

# Tropical

# Times

March 8, 2012



*Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric A. Pastor receives a stream of Oleoresin Capsicum to the face while taking part in an Auxiliary Security Force training course held at Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, March 2.*



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



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

## Insight for an Awards Board

Periodically, the command awards board will convene in the conference room to discuss and vote on the end of tour awards for deserving and departing Sailors. Sailors are recommended by their chain of command. Board members receive write-ups before the board convenes to familiarize themselves with the nominee's record of performance. During the board, leaders talk about the performance of the Sailors to justify their recommendation. Discussions go back and forth and a vote is eventually taken to approve, disapprove or downgrade the recommendation, which then goes to

the commanding officer for his final decision. Other recommendations are sent to region for the awards under the cognizance of the admiral. As with all matters that pertain to enlisted Sailors, the command master chief is present to offer his advice based on his years of experience and knowledge. His is a voice of reason and wisdom as he explains the criteria, standards and expectations of today's Sailor. It is always a learning experience to be present, observe and absorb the knowledge from the more knowledgeable.

It's good to have our efforts and our work recognized. The military is good about that because they know it is a morale booster. It is also a motivator for people to work hard and to be productive and effective. This recognition can also be a factor in future promotions. For those of us who believe in the afterlife, there is also a wonderful reward that awaits us if we have lived a good and purposeful life: it is called eternity. This is our hope. If you feel as though your life on earth has been cruel or unfair, our hope is that it will be compensated for in the life to come. Our faith tells us it will.

To receive that reward we have to be faithful and obedient to God who has the final authority in all things on heaven and earth. That reward will be given to us based on our choices during this life. Therefore, our present choices should reflect long term goals versus immediate gratification.

***“From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day . . .”***  
**(2 Timothy 4:8)**

# Diego Garcia NEWS

## COMPSRON Two holds Change of Command aboard USNS Button

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Arthur N. De La Cruz

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – Commander Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron (COMPSRON) Two held a change of command ceremony aboard USNS SGT William R. Button (T-AK 3012) March 5.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Delbert G. Yordy was relieved by Capt. Calvin D. Slocumb as Commodore, Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Two during a ceremony held aboard Button, anchored in Diego Garcia's lagoon in the British Indian Ocean Territory. Yordy, who served as commodore for two months to prevent a gapped billet at the helm of COMPSRON, intends to take his newly-found insight of forward deployed operations back with him to D.C.

"During the last two months, I've gained an appreciation for the limited resources and the importance of

the programs available here in Diego Garcia," said Yordy. "And one thing I would like to impress upon is the importance of a cooperative environment here, in which all parts work together - from the Military Sealift Command (MSC) ships to the shore support.

"Decisions are made at MSC headquarters in D.C. by people who do not fully grasp business in Diego Garcia because of its remote location," Yordy explained. "From people, to equipment and replacement parts, transportation is a big undertaking. When I go back to headquarters, the command; COMPSRON Two; the squadron will have a better-informed advocate for them."

During his address, Slocumb conveyed his gratitude toward Yordy's interim duty.

"Thank you, Cmdr. Yordy, for doing an outstanding job, and for putting your life on hold to fill this assignment



DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (March 5, 2012) - U.S. Navy Cmdr. Delbert G. Yordy (right) ceremoniously passes along the Commodore, Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Two pennant to his relief, Capt. Calvin D. Slocumb, during a change of command held aboard USNS SGT William R. Button (T-AK 3012) in Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. (Photo courtesy of DG21 Photolab.)

until I completed my training," he said. "If I'm able to do half of what he's accomplished in his short time while I'm here, COMPSRON Two will continue to maintain its outstanding reputation around Military Sealift Command.

"I'd also like to thank the Navy's finest staff who make routine operations here appear seamless every day."

Slocumb concluded his speech by sharing his command philosophy, which follows the Navy's core values.

