



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY
US NAVAL HOSPITAL SHIP MERCY (T-AH 19)
FPO AP 96672-4090

July 21, 2010

Dear Prospective "Tiger",

On behalf of the crew of USNS MERCY, it is my sincere pleasure to invite you to participate in our "Tiger Cruise 2010."

A long-standing Navy tradition, "Tiger Cruise" is the Navy's code name for a very special guest cruise program. Ships returning from deployment are permitted to embark relatives and guests (Tigers) of crewmembers, for the transit from Pearl Harbor to the West Coast. It provides the opportunity for our family and friends to see and participate in our daily shipboard routine and enjoy some fun and educational activities provided by some of the MERCY crewmembers.

Operation Tiger planning is ongoing now and embark date is 13 September 2010 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and arriving in San Diego, California on 21 September 2010. Adult Tigers planning to visit the Pearl Harbor area prior to the ship's arrival date are strongly encouraged to make hotel reservations well in advance. Minors, under the age of 18, are not permitted to rent commercial lodging; therefore, minor Tigers arriving prior to the ship's arrival must be accompanied by a responsible adult. We recommend that you arrive on 12 or 13 September in order to minimize hotel costs.

To be eligible, there are few requirements that a "Tiger" must meet in order to participate. They are, but not limited to: 1) The minimum age requirement is 8 years of age or older. 2) Girlfriends, boyfriends, spouses, significant other, or any person that may become any of the above is strictly prohibited. 3) The "Tiger" must be accompanied by their sponsor or co-sponsor at all times, except if the Tiger is of the opposite gender of the sponsor, then a co-sponsor will be designated. The co-sponsor is a designated crewmember who shall be responsible for the "Tiger" during times that the primary sponsor is not able to accompany them (i.e., overnight).

The U.S. Navy cannot accept responsibility for any expenses incurred in the unlikely event that the cruise is cancelled or the ship's schedule is changed. The nominal fee for each Tiger goes toward the costs of shipboard meals. Sponsors and/or Tigers will be responsible for meals while onboard. For E4 and below, the cost is approximately \$65 and for E5 and above it will be \$75. Also, if you wish to purchase souvenirs or snacks while you are visiting, please bring along additional cash or traveler's checks. These are the only forms of tender we will be able to process.

"Tiger Cruise 2010" promises to be a fantastic experience for everyone involved. We plan to show you just what USNS MERCY can

really do. I think you'll enjoy all that shipboard Tiger Coordinator, HMC Jerry Cantorna Jr., has planned for you. We'll have everything from a flight deck cinema to man overboard drills. If you've ever wanted to get a real taste of Navy life, here's your chance.

If you think you would like to be a MERCY "Tiger," please complete the forms and send them to HMC Cantorna, at jerry.cantorna@mercy.navy.mil, as soon as possible. Include flight information if you have made your own travel arrangements. If you plan on making your own arrangements, but don't have the information yet, fill in as much as you can and send the form now. You can send the additional information to HMC Cantorna when you have finalized your arrangements.

We expect our list to fill up quickly, so don't wait too long to register. If you're not quite sure that you'll be able to come along, please register now anyway. Registration will be accepted and confirmed in the order received. Registration forms including the medical screening form, waiver and consent form, and registration form are also posted on the ships website. All forms are due as soon as possible.

To ensure we can properly execute all matters associated with the Tiger Cruise, the official embarkation roster will be closed on 6 August 2010 and only those members fully qualified and registered will remain on the list.

If you have any questions about our Tiger cruise, please feel free to contact HMC Jerry Cantorna, our Tiger Cruise coordinator, or Mrs. Janine Martinez, the USNS MERCY Ombudsman. HMC Cantorna can be reached via email at jerry.cantorna@mercy.navy.mil and Mrs. Martinez can be reached at janine.martinez7@gmail.com or by phone at (619) 889-7686.

I am joined by the entire crew of USNS MERCY in my hopes that you will be part of this exciting event.

Sincerely,



J. W. PAULSON