



High-ranking Thai officials pay visit to Lincoln

By MC2 ARIANNE ANDERSON
Penny Press Staff

Thailand military and embassy staff members visited USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) to tour the ship and meet with the crew, Sept. 11.

The visitors included Deputy Chief of Staff, Royal Thai Navy, Vice Adm. Soopakorn Booranadiloak; Royal Thai Navy Foreign Liaison Department Capt. Chonlathis Navanugraha; Col. Joe Corso, U.S. Embassy; Col. Jacques LeBlanc, Canadian Embassy; as well as several other military officials and embassy staff members.

Commander, Carrier Strike Group 9, Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, welcomed the guests.

“Welcome aboard and thank you for coming. It’s an honor to have you here,” Van Buskirk said. “Thailand’s naval forces and those of the United States have many shared traditions.

“Working together with partner nations is critical to ensuring peace and stability in the region. We look forward to our ongoing professional exchanges and the

continued development of our Pacific Rim relationship,” Van Buskirk said.

The distinguished visitors were shown flight operations on Lincoln’s flight deck, a static display of an SH 60 F helicopter from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 2 and an F/A 18 E Super Hornet from the

Kestrels of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 137.

Soopakorn said he enjoyed flight operations and the visit as a whole.

“It’s great to be here,” he said. “It was great to see the aircraft take off and land. I think the visit went very [well].”

Soopakorn also said he would like the Royal Thai Navy and the U.S. Navy to work together in the future.

“I appreciate your time,” he said. “We found it [gave my staff and I] a lot of information and I hope that we can understand your Navy and coordinate in the future.”

The visit was a prelude to Lincoln’s port visit to Thailand, where Lincoln hosted several other distinguished visitors during a banquet and scheduled tours.



Photo by ATAN Ashley Houp

Lt. Robert Serig, assigned to “Kestrels” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 137, gives a group of senior Thai military officials a tour in the hangar bay on board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

Abe Sailors tour Thailand’s capital

By MC3 GEOFFREY LEWIS
Penny Press Staff

Many Sailors on board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) took the opportunity to take a tour offered by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and spent the day seeing the sights of Bangkok, Thailand.

Along the way from the Hard Rock Hotel in Pattaya to Bangkok, Sailors

chatted with their tour guide about the history of Bangkok.

One of the most interesting parts of touring Bangkok was dealing with street vendors, said Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class (SW) Elizabeth Presley of Craig, Mo.

“I could be walking five feet and have 20 people trying to sell me a fan or a hat,” Presley said. “They even bothered me while I was trying

to take a picture of the royal palace, they stuck a fan in front of my lens and everything. It was funny how persistent they were, but I guess that’s just how they are.”

Midway through the tour, Sailors were treated to a buffet-style lunch aboard a floating restaurant where they had a chance to try Thai cui

Thailand Special

BANGKOK

Continued from Page 1

sine.

“The food was pretty good, and the tour guides seemed to think it was funny that we left the ship for a tour and were eating on another boat,” said Senior Chief Navy Counselor (AW/SW) Dena Scott, of Littleton, Colo. “The only problem I had was that the chopsticks we thought were souvenirs apparently weren’t, and the people from the restaurant would get mad whenever we tried to put them in our bags.”

One of the most anticipated stops along this tour was to one of four Gems Galleries. In the gallery, Sailors were able to learn how Thailand’s gem industry began. After a short lesson in gem history, they were given an opportunity to see first-hand how jewelry’s made using precious stones, and were able to look through finished jewelry for sale. Some, like Presley, even took time to lend a hand to shipmates wanting to find just what they were looking for.

“I had a great time at the gallery,” Presley said.



Photo by MC3 Geoffrey Lewis

Lincoln sailors got the chance to see the many fascinating sites and sounds of Bangkok during Lincoln’s port visit.

“I got to look for some jewels for myself, and even helped a few others pick out sets of stones for their loved ones. It was a lot of fun.”

Abe sailor reunites with family while in Thailand

By MC2 ARIANNE ANDERSON
Penny Press Staff

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Sailors relished their port call to Thailand in several ways; some rode elephants, toured the sights, while others took part in the festivities of Pattaya’s Walking Street, but for one Lincoln Sailor the port



Photo by MC2 Arianne Anderson

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Norrandt Sutakul, of Combat Systems Dept., poses with his uncle, Chief Adm. Pravit Srisukwatana of the Royal Thai Navy.

call was a time to reunite with family.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Norrandt Sutakul, of Lincoln’s Combat Systems Department, CS3 Division, born in Bangkok, was able to visit with his uncle, Royal Thai Fleet Commander in Chief Adm. Pravit Srisukwatana.