"Honor – do everything in your personal and professional life you can to honor the legacy of those who have served before us all; courage – do the right thing every day; and

commitment – we as members who serve in the Navy, or in partnership with the Navy, commit ourselves to the accomplishment of our mission and maritime readiness as our role," Slocumb said. "We commit ourselves to each other and the mutual respect as professionals and human beings."

COMPSRON Two is responsible for the tactical control of MSC prepositioning ships in the Indian Ocean.

# Reenlistment Ceremony



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Timothy D. Stonecipher, a military working dog handler stationed at U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia reenlisted March 2. The reenlisting officer, Ens. Nathan Ouellette, thanked Stonecipher for his hard work and dedication to the Security Department. Stonecipher says he is relieved that he is reenlisting.

"It feels good knowing that I have a job for the next six years," Stonecipher said.



At the end of the ceremony, Stonecipher was placed in a jail cell to sign his reenlistment paperwork. Commanding Officer Capt. David L. Tidwell graciously released Stonecipher from the cell and set him free.



His hopes for the future are to become an officer and give back to the people who have given to him.

# The 'OC's'

More than 10 Sailors from U.S. Navy Support Facility and various tenant commands participated in Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray practical application while taking part in an Auxiliary Security Force (ASF) training course, which includes instruction on Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection skills. The purpose of ASF is to supplement the permanent Security Forces during security exercises, increased threat conditions, man-made, natural disasters and all other evolutions deemed necessary.



# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## MCPON Sends Seabee Birthday Message

Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West

WASHINGTON -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Seabee birthday message to the fleet March 2.

"Shipmates, Since March 5, 1942, the Navy has been recruiting Sailors for their construction battalions; strong, proud, hardworking Seabees with tremendous skill and plenty of experience. For 70 years, many unsung heroes of the Navy have been the men and women of the Naval Construction Force. We celebrate their official birthday today, but a week doesn't pass that I'm not reminded of the sacrifices made by this amazing community.

On the 70th birthday of the Navy Seabee, we remember Builder Chief Raymond Border, who gave his life for our nation's freedom on Oct. 19, 2011.

We pause to consider the actions of Seabees like Utilitiesman 3rd Class Crystal McDougal of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, who was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries she sustained after her MRAP was hit by an IED. After the accident, her commanding officer and command master chief went to check on her in the hospital, and McDougal's only question concerned the welfare of her team.

As MCPON, I've had the opportunity to visit Bees all over the world, living up to your motto every day, whether in combat, humanitarian relief missions or helping to build communities or nations. I've seen first-hand the Forward Operating Bases and Combat Outposts you've constructed from the ground up. Most often times the Seabees are the first on the scene in the most dangerous of places ... and that's just fine with them.

Almost everywhere I go, whether I see an actual Seabee



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (Dec. 7, 2011) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West addresses Seabees assigned to the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jimmie Crockett)

or not, I can tell they've been there. I've heard countless stories about Bees going above and beyond for the Navy, their fellow service member, communities, and for complete strangers from far off lands. None of it surprises me. Bees are now as they have always been, committed to the greater good of our Navy and our Nation.

Today's Seabees are living up to the standard set at places like Normandy and Guadalcanal. They're fighting where it's toughest and helping those in need. Seabees are taking the American ideals of compassion and spirit where they're needed the most and are leaving lasting

memories behind. The world is finding out that our Navy's hands of friendship have a global reach.

As always, the Seabees "Can Do!" spirit will drive them through any challenges our Navy faces, and they will continue to be a prime source for the most battle-tested expeditionary Engineering Forces.

Happy 70th Birthday and OOOORAH Bees!

Very Respectfully,  
MCPON (Honorary Seabee)"

# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## Who Will Stand Your Watch

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (AW) LaTunya Howard,  
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- 'Who Will Stand Your Watch' is a new substance abuse prevention campaign recently launched by the Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) office officials said Feb 28.

The focus of the campaign is to educate Sailors on the negative impact substance abuse can have on their careers, family and shipmates.

