

Tropical Times

February 10, 2012



NFL cheerleaders perform during the halftime show at a Super Bowl party in Diego Garcia's Island Room, Feb. 6. Six NFL cheerleaders performed dance routines, posed for pictures and signed autographs for U.S. Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen as part of the 2012 All-Star Super Bowl Tour, put together by Armed Forces Entertainment and ProTour Productions.



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

Marriage is forever: There was a scene in the movie when a man walked out on his family because he could not provide for them. Leaving was the easy way for him to solve that problem. Spouses promise to remain faithful on their wedding day to include the good times and bad, in sickness and in health. Do people take these promises seriously today? Sometimes it appears if there is a problem in a marriage, they just divorce and find someone else. Spouses should lean on and support each other, especially during trying times. Husbands and wives can disagree but they should still stay together to work out their problems.

Unselfishness: One morning before going to the docks hoping to be selected for work on that particular day,

Braddock's wife cooks him breakfast. His meal was a single piece of fried bologna, nothing else. His small daughter comes to the table and mentions that she is hungry. Good old dad tells his daughter about the dream he had the night before where he ate so much food at a banquet that he was no longer hungry and that she should eat his breakfast for him, she did. He then walked out the door content in knowing his daughter was no longer hungry. Now he had to find a job that day and earn a dollar so that she and her siblings could have something to eat later that night.

The parish was the social hub: The local neighborhood parish was the centerpiece of activity. Families gathered there to worship, socialize and to network.

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Lessons Learned from Cinderella Man Part 3

They also went there to celebrate and mourn together. One particular day the parish held a birthday celebration for all the kids celebrating their birthday that month. It was a group effort and they were all in it together. It's good not to suffer alone. It is even better to believe in God, especially during difficult times. For some people that's all that they have. More importantly, that's all they need.

The parish was the haven for hope: On the day of a fight, Mrs. Braddock, the nervous wife of the nervous boxer who is in over his head with a more able opponent, goes to the church to pray for her husband. Upon entering the church, she bumps into the pastor who was a former sparring partner of Braddock's. She

came to pray for Jim." The pastor nodded toward the pews and said, "So did they." She saw the church full of people who came to pray for her husband and to listen to the fight on the radio. The boxing match would be likened to David versus Goliath. But, instead of a slingshot, Braddock would be armed with faith, hope and the prayers of his friends and family. To be continued...

"Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

NFL Cheerleaders Visit Diego Garcia For Super Bowl

Cheerleaders from various NFL teams visited Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, Super Bowl weekend as a part of the 2012 All-Star Super Bowl Tour. The cheerleaders were part of a group that included a comedian and a magician. While on Diego Garcia, the performers put on shows, signed autographs and went on a tour of the island. The 2012 All-Star Super Bowl Tour was put together by Armed Forces Entertainment and ProTour Productions.



Awards at Quarters

Congratulations to Our New Sailors and Civilians of the Quarter!



MA1 Jason M. Breedlove is recognized as "Sailor of the Quarter."



From left, Mr. Romeo B. Manaloto, EMC Aaron Alexander, MASN Justin A. Roy, MA2 James C. Sanders, Ms. Marilou Monton, MA3 Joseph W. MacDougal, MA1 Jason M. Breedlove, MASN Colton M. Otto, MM1 Scott Shafer and AC2 Justin M. O'Bryant, awardees, stand with Capt. David L. Tidwell, the commanding officer of U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, after receiving their awards Feb. 2.



AC2 Justin M. O'Bryant is recognized as "Junior Sailor of the Quarter."



MASN Justin A. Roy is recognized as "Blue Jacket of the Quarter."



Mr. Romeo B. Manaloto is recognized as "Senior Civilian of the Quarter."



Ms. Marilou Monton is recognized as "Junior Civilian of the Quarter."

Welcome Aboard

Hello Team CNIC.

