

# Tropical Times

May 24, 2012



*Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Michael Smith performs a teeth cleaning on a military working dog at U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, May 17.*



**Submitted By**  
**Lt. Cmdr. Robert Spencer**  
**Command Chaplain,**  
**NAVSUPFAC Diego Garcia**

Memorial Day this year will be celebrated on Monday, May 28. This is a somber holiday for America because this is when we memorialize those who have died in our nation's wars. Hundreds of thousands have died in defense of what most Americans take for granted. We'll have the day off aboard Diego Garcia beginning with a 5K fun run for those who want to start the day on a positive note and add to their t-shirt collection. Most of our friends and family in the states and other duty stations overseas will probably also enjoy a holiday. Our peers and colleagues who remain in harms way down range will continue to risk life, limb, and sanity by combating our enemies. Others will be underway aboard their

# C h a p l a i n ' s c o r n e r

## “It Comes With A Price”

vessels hopefully with a holiday routine. Places of worship will offer religious services to pray for the deceased and for those who are mourning their losses. And of course prayers will be offered for an end to all wars as we will at our own chapel with Catholic Mass.

Before starting my active duty career I naively viewed this day as a routine three day weekend that started the summer season. When I put on the uniform I then saw it differently. I was now one of those that could be asked to pay a price for a stranger to enjoy their freedom. When I returned from Iraq after a year of duty I then saw Memorial Day in a whole different light. Down range I was a chaplain assigned to a camp that had a field hospital. I was very involved with ministering to the wounded, the deceased, medical personnel and

others who were traumatized by war. Some people were brought in from the battlefield driven by their friends. Others were flown to us by helicopter by strangers. In both cases they were trying to beat the clock as life slowly ebbed away. My job was to stand off in a corner of the operating room and pray for the victims and for the surgical teams who sometimes labored for hours to salvage a life or a limb. Most of the times the medical teams were successful. Others times not. They treated good guys and bad guys, young and old, military and civilian. I was very impressed with their skills and dedication.

Observing people die and then watching their best friends mourn their losses woke me up to the realization that freedom comes with a price. I have always heard this but now I was seeing it first hand.

