

January 27, 2017

# Tropical Times



- Harbor Security
- Energy Conservation, What Can I Do?
- Where's My Tax Refund? Changes in 2017

# TropicalTimes

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British Indian Ocean Territory

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**SEABEES:** Their simple motto tells the story: “We build, we fight”. From the island hopping of World War II and the cold of Korea, to the jungles of Vietnam, to the mountains of Bosnia, and to the deserts of Afghanistan and Kuwait, the Seabees have built entire bases, bulldozed and paved thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, and accomplished a myriad of construction projects.

The earliest Seabees were recruited from the civilian construction trades and were placed under the leadership of the Navy’s Civil Engineer Corps. Because of the emphasis on experience and skill rather than on physical standards, the average age of Seabees during the early days of the war was 37.

For more than 60 years the Seabees have repeatedly demonstrated their skills as fighters and builders. From the islands of the Pacific to the jungles of Vietnam, to the mountains of Bosnia and to the sands of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, they have built and fought for freedom. In peacetime, they have been goodwill ambassadors. In peace and in war, they have lived their motto: “**Can Do!**”

**HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY SEABEES!**

# TAKING WATCH TO THE WATER: HARBOR SECURITY

By MC2 David Brandenburg



Most of us on Diego Garcia go about our daily lives, working our jobs, going out with friends, and filling free time we have enjoying all that the island offers. Remembering that we all live on an island in the middle of the Indian Ocean isn't hard to do, but understanding what goes into the security of the water that surrounds us is not seen by many.

Members of U.S. Navy Support Facility (NSF) Security Department protect this island and assets on a daily basis by and conducting Antiterrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) patrols. The often unseen groups of Sailors that provide even more to the security of the island come in the form of the Harbor Patrol Unit (HPU).

The Harbor Patrol Unit may be a small group of Sailors, but their impact effects many daily operations on the island ensuring that assets and people are safe from waterborne

adversaries.

"The Harbor Patrol Unit provides early warning, antiterrorism, physical security and defensive protection to berthed, anchored and transiting U.S. and coalition vessels," said Master-at-Arms Second Class David Willouer. "We also play a part in landside operations by standing post and conducting patrols."

The opportunity to be a part of HPU is achievable to any Security Department Sailor on the island, but the process can be taxing due to the short tour.

"For here on DG, to be part of the Harbor Security team, at a bare minimum you need to be qualified to paygrade and be a second class swimmer before you can start working on your qualifications," said Willouer. "After all of that, there is a lot of training on seamanship and navigation fundamentals."

The job can be stressful and requires lots of learning, but

for any Sailor looking to take the challenge the experience learned can be invaluable.

"We have many challenges daily, from keeping our boats in proper working order to there not being very many of us," said Willouer.

Their work may not be as widely seen as many other jobs on the island, but the impact is felt operationally on a daily basis and their hard work and dedication ensure Diego Garcia remains a pivotal asset for U.S. and coalition forces to operate worldwide.

# ENERGY CONSERVATION...WHAT CAN I DO?

Story by MC2 David Brandenburg



Since the industrial age, energy has always been a concern. How do I maximize it, while keeping costs down? How can I use it without harming the environment? All these questions are constantly answered and re-evaluated.

Starting at the lowest level (the consumer), and moving up to things like plants and factories, it is everyone's job to conserve energy to the best of their ability. Diego Garcia is no different, and because of the pristine environment that we live in, being mindful of waste and usage is very important. But just how can we get better at doing our part to conserve and why is it important?

It starts with little acts every day and is a collective effort from everyone that calls the island home to make sure they do their part to conserve anyway that they can. A couple examples from the DGLOCALCOORDINST 4101.1E that can help are to:

- Turn off lights and office equipment in classrooms, conference rooms, and other

common areas whenever they are unoccupied.

- Turn off lights and computer equipment and set back the cooling temperature in Unaccompanied Personnel Housing or visitors quarters rooms whenever the room is unoccupied.

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Turn off the water while shaving.

"As you will notice, some posters are posted on bulletin boards encouraging personnel to reduce water and energy usage," said Ernesto Casela, Installation Energy Manager, Public Works Department Navy Facilities Far East Diego Garcia. "Some AFN commercials raise awareness, and in October 2016, MWR held a 5K fun run to celebrate energy conservation month."

Diego Garcia works hard to stay energy conscious by utilizing new and efficient technology to keep quality of life standards high while keeping costs for usage down. According to Casela Diego Garcia utilizes solar photo-voltaic array systems to reduce the

dependence on diesel-powered generator. This augments and reduces power draw from the power distribution system, which in turn pre-heats water and provides electrical power. Just one way Diego Garcia is staying on the forefront of energy conservation.

With the world and the Navy trying to conserve every resource, it is upon all of us here on DG to do our part no matter how small it may seem to leave this "footprint of freedom" clean and operational for those that follow in our footsteps.

For more information on energy conservations and tips to conserve contact: Ernesto Casela at Public Works Department and to read more about the Navy's energy efforts visit: <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/home>

# WHERE'S MY TAX REFUND? NEW CHANGES FOR 2017

Story by Defense Media Activity



Many taxpayers plan their holiday shopping and other purchases on the fact they will get their tax refund from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at the earliest possible date.

In 2017, that may not be the case.

