assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on a special detail clearing overgrown foliage along the harbor's eastern shore.

The 18-month project will target the removal of overgrown trees, brush and weeds and other invasive vegetation along the shore, and will also include removal of trash and debris that has accumulated over the years. The maintenance and beautification efforts began last week and will cover an approximate 10-mile stretch of coastline from Rainbow Bay Marina and extending all the way to Waipahu.

According to project leader, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Fred Roach, the work that his team of Sailors is doing will not only enhance the view of the harbor, but will also make maintaining the shoreline much easier to accomplish once the overgrown plants are cut back.

CPF opens new command center

Commander, Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The U.S. Pacific Fleet brought fleet operational command and control into the 21st century when its new multi-million dollar fleet command center officially went online June 13.

Adm. Gary Roughead, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, opened the refurbished center after a 10-month makeover that included upgraded computer systems, a multi-function knowledge wall, more computer workstations, improved communications, and an increased capability to support Navy and joint operations.

"The Pacific Fleet has command and control of more than 45 percent of the earth's surface," said Capt. Bruce Stewart, deputy director of operations for commander, Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT). "With the expanding scope and complexity of Pacific Fleet's mission - global war on terrorism, humanitarian assistance, and a variety of other missions - this type of upgraded control center was an absolute necessity."

To meet this mission, the operational staff, designers and construction workers brought the new fleet command center to life within 10 months at a cost of \$5 million.

After 30 years of service, the old command and control center had an outdated layout of the battle watch floor, less efficient communications, and not enough classified and unclassified computers for watch standers and the crisis action team.

According to Capt. Brian Bennett, COMPACFLT director of operations, the upgrades and improvements will greatly enhance COMPACFLT's ability to more quickly meet its operational commitments. "The new FCC (Fleet Command Center) has a state-of-the-art display and decision capability that helps the commander better direct the Pacific Fleet response to events in the Pacific," he said. "The tools needed by our COMPACFLT crisis action team are more readily available now, thus making us more responsive and improving our overall readiness."

The new, tiered layout of the FCC focuses the watch team with a "knowledge wall" made of several multi-function display panels. The improvements, along with increased computer access and communications, make the FCC capable of conducting any type of Navy or joint-environment operation on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis.

The final refurbishments to the FCC are due to be completed by August with a completely rebuilt situation room.

The situation room allows for briefings and meetings while still providing COMPACFLT leadership with access to all real-time information in the FCC without interrupting on-going operations.

Pearl Harbor Auto Show see B-1



Flag Day

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. The origins of Flag Day began in 1885 when students in Fredonia, WI, observed a "Flag Birthday" on June 14 which was the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day, but it wasn't until 1949 that President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress des-

ignating June 14 as National Flag Day. From the early days of the Revolutionary War when the 13 alternating red and white stripes and 13 white stars on a blue field represented the original 13 colonies, the flag has undergone many changes. The last of these changes occurred on the Fourth of July 1960 when the flag received its 50th star, representing the addition of our

newest state - Hawai'i.

Showing proper respect for our flag:

- No disrespect should ever be shown to the American flag and it should not be dipped to any person or thing.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never

touch anything below it, such as the ground, floor or water.

Remember that the flag should always be respected and when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fit-

ting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by ceremonious burning. Contact a veterans organization or community service organization for guidelines/assistance in properly disposing of the flag.



Salvor Sailors to dive on presumed WWII submarine resting site

Commander Task Force 73
Public Affairs

The rescue and salvage ship USS Salvor (ARS 52) and divers of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 arrived June 11 at the site in the Gulf of Thailand that is presumed to be the resting place of the World War II-era USS Lagarto (SS 371) and its crew.

In May 2005, British diver Jamie MacLeod reported finding Lagarto, which was last seen May 3, 1945. On May 8, 2006, MacLeod joined U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force Commander Rear Adm. Jeffrey Cassias and families of crew members who served aboard Lagarto at a memorial service in the crew's honor hosted by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, WI.

Over the next several days, the divers from Salvor and MDSU-1 will conduct diving operations in an attempt to confirm MacLeod's discovery, in keeping with a longstanding Navy practice of independently verifying such finds when possible.

