

# Tropical Times

May 18, 2012



*Hospitalman Ronald P. LaValle secures Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Jake E. Arnold to a litter after a simulated traffic accident May 10, at U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, during Reliant Gale 2012.*



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

One of the most memorable things that I have heard during this tour of duty is the phrase, "hope is not a plan." I heard it for the first time at a Department Head meeting when somebody mentioned that they hoped that a problem would solve itself on its own accord. Somebody then retorted that "hope is not a plan," implying that a plan needs to be put together for future execution rather than just hoping (thinking) it would solve itself.

You and I can hope all we want for something but that does not mean that the problem will be automatically solved or that we'll receive what we desire by no effort on our own. Sometimes Divine intervention will step in but that's at His discretion, not ours. So if hope is not a plan just what is it? It's

# C hapter 1 Corner

## “Hope is not a Plan”

a virtue. A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good. Hope is the confident expectation of divine blessing. More simply stated, hope is something that we yearn for or something we want to happen. For example what are your future plans? Do you hope to make the Navy a career? What is your plan to make it happen? Do you hope to attend or finish college? What is your plan to achieve that goal? If your hope is to retire from the Navy how will that come about? If you do not reenlist, what are your plans to support yourself? It will take some planning to stay afloat after you sever those ties with Uncle Sam.

It's good to have hope. Sometimes it's the only thing that keeps us going. Without it we could

easily fall into despair which is total hopelessness. Despair can also drive us away from God because we erroneously believe that we are condemned and that there is no use in trying to be good again since our fate is already determined. Nothing can be further from the truth. We should always have hope because Christ IS our hope. He will always be there to take us back if we have wandered away from him.

What is the hope for people of faith? Eternity in heaven. That's our hope because we believe that there is life after our physical death. Life on earth is for a short period of time. Everlasting life in heaven is endless and it is here that we will celebrate eternal bliss with no problems, no concerns and no

worries. We'll need a plan for this to happen. Have you put your plan into action? If not, start today.

***“May your kindness, Lord, be upon us; we have put our hope in you.”***

***(Psalms 33:22)***



# Diego Garcia NEWS

## Diego Garcia completes Typhoon Readiness Exercise

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class April Adams

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – U.S. Navy Support Facility (NAVSUPFAC) Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, tenant commands and British Forces participated in the Region Japan Reliant Gale Command Post and Fleet Training Exercise May 7 through May 11.

The week long exercise provided the installation and supporting facilities an opportunity to practice a real time typhoon scenario. The exercise also assessed emergency responder's ability to prepare for a typhoon and the launch recovery efforts after the disaster. During the exercise, the island progressed through all tropical cyclone conditions of readiness. "Each condition dictates tasks that need to be accomplished-each and every department having

certain actions to take," said Lt. Richard Gallagher, Emergency Operations Officer. "We further enhanced our understanding of our instructions, capabilities and procedures. We identified a few shortfalls-we are going to come out of this exercise with better operating procedures, simple enough for personnel on one year tours to execute."

According to Machinist Mate 1st Class (SS) Scott Shafer, by working as a team the installation was able to meet all objectives and tasks. "There were six other U.S. Naval bases throughout the region conducting a similar exercise," said Shafer. "The various facilities on the island worked together to handle obstacles that come along with a tropical cyclone.

"Some of the things we encountered were down trees,



DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (May 10, 2012) - Firefighters prepare to remove victims of a simulated traffic accident as part of Reliant Gale 2012 at U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia. Reliant Gale is an annual typhoon exercise that tests the readiness of the installation's emergency response to natural disasters. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric A. Pastor)

loss of power and communication loss," added Shafer. Day three of the exercise involved getting all non-essential personnel on the island into safe havens-a task, according to Shafer, requiring the cooperation of all hands. "Accountability of all hands is important," said Shafer. "We have to make sure everyone is safe and their whereabouts are known-building managers did an awesome job and from what was observed, we can accommodate more people than what we have."

According to Shafer, the installation's ability to function as a single entity is one of the main reasons Diego Garcia

was able to successfully complete the exercise. "It was interesting to see how many people actually came together to make everything function and work properly even through hardships," said Shafer. "Flaws were recognized during the exercise, and they will be addressed to develop an improved plan for the future."

