



Navy League of the United States Siam Council, Thailand

Cobra Gold 2011

Pattaya, Thailand

Following the completion of the 2011 Cobra Gold Exercise in Thailand, Navy League Siam wanted to ensure that the sailors and marines were able to enjoy some well-deserved liberty in Pattaya and learn more about the unique culture of the region. The ships moored at the Laemchabang Port just north of Pattaya on February 21st, with USS STOCKDALE (DDG-106) arriving first. Navy League Siam was delighted to present the crew with SIM cards, generously donated by True Corporation, so that the sailors could use cell phones while in Thailand at a cost of approximately \$.03/minute.

At 0800 on February 21st, the USS ESSEX (LHD-2) arrived at Laemchabang, and Navy League Siam President, Mr. Peter Thorand, was honored to join the port brief and present the crew with free SIM cards and helpful maps of landmarks and sites in Pattaya. The USS DENVER (LPD-9) moored at 1300 hours, followed by the USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42) at 1500. There were some troubles with the pier services that unfortunately delayed the GERMANTOWN for several hours. However, following the wait, the sailors were presented with twenty-dollar vouchers to the Marriott Resort & Spa in Pattaya, which were very much appreciated by our visiting military personnel.

Navy League Siam was delighted to get involved with three Community Relations (COMRELS) activities to include:

- Assisting the USS ESSEX partake in sporting and teaching activities at the Baan Nohong Chong Ngaw School on February 22nd
- Assisting with logistics for the USS GERMANTOWN to interact with the orphans at the Abundant Life Home on February 22nd
- Assisting the USS DENVER partake in sporting and teaching activities at the Hua Yai School on February 23rd



Navy League Siam was also pleased to host a Chili Cook-Off, where 7 teams were invited to prepare their own special Chili recipes with the help of one of the Marriott's 5-star chefs, Mr. Luis. The Executive Chef at the Marriott, Mr. Seng, tasted each of the chili creations and announced the following winners:

- 1st Place - PHIBRON Team (CS2 Robert Harewood and CS1 Nadine Gonzales)
- 2nd Place - ESSEX Team 2 (CS2 Christopher Saari & CSSN Thomas Nickols)
- 3rd Place – STOCKDALE Team (GMSN Chetan Patel and NC1 Candice Moore)
- 4th Place – US Marine Corps Team 1 (LCPL Brandon Carriere and LCPL Timothy Douglas)



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Every winner was presented with a lovely Crystal Elephant engraved with the Navy League Siam logo, as well as the logo of the sponsor of this event (Marriott Resort & Spa). All the teams also received a certificate from the Marriott's 5-star Chef, a 3-Thai Baht Stamp with their picture beside a Thai Flag, and the aprons they wore during the competition. Free beer was provided by the Navy League to the crowd much to the delight of the spectators at this competition.

Navy League Siam also hosted a golf and dinner event for the visiting sailors and marines, dubbed the Admirals Cup, at the Burapha Golf Course in Pattaya. 48 golfers competed for the four Crystal Trophies from the Navy League. The winners were as follows:

- 1st Place – Mr. Nevarez
- 2nd Place - Mr. Reyes
- 3rd Place – Mr. Buckner
- The fouled anchor award was presented to Mr. Lasey
- The closest to the pin was won by our own member, Mr. Esther



Following the golfing outing, a cocktail reception prior to the dinner put everyone in a friendly mood. The dinner was a 9-course gourmet Thai dinner during which the wine and beer flowed freely. Council President, Peter Thorand, opened the dinner and thanked the visitors and guest of honor, Capt. Tavee - Deputy Commandant of the Royal Thai Marines, for their participation in the event. Many of our members joined the dinner as well including Brian Tully, Peter Klein, Mr. Chong, and Khun Gerard and his wife.

Over the course of dinner, the door prizes were drawn and included: 2 uncut Rubies (29 carat & 20 Carat), 1 uncut Emerald (9 carat mounted as a pendant), sapphire earrings, a turquoise women's ring, dinner reservations at the Marriott Resort & Spa's Garden Café, 1 Voucher for a extended stay at the Anantara Hotel in Bangkok, plus a some umbrellas so participants could stay out of the rain. The trophies were presented later on in the evening, and food was served late into the night. The evening was made possible with help from Marriott Hotel & Spa, along with the tremendous support from the Fun Boss on the USS ESSEX, Mr. Matthew Olszyk.

Navy League Siam would like to say a big "Thank You" to our sponsors, Marriott Resort & Spa, World Gems, Wine Cellar, Nong Apartments, and Easy Kart, for their outstanding support to make these events happen and to **Support our Sea Services**.

Pictures are available [here](#).

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