

## RIMPAC FLEET FOCUS

## ANGEL: A practice for humanitarian relief

Continued from A-1

overall exercise coordination, lauded the troops after touring the mock refugee camp and being briefed on the progress of the exercise.

"I think the Marines and Sailors up there, the civilians from the non-governmental organizations, and the private volunteer organizations were really coming together well as a team in a very harsh environment," Vice Adm. McGinn said.

"The realism that is brought by the civilian volunteers who are volunteering as refugees brings a sense of urgency and realism to the exercise that makes people work a little bit harder," he added.

Strong Angel has given military active duty and reserves personnel the opportunity to actually perform the jobs they were trained for under realistic conditions in a harsh environment. The refugee management exercise is designed to provide a realistic training scenario for civilian and military participants to coordinate, collaborate and learn how to communicate with each other in a shared humanitarian response. Participants practiced identifying and assessing a refugee site, clearing and setting up the camp establishing communications and standing up a civil-military operations center (CMOC) onboard the U.S. Third Fleet command ship USS Coronado (AGF 11).

Scientists and computer analysts from major universities and American corporations also were on-hand to put their high-tech devices through the paces. New information systems were thoroughly tested under austere conditions to coordinate information among all participating agencies.

To add a unique twist, about 125 persons played the part of refugees streaming into a safe haven from a fictitious neighboring country, giving military and agencies such as the United Nations, UNICEF and the Red Cross on-site, real-world training on how to respond during such an event.

Photographers and reporters were invited to the camp to document the evolutions for newspapers, television outlets and magazines around the world.

Navy officials had high praise for the participating military personnel from both the Navy and the Marine Corps. Combat Service Support Detachment 75 (CSSD 75), based at Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station, was assigned to coordinate the delivery, construction, operation and disassembly of the refugee camp and the civilian-military operations center (CMOC).

About 200 members of the

Marine unit worked around-the-clock for several weeks to make the exercise a reality. Marine Captain Todd Fujimoto, attached to CSSD 75, served as the liaison to Third Fleet for exercise control.

He expressed excitement about his units' intensive involvement with Strong Angel, as well as the 125 locals - most of whom are Red Cross volunteers - who played the roles of refugees.

"It is going real well. We've been having a lot of fun out here. The refugees are phenomenal, they are really excited. They are creating a lot of scenarios where they'll go out and role play. Everybody got into the act."

By the time the second day rolled around, Fujimoto said that camp personnel had to deal with the birth of a child, a camp thief, and a camp snitch. "The Navy and Marine forces are responding accordingly," he said.

Several of the Marines coordinating work at the refugee camp - such as transportation, berthing, messing, and security - clearly saw the value of the Strong Angel humanitarian assistance exercise.

"We're learning a lot of lessons - a lot of things that we just didn't plan on," said First Sergeant Steve Burke. "I'm sure that the next planned exercise, or a true exercise, the lessons learned here will be quite valuable."

Gunnery Sgt. Edward Pender especially noted the importance of military forces learning how to interface with civilian organizations. "The main thing here is we've got a chance to cooperate with the U.N., and see how they work, and they've also had a chance to see how we handle exercises like this," Pender said.

"The experience we'll get from Strong Angel will be beneficial in a real-time situation," Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Berner, a member of the USS Coronado temporarily assigned to Third Fleet during Strong Angel, reflected on his involvement during an afternoon break in the action. "I was doing the registration for the refugees this morning and I was in charge of the Darpa one-way translator for the people who couldn't speak English. Everything's working out wonderfully, just like I expected."

Berner and several other Marines he was working with were impressed with Darpa's new technology, which instantly translates foreign languages into English audio and text, then translates English into that language.

