



ROTARY CLUB OF PATONG BEACH

District 3330 Club 56414

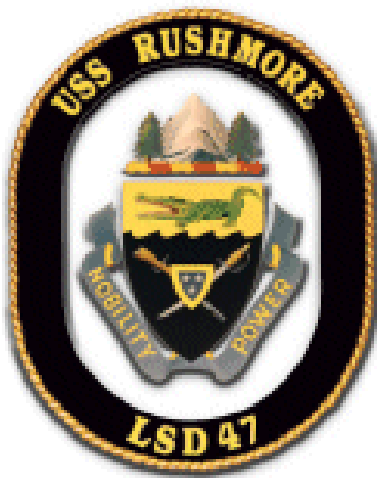


USS Rushmore (LPD 47) Phuket COMREL #3 - 6 March 2010 (Thursday), 07:30 – 15:00 at the Sarakul Stadium, Phuket Town - Phuket Athletic Club.

Welcome to Phuket USS Rushmore, I am Brad Kenny, an American citizen living in Phuket, Thailand and the designated COMREL coordinator here. I work with the Naval Attaché office, U.S. Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand. I have been made aware of your visit and have put together your COMREL as outlined below.

Introduction: I am in the Rotary Club of Patong Beach (RCoPB) and the Service Projects Committee Chairman and also a member of the local US Navy League and I have the honor of being appointed by the US Embassy Bangkok Naval Attache' as the COMREL and Handclasp point of contact and coordinator for visiting US Naval Ships to Phuket. Through the RCoPB we then search out likely foundations and NGO's that could use the benefit of a US Navy and US Marine's program call ComRel (Community Relationship), in which the US Navy US Marine volunteers assistance to the local community to needy local organizations wherever in the world they visit. A second project with the US Marines and US Navy is called Handclasp, in which visiting ships have goods and commodities in which they donate to needy organizations.

USS Rushmore COMREL Point of Contact(s): Lt. Peter Dahlstrom - dahlstrp@lsd47.navy.mil , it is estimated to complete this job we will need 25-40 volunteers.



Local Phuket ComRel Representative : Brad Kenny: 081-6334279, esppkt@ksc.th.com and On site Project Coordinator Sean Massey and Michael Massey 081-4125652 with Rotarians Brad Kenny and Adriano Trapani 084-8449215

Dates and Times: 6 March 2010 (Thursday), 07:30 – 15:00 at Sarakul Stadium – Phuket Athletic Club





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Proposed Project Details and Objectives: The Phuket Athletic Club is a club originally for star track and field athletes in the Phuket area. Here are some initial findings from a Rotary Club of Patong Beach investigation into this project:

- The coach's name is K. Amnuay Boonta (Dong). He is employed through the sports division of the TAT as I can best understand it. That division has its offices for Phuket in the Surrakul Stadium.
 - * The athletics squad comprises 28 kids who live at the stadium and between 12 - 20 other kids who come for daily training. Total is between 40 - 50 on any given day. The children are aged 13 - 18 years old.
 - * K. Dong's focus is not only on sporting excellence, but it seems he is also heavily committed to developing some of the troubled youth of Phuket into better citizens.
 - * He has taken 2 offices at the stadium and used them as rooms for his squad members who fit into the following categories; kids with athletic talent whose parents cannot transport them to Surrakul twice daily for training, and street kids who commit to his program.
 - * The rooms are shabby to say the least. Throughout the building (you will see in the photos), there is amateur wiring, lighting that does not work, there are major problems with the water pumping system and no hot water. Of course there is no aircon for these kids all bunched up together, there are fans in the sleeping quarters but a number of these are not operating. The bunks that the 28 kids living at the stadium use, were found in the rubbish and "repaired". They are so badly bowed that they must be causing spinal damage to these children, and some of them have broken.
 - * K. Dong personally funds food and toiletries for the 28 kids living at the stadium and gasoline to drive them to school daily. He has asked parents of those children to contribute 1,000 B per month towards these costs as of last month for which 18 parents did so.
 - * K. Dong has a small office which is also a store-room and his quarters. He has a computer there which the kids use for their homework, but he cannot afford supplies for them such as paper and printer ink for them to complete their homework. Also it is only one computer for 28 kids. The internet connection is unreliable as it is dependent on the main office.
 - * There is one twin-tub washing machine for 28 kids. The spin dry section of the washing machine is broken.
 - * K. Dong estimates cost of living for the 28 resident kids at 60,000 B per month, and cost for participating in athletic meets at 100,000 B per year. Please note that they have sent the squad to





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Bangkok in songtaews to compete. No wonder they are not winning medals! Apparently Fernando's mum sponsored one of their competition trips recently.

When I mentioned a COMREL to K. Dong he was quite interested, but clearly stated that a coat of paint while appreciated will not make that much difference. He identified the needs in order of priority as;

1. Safe and comfortable beds
2. Food
3. Water
4. Personal Lockers
5. Electrical repairs
6. Washing machine repaired

Again many things to do for this great project and The Rotary Club of Patong Beach wants to make along term commitment for most of these improvements above and will follow up accordingly. Following are some photos of the living quarters for this project:



The front of the stadium where the Phuket Sports Club is located.



Inside the stadium where the children practice.





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The water pump needs to be primed every time it is used and only needs a foot valve in the water tank.



This is the kitchen where food for the 28 kids is cooked.



These are some of the current beds at the facility, in need of some welding type repairs and paint.





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Some additional bed parts on the roof that can hopefully be used to repair other bends via welding.



Some more of the beds in the dormitory room. Needing paint.

So with this in mind, what I plan for this COMREL is first of all to show these kids someone cares and sports is a good way to get their lives together. We can paint the beds that are in good order and also then repair others that need so by welding good spare parts together.

The Rotary Club of Patong Beach wants to make this a longer term project and this is the first steps. We are getting some help from a local international school, Quality Schools International for which two high school students are members of the Phuket Sports Club. The RCoPB will eventually find funding via sponsors for new mattresses and additional bed frames as needed after this COMREL repairs those that can be repaired. We also will try to upgrade the kitchen and find some lockers for the kids. For this COMREL if we have time we may also paint some for the lockers they have in place. The Rotary Club will try to find a sponsor and funds to give this great sports project a lift and will plan several more COMREL's by visiting US Ships to partner for the labor required in the near future.

Pre-ComRel Prep Work

1. A better evaluation of the beds for which ones can be repaired by some light welding COMREL day.
2. Removing the beds to an outdoor area for painting and repairs.

Additional Information : For this COMREL it is suggested that the ship provide boxed lunches or if that is not possible then we can find alternative food – please let me know on this. I shall try to provide a local magician for entertainment during the lunch period. And after lunch the kids would like to play some soccer or show off some of their track and field skills with the US Marines and navy volunteers.





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It is suggested that the USS Rushmore bring a 4-5 cases of drinking water or enough for the number of volunteers during the work period and for lunch, the tropical heat is always a concern and plenty of water is advisable. Suggest all ComRel participants also bring their cameras. If any Rushmore volunteers are welders then it is suggested that welding safety gear, one or two sets be brought along (face gear with welding eye protection and welding gloves).

Estimated Budget for this Project: For Repair Beds: 28 sheets of 3/8 inch plywood (28 x 376 Baht = 10,500 Baht), steel angle iron x 40 meters (40 x 65 Baht = 2,600 Baht), welding supplies (Baht 800), 20 x 2 inch paint brushes (20 x 40 Baht = 800 Baht), plastic drop clothes , and rags for clean-up. Paint and paint thinner on hand from past COMREL's. Total budget is baht 17,000. No lunch for volunteers.

Brad Kenny

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