Salvor is in the midst of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise series in Southeast Asia and with the agreement of the Royal Thai navy – a CARAT exercise partner – was able to incorporate the Lagarto operation into the Thailand phase.

"We greatly appreciate the willingness of the Royal Thai navy to



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Kathryn Whittenberger

The rescue and salvage ship USS Salvor (ARS 52) operates at sea during the Singapore phase of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2006. CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the U.S. and six Southeast Asia nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

integrate this important real-world operation into the CARAT Thailand exercise plan," said Lt. Cmdr. John Howard, Salvor's commanding officer. "The crew of Salvor is especially

honored to participate in an operation that may identify the final resting place of Lagarto and pay tribute to her brave crew."

Salvor will use MDSU-1's fly

away mixed-gas system for the dives, as the wreck sits in approximately 225 feet of water. "This is a challenging dive and any opportunity we have to utilize this system

is great training and experience for the crew," Howard said. The training benefit is furthered by the presence of a Royal Thai navy liaison officer on board. "Sharing experiences and expertise is what CARAT is all about," Howard said.

On May 16, the mine countermeasures ship USS Patriot (MCM 7), which was operating in the area, conducted sonar operations at the location provided by MacLeod and provided its findings to Salvor. The information from Patriot allowed Salvor to accurately moor over the wreck without endangering the site.

The Salvor crew has been working closely with the Naval Historical Center (NHC) in preparation for this operation and the divers' findings, including underwater digital photography, will be provided to NHC electronically as quickly as possible for analysis.

While at the site, Salvor's crew intends to conduct a traditional bell tolling memorial ceremony in honor of the Lagarto crew.

Salvor is homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i and has a crew of approximately 100.

CARAT is a three-month series of bilateral exercises between the U.S. Navy and the armed forces of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, designed to enhance the operational cohesiveness of the participants.

www.hnn.navy.mil

Hawai'i Navy News
Online

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

The side of the Navy mission you don't always see

Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SS/SW) Rick West



FLTCM(SS/SW) Rick West

Warriors, a big hoo-yah to all of you out there. I'm back in from a great trip to San Diego and Pascagoula, Miss., visiting our warriors who are manning the pre-commissioning ships. I'm glad to report that I am still amazed at the level of quality and professionalism that I'm constantly barraged with.

During the last few columns, I've been talking up a lot of items you've probably already heard a little about, but I had points I needed to drive home. This time I want to draw your attention to a mission we don't always see.

Back in April, quite a few medical warriors from the Navy and our sister services joined up with the Military Sealift Command and took off from San Diego heading for the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia aboard USNS Mercy (AH 8).

Along the way, a bunch of good folks from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Project Hope, Hawai'i's Aloha Medical Mission, the Tzu Chi Foundation, the Sahaya Foundation, the Philippine Red Cross and the University of California - San Diego Pre-Dental Society, just to name a few, will be joining up with Mercy throughout

her five-month deployment.

Mercy isn't going out to conduct counter-terrorism operations, and they won't be patrolling for pirates or searching for submarines. In fact, there's only one thing they are looking for - those

in need of assistance.

I'm talking about a humanitarian mission. I'm talking about a lot of military doctors, nurses and corpsmen partnering up with their civilian counterparts from all over this part of the world - as well as our Pacific region military friends and allies - to reach out to those areas where people need help.

And it's not just the medical folks. Our Sea Bees continue to be everywhere. Warriors from Naval Construction Battalion 40 joined the mission to lend their construction skills to projects like new sidewalks, painting, and building repair.

And backing it all up as ambassadors of good will is the Navy's Show Band out of Norfolk. Using the universal language of music, they are

already a hot ticket at every port visit so far. I'm here to tell you that they have standing-room only audiences wherever they go.

OK, so I hear some folks saying, "Yeah, big deal, master chief." Well, actually it is a big deal, so let me tell you why and why it matters to you.

If you think back over the last 24 months, some of the Navy's biggest deployments efforts have been what? I'll give you a hint - USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), Mercy, USNS Comfort (AH 6), USS Bataan (LHD 5), USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), among others - any of these names ring a bell?

If they don't, they should, because they were some of the ships responding to major natural disasters internationally and at home.

