

NAVAL MEDIA AWARD WINNER

The 76er

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TIP
OF THE
SPEAR



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3 Ronald Reagan Arrives In Busan, South Korea

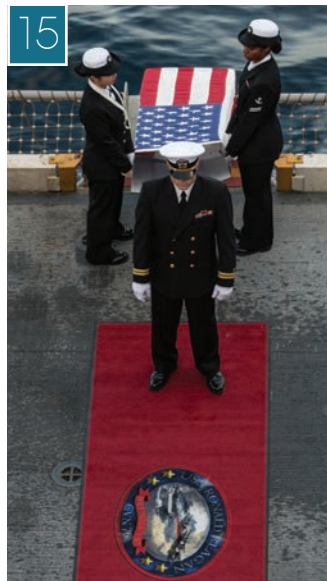
5 Reagan Sailors Visit Orphans in Busan

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15 Burial at Sea

17 Ammo Offload







BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA, 2015



Ronald Reagan Sailors Visit Jinhae Orphanage, Build Alliance

Story By MC3 Nathan Burke

Forty-two Sailors from the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) traveled to Changwon City to visit the Jinhae Hope Children Home (JHCH) during a good will port visit to Busan, Republic of Korea, Oct. 31.

The visit was highlighted by a hike along Jinhae Coastal Road and up Jinhae Tower Mountain bringing together Sailors from the U.S. and Republic of Korea navies, JHCH children, social workers and local volunteers.

"We love having you here," said David Kyungmin Lee, director of Jinhae Hope Children Home.

Lee stressed his appreciation for the long lasting relationship between the U.S. Navy and the Jinhae Hope Children Home, which was founded by his grandfather, Yak Shin Lee.

"The U.S. Navy and the orphanage has had a great relationship for 69 years," said Lee. "We like to remember your support, especially during the Korean War, when it was very difficult. The U.S. Navy came to help us with food, clothing and shelter."

The hike allowed Sailors the opportunity to interact with JHCH children, which included an overlook of the surrounding area, singing, hula hooping, a martial arts demonstration, and a gift exchange.

"The best part of the visit was seeing the smiles on the children's faces," said Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Brandon Reed, from Bothell, Washington. "I love seeing the kids smiling, happy and playing and running around."

JHCH, dedicated to protecting, raising and mentoring children to grow up as good members of society supports more than 70 children and 20 staff members. The JHCH children range in age from toddlers to college students.

"I came for the interaction with the kids," said Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Walter Castillo, from Los Angeles. "It gets to me. To be so young and to have so little, but yet there's hope because there is someone who cares and is helping. Someone who said 'we are going to take you, we are going to raise you'."

Castillo's talent of shaping balloons was a hit with the JHCH children, which according to him was a skill he learned 20 years ago during his service in the Navy and one he has used at similar community relation events throughout his career.

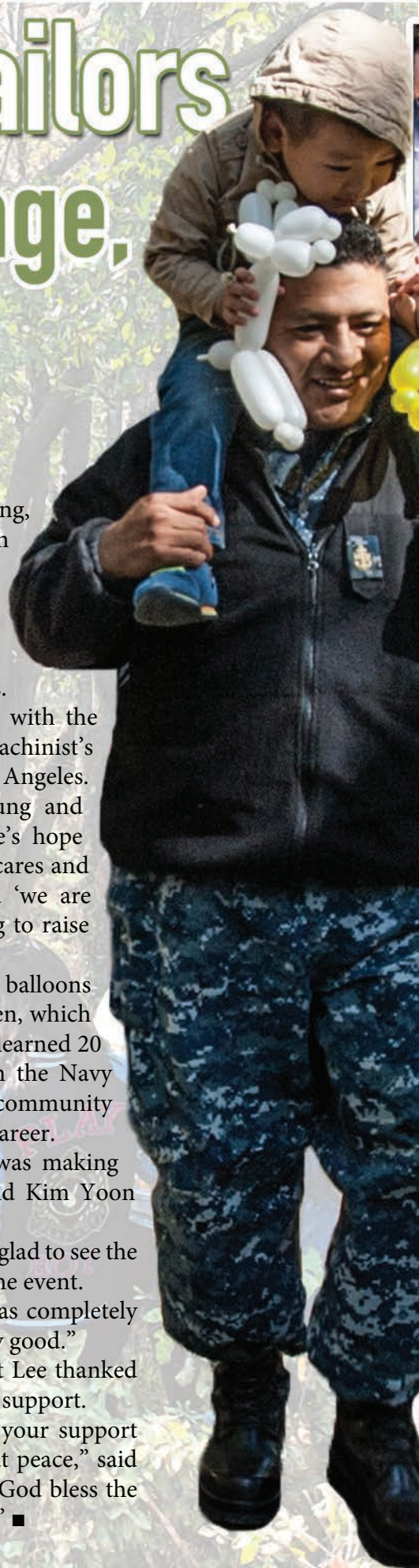
"My favorite part of today was making animals with the balloons," said Kim Yoon Jin, a child from JHCH.