# Reliant Gale 2012



# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## Sailors Attend US Battleship Premiere

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Trevor Welsh,  
Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

LOS ANGELES -- Universal Pictures hosted nearly 50 Sailors for the U.S. premiere of the movie "Battleship" at the Nokia Theater L.A. Live in Los Angeles May 10.

Sailors were given the "blue" carpet treatment alongside cast members of the movie and attended the special screening of the film prior to its release in more than 3,000 theaters nation-wide May 18.

"I'm happy that they finally made a film that highlights who we are and is an accurate depiction of what we do," said Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Tim Gutherson, stationed aboard USS Benfold (DDG 65).

Taylor Kitsch, who played the lead male character "Lt. Alex Hopper" in the movie said what really stands out for him is the sacrifices made by Sailors and their families.

"This film is really a tip of the hat to you guys; the true heroes," said Kitsch.

Following Department of Defense approval in

2010, the film's production began, and principal photography took place during the U.S. Pacific Fleet's Rim of the Pacific training exercise later that year. Additional filming also took place in Hawaii, San Diego, and on a film set in Baton Rouge, La., constructed by Universal Studios. The movie's cast and crew spent time at-sea and witnessed life underway on U.S. Navy warships and lived side-by-side with Sailors.

"They taught us more than we ever knew about the Navy, which was pretty special," said Brooklyn Decker, who played the lead female character "Sam" in the movie. "We actors only play hero's, so the fact that they were there helping us along was incredible, and it also gave something real to the movie. It's a big, fun, summer, alien action movie, so to have something real felt very special to us."

"It was one of the most amazing things watching that crew in action, throwing down, with what they do every day," said Jon Hoeber. "They granted us total access, and it was unbelievable. They were excited to have us



LOS ANGELES (May 10, 2012) Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class David Hooper, films an interview between a KTLA Channel 5 reporter and writers of the movie "Battleship," Jon and Erich Hoeber, on the "blue" carpet at the premiere of the film. Universal Pictures gave service members the celebrity treatment alongside cast members of the movie and invited them to attend the special screening of the film prior to its release in more than 3,000 theaters nationwide. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Trevor Welsh/Released)

there and we were dying to be there. To be able to tell their stories and watch the United States of America 'Blue Water Navy' and all they do-stunning! People in this country do not know enough about that." "Battleship" was made with the support of the Department of Defense and the Navy. According to Rear Adm. Denny Moynihan, U.S. Navy's Chief of Information, the Navy had to evaluate the idea of the movie and ask some critical questions before deciding to support the film.

"First, does the script accurately portray the Navy," said

Moynihan. "Second, does it positively represent our service and our Sailors? Third, can we support the film without impacting our operations? And finally, do we believe that it could have a positive impact on recruiting? In the case of 'Battleship,' we felt the answer was 'Yes' to each of those questions."

Because filming took place during already scheduled training events, it did not impair operations and there was no cost to the Navy nor to American taxpayers.

# NEWS *from around the fleet*

## Got a Pirate Problem? There's Even an App for That

By Grace Jean, Office of Naval Research Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Department of Defense will begin funding an Office of Naval Research (ONR)-sponsored project aimed at developing Web applications to help multinational navies police the world's oceans, officials announced May 14.

The International Collaborative Development for Enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness (ICODE MDA) was one of 14 projects selected by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics to receive \$1 million awards beginning this fall through the Coalition Warfare Program, which funds international collaborative research efforts.

The ICODE MDA project is a research alliance between ONR and Space and Naval Warfare (SPAWAR) Systems Center Pacific (SSC Pacific). ONR is partnering with scientists in Chile to build widgets, or Web-based applications, for use by

sailors and maritime operators to analyze data and other information to combat pirates, drug smugglers, arms traffickers, illegal fishermen and other nefarious groups.

"A lot of maritime threats occur in developing parts of the world," said Dr. Augustus Vogel, associate director for Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa in ONR-Global's Chile office. "Our goal is to develop partnerships with countries that have maritime threats to help solve those problems."

