

# DEFENSE, DIPLOMACY & DEVELOPMENT

**DEFENSE** A crucial operation for Navy ships of the Fourth Fleet in the Caribbean is to protect the U.S. by stopping drug traffickers and other smugglers. While vigilant in their military duties, the ships' crews also promote goodwill for the U.S. by distributing goods to the needy, donated from businesses or philanthropists; by providing health care and by undertaking community service. The Navy also offers international training in mastering fast and effective methods of delivering humanitarian goods and services during emergencies.

**DIPLOMACY** The U.S. Embassy or Consulate at a port of call provides diplomatic clearances for vessels and coordinates between the ship's crew and the community. The mission also assists in arranging meetings between the ship's captain and local authorities, refueling and re-provisioning the ship and briefing the "lay of the land" to the crew prior to disembarking on their R&R. Diplomatic and consular missions around the world also assist errant crew members who overstay their time ashore, miss their ship and need help to return to duty.

**DEVELOPMENT** Before a ship has docked, the mission office and local assistance providers have identified community service projects. Once on shore, crew members may voluntarily use some of their time ashore to spread good will by lending a hand. Crew often participate in Project Handclasp, an official U.S. Navy program that distributes materials donated in the U.S. to less economically well-off residents of foreign countries on behalf of American citizens.



U.S. Navy photo by LTJG Andrew J. Mew, Public Affairs Officer – USS HAWES  
The USS HAWES (FFG53) arrived in Curaçao for a port visit on 27 April, 2009. U.S. Navy Sailors devoted some of their free time to the local community and conducted a landscaping project at Birgen di Rosaria. Birgen di Rosario is a foundation that provides nursing and home care to the elderly. USS HAWES is home ported in Norfolk, Virginia and is commanded by Commander Kristin Jacobsen.

# PROJECT HANDCLASP



Since the early 1960's "Project Handclasp" has been a formal U.S. Navy program that coordinates the transportation and delivery of humanitarian and educational items to countries in need around the world on a space available basis. In collaboration with the Project Handclasp Foundation, Inc., U.S. embassies, American charities and foreign organizations, the U.S. Navy provides free transportation and storage of donated materials from various American charities to countries that have asked for assistance. U.S. embassies, or U.S. country teams, coordinate with the host country about the relief work and materials to be provided ensuring that the help given is truly useful to the host country. The actual items are delivered directly by U.S. Sailors and Marines, giving them a chance to interact with the local people, building relationships and strengthening trust between the United States and the host nations. (Source [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil).)



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Damien Horvath, August 1, 2007

U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Charles Glazer, right, and Lt. Dennis Wheeler of the USS Pearl Harbor, left, look on as a local woman from Isla de Perico uses her new sewing machine, a donation from Project Handclasp.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Timothy F. Sosa, July 15, 2006

Naval Chief Hospital Corpsman Thomas Twigg poses with local children of Simeulue Island, Indonesia in connection with a Medical and Dental Civic Action Project (MEDENCAP) while the crew of USNS Mercy delivered Project Handclasp items.



U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 3rd Class Shawnee McKain, April 30, 2006

As part of Project Handclasp in Bahrain, U.S. Sailors and Marines from amphibious transport dock USS Ogden clean a fence at the Hope Institute, a school for special needs children.



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Lowell Whitman, March 1, 2005

Assistant Director of the U.S. Seventh Fleet Band, Senior Chief Musician Jim Malmgren, hands his baton to a local student in Thailand. The USS Blue Ridge flag ship was in Thailand to deliver books donated to Project Handclasp and visit with students of the Kamala Primary School among other community projects.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael R. McCormick, July 14, 2006

Indian Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ashok Yadav left, a pediatrician with the Medical Treatment Facility aboard the U.S. Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy, checks a young girl's heart beat in Indonesia. Navies of other nations often work together with the U.S. Navy on humanitarian assistance missions.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Troy Latham, July 14, 2006

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col Doris Wong, right, assigned to the Medical Treatment Facility aboard the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy, administers an eye exam to a local resident in Indonesia.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Troy Latham, July 14, 2006

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Cindy Potter aids a young boy awaiting a helicopter to the USNS Mercy while the Mercy's crew was at port on Simeulue Island, Indonesia to distribute Project Handclasp items.



Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Timothy F. Sosa, July 14, 2006

Navy Hospital Corpsman Maya Lama assigned to ship the USNS Mercy, poses with a local Indonesian child that received medical assistance at Simeulue Island, Indonesia.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Ryan Clement, July 15, 2006

Air Force Airman 1st Class Kristen Lynch replaces a patient's IV on the hospital ship USNS Mercy during a delivery of Project Handclasp items in Simeulue Island, Indonesia.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. David Rogers, October 18, 2006

Crew members of the USS Harpers Ferry load one of five Ford ambulances for delivery to Subic, Philippines via Project Handclasp. The foundation, Promotion of Peace and Prosperity in the Philippines (3P) USA, an NGO in Seattle, Washington donated the emergency vehicles.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Matthew Jackson, August 22, 2007

From left to right, Ghizo Island Mayor Danny Kennedy of the Solomon Islands; Western Province Premier Alex Lokopio; Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Patteson Oti; Secretary of the U.S. Navy, the Honorable Dr. Donald C. Winter and Tom Weinz, Deputy Chief of Mission, Port Moresby (encompassing New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), pose for a photo after a Project Handclasp ceremony on Ghizo Island.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Bryan M. Ilyankoff, August 23, 2007

Seabees attached to Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 1, unload Project Handclasp supplies from a Landing Craft Unit on the shores of the Pacific's Solomon Islands.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Karsten, September 7, 2007

Senior Chief Sonar Technician Surface Scott Pageau passes a pair of Project Handclasp sandals to a woman at a health-training center in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti.



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Jason Morris, January 21, 2008

Africa Partnership Station (APS) Sailor Storekeeper 3rd Class Cory Brown, left, of the USS Fort McHenry, helps a local São Tomean girl pick out a pair of shoes as APS Portuguese translator Lt. Luis Miguel, right, helps the two communicate. The USS Fort McHenry housed the Africa Partnership Station, a multi-national effort bringing the latest training and techniques to maritime professionals in nine West and Central African countries.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elizabeth Merriam, January 30, 2008

Musician 1st Class Dan Smith, an Africa Partnership Station volunteer, talks with a young boy at Centre d'Accueil Orphanage in Lome, Togo after delivering Project Handclasp hygiene supplies and toys to the children.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brian A. Goyak

Africa Partnership Station (APS) Sailors carry Project Handclasp medical supplies from the amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry for donation to a Ghanaian Navy hospital. U.S. and European military teams and others are deployed for seven months to enhance cooperation with regional maritime services in West and Central Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist William F. Gowdy, August 20, 2008

Chief Legalman (Sel.) Shahar Bikszar, assigned to the USS Blue Ridge, wrestles with a child at the Hee-Rak-Won Children's Welfare Facility in Busan, Republic of Korea, after delivering Project Handclasp donations.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Finley Williams, September 2, 2006

USS Kearsarge Commanding Officer Capt. Joseph Sensi Jr., accepts letters of appreciation for Project Handclasp donated textbooks and supplies from a student of the Juan Bautista Scalabrini School in Cartagena, Colombia.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David Holmes, February 7, 2009

After delivering donated school supplies from Project Handclasp to children in Dakar, Senegal, Senior Chief Information Systems Technician Terrence Byrnes, left, of the USS Nashville plays a drum at the Gallo Diouf Elementary School.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David Holmes, February 7, 2009

A military service member, right, from the U.S. Embassy Dakar high-fives a Senegalese boy while playing soccer at the Vivre Ensemble Orphanage.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David Holmes, February 7, 2009

While in Dakar, Senegal, a Vivre Ensemble orphanage staff member, left, thanks Capt. Cynthia Thebaud, right, commander of Africa Partnership Station, after delivering medical and child care supplies from Project Handclasp.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Doug High, February 7, 2009

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David Holmes, a member of Africa Partnership Station 2009, shows children of the Gallo Diouf Elementary School digital pictures taken while in Dakar, Senegal.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Barker, February 20, 2009

Lt. j.g. Jarrod Johnson, left, a chaplain assigned to USS Lake Champlain, and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Alvin Johnson, right, visit a child at the Kuda Kudhin ge Hiya neglected children's home in Vilingili, Maldives.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Barker, February 20, 2009

Gas Turbine System Mechanical Technician 3rd Class Alvin Gomez of the USS Lake Champlain, pushes a child on a tire swing at the Kuda Kudhin ge Hiya neglected children's home in Vilingili, Maldives as part of a Project Handclasp service event.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Barker, February 29, 2009

Lt. j.g. Jarrod Johnson of the USS Lake Champlain hands a ship's coin to the head of staff of the Kuda Kudhin ge Hiya neglected children's home in Vilingili, Maldives.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Barker, February 20, 2009

Lt. j.g. Malcolm Lybeck, right, and Sailors from the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain throw Frisbees with the children at the Kuda Kudhin ge Hiya neglected children's home in Vilingili, Maldives.



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