

Paul Hamilton visits San Diego, completes COMPTUEX 2002

Ens. Andrew Roy

USS Paul Hamilton PAO

For the crew of USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), 2002 brought the beginning of an extensive cycle of preparations for the destroyer's upcoming deployment. The preparation began when Paul Hamilton left Pearl Harbor and transited to San Diego for the start of COMPTUEX (Composite Task Unit Exercise) '02.

COMPTUEX is a series of exercises designed to prepare carrier battle group ships for an overseas deployment.

The following week brought both work and play that prepared the crew professionally and personally for the coming weeks of COMPTUEX.

The vast array of training facilities in San Diego gave the crew an excellent opportunity to acquire knowledge that is hard to find elsewhere. From intelligence briefs to communications exercises and shiphandling simulators, Paul Hamilton's crew made the most of the available training.

Perhaps the most valuable professional experience in San Diego, however, was a visit to Paul Hamilton from a team of Naval Postgraduate School professors. This Regional Security Program (RSEP) Studies team, which travels to operating units to increase real-world savvy in the fleet, brought a wealth of knowledge about the Middle East to the crew of Paul Hamilton.

Lectures on Islam and Middle Eastern culture provided invaluable background information and answered many questions for the crew. Briefs on terrorism and



U.S. Navy photo

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

al Qaeda educated Paul Hamilton's Sailors and helped to make them more effective and politically astute as a war-fighting team.

Despite full workdays and a busy training schedule, there was still time to enjoy the many great liberty spots in San Diego.

The wardroom enjoyed a visit to the Kansas City Barbecue, which was made famous by the movie "Top Gun" and is the current home to great food and an impressive array of naval paraphernalia.

Paul Hamilton crewmen could be seen throughout the city enjoying the town and the time ashore with their shipmates. Pacific Beach and San Diego's historic "Gas Lamp" district were the most popular destinations for the crew of Paul Hamilton.

"San Diego was my first duty station and it was great to return and visit some of the

best friends I have made while serving in the Navy," commented Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Phil Oliver.

The conclusion of the shore training in San Diego brought forth another underway period for Paul Hamilton, and the ship and her crew embarked on the heart of COMPUTEX '02 - three weeks worth of exercises with the Abraham Lincoln Battle Group.

While operating off the coast of Southern California, the battle group engaged in a variety of exercises to foster the necessary teamwork and coordination that would be essential for a successful deployment.

During air defense exercises, Paul Hamilton functioned as the secondary Force Air Warfare Commander. In this capacity, crewmembers in the Combat Information Center (CIC) worked to control and coordinate aircraft from the Abraham Lincoln's air wing to prosecute simulated threats to the battle group.

Paul Hamilton Sailors also found themselves engaged in numerous anti-submarine warfare exercises during the course of COMPTUEX.

With the control of patrol aircraft and helicopters through the use of sonar data analysis, and a close communication between ships of the battle group, these exercises helped to improve the crew's ability to track submarines.

"Searching for actual submarines in a real environment gave our sonar team the opportunity to hone skills that we continuously practice during trainers," said Sonar Technician Surface 1st Class (SW) Gary Osborne.

Although much time was spent practicing warfare above and underneath the sea, there was still time for Paul Hamilton to engage in age old surface warfare tactics such as naval gunnery and boardings.

The ship spent a day off the coast of San Clemente Island engaged in a shore bombardment exercise. Again, coordination and communication were key as Paul Hamilton's gunnery team worked hand-in-hand with close air support fighters and spotters on the ground to ensure that the training was executed effectively and safely.

Frequent Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) exercises kept Paul Hamilton's bridge and boarding teams busy throughout COMPTUEX.

These exercises afforded the teams the opportunity to refresh their boarding skills in preparations for executing similar missions in support of United Nations sanctions during the ship's upcoming deployment.

"The exercises put our Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) team on the right track in our preparation for tasking that we expect to frequently encounter during deployment," explained Sweep Team Leader Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) James Rowe.

The final battle problem, which challenged the battle group with simultaneous threats in different warfare areas, comprised the last three days of COMPTUEX, and brought Paul Hamilton one step closer to being ready for its upcoming deployment with the Abraham Lincoln Battle Group later this year.

PHNSY & IMF: Triple winner in FY 2001 Environmental Award competition

Marshall Fukuki

PHNSY & IMF Public Affairs

"We won!"

The surprised but pleased reaction rippled throughout the Environmental Division (Code 106.3) as staff members found out the results of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards competition for 2001.

PHNSY & IMF was a triple winner in the hotly contested CNO program that recognizes Navy ships, installations, and individuals or teams for exceptional environmental stewardship.

Fifty winners were selected from a field of 113 nominees for the 18 awards given in seven categories.

PHNSY & IMF was picked for environmental quality for an industrial installation, sharing honors with Naval Submarine Base Bangor and Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Code 106.3 also placed as one of three winners in the environmental quality, individual or team category. Other co-winners were individuals from Naval Surface Warfare Center and an underway replenishment ship.

The third PHNSY & IMF award came in pollution prevention for an industrial installation. Co-winners were Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka and Naval Air Station Brunswick.

Not all of the CNO selectees au-

tomatically advance to the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Environmental Awards competition. PHNSY & IMF will vie against Navy and Marine Corps winners in the environmental quality (individual/team) and pollution prevention (industrial installation) categories.

"I commend all the participants in this year's very tough competition," said Ariane L. Whittemore, deputy CNO. "Judging was difficult due to the exceptional quality of the nominations. The Navy has some of the best environmental programs in the world and I am proud that you have demonstrated that once again. Congratulations to all."

Richard Anderson, director of the Occupational Safety, Health & Environment Office (Code 106), commented, "Our continued success in this very demanding competition is a direct result of our strong commitment to strive for and maintain the best environmental program in the Navy. From the Shipyard and IMF commander to the Environmental Division to each waterfront employee, we have continued to support our environmental program, not being satisfied with past successes but continually looking for ways to improve."

"All employees of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and IMF should be proud of their accomplish-

ments in meeting this challenge, and the recognition we have received for our efforts. It is truly a team award," he continued.

Last year, PHNSY & IMF was selected as a winner in three categories in the CNO competition. At the SECNAV level, PHNSY & IMF was chosen as the best in environmental quality and a runner-up in pollution prevention among industrial installations in the Navy and Marine Corps. The highest honors came last April when judges in the Secretary of Defense contest selected PHNSY & IMF for the first time as the industrial installation with the best environmental quality in the entire Department of Defense.