

Groundbreaking ceremony begins military construction project at Mina Salman Port



Photo by MC1 Eric Brown

U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Adam Ereli (fourth from left) and other U.S. and Bahraini officials begin a \$580 million military construction project during a groundbreaking ceremony at Mina Salman Port. This project, scheduled to be completed in 2015, will develop 70 acres of land to support U.S. and coalition ships and personnel, and a flyover bridge will link the site to Naval Support Activity Bahrain.

From Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain — MANAMA, Bahrain - The government of Bahrain and the U.S. Navy hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at Mina Salman Port on May 26, 2010, marking the beginning of a military construction project that will develop 70 acres on the waterfront to support U.S. and coalition ships and personnel. Port operations currently being conducted at Mina Salman will relocate to this location.

“NSA Bahrain continues to grow to better support ongoing operations around the region,” said Capt. Enrique Sadsad, commanding officer of NSA Bahrain.

“This expansion project will not only enhance our ability to support our tenant commands and their mission, whether that be logistics, aviation, theatre security, or surface operational support, but also provide the necessary infrastructure to support our service members and their families, including our civilian and contract employees.”

The \$580 million project is scheduled to be completed in 2015, and will include utilities infrastructure, a consolidated

port operations and harbor patrol facility, personnel barracks, administrative buildings, dining facility and a flyover bridge connecting Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain to the new port facilities.

“The investment in the waterfront construction project will provide a better quality of life for our Sailors and coalition partners, well into the future,” said Lt. Cmdr. Keith Benson, NSA Bahrain’s public works officer.

“This project signifies a continuing relationship and the trust, friendship and camaraderie that exists between the U.S. and Bahraini naval forces.”

The ultimate goal of relocating port operations and development at Mina Salman is to provide better support to U.S. and coalition ships deployed here and operating in the region.

The work at Mina Salman is being overseen by Naval Facilities Engineering Command Europe Africa Southwest Asia, headquartered in Naples, Italy. The executing agent is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Construction on the first of the four phases will begin immediately. The first phase, scheduled for completion in the

GROUND BREAKING Page 5

USCENTCOM guidance clarifies entitlements of R&R leave

By COMUSNAVCENT Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain — Since its release on May 7, 2010, United States Central Command (USCENTCOM)’s leave and liberty policy, which details R&R leave entitlement in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility, has raised numerous questions by service members and civilians deployed or permanently assigned here.

As a service member serving in Bahrain, your possible entitlements are: regular/annual leave, rest and recuperation (R&R) leave, funded environmental morale leave (FEMLE) and consecutive overseas tour (COT), all based upon the type of tour you are serving.

Since regular leave and R&R are what most here in Bahrain are eligible for, that’s what we’ll focus on for clarification.

R&R leave entitles personnel serving in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility to round-trip air transportation, to and from a location (excluding travel to designated combat and combat support zones) of the member’s choice, at government expense. As much as 15

days of leave, which is charged as regular leave can be taken with R&R, and the travel time (up to four days) is not charged against the member’s leave balance.

“This revision of USCENTCOM’s leave and liberty policy affects all who are serving here,” noted Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Vice Adm. Bill Gortney. “We are very fortunate to still be able to be included in this policy, which is actually intended for the well-being of our troops fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, and not necessarily those like us who live in comfort here in Bahrain.”

USCENTCOM Policy Letter # 36 states “ordinary/annual leave and liberty policies are, by reason of military necessity, suspended for all military personnel in countries and locations designated as Combat Zones (CZ) [such as Bahrain and in] countries designated as Direct Support (DS) of a CZ ... The R&R Leave Program is authorized for areas in which official or unofficial travel is controlled and where ordinary/annual leave programs have been suspended for reasons of military necessity.”

USCENTCOM Page 7

MWR swim competition



Photo by MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

Naval Aircrewman 2nd Class Andrew Reischl dives off a platform during the Moral, Welfare and Recreation’s 50 meter Breast Stroke Competition at the Inshalla Pool on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, May 20. Reischl receives a gold medal for being the fastest swimmer with a time of 35.12 seconds.

INSIDE

- 3 - CHAPLAIN’S CORNER
- 4 - NAVCENT PETTY OFFICER PREPARES FOR LAST “MAIL CALL”
- 5 - USS ARDENT RETURNS TO SEA
- 6 - NEW PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT MASTER CHIEF
- 7 - COALITION SHIP ASSISTS IRANIAN MARINERS
- 8 - MWR EVENTS & INFO



A NIGHT OF “CINEMAGIC”, P.3



PETS IN BAHRAIN, P.4



NEW SECO FOR NSA, P.6

THESE
STORIES
AND
MORE...

