NAVNEWS

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USS Chancellorsville pulls in to China

By Journalist 1st Class Scott Mishley, USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Public Affairs, aboard USS Chancellorsville

QINGDAO, China (NNS) — The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) pulled in to Qingdao, People's Republic of China (PRC), on Aug. 2 for a three-day port call. Chancellorsville, a member of the Navy's forward-deployed forces operating out of Yokosuka, Japan, is the first U.S. Navy vessel to visit the PRC, other than Hong Kong, since USS Vandegrift (FFG 48) made a port call to Shanghai in December 1998.

With more than 40 nations in the Asian/Pacific theater, part of the U.S. Pacific Command's mission is to help sustain positive relations with other countries through cooperative peacetime engagements. Routinely scheduled port calls throughout the Western Pacific nations can be among the most effective means to build and continue these relations.

"It's one of the most important jobs the Navy is doing this week," said Capt. Gordon Dorsey, Chancellorsville's commanding officer. "Just one of the things this port visit will do is help us meet our goal of regional stability with other navies and other countries in the region."

Chancellorsville's visit is overlapping with a visit to the PRC by Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, the commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, who is making stops in Beijing and Qingdao.

Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, Admiral Thomas B. Fargo (far right) addresses the Sailors of the People's Liberation Army (Navy) and the guided missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) with the assistance of an interpreter. Various media and distinguished visitors were assembled for the arrival of Chancellorsville in Qingdao, China.
U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Lena Gonzalez

"We feel this visit is a particularly important stop in our nations' bilateral relationship," said Fargo, as he addressed the Sailors of the People's Liberation Army (Navy) and Chancellorsville, as well as assembled guests and media. "Our navy-to-navy relationships are important to the trust and understanding of our two countries. We look forward to the success of this port visit."

Rear Adm. Timothy Keating, commander, Battle Force 7th Fleet, was also in Qingdao, embarked aboard Chancellorsville. Informal discussions, visits and tours took place between officials from the U.S. and Chinese navies.

But it's the 350 men and women who make up the crew of Chancellorsville that were the most visible of the Navy's ambassadors. While in Qingdao, a main port for international trade in China, Sailors had the chance to travel the area and meet the people of the PRC.

"They couldn't have picked a better ship or crew," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate(SW) Charles Gibb, the ship's command master chief, and native of Lomax, Ill. "We have a very talented and highly trained group of enlisted Sailors. I think it's a big event for the people of China and the crew of the ship. I think they are going to make a great impression."

According to Lt. j.g. Chris Mandernach, Chancelorsville's Undersea Warfare officer, the crew has been anxious to go to China.

"It is an opportunity to

*See **China**, page 5*

MCPON joins congresswoman aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt

By Journalist Seaman William Price, USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, At Sea (NNS) — The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Master Chief Machinist's Mate(SS/SW/AW) James L. Herdt (MCPON), visited USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) recently while the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier was performing flight operations off the coast of Virginia. Herdt had with him his childhood friend, Rep. Barbara Cubin of Wyoming.

"I wanted to show her the world's finest Navy and the world's finest war ship. I wanted to bring her to Theodore Roosevelt," said Herdt, a 33-year Navy veteran.

Herdt says the TR holds a special place in his heart. He served as command master chief (CMC) on board TR during his last sea tour.

The former CMC and Cubin each addressed the rest of the crew on a special edition of the "Bully Big Stick Show," TR's televised version of "Captain's Call."

Topics discussed by MCPON ranged from warfare qualifications to retention, while Cubin discussed the impact of correspondence with your representative and her thoughts about TR and her crew.

"Getting in touch with your congressman does have an effect," Cubin said. "If I don't know what it is you need, or what it is you want, I can't represent that," said the three-term congresswoman.

Cubin went on to describe her visit on board the "Big Stick."

