

JIATF West

All Staff Newsletter

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Counternarcotics Engagement with Oceania

During the months of July and August, 2013, several Joint Interagency Task Force West events took place in the Oceania region. There has been a long history of cooperation between JIATF West and the many island nations of Oceania as JIATF West seeks to improve partner nation counterdrug capabilities with specialized law enforcement training and infrastructure projects. The smaller populations of Oceania nations mean a closer working relationship between host nation governments and members of JIATF West. It is not uncommon for Ministers of Justice, Ambassadors, and even Presidents of nations to welcome trainers from JIATF West or speak at closing ceremonies.

The first event this summer was a Transnational Crime Workshop held in July on the island nation of Palau attended by the Vice President of Palau, Antonio Bells, and the Attorney General, Minister Johnny Gibbons. This was followed by two weeks of training with the Small Craft Maintenance Training Team (SCMTT) in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in early August. Members of JIATF West were welcomed by President Manny Mori, as well as U. S. Ambassador, Honorable Dorothea-Maria (Doria) Rosen, along with the Secretary of Justice, Ms. April Skilling.

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Above, JIATF West members sit with Ambassador Doria Rosen (right corner of table) as President Emanuel "Manny" Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia speaks to law enforcement members of FSM's National Police during the closing ceremony of JIATF West organized maritime law enforcement training. -10 August 2013, Palikir, Pohnpei. Photo by JIATF West.

Counternarcotics Engagement with Oceania

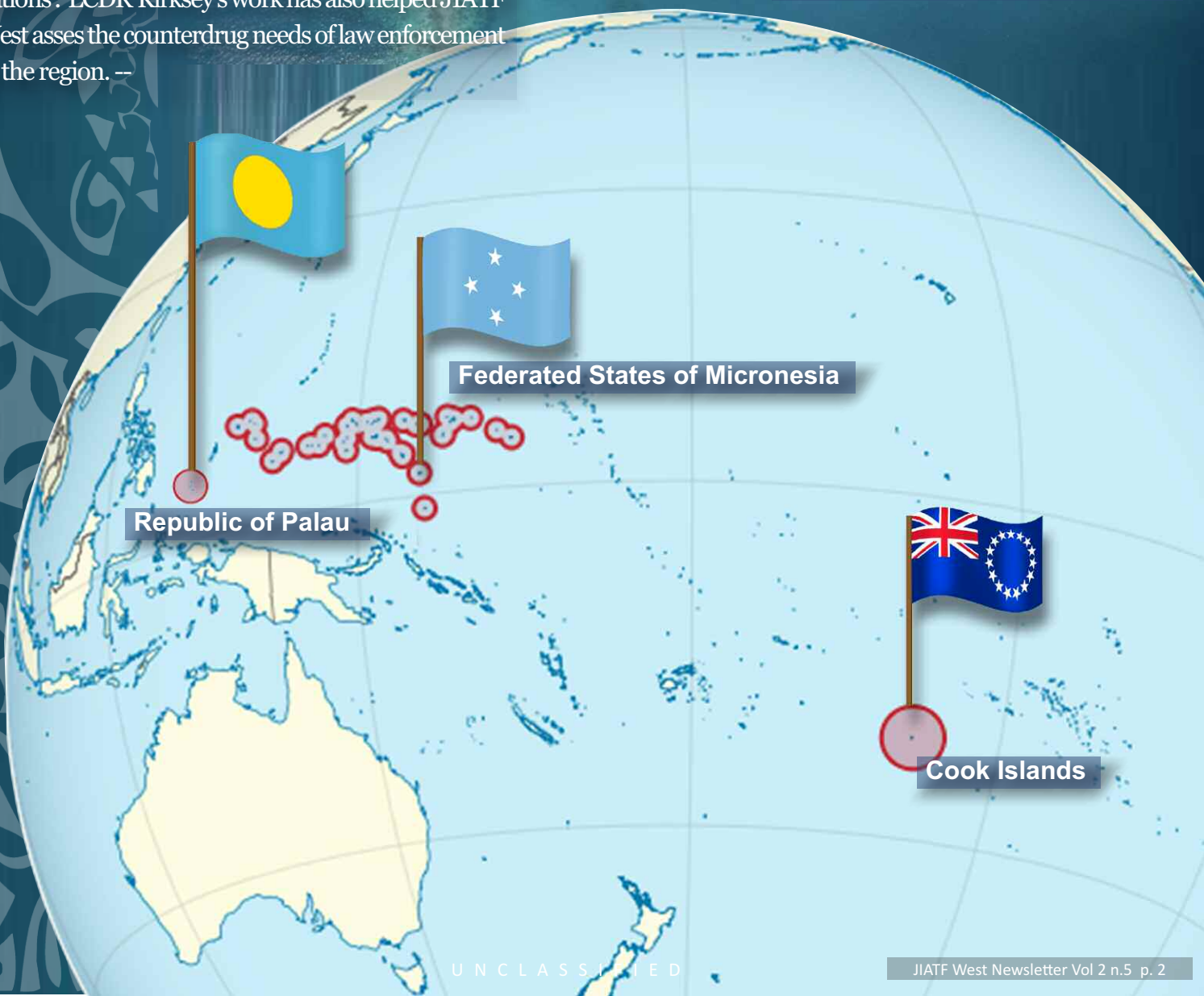
In August, both Ambassador Rosen, and Secretary of Justice, Ms. Skilling met with JIATF West Director, RDML James Rendon for an office call at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu.

