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USS Abraham

Lincoln (CVN 72)

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Photo by MCSN Geoffrey Lewis

Tiger Cruise 2006

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) hosted friends and family members of the crew for a Tiger cruise while en route from Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. The crew will host a second group of Tigers during the transit from San Diego to the ship's homeport of Everett, Wash. More than 750 Tigers rode the ship from Hawaii to Calif., enjoying a small sample of their Sailor's daily life at sea.

ALCSG Wraps Up WESTPAC Deployment 2006

MC1(SW/AW) JOAQUIN JUATAI
Penny Press Editor

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, July 29 en route to Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, Calif., to disembark Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 Aug. 4 before proceeding on the final leg of its Western Pacific deployment.

Lincoln expects to return to its homeport of Everett, Wash., Aug. 8. Lincoln departed Feb. 27, stopping in San Diego to load CVW-2

before heading west.

The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (ALCSG) participated in Operation Foal Eagle in the South China Sea before making its first port call of the deployment in Hong Kong April 6.

Upon leaving Hong Kong, ALCSG participated in a Passing Exercise (PASSEX) with the Thailand Navy and hosted the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand as well as many Thai distinguished Visitors (DVs) during the brief underway period between port visits, before

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Local News

'Save A Life Tour' Visits Lincoln Mess Decks

By MC3(AW) M. JEREMIE YODER
Penny Press Staff

The Navy has unveiled a new tool in its effort to educate Sailors of the hazards of drunken driving.

A multi-million dollar drunk-driving simulator, operated by "Save a Life Tour" Kramer International, is teaching Sailors aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and those attached to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 just how dangerous driving under the influence of alcohol is.

According to Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Guy Dicks, Lincoln's assistant command and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Awareness (DAPA) coordinator, the purpose of the simulator and classroom training is to familiarize people with the effect an individual's blood-alcohol content (BAC) has on their motor response mechanism.

"Depending on their BAC level," Dicks said, "there is a real delay factor involved in the individual's response time.

"People see (by using the simulator) that they cannot drink and drive...not without consequences," Dicks said.

"The major thing is that it convinces people that they have to focus so much on controlling their own vehicle on the road and staying within the lanes without swerving so that they don't get caught, that they miss every other potential hazard," he said.

Intelligence Specialist Seaman Appren-

tice Shela Constantineau, from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 151 said that the simulator was, for her, very convincing.

"It gives you a real-life example (of driving drunk), an idea of how you might really feel and the lack of control that you

educated about the real-life consequences, some will listen and their influence will have a cascading affect.

"If I can get to them, they might go to the bar and, when they see their friends drink, at least say to them, 'hey, don't drive'," said Beldyga.

But as Constantineau said, "Some people don't have a personal experience to tie them to a drunk driving situation, and this (the simulator) gives them the opportunity to realize that their actions have an effect on other people's lives."

As the ship prepares to return from deployment, Dicks said that it is especially important to make a push to educate people on the hazards created by mixing alcohol and vehicles.

"We are doing our best to leave people with no excuse for drinking

and driving," Dicks said.

"The simulator presents the consequences side. You prove to yourself that you cannot do it (drive under the influence), and you see the consequences if you try," Dicks said.

The whole point of the education process, Dicks said, is to make it easier for people to do the right thing.

Dicks said that while there are many avenues by which the U.S. Navy and Lincoln are attacking the drinking and driving issue, the simulator and classroom discussions are an important part of that overall education effort.



Photo by MC(AW) M. Jeremie Yoder

Brian Beldyga, founder of the "Save a Life Tour", demonstrates the "drunk driving" simulator to a Seaman Apprentice Jose Acevedo. The simulator teaches Sailors the truth about the dangers of mixing alcohol and driving by demonstrating the delay and inaccurate control drunk drivers experience behind the wheel.

have," Constantineau said.

"It will definitely make me think twice about getting behind the wheel of a car after having a couple of drinks," she said.

Brian Beldyga, the founder of the "Save a Life Tour," said that his goal is to reach one person every day.

"While in college, I lost my fiancée to a drunk driver," Beldyga said.

And it was just that situation that got his attention and motivated him to do something about the problem

Beldyga suggested that, while some people are just stubborn enough to still drink and drive even after they have been