Family Life at NSA Bahrain

“Here comes Trouble”



Photo by MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.

Jack Dial, a DoD family member stationed on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, slides down a slide at the children's playground May 26.

Support our
National Heroes

Memorial Day SERVICE

Mon, 31 May
Freedom Souq Courtyard

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
Starts at 1100

Flag Ceremony
Color Guard
POW/MIA Presentation
Bahrain Bagpipers

Followed by
MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC -NO COST!

For Active Duty Personnel & Family Members, DOD Civilians, Contractors and their families
and Coalition Forces - MUST SHOW VALID ID

Hamburgers
Hotdogs
BBQ Chicken Wings
Pork & Beans
Potato Salad
Sliced Watermelon
Water & Soda

Fun day at the pool



Photo by MC1 Brianna K. Dandridge

Chief Personnel Specialist Donnie Haynes, Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 5 volunteers to teach swimming at the Regional Institute for Active Learning, a school focused on providing education to children with learning disabilities, May 18. The RIA School is a nonprofit special needs school and houses approximately 100 students of varying educational and physical abilities.

the Bahrain
DESERT TIMES

www.cnic.navy.mil/bahrain

Commanding Officer

U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain

Capt. Rick Sadsad

NSA Bahrain Executive Officer

Cmdr. Patrick J. Moran

Public Affairs Officer

Jennifer L. Stride

Leading Petty Officer

MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.

Staff Photojournalists

MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.

MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

The Desert Times is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy and Marine Corps military services in Commander Navy Region Southwest Asia.

Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the NSA/CNRSWA, Bahrain, Public Affairs Officer.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commanding Officer Naval Support Activity Bahrain or Commander, Naval Region Southwest Asia of the products and services advertised.

Everything advertised in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

The Desert Times is published bi-weekly by Red House Marketing, P.O. Box 20461, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps.

Red House Marketing, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (973) 1781 3777 or send in a Fax to (973) 1781 3700.

Service member tutors at the DoDDS



Photo by MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

U.S. Air Force, TSgt. Jamil Goodwin, assigned to Defense Information Security Awareness on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, helps Dena Al-Sager from Kuwait with her homework after school hours at the Arabic Library in Department of Defense Dependents School. "I'm grateful that they [volunteers] are here to help us understand our homework," said Al-Sager. "They're good people."

Chaplain's Corner

The Cake of Life

By Chaplain (Cmdr.) Michael Hall
NSA Bahrain Chaplain

A little boy was telling his Grandmother how everything is wrong. He did not like school, his teachers were mean. He was mad at his mother, she made him do chores. He didn't feel well, his nose was running. Meanwhile his grandmother was making a cake. She asked him if he would like a snack, which of course he said "yes."

"Here, have some cooking oil!" she said.

"Yuck!" says he boy

"How about a couple of raw eggs?"

"Gross, Grandma!"

"Would you like some flour then?"

Or maybe some baking soda?"

"Those are all yucky!" He replied

His grandmother lovingly said, "Yes all of those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are all put together in the right way they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. We feel disappointed when our dreams are shattered. We can't understand when we feel embarrassed



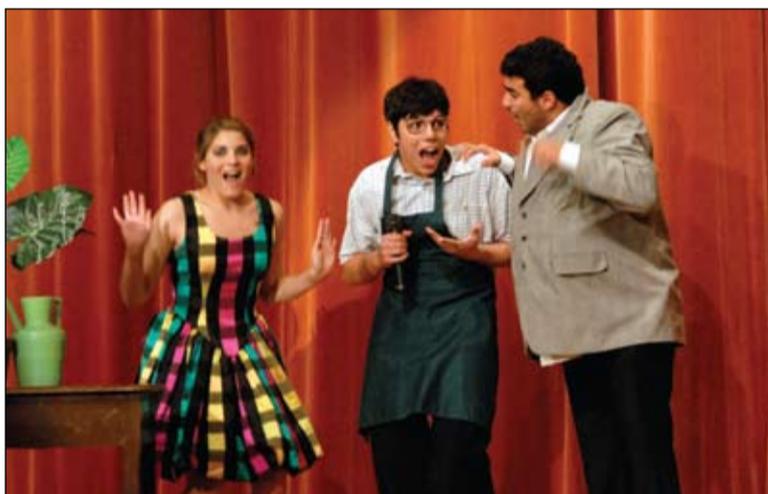
or humiliated. We hurt when someone we love rejects us and walks away. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work together for good! As we walk through the trials and challenges of life, let us allow Him to guide us along the way. We have to trust that eventually all of our life lessons will be mold us into a person of depth and character that is truly something wonderful.