As the most powerful and professional naval force in the world, it's our responsibility to be able to respond to these catastrophes. Never mind that we are protecting peace and stability in a region when we help. That is important, but just as important we are showing our real power - our compassion, our generosity and our commitment to our fellow man.

So why do you, the average Sailor, care? Simple. More than

likely during your career (however long or short), you're going to get the call to assist.

We all will.

Missions like Mercy's not only provide great medical care to people who need it, but it gives us the chance to train our response skills, to work with the host nations and NGOs so we have working relationships in place whenever the call goes out.

I don't know if you have seen any of the photos or stories coming from Mercy lately, but they clearly demonstrate how close a partnership we have with our regional allies and the NGOs. They also show why we'll need these partnerships in the future.

Go take a gander at their Web site photo gallery at http://www.cpf.navy.mil/news_images/Mercy/photos.htm. You will see Project Hope, Air Force, foreign military and Navy professionals working side by side. You will see an Aloha Medical Mission physician getting a chance to help people in need because the Navy now knows how best to help him do that.

You will also see the Pacific Fleet Commander, Adm. Gary Roughead, out there, too. Why? Because it's that important. The fleet commander knows that for the right

response, we need to get there and partner up quickly, so he's involved.

Other NGOs and host nations will join in as Mercy continues along its course. We will help those in need, we will build trust and confidence in each other, and we will train for when the unthinkable occurs.

This comes from working together, learning about each other, knowing the protocols and procedures to make sure the mission gets done. We will respond more quickly with the right people and right equipment in the right place. People will be helped when they need it most and we become better prepared to support our regional friends and allies while protecting stability and peace.

Warriors, there's an old saying that goes, "those who have the most, should give the most." As Americans, we have the privilege of living in one of the most prosperous countries in the world. And likewise, our compassion and generosity is just as great. Mercy is demonstrating that compassion and commitment.

So a big "hoo-yah!" to all my Mercy shipmates - military and civilian. You are doing great work and we thank you for it. Keep charging!

President Bush visits troops in Iraq

Excerpt from President George W. Bush's speech to troops in Iraq on June 13, 2006

I thank you all very much for your service to our country. Your sacrifice is noble and your sacrifice is important.

I understand long deployments are tough - they're tough on you and they're tough on your families. And so the first thing I want to tell you is the American people are incredibly grateful for what you do, and I bring their greetings and their thanks for the sacrifices you and your family make.

These are historic times. The mission that you're accomplishing here in Iraq will go down in the history books as an incredibly important moment in the history of freedom and peace, an incredibly important moment of doing our duty to secure our homeland.

You know, right after Sept. 11, I knew that some would forget the dangers we face. Some would hope that the world would be what it's not - a peaceful place in which people wouldn't want to do harm to those of us who love freedom. I vowed that day, after Sept. 11, to do everything I could to protect the American people. And I was able to make that claim because I knew there were people such as yourself who were willing to be on the front line in the war on terror.

Baghdad and Iraq is a front in the war on terror. It is a part of our mission to help make sure that the world is a better place. I truly believe the work that you're doing here is laying the foundation of peace for generations to come, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The progress here in Iraq has been remarkable when you really think about it. The people of this country suffered under the hands of a brutal tyrant - and thanks to the United States forces and coalition forces, the people are liberated from the clutches of Saddam Hussein.

America is safer, the world is better off and the Iraqi people have a chance to realize the great blessings of liberty because Saddam Hussein is no longer in power.

Thanks to your hard work, the Iraqi people have been given a chance to go to the polls - not once, but three different times - to elect a government that is dedicated to the will of the people. Today, I have come to not only thank you, but to look Prime Minister Maliki in the eyes - to determine whether or not he is as dedicated to a free Iraq as you are and I believe he is.

I met with the cabinet offi-

cialists from all walks of life here in Iraq and came away with the distinct impression that they are unified in serving the people of Iraq. They want to succeed. The faith and future of Iraq is in their hands and our job is to help them succeed - and we will.

I have come today to personally show our nation's commitment to a free Iraq. My message to the Iraqi people is this: seize the moment, seize this opportunity to develop a government of and by and for the people. And I also have a message to the Iraqi people that when America gives a commitment, America will keep its commitment.