"It's overwhelming," Cubin exclaimed. "I had no idea I'd be so impressed with the enlisted crew. The quality of the men and women is impressive. The equipment is also impressive, but not as much as the people who operate it. I wish every congressman could see what I've seen. I hope you continue

*See **MCPON**, pg. 3*

Making the save in Brunei

Gas Turbine Electrician 3rd Class Ou Saetern makes a save as a group of Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) play a group of military men from Brunei. Reuben James is in Brueni for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2000. CARAT 2000 is an annual series of bilateral training exercises between U.S. Naval Forces and Southeast Asian navies designed to promote interoperability.
U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Spike Call

Physical security jobs available

By Lt. j.g. Eric Petersen, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — The Navy is in search of motivated, safety-conscience Sailors.

"We are looking for hard chargers to be a part of our law enforcement teams," said Personnelman 1st Class (FMF) Nestor Francisco, physical security detailer at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn.

The physical security naval enlisted classification (NEC) 9545 is open to all E-6s and below, except hospital corpsmen and dental technicians.

Physical security specialists are stationed around the world, as well as at all naval installations stateside. The majority of the overseas activities are Type 3 (sea duty for rotation purposes), so a Sailor can begin, complete or continue sea duty in this program. Volunteers are needed now for assignment to Puerto Rico and Europe.

Physical security specialists are not merely gate guards. Sailors can expect to be involved in almost every facet of law enforcement, including traffic accident investigation, riot control, activity and installation patrol, domestic disturbances, traffic control and criminal suspect search, apprehension and arrest. Physical security is almost identical with the master-at-arms (MA) rating, but is only

*See **Physical**, pg. 4*

Navy bids farewell to USS L. Mendel Rivers

By Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — After more than 25 years of service to the nation, the Navy and the Submarine Force, the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS L. Mendel Rivers (SSN 686) was honored July 28 during inactivation ceremonies at Naval Station Norfolk's Pier 22.

"A good ship is hard to put down and the Rivers is the best; made that way by the efforts of past and present crews," said Cmdr. David A. Portner, commanding officer of Rivers, during his opening remarks.

Built by the Newport News Shipyard and Drydock Company, Rivers was commissioned Feb. 1, 1975. It was the second-to-last of the Sturgeon-class submarines commissioned and is the last of the class to be inactivated.

The ship was named for the South Carolina congressman who served as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in the 89th, 90th and 91st Congresses. Congressman Rivers was an outspoken advocate of nuclear propulsion for submarines and aircraft carriers.

Commissioning commanding officer, retired Capt. Roderick Wolfe, said that L. Mendel Rivers, the man, was a staunch supporter of the Navy, and that "we need more people like him today."

Captain Frank M. Drennan, Submarine Squadron 6 commander, commented on the number of past crewmembers and commanding officers in attendance.

"The camaraderie and spirit of the LMR is demonstrated by everyone here who's been part of the crew," Drennan said. "LMR has had the perfect match of machine, man, leadership and spirit throughout three decades."

From the time of its commissioning, Rivers has played a substantial role in protecting the peace throughout the Cold War and has completed two Arctic deployments, eight North Atlantic deployments and eight Mediterranean deployments.

Admiral Richard W. Mies, commander in chief, U.S. Strategic Command, was the principle speaker at the event. Mies was River's engineering officer in 1975. He spoke about the commitment made by Mrs. Margaret Rivers Eastman and Mrs. Marion Rivers Cato. The two women are the daughters of the late Congressman Rivers and are the ship's sponsors.

"The whole Rivers family has given us a special feeling," Mies said to the attending audience. "It's not like we're driving a Navy ship, but as though we are driving their ship."

Rivers and its crew will depart Norfolk for the last time in September 2000 en route to decommissioning at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Wash., later this fall.

More information about the Atlantic Submarine Force can be found at www.sublant.navy.mil.

***MCPON**, con't. from pg. 2*

to bring them on board so everyone could see how secure we are in the hands of all of you."

The warfare qualifications Sailors earn on board ships are a sign of how the Navy is keeping the nation secure. Herdt, who has three warfare pins, says it is a readiness issue to prepare Sailors for combat.

"We want to put the individuals in the right position to say 'I know everything about this area (warfare qualifications). I belong to that community,'" said the MCPON.

When focusing on retention, the MCPON said the Navy could make a Sailor's life perfect at sea. "We have to involve the spouse," Herdt said. "If we don't, it just won't work."

