

Tropical Times

April 12, 2012



Drag marks line the beach after U.S. Navy Sailors are unable to carry the bags filled with trash collected during a Beach Clean-up at Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, April 6.

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

Diego Garcia had their latest beach clean-up on April 6. This date was selected on the calendar because it was low tide for the island which meant it would be easier to identify and to collect the trash that would be washed ashore. Looking at the liturgical calendar this same day was also Good Friday for most of the world's Christians. This was the day that Christ collected and absorbed the punishment for all of humanity's sins once and forever. It was an incredible sacrifice. The beach that I worked this time was a different stretch of sand from my previous two clean-ups but the labor was the same and it was just as gratifying as before. Walking on the sand I would look inland and

catch a glimpse of something that caught my attention. Was it a piece of trash that needed to be collected or a natural object that belonged there? Walking towards it I quickly discovered that it was a plastic bottle entangled in the brush clumped together with other bottles. It was "low hanging fruit" to have so many accessible objects within easy grasp for proper collection and disposal. Good Friday was an opportune time for us to closely examine our lives. From a distance everything may appear to be satisfactory. However, after catching a glimpse of a part of our life, moving closer for a more detailed inspection may reveal more to us than what

Latest Beach Clean-Up

appears. Like an iceberg seen from a distance, a more detailed and closer look may reveal more than the naked eye can see. We may discover through casual viewing or revelation or a comment by a friend that something is amiss that needs corrective action. It's a grace for our sins or weaknesses to be revealed to us. Then we can express remorse, right a wrong, or make amends or restitution to our God or to others. We can then strive to prevent from making the same mistake in the future. On this particular Good Friday beach clean-up aboard Diego Garcia, 190 volunteers collected 3600 pounds of trash. It was an amazing feat performed for love of

nature. On that first Good Friday in Jerusalem 2000 years ago, all the sins of humanity that had already occurred, or were being committed, and future transgressions were simultaneously collected and done away with. It was an amazing and unselfish sacrifice that was performed for the love of humanity.

"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly father will forgive you." (Matthew 6: 14)

Diego Garcia NEWS

Diego Garcia Cleans Sea Turtle Nesting Area for Earth Day

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Ryan B. Tabios

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (April 6, 2012) – As part of Earth Day festivities 2012, 190 service members and Base Operating Support contract employees took part in U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, quarterly Beach Clean-up April 6.

Participants of the clean-up got up early to clear trash from three miles of Diego Garcia in advance of the annual nesting season of sea turtles.

According to Francis Deluna, event coordinator, the area chosen for this month's clean-up is a popular nesting site for sea turtles, primarily the green sea turtle and hawksbill turtle.

"We do these events to create awareness and inform everyone on Diego Garcia the importance of maintaining a healthy and clean environment, which we all can benefit from," said Deluna. "Trash accumulates in the area, coming from nearby countries.

"[Passing] ships in the area also produce some of the trash that washes up to the beach," added Deluna.

This time around, more than 3,600 lbs. of trash was removed from the beach. Water bottles, deteriorated plastic, various metal containers, fluorescent light bulbs, lighters and even a laundry basket were cleared from the shoreline.

"Overall, the event was safely and successfully executed,"



DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (April 6, 2012) -- Ens. Makia Fox, Administration Officer for U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, crawls under trees and bushes in order to retrieve trash that has washed ashore while participating in a beach cleanup at Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, April 6. The beach cleanup was conducted as part of Earth Day Fest 2012 and to help prepare for the annual sea turtle nesting season on the island. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Emmanuel Rios)

said Deluna. "Everyone was out there doing their part to keep the environment clean. I couldn't have hoped for a better turn out."

According to Deluna, the trash collected will be sent to Diego Garcia's waste management facility for proper disposal and/or recycling.

For Yeoman Second Class Billie Jean Wagner, participating in this month's clean-up means a lot more than a free t-shirt for participating in the effort.

"Aside from being out there walking on the beach, I love doing volunteer work," said Wagner, a native of Erie, Pa.

"Knowing I was able to give back to the community I live in is self-satisfaction enough for me."