A Night of "Cinemagic"

By MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.
Staff Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain — More than three hundred service members, their families, DoD contractors and civilians were entertained with song and dance skits performed by the students attending the Bahrain Department of Defense Dependents School (DoDDS) during their production of "Cinemagic" held in the school's auditorium on May 19 and 20.

Cinemagic is a musical review with selected scenes from great moments throughout movie history. Songs from movies such as "Hello Dolly," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Hairspray" and "Little Shop of Horrors" were sung as dance routines were masterfully executed by the students performing the production to the melodies performed by the school's fifteen-member orchestra. The all-student cast and musicians had been working diligently in preparation of the performance, which was a com-



Photos by MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.

Students attending the Department of Defense Dependents School entertained their audience with "Cinemagic" a musical review with selected scenes from great moments throughout movie history May 20.

plete delight for school administrators and staff as well as the students' parents.

"We have more than fifty students participating in this year's production from grades nine through twelve." Said Linda Berger, assistant director.

"The kids have been working very hard for a few months to put it all together."

"Cinemagic" had all the production details you would expect from a Broadway musical. Every responsibility was perfectly executed by students, from spotlights to stage props and costume designs. The performers belted out their tunes wearing beautiful sequence gowns, tuxedos and costumes reflecting the movie they were imitating.

"Being on the stage was kind of intimidating at first," said Crystal Henderson, who preformed "People" sung by Barbra Streisand.

"The feeling that the audience wants you to do well gave me inspiration."

While the student-performers enjoyed their moment in the spotlight, their parents were also



Students attending the Department of Defense Dependents School entertained their audience with "Cinemagic" a musical review with selected scenes from great moments throughout movie history May 20.

moved by the show.

"I was very impressed and very pleased," said Air Force Colonel Daryl Chinn, who's son Jonny is a ninth-grader at the Bahrain DoDD school.

"All the hard work that Play Director Ms. Furlong, Assistant Play Director Ms. Berger, and Music Director Mr. Barth put into it really paid off, I would have paid a lot more than 2BD to watch this."

Almost the entire student-body attended the Wednesday performance, while the Thursday pro-

duction consisted mainly of family members and school staff.

"It's been a 25-year tradition here at DoDDS to put on a full scale musical or musical review," said Berger.

"We had a lapse for a couple of years but with new families arriving we've been getting a lot of support and participation."

At the end of the performance the cast honored their mentors, Ms Heather Furlong, Ms. Linda Berger and Mr. Scott Barth with a large bouquet of flowers ending a night of Cinemagic.



Students attending the Department of Defense Dependents School entertained their audience with "Cinemagic" a musical review with selected scenes from great moments throughout movie history May 20.

Pets in Bahrain

By MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.
Staff Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain — Naval Support Activity (NSA), Bahrain is growing everyday. With the increase in the number of personnel stationed here with family members comes an increase in the number of pets here as well.

With more than 500 cats and dogs are currently registered with NSA Bahrain. The Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF), located here on base, ensures the health and well-being of the furry family members, and also tends to the local feral cat population on board NSA, utilizing a space available format.

“About two thirds of these animals are indigenous, obtained through the Bahrain Society for the Protection of Animals, and one third are brought here by families,” said Olivia Bedoya, of NSA Veterinary Services. “It’s hard to get an exact number due to the fluctuations of service members coming and going and adopting pets locally.”

But great strides have been made in helping pet owners and their pets adjust to their new home and environment here in Bahrain. The Navy Exchange has even helped out by adding additional items to its inventory at the request and feedback of pet owners.

With the growing population of personnel reporting for duty or employment here in Bahrain with pets comes some real challenges in finding a place to live.

There are but a few temporary lodging hotels in the local area that allow guests to have pets in the apartment.

Branch Veterinary Services, Bahrain Officer in Charge, U.S. Army Capt. Jennifer A. Viviano’s, life-long passion has been caring for animals. Viviano is NSA Bahrain’s primary veterinarian for more than 24 military working dogs on board the base, and extends her services to local and imported pets brought to the island by service mem-

bers, families and Department of Defense (DoD) employees.

“The information we want to get out to the families is that we’d like to know if ahead of time if they’re importing or exporting pets,” said Viviano

“That way we have plenty of time to get everything that is necessary in order so their pets get into or out of the country as easily as possible.”

The VTF on board NSA Bahrain can assist you with not only the arrival and departure of your pet, but its health care during your stay as well.

The facility provides an array of health-care procedures for pets. Some of these services include spays, neuters, vaccines, micro-chipping, heartworm testing for dogs, FELV/FIV testing for cats, and limited blood work. The VTF also stocks basic health care supplies such as heartworm preventative medication, flea and tick preventatives, shampoos, joint supplements and a limited supply of prescription medications.

Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Joseph Kerker with the NSA Bahrain Security Department experienced this first hand with his newly adopted German Shepherd “Vels.” who had been scratching a small injury, keeping it from properly healing. After a thorough examination, Viviano determined the best medicine for Vels was to prevent him from scratching and the German Shephard didn’t seem to mind the Elizabethan collar used to keep him from getting to the sore spot as much as Kerker. But after all, these were doctor’s orders.

“At least he doesn’t have to wear it all the time”, said Kerker.

“He’s worn one before so he should be used to it.”

Pets bring more than companionship to their owners, they provide protection, laughter, exercise and the ability to network and socialize with other pet owners. Although there are some areas on base where pets are not allowed, they generally



Photo by MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.

Officer in Charge, Branch Veterinary Services, Bahrain, Army Capt. Jennifer A. Viviano slips an Elizabethan collar (sometimes called the cone of shame) on Vels a retired military working dog as Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Joseph Kerker, his new owner holds him steady.



Photo by Olivia Bedoya

Cmdr. Patrick Moran, Executive Officer, Naval Support Activity (NSA), Bahrain, assists Army Capt. Jennifer A. Viviano, Officer in Charge, Branch Veterinary Services, Bahrain, in a surgical procedure on a military working dog (Joey) at the Veterinary Treatment Facility on board NSA.

can walk the sidewalks, smell the flowers, and yelp at an occasional feral cat.

Cmdr. Patrick Moran, Executive Officer, Naval Support Activity, Bahrain spent an afternoon at the VTF assisting Capt. Viviano with a surgical procedure.

“Assisting during surgical procedures has given me a unique look into,

and a far greater appreciation for the intense hard work and dedication that these veterinary professionals exhibit on daily basis,” said Moran. “It truly was an eye opening experience.”

For more information regarding pet import or export visit <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/bahrain/index.htm>.

NAVCENT Petty Officer prepares for last “Mail Call”

By MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Staff Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain — Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Thomas Harrison has one of the most physically demanding jobs at U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT).

As the command’s only permanently assigned postal clerk, Harrison moves an average of 200 to 300 pounds of mail daily, and provides mail distribution for more for 500 service members and 35 departments within the command.

“It’s all upper body strength when it comes to lifting the mail,” said Harrison. “The weight limit per box is 70 pounds and you’ll be surprised how many people will max out how much they can send.”

Harrison enjoys his job’s challenges, which includes filling a first class petty officer billet and even working alone six or seven days a week. What’s he’s less than enthusiastic about is Bahrain’s punishing weather, which takes its toll as he loads mail from the post office to his vehicle and from there to the NAVCENT mail room.

“Personally I can’t stand the heat, and lifting boxes in 100 degree and higher weather is just horrible,” said Harrison. “By the time I’ve finished putting everything in

my office I’m usually drenched in sweat.”

Harrison is scheduled to transfer May 27 and will be missing another summer in Bahrain. He will be assigned to Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka in Sasebo, Japan.

Hailing from Chapel Hill, N.C., Harrison enlisted in November of 2005 and served his first tour at FISC Yokosuka in Atsugi, Japan before coming to Bahrain in April of 2009. At NAVCENT he distinguished himself as a motivated “go to guy” who has earned the esteem of his peers and supervisors.

“I love working with this guy. He’s a very professional Sailor that’s been a great asset to the administration department and he’ll be missed,” said Chief Yeoman Ronald Fiveash, Harrison’s supervisor. “He has a very important role here because mail is a morale booster and people love to see him when he comes into the building with a truck-load of mail.”

The volume of Harrison’s work fluctuates on a seasonal basis. During the winter holiday season he began his shifts earlier than normal to compensate for the greatly increased amount of mail. At that time, he was receiving about 800 pounds of mail daily, which quickly filled his office, as well as those nearby.



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Thomas Harrison, assigned to Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Sigonella Detachment Bahrain, sorts mail in preparation for “mail call” at the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command mail room on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. Harrison receives and delivers hundreds of pounds of mail every day for more than 500 service members and civilians serving at Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

Although Harrison’s job can be difficult, he finds value in it, and will miss working at NAVCENT.

“I really enjoy the customer service

aspect of my job,” said Harrison. “It gives me an opportunity to meet people and it’s rewarding to see them smile when I’m helping them out.”



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

USS Ardent (MCM 12) returns to sea after the three-month dry dock portion of the service restricted availability period at the Mina Salman pier. During this scheduled maintenance period, the ship underwent painting, preservation, renovations and repairs inside and out. USS Ardent conducts mine-counter-measure operations, supports operations and exercises, and coalition-building port visits with various nations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

USS Ardent returns to sea

By MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Staff Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain — Following a three-month stay in a floating dry dock at the Mina Salman Pier, USS Ardent (MCM 12) returned to sea May 23.