Herdt mentioned that when he first joined the Navy, around 20 percent of the Sailors were married. "Now, there are close to 70 percent."

Since there are more spouses out there today, Herdt says they hold the key to the retention numbers.

The MCPON has proposed three steps to the fleet. The first step is to involve the spouse in the retention interviews. "Now, when they go home, they both can make a sound decision," MCPON said. "If the Sailor decides to get out, that's fine. At least they made a sound decision."

Step two is to bring the spouse to meet with the career counselors and chiefs when making decisions on orders.

"One of the determining factors of relocation is based on where the spouse wants to go," the MCPON explained.

The third step is to do spouse indoctrination, like the indoctrination class offered to Sailors reporting on board TR.

"If we do these three things, we would raise retention 10 percent overnight," said Herdt.

The leading petty officer for security, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Cecilia Sifuentes of Bayard, N.M., agrees with MCPON's proposed plan.

"We need to get the spouses involved," Sifuentes said. "It won't effect me being single, but as a supervisor, I think it will keep more married couples together and improve retention."

Cubin also added Congress' commitment to rebuilding the military, "making sure you have everything you need to be the best at your job, is their goal."

"Both Republicans and Democrats alike want to get the military funded to the level it needs to be funded to," Cubin said. "I personally think about the (spouses) and children left at home. With the funding, you can know that you have daycare for your children, and things are going well at home. The quality of life issue is my personal goal, along with the other congressmen."

Before heading back to Washington, D.C., Herdt left TR Sailors with one more thought. "You are an essential element to the finest Navy the world has ever seen."

More information about USS Theodore Roosevelt and other Atlantic Fleet carriers can be found at www.airlant.navy.mil/Carriersbar.htm.

USS Harry S. Truman Battle Group to conduct COMPTUEX at Vieques

By 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — Ships of the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) Carrier Battle Group will utilize the Outer Ranges in the Puerto Rican Operating Area and the Vieques Inner Range to conduct their Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX) this month.

COMPTUEX events comprise intermediate level combat training for the battle group and certify the carrier and its embarked air wing for "blue water" operations. Successful completion of COMPTUEX is a prerequisite for the battle group's upcoming Joint Task Force Exercise in the fall. It will include ship-to-shore gunnery as well as air combat maneuvers.

In accordance with presidential directives, all training on Vieques will utilize inert (non-explosive) ordnance.

Vieques is the only place where the Atlantic Fleet can get the combined arms battle group training that best prepares Sailors and Marines for the situations they will likely encounter while forward deployed. Of particular importance is the ability to conduct live naval surface fire support (NSFS) training, live fire air-to-ground training under tactical conditions and combined arms training conducted in the vicinity of actual combat troops.

The USS George Washington (CVN 73) Battle Group recently completed essential training at Vieques and is now in the Mediterranean, but they did not receive all of the training the Navy would have preferred. Ships did not undergo live NSFS training and there was no live fire training of any kind conducted on Vieques. Without Vieques and the use of live fire, the combat readiness of U.S naval forces is diminished.

Cornerstone

During CORNERSTONE Phase II sponsored by U.S. Naval Forces Europe Command, U.S. Navy mobile construction battalion (Seabees) members work with Estonian military units to complete humanitarian construction projects. The task before this joint crew is to put into place a Russian steel girder-type bridge. While the bridge was being sandblasted and painted, Photographer's Mate 1st Class Kenneth Earnshaw of NMCB 24 and a Lithuanian soldier create the forms that will be used to build the bridge embankments.
U.S. Navy photo

***Physical**, con't. from pg. 2*

temporary in nature. Physical security is also one of the easiest ways to convert to MA, due to the similarities in the training.

The training for assignment as a physical security specialist takes place at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. While attending the six-week joint service school, Sailors are taught various law enforcement techniques, ranging from weapons handling to driving skills to crowd control.

"It's just like a police academy," said Francisco.

Upon graduation, Sailors earn the 9545 NEC, and are sent to their physical security specialist assignments.

