



# Navy League of the United States Siam Council, Thailand

## Annual Report 2011

### Executive Summary:

In 2011, Navy League Siam was proud to host 22 ships for a total of 24 visits, while coordinating 53 Community Service (COMSERV) projects to benefit US-Thai relations. Navy League Siam also helped these sailors and marines enjoy their liberty in Pattaya a little more by providing free SIM cards, receptions, and unique events like the cooking competition for the USS George Washington Culinary Specialists at the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa. Seeking to foster goodwill between the United States and Thailand, the US 7th fleet band, with the Navy League's assistance, performed public concerts during CARAT 2011 with thousands of people in attendance. For 2012, Navy League Siam will partner with the Thai and international business community to increase membership, and they will take a more active role in sponsoring both US and Thai ships and their crew.

### Ship Visits and Community Outreach:

Navy League Siam was honored to host 22 United States ships for a total of 24 visits in 2011 on the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand. The complete roster of ships is as follows:

1. USNS Tippacanoë (T-AO 199)
2. USNS Alan Sheppard (T-AKE 3)
3. USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204)
4. USNS Wally Schirra (T-AKE 8)
5. USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50)
6. USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)
7. USS Cape St. George (CG 71)
8. USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93)
9. USS Cowpens (CG 63)
10. USS Denver (LPD 9)
11. USS Essex (LHD 2)
12. USS Germantown (LSD 42)
13. USS George Washington (CVN 73)
14. USS Howard (DDG 83)
15. USS John S McCain (DDG 56)
16. USS Lassen (DDG 82)
17. USS Avenger (MCM 1)
18. USS Guardian (MCM 5)
19. USS Mustin (DDG 89) (2x)
20. USS Reuben James (FFG 57)
21. USS Stockdale (DDG 106)
22. USS Tortuga (LSD 46) (2x)



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**Navy League of the United States – Siam Council, Thailand**  
**Peter Thorand, President**

**email: [petert@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:petert@loxinfo.co.th), mobile:+66-(0)-81-909-9098**

**Address: Peter Thorand, c/o Nong Apartment, 373/5-6 Moo. 10, Soi Yensabai, Partamnak Road, Pattaya City 20150, Thailand**

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Navy League Siam hosted the sailors and marines, as well as coordinated 54 Community Service (COMSERV) projects for the service members to have the opportunity to learn more about Thai culture and to boost diplomatic ties between the United States and Thailand. These events benefited the health, welfare, and education of the Thai community, and included visits to local schools, refurbishing temples and orphanages, as well as donating supplies to underprivileged children.

### **COBRA GOLD 2011**



In February 2011, sailors and marines participating in the 2011 Cobra Gold Exercise were hosted by Navy League Siam with some fun activities and useful items to maximize the enjoyment of their well-deserved liberty. Navy League Siam's President, Peter Thorand, organized Community Service (COMSERV) activities at three separate schools on the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand in order to foster cross-cultural understanding and teach Thai students about the importance of the US Navy. The sailors and marines very much enjoyed this unique

opportunity to meet with Thai schoolchildren and get a first-hand look at Thailand's unique customs and heritage.

Navy League Siam also hosted a chili cook-off at the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa for seven teams of sailors and marines to prepare chili recipes with a 5-star Thai chef, in which prizes were awarded to all teams. 2011 marked the first annual Admirals Cup, which was a golf and dinner event with 48 sailors, marines, members of the Navy League, and a special guest of honor - Capt. Tavee, Deputy Commandant of the Royal Thai Marines. The top golfing teams were awarded prizes, and it was an enjoyable way for the US Sea Services to meet with their Thai counterparts. The trip was best summarized by the skipper of the USS Gridley (DDG-101), Commander BJ Quin, who noted,



“The Navy League as an organization provides exceptional support to the sea services, and the Pattaya chapter specifically enjoys acclaim throughout the fleet for the ‘above and beyond’ welcomes provided to visiting ships.”