"Sailors have a personal responsibility to consider the effect their absence will have on their unit and their shipmates if he or she is removed from duty as a result of a substance abuse incident," said Dorice Favorite, NADAP director.

NADAP is using television public service announcements, posters and pamphlets to heighten awareness of how poor decision making by Sailors in abusing drugs or alcohol diminishes command

readiness.

"A Sailor's decision to use drugs has a bad impact on the workforce," said Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Latashia Graham, Navy Personnel Command (NPC) secretariat office. "Now you put Sailors that work for you or work with you in the position of having to do your job and theirs which makes it more stressful for everyone."

According to Favorite, the number of alcohol incidents and Sailors testing positive for illicit drugs has decreased over the years, but substance abuse continues to put lives and missions at risk. For that reason, it benefits everyone to prevent substance abuse from occurring rather than dealing with its consequences. Prevention requires responsibility and accountability at all levels.

"The campaign is a pro-active approach to substance



PACIFIC OCEAN (Nov. 20, 2011) Members of the special sea and anchor detail stand watch aboard dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) during a replenishment at sea with the Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Charles Drew (T-AKE 10). Pearl Harbor and embarked Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (11th MEU) are on deployment as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Behnke)

abuse," said Favorite. "It forces Sailors to ask themselves who will stand my watch when I lose my career or even my life due to drug or alcohol abuse."

Even with the emergence of new designer drugs the Navy maintains a zero tolerance policy for illegal drug use, reinforced by the separation of 1,515 Sailors in fiscal year 2011. The Armed Forces Medical Examiner Services currently tests for designer drug compounds for Navy Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS) cases. If a Sailor needs help with substance abuse, they can

contact the command drug and alcohol program advisor (DAPA), contact Military-One Source for a confidential assessment and counseling at no cost to the Sailor, speak with their chain-of-command or their medical care provider.

For more information on the 'Who Will Stand Your Watch' campaign, visit the NPC Webpage at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil), contact the NPC customer service center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC or email at [CSCMailbox@navy.mil](mailto:CSCMailbox@navy.mil).

# Diego Garcia NEWS

## Letter to the Commanding Officer, United States Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia

*From National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*

Dear Sir:

From November 7 to December 12, 2011, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) WP-3D deployed to the Navy Support Facility (NSF) Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) in support of the international multi-agency field research program called 'Dynamics of the Madden-Julian Oscillation' (DYNAMO). During this period, 104.5 hours were flown over a series of 12 missions.

The support received for the aircraft and crew while based at NSF Diego Garcia was nothing less than outstanding. My detachment returned with glowing comments for the unconstrained support they received from your logistics and finance personnel who ensured a

smooth transition, the Air Operations and ATOC folks who helped get the missions off the ground each morning, and the MWR support staff who ensured the crew had plenty of options during their down time far away from home. Additionally, they highlighted the support and personal attention given to the crew by the NGI&S staff, as well as by the staff in Personnel support, whose extra efforts ensured that our aircraft was able to depart the region on schedule. On behalf of NOAA, I extend my sincere appreciation and personal gratitude for the support received during our organization's deployment to Diego Garcia. Our portion of this very important international program could not have been a success without the support of your entire facility. They are a great credit to NSF Diego Garcia and the

United States Navy.