USS Ardent's dry dock period was part of a routine service restricted availability that occurs approximately every 60 months in the life of Avenger-class ships.

"She's coming out of dry dock looking really good," said Lt. Cmdr. Jose Roman, USS Ardent's commanding officer. "A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into the ship to bring it to the state that it's in right now."

USS Ardent is one of four mine countermeasures ships forward-deployed in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR). The ship and its crew of 83 personnel report to MCM Squadron Five in support of theater security cooperation events, survey operations and mine warfare exercises and operations in the area.

The ship went into dry dock February 17 to be renovated from top to bottom, inside and out.

"The ship was lifted out of the water, and we did a lot of preservation and maintenance on the hull, props, rudders, suction and overboard discharges," Roman said.

The ship also received maintenance, preservation and refurbishment to its crew quarters, galley, engineering plant and radars.

"Without material readiness, we can't support operational readiness," added Roman.

Asian and Pacific-Islander Heritage Month



STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

THE NSA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMITTEE & NCTS DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
WELCOMES YOU TO CELEBRATE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
WEDNESDAY MAY 26TH AT 1100 IN P911 BEACH CLUB

GROUNDBREAKING from Page 1

fall of 2012, will see the development of site utilities and a utilities building, a perimeter wall and a pass and ID gate.

For the second phase, which will begin this fall and end in the winter of 2012, the port operations and harbor patrol unit facility will be completed, along with a small craft basin. Beginning in the summer of 2011, the third phase will focus on an administration facility consolidating 16 commands, personnel barracks and the fly-

over bridge. The final phase will commence in 2012, and will include additional personnel quarters, a dining facility and a recreation center.

NSA Bahrain occupies 62 acres of land in Juffair, and hosts more than 90 tenant commands, including U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. Fifth Fleet. It is the primary naval base supporting regional maritime operations in the Arabian Gulf.

Planning for the relocation of port operations has been in progress since 2003.

NSA celebrates Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month



Photo by MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

Information Systems Technician 1st Class Varin Nasongkha (left) assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Systems perform a traditional dance from Thailand during the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Celebration in the Beach Club located at the Freedom Souq on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, May 26.

Roy Wood Jr. performs for service members



Photo by MC1(AW) Felix Garza Jr.

Comedian Roy Wood Jr. entertained more than one hundred active duty personnel and their families, DoD civilians, contractors and their families, and Coalition forces with his hilarious prank phone calls and his honest look at his life and the world in which we live in on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, May 23.

New SECO for NSA

By MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel
Staff Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain — Lt. Cmdr. Mitch Lott from Beaumont, Miss. returns to Bahrain for the second time, and assumes the responsibilities as Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain's Security Officer (SECO). Lott was a Master-at-Arms 1st Class Petty Officer when he first came to Bahrain, November 1994. He is excited to be back and appreciates the many improvements made on base.

"This is an awesome place! NSA Bahrain has changed so much since the first time I came here," said Lott. "Back then, Navy Federal Credit Union was in a little single-wide trailer with one teller. Fifth Fleet, medical and dental were also in a double-wide trailer, so you can imagine how I felt when I returned and saw these fantastic changes."

Lott feels his job as SECO here is to ensure the safety and well being of everyone here at NSA Bahrain, but most importantly he takes pride in taking care of those who work directly for him.

"I am truly blessed to have each and every one of them here. There is no doubt, I have the best and the brightest America has to offer."

Lott enlisted as a Torpedoman's mate in June 1978 and separated from the Navy after his first enlistment in June 1981. Lott then rejoined the Navy in March of 1987. He advanced to the rank of Chief Master-at-Arms prior to earning his commission as an ensign via the Navy's Limited Duty Officer commissioning program.

His tours of duty include the USS EMORY S. LAND (AS 39) home ported in Norfolk, Va., USS FULTON (AS-11) home



Photo by MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

Lt. Cmdr. Mitchell Lott, Security Officer, Naval Support Activity, Bahrain.

ported in Groton, Conn., USS NASSAU (LHA-4) home ported in Norfolk, Va., Naval Air Station Millington, Tenn., USS JARRETT (FFG-33) home ported in Long Beach, Calif. USS MERRILL (DD-976) home ported in San Diego, Calif., COMNAVMAR, Guam USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) home ported in San Diego, Calif., Naval Station Bremerton, Wash., and Naval Station Ingleside, Texas. Lott has also completed two Individual Augmentee tours of duty in Cuba, and Iraq.

Lott is married to Rosario of San Antonio, Texas, and have four children, Matthew, 26; Krystian, 25; Keri, 23; and Laura, 19 years of age.

