

# AROUND THE ISLAND

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sailors, Marines Visit Malaysian Children's Home (Page 4)

## NAVY UNIFORM CHANGES

Changes Announced for Dress Uniforms (Page 5)

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

See the Winning Photos from Malaysia Port Visit (Page 8)

## Fleet Forces Launches Breathalyzer Beta Test



From U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs

**NORFOLK** -- U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) launched a beta test here May 23, to obtain Fleet feedback that will help determine the most effective approach for implementation of a Navy-wide alcohol breathalyzer program.

The 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative, announced by the Secretary of the Navy in March, outlined the Navy-wide breathalyzer program as a way to increase Fleet alcohol education and awareness and to provide commanders with another tool to ensure the health and safety of Sailors by identifying potential alcohol abuse.

USFF has selected 13 sea and shore commands to participate in the beta test, which runs from May 24 through Sept. 30. All data collected will be consolidated under a summary recommendation and forwarded to the office of the Navy's Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) to be considered for implementation into the final policy.

"This beta test will be used to identify, develop and make recommendations on specific processes, procedures, and policies to effectively implement the use of alcohol breathalyzers in the Navy," said USFF Fleet Master Chief Mike Stevens, who's working in coordination with USFF's Breathalyzer Implementation Team on the beta test. "By obtaining feedback from

the Fleet, we're ensuring the final policy will be fully executable and will serve as a tool that benefits individual organizations and Sailors."

USFF's breathalyzer implementation team met with the leadership of all 13 commands involved in the beta test today to issue equipment, provide training and issue specific guidance. Participating commands will provide detailed feedback to the implementation team throughout the test.

Under the Navy program, the breathalyzer will be used primarily as an education and prevention tool. Breathalyzer results alone will not be used as the sole evidentiary basis for punitive or adverse administrative action.

Participating commands include, USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77); USS Kearsarge (LHD 3); USS Montpelier (SSN 765); USNS Apache (T-ATF-172); Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 2; Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 4; the staff of Commander, Submarine Forces Atlantic; Navy Expeditionary Intelligence Command, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit (EODTEU) 2; Navy Information Operations Command, Norfolk; Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic; Navy Operational Support Center, Norfolk; and the USFF staff.

## AROUND THE ISLAND

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### ON THE COVER:

**AZ3 Matthew Francis shovels mud out of a drainage trench during a community service project at the Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community children's home in Kota Kinabalu.**  
[Photo by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg]

## Makin Island Wraps Up Malaysia Port Visit

By MCCS (SW/AW) Donnie Ryan, Public Affairs Officer

The amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) is underway once again following a four-day port visit to Sepangar, Malaysia, May 18-21.

The port visit served not only as a break for the crew after more than four months of conducting maritime security operations in the U.S. 5th fleet area of responsibility, but also as part of the U.S. Navy's ongoing commitment to theater security cooperation and partnership with allied navies to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region.

More than 2,000 Makin Island Sailors and Marines from the embarked 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit experienced the Malaysian culture, took part in a community service project and participated in numerous Morale, Welfare and Recreation tours.

"Our port visit to Malaysia was both rewarding and relaxing," said Capt. Cedric Pringle, Makin Island's commanding officer. "Our rewards were tied to the numerous engagement opportunities with one of our strongest partners in the Southeast Asia region."

Pringle said tours of Makin Island for more than 100 Malaysian officers and enlisted personnel were reciprocated with Makin Island officers touring the Malaysian submarine Scorpene SS. A golf tournament and a soccer match were also highlights of the visit.

"Additionally, relaxation for more than 2,000 Sailors and Marines was available through a wide variety of activities available in Kota Kinabalu which ranged from diving to shopping to mountain climbing," said Pringle. "Overall, this was one of our most fulfilling port visits to date."

On a broader note, Pringle also acknowledged the value of Makin Island's visit to U.S. Pacific Command theater-level operations.

"Our engagement with the Royal Malaysian Navy increases opportunities for other large U.S. ships to visit Kota Kinnabalu. The city is perfectly located for westbound or eastbound deployers to take advantage of additional training opportunities and well-deserved liberty," said Pringle. "We are proud to work with the Royal Malaysian Navy and I hope they enjoyed visiting our ship as much as we enjoyed visiting their country."

During the port visit, 40 Sailors and Marines also took part in a community service project at Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community children's home in Kota Kinabalu, May 19.



A view of Kota Kinabalu as seen from an observation deck overlooking the city. [Photo by MC1(AW) Andrew Wiskow]

"I went in order to provide manpower and help to those in need, but walked away feeling like I was the one who truly benefited," said Cmdr. Dwight Horn, Makin Island's command chaplain who organized the project. "I was so moved to be at this ministry that reaches out to those who otherwise would not have a home and who would be left on the streets."

Horn said there were two types of work done during the project. The first was interaction with the children that consisted of games, drawing, songs and basic loving interaction. The second part was clearing a drainage ditch of sediment that had built up from erosion.

