

SHIP RIDER PROGRAM APRIL 2010

Two officers and two enlisted sailors from the Lithuanian Navy embarked on the USS Vicksburg (CG69), a Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser, in Scotland and sailed to their homeport of Klaipeda, LT. During their 24 days onboard, they participated in a joint exercise, visited Stockholm and gained valuable hands-on training. This training included watchstanding, damage control, firefighting, and Nuclear Biological Chemical familiarization. Not only were these Sailors able to become familiar with the organizational structure, ship's routine, and shipboard operations aboard a US Navy vessel, an additional bonus was for them to greatly improve their English skills! The two enlisted Sailors received Letters of Commendation from the Commanding Officer for their outstanding performance while onboard. One Sailor helped to update 20 navigational charts and was first to spot an „enemy“ submarine during one of the exercises. The other helped to repair three electric motors including the dishwasher motor in the scullery. The two officers had an opportunity to ride on the ship's Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter and were each presented a Commanding Officer ballcap and coin. The Ship Riders' team spirit fostered a lasting bond between the US Navy and the Lithuanian Navy. All four were very excited about the experience, the training they received, and highly encouraged future Ship Rider opportunities among their Lithuanian colleagues.



PO2 Valentinas with Letter of Commendation and ENS Norvilas with Commanding Officer's coin