Our work is not done with the formation of a unity government. This government is just getting started. And the enemies of a free Iraq will do everything they can to stop the progress. That should tell us something about the enemies of a free Iraq. Those who kill the innocent lives or those who have no concept of liberty, have no sense of justice, have no respect for human rights and human dignity.

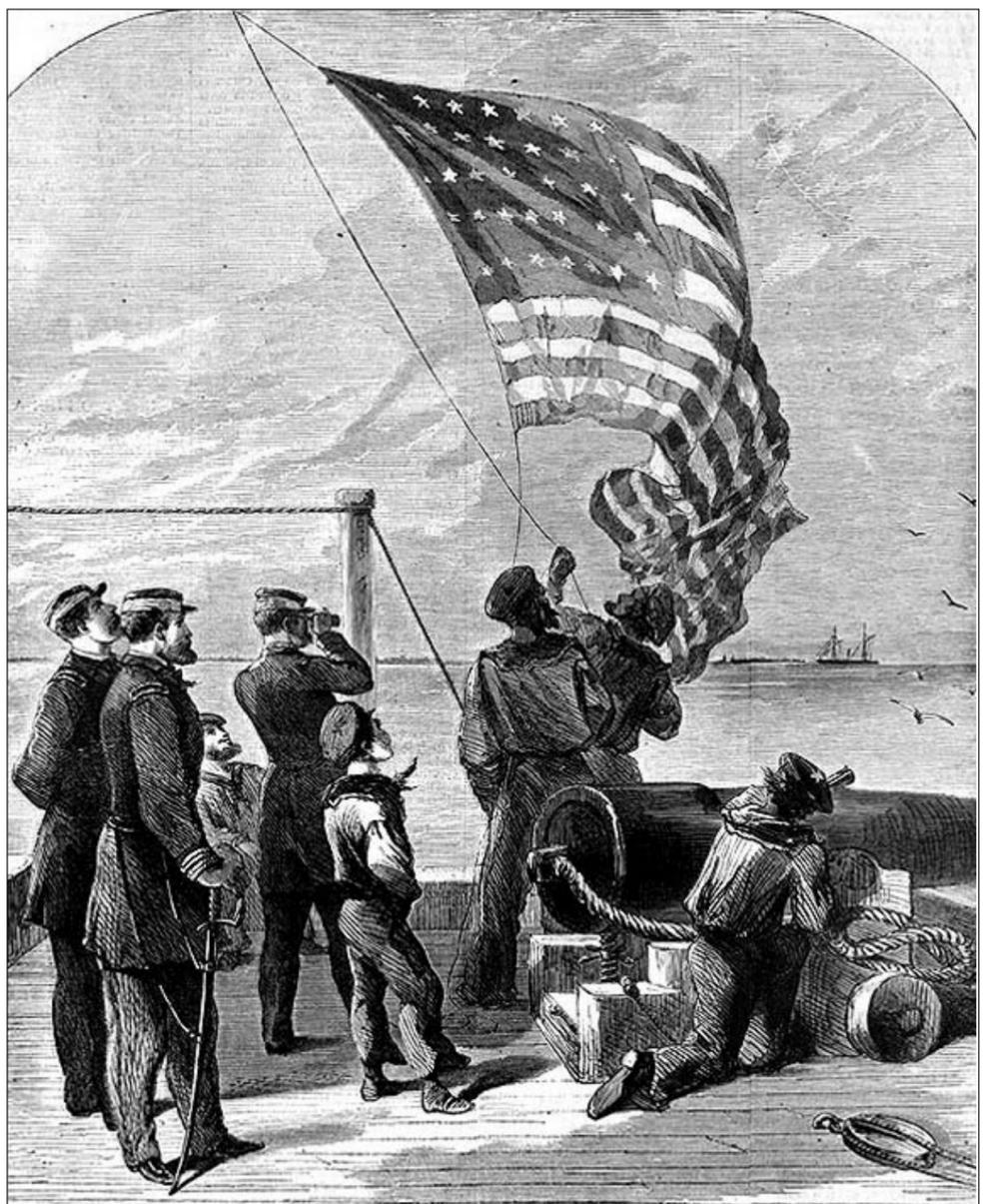
But I believe the Iraqi government that's formed does respect human rights and human dignity, it will respond to the will of the people. There are going to be tough days ahead and more sacrifice for Americans, as well as Iraqis. But I come here - come away from here believing that the will is strong and the desire to meet the needs of the people is real and tangible.