### **CARAT 2011:**

CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises between navies, and it is held once a year in Southeast Asia. During CARAT 2011 (in May), Navy League Siam was pleased to present concerts from Thai and US military bands and to get involved in one COMSERV project at a local Thai school. A special thanks

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**email: [petert@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:petert@loxinfo.co.th), mobile: +66-(0)-81-909-9098**

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goes out to the Director of CARAT 2011, Rear Admiral Chaiyot Sundaranaga, and his Chief of Staff - 2nd Frigate Squadron, Captain Kosit Cheamsuphakit. They both made sure that the Royal Thai Marine band and the United States 7th Fleet Band, "Orient Express", were able to perform public concerts. Having support from the Royal Thai Navy and United States Navy made a tremendous difference for the spectators, since songs were played in both Thai and English. During the Navy League reception on May 13th, officers from all ships involved in CARAT 2011 were invited. Navy League Siam adopted the HTMS Naresuan and recognized her Sailor of the 2nd quarter and the Blue Jacket of the 2nd quarter. Likewise, similar honors were presented for USS Tortuga.



### USS George Washington (CVN-73) Visit:

In August 2011, the USS George Washington (CVN-73), the USS Mustin (DDG-89), the USS Cowpens (CG-63) and the USS John McCain (DDG-56) moored at Laem Chabang port in Pattaya, Thailand for some much-deserved liberty. It was an exciting and extensive visit that included 15 COMSERV projects, six sporting events, a cooking competition at the Benihana Restaurant, and a Thai cooking class onboard the USS George Washington. It was a great opportunity for the Officers, Chiefs, and Sailors from the carrier group to learn a bit about Thailand, as well a chance for the Thai people to learn about the importance of the United States Navy. Navy League Siam was delighted to support our visiting service members and provide some hospitality.



### New Board Members Navy League Siam:

In order to facilitate increased membership, a priority of the entire Navy League, the Siam Council - Thailand chapter brought onboard some new members in December 2011 to conduct community outreach to the business community in Thailand. The new Board of Directors is as follows:

1. President Peter Thorand - Retired, Maintenance Engineer
2. Secretary Darrell Brown - MMC SS (Ret.), US Navy, Foreign Service Officer (Ret.), US Dept. of State
3. Treasurer Lester Smith - Warden, US Embassy Bangkok
4. Director of Membership David Crouch - Country Manager, Force Protection Logistics
5. Director Peter Waagensen - Entrepreneur



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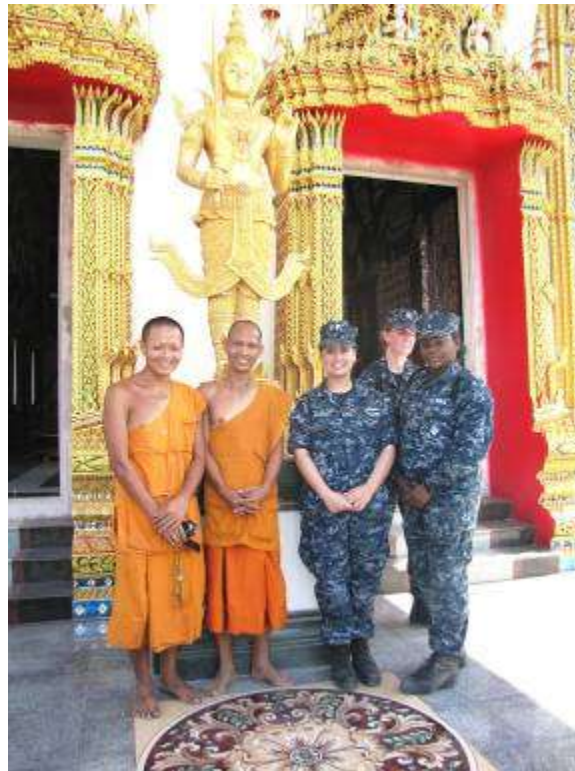
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6. Director Somchart Suwichakornpongs (Mr. Chong) - Owner, World Gems
7. Director Jim Grunewald - Rear Admiral (Ret.), US Navy
8. Director Songchai Naamphai - Manager, Pattaya Budget Rent a Car
9. Director Paul Salvette - Personal Assistant to Mechai Viravaidya, Mechai Viravaidya Foundation
10. Director Dylan Counsel - Director Operations, Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa

### **The Way Ahead:**

Navy League Siam will actively work with the business community in Thailand to increase its membership. Individuals and corporate sponsors will be approached to ensure financial sustainability of Navy League Siam's activities. Navy League Siam will develop more publicity materials (e.g. brochures) and visit networking sessions in Bangkok and Pattaya



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