"These billets present a great alternative shore duty for Sailors," remarked Lt. Cmdr. Will Kronzer, head of shore special programs at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn. He added that the law enforcement training that they receive would also be a very marketable skill.

Eligible Sailors interested in a physical security billet must request permission from their rating detailer to be released to shore special programs.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, go to the physical security web site at www.bupers.navy.mil.

Sailors who are interested in an assignment in law enforcement should talk to their command career counselor, or contact the physical security detailers at DSN 882-3863, or commercial (901) 874-3863.

***China**, con't. from pg. 1*

see a part of the world that would be otherwise impossible," said Mandernach, from Moose Lake, Minn. "That naturally brings excitement and anticipation. And it isn't every day that your ship is the backdrop for admirals and senators, or that CNN pays you a visit."

Fire Controlman 2nd Class(SW) Adam Upgraft, from the ship's Weapons Department, agreed with Mandernach.

"We're going to see things that not many people get to see," said the 24-year-old Upgraft, a native of Lawton, Okla. "And I think it's a good friendly gesture. (The people of the PRC) want to get to know us and we want to get to know them. I'm also looking forward to experiencing their culture and seeing the inside of a Chinese ship."

Through mutual cooperation between Chancellorsville's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), Chancellorsville and various Chinese vessels were open for tours during the port call. Sporting events between the two countries, as well as tours of Qingdao, and an overnight trip to the Great Wall of China and Tiananmen Square were also planned.

"I'm looking forward to seeing everything, especially the Great Wall and touring a Chinese warship," said 26-year-old Gunner's Mate 3rd Class(SW) Michael Tarr, from South El Monte, Calif., also assigned to Chancellorsville's Weapons Department. "It will also be very interesting to see the peoples' reactions to us. I know the crew is looking forward to this port visit."

It's not only the junior Sailors who are curious about visiting the PRC. Even "old salts" like Chief Operations Specialist(SW) Paul Agey, from Chancellorsville's operations and deck divisions, is preparing to see a new port.

"I never thought I'd see the place," said Agey, a Wall Township, N.J., native, who has traveled around the world with the Navy for 22 years. "I came in during the Cold War when we were not real good friends (with China). But things change and I'm really looking forward to meeting the people on a personal and individual level."

It's port calls like these that help Sailors see the world while at the same time keep peacetime relations between the U.S. and other nations productive.

"This is a situation where U.S. Sailors have the opportunity to directly create and maintain mutual understanding and respect with another nation," said Dorsey. "I am very proud that Chancellorsville made this trip. I think the men and women serving in this ship are representative of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed forces."

Chancellorsville is scheduled to return to its homeport in Yokosuka after departing Qingdao. More information about Chancellorsville can be found at www.salts.navy.mil/chancellorsville/index.html.

Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visits Sailors and Marines aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and Camp Pendelton, Calif.;
- The city of Portsmouth, Va., honors USS Nicholson (DD 982) Sailors by naming a day for them;
- Marines aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4) make sure gear is properly stowed for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise Strong Angel;
- USS Forrestal (CV 59) veterans remember the worst shipboard fire in naval history.

Compiled on tape #2000-33, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: Aug. 13, 1777

The first known use of mine warfare in the U.S. Navy was employed. An American inventor, David Bushnell, created an explosive device consisting of a line of contact mines strung together by cables. This device was used against HMS Cerberus off the coast of New London, Conn.

A British "prize crew" in a captured schooner spotted the mines on Cerberus and hauled them away. The mines exploded anyway, destroying the schooner and killing its crew. Cerberus was undamaged.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at www.history.navy.mil for more information about naval history.

Submarine Centennial history: Aug. 13, 1944

USS Flier (SS 250) struck a mine as it transited the Balabac Strait in the Philippines and sank. Thirteen crewmembers were able to escape and made it to shore. Friendly natives guided them to a "coast watcher" who arranged for them to be picked up by USS Redfin (SS 272).

A total of 78 men from USS Flier were lost.

The sub is credited with sinking 10,380 tons of Japanese shipping and was awarded one battle star for its single war patrol.

For additional Centennial information and events, visit the Navy's home page at www.navy.mil and click on the "Submarine Centennial" button.

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