

# FLEET FOCUS

## Frederick participates in exercise Cobra Gold

By Ens. Erin K. Bailey  
Public Affairs Officer, USS Frederick

USS Frederick (LST 1184) participated in the 20th annual exercise Cobra Gold 2001, a cross training operation with the Royal Thai Navy and Marine Corps. Cobra Gold encompasses all facets of military training, including special warfare, amphibious, air, land and maritime training.

The exercise is the United States Commander Pacific Fleet's major strategic mobility operation with a member of the southeastern Asian scene. In conjunction with 4th Marines, USS Frederick successfully completed 12 days of cross training culminating in an amphibious raid and non-combatant evacuation operation with the Royal Thai Navy ship Sichang and embarked Marines.

Four Thai officers embarked USS Frederick a month in advance in Pohang, South Korea in order to gain familiarization with USS Frederick's amphibious operational mission. The four Thai naval officers integrated into the wardroom and were exposed to several training evolutions including flight deck operations and amphibious assault vehicle (AAV) launch and recovery operations. The knowl-

edge they gained greatly enhanced their role as liaisons and facilitated the successful execution of Cobra Gold 2001.

USS Frederick arrived in the port of Sattahip on May 13, two days prior to the start of hands-on amphibious and specialty training. Throughout Exercise Cobra Gold, over 200 Royal Thai sailors embarked USS Frederick for a week to receive cross training in operations, navigation, deck seamanship and engineering.

On May 25, USS Frederick and the Royal Thai Navy ship Sichang got underway to conduct helicopter flight operations, execute the underway training schedule and make preparations for follow-on amphibious operations. Additionally, 19 Thai media members from various news channels and newspapers boarded USS Frederick to report on the training.

Thai media had the opportunity to witness and tape footage of flight deck operations as well as AAV launching and recoveries from the stern gate as part of a combined amphibious raid rehearsal with Thai Marines from Sichang.

Early on the morning of May 26, USS Frederick assumed tactical command of Sichang to execute a stellar amphibious raid.



File photo

Following the recovery of their respective AAVs, both ships transited three hours down the coast of Thailand in support of a noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO). Three waves of refugees were transported to USS Frederick's flight deck by a Thai Bell-214 helicopter. The refugees were processed on the flight deck and escorted to a safe environment to be given simulated medical and humanitarian assistance. The refugees spent the night onboard USS Frederick underway and de-

barked the following morning when the USS Frederick moored in the port of Sattahip. Sichang detached from the amphibious task group that evening which marked the conclusion of the operational exercise.

The purpose of the Cobra Gold exercise is to increase the interoperability between the United States armed forces and the nation of Thailand.

The exercise provides the opportunity for both militaries to view the amphibious operational procedures and to strengthen

the effectiveness of combined forces. Both militaries gained experience and knowledge from their respective counterparts in all facets of training and at all levels of the chain of command.

The exposure to alternative procedures allows each military force to maintain forthright validation of amphibious doctrine. Cobra Gold 2001 strengthened the interoperability between the militaries of two nations as well as the professional relationships between all Sailors and Marines involved in the exercise.

## New heavy-weight elevator in operation at shipyard dry dock

By Facilities & Equipment Maintenance Shop  
PHNSY & IMF

A brand-new 10,000 pound capacity elevator is now operating in Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility's (PHNSY & IMF) Dry Dock 2 to help projects efficiently move small loads of material, equipment and tools to and from the dry dock floor.

Previously, these relatively light loads had to be moved with portal cranes. The elevator allows the portal cranes to concentrate on heavier lifts at Dry Dock 2 and all lifts at the other dry docks.

The elevator cab is about 10 feet wide, 13 feet deep and nine feet high and the operating controls are as simple to use as a building elevator. The Facilities and Equipment Maintenance Shop, Code 910, will provide initial hands-on training, maintenance and oversight, but the projects will control daily operations of the elevator.

During docking and undocking operations, Shop 99 will move the elevator to the top of the dry dock and remove all electrical connections at the bottom of the dry dock to reduce maintenance problems caused by sea water.

A major difference between the Dry Dock 2 and normal building elevators is the lift mechanism. In a building elevator, it is normally either wire rope or hydraulic. However, the dry dock elevator mechanism is a rack and pinion drive system which has several advantages, such as eliminating the machine room and load-bearing shaft (normally concrete). Also, no releveling is required with the addition or removal of loads from the elevator.

Code 910 estimates the elevator could save more than \$200,000 per year with full usage. Code 910 programmed the project in FY 1999 under the Capital Purchases Program (CPP, now OPN program under mission funding), which is managed by NAVSEA, and justified it as a productivity improvement.

