

41 Nations Gather in Bahrain for IMCMEX 13

By U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain — Representatives from 41 nations have assembled in Bahrain to prepare for two solid weeks of a cooperative exercise in the Gulf Region.

International Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX) 13, May 6-30 is the largest exercise of its kind in the region and will exercise a wide spectrum of defensive operations designed to protect international commerce and trade; mine countermeasures, maritime security operations (MSO) and maritime infrastructure protection (MIP).

“We are very pleased to see that more than 40 nations have joined us here to take part in this opportunity to enhance international naval capability to preserve freedom of navigation in international waterways,” said Vice Admiral John W. Miller, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command / Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet. “If 41 nations are willing to come here and practice MCM, just imagine how effective the global mine response would be if someone actually put mines in the water.”

Participating nations began staging and staff integration May 6 for the afloat phase of the exercise to begin next week. 35 ships, 18 Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) and more than 100 explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) divers will deploy as participants during the exercise events of IMCMEX 13.

IMCMEX 13 is hosted by U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)/U.S. 5th Fleet and will be conducted in three

phases: a three-day symposium on maritime infrastructure protection, an afloat operations phase, and a re-integration phase where participants discuss best practices and lessons learned for future exercises.

Similar to last year, participants will exercise the afloat staging base concept aboard USS Ponce (AFSB(I) 15) and RFA Cardigan Bay (L3009), and will cover surface mine countermeasures, mine hunting and airborne mine countermeasures operations, international explosive ordnance disposal training, diving operations, small-boat exercises, unmanned aerial vehicle operations, unmanned underwater vehicle operations and port clearance operations.

New to this year’s exercise, MSO will introduce shipping escort and visit, board, search and seizure operations which will include representatives from maritime shipping industry who were involved in exercise planning and will play a significant role in shipping escort events. Industry representatives will also lead an oil spill response table-top discussion during the exercise.

The MIP portion of the exercise focuses on protecting maritime points of origin and arrival, such as ports or offshore terminals. This portion of the exercise will include shore and harbor security operations; visit, board, search and seizure teams; and specialized aircraft.

NAVCENT is responsible for approximately 2.5 million square miles of area including the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, parts of the Indian Ocean and 20 countries.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael Sandberg

An aerial view of U.S. Naval ships moored in Bahrain in preparation for International Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX) 2013. IMCMEX 13 includes navies from more than 40 countries whose focus is to promote regional security through mine countermeasure operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



Courtesy Photo

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Natalie Dymond, assigned to Naval Security Forces Bahrain, hits a home run at the Middle East Softball Competition.

NSA Bahrain’s Softball Team Places in Dubai

By Weam M. Ahmed
Staff Writer

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Members of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain’s softball team participated in the Middle East Softball Championship (MESCC) 2013 in Dubai, May 1-4.

“MESCC 2013 was dubbed as ‘A little

slice of American in the Middle East’,” said Electronics Technician 1st Class James Warren. “Teams from all over the Middle East prepare the entire year to get ready for four grueling days of intense softball play.”

Twenty three teams participated in this year’s championship. The participating teams came from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Dubai, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain.

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MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD, P.2



ASIA PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, P.4

THESE
STORIES
AND
MORE...

Family Life at NSA Bahrain

MWR EXPO

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) held an expo May 9th showcasing the variety of services it has to offer. It also gave NSA Bahrain community members the opportunity to try out or see different classes offered by MWR and equipment that it has for rent. Activities and prizes rounded out the event.



The Bahrain Desert **TIMES**

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www.cnic.navy.mil/bahrain

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Photos by: Weam M. Ahmed

Chaplain's Corner

Trust: We All Do It



By Chaplain Keener
NSA Bahrain Command Chaplain

I recently read an article by Leonard Sweet who wrote about an incident that happened at a local pizza establishment. It really made me wonder about what really happens when we complain at a restaurant when they serve us something we did not order. I would like to share a PR nightmare that Domino's Pizza had to experience. Two employees recorded themselves as they carefully concocted a 'special treat' for their customers. They ceremoniously dropped pizza toppings on the floor, mashed them around, scraped them up and daintily arranged them on a pie. They stuck cheese strands up their noses, extracted them and giddily sprinkled them over the sauce. They squished and spit the condiments over

the top. Then they uploaded their creativity onto the internet for all to see. Of course the outcry was immediate. Domino's Pizza was instantly plunged into the highest damage control alert possible. The two employees, who can only be called 'Dumb and Dumber', were fired on the spot. That particular Domino's outlet was closed for a complete sanitation do-over. But for anyone who saw the video the damage was done.

The question that we often times do not think about is: Do any of us really know where our food has been before it reaches our table at a restaurant? We can joke with our own family in the safety of home about a 'five second rule', but when someone outside our own gene pool is fixing the food...fughedaboutit!!! The entire 'you serve me' food industry is based upon a certain level of trust. We trust others to prepare good, healthy, quality controlled food. Without trust, we would either all be eating only at home or at people's homes we can trust. Trust is something that evolves over time. Trust can be shattered in a moment.