"I was profoundly humbled when I tried to provide compassion

to the leaders of this organization, assuming that they would have numerous needs and difficult challenges, only to be told that they were entirely content in their faith," added Horn. "Most Americans would have complained endlessly at the challenges and conditions but these people were content to love, unbelievable; I will forever be moved."

Horn said that the organization was extremely thankful for the arduous work performed by the group of Sailor and Marine volunteers.

"To see the Marines and Sailors loving the children and making their lives better in those moments was electric," said Horn. "To see the incredible difficult work that was done, being a part of it first hand, and then to see the completion of that project was extremely gratifying."

Sailors and Marines who participated in the project said they also found it to be rewarding.

"The highlight of the event for me was seeing a very young girl's interaction with a Marine," said Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Matthew G. Alexander, a Makin Island Sailor who participated in the community service project. "She had taken his cover and his blouse and put it on and continued to dance and singing with the Marine. Seeing the happiness in the young child was a great reward."

Alexander said his role in the project was helping to clear mud, weeds and other debris from a drainage ditch on the property that helps to prevent flooding during the rainy season.

"I am constantly looking for opportunities to help those that are less fortunate because it was not too long ago where I was in a similar position," said Alexander. "I just feel like I need to give back to the world."



Sgt. Orelous Hall, assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, plays a game of "Duck, Duck, Goose" with children during a community service project at the Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community children's home in Kota Kinabalu. [Photo by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg]

## Sailors, Marines Visit Malaysian Children's Home

By MC2 (SW/AW) Alan Gragg, Around the Island Staff

Sailors and Marines deployed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) volunteered their labor and spent time with children at the Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community children's home in Kota Kinabalu, May 19.

A group of Makin Island Sailors, along with Marines assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), interacted with children in the home and cleaned out a drainage trench on the property.

"The kids are always very excited to have the U.S. Navy come here," said Audra Keyworth, the Bukit Harapan administrator. "We were also happy to host the U.S. Marine Corps too."

"Even though there is a language barrier, the kids always enjoy themselves when [U.S. military members] visit, and the yard work is a big help too," she added.

After briefly greeting the

children, half of the volunteers split away from the group to take on the strenuous task of removing mud out of a drainage trench.

For one of the trench workers, Operations Specialist 3rd Class Byron Reynolds, the event was his first community service project overseas. He said he didn't know what to expect, but was told to wear his Navy Working Uniform because he might get a little dirty.

"It was a laborious time, but it was well worth it," said Reynolds, whose lower body was covered in mud after the project was completed. "If I have a chance to do another event like this, I will."

"I will definitely remember this day for all the hard work we did, but I don't mind putting in the effort because it feels great to help people—and it feels even better to help kids who are less fortunate than us," added Reynolds.

Bukit Harapan provides medical

care, education opportunities and a caring home for handicapped and orphaned children, as well as abused single women.

While the trench work was going on outside, the other half of the group was inside the home playing games with the children.

"First we played 'Duck, Duck, Goose,' then I colored with them, and took pictures with them," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Thao Miller. "I had a really good time and I will definitely try to do something like this again, especially if it involves kids."

To conclude the day, representatives from Makin Island's First Class Petty Officer's Association presented a \$500 donation to Bukit Harapan.

This is the first time Makin Island has visited Malaysia. The ship and its crew, along with the embarked 11th MEU, departed San Diego Nov. 14, 2011 on deployment.

# New Uniform Changes to Include Modifications to Dress Uniforms

By MC1 (SW) David McKee, Around the Island Staff

Changes to Navy uniforms announced May 18 will affect both working and dress uniforms for Sailors.

NAVADMIN 164/12 announced the Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO) approval of a number of changes to uniforms and uniform wear policy that include an improved design of the male E1-E6 Service Dress Blue (SDB) Uniform, incorporating a side zipper on the jumper and a hidden center zipper on the trousers.

"Updating Navy uniforms is part of outfitting the 21st Century Sailor, ensuring our Sailors have practical uniforms they want and that represent our proud naval heritage while reflecting advances in clothing technology and design," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy. The SDB uniform isn't alone in receiving a facelift. The E1-E6 men's and women's Service Dress White (SDW) jumper will incorporate a side zipper, front and rear yoke, Navy blue piping on the flap, and sleeve cuffs and button fasteners.

Makin Island's Electronics Technician 1st Class Nathaniel Roach, an instructor at Training Support Center Great Lakes, said

he had the chance to try on the new uniforms at his previous command.

He said the SDW uniforms return to the style of the uniforms worn during the WWII era, but

"The zipper on the dress blue pants is awesome and still gives the general look of the 13 buttons, but with an easier access to use the head if in a hurry," said Roach. "I wouldn't say the zipper is hidden though, as it was directly in front and there was no flap or anything like that hiding it."

Roach said there may have been additional changes to the dress uniforms after he left Great Lakes, as they were still in the testing phase when he left, but said he thinks Sailors will embrace the new look and improved functionality.

"I loved trying them on and think they will be a big hit," said Roach.

Other updates to Navy professional wear include a contemporary



Changes to dress uniforms and khakis, announced in NAVADMIN 164/12 released May 18, are influenced by designs of the past and modern textile design techniques.