NAVSEA subsequently approved the project for funding at a cost of \$496,000

in FY 1999. Code 910 coordinated contracting of the elevator in FY 2000 and received the elevator in December 2000.

The Equipment Planning and Procurement Section, Code 913.2, coordinated the installation and certification of the elevator which was completed in April. If the estimated savings are realized, elevators could be purchased for dry docks 1, 3 and 4 in the future.



Marshal Fukuki photo

The new 10,000-pound capacity elevator at PHNSY&IMF Dry Dock No. 2.

## Submarine Training Center opens doors to educational tour

By STSC(SS) Keith R. Wagner  
Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific

Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NSTCP), Pearl Harbor hosted a tour of its training facilities for the children and friends of employees for the Fleet Industrial Support Center (FISC) on May 31.

A three-hour tour for 32 children and adults consisted of experiencing how submariners train. The children toured the damage control wet trainer, fire fighting trainer, sonar and fire control, and the ship control trainer.

Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, Pearl Harbor is a training command dedicated to train and maintain Sailors in support of national security objectives.

Elizabeth Rivera, an employee at FISC, has coordinated the efforts for a national program named "Take a daughter to work" at her job since 1994. Rivera has expanded the program to include other family members. Each year, she coordinates a tour of a Navy facility for children to experience some of the Navy.

The tour began with an indoctrination for the children on what they would see and experience. The next stop for the tour was the fire fighting demonstration where some children were able to try on some of the fire fighting equipment. Soon after, the children were amazed with the damage control trainer as they witnessed a simulated flooding casualty.

"I want to see the animals from a submarine," said one of the children while he was in the sonar control trainer listening to the ocean marine life. The last stop for the tour was in the ship control trainer where they experienced driving a submarine in a simulator. The tour finished with some children saying, "We want to go under water in a submarine."



STCS Keith R. Wagner photo



## Pearl Harbor Sailors take part in Project Handclasp

By Ens. Erin K. Bailey  
Public Affairs Officer, USS Frederick

On May 29, 18 Sailors from USS Frederick (LST 1184) participated in Project Handclasp, a community relations (COMREL) project in Pattaya Beach, Thailand. USS Frederick visited the ports of Sattahip, Thailand and Pattaya Beach, Thailand from May 13 to June 4 during their Western Pacific deployment. Project Handclasp is the first of several scheduled community service projects on USS Frederick's five-month deployment.

The U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp is an official CNO program established to promote mutual understanding, respect and goodwill on a personal level between Americans and citizens of other nations. Project Handclasp coordinates materials donated by private citizens throughout the United States for distribution to needy recipients in foreign countries.

Typically, these humanitarian, educational and goodwill materials are transported overseas aboard U.S. Navy ships

on a space-available basis and distributed by Navy Sailors. By combining the generosity of numerous private sector donors and dedicated Navy men and women, Project Handclasp effectively promotes international camaraderie at the grass roots level. As a result of their efforts, the servicemen gain a unique insight into the culture and lifestyles of citizens of other nations while enhancing global perceptions of the United States.

The city of Pattaya Beach, located on the Gulf of Thailand, is well known for its beautiful beaches and historic culture. Though Pattaya Beach is also known for its struggling economic environment, the citizens continually welcome U.S. Navy ships into port with world-class hospitality.

The USS Frederick Sailors departed early in the morning from Anchorage in small boats and were greeted at Wat Ban Cord School by approximately 100 elementary school students.

For two hours, USS Frederick Sailors painted various school building walls. While the paint dried around the schoolyard, the Sailors distributed 40 pairs of rollerblades, helmets and knee pads to the enthusiastic children.

"The kids were the best part of the whole project," said Seaman Joseph Carpenter. "I didn't expect to have as much fun as I did, but it was a very rewarding experience."

After the presentation of the athletic equipment, the Sailors fired up the grill and cooked hotdogs and hamburgers for

lunch. As an expression of their appreciation, USS Frederick was presented with a plaque and a certificate of thanks by Peter Thorand, the charter president of the Taskin Pattaya Rotary Club.

Project Handclasp is only a small portion of what U.S. Navy ships do to aid the citizens of foreign lands. Falling under the umbrella of COMREL, most projects involve mild amounts of physical labor like painting, weeding or cleaning to refurbish of a facility or building. Project Handclasp is a voluntary community service supported by enthusiastic Sailors to aid less fortunate citizens of other nations. The positive responses from the volunteers and the citizens of other nations will perpetuate the strengthening of this program to ensure its continuation for many years to come.

Even though the Project Handclasp only allowed USS Frederick Sailors to assist the students for a short period of time, the rewarding experience afforded a lifetime of good-natured memories and strengthened international relationships between the two countries.

