



Navy League of the United States Siam Council, Thailand

CARAT 2011

Executive Summary:



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

Reception:

On May 13th, a reception was hosted at Dicey Reily's Pub at the Marriot Resort & Spa in Pattaya, Thailand. Many sailors from the Navy League Siam Council's adopted ships, USS TORTUGA (LSD-46) and HTMS NARESUAN, were in attendance. It was also a pleasure to host sailors from the USS REUBEN JAMES (FFG-57) and USS HOWARD (DDG-83). The first order of business at the reception was to officially recognize the adoption of the Royal Thai Navy ship, HTMS NARESUAN, from Frigate Squadron 2. Navy League Siam presented Captain Boriboon Emtip a Navy League plaque in exchange for the plaque from his ship. Navy League Siam recognized the Sailor of the Second Quarter, Saksan Wongsim, and the the Blue Jacket of the Second Quarter, Pornchai Trirat.



The guests of honor from the Royal Thai Navy at this event were Rear Admiral Chaiyot Sundaranaga, Commander Frigate Squadron 2, and his Chief of Staff, Captain Kosit. This was a very unique opportunity for a Navy League council to adopt a host country's ship.

The Junior Sailor of the Second Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Second Quarter onboard the USS TORTUGA were also recognized. Plaques and coins were presented to the ship's skipper, Commander Adrian Ragland. The skippers of the USS HOWARD and USS REUBEN JAMES also received plaques and 3-baht customized stamps from the President of Navy League Siam Council, Peter Thorand. Pictures from this reception are available [here](#).

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Sports Day:

The decision by Rear Admiral Chaiyot to move the Sports Day from Sattahip to Nong Prue Sports Field resulted in a huge success, since the public was able to participate in large number. There was fantastic interaction between Thais and Americans, and a great cultural exchange took place. Furthermore, the students at the local school had an opportunity to meet both Thai and US sailors, as well as enjoy free hamburgers and hot dogs.

Concerts:

Four concerts held by the Royal Thai Marine band and the US 7th Fleet band, the Orient Express, drew large crowds. The local Thai and expat community very much enjoyed these performances. [Videos](#) and [pictures](#) are available on the Navy League Siam [Facebook page](#):

May 14	Nong Prue Municipality Amphitheater	Spectators - 200
May 15	Big 'C' Shopping Center N. Pattaya	Spectators - 300
May 17	Royal Garden Plaza	Spectators - 400+
May 18	Darasamatur School Sriracha	Spectators - 3,000

The last concert between both the Thai and US bands was at Darasamatur School in Sriracha. The day started off with a workshop for the music students at the school. During the performance, the RTM Band started first and excited the crowd with renditions of popular Thai songs. The 3,000 students in attendance were very excited. Afterwards, the 7th Fleet Band, The Orient Express, came on stage and did their set, which included a Michael Jackson song. The applause drowned out the band for a few minutes and an enjoyable time was had by everybody.



Outdoor Cooking Competition:



On May 14th, teams from the USS TORTUGA, USS HOWARD, USS REUBEN JAMES, and a mixed team - two persons from the USS REUBEN JAMES and two persons from the HTMS TAKSIN - joined in a cooking competition at the Marriott Resort & Spa in Pattaya. Everyone received the same ingredients and they were given one hour to complete two dishes. Afterwards, the Executive Chef and his team evaluated the prepared dishes and announced the following winners:

1st Place USS REUBEN JAMES team

ENS Joshua Roaf, CS1 Enrioc Morada, CS2 Nathan Yactzak, CS3 Andres Avilan Vinces

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2nd Place USS HOWARD team

CTTC Lisa Westfield, YNC Sundra McDonald, LS3 Laura Armstrong, CSSN Selia Gomex

3rd Place USS REUBEN JAMES/RTMS TAKSIN Team

4th Place went to the USS TORTUGA team

CS3 Alvic Dedios, CS3 Peter Zagas, CSSR Anibal Aquino, CS2 Stephen Jones

Each team received a certificate from the Marriott Resort & Spa for attending this event, and many supporters from all ships came to cheer them on. The afternoon was made even more excellent because there was free beer and a chance to take a swim in the resort's pool. Pictures of the event are available [here](#).

COMSERVE Project at a Thai School

On May 18, a COMSERVE Project took place at the Khongdara School with 270 Thai students present. 25 people from the USNS SAFEGUARD (T-ARS-50), along with the CO and Chaplain Lee from MSC Singapore took part in this community outreach project to bolster US-Thai relations. The USNS SAFEGUARD donated school lunches and sports equipment, and they spent the morning playing with the students. They also brought in a real diving helmet and explained to the students about maritime affairs and marine biology. The students were quite interested, and the teachers were very appreciative that the USNS personnel were able to visit. Pictures of the engagement can be seen [here](#).



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