Samoa's newly appointed chargé d'affaires, Mr. Peter J. Ganser, a diplomat with the U. S. Foreign Service (State Department) also visited JIATF West for an office call with RDML Rendon.

JIATF West's Task Force Representative to Oceania, LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG attended the annual Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference (PICP) in the Cook Islands. Participatoin in the conference helps JIATF West maintain good relations with island nations . LCDR Kirksey's work has also helped JIATF West asses the counterdrug needs of law enforcement in the region. --



Arial view of the Islands of Micronesia



Republic of Palau

Federated States of Micronesia

Cook Islands

Transnational Crime Workshop in Palau



Members of Palauan law enforcement practice using narcotics identification kits and the second Transnational Crime Workshop organized by JIATF West in the Oceania region. – 21 July 2013, photo by JIATF West.

JIATF West recently held a 2-week transnational crime workshop on the island of Palau. The workshop took place between the 15th and the 26th of July, 2013 and was attended by various Palau law enforcement agencies including the Palau National Police, Airport Police, Immigration Police, Customs Police, and Postal Inspectors.

Topics presented in the workshop included interviewing techniques, crime scene administration, crime scene photography, evidence handling interdiction, precursor chemicals, and operations planning. Instructors for the course consisted of five members of the U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigations, three Drug Enforcement Agency agents, one Naval Criminal Investigative Services agent, and one U. S. Postal Inspector from Guam. The first week of training was presented by the FBI and the second week by the DEA.



Counternarcotics training efforts by JIATF West are well recognized by the Palauan Government. The Vice President, Antonio Bells, and the Attorney General, Minister Johnny Gibbons attended the closing ceremony. In Palau, the Vice President is also the acting Minister of Justice. U. S. Ambassador, The Honorable Helen Reed-Rowe, was also in attendance (Ambassador Reed-Rowe is Palau's first ever U. S. Ambassador).

The workshop was enthusiastically received by all of the participants. Thirty one Palauan

law enforcement members completed the two week long workshop.