You know, one of the things that we've got to realize - "we," the world, have got to realize, is that Iraqi women want their children to grow up in a peaceful world; they want their sons and daughters to be well educated; they want to live in peace and harmony; they want to be able to realize their hopes and aspirations. It's a common desire and is one that you all are helping the Iraqis realize. It's important work, it's vital work, and it's historic work.

Our military will stay on the offense. We will continue to hunt down people like Mr. Zarqawi, and bring them to justice. We will continue to train the Iraqis so they can help the unity government secure the peace. I've told the American people that as the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down, and I appreciate all the military folks here who are working hard to help the Iraqi forces become capable and able to do the job the Iraqi people expect them to do.

And the United States of America and citizens such as yourself are dedicated to making sure that the world we leave behind is a better place for all.

"Our flag is there!"



U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

Line engraving published in "Harper's Weekly", Feb. 18, 1864, depicting a contemporary scene aboard a U.S. Navy ship on the blockade off Mobile Bay, Ala.

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PH1 (AW/SW) James Foehl

Editor - Karen Spangler

Staff Writer - JO2 Devin Wright

Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny

Layout/Design - Tony Verceluz

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“MDSU-1 is a rare command that has proven itself to be a forerunner in expeditionary warfare and interoperability. Hoo yah, deep sea!”

– MA2 (DV) Eric Sweet, MDSU-1 Det. 5

Command Awards

- ★ **Meritorious Unit Citation**,
Jan. 1, 2002 – May 30, 2004
- ★ **2004 Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship Award**
- ★ **CY 2004 Force Commander Annual Wellness Unit Award (Green H)**
- ★ **Retention Excellence Award (Golden Anchor)** for
FY 1999, 2002, 2003



Layout by MDSU-1 Public Affairs Office



U.S. Navy photo by JO5N Joseph Caballero
 Air Force Maj. Valerie Clegg, a pediatrician with the Medical Treatment Facility aboard the U.S. Military Sealift Command Hospital Ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), examines a young girl at Datu Halun Sakilan Memorial Hospital during the ship's visit to the city on a scheduled humanitarian mission. As part of its five-month humanitarian assistance deployment to Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, the crew aboard Mercy will spend several days delivering medical care to local residents. The crew will conduct medical operations ashore and aboard ship where they will provide general and ophthalmology surgery, basic medical evaluation and treatment, preventive medicine treatment, dental screenings and treatment, optometry screenings, eyewear distribution, public health training and veterinary services as requested by the host nations.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Kathryn Whittenberger
 Cpl. Lau Ming Kwan from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) steps off the side of rescue and salvage ship USS Salvor (ARS 52) during diving operations in support of the Singapore phase of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2006. RSN and U.S. Navy divers paired up and dived together throughout the diving exercise.

(Upper right) Damage Controlman 3rd Class Chris Maynard explains methods of controlling flooding to a group of Republic of Singapore Navy Sailors during a combined damage control training scenario. The U.S. Navy and RSN combined damage control training took place during the Singapore phase of exercise CARAT '06. CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and six Southeast Asia nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

(Right) Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Tony Guerrero, assigned to Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa Drone Detachment, attaches an eye to connect a BQM-74E aerial target to a crane aboard USS Tortuga (LSD 46). The drone detachment is embarked aboard Tortuga in support of the Singapore phase of exercise CARAT.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 John L. Beeman



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 John L. Beeman

CARAT sports day builds camaraderie in Singapore

**Senior Chief Mass
Communication Specialist
Melinda Larson**

*Commander, Destroyer Squadron 1
Public Affairs*

Team building and friendly competition between the U.S. Navy and Republic of Singapore navy (RSN) were key elements during a combined sports day, the final event of exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Singapore, on June 12.

CARAT is a sequential series of bilateral exercises held annually

throughout Southeast Asia. Singapore is the first stop in the six-phase exercise. The overarching goals of CARAT are the enhancement of regional cooperation, promotion of understanding between participating military forces and the continuing development of their operational readiness.

