Ohio-class guided-missile submarine visits Yokosuka

By Lt. Lara Bollinger, Commander, Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs

Ohio-class guided missile submarine *USS Ohio* (SSGN 726) arrived at Fleet Activities Yokosuka July 13 for a port visit as part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

With a crew of approximately 160, *Ohio* conducts a multitude of missions and showcases the latest capabilities of the U.S. submarine fleet.

"*Ohio* continues to excel on every mission assigned to it and remains a vital, strategic asset throughout the Western Pacific," said Capt. Dixon Hicks, commanding officer for the *Ohio* Gold crew.

Measuring 560 feet long and displacing more than 18,000 tons of water when submerged, *Ohio* is one of the largest and most versatile submarines in the world.

She is capable of a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, tomahawk strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"Our crew has been working very hard since the day we arrived in Guam more than three months ago," said *Ohio* Chief of the Boat Neil Davenport.

"This will be our first port visit of this deployment and finally gives a chance for our dedicated Sailors to enjoy some well-deserved liberty," Davenport continued.

For many of the crew members, this is their first time visiting Japan.

"I am really interested in seeing the historic sites and trying some authentic Japanese food, as well as experiencing all that Tokyo has to offer," said missile technician 1st class Paul Workman. He continued, "I plan on taking a lot of pictures."

Ohio is homeported at Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, Wash, but remains forward-deployed out of Apra Harbor, Guam.

Ohio is equipped with advanced sonar, fire control, and weapons systems and state-of-the-art sound silencing equipment allowing it to conduct its missions wile remaining completely undetected.

Equipped with dual drydock shelters, *Ohio* is uniquely capable of supporting extensive naval special warfare operations.

USS Ohio is armed with approximately 150 tomahawk cruise missiles, which is more than any other class of submarine or surface warship, and can launch while remaining submerged.

***USS Ohio* (SSGN 726), which is moored at CFAY, is visiting Yokosuka during a deployment to the western Pacific region. The Ohio-class guided missile submarine arrived July 13.**

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 David Mercil

Navy revises career paths emphasizes service at sea

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy released a message announcing revisions to the sea/shore flow for enlisted career paths July 12

NAVADMIN 201/11 provides the Fleet with the updated sea shore flow for every rating. Thirty-six ratings will see an increase in sea time, and 18 will now be classified as sea intensive. Sailors in these ratings can expect to spend more than half their careers at sea.

"Our nation knows the importance and effectiveness of our forward-deployed Navy, whether delivering aid to those in need, or hunting terrorists. The skills and capabilities of our Sailors are in great demand as an integral part of our national security and maritime strategy," explained Rear Adm. Cynthia Covell, director, Total Force requirements Division (OPNAV N12). "As a result, the Navy has increased the number of sea duty billets and decreased the number of shore duty billets since 2008."

To meet the new sea/shore requirements, Navy Personnel Command may adjust some Sailors' projected rotation dates (PRD) based on the length of tour remaining. As a general rule, PRDs of March 2012 or earlier will not be adjusted, unless requested by the Sailor or if their commanding officer submits a request based on unit readiness or deployment needs.

To maintain proper career progression, no sea tour lengths will involuntarily exceed 60 months for Sailors with less than 20 years of service (YOS) and 48 months for Sailors with more than 20 YOS. Sailors are advised to contact their community manager or detailer for information on the availability of incentives such as sea duty incentive pay for volunteering to serve additional time at sea.

To read the complete list of enlisted rating career paths, visit the Navy Personnel Command website at www.npc.navy.mil.

To read more from the Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/cnp.

USS McCampbell Sailors visit Children's Hospital in Australia

By Seaman Cyd M. Vargas, USS McCampbell Public Affairs

SYDNEY – Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke class destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) joined sailors from *Her Majesty's Australian Ship Parramatta* for a Community Relations (COMREL) project at the Children's Hospital at Westmead during McCampbell's port visit to Sydney, Austrailia July 7.

Located 28km north-west of Sydney, the Children's Hospital at Westmead is a pediatric hospital that is focussed on the care and welfare of children.

The hospital also serves as an art gallery, accepting submissions from school-aged children who compete to have their work displayed at Westmead and other hospitals across the country.

"The kids were really happy to meet us and talk to us; that made me happy" said Gunners Mate Seaman Jacqueline Rocha from Grandy, N.C.

The group of 23 sailors from *McCampbell* and the *HMAS Parramatta* visited the facility, interacted with the patients and shared their experience serving in the Navy with them.

"They were excited and interested in our stories, it was nice to see that" said Seaman Rocha.

All Sailors involved were pleased to visit with the children and their families and to answer questions about life in the Navy.

"This visit was a lot of fun. I enjoyed working with the kids and their families," said Sonar Technician 3rd Class Aaron Lyons from Manhattan, Kan.

The COMREL project was part of the *HMAS Parramatta*'s ongoing sponsorship of the children's hospital and presented a unique opportunity for Australian and U.S. Sailors to work together toward a charitable cause.

McCampbell, which is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15, is currently in Australia preparing for joint training exercises with the Royal Australian Navy and Canadian Navy.

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