Sutakul was given a tour of a local Royal Thai Naval Base, Vihama Sien and enjoyed dinner, karaoke and old-fashioned family time.

“I was really surprised to get the call that he wanted to see me,” Sutakul said. “I’m very happy and excited. I haven’t seen him in eight years.”

Sutakul was born in Thailand and moved to the United States when he was six years old, but during his early childhood he spent a lot of time with his uncle.

“He has a daughter my age so we spent a lot of time playing at his house,” Sutakul said. “But, since moving to the states this is only the second time I’ve seen him. It’s a very special experience.”

Sutakul joined the Navy when his grandfather passed away.

“He was a Commander in the Royal Thai

Navy and I wanted to join in honor of him,” he said.

Srisukwatana said the visit was a great experience as well.

“It’s a great feeling,” he said. “I’m very proud of him [Sutakul]. I love the U.S. Navy. Every time a U.S. Navy ship comes to Thailand I feel thankful. Thailand and America have very good relations.”

Srisukwatana said the U.S. Navy has made the Royal Thai Navy better.

“The largest exercise in our area was between the U.S. and the Royal Thai Navy, Cobra Gold Exercise,” he said. “We take what we learn from the U.S. and apply it to our Navy to make it better.”

Sutakul said he loves Thailand, but he’s proud to be a United States Sailor.

“It’s a great place to visit and have fun,” he said. “I’ve kept my roots, but I’m happy where I’m at.”

Sutakul recently reenlisted and plans to apply for the Limited Duty Officer program. He is deployed with Lincoln on its scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Thailand Special

Sailors take time to aid less fortunate at Social Center

BY MC3 QUINN LIFORD
Penny Press Staff

Fifteen Sailors from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) took time from their recent port visit to Pattaya, Thailand, to bring a little joy to children affected by HIV and AIDS at the Camillian Social Center Rayong.

“This has been amazing,” said Yeoman 3rd Class Margaret Ueberlauer, of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 2. “This was truly an eye-opening experience. It feels so good to know that I helped make a small difference.”

The Sailors took the half-day community relations project seriously, but knew when it was time to have some fun. From an in-depth tour of the center to handing out much-appreciated toys, books, games and candy, the volunteers immersed themselves in the world of the care center.

“These kids are so full of joy,” said Senior Chief Gunner’s Mate (SW/AW) Regina Hawley of Lincoln’s Weapons Department. “I feel so blessed to be able to come be a part of this today.”

The Social Center currently is home to 26 children who have been orphaned by HIV and AIDS and several of the children are infected with the diseases themselves. Since the center’s opening in early 1996,



Photo by MC3 Ronald Dallatorre

Yeoman 3rd Class Margret Ueberlauer hands out toys to HIV infected children as part of a Community Relations (COMREL) at the Camilian Center in Pattaya, Thailand.

its tireless staff and volunteers have touched the lives of over 1,291 people affected by HIV and AIDS.

The men, women and children who are cared for at the center receive proper medication, hygiene and nutrition on a daily basis, making all the difference in their quality and length of life.

“The medicine they receive here is a matter of life and death,” said Douglas Paul Baird, a volunteer at the center. “If they can get the medicine, they have a chance to live.

How long they live is varied, but at least this gives them a chance.”

Baird gave the Sailors an in-depth tour of the care center taking them on a small informational tour to the nursery, the medical and dental clinics, the three main treatment areas, and the craft center.

“We are trying to give these children some life skills. Our goal is to make sure they can not only survive out in the world, but that they are happy and well cared for,” said Baird.



