

# Tropical Times

October 19, 2012



*Tropical Times  
goes Pink*

*Construction Mechanic 1st Class Marvin Milton performs the POW/MIA ceremony during U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia's Navy Birthday Ball, honoring the Navy's 237th Anniversary. The table of the POW/MIA Ceremony is an opportunity to remember those individuals who fought and died for our country.*

## Tropical Times

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U.S. Navy Support Facility  
Diego Garcia  
British Indian Ocean Territory

**Commanding Officer**  
CAPT Richard A. Skiff

**Executive Officer**  
CDR Christopher Atkinson

**Command Master Chief**  
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**Public Affairs Officer**  
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All editorial content is prepared by the U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, Public Affairs Office.

Submissions to the Tropical Times are due to the editor no later than close of business Tuesday.

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## *A Footprint in the Sand*

Air Traffic Controlman 2nd Class Nicholas Stanoch is from Holding, Minn., and is being recognized by his department for exemplary performance.

Stanoch has been in the Navy for four years and joined for the training and college benefits. Traveling to Diego Garcia is his best experience so far.

Since arriving to Diego Garcia, Stanoch, has hit the ground running qualifying in various Air Traffic Control positions, he was able to qualify in less than 50 percent of the time allotted. His steadfast ambition and superior knowledge sets the example for his peers to emulate.

AC2 Nicholas Stanoch  
AIR/OPS



## NAVSUPPFAC's Sailors of the Year



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Christian M. Caldwell

*DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (Oct. 13, 2012) - Congratulations to Master at Arms 2nd Class JaDaniel Washington, Junior Sailor of the Year, Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric Pastor, Blue Jacket of the Year, and Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW), Sailor of the Year. NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia's Sailors of the Year were announced at this year's Navy Ball.*

# Diego Garcia NEWS

## NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia Celebrates Navy's 237th Birthday

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Christian Caldwell

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – The 2012 Navy Ball commemorated the Bi-centennial of the War of 1812. During the war, the U.S. was in great conflict with the British. However, this is no longer true, the U.K. has become one of our strongest allies.

“Diego Garcia is a unique base,” said Cmdr. Christopher Atkinson, Executive Officer of U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia (NAVSUPPFAC). “This installation is not enclosed on foreign soil and we are intertwined with those who own the territory.”

The British presence at this Navy Ball symbolizes our nation's strong bond with the U.K. and how far we have come this past 200 years.

“We must work together with the British Forces to meet our national interests and strategic goals,” said Atkinson.

Many Royal Sailors, Royal Marines and British Soldiers attended this year's Navy Ball. They enjoyed dinner, drinks and dancing together as partners and friends.

Sgt. Jim Robinson, a Communications Engineer at Diego Garcia, was one of those representing the British Forces at the Navy Ball.

“It was a very well organized event. It was a great deal of fun and I enjoyed the meal and drinks,” said Robinson.

The British service members were welcomed with open arms by the U.S. Sailors at the event. Every service member, American or British, raised their glass to toast the President, the Queen and everyone

in-between.

“It was great experience to have such camaraderie with the British,” said Yeoman 2nd Class Heather Seaward, administrative clerk at U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia.

“Their interests mirror ours and we work together to work towards a common goal,” said Atkinson.

Many of the British Forces on the island work with U.S. Sailors on a day-to-day basis. This type of work environment has allowed them to foster a greater friendship than ever before.

“We work exceptionally well together,” Atkinson said. “The British forces here are in charge and we support them. When we have a vital national interest here, they support us. It is a mutual working relationship that is beneficial and strategic in nature.”

Although both nations were at war 200 years ago, events such as the Navy Ball on Diego Garcia have shown that the U.S. and U.K. have become very strong partners and allies.

“British and Americans have joined together here as sea-faring nations to celebrate our countries' right to navigate the world's oceans and that is what makes Diego Garcia unique from the rest of the fleet,” said Atkinson.

We work together as a cohesive unit, which creates a pleasant work environment for both of our nation's forces, said Seaward.

“There has been a great bond that has been forged between our countries,” said



*(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric A. Pastor) DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (Oct. 13, 2012) - British Representative, Cmdr. Richard Marshall proposes a toast to the Queen of England, during U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia's Navy Ball. Sailors, Airmen, British Forces and civilian personnel attended the celebration, which commemorated the Bi-centennial of the War of 1812.*

Royal Navy Cmdr. Richard Marshall, British Representative at Diego Garcia.

“Each opportunity to share each other's customs and traditions is most welcome and reminds us that we are all Sailors first and members of our respective navies second,” said Marshall.

