

Wirth Discussing

Thai Cave Rescue Demonstrates The Chevron Way

27 Jul 2018

There has been an outpouring of support, congratulations and pride from employees around the world upon learning of our colleagues' involvement in the rescue of 12 Thai teenagers and their soccer coach after being trapped in a cave for 17 days. Last week's [Inside story](#) detailed the role Chevron played in the rescue and highlighted some of the team members who provided support.

I could not be prouder of our company and our colleagues for their role in this international effort.

Sixteen Chevron employees and eighteen contractors mobilized to the cave site and were supported by nearly 100 employees and contractors working around the clock as part of the Emergency Management Team. Among them were three former Thai Navy SEALs, Mr. Doonyapinit Pooyoo (Khun Pook), Mr. Matchariya Khonchaisri (Khun Ming), and Mr. Suton Tawa (Khun Suton), who were instrumental in the rescue.

Khun Pook, an Operations Training Advisor for Chevron Angola, was home in Thailand on a 28/28 rotation and volunteered for the rescue effort. He was the leader of a combined joint operation team that carried the boys on the final leg of their journey out of the cave. He also played a key role in the diving command center, was involved in the planning of the diving operations and provided a daily briefing to the diving team, which was made up of international divers and ex-Thai Navy SEALs. Bilingual in Thai and English, he helped enhance communications between the teams to increase understanding and alignment of the daily operation. Khun Pook posted a handwritten sign at the cave entrance to outline a set of shared tenets responders should observe as part of the rescue. As you can see in the photo, which was posted on Facebook by the Thai Navy SEALs, the tenets are reflective of Chevron Way values.



A Facebook post by the Thai Navy SEALs highlighting operation tenets.

Khun Suton also led one of the teams that carried the boys out of the cave. During the final 3 days of the mission, he led a team of current and former Thai Navy SEALs and military personnel who transported the boys from one of the chambers in the cave to the exit. It was a very dangerous assignment with poor visibility, slippery rocks, uneven terrain and a diverse international team. During the mission, Khun Suton was also responsible for diving missions that delivered vital supplies including food, water, and air tanks to rescue teams inside the cave.

Khun Ming also provided support to the rescue teams by diving into the cave to deliver food, refill air tanks, and other logistical support. He, along with Khun Pook and Khun Suton, oversaw bringing a low-pressure oxygen supply line to the cave to increase oxygen levels. The extraordinary courage and selflessness shown by these three individuals is both humbling and inspiring.

In addition to personnel, Chevron also provided much-needed equipment. Within 24 hours of the Thai Navy SEALs' request for resources, Chevron committed hundreds of oxygen tanks, dozens of tank packs and a number of gas detectors to monitor air quality in various cave chambers. Chevron personnel were also involved in efforts to divert water flow from the cave and to determine the feasibility of drilling a well. One Chevron drilling engineer assisting in the operation recommended that a risk assessment be conducted before any drilling operation take place. That recommendation was accepted and Chevron led the team to complete the task.

The role that our company and our colleagues played in the rescue effort has truly brought our Chevron Way Vision to life – demonstrating what it looks like to be most admired for our people, partnership and performance.

Congratulations to all those involved. I particularly want to recognize the 16 Chevron employees, from a variety of disciplines, who were at the cave site: Mr. Parinya Pholbud, earth scientist; Mr. Sarayoot Geena, earth scientist; Mr. Nontapat Gnamsaard, electrical engineer; Mr. Jannikorn Suksin, electrical engineer; Mr. Payut Phatdamrongdet, construction engineer; Mr. Matchariya Khonchaisri, HES emergency response trainer; Mr. Doonyapinit Pooyoo, operations training advisor; Mr. Treepan Punkabutti, construction engineer; Mr. Sarun Kanjana-a-piban, electrical engineer; Mr. Arin Sangsuay, earth scientist; Mr. Palchayon Rutham, supply chain management; Mr. Somsak Matan, piping engineer; Mr. Khamawat Siritheerasas, drilling engineer; Mr. Thachchawech Maneewong, PGPA; Mr. Dapong Boon-Long, facility engineer; Mr. Suton Tawa, security specialist.

Your actions and commitment honor us. Khob kun krub. ขอบคุณคุณ

