

HSL-37 'Jesters' deploy twice to Lincoln

By Lt. Cmdr. Chris Fitzgerald
HSL-37

HSL-37 Detachment Three currently deployed in the Arabian Gulf with the USS Crommelin (FFG 37), have twice now done what no other HSL det has done before.

In May 2000, the "Jesters" moved their two LAMPS (Light Airborne Multipurpose System) SH-60B Seahawk helicopters and 23 members to the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) for operations during the multinational RIMPAC exer-

cise. In September, the detachment once again moved to USS Abraham Lincoln to support the Western Pacific deployment. The "cross-deck" evolution greatly increased the battle group's capability by adding an invaluable asset to virtually any ship in the group.

Det Three was called upon to provide radar coverage for the battle group during no-fly periods of the fixed wing aircraft attached to Lincoln. The det stood the mid-watch, allowing the carrier and its air wing, to prepare for the next day's events.

On hand to praise the Jesters was Rear Adm. P. M. Balisle, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Three. The admiral commended the entire detachment for a job well done. Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Gilbert Davis was singled out among the exceptional aircraft maintenance crew and was presented his fifth Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, by Real Adm. Balisle.

Petty Officer Davis, Det Three's leading petty officer, planned the daily maintenance of both Seahawk helicopters including the first ever full

phase maintenance cycle completed by an SH-60B detachment on an aircraft carrier. Davis helped to lead the detachment's short-notice battle group tasking to the carrier, by organizing the transfer of materials and equipment required to sustain extended operations from the large deck.

Petty Officer Davis's leadership contributed to the Det's ability to meet every mission requirement, encompassing over 48 sorties and 125 flight hours, over half of which occurred during the Western Pacific deployment.

The battle group departed mid-August for this WESTPAC deployment and has completed the transit to the Arabian Gulf operating area.

A number of ships, home ported in Pearl Harbor are a part of the battle group including the Jester's ship, the guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), the guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), and the destroyer USS Fletcher (DD 992). The ships have just begun their deployment and are scheduled to return home mid-February.

Navy strives to help spouses with SUBS program

By JO2 Cori Rhea
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Navy recruiting advertises that Sailors enjoy the world's best, most extensive, highest quality training available. When it comes to training for spouses however, it is a different story. Some would argue that spouses have a dedicated schoolhouse as well, "the school of hard knocks."

Preparations for deployments, moves to new duty stations or simply understanding an LES (Leave and Earning Statement) can be very difficult if you haven't had any official training. Since there is not a mandatory course for spouses to take to introduce them to the military, some Navy spouses (sponsored by Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet) got together and developed the SUBS (Skills, Understanding, Balance, Support) program.

The classes are held every second Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, each month in Pearl Harbor. Bev Brandhuber, team leader, explained, "We use the term 'come full circle' because some people don't have a lot of knowledge about a Navy lifestyle, and some people do. But everyone has something to offer because of the various backgrounds and experiences."

"As you go through the three day process, you are adding skills to your 'luggage' that you can carry with you throughout life. At day three you're not at the end of your journey, rather, you're ready to begin a very fun journey full of a lot of adventures," said Brandhuber.

The three days are filled with presentations on a number of different topics ranging from preparations for deployment, to enriching your community. Throughout the presentations, those attending interject with personal experiences and questions. All of the work involved, including the presentations, are made

possible by the volunteers who support the program.

"A true and good volunteer is one who works from their heart. Our volunteers come from spouses who have been participants in the class. They attend a session, see what the value of the program is and pitch in however they wish. For example, all of the food prepared is made by volunteers. Navy spouses who got involved," said Brandhuber.

Patty Weeks has been a Navy spouse for two years and first came to a SUBS meeting last March. Since then she contributes to the group by giving a history presentation and attending the classes.

"I really enjoyed the program because you get involved with people who are so motivated and positive. After I took the program last February, I had such a great time, I wanted to give back a little bit. Also, I found that it is a wonderful chance to meet people and gain a support group," said Weeks.

Jennifer Soldow also became a volunteer after attending the program in February. She has been the wife of a Sailor for five years and enjoys the SUBS program.

"There is a sense of camaraderie among Navy spouses. Everyone here can relate with each other and help one another out. I have a lot of fun just listening sometimes," said Soldow.

