



**Navy League of the United States
Eastern Seaboard, Thailand
Siam Council**



Annual Report 2012

Executive Summary

In 2012, Navy League of the United States - Eastern Seaboard, Thailand Council was proud to host 21 ships for a total of 23 visits, while coordinating 57 Community Service (COMSERV) projects to benefit US-Thai relations. The Eastern Seaboard Thailand Council also helped these sailors and marines enjoy their liberty in Pattaya and the Eastern Seaboard a little but more by providing onboard Thai cooking training, welcome receptions with free drinks and food, cooking competitions, as well as the opportunity to perform community service and cultural exchange activities. Seeking to foster goodwill between the United States and Thailand, the US 7th fleet band, the *Orient Express*, performed public concerts during CARAT 2012 with a total combined audience of 4,500 people. This was also the first time in many years that a submarine visited Thailand.



The visiting ships were:

1. USS Tortuga (LSD-49)
2. USS Germantown (LSD-42)
3. USS Emory S Land (AS-39)
4. USS Denver (LPD-9)
5. USS Buffalo (SSN-715)
6. USS Blue Ridge (LCC-17)
7. USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72)
8. USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE-11)
9. USS Sterett (DDG-194)
10. USS Momsen (DDG-92)
11. USS Cape St. George (CG-71)
12. USNS Alan Shepard (T-AKE-3)
13. USCGC Waesche (WMSL-751)
14. USNS Bird (T-AKE-4)
15. USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE-7)
16. USNS Tippecanoe (TAO-199)
17. USNS Walter Diehl (TAO-193)
18. USS Lassen (DDG-89)
19. MSC (EPU-113) (2 Visits)
20. USNS Safeguard (ARS-50)
21. USS Reuben James (FFG-57)

Cobra Gold 2012



Cobra Gold is an annual, multinational military exercise held in Thailand that focuses on combat readiness and multilateral cooperation. At the conclusion of Cobra Gold, the Navy League of the United States - Siam Council, Thailand helps to organize COMSERV projects and fun activities for the sailors and marines so that they can learn more about the culture of Thailand and cement strong diplomatic bonds of friendship. This year, Navy League Siam organized five COMSERV projects at Wat Weruwanaram School, the Child Protection and Development Center, the

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Banglamung Home for the Aged, Camilian Social Center, and Pattaya Orphanage. As a small token appreciation for the hard work of our service members, a reception at Dicey Reilly's in Pattaya and Golf Tournament were hosted by Navy League Siam. Just for fun, a chili cook-off competition and Thai cooking class was organized in cooperation with the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa.

Reception at Dicey Reilly's in Pattaya for Cobra Gold Participants: [\[pics\]](#)

On February 21, 2012 the Navy League of the United States - Siam Council, Thailand hosted a reception at Dicey Reilly's pub in Pattaya for the service members taking part in the Cobra Gold 2012 exercise. Sailors and Officers from USS Tortuga (LSD-42), USS Germantown (LSD-46), and the Marines from the 31st MEU packed the venue to enjoy free food and drinks provided by Navy League Siam. The COs, XO's, and CMCs from both ships attended this event to recognize the outstanding achievements and hard work of the exceptional Sailors of the Year onboard their ships for the previous year.



The Commodore of Amphibious Squadron 11, Captain Lee Bradley, gave a grateful speech, thanking the Cobra Gold 2012 participants for their hard work and conveying the importance of the exercise for both the United States and Thailand. The General Manager from the Marriott Resort & Spa presented the sailors being recognized with a gift certificate for meals and shopping at the hotel. As a small token of appreciation for their service, Navy League Siam gave the group commemorative beer glasses and coins.

COMSERV at the Child Protection and Development Center [\[pics\]](#)



Chaplain Craig and 24 Marines from the Combat Logistic Battalion, 31st MEU, visited the Child Protection and Development Center in Hua Yai on February 22, 2012, to help plant a vegetable garden. The always hard-working Marines got right down to business when they arrived: preparing the grounds, planting the seeds, and tending to the garden. They were also given a tour of the facilities by the Thai staff, and they had the opportunity to enjoy an authentic Thai lunch in recognition for their endeavors. This was a great opportunity for everyone to meet people

from different countries and work toward a common goal.

CARAT 2012

CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises between navies, and it is held once a year in Southeast Asia. During CARAT 2012, Navy League Siam was pleased to present concerts from Thai and US military bands and to coordinate numerous COMSERV projects at various locations throughout the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand. As always the public concerts performed by the Royal Thai Navy Band and the United States 7th Fleet Band, *Orient Express*, were huge crowd-pleasers. The COMSERV projects endeavor to foster strong US-Thai relations. 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. Navy League Siam also hosted a reception for the CARAT 2012 participants as a small token of appreciation. Navy League Siam's contributions to supporting our sea services were recognized by



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CDR Carol McKenzie, CO of the USS Germantown (LSD-42), who noted, "*Many thanks for your dedication to our crew and the commitment to building relationships.*"

CARAT Band Rocks Out at Darasamatur Catholic School - [\[pics\]](#)



On May 22nd, 2012, the CARAT Band performed at the Darasamatur Catholic School in Sriracha. This performance was highly anticipated, and took part in front of the biggest crowd in 14 years. Four thousand students, ages 7-17, were present to cheer on the band and enjoy the music. Luckily, many teachers and chaperones were present to help keep these young students under control, because they all wanted to rush the band to get their pictures taken with them. The school reciprocated for this outstanding performance by providing the band members a delicious lunch.

