GW Sailors offer helping hand at orphanage

By MC3 Jacob I. Allison, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA – A Republic Of Korea Navy band played while children dressed in traditional Korean costume presented flower leis to the leadership of the the *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group (GWCSG) arrived in Busan, Republic of Korea (ROK) June 27.

The GWCSG, making this routine port visit to Busan, includes *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), embarked staffs Task Force 70 and Destroyer Squadron 15, embarked Carrier Air Wing 5, *USS Shiloh* (CG 67), *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) and *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85), in total about 6,000 US Navy Sailors.

During their visit, 33 Sailors from GWCSG took time away from their liberty in Busan, to participate in a community service project (COMSERV) at the Junhei (Hope) Children's Home, June 28.

Sailors visited the orphanage and daycare center to share laughs and smiles with more than 50 children and to assist the facility in maintaining its grounds. *George Washington* Sailors have participated in annual COMSERV projects at Junhei for three years.

"This is how we relate to other countries," said Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Marcus Williams. "This is a big deal for the Navy. It was great coming out and seeing the orphans. We got to see them smile and laugh because we were there."

Volunteering Sailors learned about the history of the orphanage, founded after the Korean War, and also about its efforts to help children deal with the trauma of abuse or the loss of their parents.

Capt. David A. Lausman, *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) commanding officer, presents challenge coins to two Republic of Korea nationals during a welcome ceremony at the Busan Naval Operations Base June 27. Busan is the first port visit for the aircraft carrier during its 2012 Patrol.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Brian H. Abel

Afterwards, Sailors spent time interacting with children and toddlers at the attached daycare center, which provides daycare services for the local community as well as the younger children who live at Junhei.

"The group I was with was drawing sea creatures on blue plastic bags," said Lt. j. g. Alexandra Miser, from Thousand Oaks, Cali. "I helped a little girl draw on hers, and I think she was a better artist than I am."

Sailors finished up their project by spending an hour with the staff helping to pull weeds from the lawns and gardens around the center.

"My favorite part of this was spending time with the kids, hanging out with them and running around," said Machinery Repairman 2nd Class Jeffrey Tumacder. "Seeing the smiles on their faces – that was great."

Seong-ho Hong, the chief executive manager at Junhei, expressed his thanks for the assistance of the Sailors.

"Today was very good," Hong said, "Thank you to everyone who came out and a special thank you to the US Navy for organizing this."

George Washington Sailors perform community service projects in liberty ports as well as its homeport of Yokosuka, Japan, contributing over 3,000 hours of community service during its annual patrols, including COMSERV projects with sailors from the Republic of Korea.

"[COMSERVs] provides teamwork between nations, as well as a sense of partnership between the two countries," said Cmdr. Brian Haley, *George Washington's* command chaplain.

Sailors from the forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) visit with children at the Jinhae (Hope) Children's Home in Busan, South Korea June 28. The Sailors were participating in a community service project sponsored by the *George Washington* Chaplain's Office. Busan is the first port visit for the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier during its 2012 patrol.

U.S. Navy Photo by MC3 Jacob I. Allison

***USS George Washington* (CVN 73) CSSN Daesia Bryant, from New Jersey, helps to pull weeds on the grounds of the Jinhae Children's home in Busan, Republic of Korea June 28. Sailors were at the home participating in a community service project sponsored by the *George Washington* Chaplain's Office, helping to maintain the grounds and meeting with children. "It was interesting to interact with the kids, and it was a lot of fun," Bryant said.**

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