We live in a world where it is better to trust others, that everyone is doing the right thing. I could not imagine living in a world that we shelter ourselves because we fear the unknown. Many times in our life someone will violate our trust in them. Once that happens it takes a lot of time, and sometimes time does not matter, to heal the hurt. But I would rather put my trust in people than live a life in solitude.

From the Desk of the Command Master Chief



By CMC Leedom
NSA Bahrain Command Master Chief

Shipmates,

I have recently arrived and have assumed the duties as the Command Master Chief of NSA Bahrain and have met many of you and am looking forward to working with you during my tour here.

I previously served as the Command Master Chief of United States Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan and most recently the USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110).

My focus is on teamwork, mission accomplishment and the career development of our Sailors, in short, Deckplate leadership.

I look forward to building a strong team that is dedicated in making NSA Bahrain the premiere overseas duty station in our Navy.

LEGAL CORNER

LN1(SW) Shenika Mayes

SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY (POA) TO ACT "IN LOCO PARENTIS"

The phrase "in loco parentis" means "in the place of the parent." This type of POA grants parental authority to another (such as a caregiver) to perform a range of functions which include picking up a child from school, buying food and clothing, and consenting to medical treatment of a child in the event of illness or injury. Without this POA, a day care center, school, hospital, or clinic may refuse to follow the directives of the caregiver.

Active-duty single parents or dual military couples who are deploying should obtain a special power of attorney for their child/children's caregiver. The caregiver may then assume the duties and responsibilities of a parent without formal adoption procedures. It is recommended that all military members stationed OCONUS or in remote locations who have children maintain documentation for "in loco parentis" situations.

If you have any questions about this topic or wish to obtain this type of POA, please contact our front desk at 439-4237.



For more information on visas and CPR cards, contact Immigration at 1785-4258.

Hagel Announces Fewer Furlough Days for DOD Employees

By Nick Simeone and Karen Parrish, American Forces Press Service
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (NNS) — After weeks of review, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has concluded budget cuts will require most of the department's civilian employees to be furloughed beginning in July, but that because of other efforts to deal with the shortfall, only half of the 22 days originally envisioned as temporary layoffs will now be necessary.

During a town hall meeting today at the Mark Center in Alexandria, Va., Hagel told Defense Department employees that most will be required to take 11 furlough days beginning July 8, one per pay period, through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30.

Hagel noted that when he took the oath of office less than three months ago, post-sequester plans called for 22 furlough days. Congress allowed the department to shift or reprogram some funds in March that cut that number to 14. Now, he said, as maintenance, training, flying hours and ship deployments are increasingly affected, he had no choice but to authorize the furloughs.

"We kept going back. And finally, we got to a point where I could not responsibly go any deeper into cutting or jeopardizing our formations, our readiness and training," he said.

In a memo to senior department leaders, Hagel said he had "very reluctantly" concluded that major budgetary shortfalls triggered by a \$37 billion cut in defense spending for fiscal year 2013 forced a decision he said he deeply regrets, and one that he acknowledged will disrupt lives and impact DOD operations.

However, he credited congressional passage of a defense appropriation bill in March in part for helping to reduce from the number of days civilians would be temporarily laid off by half.

It may be possible later in the year to "knock that back" to an even lower number, the secretary said, but he emphasized that he could not promise such an outcome.

"I won't promise that," Hagel said. "You deserve fair, honest, direct conversation about this, and I'm not going to be cute with you at all. This is where we are. We'll continue to look at it, [and] we'll continue to do everything we can."

Hagel said the furloughs will affect every military department and almost every agency, with limited exceptions. "We will except civilians deployed to combat zones and civilians necessary to protect life and property," he wrote in his memo, adding that others will be excepted if forcing them to stay off the job would not free up money for other needs.

Employees set to be furloughed will begin receiving written notification June 5.

In March, defense officials had told civilian employees to expect as many as 22 furlough days during the current fiscal year, part of departmentwide efforts to slash spending in response to across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration.

In the time since, Hagel has been working to avoid or reduce the temporary layoffs, saying he had sought advice from department leaders and agencies, both civilian and military, but found no other way to help in closing the budget gap.

In his memo today, Hagel said if the budget situation eases, he would strongly prefer to end the furloughs early. "That is a decision I will make later in the year," he added.

ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICA

Philippine Scouts

First Asian Scoutmaster in Bahrain
JOSE NISPOBOS

Manila, Philippines (Special Report) - The Philippine Scoutmaster Association (PSA) has elected its 2013-2014 President, Jose Nisporbos, a former Scoutmaster of the Philippine Scoutmaster Association (PSA) and a former Scoutmaster of the Philippine Scoutmaster Association (PSA). Nisporbos is a former Scoutmaster of the Philippine Scoutmaster Association (PSA) and a former Scoutmaster of the Philippine Scoutmaster Association (PSA). He is a former Scoutmaster of the Philippine Scoutmaster Association (PSA) and a former Scoutmaster of the Philippine Scoutmaster Association (PSA).

