

# Reuben James conducts exercises with Ecuador, Peru

# VP-9 trains with South Korean sub

By Ens. Rolando Salvatierra  
USS REUBEN JAMES

By Lt. James Tran and Lt. j.g. Dave Levy  
VP-9

Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay.

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) visited the ports of Manta, Ecuador and Callao, Peru enroute exercise Teamwork South 99. The ships conducted traditional "destroyermen" tactics such as steaming in close formation, hunting submarines, communicating by flashing light, and air defense tactics. The exercises were very successful and helped strengthen relations between the United States and these South American nations.

Community relations were in full swing and the crew took part in community projects at local schools in Manta, Ecuador. The generous volunteers of Reuben James painted Batalla de Carabobo Elementary School. After the event, the Sailors found themselves invited to participate in the St. Paul and St. John festival held in the small village. "It makes you feel good to help people who are less fortunate than we are," said Petty Officer 2nd Class James Heideman.

In Callao, Peru, community relations made another huge impact. Reuben James joined with the Peruvian Navy to help restore an old school. The volunteers were greeted by approximately 500 people, which included a local band. The volunteers painted, repaired electrical wiring, and erected a flagpole. When the children raised their country's flag for the first time, the band played both the Peruvian and American national anthems. It was a proud mo-



PHI Chris Desmond photo

A Sailor from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) talks on a sound-powered phone during one of the ship's visits to a South American port. The ship is enroute to exercise Teamwork South '99.

ment for both countries. Petty Officer 1st Class Lenod Westmoreland stated, "The people had a strong sense of pride and teamwork. We had grown attached to them in that short period of time. It was a privilege to work with them."

Once in a while, a unique training opportunity presents itself enabling a patrol squadron to gain valuable experience on a non-U.S. submarine.

Patrol Squadron 9 (VP-9) was recently afforded that opportunity by training with the South Korean diesel submarine, ROKN Jung Woon. The opportunity arose when the ROKN Type 209 was scheduled for a port call at Pearl Harbor. Departing from her home country, Jung Woon sailed towards Hawaii, making an enroute replenishment stop in Guam. This situation was very unique for VP-9's Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, because combat aircrews usually gain their undersea warfare experience training with U.S. submarines or in the simulated environment of the weapon systems trainer.

The operation with Jung Woon was very successful for VP-9, from both the tactical and logistical perspective, especially since this was the first VP tactical exercise flown out of Marine

The exercise began with the squadron tactics department generating a search plan to locate and then prosecute the diesel submarine. Next, the operations department developed an equitable flight schedule, working within the Kaneohe Bay MCBH field hours, while also keeping within mission requirements.

Finally, the maintenance department worked around the clock in order to ensure four mission capable aircraft were up and running.

From the start, the exercise was an outstanding success with the first event generating contact on the submarine. Crews then cycled to relieve each other and held contact until the end of the exercise. Overall, the squadron flew 16 out of 16 scheduled events, utilizing four aircraft and eleven combat air crews over a three day period. From these 16 events, the eleven crews were able to earn 19 advanced crew qualifications, making for a highly successful training evolution, which will pay tremendous dividends during the squadron's next overseas deployment.

## Football star goes deep on Louisville

By JOCS(SW/AW) Darrell Ames  
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS



JOCS(SW/AW) Darrell Ames photo

Desmond Howard takes the helm of USS Louisville (SSN 724) during a recent visit.

his reenlistment to occur on USS Louisville (SSN 724) a fast-attack submarine stationed in Pearl Harbor. "It was a good deal all the way around," he added. "I got to see Hawaii and ride a submarine."

Hendrix became acquainted with Howard while the two were living in Jacksonville, Fla. "Desmond was playing with the Jacksonville Jaguars and I was stationed in Jacksonville at the time," said Hendrix. "We've stayed in touch ever since and so I called him and invited him to attend my reenlistment," he added.

Recently re-signed by the Green Bay Packers, Howard is best remembered for his Heisman Trophy days at Michigan and for being named Most Valuable Player in Super Bowl XXXI where he amassed 244 return yards and a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown that sealed the 35-21 win for the Packers over the New England Patriots. He's the only special teams player to ever be named Super Bowl MVP.

"It was an honor hosting him," said Louisville's commanding officer, Cmdr. Joe Skinner. "The crew was extremely excited about meeting him and there was no shortage of autograph seekers."

Howard was equally excited about riding Louisville. "This was fantastic," said the Cleveland, Ohio native. "These guys really know their stuff and they like what they're doing. It seems like a lot of responsibility for a young man to drive a submarine and to launch torpedoes and missiles," he added.

Out of work for only two weeks Howard plans to join the Packers when training camps open later next month. "I'm getting ready for another Super Bowl run with Green Bay," he stated. "We still have Brett Favre and a new coach (Ray Rhoads) and it's good to be going back to a contender," Howard added.

He hopes to return to Hawaii for next February's Pro Bowl, but if he doesn't make it back Desmond Howard will always carry fond memories of the USS Louisville and her crew.

"I really tip my hat to these guys, serving our country and working hard like they do. They make a lot of sacrifices that many people aren't aware of," he said. "This is the real deal out here. They can't afford to fumble because lives and national security are at stake," Howard added.

## Frederick participates in CARAT '99 Malaysia underway, amphibious exercises

By NCC(SW) Jim Nicholson  
DESTROYER SQUADRON ONE

This was the first drone exercise ever conducted during CARAT.

USS Frederick (LST 1184), homeported in Pearl Harbor, and USS George Philip (FFG 12), homeported in San Diego Calif. took part in anti-air and anti-ship exercises in the Straits of Malacca in early July.