2010 Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation is conducting a nation-wide search for the best and brightest Hispanic/Latino leaders.

The application is now available online at www.HispanicHeritage.org

The deadline to apply is June 1st 2010.

The HHYA offers educational grants up to \$3,000 in several categories to qualified Hispanic/Latino high school juniors. Students are also eligible to receive free laptops and a free trip to attend the National Youth Awards ceremony.

Requirements:

- * Current high school Junior (not seniors)
 - * Plan to enroll in college for the 2011 fall semester
 - * Citizenship or US permanent residency
 - * Of Hispanic/Latino descent (at least one parent)
 - * Minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or 7.5 (on a 10.0 scale)
- Willing to travel at own cost to the awards ceremony in your selected region

For more information please visit the Youth Award section of our web site: www.HispanicHeritage.org or email Roberto Callejas at Roberto@hispanicheritage.org <<mailto:Roberto@hispanicheritage.org>> or call him at 703.871.4841.

New Personnel Department Master Chief

By MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel
Staff Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain — Master Chief Personnel Specialist Marco Vallido from Manila, Philippines, ensures personnel stationed on board Naval Support Activity (NSA), Bahrain are provided with information regarding their careers, opportunities for general education, training and promotion requirements. As the Assistant Officer-in-Charge in Personnel Department (PSD), Vallido also ensures that personnel records are up to date and their personal information secure.

"I have a lot of responsibilities now that I have been selected to be in the ranks of Master Chief," said Vallido. "But my main job is to take care of the personal and professional welfare of the Sailors I work with here at PSD."

Vallido began his Navy career February 17, 1987 in Subic Bay, Philippines. He was one of a total of three people accepted into the U.S. Navy on a day when 200 people from his home town and surrounding areas applied.

"I joined the Navy for job security and a better future which is hard to accomplish in the Philippines," said Vallido. "I enlisted as a Disbursing Clerk because of my interest in finance and human resource."

Vallido joined the Navy shortly after graduating college in the Philippines and went to 'A' school in Gulfport, Miss. He then reported to his first command the USS McClusky (FFG-41) homeported in Japan in 1989.

His tours of duty include Navy Installation Command, Atsugi, Japan; Afloat Training Group Pacific, San Diego, Calif.; Command Navy Surface Pacific, San Diego, Calif.; USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) and USNS Mercy both homeported in San Diego, Calif. He reported to NSA, Bahrain in January 2010.

"I've been doing financial work for most of my Navy career," said Vallido.



Photo by MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

Personnel Specialist Master Chief Marco Vallido assigned to the Personnel Department on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain takes pride in his department in making it easier for Sailors to conduct any administrative business, May 18.

"I expected to do the same here, but since I've been selected to Master Chief (Petty Officer). I don't have to make daily financial reports and can now focus on taking care of my Sailors."

On his off-duty time, Vallido continues to go to pursue a college degree and keeps involved in his hobbies that include motorsports, writing web-based and other software

applications for different computer platforms.

"The Navy has done so much for me," said Vallido.

"The best thing the Navy gave me was my U.S. citizenship."

Vallido would like to remain in the Navy for 30 years and plans to continue his career field in human resources and information systems.

Coalition ship assists Iranian mariners

By Commander Combined Maritime Forces

MANAMA, Bahrain — The San Antonio class amphibious transport dock ship, USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) assisted six stranded Iranian mariners early Friday morning May 14th while conducting routine Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the Arabian Gulf. Mesa Verde is currently assigned to Combined Task Force (CTF) 152, part of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

The ship received a faint mayday call over the radio just before 4 am and shortly after, the lookout spotted a signal fire coming from a dhow in the direction of the received distress call.

Mesa Verde sent an Approach and Visit (AAV) team to assess the needs of the vessel and to provide assistance if required. Once on scene, the AAV team discovered that the dhow's propulsion, electrical and steering systems had failed and that the crew had been adrift for four days at sea and dangerously low on food and water.

The Mesa Verde provided these necessities for the distressed mariners as well as medical attention for two of the crew mem-

bers with burn injuries. Furthermore, engineers from the ship replaced the battery and fixed the steering so the crew of the dhow could continue their journey safely.

"It's well trained boat crews and Mesa Verde's skilled engineers that made this difficult task look easy," said Cmdr. Larry LeGree, Commanding Officer, USS Mesa Verde. "While conducting maritime security operations, it was rewarding to be able to assist mariners in trouble."

CTF 152 was established in March 2004 and operates in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf. The task force coordinates Theatre Security Cooperation (TSC) activities with regional partners and conducts Maritime Security Operations, as well as being prepared to respond to any crisis inside the Arabian Gulf.

