



Annual Report 2014

Executive Summary

In 2014, Navy League of the United States – Eastern Seaboard, Thailand Council (Siam Council) was proud to host numerous ship visits from the US Navy, while coordinating numerous Community Service (COMSERV) projects—over 40—to benefit US-Thai relations. Additionally, the Siam Council hosted receptions and organized events for the Royal Thai Navy and Marines. The Eastern Seaboard Thailand Council also helped these sailors and marines enjoy their liberty in Pattaya and the Eastern Seaboard a little more by providing onboard Thai cooking training, welcome receptions with free drinks and food, as well as the opportunity to perform community service and cultural exchange activities. Thank you kindly to all the sponsors and supporters of the Navy League’s work in Thailand. All receptions were sponsored with free beer by Singha, and all cooking classes onboard the Thai and US ships were sponsored by the Pattaya Marriot Resort & Spa. Below are some highlights of the various activities that took place over 2014. Please see the hyperlinks to view more photos on Facebook.

VP-46 COMSERV at the KM 5 School Sattahip ([photos](#))

The visiting VP-46 crew, US Marines, the Royal Thai Navy Amphibious Assault Squadron, the Navy League Siam Council, and all the students at the KM 5 School joined hands at the KM 5 School in Sattahip for a COMSERV.

A gift was brought for the school: a Ping Pong table and two long drums that were generously donated by the visiting sailors.

Some of the lucky students were able to visit the Uthaphao Airbase and see the airplanes close up and take pictures. Here the visiting Aircrew presented the kids with a picture of the plane signed by every crewmember. A big “thank you” to all the visitors who made this happen.



Navy League Siam Council’s Thank You Party for the Royal Thai Marines ([photos](#))

The Siam Council visited the Royal Thai Marine Base in Naratiwat for the Handover Ceremony of the libraries in the two schools. The council also held a small party as a thank-you for the Royal Thai Marines for working so hard to make it happen. Navy League members Peter Schmidt, Reinhard Murer, and Peter Thorand brought with them 14kg of Pork, 9 liters of Spanish red wine, and 3 liters of Spanish white wine.

After the Navy League members visited the schools around, a BBQ area was prepared. The Marine’s prepared a large variety of dishes since not everyone eats pork, especially in the south



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where the majority of people are Muslim. After the BBQ, the group moved into the dining room and enjoyed the great meal the Royal Thai Marines provided. The wine and spirits flowed freely.



A few speeches were given to say thanks to all and a few souvenirs were handed out. The District Governor, Khun Suvan, handed everyone a souvenir. Also, a local violinist played some wonderful music during dinner—an excellent performance. Around 10 pm they were all ready to go to sleep since this was a long day—many of the group started the day at 4 am for this trip. The next day the Royal Thai Marines provided the Navy League members with a great breakfast and detailed tour of the Marine Base Camp.

Two Marriott Chefs Visit USS Frank Cable (AS-40) Galley ([photos](#))

Two Marriott Chefs went on board the USS Frank Cable (AS-40) to teach the culinary specialists onboard how to prepare a few Thai dishes for the crew. The training was on Tom Yum Gung, Lab Moo, and Green Chicken Curry. Since the chefs from the Marriott Resort & Spa brought all ingredients with them, things moved along smoothly. The culinary specialists of the ship were professional cooks and they picked up the important points quickly. Many crew members dropped by for a look to see where the great aroma came from. After two hours they were ready for lunchtime and to serve the crew.

The Commanding Officer arrived first and Chef Painter served him the Thai food. There was no problem for all to eat these dishes, some even added some chilies to make it more spicy. After lunch the two visiting chefs presented the culinary specialists of the USS Frank Cable with a cookbook and a certificate that they took part in this cooking class from the Marriott Resort & Spa.

USS Frank Cable (AS-40) Crew Visit the Pattaya Orphanage ([photos](#))

The trip to the Pattaya Orphanage started early and the Siam Council and crew left the pier at 8:30 am for the one hour trip to Pattaya. The bus arrived with 30 Sailors at the Orphanage and their staff was waiting for them.

The first thing was to take a group picture when the group arrived in the conference room for a video presentation about the orphanage. After the detailed info was presented, the sailors went to visit the toddlers and spend some time with them for a while. Then the group spent with the older children, where the Magic Tooth Brush Man showed tricks on how to brush your teeth and handed out a toothbrush to all. The chaplain donated some clothes to the children which they eagerly scooped up. Around noon





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the time came to say good bay and travel back to the ship. Thanks to all on board the USS Frank Cable for their support to the Thai community.

Reception for USS La Jolla (SSN-701) and USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) (photos)



In the Siam Council's tradition to maintain our reputation, it put on a reception for USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) and USS La Jolla (SSN-701). The turnout was great and thanks goes to Singha for providing free beer for the crews. The special guests were Deputy Commodore Capt. Fred W Kacher from CTF 73.1 and Lieutenant Commander Taek, McFadden from JUSTMAGTHAI in Bangkok. Plaques were exchanged and the Marriott Resort & Spa received a Plaque from

the AS-39. Many pictures were taken and every one had a great time until around 11pm when the beer ran out.