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act, signed into law December 2015, requires the IRS to hold tax refunds which include Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) until February 15, 2017. Also, new identity theft and refund fraud safeguards by both the IRS and individual states may mean some tax returns and refunds face additional review.

## Some Refunds Delayed in 2017

Beginning in 2017 the IRS, by law, must hold the entire refund - even the portion not associated with the EITC and ACTC - until at least Feb. 15. The IRS says this change helps ensure taxpayers get the refund they are owed by giving the agency more time to

help detect and prevent fraud.

"This is an important change, as some of these taxpayers are used to getting an early refund," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "We want people to be aware of the change for their planning purposes during the holidays. We don't want anyone caught by surprise if they get their refund a few weeks later than in previous years."

As in past years, the IRS will begin accepting and processing tax returns once the filing season begins. All taxpayers should file as usual, and tax return preparers should submit returns as they normally do. Although early filers may not have their refunds issued until at least Feb. 15, the IRS reminds taxpayers most refunds will be issued within the normal timeframe: less than 21 days, after being accepted for processing by the IRS. The Where's My Refund? Tool on IRS.gov and the IRS2Go phone app remains the best way to get the status of a refund.

## Three Things You Need To Know About Your Tax Refund Infographic

1. If you file your tax return early and claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit, a new law requires the IRS to hold refunds until mid-February in 2017.

2. The law requires the IRS to hold the entire refund - even the portion not associated with the EITC and ACTC - until at least February 15, 2017.

3. New identity theft and refund fraud safeguards by the IRS may mean some tax returns and refunds face additional review.

# Pie in the Face



The Diversity Committee sponsored the pie in the face fundraiser.



# Captains Cup



Diego Garcia Branch Health Clinic held Captains Cup. Supply/Admin walked away with the trophy!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MWR

FRIDAY 27	SATURDAY 28	SUNDAY 29	MONDAY 30	TUESDAY 31	WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2
<b>9 Ball Pool Tournamnet</b> <i>Island Room</i> 6:00 p.m.	<b>400 Meter Doubles Canoe Race</b> <i>Marina</i> 2:00 p.m.	<b>3, 6, 9 Bowling 7 Tournament</b> <i>Paradise Alley</i> 12:00 p.m.	<b>On 7 Kickball Tournament</b> <i>Field 2</i> 6:00 p.m.	<b>Putting Contest</b> <i>Golf Course</i> 5:30 p.m.	<b>TBD Contest</b> <i>Base Pool</i> 6:00 p.m.	<b>TBD Marina</b> 4:30 p.m.

MOVIES

<b>Why Him?</b> <i>Comedy</i> R 8:00 p.m.	<b>Fences</b> <i>Drama</i> PG-13 8:00 p.m.	<b>A Dog's Purpose</b> <i>Comedy</i> PG-13 8:00 p.m.	<b>TBD</b> <i>Drama</i> PG 8:00 p.m.	<b>TBD</b> <i>Action/ Adventure</i> PG-13 8:00 p.m.	<b>TBD</b> <i>Action/ Adventure</i> R 8:00 p.m.	<b>TBD</b> <i>Action/ Adventure</i> PG-13 8:00 p.m.
<b>A Dog's Purpose</b> <i>Comedy</i> PG-13 10:30 p.m.	<b>La La Land</b> <i>Comedy</i> PG-13 10:30 p.m.					

To check for the movie schedule online, go to:  
<http://www.navymwr.org/movies/theater/9684854a-3171-40ec-a607-d12d91faf382>  
 Or type: Navy MWR Movie Theatre Diego Garcia

## NOTABLE

### PRT Course Clean-up

The FCPOA will be conducting a PRT Course clean-up every third Thursday of the month. Personnel will meet at the Earth Day Park Pavilion across from NSF Headquarters at 1700, all are welcome to join.

### PAO Note

If you have a suggestion for the Commanding Officer, please submit it to the **CO's suggestion box** at [http://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrj/installations/nsf\\_diego\\_garcia/about/suggestion-box.html](http://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrj/installations/nsf_diego_garcia/about/suggestion-box.html) For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office at 370-3514.

### Tagalog Phrase of the Week

Tagalog - Hindi ko maintindihan  
 Cebuano - Wa ko kasabat  
 English - I don't understand

### Legal

Powers of Attorney and Notary services are walk-in services. No appointments are necessary unless services are requested after operating hours. After hours appointments can be made by calling the legal office, the number is provided below. Our operating hours are M-F from 0730-1100 and 1300-1600. Please bring two forms of ID, and do not sign any paperwork until instructed to do so. If you have any questions, please call the legal office at 370-2922. You can also e-mail the JAG at [andrea.liou@fe.navy.mil](mailto:andrea.liou@fe.navy.mil) or LN1 Duclayan at [Rebecca.duclayan@fe.navy.mil](mailto:Rebecca.duclayan@fe.navy.mil)

### Command Financial Specialist

Tax Refund Tips. Got plans for your tax refund? Use 30-40-30 plan to pay for your PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE.  
 PAST: Designate 30% of your refund to paying off debt and catching up on outstanding bills  
 PRESENT: Earmark 40% for current use.  
 FUTURE: Use 30% to jump start an emergency fund for long term savings.  
 Become a saver today and take advantage of free tools to help you save and manage money! At [militarysave.org](http://militarysave.org). For more information, contact the Command Financial Specialist, CPO Buffer at 370-4517.