George Washington Sailors volunteer at dog rescue center

By MC3 Marcus D. Mince, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

HONG KONG – Nearly 20 *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 Sailors donated their time working at the Hong Kong Dog Rescue center during a community service (COMSERV) project in Hong Kong, July 12.

These Sailors carried more than 3,000 lbs. of tile and had time to walk the dogs during the COMSERV.

"More than 400 dogs reside at this site so we are highly dependent on volunteers to give a helping hand," said May Chow, the welfare manager of the Hong Kong Dog Rescue center. "Without the help of our local volunteers and U.S. Sailors, we would be scarce for the assistance we need in order to manage the center."

The facility consists of numerous enclosures and all animals are treated with vaccinations and necessary shots for healthy living. The local veterinarian renders free services to the animals, which saves the organization additional funds for other necessities such as food, shelter and fresh water for the homeless animals.

"Monetary donations and volunteer hours are equally important," said Chow. "Without the hands on commitment we struggle to accomplish tasks as quickly and without the monetary donors we would find ourselves unable to feed the animals so both are very much appreciated."

Of the Sailors participating in this command sponsored COMSERV project, a *USS George Washington* Hong Kong native gives a helping hand on his homeland.

"It really means a lot to be able to do community service and give back not just to Hong Kong but also to show what we American Sailors do around the world," said Quartermaster Seaman Morris Ng from Hong Kong.

The Command Religious Ministries Department (CRMD) hosted 12 COMSERV events with more than 200 Sailors from the *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), Carrier Air Wing Five (CVW-5), Commander, Task Force (CTF) 70 and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15.

The co-team leader of the Hong Kong Dog Rescue COMSERV, Personnel Specialist First Class Roberto Pagute from the "Diamondbacks" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 102, from San Jose., Calif., said he would recommend participating in COMSER's to all of his shipmates.

"Community service projects are a great way to obtain greater leadership skills, and it's a lot of fun to get out there and give back to the local communities that welcome us into their homes," said Pagute. "These events are a great way to show our friendship to our allies and offer something in return for their hospitality."

In addition to the Hong Kong Dog Center, other COMSERV participants assisted with general maintenance at Tao Fung Shan, packing donated food for the Crossroad organization and removing weeds and refurbishing the Hong Cho Pinehill Village.

Hong Kong Dog Rescue is funded solely by donations and the organization doesn't receive aid from the government or any other sources.

AT2 Brittney Franklin from Kennewick, Wash., stationed aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), interacts with a homeless dog at the Hong Kong Dog Rescue center during a community service (COMSERV) project. *George Washington* scheduled 12 COMSERVs during their visit to Hong Kong.

Separating Sailors get advice on job interview strategies

By MC1 (SW/AW) Monique K. Hilley, Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The outplacement service company the Navy has contracted to personally coach and assist Sailors separating through the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) is helping Sailors with job interview techniques.

Janeleazar (Jay) Rodriguez, one of the nearly 3,000 Sailors selected for separation by the ERB in November 2011, found himself knee deep in advice but wasn't sure which tips were worthwhile.

In early April 2012, Rodriguez began working with a Challenger, Gray and Christmas (CGC) coach to improve his interview skills through the free outplacement services offered to all ERB Sailors as part of their transition benefits.

"At first, I was very skeptical about using the interview best practices tips my coach shared with me because I didn't believe most of the advice would work," said Rodriguez.

During his first two interviews, he did not heed her advice and subsequently received rejection letters from both job opportunities.

After facing the initial rejection, Rodriguez decided to use CGC's interviewing advice during a job fair with five different potential employers.

"Though still skeptical, I figured it couldn't hurt to use the free advice and see if it would change my outcome," said Rodriguez. "My coach was amazing and kept working with me to ensure that I was ready for the job fair and any future interviews."

By putting the interviewing best practices to use, Rodriguez was called back for three second interviews that resulted in him landing a lucrative job offer with Airgas, located in Waukesha, Wis., as an operator technician.

"I couldn't believe how quickly my luck had changed," said Rodriguez. "I called my coach four times that day thanking her for such great advice. For everyone else out there in the same position, listen to the advice you're receiving and use it to your advantage. You never know when an opportunity will open for you that you will need it."

The Navy's contract with CGC is extensive and tasks them to reach out to all ERB Sailors. Sailors are encouraged to contact CGC by calling 1-800-971-4288 or by e-mail at cgcusnavy@challengergray.com if they desire services and have not heard from CGC. Sailors can also contact the Help Center at Commander, Navy Personnel Command by calling 866-827-5672 for more information.

For more information visit the NPC ERB Web Page at www.npc.navy.mil/boards/ERB/, contact the NPC customer service center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672) or email cscmailbox@navy.mil.