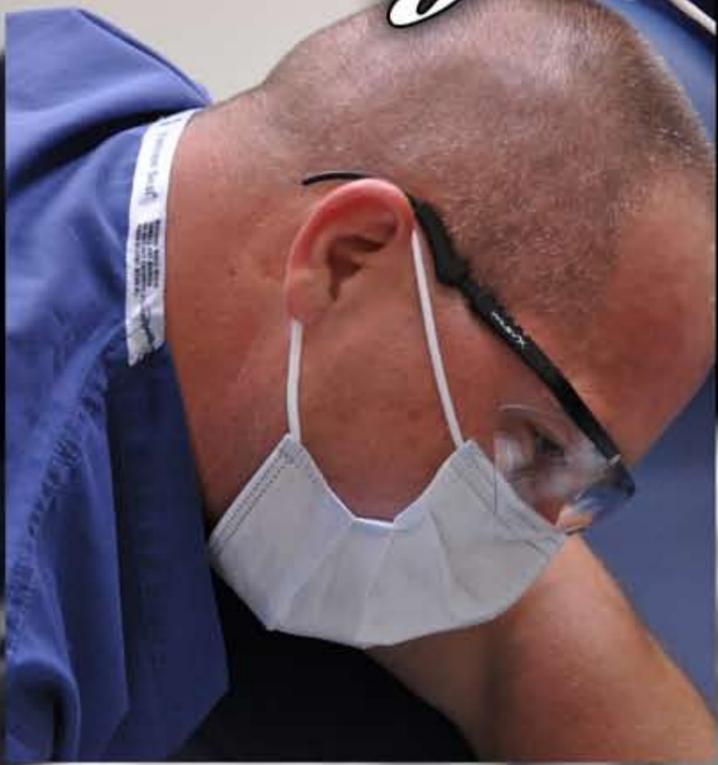
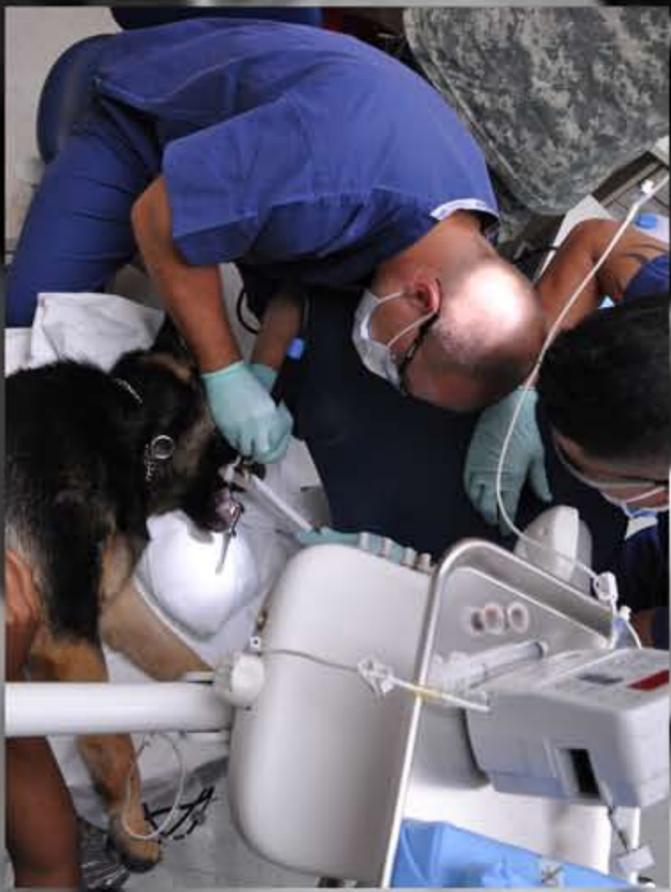
After returning to the states I now make it a point to attend public Memorial Day services. I feel as though I owe it to those who are still being mourned by their loved ones.

What a great country we have. We know this based on her people; some who are not even citizens but they still serve, bleed, and sometimes die. They are willing to give up themselves so that others can have what they have freely sacrificed. It all comes with a price. It has to because nothing so valuable can be so free. Certainly not freedom.

***“And now I commend you to God  
and to that gracious word of his that  
can build you up and give you an  
inheritance . . . ”***  
***(Acts 20:32)***



# *DG's Dental, goes to the Dogs*



# Diego Garcia NEWS

## MWDs Receive Annual Medical Care

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric A. Pastor

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – Military working dog (MWD) handlers stationed at U.S. Navy Support Facility (NAVSUPPFAC), Diego Garcia, work day after day to keep their MWDs mission ready.

According to Master-at-Arms Second Class Timothy D. Stonecipher, a MWD handler stationed at NAVSUPPFAC, the MWDs are constantly being trained in obedience, bomb and drug detection and routine patrolling.

Besides training, another major factor in the dogs' mission readiness is making sure they remain healthy.

The MWDs receive annual medical screenings that

include blood tests, as well as checking the respiratory rate, heart rate and temperature of the dogs, Stonecipher said.

The Diego Garcia MWDs received their annual medical screenings at Branch Health Clinic (BHC), Diego Garcia, May 17.

"The MWDs are a vital asset to the military," Stonecipher said. "To ensure the best working capability for the MWDs, it is very important to maintain and monitor the health of the MWDs to yield the best possible results."

The BHC medical crew was joined by U.S. Army Maj. Daniel Leach, commander, Public Health Command District Western Pacific, and U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Kay, officer in charge, Veterinary Treatment Facility, Naval



Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory (May 17, 2012) - U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Kay, the officer in charge at the Veterinary Treatment Facility, Naval Base Guam, performs a teeth cleaning on a military working dog at U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, May 17. The teeth cleaning is part of multiple procedures to keep the dogs in good health. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric A. Pastor)

Base Guam. Leach and Kay led the procedures, while also training members of BHC in the proper techniques to treating the MWDs.