CTF 152 also operates in regional waters with GCC nations, working with them to enhance the ability of regional maritime forces to limit illegal activities and defeat destabilizing activities in the Arabian Gulf. Other operations include counter terrorism, maritime infrastructure protection and regional engagement of maritime partners.



Photo by MC1 Steve Smith

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Nicholas Marcotte, from Crestview, Fla., assigned to the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) treats a crew member of a disabled dhow for a severe burn. Mesa Verde Sailors also provided food and water repaired the dhow's severed steering cable and restored engine power during heavy seas. The mariners were adrift for four days with minimal food and no water. Mesa Verde is currently assigned to CTF 152, one of the Task Forces of the Combined Maritime Forces.

USCENTCOM from Page 1

USCENTCOM's guidance states that R&R leave must be taken prior to any other type of leave such as regular leave and environmental leave (with the exception of emergency leave), or service members will lose the R&R entitlement. Emergency leave does not affect entitlement to any leave/travel entitlements.

Simply put, if you take leave prior to taking R&R, you are no longer entitled to R&R from that day forward. After taking R&R, you may subsequently take other types of leave, if you are entitled.

Personnel who have taken R&R are no longer entitled to participate in any other funded leave/travel program such as FEML or COT, unless an additional entitlement is established, by extending a tour by a year or more.

Military members serving in Bahrain can take leave in this country; however, since Bahrain is a designated CZ other military personnel cannot take leave in Bahrain. Also, military members serving here cannot take leave into other designated CZ or DS areas.

"The guidance provided in Policy Letter # 36 is effective immediately and is being incorporated into revisions of the four NAVCENT instructions governing leave and travel entitlement programs," Gortney said.

"Retaining R&R as an option is a great benefit for those of us serving in Bahrain. If you still have questions about USCENTCOM's policy, talk to your leadership. If you still feel entitled to R&R, but are being told "no" because you've already taken leave, come see me - I'll help you get follow-on orders to Iraq or Afghanistan, where our warriors earn every moment of rest and recuperation leave."

MEMORIAL DAY
Sunday 30 May, 2010
 (All the events will be held at Sheikh Isa Air Base)

Show your pride, competing for the
NSA Commander's Cup

Starting with 5K Run @ 0530
 0900 Opening Ceremony @ Beach Club

Events for the Commander's Cup

0930 Fire Department Competition
 1630 Push Up Competition
 1645 Bench Press Competition
 1725 Stretcher Relay
 1745 Humvee Pull

Other Events Include

1000 Darts
 1100 Wii Boxing
 1200 Ping Pong
 1600 Chili Cookoff
 1700 Cookout

For more information call Christy @ 39478406

OPEN WATER DIVER CERTIFICATION

PADI

\$300

Registration begins on Tuesday, 1 June 2010 in the Fitness Center
 Students must demonstrate the ability to swim 200 meters (no time limit, any stroke) or 300 meters using a mask, snorkel and fins and tread water unassisted for 10 minutes.

Academic sessions are 14, 16, 20, 22, 27 June 2010 in the FEP classroom from 1730-1930, second floor of the Bowling Alley.

Confined Water sessions are at the Al Bander Resort from 1700-2100:
Session One is 28 or 29 June 2010 (pick one)
Session Two is 5 or 6 July 2010 (pick one)

Open Water dives are at Al Bander Resort or the Marina Club 0830-1330 hours.
Session One is Friday 9 July or Saturday 10 July (pick one);
 dates are flexible.
Session Two is Friday 16 July or Saturday 17 July (pick one);
 dates are flexible.

Your PADI Instructor is Annette Ingnoli (IDC Staff Instructor #162145)
 Phone 1785-4810 or 3930-1677

You can arrange alternate sessions to suit your duty schedule if you coordinate in advance with the instructor.

New MWR Team Members



Erica Realmuto
 MWR Fitness Coordinator
 Long Island, NY



Christy Eschenbacher
 MWR Isa Site Manager
 McMinnville, Tennessee



Kari Miner
 MWR ITT Manager
 Tiverton, R.I.



Donald Keene
 MWR Warehouse Manager
 Satellite Beach, Fla.

HR Classified Ads

BG POSITIONS:

Announcement: NSA-10-047

Position: Automotive Worker, BG 5823-08

Department: MWR

Opening Date: 0 May 2010 - **Closing Date:** 09 June 2010

Who May Apply: Bahraini Citizens (1st Priority consideration), Non-US Citizen Spouses (2nd Priority Consideration) GCC Nationals, Local Foreign Nationals, or Current BG employees.