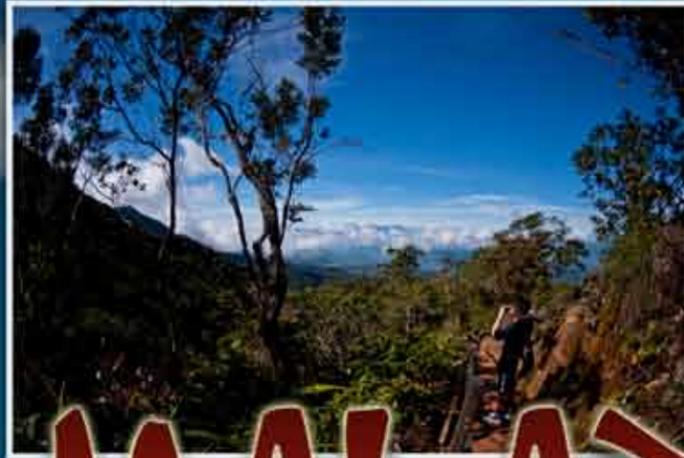
design for service dress khakis, modification to the occasions where flight suites can be worn, the addition of a nameplate on the shoulder pocket flap of the Navy working uniform and the authorization of web belts

they are better because the blue piping does not run when they are washed.

"We are now in a technologically advanced time where we can create fabrics where this is no longer an issue," said Roach. "So in fact we are going back to tradition, with the exception of the zipper."

The rollout of the updated uniforms is scheduled to begin in October 2015 at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, and Fleet availability is expected by October 2018.

Roach said the zipper replaces the buttons functionally, but they remain a decorative nod to Navy heritage.



# MALAYSIAN TOURS

KOTA KINABALU, MALAYSIA



Photos by: EMFN Dimitry Baglay, MC1(SW/AW) Doug Bedford, MCSN Daniel Walls  
Layout and Design MC1(SW/AW) Doug Bedford



# MALAYSIA PHOTO CONTEST



Leisure Category, 1st Place [Photo by SSgt Villas]



Scenic Category, 1st Place [Photo by LCpl Willis]

**First-place winners of the MWR photo contest will be eligible for placement in the cruisebook. MWR will sponsor other contests following upcoming port visits. Look for future MWR announcements for more information.**



Tours Category, 1st Place [Photo by EMFN Baglay]



Tours Category, 2nd Place [Photo by CDR StedjeLarsen]



Leisure Category, 2nd Place [Photo by CDR StedjeLarsen]



Scenic Category, 2nd Place [Photo by GySgt Rauchfuss]



Scenic Category, 3rd Place [Photo by A03 Jefferson]



Tours Category, 3rd Place [Photo by IT2 Spears]

**Congratulations to all the winners!**

**OPINION  
ISLAND**

What are you looking forward to doing in Hong Kong?



**"Trying out new and different types of food and checking out Hong Kong Disneyland."**

*-AMAN Deonte Hall*

**"Meeting my cousin, who lives in Beijing, and will be visiting me and my brother, who is also on the ship, while we're in Hong Kong."**

*-Sgt. Connor Owen*



**"Going on the Cultural Tour and experiencing the sights and sounds of Hong Kong."**

*-EMFN Maria Trnka*



**"Eating real food and talking to my family."**

*-Sgt. Wayne King*



**MKI MWR CORNER  
BINGO!**

**Win Thousands of Dollars!**

*MWR will host BINGO for the crew once again on a date to be determined in June on the Mess Decks.*

*BINGO will also be broadcast from SITE TV on Channel 7.*

*As soon as the date for Bingo is determined, the date for ticket sales will be announced by the Fun Boss. The top prize will most likely be the biggest one yet for this deployment!*

Ticket Prices are as follows.

1 for \$5

2 for \$8

4 for \$16

6 for \$24

8 for \$32

... and so on.

*The more you buy, the more you win!*

**MAKIN ISLAND'S  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SAT. 26 MAY**

Port Call - Duty Section 3

**SUN. 27 MAY**

Port Call - Duty Section 1

**MON. 28 MAY**

Port Call - Duty Section 2

**TUE. 29 MAY**

1900 EAWS Training (Mess Decks)

**WED. 30 MAY**

2000 Latin Dance Instruction (Upper V)

**THUR. 31 MAY**

1400/2000 CPO 365 Phase IIB (CPO Mess)

1900 EAWS Training (Mess Decks)

2000 Trivia Championship (Mess Decks)

**FRI. 1 JUNE**

2000 ESWS Training (Mess Decks)

**SAT. 2 JUNE**

1900 EAWS Training (Mess Decks)

# MENTOR

A

# MILITARY CHILD



**1-ON-1 MENTORING  
1 DAY A WEEK FOR  
1 HOUR TO MAKE  
1 BIG IMPACT**

Operation BIGS is looking for adult volunteers to mentor a military child.

Male and bi-lingual active duty volunteers are especially needed. A small commitment can make a BIG difference to a military child whose parent is deployed or on duty. Get started today!



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