Lance Cpl. Eric Sumption worked with Berner to register actual family members of newly arriving refugees, speaking to the head of



PHZ(NAO) Phillip Fortnam photo

"Refugees" arrive via Marine five-ton trucks for the humanitarian and refugee exercise "Strong Angel" June 11. The humanitarian and disaster relief exercise took place near Puu Paa on the northwest corner of the island of Hawaii. It was designed to provide a realistic scenario for civilian and military participants to learn how to operate together in a crisis. About 125 civilian Red Cross volunteers played the role of refugees in the exercise.

the household and collecting information, such as where the family was from and finding out if any family members were missing. A refugee father looking for his missing child posed one scenario.

"We had to go find UNICEF (workers) and they actually came into our tent and helped them out. Everything went pretty good this morning," Sumption said. He recounted how ordinary household kitchen products helped keep the operation on track.

"We had a few snags in the beginning due to computer software and hardware problems with the wireless remote because of all the dust swirling around and getting into the computers. But then we started using zip-lock bags to try to cover up most of the computer, and also the civilian technicians who were in there setting up the network helped us out a lot in keeping everything up and going."

Pfc. James Winborne had a role in the medical screening of refugees. "I had to go through, asking simple questions like, 'Do you have your medical record with you?' or 'Do you know what measles are?' or 'Are you injured or sick?' Simple things like that. It was kind of clogged at the beginning, but when they got all the bugs out of the computers, it turned out all right and it's working out better now."

The Marines show up daily to the mock refugee camp, constructed about two miles away from the CMOC base command, to deal with the ever-evolving daily needs of the refugees. Trucks rumble constantly between the two sites, slowly following rough, rocky roads.

After several months of pre-planning, the Marines of CSSD 75 were tasked with setting up tents for the refugee camp, the support base camp, and the CMOC, the hub of official meetings and negotiations between military and civilian personnel, and even among refugee spokespersons and political representatives of the host country.

"It was a little frustrating setting up the camp," said Winborne. "We had a lot of wind and a lot of dust in our eyes. It took quite a little bit of time because we had a lot of tents to put up."

Lance Cpl. Phillip Maddox was tasked to register each refugee, asking them what were their occupation, their education background, and other personal information, and entering all this data into the networked computer system.

"I think this has been absolutely great," Maddox said. "I've had a lot of fun out here. I've had to experience a lot of different things that I never would have back in Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station. It's

a lot different environment over here - lots more wind and more dust to deal with. In fact, it was a little worse than I expected because I thought the terrain would be a little more rocky and it's almost all sand."

But the harsh environment was not the only challenge. The Marines had to learn how to interact with civilian organizations, which typically operate on a far less structured chain of command.

"It's been a lot different than working with military. There is a little bit of confusion of who's in charge of what," Maddox said. "We're used to reporting to our commanding officer and his staff. Here we have got to go to civilians for different problems. It's different. I've never had to work with civilians like this before, so it's been a big learning process."

Sgt. William Stutsman, who heads up the CSSD 75's motor transport, noted that at least two-thirds of the Marines in his department were participating in their very first exercise. Most have been in the Marine Corps less than six months, he added.

"This has been an excellent training exercise," Stutsman said. "These Marines have gained valuable experience on how to drive cargo and passengers on rough terrain,

## Exercise participants rescue civilian mariner



USS Shiloh (CG 67) photo

A rigid hull inflatable boat from USS Shiloh (CG 67) approaches Seattle-based MV St. Michael to recover an injured seaman for medevac.

By RIMPAC 2000 Combined Information Bureau

USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN BATTLE GROUP, At Sea - Multi-national naval forces from the United States, Canada and Australia rescued a civilian mariner at approximately 6:30 p.m. (PST) June 16, in Pacific waters near Hawaii. The rescue may well have saved the partially amputated hand of a 28-year-old Philippine National.

After receiving notification of a vessel in distress, crews of multi-national force ships participating in exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2000 immediately responded to the crisis.

The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser, USS Shiloh (CG

67), along with Canadian replenishment ship HMCS Protecteur (AOR 509), proceeded to the distressed vessel's position.

Once in contact with the vessel, the Motor Vessel St. Michael, a Seattle-based fishing trawler, the need for emergency medical treatment was determined and a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) crew was sent from Shiloh with an independent duty hospital corpsman.

