USS Shiloh, *USS Lassen* renovate primary school in India

Story and photo by MC3 Charles Oki, CTF 70 Public Affairs

Sailors from the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) painted class rooms at the Bhatikar Model English School in Goa, India April 23.

Less than an hour after mooring, Sailors from both ships hopped onto busses and made their way to the school where they painted classrooms and interacted with the school staff and students. More than 40 Sailors attended the event and repainted four classrooms in a span of two hours.

"Many of the Sailors stepped off the ship only minutes after the brow set," said Lt. Michael Tagaloa, *Shiloh* command chaplain. "Instead of rushing to go on liberty, we had many Sailors rushing to go to the community service project. The Sailors love being able to reach out to the community and even in such a short time they learned a lot about the people and the culture. The Sailors worked hard and they did a wonderful job."

The staff in attendance at the event included several teachers and the principal of the school.

"I must say that they are doing a wonderful job," said Revathy Kane, the headmistress of the Bhatikar Model English School. "I am so happy to see the Sailors doing the work sincerely and so systematically. I know that they didn't have any rest before coming here and we greatly appreciate the help. I hope that if the Sailors come back that we can welcome them once again."

The visit of *Shiloh* and *Lassen* is the first part of Exercise Malabar 2010, a bilateral exercise with the Indian navy. As an important military exercise, Malabar helps the U.S. and Indian navies maintain a strong bond. Community service projects often times help Sailors make that same bond with citizens out in the general population.

"We're here to show the people of India that we're here as friends," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Joshua Eddy, a Cleveland native and *Lassen* community service coordinator. "Malabar might be an important event for our navies but the most important thing is to build a bond of friendship with the people. Every time we go anywhere, community service projects provide Sailors a way to become friends with the people no matter what country we are in."

For some Sailors, the port visit is the first of many and a great opportunity to help people who are less fortunate.

"This is my first everything," said Ship'sServiceman Seaman Apprentice Takado Hunt, a Wichita, Kan. native assigned to *Shiloh*. "This is my first time being outside of the U.S., first deployment, first port visit, and first community service project and it's been great so far. I joined the Navy to see the world and to help people so being able to do all of those things in one day. The only thing I can think of is how much of a blessing this experience has been."

Lassen is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15 and *Shiloh* is assigned to Commander Task Force (CTF) 70, both forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

Operating in the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, the U.S. 7th Fleet is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, covering 48 million square miles and with approximately 60-70 ships, 200-300 aircraft, and 40,000 Sailors and Marines assigned at any time.

Sailors from the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) pour paint with help from a student of the Bhatikar Model English School during a community service project in Goa, India April 23.

Motorcycle crash kills Sailor, strong safety advice offered

By Naval Safety Center

A 22-year-old E-3 Sailor in Jacksonville, Fla., was riding a motorcycle when he fatally struck a Jeep Wrangler at an uncontrolled intersection of a three-lane divided highway April 10.

The Sailor was attending the required, one-day Military Sport Bike Rider Course, and was departing the base with two other attendees for lunch.

Approximately a half-mile from the front gate of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, a Jeep Wrangler attempted to cross three lanes of traffic to join opposite traffic in front of the motorcycles. The rider attempted to stop, but impacted the driver's side of the Jeep at a high rate of speed.

The impact ejected the rider from the bike. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Jeep was airlifted to a local hospital in critical condition. The Sailor was wearing all required personal protective equipment and was Basic Rider Course qualified.

Since April 23, there have been seven Navy personal motor vehicle (PMV-2) fatalities in fiscal year 2010, compared to six Navy PMV-2 fatalities during the same time frame in fiscal year 2009. The Naval Safety Center urges you to consider these actions to help prevent motorcycle crashes:

• Reiterate to Sailors that excessive speed significantly increases their risk of permanent injuries or death, and reduces reaction time to avoid collisions.

• Automobile drivers often have difficulty estimating a motorcyclist speed due to their smaller profile. Automobile drivers are encouraged to always look twice for motorcyclists prior to entering roadways or crossing intersections.

• Establish a proactive command Motorcycle Safety Program that mentors high-risk riders.

• Communicate regularly to riders, the consequences and penalties for exceeding the posted speed limit, and the necessity for obtaining proper training.

• Motorcyclist must remain hyper-vigilant to traffic crossing their path at intersections. Expect the unexpected and adjust speed accordingly.

• Adopt risk management as a lifestyle commitment.

To learn more information regarding traffic safety, view the Chief of Naval Operations instruction OPNAVINST 5100.12H, CH-1, by visiting the Naval Safety Center Web site at http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil.

CNFJ announces Zenkokai Good Conduct Award winners

By CNFJ Public Affairs

Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan announced in a press release April 26, the 10 individuals and five organizations, which have been honored for their public service to Japan and their communities by being named as recipients of the Zenkokai Good Conduct Association of Japan Award. They will be presented their awards at an awards ceremony at Sanshu-Den Hall, Meiji Shrine, Tokyo, May 22.

This year's award recipients are:

Individual winners:

• IS1 Derrick L. Williams, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY)

• ET2 Randy L. Brown, CFAY Port Operations Department

• William Driscoll, Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi Fleet and Family Support Center

• ABF3 Gilberto Escobar, NAF Atsugi Supply Department

• CS1 Dennis V. Adams, NAF Atsugi Supply Department

• CS2 Leah Bongbonga, NAF Atsugi Supply Department

• MA2 Michael E. Nixon, NAF Atsugi Security Detachment

• LN1 John McBroom, NAF Atsugi Region Legal Service Office

• GM2 Tanya A. Lovejoy, Navy Munitions Command Yokosuka

• MA2 William Warren Peoples, Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo Security Detachment

Group winners:

• CFAY, Negishi Housing Detachment

• CFAY, Navy Pay Personnel and Support Center Detachment Yokosuka

• NAF Atsugi Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child Development Center

• NAF Atsugi Safety and Security Departments

• NAF Misawa First Class Petty Officer Mess

The Nippon Zenkokai Association is an independent non-profit organization under the control of the cabinet office of the Japanese government and is committed to encouraging good conducts of people and to enhancing warm mutual relationship among the members of society. The annual award, founded in 1951, is presented to individuals whose gallant or benevolent acts are remarkably beneficial to their neighbors or the general public.

The Chief asks:

"Did you know that Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was originally introduced as Pacific and Asian Heritage Week by U.S. Congressmen Frank Horton and Norman Mineta in 1977?

"On Oct. 23, 1992, through Public Law 102-450, U.S. Congress designated the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

"Today, there are more than 14 million Asian Pacific Americans living in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. More than 280,000 Asian Pacific Americans serve in the military and more than 3,700 serve in the Marine Corps.

"If you didn't know, now you know." – MCC(SW/AW) Eric Hannah, CFAY Public Affairs