"Competition in the form of sports continues to build on what we strive to accomplish during CARAT and that is forming a team to promote a common objective," said Capt. Al Collins, commander of Destroyer Squadron 1 and the CARAT task group. "Everything we do involves

relationships with other people, from working at sea to sports and fun."

Fun on sports day included soccer, volleyball, basketball and tug-of-war. Team Orange consisted of crew members from USS Crommelin (FFG 37) homeported at Pearl Harbor, USS Tortuga (LSD 46), and RSN ships RSS Sea Lion and RSS Valour. Team Blue was comprised of Sailors from USS Hopper (DDG 70) homeported at Pearl Harbor, USCGC Sherman (WHEC 720), RSS Valiant and RSS Fearless.

"It's important that we develop professional and personal relation-

ships with our Singapore navy counterparts, because we may have to work with them during a contingency operation one of these days," said Yeoman 1st Class Romania McCall of Tortuga as he waited for the tug-of-war pull. "Sports day may make it easier to mesh with them down the road."

Whether it was tugging together on a piece of line or spiking a ball on the volleyball court, competing with and against each other for championship bragging rights was all in the name of camaraderie.

"Sports day is one of the events that helps promote esprit de corps,"

said Capt. Alvin Choo, RSN sports organizer. "It's a chance for Sailors to get together away from the ships."

Team Orange earned bragging rights as the overall winner and was presented the coveted Sports Day cup by Rear Adm. Bill Burke, commander of Logistics Group Western Pacific and CARAT's executive agent. Following sports day, the RSN hosted a barbecue.

CARAT Singapore began May 29 with the arrival of the five-ship U.S. task group. Exercises with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand will follow over the next several months.

Navy to offer voluntary separation pay opportunity to select officers

Sharon Anderson

*Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs*

The Navy announced the Voluntary Separation Pay (VSP) program that provides individually identified officers with six to 12 years of service a chance to bid on the amount of money they would receive

to separate from the Navy by Sept. 30.

"The focus is on maintaining quality leadership in our officer force through this program," said Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., chief of naval personnel. "We want to make effective use of VSP to reach our force-shaping goal."

VSP will be offered to officers in the ranks of O-3

and O-4 who are in overmanned career fields or communities. Each community manager will determine the number and mix of officers offered a chance to bid on VSP. These officers will be notified through their commanding officer that they have 14 days to decide if they wish to volunteer and what amount they will bid.

They will also be informed of the maximum bid amount for their community and the eligible pool number.

The community managers will then decide the VSP amount for their community and which officers will receive the pay. All officers who accept VSP will receive honorable discharges. The winning bid

and selection of officers should be made in mid-July. Officers must separate by Sept. 30.

"The Navy has reduced end strength requirements steadily since 2003 - using a controlled, measured approach to shape and balance the skill mix within the force," said Harvey. "As we go through this process, we find there still exists a

small excess of officers in some communities and pay grades."

VSP is part of a carefully balanced process to maintain the long-term health and balance of the officer corps, said Harvey. Community managers expect the VSP program will identify about 200-300 officers for voluntary separation this fiscal year.

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Divers hit the water together during CARAT Singapore



Story and photo by MS1 Kathryn Whittenberger

Commander, Task Force 73 Public Affairs

The crew and dive team aboard rescue and salvage ship USS Salvor (ARS 52) homeported at Pearl Harbor worked closely with a detachment of 10 divers from the Republic of Singapore navy (RSN) on June 2-8 during the Singapore phase of exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2006.

CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and six Southeast Asia nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

"Salvor has unique deep sea diving and salvage capabilities," said Lt. Cmdr. John Howard, Salvor commanding officer. "By participating in CARAT, we're able to improve our understanding of deep sea diving and be bet-

ter prepared to respond with a joint capability for any future contingency."

The RSN detachment also felt the training was beneficial.

"We really want to maintain the interaction with our exercise partners so when the time comes, we are ready to work together," said Maj. Yip Wai Choong, who was in charge of the RSN detachment.

The USN and RSN divers first worked together during preliminary dives while Salvor was pier-side in Sembawang, Singapore. Although diving in only 25 feet of water, it gave the two teams a chance to work out any glitches which may cause issues with deeper dives and the teams became familiar with the other's techniques.

