

FLEET FOCUS

Chosin Sailors volunteer while in foreign port

By Lt. Vic Mcinnis
USS CHOSIN

On USS Chosin's (CG 65) final port visit to the United Arab Emirates, the Chosin War Dragon volunteers were invited back to both the Dubai Club for the Handicapped and the United International Private School.

Crewmembers had volunteered at these two institutions during previous port visits to Dubai.

Seventeen Chosin Sailors returned to the Dubai Club for the Handicapped. Chief Kurt Cutkelvin spearheaded a soccer game, and prior to the game had told the ship's crew, "This is a unique community relations project. The people that we have met at the club are very warm and friendly. They appreciate our visit and I am looking forward to going back for an evening of fun."

The evening began with a basketball game with the teams being comprised of a mix between club members and War Dragon volunteers. The game was fast paced with some great teamwork by both teams that defied the language and cultural barriers. There were a lot of smiles and good-natured laughter by all the players and spectators alike. Keeping score quickly became unimportant to the contestants, because the fellowship was of greater value.

"I am normally very competitive and have a hard time putting that aside, but this evening was different. This evening I enjoyed the games and fellowship," said Ens. Brandon Willis.

"We had a great time playing games with the kids. I went back this time because our first trip was so great," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Ron Glass.

Fire Controlman 3rd Class John Richardson, spent a good deal of the evening at the chess table. He played several club members and later said, "This was the first community relations project that I went on and I had a lot of fun."

At the same time, Richardson was concentrating on the next chess move there were games of billiards



file photo

USS Chosin (CG 65) Sailors volunteered their off duty time while in foreign ports. Chosin is currently on a six month deployment in the western Pacific.

and table tennis being played at the same time. The large activity room was barely able to contain all the players and their assorted games.

Chosin's volunteers presented a plaque to the Dubai Club for the Disabled with the War Dragon Crest.

The club's senior counsel member, Abdullah Hassan Ahmed presented the crew with caps and pull over shirts bearing the symbol of the club.

"I can tell you that this evening was important for all of us as members and staff. We have strengthened a good fellowship this evening and we look forward to your return someday. Thank you, for the handsome gift. It will remind us of your generosity," said Ahmed.

The return visit to the United International Private School consisted of 26 Chosin volunteers making the return trip to join the school for a celebration. The celebration included costumed parades, recitations of the countries long history, songs, and Filipino cuisine.

"I haven't heard my language spoken by so many people in a long time. Eating the food, particularly the rice cake, was like going back to the place I was born. I'm re-

ally happy I came along for this," said Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) 3rd Class Virgilio Toledano.

In addition to enjoying the festivities, the War Dragons still found the time to clean and organize two storage rooms filled with boxes, toys, and miscellaneous supplies that had become so cluttered they were impossible to enter and find what was needed. When the job was complete, Leticia M. Samuel, the assistant managing director of the school said, "We have needed to get into these storage rooms for a very long time, and now we can. I already see some things that I had wanted." Other War Dragon volunteers also swept and picked up trash around the schools grounds.

The formal ceremonies began with a parade by classes and grades. Each class and grade were dressed in costumes depicting specific periods of the history of the Philippines. Once everyone had made their entrance, individual students took the stage to recite historically significant moments while other students acted out skits or performed dances. A talent show followed this portion with individuals and groups taking the stage to

sing traditional Filipino songs in the Tagalog language.

Sonar Technician Surface 1st Class Ernesto Avila lent his expertise to this event that ended up in a free-for-all for everyone involved. Everyone ended up with a prize, and Avila found himself surrounded by children for the remainder of the evening until it was time for the War Dragons to return to the ship.

Samual, who was in charge of the activities for the day, was very grateful for the additional participation by the Wardragons in all the festivities.

"You really made the children happy by being here today. They are proud of their heritage and how hard they have worked to get ready for this celebration. Your being here was a great boost to their spirits," Samual said.

As Chosin prepares to depart the Arabian Gulf, they will be leaving with many memories of a job well done. Thanks to their unique spirit of volunteerism, they will also be leaving behind a legacy of friendship and spirit of giving that will pave the way for future Sailors visiting this part of the world.

HSL-37 announces Senior, Junior SOQ

By Lt.j.g. Andy Byers
HSL-37

Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (Light) 37 (HSL-37) recently announced selections of Aviation Warfare Systems Operator First Class (NAC/AW/SW) Franklin K. Leialoha and Aviation Administration Airman Michelle A. Drummond as the Senior and Junior Easyriders of the Quarter.

Leialoha earned this distinction for outstanding performance as aircrew leading petty officer. He performed his demanding duties in a highly professional manner. He spearheaded an aggressive Navy Air Training and Operating Procedure Standardization (NATOPS) training program resulting in an overall division score of 3.97, five points above the fleet average on the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVAIRPAC), closed

book evaluation. Responsible for the training and qualification of 21 Sailors, Leialoha demonstrated keen motivation and responsibility for his high caliber of work. He managed the cataloging and tracking of more than 400 NATOPS publications during the COMNAVAIRPAC NATOPS Evaluation. His tireless efforts were reflected in an overall grade of "outstanding" with zero discrepancies on 11 NATOPS training jackets and service records.

