

# FLEET FOCUS

## Charlotte completes first visit to Thailand

By USS Charlotte Public Affairs

Sailors on the USS Charlotte (SSN 766) will fondly remember their ship's first visit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand. One of the highlights of their six-day port visit was a community service project at Wat Kau Boonmee Darralam Hui-Yai district Buddhist temple and school in a rural area outside of Pattaya. Eleven crewmembers spent the afternoon painting the walls of a weathered building on the temple grounds.

Many in the crew said the experience was culturally rewarding. Some enjoyed the sights of the countryside on the trip to the temple and listened to the many stories of a local rotary club host and a teacher from the school. For their efforts, they were each treated a delicious sampling of fresh coconut and jackfruit and were presented with a small plaster cast of a Buddhist Canon, or saint, provided by the head monk.

Charlotte Sailors enjoyed many of the activities Thailand had to offer, including golf, diving and elephant riding, shopping and sampling the local cuisine.

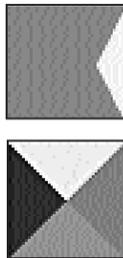
Charlotte crewmembers also took full advantage of the day trips to Bangkok and were impressed by the grand palace to the excitement of high-



file photo

The USS Charlotte (SSN 766) and her crew of over 100 Sailors recently made their first ever visit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

speed boat rides through the city's many canals, the trips to Bangkok were quite memorable. Charlotte continues her Western Pacific deployment before heading back home to Hawaii later this year.



# Bravo Zulu

Naval Brig Ford Island

**Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
AMEC(SW) Anthony L. Riddle

**Letter of Commendation**  
MS3 Griffin J. Lilly

**Combat Action Ribbon**  
GSE3 Derek R. Smith

**Good Conduct Medal**  
BM2 Edgar Alinea  
AD2 Evelyn Buettner  
SW3 Roderick G. Broussard  
SM3 Trever Brown

**Sailor of the Quarter**  
MS1 Armando D. Diaz

**Sailor of the Month (November)**  
SpC. Deborah Franklin, USA

**Sailor of the Month (December)**  
GSE2 Matthew E. Danforth

Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor

**Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Cmdr. Pyle  
Lt. Cmdr. Godwin  
Lt. Cmdr. Hatala  
Lt. Serbas  
Lt. Carson  
HMCM Meckley  
HMC Johnson  
HM1 Fontimayor

**Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal**  
Lt. Chadwick  
Lt. j.g Jenkins  
HM1 Lee  
HM2 Bodle  
HM3 Durnell  
HM3 Richter

**Navy League Sea Service Award**  
Lt. Taylor  
HM1 Pineda  
SK2 Colbert  
HM2 Radai  
HM2 Jahnke (selected)  
HM3 Tucker (selected)

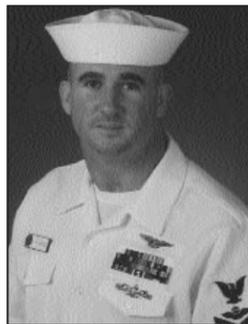
Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center

**Senior Sea Sailor of the Quarter**  
AG2(SW) Edward T. Earhart

**Senior Shore Sailor of the Quarter**  
AG1(AW/SW) Robert J. Picchi

**Junior Sea Sailor of the Quarter**  
AG3 Russell G. Ingersoll

**Junior Shore Sailor of the Quarter**  
ET3 Bradley E. Anderson



AC1(AW/SW) Kenneth W. Kimple



AC2 Brock A. McNeal

By Terry Ganiko

FACSFAC

Air Traffic Controller 1st Class (AW/SW) Kenneth W. Kimple and AC2 Brock A. McNeal from Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) Pearl Harbor was selected as the command's Senior and Junior Sailors of the Year for 1999.

Kimple transferred to FACSFAC in January 1998 from the USS Independence (CV-62). His current duties include air traffic control training chief, command DAPA, and command fire warden/safety officer.

Filling the billet of a chief, Kimple has had extraordinary success as the ATC training chief.

Under his programs, his division obtained 543 hours of on-the-job training and achieved 23 professional qualifications, no small feat considering the division suffered a 35 percent shortfall in manpower. Kimple was instrumental

behind the total rewrite and reconstruction of the Air Traffic Control Facility Manual, a key manual used by controllers to assist them in learning the many facets and complex procedures associated with Air Traffic Control in the Hawaiian Operating Areas. His conscientious and proactive approach as the command fire warden/safety officer ensured the command either met or exceeded all fire and safety code standards and was the catalyst behind the reorganization of the command's HAZMAT program.

An active community volunteer, Kimple has devoted many hours to the Hawaiian Humane Society, assisting with the care of animals at the shelter and in placing them into loving adoptive homes.