"The Singapore divers are highly-qualified and operate very similarly to us. Some have gone to the U.S. Navy dive school which makes things easier," said Senior Chief Master Diver Michael E. Moser, head of the Salvor dive team and the ship's

senior enlisted advisor.

The ship got underway June 5 and diving operations took place June 6-7. The USN and RSN divers paired up for each dive, conducting seven the first day and five the next. The teams were diving 144 feet and spent about 15 minutes on the bottom training before riding back up to the deck on the stage.

"The U.S. Navy operates at a very high tempo, but CARAT is a training exercise. It's important to throttle back and slow down a little bit to make sure everyone is getting the most out of the training," said Moser. Throughout diving operations, questions were thrown out to any of the divers present about what to do in different situations and a medical emergency was staged the first day to ensure everyone knew how to react correctly.

Although Salvor's role in the Singapore phase of CARAT centered around the diving operations, the whole crew was affected.

"The main value to the rest of

the crew is having the chance to see the world and experience all the different countries that participate in CARAT. They also become able to operate with host nations to overcome language barriers and work together as a team," said Moser.

Salvor was last involved in CARAT in 2004 and some of the dive team members remember working with the RSN divers previously.

"CARAT is a great opportunity to continue working with people we've already built such a strong relationship with," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Brad O'Keefe, who was one of the members who had previous experience working with the Singaporeans. "I enjoyed working with them again."

The two-week Singapore phase of CARAT began May 29. Exercises with the navies of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand will follow over the next several months.

USS Chafee (DDG 90) visits Seward, Alaska

Ensign Melissa Barbor

USS Chafee (DDG 90)
Public Affairs Office

USS Chafee (DDG 90) made a port call to Seward, Alaska on June 3-7 and sent representatives to briefings and familiarization training in support of Exercise Northern Edge, a joint exercise that prepares joint forces to respond to regional contingencies. Chafee, with HSL 37 Detachment 4 embarked, is operating in the Gulf of Alaska participating in the exercise along with USS O'Kane (DDG 77).

"Northern Edge 2006 prepares us for worldwide deployment and enables real-world proficiency in detecting and tracking units at sea, in the

air and on land in response to multiple crisis situations," said Col. John Marselus, Alaskan Command's joint exercise division chief.

Seward is a community of about 3,000 Alaskans located 140 miles south of Anchorage. The local economy is based on fishing, transportation and tourism. During their four-day port visit to Seward, Sailors from Chafee engaged in a range of activities in the scenic settings in and around Seward.

"Seward was a great experience," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Jonas Pablo. "The people were friendly and the view was just amazing, a perk in joining the Navy."

Sailors took advantage of charter fishing trips for trout and halibut, glacier climbing

expeditions, hiking nearby Mount Marathon, and other activities. Crewmembers also took advantage of the accommodations available at the Army and Air Force recreation centers located in Seward. Many volunteered some of their liberty time to participate in community relations projects, which provided an opportunity for the crew to interact with local residents. Volunteers cleared out the town's overgrown cemetery and beautified the local softball field. Karin Sturdy, Seward's parks and recreation director, organized the projects for the crew and expressed her gratitude by flying a Seward city flag from Chafee's mast while the ship was in port.

Chafee provided an oppor-



U.S. Navy photo

Chafee stops in Seward, Alaska in support of Northern Edge.

tunity for more than 200 members of the community, tourists and retired military to tour the ship and interact with the crew. Many visitors traveled two hours or more to

see the warship. The visitors also gained an appreciation for our Sailors, the capabilities of our Navy, and more about the ship's role in Northern Edge. Tours were

also provided to 42 young men and women who have joined the Navy through the "delayed entry program," but had not yet had an opportunity to see Navy life up close.

For Cmdr. John M. Clausen, Chafee's commanding officer, this was a return to Seward as he had visited the port in 1996 while in command of USS Squall (PC 7). "On both of my visits, the people of Seward went out of their way to make the ships feel welcome and to help the Sailors get out and enjoy Alaska."

Many members of the crew indicated that they hope to return to Alaska with family and friends. Chafee returns to Pearl Harbor later this month to begin preparation for RIMPAC 2006.