A model Sailor, he sustained exceptional appearance and military bearing while consistently earning "outstanding" scores on all squadron physical readiness test's. Displaying exceptional leadership, his diligent efforts inspired all who observed him.

Leialoha spends his off duty time with his family and enjoys surfing, water skiing and all other water sports.

Drummond captured the Junior Easyrider of the Quarter for outstand-

ing performance as night check maintenance administrator. Displaying exceptional diligence, she filled billets normally reserved for senior petty officers. These billets included NALCOMIS system administrator, assistant logs and records department training petty officer, and dispersed technical publication librarian. She devoted countless hours in training newly assigned AZ's in maintenance control procedures, VIDS MAF documentation and NALCOMIS troubleshooting. Her efforts throughout Maintenance Control contributed to all programs receiving a grade of "on track" during the 1999 Commander, Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Wing Pacific Aviation Maintenance Evaluation.

Drummond is from Marietta Georgia and lives on Ford Island. She teaches Sunday school at Makakilo Baptist Church.

Bravo Zulu

Naval Reserve Center Honolulu

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal
SK1 Patrick A. Burbridge

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Lt. Cmdr. Michelle A Emerson

Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center

Letter of Commendation
AG1(SW) John W Raines
AG1 William Ray Crank
AGAA Charles B. Jackson
AGAN Jatasey Alexander Gibbs
AG2 Andrea L. Gowry

USS Reuben James (FFG 57)

Good Conduct Medal
OS2(SW) M. Haggerty
GSM2 Yang
EN2 (SW) J. Yeager
RM3(SW) T. Scott
RM3 E. Saxton
RM3 D. Dunbar
MSSN J. Patt
SH2 A. Garcia
BM2 M. Tabb-Walker
MS1 K. Boyd
GM(SW) K. Stayrook

USS Columbia (SSN 771)

Reenlistment
ET1(SS) Brent Smith

Naval Station Chapel

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal
RP1 Fermin Ancho

Letter of Commendation
RP1(SW/FMF) Mitchell Krauss
RP1 Fermin Ancho
RP2(FMF) Andrew Simkovskiy
RP2(FMF) Jared Osselaer
RP3 Aubrey Barnes
RP3 Sophorn Kolesar
RP3 Ruthemeyer

Naval Brig Ford Island

Graduated
SM2(SW) Charlie Brown, Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University

RP's receive awards during Navy Chief of Chaplains visit



PH2 Elizabeth L. Burke photo

Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Fermin Ancho receives the Navy, Marine Corps Achievement Medal from the Chief of Chaplains, Rear Adm. Byron Holderby. Eight of the region's RP's were recognized for their support of the region's ministries during a ceremony Nov. 2 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

Around the Fleet

RM's renamed IT's

The Radioman (RM) rating name has been changed to Information Systems Technician (IT), according to a recent NAVADMIN message.

Acceleration of new technologies in telecommunications and information systems disciplines revealed the need for a new rating name that best reflects the skills and roles of Sailors in this rating. The name change is consistent with the Navy's ongoing efforts to properly man and train the rating to handle the changing environment of the information age. The new rating name also reflects the Navy's commitment to Information Technology for the 21st Century (IT-21), and serves as an attractive recruiting tool for potential recruits.

IT's operate and maintain Navy global satellite telecommunications systems. Their duties include designing, installing, operating and maintaining state of the art information systems, including local and wide-area networks, mainframe, mini

and macro computer systems, and associated peripheral devices. They provide communication links and connectivity to every shore station and ship at sea across every band of the RF spectrum.

In keeping with the tradition of the RM rating, IT's will continue to wear the RM rating badge of electronic sparks.

More information is available in NAVADMIN 293/99.

Navy names new ship for Mary Sears

The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Richard Danzig, has named the Navy's newest oceanographic survey vessel for Mary Sears, honoring one of this country's earliest women pioneers in oceanography. It is the first Navy oceanographic survey ship named for a woman.

Born at the turn of the 20th century, Mary Sears was called the first naval oceanographer in modern times by Dr. Roger Revelle, a renowned scientist from the 1940's to the 1980's.

Mary Sears' research while in the

Navy WAVES during World War II was critical to the survivability of U.S. submarines during the war. Her intelligence reports, "Submarine Supplements to the Sailing Directions," predicted the presence of thermoclines, or areas of rapid water temperature change, under which a submarine could hide to escape enemy detection by surface sonar.

Mary Sears died in 1997 at age 92. The USNS Mary Sears (T-AGS 65) will be the sixth ship in the Pathfinder T-AGS 60 class.

Like all of the Pathfinder-class ships, USNS Mary Sears will be a multi-mission oceanographic survey ship, capable of surveying in either coastal or deep ocean waters.

The Pathfinder-class ships, each 329 feet long and displacing 4,700 tons, are equipped with the latest survey technology.

The USNS Mary Sears is scheduled to be christened and launched late next year at Halter Marine shipyard, Pascagoula, Miss.