

# Tropical Times

April 26, 2012



*Residents of Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, wait in line to collect their prize at the Earth Day Fair and Exhibit April 20. The fair was hosted by the U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, Public Works Department to promote environmental awareness.*

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

I was honored to have been asked to serve as a judge for the recent Earth Day Fair and Exhibit's art work contest on April 20. I am not artistic in any way but I do appreciate things that are innovative and pleasing to the eye. I certainly experienced both of these things when I admired the nine pieces of art work. They were composed of natural or recyclable materials to include palms, coconut shells, pieces of tile, rope, toothpicks, brown paper bags, sea shells, foam rubber, sand, a piece of cloth, a glass bottle, and a tree limb. Most of these objects could have been easily collected at any of the beach clean-ups that we periodically do. The criteria for judging were threefold: use of the material would be 50% of the grade, creativity 30%, and originality for the final 20% of the score. I gave two of the

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### Judging the Earth Day Fair and Exhibit

items a full 100% because of their unique innovativeness.

The creativity of all the artists was phenomenal. For example, has the fashion world seen the likes of a ladies bikini swimsuit made of little coils of rope, copper wire, pieces of half inch tile squares, and two straw baskets? I was impressed and amused. The only thing missing was the swimsuit model.

This contest reminded me that people are God's greatest creation and we are all salvageable. No matter what we have done in the past there's hope for all of us. He also knows that we are not perfect therefore he expects us to err from time to time. Our God also offers the human race eternal life. He does not offer this gift to any of his other creatures. God also

graced us by choosing to become one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. He elevated us by lowering himself to our humanity which brings us much honor. Each life has value based on what happened on Good Friday. Regardless if we are a Pulitzer Prize winner or a convicted mass murderer wasting away on death row, each life has value based on what our God has already done for us.

The question for us today is what criteria will be used to judge us for our heavenly reward? Are we meeting those criterias? If not, what can we do to make ourselves more pleasing to God? Give it some thought. Better yet, bring it up in prayer. And don't forget to listen to what he has to say after you talk to him with your prayer. A lot of times he'll talk to us in the silence

of our hearts.

***"As I valued your life highly today, so may the Lord value my life highly and deliver me from all difficulties."***

***(1 Samuel 26:24)***



# Earth Day Fair and Exhibit 2012



Residents of Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, attended the Earth Day Fair and Exhibit at Earth Day Park April 20.

Volunteers handed out Earth day T-shirts, lanyards, ballers, and Diego Garcia recycling bags.

The fair featured 12 exhibits from tenant commands and departments, including Branch Health Clinic, the Safety Department, Spill Response and Grounds Maintenance.

The Brown Inc. Band, the island's local band, performed as part of the entertainment at the fair.

"This is a world-wide event that is used to promote environmental awareness," said Environmental Specialist, Esmi Saraza.



# Diego Garcia NEWS

## Diego Garcia Cleans-Up for Earth Day

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

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (April 22, 2012) – Service members at U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, (NAVSUPFAC) participated in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Ton-O-Trash ocean side beach clean-up to celebrate Earth Day, April 22.

“As part of Earth Day, Navy MWR Liberty Program issued a challenge to all liberty centers of who can collect the most garbage,” said Jennifer Vess, MWR Deputy Director. “The area we chose is one of many coastal areas where debris from last year’s tsunami in Japan washed ashore.”

Participants were transported to one of Diego Garcia’s many ocean side beaches to collect trash. With gloves and trash bags in hand they navigated pass branches, roots and the occasional warrior crab to retrieve plastic bottles, water buoys, entangled

ropes, flip-flops and even a 50 gallon rusted metal drum.

“The clean-up demonstrates our ability to maintain a habitable ecosystem that both humans and wildlife can enjoy,” said Esmeraldo Saraza, Environmental Recycling Specialist. “By creating awareness on how trash can affect the environment, we’ll be more willing to preserve it.”

According to Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Crystal Rogers, participating in her first clean-up on the island was not only beneficial to the environment, but gave her an opportunity to explore her new surroundings.

“This gave me an opportunity to experience the island, aside from my normal day-to-day routine,” said Rogers.

“This was an eye opener on how much trash is washed up ashore-I can only imagine how much stays out in the ocean.”

According to Rogers, it is our responsibility to do our part



DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (April 22, 2012) - Participants of the Ton-O-Trash: (From left) Zachary Dinkins, Jennifer R. Vess, Leslie Hammond, Ryan B. Tabios, Rebecca Medenhall, Crystal M. Rogers, Emmanuel Rios, and Erik Siegel. (Photo courtesy of Diego Garcia Morale Welfare and Recreation)

keeping the oceans clean-a natural resource we share and sometimes take for granted.

“I did my part in preventing the trash from returning into the ocean and harming wildlife,” said Rogers. “It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for species that share the island with us.”

“The debris we cleared from the beach can be harmful to the digestive tracts of the various sea life,” added Rogers.

“The netting and rope can also entangle and eventually kill them.”

This is the second beach clean-up of the month for the island and is a part of Earth Week 2012 festivities. Over 980 lbs of trash was removed from the area and will be sent to the installation’s waste management facility for proper disposal and/or recycling.

