

FLEET FOCUS

USS Paul Hamilton visits Bahrain



file photo

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) recently pulled into Mina Salman, Bahrain for in-briefs from Commander, Fifth Fleet in preparation for operations in the Arabian gulf. The crew also took time to explore the sights and wonders of nearby Manama, Bahrain.

By Lt. Lane Ogawa
USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60)

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) recently pulled into Mina Salman, Bahrain, for in-briefs from the staff of commander, Fifth Fleet in preparation for operations in the Arabian gulf.

The assignment to operations "at the tip of the spear" is what the crew has been training to do for over a year and a half.

"It's great to be a part of real operations in helping to implement foreign policy," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Kenneth Fraysur. "I know our actions may very well ensure the stability of the region and ultimately help the economy and well being of the United States and all our friends and families."

"I take my job very seriously," he added. Paul Hamilton crew members were welcomed to the region with a video recorded address by Vice Adm. Moore, commander, fifth fleet, that explained America's interest in the Arabian gulf.

"Operations in the Arabian Gulf support our nation's vital interest and supports our engagement strategy with our partners in the region," said Lt. j.g. Sean Grunwell.

"I am looking forward to participating in the maritime interception operations and supporting operation southern watch," added Lt. j.g. Joel Lang. "We've practiced for a long time and are ready to do the real thing."

The officers and crew also took time to explore the sights and wonders of nearby Manama, Bahrain. "I really enjoyed shopping for my Persian rug," said Ens. Kevin O'Neal.

"It was incredible how friendly the shopkeepers were. I learned a lot about the different kinds of Persian rugs and how much they are a piece of art. I'm going to hang my rug up on the wall as soon as I get back home."

"I enjoyed walking around the souk and seeing all the different products for sale," said Interior Communications Fireman Sean Joker. "I hope my friends like the gifts I got them. I can't wait until Christmas!"

Port Royal Sailors help out Easter Seals school

By FCC (SW) Shaun Hilton
USS PORT ROYAL (CG 73)

The Easter Seals Hawaii School in Honolulu got some help in the way of landscaping from a group of volunteers from USS Port Royal (CG 73) recently. Ten Sailors and one Sailor's wife spent their Saturday morning Sept. 23 landscaping the bushes and brush behind the school.

The community service project was coordinated by Operations Specialist Chief (SW) Jay Magers, one of the ship's newly pinned chief petty officers.

"I was really happy with the turnout," said Magers. "All of our new chiefs, seven other crewmembers and one Sailor's wife gave up some off time on a Saturday morning to help out."

The primary mission of Easter Seals Hawaii, a non-profit organization, is

to improve the quality of life for disabled children, teenagers and adults. To accomplish this goal, the Easter Seals organization employs speech and physical therapists, a registered nurse and other trained professionals who implement the Early Intervention Program and other activities.

"When you run a non-profit organization, volunteerism plays an important role in our ability to stay in business," said John F. Howell, president and CEO of Easter Seals Hawaii. "About 20 percent of the entire operating budget comes from donations, either by direct mail in contributions or through fund raising. The work these sailors are doing for me today is saving me just over \$500 in yard maintenance costs," added Howell.

Port Royal's project, which took about five hours to complete, consisted of the removal or trimming of large and small branches, raking up leaves and picking up trash from the hillside behind the school. Volunteers hacked away with machetes and cut with tree pruners and chain saws.

"The chain saws made the biggest difference," explained Fire Controlman 3rd Class Mike Hernandez, who was accompanied by his wife, Tricia. "I think without them, our half-day project would have been an all day job."

Cryptologic Technician Administration 1st Class (SW) Faye Young summed up the challenges and rewards of the project, "It was all manual labor, and I have to admit by the time we finished I was pretty worn out. But I can't remember having felt so good about doing something in a long time."



FCC (SW) Shaun Hilton photo

SK1(SW) Michael D. Uhl prepares to go after the bigger bushes with a chainsaw recently as he and nine other USS Port Royal Sailors volunteered at the Easter Seals Hawaii School in Honolulu. The Sailors spent Sept. 23 landscaping the bushes and brush behind the school.

Japanese Submariners pay tribute at Arizona Memorial



J03 McClain Shewman photo

Submariners from the visiting JDS Arashio (SS 585) recently placed a wreath on the Arizona Memorial in honor of the U.S. Navy Sailors lost during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Arashio is a Harushio-class, diesel-powered submarine and carries a crew of roughly 75 men.

Patrol Squadron 47 awards Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists

By Lt. Michael Sanders
VP-47 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

IN recognition of their personal achievements, nine "Golden Swordsmen" from Patrol Squadron 47 (VP 47) received their Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) pins at a recent quarters. The squadron's commanding officer, Cmdr. Gregory Wittman presented the EAWS pins to the Sailors Sept. 15.

The program requires that Sailors must attain significant experience in Naval aircraft and complete the established Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS). The final test of knowledge is demonstrated in a comprehensive oral review board. Some aviation-related jobs lend themselves to attaining the pin. Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Jason E. York worked extra hard studying for the board. "I am proud to earn it (the EAWS pin)," said York.

Any Sailor can qualify for the EAWS; not

just aviation related fields. Personnelman 1st Class Antonio C. Tagulao achieved his "career enhancing" insignia - "It feels great to be qualified," Tagulao stated.

The other "Golden Swordsmen" that qualified are:

- Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Darrell V. Swayne
- Navy Career Counselor 1st Class Delisa M. Seng
- Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Beverly A. Adams
- Aviation Storekeeper 2nd Class Lateesha A. Mazyck
- Parachute Rigger 2nd Class John M. Lemasters
- Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Karen R. Kitchen
- Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Garry E. Martin
- Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Latora Latson
- Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Dung H. Tran
- Personnelman 1st Class Michael A. Schillinger.