He is also active as a mentor for Pearlridge Elementary School, working one-on-one with young students who are experiencing difficulties with math and reading skills. Kimple is currently en-

rolled at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, pursuing a bachelor of science degree in professional aeronautics.

McNeal transferred to FACSFAC in July 1998 from the USS Constellation (CV-64). As a Third Class Petty Officer, he was selected as the Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Third Quarter 1999. McNeal rapidly earned his qualification as a Radar Operation Control Center (ROCC) Sector Controller, a qualification normally achieved by more senior petty officers. As a sector controller, he was responsible for providing air traffic control services to aircraft operating within and transiting to and from special use airspace located within the Hawaiian operating areas.

McNeal was promoted to Petty Officer 2nd class in December 1999 and is currently a ROCC Supervisor responsible for the operational control of the radar facility room.

## Navy welding course moves to the Fleet

Navy Wire Service

In order to keep Sailors closer to their homeports, reduce travel costs, and improve quality of life, the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) has begun teaching its advanced welding course in fleet concentration areas in San Diego, Calif. and Norfolk, Va. Classes began at the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) in San Diego, Calif. and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Va. on January 18, 2000. Two additional courses will be taught at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Wash. and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Hawaii beginning in June 2000. Sailors will no longer attend the welding course in Great Lakes, Illinois. The 14 week course gives graduates a specialty in advanced welding.

Teaching the course in these new locations is part of CNET's Homeport Training (HPT) initiative that was implemented last year in order to expand training opportunities, reduce costs and improve the Navy's quality of life. In January 1999, the Navy began training Norfolk-based mess specialists at Tidewater Community College in Tidewater, Va. instead of sending them to the course in San Diego as had previously been the norm. The Navy plans to increase the number of courses in fleet concentration areas in fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

"Locating training courses in fleet concentration areas allows Sailors to spend more time with their families instead of away from home on temporary duty for training," explains Dean Norman, analyst on the staff of the Chief of Naval Education and Training

in charge of the Homeport Training initiative.

Relocating the advanced welding course to the fleet concentration areas will result in cost avoidance of an estimated \$1.7 million per year in contract and travel costs. "Reduced costs are not the only benefit" added Norman. "The relocation is directly in sync with CNET's overall mission to provide training faster, maintaining or improving quality, at less cost."

Last year, CNET created Local Training Authorities (LTAs) in fleet concentration areas to establish the training needs of their respective units and develop a program that provided quality training as efficiently as possible. The relocation of the advanced welding course is a direct result of that initiative.

## SPOT CHECK The Pacific Fleet today

Personnel: 247,421  
• 133,897 USN  
• 70,006 USMC  
• 12,848 USNR  
• 30,670 civilians

Ships: 187 (\*)

Underway: 76 (41%) (\*\*)

Aircraft: 1,420 (\*\*)

Exercises: 3

Port Visits: 8 countries

Aircraft Carriers Underway/Deployed:  
• USS Kitty Hawk  
• USS Constellation  
• USS Abraham Lincoln

LHA/LHD Underway/Deployed:  
• USS Peleliu  
• USS Belleau Wood  
• USS Essex  
• USS Bonhomme Richard

\* — Includes Military Sealift Command ships  
\*\* — Includes USMC aircraft

## Around the Fleet

Souda Bay 'energizes' rate training

A bumper crop of Sailors were advanced recently at Souda Bay as a result of the latest Navy-wide Advancement Exams. More importantly, the exam results were a good indication that NSA's rate training program is a success.

At Souda Bay, Sailors are putting their personal energy into preparing for advancement, the command is supporting their efforts with energy dollars saved, and everyone is winning. Each Tuesday and

Thursday, from 7 to 9 a.m., every Sailor assigned to the Naval Support Activity is involved in an intense rate training program designed specifically to allow them to concentrate on improving their professional knowledge and skills during normal working hours.

Capt. Barry D. Einsidler, U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay's commanding officer, made it clear when he assumed command in July 1998 that his number one goal was to get "his Sailors" advanced. To this end, he immediately direct-

ed that rate training would take place, command-wide, on a twice-weekly basis with only essential exceptions.

Out of 74 Sailors who participated in the September Navy-wide exams 41 percent were advanced, and 11 percent improved from the March 99 exam cycle.

One of the more innovative actions at Souda Bay has been the use of dollars saved through an aggressive base energy conservation program to subsidize the training program. Lt. Mark Delao, public works

officer for NSA credits the Building Energy Monitor (BEM) program with big savings.

Energy savings dollars are now being used for a variety of training initiatives including funding TDY trips to bring a variety of Navy A and C School instructors from CONUS to Souda Bay and purchasing Rate Training Study Guides.

Souda Bay Sailors are convinced that their ticket to advancement starts with a regular rate training program fully supported by the command.