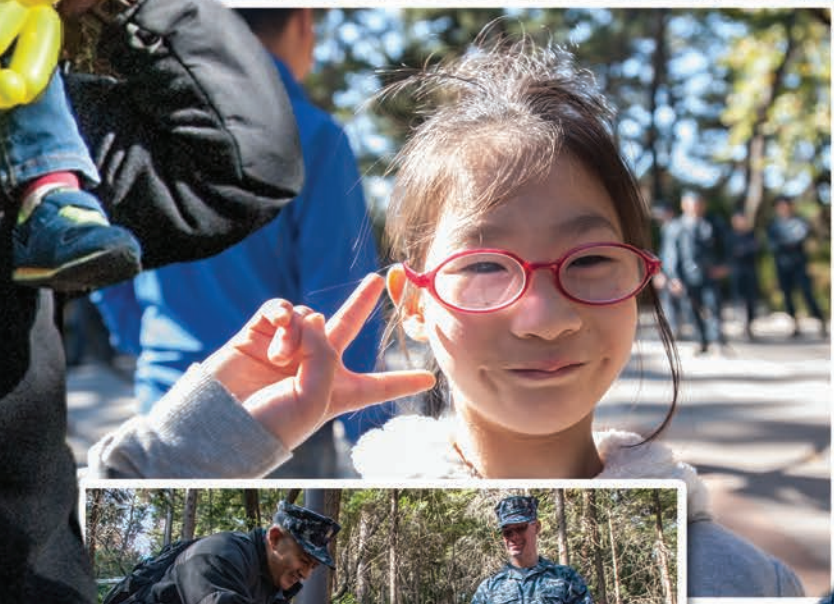
According to Castillo, he was glad to see the enthusiasm Sailors brought to the event.

"It feels good that the bus was completely full," said Castillo. "That's pretty good."

At the conclusion of the visit Lee thanked the visitors for their service and support.

"Thank you very much for your support to keep the Korean Peninsula at peace," said Lee. "God bless the U.S. Navy, God bless the U.S.A. and God bless all of you." ■





LIP SYNC BATTLE



THE





THROUGH NOVEMBER

smooth seas don't run




THE LENS BER 2015

make skillful sailors





Japanese Admiral Embarks Ronald Reagan as Sea Combatant Commander During AnnualEx 16

Story By MC3 Sara Sexton

“It is an honor to be on board Ronald Reagan.”

–Rear Adm. Hidetoshi Iwasaki



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Rear Adm. Hidetoshi Iwasaki, commander, Escort Flotilla 2, assumed the role as Sea Combat Commander (SCC) on board the U.S. Navy’s only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during Annual Exercise (AE) 16, Nov. 16-22.

During strike group operations and AE16, the SCC is responsible for defending the aircraft carrier from surface and sub-surface opposing units as well as planning and executing offensive strikes.

“It is an honor to be on board Ronald Reagan,” said Iwasaki. “We had the opportunity to work with [Destroyer Squadron] 15 to perform better than last year in this high-end exercise to accomplish the operational and tactical goals.”

More than 40 members from JMSDF embarked Ronald Reagan to work closely with Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15, normally embarked on Ronald Reagan, and the rest of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group.

“With Admiral Iwasaki assuming Sea Combat

Commander duties and responsibilities, U.S. Navy and JMSDF now have increased flexibility in defending the carrier or high value unit,” said Capt. Christopher Sweeney, commander, DESRON 15, embarked on Ronald Reagan.

Representatives from Commander, Escort Division 2 and Commander, Escort Division 6 embarked Ronald Reagan including operation officers, communication officers, communication specialists, operations specialists, SONAR technicians and others, to understand SCC operations firsthand before AE16 started.

“Our JMSDF counterparts seamlessly folded into their prospective roles over the course of the exercise,” said Sweeney.

AE 16 involved many complex tactical scenarios, such as anti-submarine warfare exercises, air-to-air combat exercises and long-range maritime strike exercises, aimed to foster interoperability and teamwork between the two nations.

“We learned a lot about the capabilities of our communications systems, bilateral command

“With Admiral Iwasaki assuming Sea Combat Commander duties and responsibilities, U.S. Navy and JMSDF now have increased flexibility in defending the carrier or high value unit.”

-Capt. Christopher Sweeney



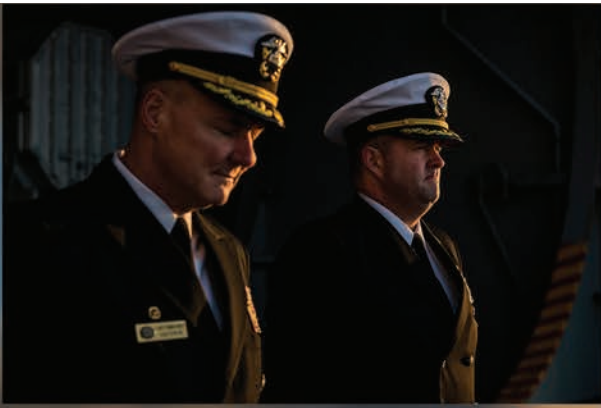
structure, and our ability to defend the high value unit through offensive strike with ships, submarines, and aircraft,” said Sweeney.

AE16 was planned and conducted on board Ronald Reagan in spaces provided so the JMSDF members could work alongside U.S. Sailors. JMSDF officers and Sailors stood watch with DESRON 15 officers and Sailors to execute SCC operations.

According to Iwasaki, the last time the exercise was completed in 2014 he was on board the Izumo-class helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga (DDH 181). Normally, JMSDF staffs remain embarked on JMSDF ships during exercises. Iwasaki mentioned it was challenging to grasp the whole picture of how the exercise was supposed to be conducted while separated from the center of decision making. However, now that he has participated as the SCC on board Ronald Reagan, he and his team are able to see how each participant plays a role in the interoperability between the U.S. and JMSDF. ■







USS RONALD BURIAL

...truly shipmates looking after





LD REAGAN AT SEA

Shipmates - Capt. Eric Lindfors





COVER STORY

AMMUNITION OFFLOAD



DEFINITION LOAD

WARRIOR ESTHOS

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

CVN 76



“ We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. ”

-Aristotle



USS RONALD REAGAN

SAILORS HELPING SAILORS. ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.