George Washington visits Guam for friendship, goodwill

By Lt. Cmdr. James Stockman,
***USS George Washington* Public Affairs**

GUAM – The U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier pulled into Guam for a routine, four-day port visit Sept. 21.

This marks *USS George Washington's* (CVN 73) second visit to Guam since relieving the now decommissioned *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) in 2008, and the first aircraft carrier visit since *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) in 2011.

"Our port visit to Guam offers great liberty and an opportunity to show the people of this U.S. territory that they have no better friend than the United States Navy," said Rear Adm. J.R. Haley, commander, Task Force 70.

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier will participate in numerous community service projects (COMSERV) and sporting events, and provide multiple ship tours to business and civic leaders, as well as the general public during its stay in Guam.

"Community service and partnership with host nations are vital aspects of any successful port visit," said Capt. Ken Reynard, *George Washington's* executive officer. "Careful coordination and support from the entire [*George Washington*] team ensures our COMSERV volunteers accomplish their mission of goodwill."

In addition to COMSERV projects, *George Washington* men's and women's soccer, rugby, men's basketball, softball and cycling teams will be competing against Guam-based U.S. military teams and host nation clubs.

"These [sporting] events provide an opportunity for the crew to unwind and relax, and at the same time, we are building camaraderie with Guamanians and fellow U.S. military personnel," said Lisa Ruhe, *George Washington's* fitness coordinator.

George Washington is currently conducting its 2012 patrol in the 7th Fleet area of operations, and recently completed the U.S.-joint exercise Valiant Shield 2012 (VS12) in the Guam operating area.

"Joint exercises such as VS12 allow the U.S. military the opportunity to integrate assets from different services and refine the military's ability to present a seamless joint force that is able to respond to any contingency in a timely manner," said Capt. Greg Fenton, *George Washington's* commanding officer.

More than 25 U.S. joint forces participated in VS12 from Sept. 11-19. VS12 was the fourth exercise in this series that has occurred every two years since 2006.

George Washington departed its forward-operating location of Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, Aug. 20 to continue its 2012 patrol.

During the first-half of its patrol, the aircraft carrier participated in a tri-lateral exercise with the Republic of Korea (ROK) navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force; completed a bi-lateral exercise with the ROK navy; and conducted port visits to Busan, ROK and Hong Kong.

Sailors from the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* paint a wall during a community service project in Wettengel Elementary School Sept. 22.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Ricardo R. Guzman

Navy provides supplemental allowance for qualifying low-income families

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn . – Low-income service members with dependents may benefit from the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) Program, according to a Navy message released Sept. 24.

FSSA is an additional food allowance some military families may qualify for based on a member's household size and household income.

According to Navy Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 292/12, the program is designed to bring eligible service member's gross household income to 130 percent of the federal poverty line as established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program is available for Sailors stationed in the United States and overseas. Members may be eligible for up to $1,100 per month.

Active component and Reserve Sailors on active duty meeting dependent and income-eligibility requirements on the Defense Manpower Data Center website may participate in the FSSA program.

To apply, Sailors must submit a signed application and associated documents through their chain of command to OPNAV N130 for final certification and approval. OPNAV will forward approved applications to Defense Finance and Accounting Service for posting to the Sailors pay account.

During participation in the FSSA Program, any increases in household income of $100 or more per month, or any decrease in the size of that household, must be reported within 30 days to the certifying official. Sailors receiving FSSA are responsible to report changes, and failure to do so may result in termination of eligibility for the FSSA Program and command action.

The FSSA income may affect participation of the household in certain programs for which eligibility is based on income, such as subsidized school lunch programs, the Women, Infant, and Children Program, day care programs, and earned income tax credit.

To learn more about FSSA, read NAVADMIN 292/12 and visit https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa/ to determine eligibility and review application procedures.