USS Shiloh Sailors community service project aids Thai school

By MC3 Class Andrew Smith,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Sailors assigned to the guided-missile cruiser *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) participated in a community service project in Pattaya, Thailand Feb. 16 during a scheduled port visit.

More than 40 *Shiloh* Sailors worked alongside members of a local aid group, "Spirit to Serve," performing minor repair work, painting and interacting with children at the Marbachang School.

"We established a good rapport and a better understanding from our outreach," said *Shiloh* Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Shellinda Miller. "I think we were able to accomplish a lot of work that was needed at the school. We did two weeks worth of work in a day."

In addition to painting and repairs, Sailors also spent much of the afternoon interacting with the children.

"We had some great cooperation between the school and Spirit to Serve," said *Shiloh* Chaplain, Lt. Michael Tagaloa. "It was a great effort between the Thai community and the Navy."

Many of *Shiloh* junior Sailors were participating in their first community service project and enjoyed the chance to volunteer to help.

"I think we accomplished a lot, especially interacting with the kids," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Daniel Rainmaker.

Throughout the day, some Sailors made balloon animals for the children while others passed out cookies baked in the *Shiloh* galley. In return, *Shiloh* Sailors were treated to a traditional Thai lunch.

"It's nice to give back to a community that is not as privileged as us. I'll remember the smile on the kids' faces. It felt great to be able to do something for one of our allies," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class (SW) Maurice Groves.

The crew also donated sports equipment and electric fans to the school, which has no air conditioning system.

"Everyone here is from different departments on the ship, but we came together and cooked and painted and interacted with the children and had fun," said Miller. "They really appreciated the work we did and the time we spent with them. We are glad to have the opportunity to serve and help the community."

Sailors assigned to the guided-missile cruiser *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) and members of the local volunteer group Spirit to Serve, plant trees at a school during a community service project in Pattai, Thailand, Feb. 16. *Shiloh* is in Thailand for a scheduled port visit.

At the end of the day, the principal of the school presented a plaque to the crew, and *Shiloh* executive officer presented the ship's coin to the principal.

"We were very appreciative of the hospitality, which was outstanding, and they were grateful to help out," said Tagaloa.

Shiloh is part of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group and is conducting spring patrol in the Western Pacific.

Detailers brief provides tips for forward-deployed career counselors

Story and photo by MC3 Charles Oki,
Navy Public Affairs Support Japan

Career counselors from shore and sea commands at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) received tips to help Sailors understand the detailing process during a detailer brief held at the Fleet Theater Feb. 24.

Two cryptologic technician detailers spoke to regional, command, collateral and divisional career counselors about the detailing process. Subjects pertaining to command management system interactive detailing (CMSID) and perform-to-serve (PTS) were emphasized during the brief.

A significant topic that was discussed during the brief was Zone C PTS. According to Master Chief Navy Counselor (AW/SW/SCW) Brent Emricson, a native of Woodstock, Ill, some Sailors might not understand that they now fall under the PTS guidelines.

"A lot of the Zone B Sailors who are falling under PTS had to go under Zone A prior, so this isn't a new program to them," said Emricson. "It's the Zone C Sailors who it's a little bit different for, because many of them never had to worry about PTS until recently. Before, they had to prepare their younger Sailors for PTS and now they fall under it. Sailors get concerned about it, but as long as they are doing the right things like excelling at their jobs and advancing, they shouldn't have anything to worry about."

Emricson said the brief and meeting the detailers puts faces to names, which can help the overall detailing process.

"It's great to have them come out," said Emricson. "A lot of times the detailers don't get to come out this way, but when they do, it lets them see what we do over here. If they've never been forward-deployed, I think it gives them a better appreciation of the operational tempo that we have over here and conditions that we tend to work under."

NCCM(AW/SW/SCW) Brent Emricson, speaks to forward-deployed career counselors during a detailer brief at the Fleet Theater Feb. 24.

Emricson also pointed out that being half a world away from each other poses difficulties to the detailing process. Site visits like this, help alleviate time zone constraints.

"When we're awake they're sleeping, so it's good to have that real-time conversation with these detailers and not having to e-mail them back and forth or make late night phone calls," Emricson said. "This was just a great opportunity to get some face time."

According to Navy Counselor 1st Class (NAC/AW) Deborah Spinner of St. Louis, the brief provided a lot of information for counselors to pass on to their Sailors.

"A lot of times I go to information briefings, not because I think it's going to be applicable to me, but to get a lot of information that can be used by anybody else," said Spinner. "Now I'm going to be able to help a cryptologic technician (CT) or a master-at-arms and I'm going to be able to use all this information. Even if the information is not applicable to you, you never know when you're going to use it as a Navy counselor."

Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Technical) (SW/SS/AW) Jeffrey Lyons, from Fort Smith, Ark., the lead CT detailer, said the opportunity to meet Sailors and career counselors assigned to the forward-deployed naval forces (FDNF) is a good opportunity for all.

"It's the first opportunity that we've had to come out to the FDNF to talk detailing and to visit the many ships that are on the waterfront," Lyons said. "It gives us the opportunity to get the pulse of what the Sailor is feeling."