



Navy League of the United States Siam Council, Thailand

Submarine and Submarine Tender Visit Thailand

Executive Summary:

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-718), a fast-attack submarine, and the USS Emory S. Land (AS-39), a submarine tender. 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.



Reception for Our Sailors - [pics]



On Sunday, July 29th, Navy League Siam organized a reception to welcome all crews from the USS Buffalo and USS Emory S. Land to the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand. The event was held at Dicey Reilly's, which is an Irish Pub at the Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa. The good folks at Dicey Reilly's and the Navy League provided free food and drinks. The Royal Thai Navy from Frigate Squadron Two in Sattahip was kind enough to join this event as well. The Commanding Officers and Executive Officers from both ships were present, as well as the Emory S. Land's Command Master Chief and the Buffalo's Chief of the Boat (aka the COB). Rear Admiral Paitoon Prasopsin, Commanding Officer of Frigate Squadron Two, presided over the reception. Plaques were exchanged to recognize outstanding sailors to include:

- HT3 Haas - Blue Jacket of the Quarter (3rd Quarter)
- ET3 Quan - Junior Sailor of the Quarter (2nd Quarter)
- MM2 Phillips - Junior Sailor of the Quarter (3rd Quarter)

These sailors each received a certificate from the Navy League, a meal voucher for the Marriott Resort & Spa, a Navy League Siam Council coin, and a special beer glass from the Navy

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League Siam's President, Peter Thorand. It was an exciting party that carried on well into the evening. Thank you to the Marriott for sponsoring.

The Inner Workings of a Submarine and a Tender- [pics]

Navy League Siam Members were given a special tour of the two visiting Navy ships: the USS Buffalo (SSN 715) and the USS Emory S. Land (AS-39). The executive officer of the Buffalo was kind enough to provide a phenomenal tour of the boat. Navy Leaguers who had never been on a submarine before were surprised how every nook and cranny of the boat was utilized to store just about everything. It is no wonder that submariners are dedicated and unique sailors who can operate in such a challenging environment.



After the visit to the USS Buffalo, Navy League Siam members were given a tour of the USS Emory S. Land, which is one of the only two sub tenders in the US Navy. The amount of maintenance that this ship can do at sea is amazing. The well-trained sailors aboard the Emory S. Land are able to perform even the most complex of tasks to ensure submarine readiness. The Navy Leaguers were given a very informative and interesting two hour walking tour. A huge thanks goes out to all the men and women of the US Navy. We hope they enjoyed their visit to Thailand.

Marriott Chefs onboard the Buffalo- [pics]

Many visitors to Thailand enjoy learning about the exotic cuisine, and sailors are no exception. To satisfy adventurous taste buds, Navy League Siam organized a Thai cooking course onboard the USS Buffalo for the boat's culinary specialists.

The participating sailors included:

- CSC Kevin Bower
- CS1 Jason Hennecy
- CS1 Cory Sridathong (who is Thai-American)
- CS2 John Butler
- CS2 Ryan Bertrand
- CS3 Samuel Lewis
- CS3 Michael Mathison
- CSSN Kekoa Ulep

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Five-star Thai chef, Miss Phanita Salapirom, as well as Demi Chef de Partie, Mr. Boonma Intaraksam arrived on the pier at 9am in the morning, where they were welcomed by the boat's skipper. While the chefs were not accustomed to cooking on a submarine, the Culinary Specialists made them feel at home.

In the galley, the Marriott chefs helped the sailors prepare the following meals:

- Larb Thai (Chicken Salad with Mint)
- Tom Yum Goong (Hot and Sour Prawn Soup)
- Panaeng Nuae (Beef in Panaeng Curry)
- Khao Suay (Steamed Jasmine Rice)

Around 11am, the dishes were completed just in time for chow. Many of the officers, chiefs, and crewmembers on duty enjoyed the Thai dishes. A local Thai television crew came and interviewed some of the participants of this exercise. The Thai chefs presented each Culinary Specialist with a certificate as well as some details on the ingredients. Navy League Siam hopes that the sailors of the USS Buffalo will have some excellent Thai meals during their long underways. Rear Admiral Paitoon Prasopsin, Commanding Officer of the Royal Thai Navy's Frigate Squadron Two, came onboard and mentioned that the interaction between our two great nations was something unique and inspiring.



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

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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 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 Robertson from the Emory S. Land, as well as the Commanding officers and Executive Officers for supporting this unique COMSERV project.

AS-39 and RTN Frigate Squadron Two COMSERV - [pics]



The crew of the USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) and RTN Frigate Squadron Two teamed up to conduct a joint COMSERV project at the Child Development Center in Huay Yai district. Upon arrival, the sailors introduced themselves to the children and staff of the center, and then they commenced work. The first project was to remove a large plastic water tank from a fish pond. Two Thai and two US sailors quickly used their brains and brawn to get the big tank out of the pond. Meanwhile, another group of sailors helped prepare a garden to grow nutritious

vegetables for the children to eat. This is probably not what the sailors signed up for in the Navy, but it goes to show the versatility and adaptability of people who serve.

Finally, it was time for lunch, and the sailors had the opportunity to eat with the children. A number of great friendships were made despite the language barrier. The monks from the local temple were so appreciative that they came and gave a blessing to these helpful sailors. This is a great example of how sailors from different countries and cultures can team up to make a difference. Bravo Zulu!



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