I am Vice Admiral Bill French. The new Commander Navy Installations Command. Some of you in the CNIC family already know me as I've had the privilege of serving as Commander for three Navy regions over the past six years, Region Northwest, Joint Region Marianas Guam, and Navy Region Southwest.

I want to take this opportunity to say how much I am looking forward to working with all of you on the CNIC team. I plan to get out and visit with you all in the coming months. My vision is simple, to support CNO Greenert's Sailing Directions and Vision, which he summarized in just six words: "warfighting first", "operate forward" and "be ready."

What we do in the shore is part of the Navy's vital structure upon which these Sailing Directions hinge. We are part of the foundation for fleet and family readiness and an absolute priority in order to deploy our sailors properly focused and confident in their ability to carry out their missions.

Sailors demonstrate daily that our Navy is flexible, adaptable, and ready to respond globally. We in the shore must do the same. Focusing on mastering our business, collecting data in an automated way, making it available to everyone and analyzing it, all of this will help each of us inform our team and our customers in

making better decisions, and consequently help us deliver shore services to the fleet, fighter and family. As you know, the next few years will be challenging. Sure, the budget cards are stacked against us and we face continued scrutiny in what the Navy gets for their investment in the shore. Our jobs are to tell our stories of real impact and then make the best of what we have.

I know that challenging times can create uncertainties and stress for everyone. I will do everything that I can to ensure that we here at headquarters are as transparent as possible to minimize the uncertainties.

You will find continuity in how CNIC will move forward. Vice Admiral Vitale and I have spent much time together over the last several years and in greater intensity over the past several weeks. I believe in where we are headed and that our dedicated people are the key for our success. As we move forward, I believe we must have a simple, direct and compact view of what we do and how we do it. We must be credible. Our leaders must know what the truth is so they can make

decisions, and they must know that what we say is what we will do.

We must be concrete, not evasive or unclear. We must standardize, one of the final pieces to the efficiency puzzle, in addition to leveraging IT solutions. And fi-

nally in the end, it isn't and can't be about the money and the budget. Rather, it is about doing what is right for our sailors and families with what we have.

During the last six years I've been with the CNIC enterprise, I've learned that we have some of the best, brightest and

most talented professionals in the Navy. You have established immense credibility on how you are meeting customer needs. I am proud to be part of such a superb organization and I look forward to working with you.



Vice Adm. Bill French, Commander, Navy Installations Command

NEWS *from around the fleet*

Navy Tuition Assistance Policy Updated

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Policy changes to the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance program and Navy Voluntary Education were announced in NAVADMIN 029/12, released Jan. 24.

The changes were needed to provide better quality control over courses taken by service members as well as to reflect the realities of fiscal pressure to reduce Department of Defense (DoD) spending.

"Navy leadership is committed to providing Sailors the opportunity to pursue their education goals," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk. "We know the investment we make in Sailors comes back to the Navy in numerous ways. It's an investment well made in our workforce to make them better critical thinkers, performers and ultimately, better Sailors." DoD instruction 13222.25 released in March 2011 required a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with academic institutions and DoD by January 1 to be eligible to receive TA funding. DoD recently moved the due date to April 1. As a result, the Navy's policies for

authorizing Tuition Assistance (TA) have changed and Sailors will not be able to use TA for courses at institutions without a signed MOU by April 1. To help Sailors through this transition process, Sailors who meet all requirements for TA and submit a command-approved TA request prior to April 1 for courses beginning between April 1 and May 1 will be approved for TA regardless of their institution's DoD MOU status.

Sailors who meet all the above requirements but whose TA request is submitted after April 1 will be approved for TA only if their institution has a signed DoD MOU. Sailors can check the DoD MOU status of the academic institution they are attending by going to www.DODMOU.com and clicking on the "Participating Institutions" tab.

Sailors enrolled in Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) courses will not be affected by the DoD MOU requirement.