Wagner is working towards her goal of earning the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Earth Day Fest 2012

Beach Cleanup



Residents of Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, participated in a Beach Clean-up April 6, as part of Earth Day Fest 2012. More than 3,600 lbs. of trash was collected from multiple segments along the beaches of Diego Garcia. According to Francis Deluna, the event coordinator, the event turned out to be very successful.

One of the main purposes of this event is to help keep the environment a clean and safe place to live. The locations chosen for this cleanup are popular nesting sites for the green sea turtle and hawksbill turtle.



NEWS *from around the fleet*

Navy Investigates F/A-18D Crash, Provides Compensation to Those Affected

From Defense Media Activity – Navy

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS) – Following the crash of a Navy fighter jet in Virginia Beach, Va. April 6, the Navy has begun a compensation process for residents affected, while it continues to investigate the crash.

An F/A-18D assigned to the Naval Air Station Oceana-based Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 crashed in Virginia Beach, Va. April 6 at approximately 12:05 p.m. just after takeoff. The plane crashed into the Mayfair Mews apartment complex in Virginia Beach.

Both aircrew ejected safely and were transported to a local hospital and later released. Five others were also transported to the hospital where they were treated and released. There were no fatalities as a result of the crash.

The Navy has established a process through which compensation will be provided to residents affected

by Friday's crash.

"We are committed to doing the right thing to address the needs of these families, who through no fault of their own have endured an incredible hardship," said Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, commander of the Navy's Mid-Atlantic region.

"We owe it to everyone affected by Friday's accident to help them get their life back together," Alexander said.

The Navy met with residents the day after the crash to explain the available resources and start the compensation process. The Navy helped affected residents apply for compensation to cover short-term expenses, and to file for reimbursement for injuries or property damage.

On April 8, the Navy began contacting residents to arrange payment of the emergency funds for those who completed their claims Saturday. The initial payments



VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (April 7, 2012) A resident affected by the April 6, 2012 crash of an F/A-18D Hornet is reunited with her cat at the emergency response center the U.S. Navy established at the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Academy. The aircraft damaged an apartment complex after crashing shortly after takeoff. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Antonio P. Turreto Ramos)

are for immediate needs such as housing, meals, and clothing. Payments begin at \$2,300 for an individual resident and increases for additional family members. The Navy has arranged to use checks instead of electronic funds transfers because funds can be provided to the residents faster.

An information and assistance call center has been established to provide additional compensation information and other resource referrals plus counseling and legal services to the residents. Residents may reach the call center at 866-345-8179 or 757-444-4557 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Residents who could not attend Saturday's meeting or who have additional questions, should contact the call center.

Additionally, those residents who have requested com-

ensation are encouraged to contact the call center to confirm that the Navy has all required information.

The Navy will have a Legal representative and an information center at the Mayfair Mews Apartments from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily beginning Monday, April 9. That representative will be able to assist residents with forms, answer questions concerning compensation and accept completed forms from residents.

Additional information about the compensation process can be found on the Facebook page of Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic at

<http://www.facebook.com/USNavy#!/notes/commander-navy-region--mid-atlantic/navy-begins-compensation-process-for-residents-affected-by-jet-crash/10150791065483764>.

NEWS *from around the fleet*

Happy Birthday, U.S. Submarine Force! Celebrating 112 Years of Undersea Dominance

By Lt. Hayley Sims, Commander, Submarine Force, Atlantic Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. -- The submarine force was born April 11, 1900 when the U.S. Navy bought the submersible Holland VI from John Holland.

Since that historic day, undersea warfighters and submarines have used fortitude and creativity to sustain their superiority beneath the sea and develop the force into the indispensable asset that patrols world-wide today.

As submariners celebrate their birthday around the world this month, they will honor the heroes on eternal patrol and those who have served past and present.

Rear Adm. Frank Caldwell, commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, understands the value of submariners.

"For 112 years, the broad military advantages created by undersea concealment have resulted in a wide range of undersea platforms and missions

that have enhanced our national security," said Rear Adm. Caldwell. "Throughout history, what has remained constant is the bold character of submariners."

Throughout the last 11 decades, submariners have advanced through four generations. The first generation produced fleet boats with the speed, endurance, weapons and payload that would make the submarine a warfighting platform. The second generation, defined by World War II heroes, made a decisive difference in the war and dominated the seas which set high standards of performance. The third generation of undersea warfare during the Cold War was defined by the advent of nuclear power - in weapons and propulsion. This advanced technology prevented a nuclear world war and secured the nation's interests.