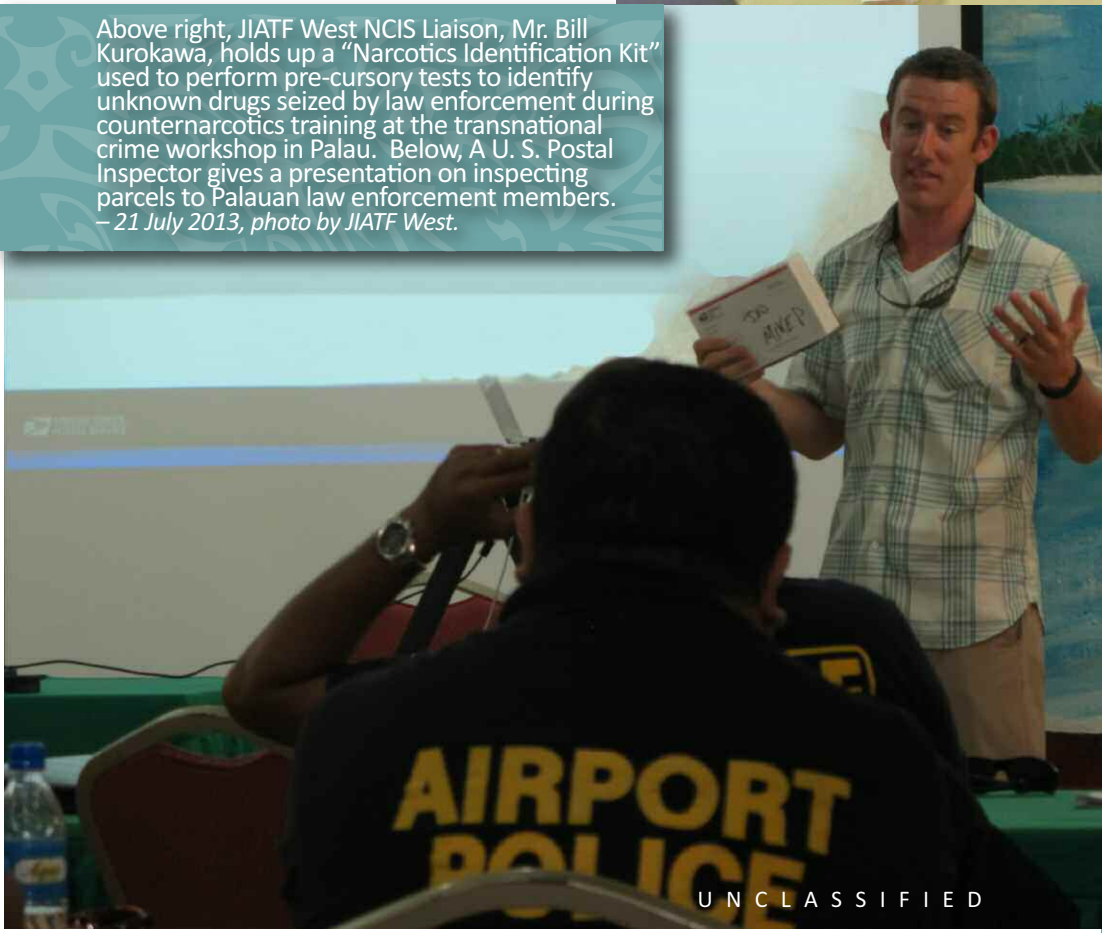
Transnational Crime Workshop in Palau

According to training liaison LT Franz Federschmidt, USN, “Some of the feedback provided by Palauan law enforcement indicates they wish the training was more than two weeks and held semi-annually.” This was the third time JIATF West ran a transnational crime workshop of this type in Oceania. The two previous events attended by Palauan Law Enforcement took place in Micronesia in August of 2011 and in Palau in May of 2010.

The Republic of Palau is an island nation made up of a chain of 250 islands east of the Philippines.



Above right, JIATF West NCIS Liaison, Mr. Bill Kurokawa, holds up a “Narcotics Identification Kit” used to perform pre-cursory tests to identify unknown drugs seized by law enforcement during counternarcotics training at the transnational crime workshop in Palau. Below, A U. S. Postal Inspector gives a presentation on inspecting parcels to Palauan law enforcement members. – 21 July 2013, photo by JIATF West.



According to a 2011 population census, the island nation has over 21,000 people. Palau was part of the United States governed trust territory since 1947, but has since gained full sovereignty in 1994 under a Compact of Free Association with the U. S. Today, Palau uses the U. S. dollar as currency and is protected by the U. S. (under the compact, the U. S. Military is responsible for Palau’s defense for 50 years) --

Cook Island's 42nd Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference (PICP) - By LCDR Aja Kirksey,USCG



The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) conference opened with a traditional Cook Island welcoming ceremony. For the ceremony, all Chiefs arrived via the "vaka" or double hulled canoe "Marumaruatua", or the Cook Islands Police Patrol Boat "Te Kukupa". Upon each landing, the Chiefs were challenged by a warrior, presented with garland or flower "leis", and then carried on the "pa'ata", or ceremonial chair, to the stage. Pictured is Vanuatu Police Commissioner Arthur Edmanley. -28 August 2013, photo by JIATF West.

J IATF West Task Force Representative to Oceania, LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG, recently attended the 42nd Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference (PICP) in the Cook Islands. The conference took place on August 26, 2013 on the southern island of Rarotonga, located about 1800 miles northeast of New Zealand between America Samoa and French Polynesia. The goal of the PICP is to improve policing in the Pacific by providing a forum to share ideas and information on crime and policing, and coordinating training and development activities for its members. Attended by the Oceania TFR for many years, the PICP Conference is a rare opportunity to network with numerous key Pacific island law enforcement officials while

observing the unique cultural challenges of the region in a concentrated setting.

The theme of the conference, "Preventing crime through information management" set the tone for the three-day conference. In conjunction with this gathering, the Pacific Transnational Crime Network Board of Management held their annual meeting, where they further discussed the challenge of secure information sharing between countries. The incoming PICP Chair historically hosts the conference on their home island. During the conference, Cook Islands Commissioner of Police, Maara Tetava, assumed the Chair duties from Solomon Islands Acting Commissioner of Police Juanita Matanga.

Cook Island's 42nd Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference (PICP)

The PICP currently has 20 members, represented by the Chief or Commissioner of Police of their national police service. The conference was also attended by presenters and observers from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Australian Federal Police, the New Zealand Police, the and Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center, the Pacific Island Forum, the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference, the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme, the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network, and the Women's Advisory Network.