The NAVADMIN also outlines the requirement for Sailors who fail to obtain a satisfactory grade will be required to payback TA funds



Atlantic Ocean (Aug. 22, 2006) - Sailors stationed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Saipan (LHA 2) listen intently to their instructor during a History 1301 Naval College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) course. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Erik K. Siegel

The Navy will continue to provide TA funds up through the master's degree level for both officers and enlisted personnel. However, effective with the release of the NAVADMIN, the Navy will no longer authorize TA funding for new program starts above the master's degree level. The approximately 550 officers and enlisted actively pursuing doctoral-level degrees before the release of the NAVADMIN will be able to continue until completion of their degree program.

The combined cap for tuition and fees remains at \$250 per semester hour for up to 16 semester hours of course work a year.

Sailors are encouraged to talk with the Navy College Office or Virtual Education Center counselors about their options, including changing schools, and use of GI Bill benefits or scholarships. Another consideration for Sailors in pursuit of a degree is to choose academic institutions that award maximum credit for military training and ratings as evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE). Those credits, along with the college credit exam program offered by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), can help Sailors maximize non-traditional credits and may get them closer to a degree with less expense.

NEWS *from around the fleet*

New Campaign Asks "Who Will Stand Your Watch?"

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) office has launched a new substance abuse prevention campaign designed to educate Sailors of the negative impact substance abuse can have on a Sailor's family, shipmates, and career, officials said Jan. 4. "Substance abuse puts lives and missions at risk, undercuts unit readiness and morale, it is inconsistent with Navy ethos and its core values of honor, courage, and commitment," said Dorice Favorite, Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention director. The campaign titled "Who Will Stand Your Watch?" focuses on Sailors' personal responsibility and the impact of their absence, as a result of a substance abuse incident. The campaign uses various communication tactics to include print media and public service announce-

ments. "Preventing substance abuse from occurring rather than dealing with the consequences benefits everyone. Prevention requires responsibility and accountability at all levels. Good leadership and teamwork are the best defense against substance abuse," said Favorite. The campaign features "real" Sailors in the public service announcements, which were filmed in their workplace to portray the importance of their job and their presence. The PSAs are currently being aired on Direct to Sailor TV and can be found on the Navy Personnel Command web site at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/organization/npc/publicaffairs/videos/Pages/default.aspx>.



ARABIAN SEA (Nov. 15, 2011) Chief Information Systems Technician Alcario Bustamante facilitates an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Management Supervisors class aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun (DDG 103). The class is a Navy-wide program given to all Sailors in supervisory roles, E-5 to O-4, to teach drug and alcohol awareness and how to recognize problem signs in troubled Sailors. Truxtun is assigned to CTF 151, a multi-national, mission-based task force working under Combined Maritime Forces, to conduct counter-piracy operations in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Somali Basin and Arabian Sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tony D. Curtis)

Safety Note:

Wearing portable headphones, earphones, cellular hands-free devices, Ipods and other listening devices while running, walking, bicycling, skating or skate boarding is prohibited on roadways, streets and sidewalks approaching roadways on all Navy installations. Wearing such audio devices while performing these physical activities along sidewalks and pedestrian paths on Diego Garcia is strongly discouraged.

NEWS *from around the fleet*

CNIC Welcomes New Commander

By Patrick Foughty, Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) held a change of command ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Feb. 3.

Vice Adm. William D. French relieved Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale.

Vitale has served as the chief officer leading the Navy's entire shore infrastructure for nearly three years and was the third commander in the history of CNIC. This infrastructure, also known as the CNIC enterprise; includes 11 Navy regions, 70 installations, and 127 Naval Operations Support Centers, and is responsible for 31 business lines and 122 critical shore capabilities across three major categories; operations, quality of life, and facilities management.

Throughout his tenure Vitale led efforts to standardize, align, synchronize and innovate new methods and processes that furthered CNIC's mission to deliver effective and efficient readiness from the shore that sustains the fleet, enables the fighter, and supports families.