The medical care that the MWDs receive is of the same quality that every other servicemember is given, Stonecipher said.

The procedures done are designed to cause very little downtime after being administered to the dogs.

"The readiness of the dogs isn't usually affected unless a major surgery is done," Stonecipher said. "A day or so is

the normal recovery time."

The annual screenings and teeth cleanings are just one more step toward keeping vital U.S. military assets in prime health.

# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## ONR to Showcase Futuristic Technologies at Fleet Week New York

By Katherine H. Crawford, Office of Naval Research

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Office of Naval Research (ONR) is taking some of its hottest technologies and hands-on science activities to the city that never sleeps during Fleet Week New York May 23-30, a free event open to the public.

"This is a great opportunity to connect with others across the maritime family and with New Yorkers to show how ONR's work is improving their armed forces' capabilities and national security," said Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. Matthew Klunder. "We thank New York for showing its appreciation to those who serve and honoring the heroes who've made the ultimate sacrifice."

ONR will have exhibits on Piers 86 and 92. At Pier 92, ONR is featuring some of its cutting-edge technologies. Making its first Fleet Week appearance is the new F/A-18E/F Super Hornet flight simulator. Visitors can try piloting a virtual F/A-18 featuring

newly developed flight control software that aids landing aboard aircraft carriers.

Other featured technologies include:

- \* Catapult Capacity Selector Valve Calculator-a handheld electronic device with custom software that allows flight deck officers to accurately and quickly compute the proper catapult setting for aircraft carrier launches
- \* Fuel Cell Vehicle-this automotive technology runs on hydrogen-powered fuel cells rather than a standard internal combustion engine, producing zero emissions
- \* Ground Unmanned Support Surrogate Vehicle-an unmanned vehicle designed to re-supply troops, reduce the loads carried by Marines and provide an immediate means for evacuating combat casualties
- \* Improved Flight Deck Uniform-includes new, safer head protection; a more durable, quick-drying and comfortable jersey; a coat that acts as a flotation



NEW YORK (May 29, 2011) Service members surround a sand sculpture created for a special taping of the "Sand Masters" television show salute to the Centennial of Naval Aviation during Fleet Week New York 2011. Fleet Week has been New York City's celebration of the sea services since 1984 and is an opportunity for citizens of New York and the surrounding tri-state area to meet Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, as well as see first-hand, the capabilities of today's maritime services.(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eric S. Garst)

device in emergencies; and trousers with secure pockets and an improved fit

- \* Modular Advanced Armed Robotic System-a remotely operated unmanned ground vehicle that can provide remote targeting and weapons engagement, as well as advanced intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance
- \* Multiple Weapon Control Sight-an infantry weapon fire control unit that mounts to the side of numerous weapon systems to provide ballistic fire control with a range knob and light-emitting diode (LED) display screen
- \* Octavia-a mobile, dexterous, social robot that moves

on wheels and can express humanlike facial expressions, gesture with her hands and move objects

ONR provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 30 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning and more than 900 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,065 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel, with additional employees at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil).

# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## Navy Announces New Uniform Components, Regulations

*From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON -- NAVADMIN 164/12, released May 18, announced the chief of naval operations' (CNO) approval of a number of changes to uniforms and uniform wear policy.

"These uniform changes are the direct result of Sailor and leadership feedback," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy. "Updating Navy uniforms is part of outfitting the 21st Century Sailor, ensuring our Sailors have practical uniforms they want and that represent our proud naval heritage while reflecting advances in clothing technology and design."

An improved design of the male E1-E6 Service Dress Blue (SDB) Uniform, incorporating a side zipper on the jumper and a hidden center zipper on the trousers, is approved. The uniform is scheduled to begin distribution in October 2015, at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, and Fleet availability is expected by October 2018. Specific details regarding fleet availability will be announced in a future NAVADMIN.

The E1-E6 men's and women's Service Dress White (SDW) jumper approved design improvements include incorporating a side zipper, front and rear yoke, Navy blue piping on the flap, and sleeve cuffs with Navy blue piping and button fasteners. Introduction of the new E1-E6 SDW will begin October 2015, at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes. Fleet roll out will begin by October 2018. Specific details regarding Fleet availability will be announced in a future NAVADMIN.

