



Navy League of the United States Siam Council, Thailand

Cobra Gold 2012 Report

Executive Summary:

[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 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: [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 2011



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

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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 Wat Weruwanaram [\[pics\]](#)

On February 22, 2012, Chaplain Townsend and 26 sailors traveled to the Wat Weruwanaram School to perform a COMSERV project. Thai schools often have minimal resources, and the students eagerly want to learn the English language as well as the chance to meet members of the Armed Forces. That is why sailors coming to a Thai school provides an excellent opportunity for some cross-cultural exchange. Commander Arnat Techarat and Lieutenant Commander Taywin Nilsakorn of the Royal Thai Navy helped with the site selection. The



students had a great time interacting with the sailors. Once again, the US Navy showed that they have a strong commitment to the well-being of their host nations.

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.

COMSERV at Banglamung Home for the Aged [\[pics\]](#)

Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 31st MEU, visited the Banglamung Home for the Aged with Chaplain Wilkinson to assist in cleaning up the grounds and making the location a more pleasant place for the elderly. The Marines were greeted by the supervisor of facility, Khun

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Chitra. The Marines helped with some much needed manpower by cleaning up underbrush and pruning trees, which allowed sunlight to once again shine inside the facility. All of this difficult labor was completed in just under an hour, showing how fast and efficient the United States Marine Corps can work. The staff and elderly of the facility were extremely grateful that visitors from another country could be so compassionate.

COMSERV at Camillian Social Center Rayong



Navy League Siam arranged a heartfelt and enriching visit to the children and staff of the Camillian Social Center Rayong, Thailand. This center is one of the first activities opened in Asia to accommodate and help sick orphan children living with HIV/AIDS. Eight officers and sailors from the US Navy's Expeditionary Port Unit (EPU) 112, Little Rock, Arkansas, visited the center and were treated to a professional presentation on the efforts of the center and the strides they have made so far in helping and how far they still have to go. After the presentation the officers and sailors of EPU 112 played with each and every one of the children, sharing a little

bit of their time to make the children's day just a bit better than the last. The children and staff were most appreciative of the visit. As expected, the visit touched each and every one of the visitors and made the day a little bit better for the children.

COMSERV at Pattaya Orphanage

Navy League Siam arranged a wonderful and fulfilling visit to the children and staff of the Pattaya Orphanage, Pattaya City, Thailand, by eight officers and sailors from the US Navy's Expeditionary Port Unit (EPU) 113, Fort Worth, Texas, along with soldiers from the 835th Transportation Battalion from Okinawa, Japan. Sailors and soldiers alike played games and entertained all the little ones at the orphanage and also interacted with the orphanage's staff and saw first-hand what great and



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meaningful work is taking place. The children and staff were most appreciative of the visit and in the typical Thai style of hospitality, reciprocated with a dance and song show and a wonderful home-made lunch of Thai favorite dishes and snacks.

Golf Tournament [\[pics\]](#)

On the evening of February 22, 2012, Navy League Siam organized a small golf tournament as a way for service members to relax following all of their hard work during Cobra Gold 2012. Carts, caddies, green fees, and transportation to and from the Burapha Golf Course were organized as a small way to say thank you to the visiting sailors and marines. Congratulations are in order for the top three golfers, who were each presented a trophy:



1. John Averell, USS Germantown, (score: 72)
2. Kevin Norton, BLTCO, (score: 73)
3. Michael Annen, USS Tortuga, (score: 74)

All participants were treated to drinks and an 11-course gourmet Thai meal. Following time on green, dinner door prizes, ranging from souvenir pendants to bottles of wine, were presented to every single golfer. The tournament received such great feedback that Navy League Siam is planning a similar tournament when service members visit Thailand for CARAT 2012 later this year.

Annual Chili Cook Competition [\[pics\]](#)



Luis Rodrigo Zamora, Executive Chef at the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa, hosted a chili cooking competition for the chefs of the visiting ships during Cobra Gold 2012. There was much anxiety amongst the participants, since some competed last year and wanted to improve their chili skills for this year's competition. The event was set up near the pool of the hotel and some of the press attended to cover this exciting annual event. After a long battle of deciding what to cook and what ingredients to use, the chili from

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each group was prepared. After some extended scrutiny and pointers by the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa chefs, they finally made their decisions.

Congratulations to the following teams:

- 1st prize went to CSSN Sanchez and PFC Reyes from the USS Germantown (LSD 42)
- 2nd prize went to CSSN Lunceford and CSSN Hart from the USS Tortuga (LSD 46)
- 3rd prize went to MAJ Montas 1st LT Baugh from the 31st MEU
- 4th prize went to CSI Buenaflor and MRZ Jallorina from the USS Germantown (LSD 42)

They all received specially made gifts for the event to include a beer mug engraved with the Navy League Logo. A big thanks to the management and staff of the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa to make the stay for the visiting sailors and marines fun and eventful.

Culinary Specialist Cross-training onboard the USS Tortuga (LSD 46) [\[pics\]](#)

On the 23rd of February, the last day in port for the USS Tortuga, Navy League Siam made arrangements for the chefs from the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa to teach the Culinary Specialists how to cook an authentic Thai meal. The participating chefs included Mohan Nalamveetil - Executive Sous Chef, Phanita Salapirom - Thai Cuisine Chef, and Supha Chompoorach - Chef de Partie. The objective was to cook a bona fide Thai meal for 100 sailors onboard the ship.

The menu consisted of Larb Thai (Chicken Salad with Mint), the world-renowned Tom Yum Goong (Hot & Sour Prawn Soup with Lemongrass), Panaeng Nuae (Beef in Panaeng Curry also called "Green Curry"), and of course Khao Suay ("Beautiful Rice" or Steamed Rice). The deserts included rambutan stuffed with pineapple along with lychee fruit in syrup on top of ice. While Thai food has become an international delicacy that can be challenge to cook, the Culinary Specialists quickly learned and prepared the meals with no problems. At the end of the class, the crew on board was able to enjoy these special meals for lunch.



Every participating CS received a certificate for attending this class as well as a complimentary chef apron from the Marriott Resort & Spa. This was only the 3rd time in the past two years where Thais Chefs teaching American CS on board a US Navy Ship.

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