Sailors from USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) visit Boonchoo Home for Autistic Children (photos)

A busload of sailors left the pier for their last community relations project during this port visit. They traveled to the Boonchoo Home for Autistic Children. The home has about 100 children of all ages. The sailors were greeted on arrival with a loud "good morning". The children gave a dance demonstration and after a while the visitors joined in and the fun began. Many games were played, a little painting was done, and a quick game of lawn bowling with the visiting sailors which the kids won 3-2.



After a final group picture was taken, a ball cap and signed picture from the ship was presented to the director of the home. This was again a rewarding interaction between visiting sailors and the local community.

US Navy Band at Royal Garden Mall (photos)

The Visiting USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) brought with them the famous 7th Fleet Band known as the "Far East Edition", which consisted of 27 band members. They gave an outstanding concert for the public at the Royal Garden Mall on Sunday, May 11th. A large crowd enjoyed this performance boosting US-Thai relations.

Orient Express first Concert at Banglamung School (photos)

The Orient Express band played an excellent concert at the Banglamung School. The weather was a bit hot, but the students very much enjoyed the concert.



Orient Express Visit the Kindergarten at the Sattahip Naval Base ([photos](#))



Chaplain Kim, Siam Council President Peter Thorand, the Orient Express Band, the corpsman from the divers on the USNS Safeguard, and many sailors from the Royal Thai Navy visited the Kindergarten inside the Royal Thai Navy Base in Sattahip. On the way there, the group stopped at the pier and picked up Project Handclasp Material for the kids.

The band set up and in no time and the fun started right away. The kids were a bit shy at first, but after a while started to warm up and interact with the visitors. Everyone enjoyed the visit!

Siam Council hosts Royal Thai Navy 2nd Frigate Squadron ([photos](#))

On May 28, 2015, the Siam Council hosted the Royal Thai Navy 2nd Frigate Squadron as thanks for all the work done during CARAT. There was plenty of Royal Thai Navy sailors attending this first of a kind reception for them. The Deputy Commander of the 2nd Frigate Squadron, the Chief of Staff, and many Commanding Officers and Executive Officers of the squadron ships attended. This was a great event and the Siam Council was proud to be able to host them. Everyone had a good time, the food was delicious, and the beer was cold—just what any sailor likes.

Siam Council supports the Royal Thai Navy with visit to HTMS Kraburi ([photos](#))



The Siam Council arranged a training class on Thai food for the culinary specialists onboard the HTMS Kraburi at Sattahip Naval Base. On arrival aboard the ship, the Siam Council was welcomed by the Executive Officer, Command Dech Kururat. The Commanding Officer dropped by as well and thanked the group before going to a meeting. The two Executive Thai Chefs (Khun Phanita Salapirom - Thai Cuisine Chef and Khun Boonma Intaraksa - Chef de Partie) from the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa. The 8 culinary specialists from the ship were waiting for them and the menu was Tom Yam Gung, Lab Moo, and Green Curry served with Thai Jasmine fragrant Rice.

The ships culinary specialists were eager to learn and gave a hand to make it all happen. After a successful cooking session, the group sampled and agreed that everything was very delicious. Many crewmembers dropped by to have a quick sample and all gave a thumbs up to the two visiting chefs. Then, Siam Council had lunch with the ship's wardroom and, as a surprise, the Chief of Staff from the 2nd Frigate Squadron joined and thanked the group for making this all happen.



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Great COMSERV by the P8 Crew and Spirit to Serve (photos)

The P8 crew and Spirit to Serve visited the Child Development and Protection Center for a joint COMSERV. The event was a great success for all. The kids enjoyed the visitors and vice versa. During the visit the P8 crew donated some sports equipment and in return received a tour of the facilities and had a look the mushroom-growing shed, pig pen, and chicken coop.



The P8 crew and the young boys at the center had a fierce soccer match which the boys won! Prior to the lunch, a few group pictures were taken, and then the group walked to the lunch room where the meal where served/ The Spirit to Serve team made it a special lunch and brought with them a lot of sweets from the Bakery at the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa.

Siam Council Invites the Visiting VP-40 Crew for a Few Beers (photos)

The Siam Council invited the visiting VP-40 crew for a few beers. Thanks to the sponsor, Singha, which supplied beer for the event. All visitors had a great time and the event was a huge success. During the evening gifts were exchanged with the best Sub Hunters in the world. The Siam Council looks forward to their next visit.