“We have so many shared experiences between the U.S. Navy and U.K. Navy that it was a natural extension to what we already share,” he said. “The pride members of the United States Navy have for their own service is very nice to see. We enjoy that U.S. Sailors have a love for traditions and heritage as much as we do.”

# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## Big “E” Celebrates Navy Birthday Underway for the Last Time



*(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Scott Pittman)*  
U.S. 5th FLEET AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (Sept. 27, 2012) The aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) is underway on her 25th and final deployment. Enterprise is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Heath Zeigler

USS ENTERPRISE, At Sea (NNS) -- USS Enterprise (CVN 65) did its part in celebrating the Navy's 237th birthday with its own unique flare Oct. 13.

For over 200 years, the United States Navy has stood the watch as the shield of the republic. It has protected the country and its interests around the world.

Enterprise Sailors celebrated the Navy's 237th birthday the “Big E” way. Amelia Chappell, the fitness boss aboard Big E, coordinated with Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to put together a fun exercise

event for the crew.

The event took place in the hangar bay both in the morning and at night to give everyone a chance to participate. Each Sailor taking part in the event was asked to do 237 push ups and 237 curl-ups to honor the Navy's birthday.

The Enlisted Junior Sailor Organization (EJSO) hosted the traditional cutting of the Navy's birthday cake. The Chief's Mess

also participated by helping serve the cake.

“On the 237th birthday of our Navy, we have the honor to serve in the greatest maritime force ever seen,” said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Leteasha A. Carter, EJSO president. “So with humility, we continue trying to live up to the example of those who have come before us.”

The cake-cutting ceremony began with opening remarks delivered by Carter and Capt. William C. Hamilton, Jr., commanding officer of Enterprise.

The cutting of the cake has

been a long standing tradition in which the oldest and the youngest Sailor at a command cut the first piece. Enterprise took part in this tradition for the last time as the legendary carrier begins to wrap up its 25th and final deployment.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Joseph R. Burris, of Air department's V-3 division, and Capt. Stephen Paulette, the oral-maxillofacial surgeon aboard Enterprise, were selected to cut the cake. Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Timothy Lumpkin, leading petty officer of Deck department's 2nd division, rang the eight bells signaling the beginning of the next year for the Navy.

Enterprise celebrated its last Navy birthday with pride. Sailors from every corner of the ship turned out for the evening celebration. Without a shadow of a doubt, this birthday celebration was truly one to remember.

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 USS Enterprise (CVN 65), visit [www.navy.mil/local/cvn65/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cvn65/).

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## Chaplain's Corner

### Embracing Diversity

*“Serve Allah, and join not any partners with Him; and do good- to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer (ye meet), and what your right hands possess: For Allah loveth not the arrogant, the vainglorious,”* Surah 4:36, Qur’an

*“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God,”* Leviticus 19:34

*“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you,”* Luke 6:27-28

As I arrive here at Diego Garcia, I am struck by the unique diversity that exists - diversity of countries, commands, ethnicities, ages, cultures, civilian and military backgrounds and experiences – all thrown together on one small little island with strangers and friends coming and going in order to complete one mission together. And so I’ve been thinking about the scriptures above and some of the things that may contribute to our success, mission readiness and happiness here: Hospitality, humility, selflessness, love of God, of self and neighbor.

As I look around the world in

politics, news, entertainment, and as I look into my personal world and the attitude of my heart, I often face a reality very different from these values; consequently, these scriptures challenge and encourage me. All too often we experience and enact fear, not love - violence, not peace – judgment or indifference rather than acceptance or hospitality – selfishness in place of service - division rather than trust, civility, unity, understanding and team work. Upon examination, I often find myself dealing with large and small fears, self-protection, self-righteousness that demands my right and others’ understanding of me before I will step toward them. Sometimes I dismiss others, judge, hold bitterness, disregard or simply do not take time to embrace, welcome and see them as people and unique children of the Lord who deserve my intentional love. I have seen how these “little things” in my heart or in relationships between individuals, left untended, can grow into loneliness, lead to confusion, unhappiness or emotional and spiritual emptiness.