Have Questions or Concerns? Contact DC Central @ j:7963/7137

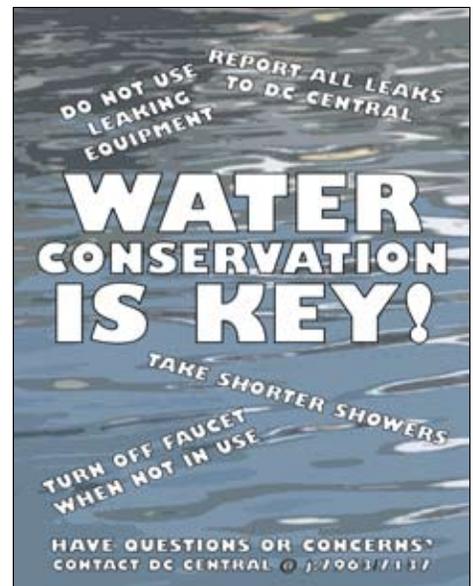




Photo by PATTAN Hoang

AMAN Ana Brooks (left) and UNSN Amber Nlunoz ride an elephant from the Pattaya Elephant Village



Photo by PATTAN Hoang

GNCS (SUNANU) Regina Howley is the son the waves of a free vendor in Bangkok

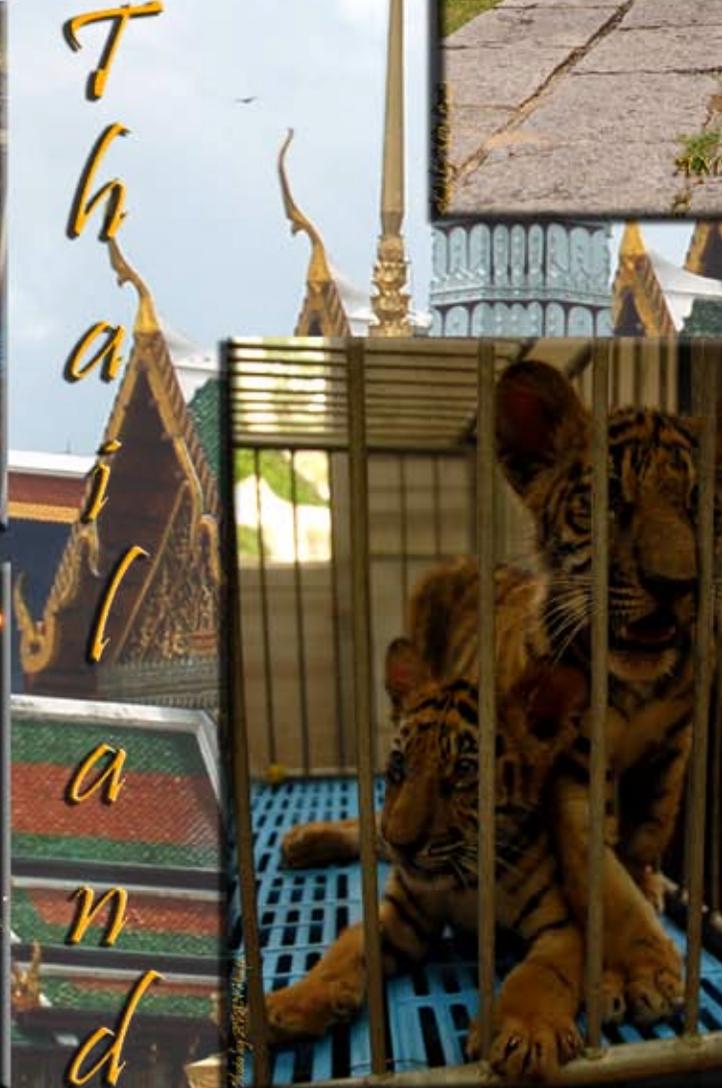


Photo by PATTAN Hoang



Photo by PATTAN Hoang

UNSN Amber Nlunoz feeds a tiger cub at the Suanchoa Tiger Zoo



T
h
a
i
a
n
d



Photo by Moe Swan



21 (A.W) Felix Alberto crosses a bridge during the Thailand Ancient City Tour



SK2 Nancy O'Reilly holds a lemur outside the Hard Rock Hotel

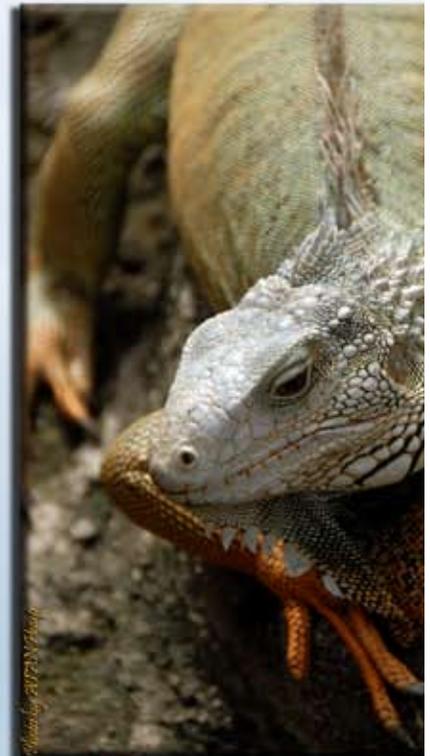


Photo by SK2 Nancy O'Reilly



Photo by SK2 Nancy O'Reilly



Photo by SK2 Nancy O'Reilly



Photo by SK2 Nancy O'Reilly

A
t
a
G
I
a
n
C
e

Thailand Special

Lincoln groups tour replicas of ancient Thai structures

By MC3 GEOFFREY LEWIS
Penny Press Staff

Although most Sailors on board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) spent their liberty time in the local area of Pattaya Beach during the port visit to Thailand, many took the opportunity to tour repli-

cas of the country's ancient cities. history from their tour guide along the way. The tour guide even translated a few useful terms to use among the locals, such as hello and thank you.

While some used the tour as a way to get some time away from the ship it was a great opportunity for Sailors to see just how different the way of life was for ancient Thailand, said Aviation Struc-

(VAQ) 131. "Being able to take pictures of these places was the best. I thought it was a great way to relax and enjoy our last foreign port before we head to Hawaii."

Interacting with the people working at the park, or even exchanging a few words with other visitors, was a great experience for Lincoln Sailors. One of the highlights of the replica tour was the opportunity to try local Thai cuisine, said Storekeeper Seaman Kerri Kienzle, of Dallas.

"The people here are really friendly," Kienzle said. "I really liked seeing all their temples and enjoyed trying their food, too."

The variety of tours was vast, but they all had one stop in common. At the Gems Galleries, Sailors had the chance to learn about how Thailand's gem industry began and were offered the chance to see first-hand how precious stones are set into jewelry. At the Laem Chabang gallery, Sailors got to ride a small roller coaster-style presentation of how gem harvesting has changed over the years as well as the finished products.