The victim's injury required immediate surgery in order to save the limb and the RHIB crew immediately transported the victim back to the Shiloh for a medical evacuation.

A Canadian helicopter was dispatched to the Shiloh to transport the victim. At the same time, an Australian doctor aboard Shiloh

redressed the injury in preparation for the 45-minute flight to Tripler Medical Center near Honolulu. The accident victim was then transported via the Canadian helicopter to Tripler.

"This superb coordination between the Australian, Canadian and U.S. navies is just one more example of the tremendous spirit of cooperation between all of the nations involved in the RIMPAC exercise," said Rear Adm. Phillip M. Balisle, Commander, Abraham Lincoln Battle Group. "It's gratifying to see our teamwork efforts benefit an individual in need of assistance."

The Lincoln Battle Group and other members of the RIMPAC multi-national force were in the Hawaiian islands operating area

as part of the biennial exercise when the incident occurred. In addition to the San Diego based USS Shiloh, the Lincoln battle group includes Hawaii-based ships USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Cheyenne (SSN 773), USS Tucson (SSN 770), USS Fletcher (DD 992), USS Bunker Hill (CG 52); the San Diego-based USS Crommelin (FFG 37); and the Bremerton, Wash.-based USS Camden (AOE 2).

RIMPAC, short for Rim of the Pacific, is a biennial exercise which includes the U.S., the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Canada, and Chile. Commander, U.S. Third Fleet sponsors RIMPAC 2000, which includes over 50 ships, 200 aircraft and 22,000 personnel.

## Hamilton shoots straight as an arrow in RIMPAC 2000

By Lt. Lane Ogawa

USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60)

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) successfully completed three challenging missile exercises at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Hawaii as part of RIMPAC 2000 June 14-16. The three exercises certified the capabilities of Paul Hamilton's Aegis weapon system and Harpoon weapon system in preparation for her upcoming deployment in August 2000.

"It was the most exciting thing I have seen since I have been in the Navy. I could feel the heat of the standard missiles as they left the launcher," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Joshua Haberman.

On June 14, Paul Hamilton completed a Vandal missile exercise. The Vandal target is extremely difficult to hit as it travels at speeds in excess of two-and-a-half times the speed of sound and at an altitude of just 50 feet.

"We all worked hard to groom our SPY radar in preparation for the missile events." The hard work of the SPY radar technicians paid off as Paul Hamilton successfully engaged the Mach 2.1 Vandal for an evaluated telemetry "kill," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Jason Quarles.

On June 15, Hamilton conducted a live Harpoon firing ex-

ercise. Harpoon shoots are a rare opportunity and 'Team Paul Hamilton' was excited to be a part of the event.

"I was very excited to be able to fire a live Harpoon," said Operations Specialist (Surface Warfare) Donald Saville, Weapons Control Interface Panel Operator. "The community of real Harpoon shooters in the Navy is very small and I'm proud to be in that group."

In a coordinated exercise with the USS Shiloh (CG 67), USS Fletcher (DD 992) and ROKS Ulchimoonduk (DDH 972), Paul Hamilton successfully shot their Harpoon missile at the EX-USNS Hugh J. Gaffey (IX-501).

June 16, after two flawless shots, the pressure was again on the Aegis weapon system technicians to perform versus a challenging stream raid group of anti-ship missiles. The stream raid involves two drones flying a profile very close to each other.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class (Surface Warfare) Andrew Wenzel from Fort Lauderdale, Florida said, "the stream raid is a grape shot for the SPY radar and the Aegis system!" He was right, and Paul Hamilton went four-for-four in missile shoots over a three-day period.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class (Surface Warfare) Steven Vinanski from St. Clair, Pennsylvania, summed it up best when he said, "I knew we would kill it, no problem!"



Lt. Lane Ogawa, USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) photo

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) shoots a Standard Missile (SM) in one of three missile exercises it participated in at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Hawaii as part of RIMPAC 2000, June 14-16.