And so the answer begins in these same little things and in the Scriptures. My prayer for all of us this year is that we might grow in the actual understanding and practice of hospitality and humility, love and forgiveness with ourselves, our colleagues, our families, friends and spouses. It may begin in the fasting



***Lt. J.G. Dominic Mirenda***  
*Command Chaplain*

from demanding and selfish behavior so that I set myself aside in order to seek and serve the good of others first. I find that I have to work at this repeatedly, let go of control, pray and choose intentionally to act out of my beliefs rather than my emotions until my emotions learn slowly how to listen to my values. Fortunately, I find that life provides us ample opportunity each day to practice this with people as we live, work and learn how to resolve conflict together. God calls us to see ourselves and each other as unique, precious and sacred creations that are loved and calls us to love, serve and respect each other with our thoughts, words and actions. May we honor God and one other by setting ourselves aside to offer welcome and hospitality to the strangers among us. May we learn how to love ourselves and others as God does and offer forgiveness, even when others or we don't earn it. May we do good to those who dislike or hate us, bless those who curse us and pray for those who mistreat us because in these truths we find transformation. In honoring each other this way, we find strength in our diversity and greater overall effectiveness as a team. We experience peace and freedom. We find love, and in so doing, we find Life.

# NAVSUPFAC DG Hosts Navy Ball



# Calendar of Events

	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26	Saturday 27	Sunday 28
<b>MWR</b>	<b>Jump Rope and Run Competition</b> Fitness Center 6 p.m.	<b>7 on 7 Soccer Tournament</b> Fleet Rec 6 p.m.	<b>6 on 6 Volleyball Indoor</b> Fitness Center 6 p.m.	<b>Powerboat Class Basic Boating</b> Marina 4:30 p.m.	<b>Powerboat Class Basic Boating</b> Marina 4:30 p.m.	<b>400m Laser Pico Hull Paddling Race</b> Marina 3 p.m.	<b>Windsurfing Regatta</b> Marina 2:30 p.m.
<b>Movies</b>	<b>Brave</b> Animation PG 8 p.m.	<b>People Like Us</b> Drama PG 13 8 p.m.	<b>Moonrise Kingdom</b> Comedy PG 13 7 p.m. <i>Island Room</i>	<b>Madea's Witness Protection</b> Comedy R 8 p.m.	<b>Prometheus</b> Adventure R 8 p.m. <b>Men in Black 3</b> Action PG 13 10 p.m.	<b>The Best Exotic Marigold</b> Comedy PG 13 8 p.m. <b>Abraham Lincoln...</b> Action R 10 p.m.	<b>Rock of Ages</b> Comedy PG 13 4 p.m. <i>Island Room</i> <b>Amazing Spiderman</b> Action PG 13 10 p.m.

## "Oh by the ways..."

### Perform to Serve

WHEN A SAILOR'S FIRST ENLISTMENT IS ENDING, PERFORM TO SERVE (PTS) IS USED TO EVALUATE WHETHER THAT SAILOR IS SERVING THE FLEET AS NEEDED. FIRST-TERM SAILORS MUST SUBMIT PTS APPLICATIONS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF END OF ACTIVE OBLIGATED SERVICE (EAOS) OR PROTECTED ROTATION DATE (PRD), WHICHEVER COMES FIRST, REGARDLESS OF REENLISTMENT INTENTIONS. THE FLEET RATING IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, OR FLEET RIDE, IS A PTS PARTNER. FLEET RIDE REVEALS YOUR INTERESTS AND ABILITIES, MATCHING YOU TO "GOOD FIT" RATINGS. AFTER REVIEW, A DECISION IS MADE ON MOVING YOU FROM AN OVERMANNED RATING, TO AN UNDERMANNED ONE.

### Improve Your Diet

BALANCE YOUR CALORIES, INCREASE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INTAKE, REDUCE SODIUM INTAKE AND DRINK WATER, AND BUILD HEALTHY EATING PATTERNS.

### Oktoberfest

WHEN: OCT. 20 @ 8 P.M.  
WHERE: ISLAND ROOM  
TICKETS ARE \$12 PER PERSON. ENJOY BEER BRAISED SAUSAGES, BRATWURST, KNOCKWURST, GRILLED PORK CHOP SANDWICHES, GERMAN STYLE POTATO AND HAM SALAD, PRETZEL ROLLS AND MUCH MORE. GAMES INCLUDE A BRAT TOSS, STEIN HOSTING AND A YODELING CONTEST.

### CFC Note

THE 2012 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN IS NOW UNDERWAY UNTIL NOV. 16. CONTACT YOUR COMMAND OR DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO DONATE. DONATE \$150 OR MORE AND RECEIVE A CFC COIN!

### Ombudsman Search

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

### Domestic Violence Awareness

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH EVOLVED FROM THE FIRST DAY OF UNITY, OBSERVED IN OCTOBER, 1981 BY THE NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THE INTENT WAS TO CONNECT BATTERED WOMEN'S ADVOCATES ACROSS THE NATION, WHO WERE WORKING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN. THE DAY OF UNITY SOON BECAME A SPECIAL WEEK WHEN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WAS FIRST OBSERVED OCTOBER OF 1987.