"I thought the ride through the gallery was pretty neat," Bailey said. "It's one thing to see a video or slideshow about something, but this show was something else. It was a lot of fun to watch. All the animatronics come to life and see how things used to work."



Photo by MC3 Geoffrey Lewis

Lincoln Sailors got the chance to see replicas of ancient Thai buildings like the one seen here.

cas of the country's ancient cities.

As with many tours, they took a scenic drive through the countryside to their destination. The trip was lengthy, at almost two hours, and Sailors were given a brief description of Thai culture and

tural Mechanic Equipment 2nd Class (AW) Chris Bailey of Boise, Idaho.

"I really liked getting to see all the temples and learning about their culture," said Bailey, who is assigned to the "Lancers" of Electronic Attack Squadron



HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS? CONTACT DC CENTRAL @ 279637137

STORY IDEAS?

The "Penny Press" is YOUR paper! E-mail chambers.sonja@cvn72.navy.mil with any interesting things going on in, or out of your department on land or at sea.

Sincerely,

The Penny Press Staff





Sights of Thailand

All photos by MC2(SW) James R. Evans



Final Thoughts



Shipmates

The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew.



Photo by ATAN Ashley Houp

Lt. j.g. Mike Caffey, of Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Dept., presents Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Dominick Bennett with a certificate of re-enlistment.

Editor's Top 10

Great things about visiting Thailand

10. Smiling faces (for a change).
9. Amazing food.
8. Elephants, monkeys, tigers and lemurs.
7. The chance to do some good for people at ComRels.
6. Unbelievable ocean views.
5. Incredible weather.
4. The buses were surprisingly efficient.
3. Walking the streets.
2. \$1 = 35 baht.
1. Being off the ship!

Penny Press is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the Marine Corps and does not imply endorsement thereby. All articles are subject to editing. Due to a need for timely news stories, there is no guarantee when a particular story will run.



Commanding Officer..... Capt. Patrick D. Hall
 Executive Officer..... Capt. Jeffrey S. Ruth
 Command Master Chief..... CMDCM Eric Schmidt
 Public Affairs Officer..... Lt. Cmdr. Kathleen Sandoz
 Media Dept. LCPO..... MCC(SW/AW) Joel Huval
 Layout and Design..... MC2 Brad Wages
 Webmaster..... MC3 Dennis Irwin
 Staff..... Media Department