Rarotonga is the largest of the Cook Islands, surrounded by a coral reef and a beautiful lagoon of clear, calm, turquoise water. Rarotonga's main road circles the island, following the coastline for 20 miles. The Cook Islands and New Zealand have a free association relationship, but the Cook Islands are still an independent and sovereign state. Over 110,000 tourists visit the Cook Islands per year, primarily from New Zealand, Australia, Europe, and the United States. --



The PICP Secretariat overcame language barriers and encouraged open dialogue and participation throughout the conference through a relaxed but close circular seating arrangement with all Chiefs facing one another and observers seated just outside of the circle. -26 August 2013, photo by JIATF West.

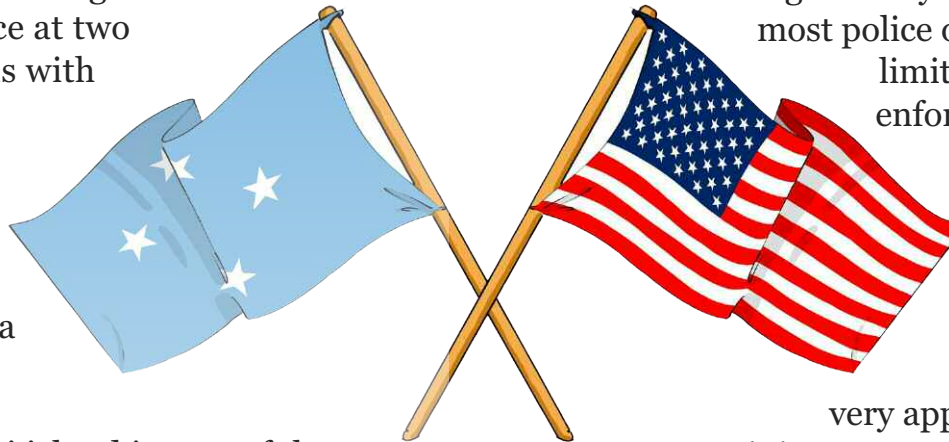


Police chiefs and commissioners were in attendance from the Commonwealth of Australia, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, the Republic of Palau, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Vanuatu, pictured here with PICP Secretariat Don Allen.



Integrated Maritime Skills Training in the Federated States of Micronesia

JIATF West's Small Craft Maintenance Training Team (SCMTT) conducted a two week long training mission with the Federated States of Micronesia's National Police (FSM-NP) in August. The training took place at two different locations with the first part at FSM-NP's Maritime Wing headquarters in the city of Kolonia located on the island of Pohnpei. Pohnpei island is part of the State of Pohnpei (FSM is made up of four States that are each made up of a group of islands). The second part of training was a three day culmination exercise conducted off islands located in the state of Chuuk.



The training was designed to provide fundamental maritime law enforcement to support FSM National Police counterdrug efforts. Although the National Police Maritime Wing is a very operational unit, most police officers have had limited maritime law enforcement training due to the remoteness of their island nation. FSM National Police members were very appreciative for the training. According to Officer in Charge, LCDR Stephen Bower, USN, "FSM law enforcement members

demonstrated significant enthusiasm while training full days and on weekends." Although JIATF West has previously organized law enforcement training in the FSM, this was the first ever SCMTT led training.

Below, Chuuk, Micronesia - JIATF West's Small Craft Maintenance Training Team instructors, US Navy Petty Officers MA2 Keith Pona and CM1 Steve Miller (white shirts), rehearse as assailants during underway boarding training with FSM National Maritime Police. - 10 August 2013, Photo by JIATF West.



Left, FSM National Police members board a vessel to train with JIATF West SCMTT instructors during Integrated Maritime Skills Training. - 7 Aug 2013, Photo by JIATF West.



Above, JIATF West instructor, ENC Jeffrey Guiso, USN, observes FSM National Police members practice handcuffing techniques during law enforcement maritime skills training in Pohnpei. – 6 Aug 2013, Photo by JIATF West. Below, FSM Police practice defense drills with JIATF West Instructors during two weeks of law enforcement training in Pohnpei. – 2 Aug 2013, photo by JIATF West.



Integrated Maritime Skills Training in the Federated States of Micronesia

During the training in Pohnpei and Chuuk, SCMTT instructors covered a variety of law enforcement topics including, maritime safety, officer awareness, interview techniques, evidence collection and reporting, handcuffing, vessel boarding procedures, communications skills, basic defensive techniques, human trafficking, and first aid. Training included practical demonstrations by SCMTT members as well as open ocean drills in Pacific Class Patrol Boats.

Instruction usually took place in the morning followed by hands-on instruction that allowed FSM law enforcement an opportunity to get instructor feed back while practicing. Law enforcement techniques were practiced in a variety of scenarios including cover and concealment, movement as a team, space clearing, and initial ship boarding.