The contemporary design for Service Dress Khaki (SDK) is approved for optional wear. Detailed guidance on the occasion for wear and Fleet availability will be announced in a future NAVADMIN.

A number of changes to the Navy flight suit occasion and manner of wear are contained in the NAVADMIN, including changes to the approved colors for undershirts and aligning the manner of wear of the one-piece flight suit with the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type I.

Among the changes to NWU policy approved in the NAVADMIN is the option to wear a nametape on the left shoul-

der pocket flap of the NWU Type I Parka, beginning July, 17. These nametapes will be purchased at the Sailor's expense during the optional period. Nametapes will become mandatory Oct 1, 2013. Sailors will receive a clothing replacement allowance to help purchase one additional nametape for the parka.

Other changes to the NWU policy include the approval to wear as an optional item a nylon webbing rigger belt and NWU pattern foul weather Gore-Tex trousers. The optional rigger belt will be a one and three-fourth inch wide, one-piece adjustable nylon webbing, metal or plastic buckle.

Belts worn by E-1 through E-6 personnel will be black, while belts worn by E-7 and above will be tan/khaki.

Sailors will be able to buy the NWU pattern foul weather Gore-Tex trousers for wear during inclement weather to and from home and work. Personally purchased trousers will not be worn to perform official or assigned duties. The trousers will be available for purchase at selected Navy Exchange Uniform Centers, on-line and 1-800 call centers beginning Oct. 1.

The NAVADMIN includes a list of additional commands authorized to wear the NWU Type III (Woodland) for daily and deployment and deployment training wear, as well as further guidance on approval authority for the wear of this uniform.

Fleet Commanders (USFF and PACFLT) will now be the authorizing authority for wear of the NWU Type III for deployment and pre-deployment work up/training. When not in a deployment or pre-deployment training status, personnel will wear the NWU Type I or service uniform as appropriate.

In June 2013, an optional redesigned khaki maternity blouse with adjustable waist tabs and slightly shorter length will be

available in regular and long sizes. The blouse will become a mandatory, as needed, item in 2015.

The NAVADMIN also approved several insignia and badge additions and changes including standardizing the design and reducing the number of Navy Security Forces Identification badges from eight to three badges: U.S. Navy Security Forces, U.S. Navy Corrections Specialist and U.S. Navy Master-at-Arms.

A Strategic Sealift Officer Warfare Insignia (SSOWI) for wear by officers who have successfully completed the qualification requirements will be available May 2013. The United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) identification badge is authorized to be worn by officers and enlisted assigned to USCYBERCOM beginning July 17.

Also beginning July 17, the Marine Corps Combatant Diver (MCD) breast insignia is authorized for wear on Navy uniforms by Sailors that successfully meet all qualification requirements stipulated in MILPERSMAN article 1220-101, (U.S. Marine Corps Marine Combatant Diver Breast Insignia and Designation).

Illustrations of the new uniform items and insignia, as well as instructions on how to submit uniform changes to the Uniform Board, can be found on the Navy Uniform Matters Office website at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/uniforms/pages/default2.aspx>.

For complete information on the approved uniform policy changes read NAVADMIN 164/12 at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

For more information, visit [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil), [www.facebook.com/usnavy](http://www.facebook.com/usnavy), or [www.twitter.com/usnavy](http://www.twitter.com/usnavy).

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cnp/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnp/).

# What's happening in Diego Garcia

## HEAT

SAILORS AND THEIR FAMILIES CAN NOW APPLY FOR HOUSING ONLINE FROM ANY COMPUTER. THE HOUSING EARLY APPLICATION TOOL (HEAT) MAKES THE HOUSE HUNTING PROCESS SMOOTHER AND LESS STRESSFUL. SAILORS AND THEIR FAMILIES CAN REVIEW HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ON A HOME BEFORE RECEIVING PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION ORDERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.CNIC.NAVY.MIL/HEAT](http://WWW.CNIC.NAVY.MIL/HEAT).