On the lighter side, a little boy of about eight rushed the stage, danced, and even played the drums, much to the enjoyment of the bands and audience. The CARAT Bands are tremendous goodwill Ambassadors, showing that the US military can do great things with local communities.

Navy League Teppanyaki Competition 2012 - [\[pics\]](#)



The Executive Chef from the Marriott Resort & Spa invited the Culinary Specialists from the visiting CARAT 2012 ships to a cooking competition at the Benihana Restaurant in Pattaya. Five teams came to participate in a heated competition to see which ship had the best chefs. Selecting the winner was a difficult task for the Executive Chef, and results were based on outstanding taste, presentation, and technique.

Navy League Siam Council is pleased to announce the following winners of the Teppanyaki Competition 2012:

- 1st place from USS Lassen (DDG-82) - LT Ben Banaszewski/CS1 Isaak Cabalero
- 2nd place from USCGC Waesche (WMSL-751) - FS3 D J Diederich/FSS Austin Dor
- 3rd place from USS Germantown (LSD-42) and USCGC Waesche (WMSL-751) - CSSN Vargas Humberto/FSI John Hagenmayer
- 4th place from USS Germantown (LSD-42) - CS2(SW) Lanuza Ronaldo/CSSN Calmicker
- 5th Place from USS Lassen (DDG-82) - CS2 Amoyan/CSSN Skeen Shannon

Navy League Siam Council would like to recognize the outstanding cooking skills of all teams who took part in this friendly competition.

Thai Cooking Class Onboard the USS Germantown - [\[pics\]](#)

Early in the morning during CARAT 2012 at the Fighting Gator Café onboard the USS Germantown (LSD-42), an Executive Chef from the Pattaya Marriot Resort & Spa taught the Culinary Specialists onboard how to prepare a delicious Thai meal. Besides the Culinary Specialists from the USS Germantown (LSD-42), crewmembers from the USS Lassen (DDG-82) and the USCGC Waesche (WMSL-751) joined this fun and educational session. The challenge was to prepare a meal with Jasmine rice, Thai pork



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salad, Tom Yam Gung (shrimp salad), Green Curry, and banana in coconut milk as the desert. All the dishes were finished just in time for lunch. Everyone very much enjoyed the food, including the Commodore of DESRON 31, and the CO and XO of the Germantown. Navy League Siam is always proud to be able to organize some new and exciting food for our visiting sailors.

Submarine and Submarine Tender Visit Thailand - [\[pics\]](#)



US Navy submarines rarely get the opportunity to come to Thailand, usually only once every few years. That is why it was a great pleasure for Navy League Siam to help host the USS Buffalo (SSN-715), a fast-attack submarine, and the USS Emory S. Land (AS-39), a submarine tender, in July 2012. Many of the sailors had never been to Thailand, so the Navy League helped organize a reception to welcome them. Pattaya Marriot Resort & Spa and the Royal Thai Navy were essential to helping these sailors feel at home. Thai guests were able to visit these ships and conduct cultural exchanges. The US sailors also joined up with the Thai Navy to perform COMSERV projects at the Mechai Pattana School and Huay Yai Child Development Center. Great friendships were made and the US sailors got to have a unique experience that most tourists do not get to take part in. We hope to see

these sailors come back to Thailand in the near future.

COMSERV at the Mechai Pattana School - [\[pics\]](#)



Thai officers and crewmembers from HTMS Naresuan (FFG-421), USS Emory S. Land (AS-39), and USS Buffalo (SSN-715) arrived at the Mechai Pattana School in Pattaya as part of a community relations project (COMSERV). The Mechai Pattana School is a boarding school that opened in May 2012 for underprivileged students from rural, northeastern Thailand. The students of the Mechai Pattana School greeted the sailors with a song and ukulele ensemble.

Since the US sailors wanted to learn about Thailand, and the Thai students wanted to learn about the navy, small groups were organized to facilitate friendly conversation. This was a great opportunity for the US sailors to learn a few Thai words and for the Thai students to improve their English. After the friendly chat, everyone joined for some games of volleyball, ping-pong, tak kew (a Thai game), and darts. Lunch was served on the beach of the Birds & Bees Resort (where the school is located), and the visiting sailors enjoyed taking pictures with the condom statues popularized by Mr. Mechai Viravaidya, a famous Thai former senator and social entrepreneur who founded the school.



The Chief of the Boat (COB) from the USS Buffalo remarked to Navy League Siam President, Peter Thorand, what a great COMSERV project this was. A huge thank you is in order to Mechai Pattana School, Chaplain LT Roberton from the Emory S. Land, as well as the Commanding officers and Executive Officers for supporting this unique COMSERV project.

Thank you for your continued support!

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