The opening ceremony, taking place at the College of Micronesia's Pohnpei Campus in the town of Kolonia, was attended by the U. S. Ambassador Doria Rosen; Secretary of Justice, Ms. April Skilling; and FSM National Police Chief, Colonel Johnny Santos, and Maritime Wing Commander, CDR Steward Peter. The closing ceremony was not only attended by the aforementioned, but also by the President of FSM. President Manny Mori addressed FSM law enforcement and JIATF West SCMTT members in the Presidential Conference Room in Palikir, Pohnpei. A press release prepared by the president's public affairs office can be found at www.fsmpio.fm.

Since 2007, JIATF West has conducted four training missions and four infrastructure projects in FSM. JIATF West looks forward to future partner law enforcement efforts with FSM to help promote stability in the Asia-Pacific. --

Members of FSM's National Maritime Police approach a Pacific Class Patrol boat to rehearse underway boarding with JIATF West instructors in the waters of Chuuk. – 9 Aug 2013, photo by JIATF West.



Left to right, CM1 Steve Miller, USN, and LCDR Stephen Bower, USN present a certificate of completion to a FSM National Maritime Police member (center). - 8 August 2013, Photo by JIATF West.



Integrated Maritime Skills Training in the Federated States of Micronesia



Above, standing in the Office of the President's conference room in Palikir, Pohnpei, from left to right, MK2 Sean Cahill, USCG; CM1 Steve Miller, USN; Hon. Doria Rosen, U. S. Ambassador to FSM; President Manny Mori; LCDR Stephen Bower, USN; ENC Jeffrey Guiso, USN; MA1 Keith Pona, USN; and FSM National Police Maritime Wing Commander, CDR Steward Peter. Below, Graduation photo of FSM National Police members after having completed over two weeks of law enforcement training with JIATF West's Small Craft Maintenance Training Team. – 8 Aug 2013, photos by JIATF West.



Meeting with AMB Rosen at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies



Above, the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) building in Honolulu, Hawaii. The APCSS is a U.S. Department of Defense institute that officially opened Sept. 4, 1995 to address regional and global security issues with military and civilian representatives of the United States and Asia-Pacific nations.

The United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), The Honorable Dorothea-Maria (Doria) Rosen, along with the FSM Secretary of Justice, Ms. April Skilling, met with the Director of Joint Interagency Task Force West, RDML James Rendon, USCG on the 20 August 2013. AMB Rosen and Secretary of Justice April Skilling travelled to Hawaii to attend a meeting with the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) and also requested an office call with JIATF West. The meeting took place at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Waikiki Hawaii. During the meeting, RDML Rendon and AMB Rosen discussed the use of Biometrics and counterdrug training efforts. AMB Rosen is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia in August of 2012, she is the eighth person to hold that post. --



RDML James Rendon, USCG, greets U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, The Honorable Doria Rosen at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies in Waikiki, Hawaii. - 20 Aug 2013

Meeting with AMB Rosen at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies



Above, April Skilling, Secretary of Justice, Federated States of Micronesia, greets LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG, JIATF West's Task Force Representative to Oceania at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies. Lower left, Ambassador Doria Rosen, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. Lower right, Secretary of Justice Skilling, shows off photos of a recent training mission to JIATF West Director, RDML James Rendon during a meeting at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii - 20 Aug 2013, photos by JIATF West



Royal Thai Police Seize 6 Million USD of Meth after JIATF West Training

Chiang Rai Thailand, 16 August 2013 – Royal Thai Police officers seized 970,000 pills of methamphetamine hidden in a secret compartment of a vehicle attempting to pass through Chiang Rai's Tham Pla checkpoint. The seizure took place just hours after police completed special highway checkpoint narcotics training organized by Joint Interagency Task Force West. The pills, referred to as “yaba” in Thai, had a street value worth 6 million US dollars.

The checkpoint training was a joint initiative from JIATF West's new “Narcotics Enforcement Training Team” (NETT) along with experts from Naval Criminal Investigative Services and the Drug Enforcement Agency.

The NETT was formed in 2012 to provide special counterdrug training to law enforcement agencies such as the Royal Thai Police Narcotics Suppression Unit.

According to U. S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. James Rendon, “This drug seizure is a testament to the effectiveness of JIATF West's efforts to enhance the counterdrug capabilities of our partner nations in the Asia-Pacific.”

A stock photo of bags of methamphetamine pills similar to those seized in August at the Tham Pla checkpoint. - Photo courtesy of the Royal Thai Police.



Royal Thai Police authorities are successfully interrupting the flow of illicit narcotics by means of vehicle inspection points such as the one above in Chumpun, Thailand, built by JIATF West. - Photo courtesy of the Royal Thai Police.

According to U. S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. James Rendon, Director of JIATF West, “This drug seizure is a testament to the effectiveness of JIATF West's efforts to enhance the counterdrug capabilities of our partner nations in the Asia-Pacific.”