ONR will tap researchers at the Technical University of Federico Santa Maria, one of Chile's top engineering schools, to create Web-based tools in an open source environment. The work will focus on producing software to improve automation, small-target detection and intent detection.

Ultimately, the software will be compatible with multiple maritime network systems so that navies around



PACIFIC OCEAN (May 6, 2012) Alleged drug traffickers are arrested by Colombian naval forces in this still frame from a forward-looking infrared (FLIR) video camera from a U.S. Navy helicopter assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS McClusky (FFG 41) during interdiction operations in the eastern Pacific coastal waters of Colombia. The helicopter maintained surveillance as the Colombian navy made the arrest. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

the world can use the tools and share information for global operations.

"We'll take those tools and integrate them into a widget framework that can be part of a coalition-accessible Web portal," said John Stastny, an engineer in the advanced analysis systems branch at SSC Pacific, who is helping to lead the ICODE MDA project.

The effort in Chile is part of a larger collaborative project that encompasses nations in Africa, where ICODE MDA has been underway with researchers at the University of Ghana, University of Pretoria, University of Mauritius and the Council for Scientific and Industrial

Research in South Africa.

ONR provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 70 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning and 914 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,400 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel, with additional employees at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C.

For more information about ICODE MDA, visit <http://code.google.com/p/icode-md/>.

# What's happening in Diego Garcia

## ATTENTION POSTAL CUSTOMERS:

EFFECTIVE 16 MAY, 2012, ALL LITHIUM BATTERIES WILL BE RESTRICTED IN ALL INBOUND/OUTBOUND FPO/APO/DPO AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL. THIS INCLUDES IDS/MPS MAIL.

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR THE POST OFFICE AT 370-4114.

## Outstanding Kabayan 2012 Awards

CHOOSE AND NOMINATE YOUR ROLE MODEL IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. SKILLS AND LABOR
2. MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION
3. SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
5. PROFESSIONALISM

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES BEFORE MAY 31. FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO OBTAIN A NOMINATION FORM, PLEASE CONTACT: FRANCIS DE LUNA 370-4540.

## NOTICE

THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF DIEGO GARCIA, WILL BE OFF-LIMITS TO ALL HANDS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THIS RESTRICTION APPLIES TO:

- EVENTS AT THE R&R SITE OR PLANTATION.
- SUNDAY PLANTATION BUS RUNS.
- SPECIAL REQUESTS TO VISIT THE PLANTATION AND R&R SITE.
- ALL VISITING BOATS FROM THE MWR MARINA (MOORING BUOY).

## 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.

## TEXAS Hold'em Tournament

WHEN: FRIDAY, MAY 18, 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: ISLAND ROOM

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY

## CSADD Cookout Fundraiser

WHEN: FRIDAY, MAY 18, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

WHERE: EARTH DAY PARK  
HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, CHICKEN AND MORE!

Friday  
18

Saturday  
19

Sunday  
20

Monday  
21

Tuesday  
22

Wednesday  
23

Thursday  
24

Texas Hold'em  
Tournament  
Island Room  
6:30 p.m.  
**Military Only**

5k Fitness Challenge  
Fitness Center  
7:30 a.m.

MWR Sailing Regatta  
Marina  
2 p.m.

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

Off Road Bike Race  
Jakes Place  
5 p.m.

Table Tennis  
Tournament  
(Doubles)  
Fitness Center  
5 p.m.

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

**The Rum Diary**  
Comedy  
R  
8 p.m.

**Woman In Black**  
Drama  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

**Haywire**  
Action  
R  
8 p.m.

**Contraband**  
Action  
R  
8 p.m.

**Sherlock Holmes:  
A Game Of Shadows**  
Action  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

**This Means War**  
Action  
PG 13  
7 p.m.  
Island Room

**Tower Heist**  
Comedy  
PG 13  
8 p.m.

**Extremely Loud &  
Incredible**  
Drama  
PG 13  
10 p.m.

**Whats Your  
Number?**  
Comedy  
R  
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

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MC3 April D. Adams

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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.