Sincerely,

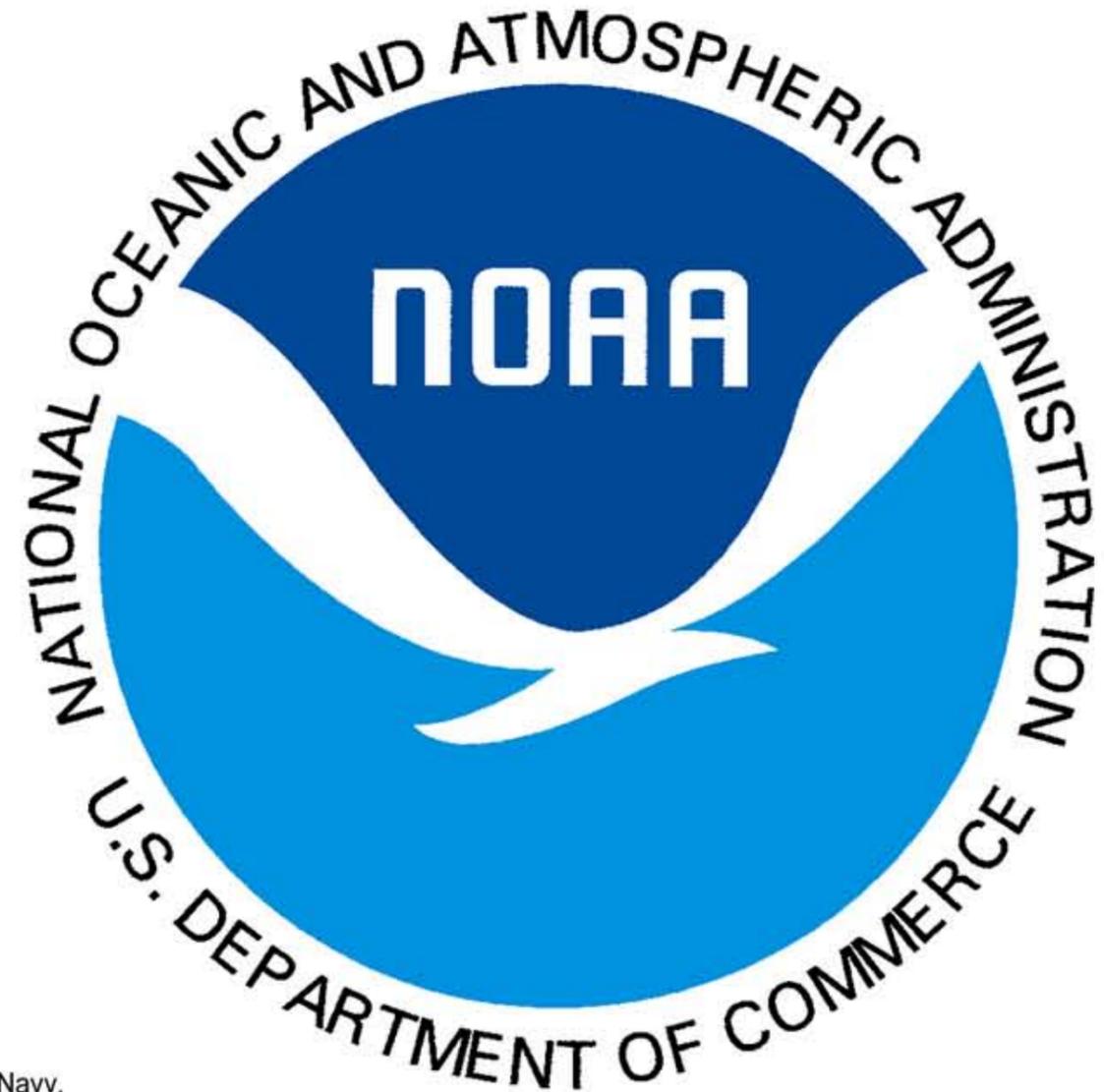


RANDALL J. TEBEEST

Captain, NOAA

Commanding Officer

Aircraft Operations Center



### The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society needs your help

For more than 108 years, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's (NMCRS) efforts have improved the quality of life for active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families.

During 2011, NMCRS responded to the financial needs of more than 96,000 Sailors, and Marines and families with nearly \$50 million in assistance, seeing nearly one in every five Sailors and Marines in uniform.

A visit to the NMCRS web site at <http://www.nmcrs.org> will show you the breadth and depth of assistance available, along with a complete listing of office locations, hours of operation and more.

