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Bonhomme Richard ARG Arrives in Phuket for Port Call

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Joseph Seavey, Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group Public Affairs

PHUKET, Thailand – The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), the flagship for the Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), arrived in Phuket, Thailand Oct. 29 for a scheduled port visit.

The visit comes after Bonhomme Richard’s participation in Marine Exercise (MAREX) 2009, a multilateral training exercise with the Timor-Leste military.

Sailors and Marines from Bonhomme Richard and the embarked 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) are scheduled to participate in several community service projects during the port visit.

Bonhomme Richard ARG and 11th MEU volunteers will work alongside Sailors from USS Ingraham (FFG 61) for the three community service projects to paint the Baan Ao Nam, Baan Sai Nam and the Phuket Special Schools.

“I think that it’s going to be a good thing for us and for the Navy to show the Thai people that we’re there and if they need our help we’re there to help them with whatever they need,” said Religious Program Specialist 1st Class (SW) Thai Sybounheuan.

The Bonhomme Richard ARG is transiting the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and reports to the Commander, Amphibious Force 7th Fleet, Rear Adm. Richard Landolt, who is headquartered in Okinawa, Japan.

For more ARG news visit www.navy.mil and www.cpr7.navy.mil.