Announcement: NSA-10-041

Position: Lead Supply Technician, BG-2005-07

Department: MWR

Opening Date: 20 May 2010 - **Closing Date:** 09 June 2010

Who May Apply: Bahraini Citizens (1st Priority consideration), Non-US Citizen Spouses (2nd Priority Consideration) GCC Nationals, Local Foreign Nationals, or Current BG employees.

Backwards bowling



Photo by MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

Master-at-Arms Seaman Mitchell Vizcainoruiz assigned to Naval Security Force participated in Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) Backwards Bowling and Free Pizza event, on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, May 12. MWR's Backwards Bowling events are held twice a month on Wednesdays, between 11 a.m. to 12 noon at the Bowling Alley.

105 sit-ups in 120 seconds



Photo by MC2(AW) Johansen Laurel

Engineman Fireman Apprentice April Hopkins assigned to Harbor Patrol Unit of Naval Security Force participates in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sit-up Competition and wins it with 105 sit-ups in two minutes held at the Freedom Souq gym on board Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, May 19. "I feel great," said Hopkins. "I came here to represent NSF."

ITT



Group Fishing Tour

Thursday, May 27

- Time: 0530 – 1030
- ITT Group price for maximum of 6 people: \$282.00

Swim with the Dolphins

Friday, May 28

- Time: 1400 – 1900
- ITT Price (2.5 hr program): \$37.00

Mens & Ladies Choice Spa Day at Sparadise:

Includes unlimited usage of swimming pool, Gym, steam and Jacuzzi. Meal can be arranged by request.

- Essential Pampering (90 minutes): Cost \$140.00
- Cuisine for the Soul (210 minutes): Cost \$210.00
- Smooth as a Hula-Dance (165 minutes): Cost \$190.00
- Sparadise Indulgence (205 minutes): Cost \$238.00
- Been to Cloud 9 Lately (205 minutes): This package is applicable for Couples Only) Cost: \$476.00

Time: 0900 (Times subject to availability); Prices available only through the ITT office

Al Areen Wildlife Park

Saturday, May 29

- Time: 0830 – 1300
- Cost: \$4.00
- Min 5 people

Group Fishing Trip

Sunday, May 30

- Time: 0530 – 1300
- Cost: \$352
- Maximum 8 people

****Please arrive 15 minutes prior****

All dates and times are subject to change

Movie Schedule

Thursday, May 27

Theater A

- 10 a.m. - Alvin & The Chipmunks: Squeakquel (PG)
- 12 p.m. - Tooth Fairy (PG)
- 2 p.m. - Our Family Wedding (PG13)
- 4 p.m. - Lovely Bones (PG)
- 7 p.m. - Legion (R)
- 9 p.m. - Youth In Revolt (R)

Theater B

- 11 a.m. - Percy Jackson: Lighting Thief (PG)
- 1 p.m. - Flicka: 2 (PG)
- 3 p.m. - Extraordinary Measures (PG)
- 5 p.m. - Date Night (PG13)
- 7 p.m. - Daybreakers (R)
- 9 p.m. - Snatch (R)

Friday, May 28

Theater A

- 10 a.m. - Princess & The Frog (G)
- 12 p.m. - Searching For Bobby Fischer (PG)
- 2 p.m. - When In Rome (PG13)
- 4 p.m. - Invictus (PG13)
- 7 p.m. - Snatch (R)
- 9 p.m. - Daybreakers (R)

Theater B

- 11 a.m. - Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs (PG)
- 1 p.m. - Flicka: 2 (PG)
- 3 p.m. - Escape From Alcatraz (PG)
- 5 p.m. - Armored (PG13)
- 7 p.m. - From Paris With Love (R)
- 9 p.m. - The Professional (R)

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 address to the above e-mail address.

Sun - Thur 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Sadi Vee Da Wolf

THEHEAT *Johnny Bravo* THEHEAT

106.3 Phone: 439 - 4036 106.3



Saturday, May 29

Tree of Life, Pottery & Saudi Causeway tour

- 0930
- Includes picnic lunch
- E6 & Below: \$3; E7 & Above \$5

Go Carts!

- Departs 1630
- E6 & Below: \$15; E7 & Above \$20

Sunday, May 30

Beach Clean-up Day

- Departs 0900
- Come out and make a difference! Picnic lunch included. Free. Bring your swim gear to enjoy the waters too!

Hard Rock Café

- Departs 1700
- Free transport

For more information call the Liberty Center at 439-3192

Thursday, May 27

Texas Hold'em

- 1800
 - Free dinner & prizes
- City Centre Mall**
- 1700
 - Free transport

Friday, May 28

Bahrain Museum & Arab Dinner

- Departs 1700
- E6 & Below \$5; E7 & Above \$7.50

Lost Paradise Water Park

- Departs 1630
- E6 & Below: \$15; E7 & Above \$20.