U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia is currently looking for one chief and one petty officer first class to spearhead this year's NMCRS fund drive. If interested please Contact CMDCM Johnson at 370-4104.

# What's happening in Diego Garcia

## Wiffle Ball Tournament

WHEN: MARCH 10 AT 2 P.M.

WHERE: JAKE'S PLACE

MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY

## Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE)

DO YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON SERVICES PROVIDED?

YOUR FEEDBACK IS VALUABLE. SUBMIT YOUR ONLINE COMMENTS, FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS TO SERVICE PROVIDERS VIA [HTTP://ICE.DISA.MIL](http://ice.disa.mil)

## Tax Assistance

THE VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) TAX CENTER WILL BE OPEN UNTIL APRIL 18, IN THE LEGAL OFFICE. CONTACT LNT ROBINSON AT 370-2922 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT BETWEEN 1 - 4 P.M. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE AN AFTERNOON APPOINTMENT, MORNING APPOINTMENTS MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

## Blood Donations

THE BLOOD BANK IS IN NEED OF TYPE B+, B-, A-, A/B+/- . FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE PLEASE CONTACT THE BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC AT 370-4211.

## Marina Note

-MARINA FLOATING DOCK REPAIRS WILL BE IN PROGRESS MARCH 8-18.

-ALL MAKO AND DEEP-SEA FISHING CHARTERS WILL GET UNDERWAY FROM THE SMALL BOAT BASIN LOCATED AT HARBOR OPS.

-FISH CLEANING SERVICES WILL REMAIN AT THE MARINA.

-FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL EXT. 370-2785.

## PRT Preparation Tip

GO NUTS!

A RECENT STUDY FOUND THAT DIETERS WHO SNACKED ON SHELLED PISTACHIOS SHED MORE POUNDS THAN THOSE WHO ATE OTHER SNACKS, EVEN THOUGH THEY CONTAINED THE SAME AMOUNT OF CALORIES.

## Attention All STA 21 Candidates:

CHECK OUT NAVADMIN 073/12 FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON HOW TO SUBMIT SEAMAN TO ADMIRAL PACKAGES. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS JULY 1, BUT BEFORE YOU SEND YOURS IN, READ FROM THE 'LESSONS LEARNED' IN THE NAVADMIN TO HELP AVOID ERRORS MADE IN PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS.

Thursday

8

5K Run/Walk  
Moonlight Wander  
Fitness Center  
7:30 p.m.

Friday

9

Powerboat Class  
Basic Boating  
Marina  
4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday

10

Wiffle Ball  
Tournament  
Jake's Place  
4 p.m.  
**Military Only**

Sunday

11

18 Holes Golf  
Tournament  
Coral Sands Golf Course  
7:30 a.m.

Monday

12

Scrabble Tournament  
Island Room  
6 p.m.  
**Military Only**

Tuesday

13

3-Person  
Inner Tube  
Relay Swim Race  
Base Pool  
6 p.m.

Wednesday

14

500m Canoe Race  
Marina  
5 p.m.

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked**  
Animation  
G  
8 p.m.

**Happy Feet 2**  
Animation  
PG  
8 p.m.

**The Muppets**  
Comedy  
R  
10 p.m.

**Twilight: Breaking Dawn**  
Adventure  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

**J. Edgar**  
Biography  
R  
10 p.m.

**Our Idiot Brother**  
Comedy  
R  
8 p.m.

**30 Minutes or Less**  
Action  
R  
8 p.m.

**Conan the Barbarian 2011**  
Action  
R  
8 p.m.

**Apollo 18**  
Thriller  
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**

CMDCM(SW/AW) Robert L. Johnson

**Public Affairs Officer**

MC1(SW) Arthur N. De La Cruz

**Tropical Times Editor**

MC3 April D. Adams

**Command Journalists**

MC2 (AW/EXW) Emmanuel Rios  
MCSA Eric A. Pastor

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**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.