Vitale praised the numerous accomplishments of the personnel under his command and of the entire CNIC Enterprise; from molding the Navy Family Accountability and

Assessment System (NFAAS) into the model Personnel Accountability System used across the services, to the development of new shore integration methods and a Total Workforce, capable of continuously supporting operations and services.

"The personnel here at the headquarters, and throughout the entire enterprise have faced growing numbers of issues and challenges," said Vitale, "I've had the pleasure of witnessing this Enterprise solve complex and dynamic problems, some self-imposed, some caused by outside forces, and forge a way ahead toward a model of shore integration that has forever changed how we do business and provide service the Fleet, fighter and family."

Vitale also thanked the many Navy communities throughout the world that support and allow the Navy to operate in close proximity to their homes and livelihoods, acknowledging the importance of maintaining close ties from the smallest Installation to the Headquarters level.

"It's the communities, both in the U.S. and abroad, that invite us to live and operate in their backyard, and it's the communities, both within the Navy and outside, that are the anchor of our ability to maintain and operate the best Naval force in the



WASHINGTON (Feb. 03, 2012) Vice Adm. Bill French gives his remarks at the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) change of command ceremony while Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert, left, and Vice Adm. Michael Vitale listen. Vice Adm. Bill French relieved Vice Adm. Michael Vitale during the event. CNIC is a global enterprise tasked with managing the Navy's entire shore infrastructure and oversees a \$12 billion budget, more than 83,000 facilities, and 58,000 personnel. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Monique Hilley

world, and I want to thank each one for their support, patience, and welcoming spirit," said Vitale.

French thanked Vitale for his wisdom and guidance and spoke briefly about his optimism and vision for the future of CNIC.

"During the last six years I have been with the CNIC enterprise I have learned that we have some of the best, brightest, and most talented professionals in the Navy," said French. "Under Vice Admiral Vitale's leadership the CNIC team has set the example for how an enterprise should function and have established immense credibility on how you are meeting customer needs. I'm honored to be taking command at this point in the history of the command."

French was promoted shortly before the event after having a successful tour at Navy Region Southwest in San Diego, Calif., where he accomplished major milestones toward energy and water conservation and numerous other green initiatives.

French, the son of an Air Force officer and native of San Anto-

nio, is a graduate of Vanderbilt University where he received commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program in May, 1979. He earned a Master of Science degree from Naval Postgraduate School in 1985 and a Master of Arts from the Naval War College in 1999.

A career submarine officer, French has served on a number of submarines and commanded USS Salt Lake City (SSN 716) and Submarine Squadron 3 in Pearl Harbor. His prior flag officer commands include tours at Navy Region Northwest, Navy Region Marianas in Guam, and Navy Region Southwest.

"I am proud to be part of such a superb organization, and look forward to working with you over the next few years," French said.

CNIC oversees a \$10 billion budget, more than 83,000 facilities and 58,000 personnel, all managed from a single unified enterprise.

Diego Garcia NEWS

DG Seabee uncovers buried treasure... sort of

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class April D. Adams

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – Utilitiesman 1st Class Noal Shewcraft, the Public Works Department Performance Assessment Representative (PAR), recently made a unique discovery on Diego Garcia while conducting his routine duties around the cantonment area lagoon. To his surprise, he found more than what he bargained for.

"I looked to my left and saw about 40 or 50 aluminum cans," said Shewcraft, who's first thought was to take ownership and keep the island clean. "I got some trash bags and started to pick them up and noticed they were all distorted, dirty and faded."

It was obvious to him the cans had been there for quite some time. However, he did not grasp exactly how

long they had been sitting there until he examined the cans more closely.

"As I picked them up, I noticed they had the old pull-top opener, and I remembered growing up having those pull-tops," said Shewcraft. "I immediately got excited on the aspect of it being something old."

Shewcraft admits to being fascinated by all things historic.

"My first thought was to get them cleaned up," Shewcraft said. "My second thought was this was almost like an archeological find and I was excited."

He found Budweiser, Michelob, Fanta, Coca-Cola and Pepsi cans, among other beverage cans.