P40 Crew visit Child Development and Protection Center in Hua Yai (photos)

The crew of USNS Pecos (TAO-197) took time out of their schedule to visit the kids at the Child Development and Protection Center in Hua Yai. They brought with them many boxes of hygiene products, soccer balls, and first aid items. After the presentation, the crew played games with the children like tag, basketball, volleyball, and hula-hooping. After a couple hours of games, the group was hungry so they joined the kids for lunch. It was a great lunch and everyone enjoyed the tasty food. It was fun to be at the place with all the nice kids.

Project Handclasp material donation to the Sawangboriboon Rescue Center (photos)



Project Handclasp materials were donated to the Sawangboriboon Rescue Center, and a First Aid Training class were held yesterday for them. Chaplain Glen brought all the material from MSC Singapore with him for our local community. A nice gesture that was much welcomed by the all people received this. Items like bandages, plaster wound cleaning solutions, cleaning towels, splints, and much more, were donated. This will help the first



responders do their job even more effectively. Thanks to the crew of MSC Singapore who made this happen.

MSC SSU First Aid Training at Watchantanlam School in Chantaburi ([photos](#))

Chaplain Glen and Chief Akira from MSC SSU Singapore visited Chantaburi. At the school the kids were already waiting for our arrival. After the introduction Chief Akira went to work and started to teach some first aid to the Kids and first responders present. Thanks to all who made this happen, and this event was one of the best this year.

Christmas Gift for the USNS Pecos (TAO-197) ([photos](#))

The two Executive Chefs from the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa left early this morning to bring a little joy in the daily lives of the hard working USNS Pecos TAO 197 Crew. They came onboard and cooked a 3-course Thai meal for all of them. The meal consisted of the following dishes: Tom Yam Gung, Lab Moo, and Green Curry served with Jasmine fragrant rice. The crew loved this change and thanked the two Chefs repeatedly for this great opportunity to enjoy a traditional Thai food onboard.



At the end of the visit, the culinary specialists were given certificate of participating in this cooking class and the two chefs each received a ball cap and picture of the ship signed by the Captain of the vessel.

USS Halsey (DDG-97) Crew visiting the Thungrad School ([photos](#))



The Visiting (DDG-97) Crew boarded the crew boat early this morning to travel to the Thungrad school. The visitors split up in 3 groups and went to play games with the kids, including volleyball. They brought with them a Project Handclasp material which is much needed and appreciated by the School. In the meantime a few sailors and teachers assembled the scooter, skateboard and prepared the table for all.

After two hours of games and sports, all were exhausted (except the kids). Everyone assembled in the main area and the CO presented the Project Handclasp material, a picture of the ship, and ball cap to the school's headmaster and English teacher.

The school thanked all visitors for their kindness and wished them a safe journey home. The kids then accompanied all to the bus and waved goodbye as they were leaving. A big "Thank You" to all onboard the DDG-97 who made this happen.



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Navy League Siam Council provide the Christmas dinner onboard USS Halsey (DDG-97) ([photos](#))

On December 24th two executive Chefs from the Pattaya Marriot embarked the crew boat for a trip to the DDG-97 anchored offshore. They went there to provide a different kind of Christmas dinner for the crew on duty.



The two chefs went to the Galley and started to prepare a great Thai meal for them. Tom Yum Gung (spicy shrimp soup), Lab Moo (spicy pork salad), and Green Chicken Curry (Penang Chicken Curry) was served with great Thai jasmine fragrant rice. The two duty chefs worked hand-in-hand with the visiting chefs and in no time the meal was ready to be served. Around 1700 it was time for dinner and many were already lining up to be served by the two visiting chefs and the crew enjoyed the food—many came for seconds as well.

Prior to departing, the Chefs presented the CS on board with certificate of participating in the cooking and a cookbook with detailed info on the meals prepared.

The Supply Officer LT John J. Renquist presented the two chefs in return with a signed picture of the ship and a ball cap to both of them. Around 1900 we boarded the crew boat for our long journey back home with the satisfaction that we left a lasting memory with the guys onboard for this special day.

Last COMSERV for the year by USS Halsey (DDG-97) ([photos](#))



Officers and crew alike embarked on the crew bus for a COMSERV at the Ban Banglamung School near Leamchabang. The sailors arrived around 9:30, and the children were eagerly awaiting the group. Presents were given to the school children and the sailors played games with kids: including skateboarding and riding around on scooter. It did not take long and the sailors and children became friends and enjoyed the event. The highlights of the day were a basketball game between officers and the crew.

Then at 11 am we presented the items to the school and the Head master received a Ball Cap and Picture from the XO CDR Ken Athans, USN. Done with this the group moved to the canteen and all enjoyed the same traditional Thai lunch. The Ship's crew shared their box lunches with the kids. Then, as a thank-you from the school, the Kindergarten kids presented the sailors with their "Thanks you" show, which was indeed outstanding.

(The time came and we said good bye to each other, the crew boarded the bus for the trip back home. Thank you USS Halsey DDG-97).