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GAN HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrating Values and Dedication



44,000 Active and Reserve Personnel
37 Months of Service
100 Years of Dedication
22 International Service Centers
8 International Joint Centers
1,000 Purple Heart Medals



Purple Heart Battalion

The Purple Heart Battalion is a unique and powerful symbol of the United States Army's commitment to its personnel. It is a testament to the courage and sacrifice of those who have served in the line of duty. The Purple Heart is awarded to those who are wounded or killed in action, and it is a mark of honor that is highly respected. The Purple Heart Battalion is a proud tradition that has been passed down for generations, and it is a source of pride for all who wear the uniform of the United States Army.



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NSA BAHRAIN from Page 1

The NSA Bahrain team included 11 men and 17 women of Navy, Army, and Marine Corps forces who played 19 games.

"Every year, NSA conducts a tryout for the teams, and the top 15 men and women are chosen to represent NSA Bahrain," said Warren.

Throughout the year NSA Bahrain's team plays against teams from the ships that pull into port in Bahrain. In the past 3 years, NSA Bahrain has not lost against any visiting ship, according to Warren.

"These men and women played through the intense heat and pain of non-stop games," said Warren. NSA Bahrain played in the men's, women's and the coed categories in four days of softball action that began at colors and didn't stop until midnight.

The men's team finished in the second place overall, losing the championship game by one run in extra innings against Dubai Diablo's, whereas the women's team acquired the third place.

"The championship game was the hardest game we played, well fought by both teams. We played extra innings. Nobody was willing to give the game away to the opponent," said Warren.

"All of us were extremely proud to represent not only NSA, but to be the only Armed Forces team there gave us immense pride," said Warren.



Courtesy Photo

NSA Bahrain men's team during a routine infield play. NSA Bahrain was one of 23 teams at the competition.



Courtesy Photo

Aviation Mechanist's Mate 2nd Class Jordan Griggs, assigned to HM-15, hits a home run on the third night of play

IG HOTLINES

Report Fraud, Waste, Mismanagement, Military Whistleblower Complaints & Improper Mental Health Referrals to one of the following:

NAVCENT Inspector General

Telephone #: +973-1785-3574 DSN: 439-4213 Fax: 439-9116

E-mail: ig_hotline@me.navy.mil

Navy Region Inspector General (NSA Bahrain)

Telephone #: +39-081-568-2983 DSN: 314-626-2983

E-mail: ig_hotline@na.navy.mil

Website: <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/Europe/About/RegionalDepartments/InspectorGeneral>

Naval Inspector General

Telephone #: 202-433-6743 DSN: 288-6743 Fax: 202-433-2613

E-mail: NAVIGHotlines@navy.mil Website: <http://www.ig.navy.mil>

Marine Corp Inspector General

Telephone #: 703-604-4526 DSN: 312-664-4526

Website: <http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/igmc/>

Army Inspector General

Telephone #: 703-545-1845 DSN: 312-865-1845

Website: <http://www.dauig.pentagon.mil/>

Air Force Inspector General

Telephone #: 202-404-5354 DSN: 312-754-5354

E-mail: SAF.IG@Pentagon.AF.Mil

DoD Inspector General

Telephone #: 703-604-8799 DSN: 312-664-8799 Website: <http://www.dodig.mil/>

MWR Cinemas

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MOVIE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

***** MOVIE HOTLINE: 439-6916 *****



ITT Price: \$26

May 21 cut-off day

Pearl "Snorkel" Hunt

Friday, May 24

• Time: 0630

• Min 8 people – Max 12 people;

• ITT Price: \$52, May 21 cut-off day

ITT

Sight Seeing Tour

Sunday, May 19

Time: 1000 – 1500, Min 5 people

Cost: \$5

Cooking Demonstration of Arabic Food and Dinner

Thursday, May 23

• Time: 1700, Min 5 people

• ITT Price: \$23

Al Dar Island Trip

Saturday, May 25

• Time: 0930 – 1500, Min 10 people

• ITT Price: \$17, May 22 cut-off day

Guided Cultural Tour of Bahrain

Sunday, May 26

• Time: 0900 – 1600, Min 14 people

• ITT Price: \$35, May 22 cut-off day

Swim with the Dolphins

Friday, May 31

• Time: 1000 – 1300, Min 8 people

• ITT Price: \$49, May 28 cut-off day

Horse Back Riding

Friday, May 24

Time: 0900 – 1300, Min 8 people

For more information, call x-3531
All dates and times are subject to change

Comments & Suggestions

All are welcome to send comments or suggestions to MWR Bahrain. Please e-mail them to: MWRsuggestionBox@me.navy.mil
If you would like to receive MWR Bahrain's e-mail announcements, just send your official e-mail to the above address.



Saturday, May 18

Dart tourney

• Time: 1800

Friday, May 24

4 man Sand Volleyball

• Time: 1800

Sunday, May 19

Sunday Sundaes

• Free Ice Cream Sundae (while supplies last)

Sunday, May 26

Sunday Sundaes

• Free Ice Cream Sundae (while supplies last)

Monday, May 20

Speed Pool

• Time: 1800

Monday, May 27

Speed Pool

• Time: 1800

Thursday, May 23

Bowling Challenge

• Time: 1600

Tuesday, May 28

9 ball pool tourney

• Time: 1800

For more information, call the Liberty Center at 439-3192



@NSA Bahrain