



Miami Marlins spread good cheer



CS1 Michael Sanders cracks jokes with members of the Miami Marlins Major League Baseball team. More than 50 Sailors and Pacific Missile Range Facility personnel greeted members of the Marlins baseball team at the base's All Hands Club for autographs and lunch.

Story and photos by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

Although it was raining most of the day, that certainly didn't stop the Miami Marlins from taking the field at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Dec. 13. More than 50 Sailors and PMRF personnel greeted members of the Marlins Club at the base's All Hands Club (Shenani-gans) for autographs and lunch followed by a keiki (kids) base-

ball clinic, conducted by the ball players at the softball field.

According to a press release from Armed Forces Entertainment (AFE), the Marlins organization visited U.S. troops stationed in Japan, Guam and Hawaii from Dec. 1 – 15 with AFE. The tour marked the Marlins' fourth visit this year to U.S. military personnel stationed overseas. In 2010, the Marlins became the first Major League Baseball team to take active play-

ers to visit U.S. troops. At that time, the group visited military bases in Iraq and Kuwait. Earlier this year, players and front office staff traveled to Bahrain, Germany and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Throughout the tour, Marlins players, Billy the Marlin, the Mermaids and office staff participated in baseball clinics, dance

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Commanding Officer's Hot Line: Ext. 4435

You can call the Captain with your question/concern too. Dial 335-4435 any time, seven days a week! The purpose of the hotline (record-a-phone) is to provide all PMRF military members, families, civil service and contractor employees the opportunity to communicate directly with the CO. Some suggestions are:

- Safety suggestions/violations/unsafe practices, ideas to improve safety and promote safety awareness.
- Ways to improve morale, working or living conditions.
- Suggestions on how to save taxpayer dollars, cut costs, save energy, reduce labor manhours, etc.
- Security violations and/or recommendations for strengthening physical security and safeguarding classified information.
- Any positive things (events, programs, policies, benefits, etc.) that you feel are particularly good.
- Any negative things you feel should have the CO's attention.
- Suggestions for improving disaster preparedness (tsunamis, hurricanes, fires, etc.)

You need not identify yourself to leave a message, but if you would like a staffed response, please do so. If reporting a problem, please try to recommend a workable solution. Some of the questions or problems reported will be answered in the Within Range.

A good point of contact for issues involving Navy families is the PMRF Ombudsman, Jeannie Clemmo who can be reached at: Cell 635-5364 or email at pmrfoambudsman@yahoo.com.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

"Petersen: No. No. Mav, this is not a good idea. Hayes: Sorry Goose, but it's time to buzz a tower."

Miami Marlins' players Bryan Petersen (Goose) and Brett Hayes (Maverick) get in the right frame of mind before their flight.

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Commanding Officer: Capt. Nicholas Mongillo

Executive Officer: Cmdr. James Wucher

Editor: Tom Clements

Command Master Chief: AFCM(AW/SW) Willie Canaya

Staff: MC1(AW) Jay C. Pugh



(above) Miami Marlins outfielder Bryan Petersen pitches during a kids softball game.



MARLINS, Contd. from Page 1 clinics, meet and greets, and participated in an adult softball game and tour at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Hiroshima, Japan. Representing the Marlins were catcher Brett Hayes; outfielders Mike Stanton and Bryan Petersen; Vice Chairman, Joel Mael; VP and General Counsel, Derek Jackson and Game Presentation & Events Supervisor, Luis Dones. The club also brought team mascot Billy the Marlin as well as Ashley, Jackie and Stephanie of the Mermaids.

PMRF certainly wasn't the

largest base the club visited, but it was one of the most unique. "Kauai lived up to its name [as the Garden Isle]," stated Bryan Petersen. "The trip here has been awesome!"

The Sailors at PMRF were no less excited about the presence of Major League Baseball players on the remote duty station.

"I thought it was great. It's nice to know people are thinking about us. It was exciting to see some guests out here. It's definitely cool to see professional athletic teams," said Naval Aircrewman 2nd Class Stephen Carter.

The purpose of the Marlins' visit



(above) Miami Marlins catcher Brett Hayes shows Booth Barrow how to hold a baseball mitt as his father, Naval Aircrewman 1st Class Scott Barrow watches.

(left) Players for the Miami Marlins organize a baseball game with children during a baseball clinic.

to PMRF was simple: to provide a program of live, professional entertainment to enhance the quality of life and morale for armed forces personnel. This mission could not have been accomplished without the coordination of AFE.

"It's kind of a coveted position to be a part of Armed Forces Entertainment. To go and tour the bases and give back to the troops is a once in a lifetime opportunity and it's an honor to just say 'thanks' for all that the troops have done," said Petersen.

MCPON Sends Holiday Message

Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick D. West

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following holiday message to the Fleet Dec. 12.

“Shipmates and Navy families,

Can you believe another year is almost over? It’s amazing how quickly time passes when you’re staying busy! It seems we were kicking off 2011 just yesterday and here we are, about to usher in 2012.

With the traditional festivities of December upon us, I want to wish you all the happiest possible holidays, and to say thank you for the outstanding service and support you provide to our Navy and nation. I continue to be humbled by your selfless dedica-

tion and the outstanding job you do every day around the globe.

We faced some challenges this year and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, but we will get through them together as we have done for the past 236 years. The Navy, after all, is a team sport and in 2011, we enjoyed many operational successes together that are worth celebrating. They are your legacy ... the deployments, the steady presence in difficult places, the helping hand when natural disasters left vulnerable people in their wake.

You and your Shipmates worked hard and sacrificed often. As you visit with loved ones, scour the shopping malls, or hit the ski slopes during these joyous weeks, take a moment to reflect on the special appreciation America has for you and your family. Be proud of your accomplishments, and



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West.

share sea stories with moms, dads, siblings, aunts, uncles, and old buddies.

Most of all, be safe and enjoy the holiday season to its fullest. Celebrate responsibly: You are important to our Navy family and we need every one of you to return recharged for the next adventure. Don’t let bad judgment ruin the New Year or your life. Look out for each other, and keep an eye on your Shipmates who may be having a difficult time.

It’s also important that we remember the thousands of our Shipmates who are deployed, on station around the world vigilantly keeping the watch, ready to answer our nation’s call. They are there ensuring we have this chance to deck the halls, gather around family dinner tables, and belt out Auld Lang Syne in a storm of confetti.

Thank you again for serving our great Navy and preserving our nation’s freedom. Sailors and families, you are truly among this country’s greatest gifts.

Happy holidays Shipmates and HOOYAH!



Chief Electronics Technician James Larson, assigned to the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Miami (SSN 755), dresses up as Santa and waves to friends and family members as the submarine returns home to Submarine Base New London. U.S. Navy Photo by John Narewski