# Reenlistment



Electrician's Mate Chief Rodel Simbulan, reenlisted for two years in order to complete a 24 year tour of service on April 20.



Simbulan said that one of his career goals was to one day be stationed in Diego Garcia.

"I'm glad this is happening today," said Simbulan. "My dad had the privilege of working for the U.S. Navy as a civilian contractor; he actually worked here in Diego Garcia."

Simbulan added that although his dad had served in the Navy as a civilian he had still made a career out of it.



"My dad had worked here for 25 years," said Simbulan, "and look at me now; I'm reenlisting on the same island where my dad fulfilled his service."

# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## Earth Day: Naval Station Newport Celebrates with Base Clean

By Bob Krekorian, Naval Station Newport Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) -- Active duty personnel and DoD civilian employees at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport conducted a base-wide clean up of debris, litter and trash, and recyclables, April 16-20, in conjunction with Earth Day 2012.

The shoreline areas adjacent to Narragansett Bay was the focus of this year's clean up, scheduled daily, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Available personnel from the various NAVSTA Newport departments and 12 tenant commands were assigned areas of responsibility. The base was divided into three areas to insure the entire installation received some attention: Coasters' Harbor Island, Coddington Point, and Coddington Cove.

The result of the clean up produced a total of 2,378 pounds of debris and litter. Recyclable material recovered included 1,120 pounds of wood; 221 pounds of bottles/cans/paper, and cardboard; and 500 pounds of scrap metal. Trash collected totaled 537 pounds.

The total amount of recyclables recovered, 1,841 pounds, helped contribute to a 77 percent diversion rate to local landfills.

"Our annual base clean up demonstrates that we can make a difference in showing our continued commitment to environmental stewardship," said Capt. Douglas Mikatarian, commanding officer, Naval Station Newport.

"By involving all possible NAVSTA departments and tenant commands, we achieved our goal of improving



NEWPORT, R.I. (April 17, 2012) Personnel from the Surface Warfare Officers School Command and the Center for Service Support at Naval Station Newport, collect trash, recyclables, and debris along the west shoreline of the installation during a base cleanup. Tenant commands walked their assigned shoreline and fence-line areas to clean up debris and litter during the Earth Day project. (U.S. Navy photo by Greg Kohlweiss)

base appearance and keeping our shoreline free of debris and litter," Mikatarian said.

To accommodate academic scheduling at the Naval Academy Preparatory School, Newport, R.I., 200 Midshipman candidates started collecting debris, April 14. Thirty Scouts and their adult chaperones from Boy Scout Troop 7, Middletown, R.I. and Boy Scout Troop 4, Riverside, R.I., are visiting Naval Station Newport, April 20-22, for an overnight encampment that includes a litter and debris clean up at Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Carr Point Recreation Area.

Last year, more than 2,800 pounds of debris were bagged during a similar weeklong clean up; recyclable

material recovered totaled 1,700 pounds.

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 Naval Station Newport, visit [www.navy.mil/local/nsnewport](http://www.navy.mil/local/nsnewport)

# 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.

## 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.

## 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 A COMMISSING AS A NAVAL OFFICER.

## Return and Reunion Class Note

ALCON:

DUE TO LACK OF PARTICIPATION IN THE RETURN AND REUNION CLASS GROUP SESSIONS, AND INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS, GROUP SESSIONS WILL NO LONGER BE OFFERED ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AND WILL BE OFFERED AS NEEDED VIA INDIVIDUAL REQUEST. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FFSO OR THE CHAPLAIN FOR SUPPORT SERVICES.

## Plant & Pull Restoration Day

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 28ND, 7 A.M.

WHERE: MEET AT THE EARTH DAY PARK GAZEBO

ALL HANDS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

## 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.

## Help Needed

THE INSTALLATION TRAINING TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO BE ROLE PLAYERS IN THE RELIANT GALE 2012 EXERCISE. CONTACT LT. NOBLE AT 370-4141 IF INTERESTED.

Friday  
27

Saturday  
28

Sunday  
29

Monday  
30

Tuesday  
1

Wednesday  
2

Thursday  
3

Powerboat Class  
Marina  
4:30 p.m.

Scrabble Tournament  
Jake's Place  
2 p.m.  
**Military Only**

Earth Day Tip to Tip  
Bike Ride  
Marina  
7 a.m.

2 Person Freestyle  
Breaststroke Swim  
Race  
Base Pool  
6 p.m.

Free Throw Shooting  
Contest  
Fitness Center  
5 p.m.  
**Military Only**

500M Ocean Kayak  
Race (singles)  
Marina  
5 p.m.

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

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

**The Artist**  
Comedy  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

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

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

**The Thing**  
Horror  
R  
8 p.m.

**Movie will be held  
in the Island Room,  
movie and time  
TBD. For more info,  
call 4738.**

**Puss in Boots**  
Animation  
PG  
8 p.m.

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

**We Bought A Zoo**  
Comedy  
PG  
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**  
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MCSN Eric A. Pastor

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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.