The current generation of submariners, Generation IV, is being defined by the increase of long-range precision sensors and weapons. Today's submariners stay



NORFOLK (Sept.9, 2011) - The Virginia-class submarine Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) California (SSN 781) gets underway from Naval Station Norfolk to conduct weapons systems acceptance trials. California is the eighth Virginia-class submarine and is scheduled to be commissioned Oct. 29. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class William Jamieson)

ahead of these threats and work hard to preserve their superiority in the undersea environment with the help of the "Design for Undersea Warfare" a guiding document which articulates how undersea warfighters provide "Ready Forces, Effective Employment, and Future Forces."

Vice Adm. John M. Richardson, commander, Submarine Forces, recognizes the hard, outstanding work of submariners and their families.

"I am incredibly proud of each and every member of the undersea warfare team, including our families who sacrifice along with us," said Vice Adm. Richardson. "Just as earlier generations did before us, we fourth generation undersea warriors will be ready to surge to any

crisis - first to arrive and last to leave. Let it always be a comforting reassurance to our friends and the worst nightmare for our enemies to know that the U.S. Submarine Force is on the job."

Today's submarine force consists of 53 attack, 14 ballistic-missile and four guided-missile submarines that enable the Navy and the nation to win wars, deter wars, defeat terrorists, and ease disasters.

Happy birthday U.S. Submarine Force and congratulations on 112 years of rich success running silent through history and running deep into the future.

What's happening in Diego Garcia

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WEEKLY SUB-THEMES

APR. 1-7: HURTS ONE. SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS ARE OUR SHIPMATES.

APR. 8-14: AFFECTS ALL. SEXUAL ASSAULT IMPACTS READINESS AND COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS.

APR. 15-21: PREVENTION IS EVERYONE'S DUTY. WE MUST LOOK OUT FOR OUR SHIPMATES AND PREVENT HARM.

APR. 22-30: WE WILL NOT TOLERATE SEXUAL ASSAULT.

Enlisted Commissioning Fair

THE NSF WARDROOM WILL BE SPONSORING AN ENLISTED COMMISSIONING FAIR ON MAY 4, 8-12 A.M. AT THE LIBERTY CENTER. THE WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON A VARIETY OF METHODS THAT ENLISTED SAILORS CAN PURSUE TO MAKE THE JUMP FROM BLUE SHIRTS TO OFFICER KHAKIS.

Tax Assistance

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

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.

PRT Preparation Tip

NOT SO SWEET

EVERYONE KNOWS SUGAR ISN'T HEALTHY. WHEN YOU START READING LABELS, YOU FIND IT IN UNEXPECTED PLACES, LIKE PASTA SAUCES AND FROZEN ENTREES. CUTTING SUGAR OUT OF YOUR DIET WILL MEAN HEALTHIER MEALS OVERALL

Holocaust Days of Remembrance

THE HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE ARE APRIL 15-22. THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE HAVE A THEME OF "CHOOSING TO ACT: STORIES OF RESCUE."

MWR

MOVIES

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

Power Boat Class
Basic Boating
Marina
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

5K Walk/Run
For Earth
Fitness Center
5 p.m.

Kayak Slalom Race
Marina
2 p.m.

Stand Up Paddling
Board Race
Marina
2 p.m.

Hearts Tournament
Island Room
6 p.m.
Military Only

3 X 50m Freestyle
Kickboard Swim
Race
Base Pool
6 p.m.

Bunker Elimination
Challenge
Coral Sands Golf Course
5:30 p.m.

The Artist
Drama
PG 13
8 p.m.

**Girl With The
Dragon Tattoo**
Mystery
R
8 p.m.
The Darkest Hour
Action
PG 13
10 p.m.

We Bought A Zoo
Comedy
PG
8 p.m.
**Sherlock Holmes:
Games**
Action
PG 13
10 p.m.

**Mission Impossible: Adventure Of Tintin
Ghost Protocol**
Thriller
R
8 p.m.

The Devil Inside
Horror
R
8 p.m.

Haywire
Action
R
8 p.m.

Tropical Times

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Diego Garcia British Indian Ocean
Territory

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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.