Daphne Blanchard attended the class for the first time recently and suggests that all Navy spouses should take interest in it. "I learned so much during these past three days about financial help. Also, just by attending you can help others who are going through some of the same things you've had to go through. I recommend everyone should take advantage of this course," said Blanchard.

SUBS provides free and qualified childcare from the Child Development Center.

"There is no dollar amount, or cost for you to come to class. There is a very important cost, and that is what you think your time is



JO2 Cori Rhea photo

Skills, Understanding, Balance, Support program (SUBS) teamleaders from left to right, Kathy Wallgren, Bev Brandhuber and Angie Merrill prepare to present this months participants a certificate for completing the three day course.

worth. We have qualified childcare that is free of charge. So there is no excuse. You can put your child in our child care program, and you can come to a class and learn some very valuable information. The children typically have a wonderful time, too," said Brandhuber.

Bev Brandhuber is one of three team leaders and was one of the first spouses to get involved with the shaping of SUBS when she attended a Marine's Corps L.I.N.K.S. program in

late spring 1998. She became a team leader in July 1999. Angie Merrill and Kathy Wallgren were appointed to team leaders on Oct. 1.

SUBS first session was held in Feb. 1999 and since then they have had 17 sessions involving 146 participants.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Bev (454-1371), Angie (488-4271) or Kathy (486-6618) and register to take a SUBS class.

FISC/IMF employees earn INNOVATE award

Clifford Imamura (left) and Richard Oshiro (right), employees of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNSY) and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF), each earned \$500 awards for designing a timesaving tool to remove the seal cage on submarine trim and drain pumps.

Rear Adm. William R. Klemm, Deputy Chief of Staff for Fleet Maintenance, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presented recognition letters to the mechanical engineers Oct. 13 in the PHNSY & IMF commander's office.

The idea was submitted to Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet's (CINCPACFLT) INNOVATE program. For more information on the program, visit www.cpf.navy.mil/innovate.htm or send an e-mail to innovate@cpf.navy.mil.



Marshall Fukuki, photo

FISC Pearl terminals department brings home NDTA award



FISC photo

The Fleet Industrial Supply Center terminals department was awarded the National Defense Transportation Association's 1999 Military Unit Award.

The annual award recognizes Navy transportation/logistics units that have distinguished themselves in an operational environment.

The FISC terminals department delivers ocean, land and air transportation services, including postal service, to Department of Defense forces in the mid-Pacific.

In 1999, it served more than 90 shore commands, 32 homeported ships and submarines, and 250 transient ships from the United States and nations across the globe.

Paul Hamilton conducts maritime operations in Arabian Gulf

By Lt. Paul Ogawa
USS PAUL HAMILTON

For the past several weeks USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) has been on station in the northern Arabian Gulf conducting maritime interception operations (MIO) in support of United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

"Our captain told us that operations in the fifth fleet would be dynamic and ever changing," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Jeremy Alderete. "He was definitely right, we are always changing our plans to meet operational commitments."

Maritime interception operations involve stopping cargo and transport ships heading into and out of Iraq. In accordance with United Nations (UN) sanctions, the only imports allowed to Iraq are food, medicine, and items with specific UN authorization. The only export allowed from Iraq is crude oil from Mina al Bakr oil terminal, an Iraqi oil terminal in the northern Arabian Gulf.

"We have inspected a few ships so far and it has been very exciting," said Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Jason Kraus, a member of Paul Hamilton's "gold" boarding team. "We have very exacting procedures that we follow to ensure our boarding team's safety and

to conduct our inspections professionally," added Kraus.

Paul Hamilton operates with two 14-person boarding teams code named "blue" and "gold." Boarding teams visit ships and inspect their cargo to ensure that it matches the manifest and is within the guidelines of the UN sanctions.

"Our inspections have to be by the book," said "blue" sweep team leader, Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Daniel Kirkbride. "To take an illegal smuggler down, our evidence package needs to be complete. It's very much like law enforcement and I enjoy it very much," said Kirkbride.

MIO operations are complex and use some of today's best technology. "Maritime interception operations are our number one priority right now and we are working hard to integrate all of our new technology," said Chief Warrant Officer Percy Edwards, Paul Hamilton's electronic materials officer.

"I'm looking forward to spending more time here and getting more proficient at our operations," said Operations Specialist 1st Class Todd Stover. "Real world operations are why I joined the Navy and what keeps me motivated. This is the real stuff and what makes me proud to be a member of the United States Navy."