This recent counternarcotics training by JIATF West's NETT was a two day seminar on how to properly search commercial and non-commercial vehicles. The training was

presented to Royal Thai Police officers at four different highway checkpoints located throughout Chiang Rai province.

JIATF West is U. S. Pacific Command's executive agent for Department of

Defense counternarcotics support to law enforcement agencies. Since 1989, JIATF West has been applying DoD capabilities to conduct and support interagency operations designed to identify, disrupt, and dismantle drug-related threats in the Asia-Pacific. --



Ambassador Brownfield visits with Joint Interagency Task Force West



Ambassador William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (left) walks with Director of Joint Interagency Task Force West, RDML James Rendon, USCG, at U. S. Pacific Command Headquarters. – 9 Aug 2013, Photo by Shawn Parrish

Camp H. M. Smith, 9 Aug 2013 - Ambassador William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs visits Joint Interagency Task Force West at U. S. Pacific Command Headquarters. This was Ambassador Brownfield's first visit to JIATF West. AMB Brownfield has had an extensive career in the field of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement and met with RDML Rendon and JIATF West staff for an office call and round table discussion. The meeting was held in the JIATF West conference room with presentations by LtCol Duncan Buchanan, USMC, and Mr. Bill Treadway. After the presentations, a luncheon was held in honor of AMB Brownfield at the USPACOM Flag Mess.

Ambassador Brownfield was sworn in as Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) on January of 2011. Hon. Brownfield is responsible for State Department programs combating illicit drugs and organized crime and currently manages over 5000 employees in over 80 countries with a portfolio of over 4 billion dollars.

Some of Ambassador Brownfield's previous work in Washington included the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Director for Policy and Coordination in INL, Executive Assistant to the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, Member of the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff, and Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

Ambassador Brownfield holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service. He has received the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award and the Presidential Performance Award three times. Ambassador Brownfield is a graduate of Cornell University (1974) and the National War College (1993). He attended the University Of Texas School Of Law (1976-78). He speaks Spanish and French. He is a native of the State of Texas.

Samoa's new Chargé d'affaires

Mr. Peter J. Ganser, a diplomat with the U. S. Foreign Service and former Commander in the U. S. Coast Guard paid a visit to Joint Interagency Task Force West prior to assuming duties as the new chargé d'affaires to Samoa in September of 2013. On the 21st of August, Mr. Ganser had an office call with U. S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral James Rendon, and viewed presentations by staff members regarding JIATF West's counterdrug efforts in Oceania.



The diplomatic title, “chargé d'affaires”, a French phrase meaning, “in charge of matters” is a diplomat who heads a diplomatic mission such as an Embassy in the absence of an Ambassador. A chargé d'affaires is usually a person who is already working as a diplomatic Secretary, Counselor, or Minister.

Mr. Ganser represents Samoa as the chargé d'affaires whenever the current Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, Ambassador David Huebner, is not in Samoa. A chargé d'affaires has the same privileges and immunities of a regular Ambassador.

Director of JIATF West, RDML James Rendon, USCG, and newly appointed U. S. Chargé d'affaires to Samoa, Mr. Peter J. Ganser meet for an office call at JIATF West's headquarters at Camp H. M. Smith in Hawaii. -21 Aug 2013, Photo by JIATF West



Prior to serving as the chargé d'affaires to Samoa, Mr. Ganser has served in five geographic regions in three different zones during his six overseas tours. According to Mr. Ganser's official Biography, he has represented the United States overseas on assignments in Brasilia-Brazil, Baghdad-Iraq, Holy See-Vatican City, and Lilongwe-Malawi. His most recent assignments have been as Deputy Consul General, Islamabad, Pakistan and as Chief, Consular Section, Harare, Zimbabwe. --

Office Call with Admiral Locklear

On the 5th of September, 2013, Commander U. S. Pacific Command, U. S. Navy Admiral Samuel Locklear met with Coast Guard Rear Admiral, James Rendon, Director Joint Interagency Task Force West for an office call and presentation on recent counterdrug efforts in the Pacific. During the meeting, RDML Rendon also introduced ADML Locklear to JIATF West's new Deputy Director, Mr. Earl Hampton. After the meeting, ADML Locklear took a moment to present a coin to outgoing Deputy, Mr. William Roig for his service to JIATF West and to the Department of Defense as Mr. Roig is retiring.



Left to right, outgoing JIATF West Deputy Director, Mr. William Roig; Director RDML James Rendon; and U. S. Pacific Command, Commanding Officer, ADML Samuel Locklear, USN during an office call on September 5, 2013. Below, ADML Locklear, bids Mr. William Roig, farewell as he plans to retire from over thirty years of service to the Department of Defense.— Photo by JIATF West



JIATF West Welcomes a New Deputy Director



Newly appointed Deputy Director of JIATF West, Mr. Earl Hampton, address staff members at an all hands meeting on the 26th of September, 2013. - Photo by JIATF West

Mr. Earl Hampton took over duties as Deputy Director of Joint Interagency Task Force West in September, 2013, from incumbent William Roig who retired in August. Prior to becoming the new Deputy Director, Mr. Hampton served as the JIATF West representative to Indonesia and Malaysia.