## Outstanding Kabayan 2012 Awards

CHOOSE AND NOMINATE YOUR ROLE MODEL IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. SKILLS AND LABOR
2. MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION
3. SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
5. PROFESSIONALISM

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES BEFORE MAY 31. FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO OBTAIN A NOMINATION FORM, PLEASE CONTACT: FRANCIS DE LUNA 370-4540.

## NOTICE

THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF DIEGO GARCIA, WILL BE OFF-LIMITS TO ALL HANDS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

- THIS RESTRICTION APPLIES TO:
- EVENTS AT THE R&R SITE OR PLANTATION.
  - SUNDAY PLANTATION BUS RUNS.
  - SPECIAL REQUESTS TO VISIT THE PLANTATION AND R&R SITE.
  - ALL VISITING BOATS FROM THE MWR MARINA (MOORING BUOY).

## Blood Donations

THE BLOOD BANK IS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF ALL BLOOD TYPES. ALL HANDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET SCREENED FOR ELIGIBILITY. TO DONATE PLEASE CONTACT THE BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC AT 370-4211.

## Ombudsman Search

DIEGO GARCIA WILL NEED A NEW OMBUDSMAN AS OF JUNE 2012. IF YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER OR SPOUSE IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING THE NEW OMBUDSMAN PLEASE CONTACT THE CMC.

## Gas Station Move

EFFECTIVE MAY 25TH THE GAS STATION WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED WHILE UNDERGOING RENOVATION. GAS SERVICING WILL BE AT THE FUEL TRUCKS PARKING AREA AT THE CORNER OF DG-1 AND PORTSMOUTH ROAD.

## ATTENTION:

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND DEPENDENTS CAN NOW VISIT FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES OR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES FOR FREE. OBTAIN TICKETS FROM ANY FEDERAL RECREATION SITE THAT CHARGES AN ENTRANCE OR STANDARD AMENITY FEE.

Friday  
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Saturday  
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Sunday  
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Monday  
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Tuesday  
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Wednesday  
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Thursday  
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Powerboat Class  
Basic Boating  
Marina  
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Canoe Relay Race  
Marina  
2:30 p.m.

MWR Windsurfing  
Regatta  
Marina  
2 p.m.

5K Fun Run  
Fitness Center  
7:30 a.m.

Kickball Tournament  
Fitness Center  
6 p.m.  
**Military Only**

4 X 50M Freestyle  
Swim Competition  
Base Pool  
6 p.m.

DG Tennis  
Tournament  
(Singles)  
Court A  
5 p.m.

**The Grey**  
Action  
R  
8 p.m.

**My Week With  
Marlin**  
Drama  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

**War Horse**  
Drama  
PG  
8 p.m.

**The Darkest Hour**  
Action  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

**Ghost Rider: Spirit  
Of Vengeance**  
Thriller  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

**Underworld:  
Awakening**  
Action  
PG 13  
7 p.m.  
**Island Room**

**Immortals**  
Action  
R  
8 p.m.

**Dream House**  
Drama  
PG 13  
10 p.m.

**Red Tails**  
Action  
PG 13  
10 p.m.

**Tropical Times**

United States Navy Support Facility  
Diego Garcia British Indian Ocean  
Territory

**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. David L. Tidwell

**Executive Officer**  
Cmdr. Stephen E. Petras

**Command Master Chief**  
CMDM(SW/AW) Robert L. Johnson

**Public Affairs Officer**  
MC1(SW/AW) Ryan B. Tabios

**Tropical Times Editor**  
MC3 April D. Adams

**Command Journalists**  
MC2 (AW/EXW) Emmanuel Rios  
MCSN Eric A. Pastor

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business Tuesday**

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.

Resources are available if you need someone to talk to confidentially.  
Contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) at 370-4421

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Pager 370-9300, ext. 1826 - 24/7

Page the on-call SAPR Victim Advocate at 370-9300 ext. 1825.