The NRF ships were in Malaysia as part of the 1999 Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT 99) exercises with four Southeast Asia nations.

Two additional ships, USS Comstock (LSD 45) and USS Gary (FFG 51), both homeported in San Diego, comprise the remainder of CARAT 99 Task Group 712. Capt. Barry L. Morgan, Commander, Destroyer Squadron One, serves as Task Group Commander. Morgan and his staff of active duty, Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) and Selected Reserve personnel are embarked in Comstock, the CARAT flagship.

During the CARAT Malaysia phase, a BQM-74 Target Drone detachment from Okinawa, Japan, launched two target drones from the flight deck of George Philip in support of the exercise.

U.S. and Royal Malaysian ships practiced acquiring the target drone on radar and prosecuting firing plans designed to destroy an inbound air threat.

The Malaysian phase included an amphibious beach assault with combined landing forces of more than 500 U.S. Marines and Malaysians.

The soldiers embarked in Comstock, Frederick and a Malaysian amphibious landing ship inserted a landing force on a Malaysian training island in the Strait of Malacca.

U.S. Marines, of Landing Force CARAT, stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI and Okinawa, Japan accompanied by Malaysian Army troops assaulted the beach in two LCAC air cushion vehicles from Assault Craft Unit Five from Camp Pendleton and in Light Armored Attack Vehicles (AAV) embarked in Frederick. While in Malaysia, crews from Frederick and George Philip participated in Community Relations Projects at local primary schools and distributed



U.S. Navy photo

USS Frederick (LST 1184) underway during CARAT '99.

Project Handclasp materials and toys to students.

CARAT 99 demonstrates U.S. commitment to security and stability in the region while increasing the operational readiness and capabilities of U.S. forces.

The exercise also increased interoperability and cooperation with Malaysian forces by offering a broad spectrum of mutually beneficial training opportunities.

## Frederick completes successful Malaysian phases of CARAT '99

By Ens. Sharon Boyd  
USS FREDERICK

USS Frederick (LST 1184) recently completed phase I of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT 99) recently in Lumut, Malaysia.

During a reception aboard Frederick for the Malaysians and crew members from USS Gary (FFG 51), USS George Philip (FFG 12), USS Comstock (LSD 45), USS Guardian (MCM 5) and USS Patriot (MCM 7).

Rear Adm. Stephen Loeffler, Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, commented on the importance of relations between the two countries (U.S. and Malaysia), during his keynote speech at the reception.

Frederick's crew worked to improve those relations by completing a community relations project as part of Project Handclasp.

Sailors from Frederick visited Ping Mind Kindergarten in Pundut, Lumut.

The Sailors built a fence, painted cartoon characters on the exterior walls and distributed books and toys to the children.

Yeoman 1st Class Jamie Brewer described the day's events as an opportunity to have fun, serve her country

and spend time with the children.

In preparation for the Penyu Trident Amphibious exercise with a Malaysian ship, KD Sri Inderapura, daily seminars and planning conferences were held throughout the week.

Several crewmembers experienced the local cuisine at functions hosted by the Malaysian Navy.

Crewmembers also got the opportunity to interact with Malaysian Sailors on a more relaxed level during a sports day event hosted by Frederick.

Sports day featured soccer, volleyball, softball, basketball, biathlon, and a demonstration of sepak dakraw.

Petty Officer 1st Class Glen Daniel welcomed the opportunity to take part in the activities. "Sports Day allows us to meet and compete with Sailors from other ships and, in this case, a chance to experience the sports of the Malaysian culture," said Daniel.

During the exercise many Sailors from the Frederick went aboard a Malaysian LST and provided assistance in many areas, such as, communications, amphibious operations, safety operations, repairs and helped with the on load and off load of the United States Marine Corps Amphibious Assault

Vehicles (AAV's).

"The experience on the Malaysian ship was a great cultural learning experience and we were glad to help them out," said Seaman Jonathan Royster.

Although Lumut was a working port stop for the ships, many personnel took time off to visit the local sights.

Pangkor Island, across the channel from the port, provided numerous resorts that offered spas, swimming pools and access to beautiful beaches.

In addition, some crewmembers made a three to four hour trip to the Malaysian Capital, to see the world's tallest building and other sites of interest.

"The contrast between the way of life in the city and the countryside near Lumut was fascinating," said Damage Controlman 2nd Class Brandon Tennis. "Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia's Capital) was much more technologically advanced and very western, but there were still portions of the city that featured Asian architecture, religious sites and culture."

Successfully completed, exercise Penyu Trident strengthened the relationship between U.S. Forces and the Royal Malaysian Navy.

## USS Buffalo recognizes top Sailors

USS Buffalo Public Affairs

Shortly after departing for a Western Pacific Deployment (WESTPAC), USS Buffalo (SSN 715) recognized its Junior and Senior Sailors-of-the-Quarter at an awards ceremony held onboard.

Senior Sailor of the Quarter, Electronics Technician 1st Class Charlie Davis of Atlanta Ga., distinguished himself as a superb Diving Officer of the Watch during extended operations at periscope depth in shallow waters.

"It's an honor to be chosen from among such fine individuals," said Davis. His "take-charge and get the job done" attitude is what earned him Sailor of the Quarter.

The Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Aaron Leek, a native of Bedford, Texas, reported onboard the Buffalo during the ship's last WESTPAC. In the intervening period he has distinguished himself as a Sailor with a tremendous work ethic that superiors can count on to get the job done.

HNN Online  
www.hnn.navy.mil