Aside from his recent work as a Task Force Representative to Indonesia and Malaysia, Mr. Hampton brings with

him his experience as a US Navy Captain with over 30 years of service. In the Navy, he was a Naval Flight Officer and served as the Commanding Officer to several Air Patrol groups in Japan, Spain, and Hawaii. The numerous missions served by Mr. Hampton led him to work throughout the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and the Middle East including Afghanistan and the Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mr. Hampton's educational qualifications include an undergraduate degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master of Arts in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a Master's of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) at The National Defense University in Washington, DC.

Mr. Hampton is no stranger to Hawaii having served at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay as the Commanding Officer for Patrol Squadron NINE and several posts at U.S. Pacific Command. His work at USPACOM includes working as the Chief of Strategy and Assessments, Director to the Joint Interagency Coordination Group (JIACG), and as the Director of the Joint Operations Center.

Earl Hampton was born in Olongapo City, Philippines where he enlisted in the U. S. Navy after graduating high school. He can speak Tagalog, Spanish, and a little Mandarin. He is married and resides on Oahu with his wife and two children.

DASD for South and Southeast Asia visits JIATF West



JIATF West Director, RDML James Rendon, USCG, with Mr. Vikram Singh, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia, during a meeting in the JIATF West conference room. - 25 September 2013, photo by JIATF West.

Mr. Vikram Singh, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia met with various U. S. Pacific Command staffs and Joint Interagency Task Force West while visiting Hawaii. Mr. Singh was in town for a US and New Zealand bilateral meetings during the last week of September. On the 25th of September, 2013, Mr. Singh had an office call with JIATF West Director, RDML James Rendon, USCG.

Mr. Singh serves as the principal advisor to senior DoD leadership on policy matters pertaining to defense strategies and plans for South and Southeast Asia. Some of his responsibilities include bilateral security relations with India and South Asian countries (except Afghanistan and Pakistan). He also advises on matters regarding Australia, Timor Leste, New Zealand, and Pacific Island States. Prior to his current appoint as DASD for South and Southeast Asia



in April of 2012, Mr. Singh served as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy on Asian and Pacific Security Affairs. Previous posts held by Mr. Singh include being the Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the Department of State, DoD Senior Advisor on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and various roles in the DoD pertaining including programs to train and equip foreign military forces; American counter-insurgency and irregular warfare capabilities; stability operations; disaster response and humanitarian assistance; and the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review.

Mr. Singh has also worked in Sri Lanka, where he ran a Ford Foundation program on minority rights and conflict in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan. Mr. Singh holds degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Columbia University.

LT Sean Thompson and Mitchell Boltz Promote to LCDR

On September 3rd, 2013, a promotion ceremony was held in honor of U. S. Navy Lieutenants Sean Thompson and Mitchell Boltz for their promotion to Lieutenant Commander. Both LCDR Boltz and Thompson have extensive achievements in their naval careers including both having been forward deployed overseas as well as having experience serving on an aircraft carrier. Both LCDR Boltz and Thompson are active duty and have been working at JIATF West since April of 2013 and July of 2012 respectively.

The promotion ceremony, held in the JIATF West conference room, was presided by RDML James Rendon, USCG and was attended by family and staff members.

Guests at the promotion ceremony included LCDR Thompson's wife, Jill and three children; daughter, Grayson, and two sons, Brogan and Westley. LCDR Boltz's wife, Yuri was also in attendance (their two daughters, Kristina and Chelsy could not attend due to school).

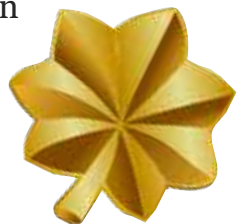


RDML James Rendon, USCG congratulates newly promoted LCDR Sean Thompson (left) and LCDR Mitchell Boltz after reciting the Commissioned Officer Oath of Office on the 3rd of September 2013. – Photo by JIATF West

LCDR Thompson serves as JIATF West's Staff Judge Advocate and LCDR Boltz as the Plans and Implementation officer.

LCDR Mitchell Boltz has over 25 years experience in the Navy having served 15 years as enlisted. After serving as a Chief for 3 years, he was selected for commissioning as a Limited Duty Officer in November of 2002, specializing as an electronics material officer. Prior to working at JIATF West, LCDR Boltz served on the USS George Washington CVN-73 in Yokosuka Japan.