With his new findings, Shewcraft decided to do a little research and made an interesting discovery.



DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (Feb. 7, 2012) - Utilitiesman 1st Class Noal Shewcraft sets up the old cans he found in his barracks room for viewing Jan. 7. Shewcraft plans to donate the cans to a museum as a part of Diego Garcia history. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric Pastor)

"I found out that the stay-top can, which is what we have now, didn't come around until about 1981 or 1982," Shewcraft said. "Also, there are no bar codes on some of these cans and the bar code didn't come into existence until about 1980 to 1981. So, clearly some of these cans were older than 1980."

After his research, Shewcraft concluded that, that particular area of the lagoon had not been disturbed for many years, and the prospect of touching history intrigued him.

"Being a Seabee, this is neat because Seabees built this

island," Shewcraft said. "We started back in 1966, and we are still going today."

Shewcraft has positive messages to take away from his discovery. He will donate the cans to a museum, and he would also like the cans featured in an American Forces Network commercial, to emphasize the importance of keeping Diego Garcia, and the environment, clean.

Whats happening in Diego Garcia

The CMC wants YOU!

TO PAINT A NEW MURAL IN HIS OFFICE. IF YOU CAN DRAW AND WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS PROJECT, CONTACT CMDCM JOHNSON AT ROBERT.L.JOHNSON@FE.NAVY.MIL

\$10,000 SUPER JACKPOT BINGO BONANZA
FEB. 12, AT 7 P.M. IN THE ISLAND ROOM

Taxes Stressing You Out?

DUE TO SOFTWARE ISSUES, VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE LEGAL OFFICE AT 370-2922.

Diego News Update

- PROFESSIONAL MILITARY KNOWLEDGE TRAINING WILL BE HELD MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS IN THE MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM FROM 2:30 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

-DIEGO GARCIA IS IN NEED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE VICTIM ADVOCATES. FOR THOSE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT LT. GRGURICH AT 370-4421

Command Fitness Leader's Tip of the week:

WITH THE 2012 SPRING PHYSICAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT NINE WEEKS AWAY, BALANCE YOUR CALORIC INTAKE TO BETTER MANAGE YOUR WEIGHT. IT'S OK TO ENJOY YOUR FOOD, JUST EAT LESS AND AVOID OVERSIZED PORTIONS.

Car Wash Fundraiser

COME GET YOUR CAR WASHED AND HELP THE SEABEES RAISE MONEY FOR THE SEABEE BALL

WHEN: WEDNESDAY FEB. 15, AT 7:30 A.M.

WHERE: DG21 TRANSPORTATION WASH RACK

MWR

MOVIES

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Off-Road Bike Race
Jakes Place
5 p.m.

Powerboat Class
Basic Boating
Marina
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Flag Football
Tournament
Field 2
6 p.m.
Military Only

Kayak Slalom Race
Marina
2:30 p.m.

Dive In Movie
Base Pool
7:30 p.m.

Spades
Island Room
6 p.m.
Military Only

MWR Golf Putting
Challenge
Coral Sands
Golf Course
5:30 p.m.

Ides Of March
Drama
R
8 p.m.

Dolphin Tale
Family
PG 13
8 p.m.

Drive
Thriller
R
8 p.m.

Our Idiot Brother
Drama
R
8 p.m.

30 Minutes Or Less
Action
R
8 p.m.

**Conan The
Barbarian 2011**
Action
PG 13
8 p.m.

A Better Life
Drama
PG 13
10 p.m.

Final Destination 5
Horror
R
10 p.m.

Apollo 18
Scifi
PG 13
8 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) Arthur N. De La Cruz

Tropical Times Editor
MC3 Benjamin J. Malvezzi
MC3 April D. Adams
Command Journalists
MC2 (AW/EXW) Emmanuel Rios
MCSA Eric A. Pastor

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Public Affairs, Diego Garcia.
**Submissions to the Tropical Times are
due to the editor no later than close of
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.