Throughout his 25 year career, LCDR Boltz has been stationed in Japan for 17 years and in Hawaii for 6. Needless to say, LCDR Boltz and family love living in Hawaii. Aside from performing duties as a Plans and Implementation Officer for JIATF West's C4I Systems Department, LCDR Boltz also volunteers his time to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).



LT Sean Thompson and Mitchell Boltz Promote to LCDR

LCDR Sean Thompson has worked as a Prosecutor in a variety of assignments including, being a prosecutor for both the Navy and the US Attorney's office in Norfolk; senior prosecutor for II MEF in Al Anbar Province in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Assistance Command Judge Advocate on board USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77); and as the Flag aide to VADM Nanette DeRenzi (currently the Judge Advocate General of the Navy). In addition to serving as JIATF West's Staff Judge Advocate, LCDR Thompson is also the Voting Assistance Officer. Outside of work, LCDR Thompson is pursuing a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.



Newly promoted LCDR Mitchell Boltz has new gold oak leaf insignias pinned on his uniform by his wife, Yuri during a promotion ceremony on the 3rd of September 2013. – Photo by JIATF West



LCDR Sean Thompson's wife, Jill, pins on his new rank insignia on his uniform collar during a promotion ceremony on the 3rd of September 2013. – Photo by JIATF West

LT Sean Thompson and Mitchell Boltz Promote to LCDR



Above, LCDR Sean Thompson and family after the promotion ceremony held in the JIATF West conference room on the 3rd of September 2013. From left to right, daughter, Grayson; wife, Jill and two sons, Westley and Brogan. Below, LCDR Mitchell Boltz with his wife, Yuri. – Photo by JIATF West



Recipe of the Month - Butternut Squash Soup with Fontina Cheese Crostini

- By Chief Food Specialist Chief Andrew Donahue, USCG

It's fall now and one of my favorite fall foods is butternut squash. Here is a simple butternut squash soup recipe from Food Network. To step it up a notch, a nice fontina cheese crostini to go with it is also included. It tastes awesome and it's good for you!!!

Ingredients

Soup

2 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1 medium carrot, peeled and chopped into 1/2-inch pieces
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 1/2 pounds butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into 3/4-inch pieces (about 7 to 8 cups)
6 cups low-sodium chicken stock
1/4 cup chopped fresh sage leaves
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Crostini:

1/2 baguette, sliced diagonally into 1/2-inch thick slices
Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling
2 tablespoons chopped fresh sage leaves
1 cup (2 ounces) grated fontina cheese
Kosher salt

Directions:

In an 8-quart stockpot, add the butter and oil and melt together over medium-high heat. Add the onion and carrot and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is soft, about 5 minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook until aromatic, about 30 seconds.

Add the squash and the chicken stock. Bring the mixture to a boil and add the sage. Continue to boil until the vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes. Turn off the heat. Using an immersion blender, blend the mixture until smooth and thick. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Keep the soup warm over low heat.

For the crostini: Put an oven rack in the center of the oven. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Arrange the bread slices on a baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with sage. Sprinkle the cheese on top and season with salt, to taste. Bake until the cheese has melted and the bread is light golden, about 6 to 8 minutes.

To serve, ladle the soup into bowls and garnish with the cheese crostini.

Cook's Note: The cooked vegetable mixture can also be pureed (after cooling for about 5 minutes) by ladling, in batches, into a food processor or blender and blended until smooth.

Lt Col Jason Schramm's Promotion Ceremony



JlATF West Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, CDR Jeffrey Scudder, USN, administers the Officers Oath of Office to newly promoted Lt Col Jason Schramm, USAF during his promotion ceremony. Below, from left to right, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Kathy Schramm; son, Brady; daughter, Skylar; and spouse, Tara. - 27 September 2013, photo by JlATF West.

A promotion ceremony was held on the 27th of September in honor of U. S. Airforce Major Jason Schramm's advancement to Lieutenant Colonel. Attendees at the ceremony included Director of JlATF West, RDML James Rendon, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, CDR Jeffrey Scudder, USN and staff members. Jason's wife, Tara, two children (Skylar and Brady), two parents (Joe and Kathy) were also present. CDR Scudder was the promoting officer.



After completing his previous tour of duty in Singapore, Lt Col Schramm reported to JlATF West in December of 2012. His current role at JlATF

West is the Chief of Current Operations and oversees the work of all of the training liaison officers downrange.

Lt Col Schramm has over 15 years of service in the U. S. Air Force and has a background in Air Force Space Operations.

Lt Col Schramm is no stranger to Hawaii as he is here on his second tour of duty on Oahu. Other places he has served include Singapore, Colorado Springs, Las Vegas, Cheyenne, and Southern California.

When not working, Lt Col Schramm enjoys spending time with his family and playing the guitar. --

Thank you for reading...

This e-newsletter was produced by J5 Strategic Communications.
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