

Tropical Times

June 14, 2012



Capt. Richard A. Skiff Jr., Commanding Officer, U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, reads his orders during a change of command ceremony June 13.

Diego Garcia NEWS

DG Holds Change of Command Ceremony

By NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia Public Affairs Office

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – U.S. Navy Support Facility (NAVSUPPFAC), Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, held a change of command ceremony June 13.

Capt. Richard A. Skiff Jr. relieved Capt. David L. Tidwell.

Tidwell assumed command June 9, 2011. During his tenure, NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia conducted three Guided Missile and one Fast Attack Submarine continuous maintenance availabilities, oversaw the successful deployment of the Army's 25th Combat Aviation Brigade to Afghanistan, and programmed 17

military contract projects, 15 special projects, and completed nine special projects, totaling \$3.9 million. He also supervised the largest and most complex Base Operating Support contract in the Navy, which employs over 2000 contractors, at an annual cost of \$47 million. "To the Sailors of Diego Garcia, thank you for serving with us in this very remote duty," said Tidwell. "I know and appreciate the sacrifices you make to be here. Your dedication and superb performance make a positive difference here everyday.

"Our job is important, it is necessary and it is appreciated," added Tidwell. "We are able to accomplish our



DIEGO GARCIA. British Indian Ocean Territory (June 13, 2012) - Capt. Richard A. Skiff Jr. salutes as he passes through sideboys at U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, during a change of command ceremony June 13. Capt. Richard A. Skiff Jr. relieved Capt. David L. Tidwell as commanding officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric A. Pastor)

mission routinely because you make it happen. Thank you very much for that."

Tidwell's next assignment is at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Coalition Warfighting Center Suffolk, Va.

"I look forward to getting to know all of you," said Skiff.

"I hope that in the upcoming days and weeks you will find that I am a mission driven person. In today's fiscal reality, if it's not related to the mission then it's just pleasant conversation.

"I look forward to leading the men and women of this installation while partnering with our brothers and sisters

from the United Kingdom, and other commands, through the challenges ahead," Skiff added.

Skiff reports to NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia following a tour at Naval Inspector General, Washington D.C.

Change of Command



Diego Garcia NEWS

Diego Garcia Celebrates Philippine Independence Day

By NAVSUPFAC Diego Garcia Public Affairs Office

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, concluded a month long Philippine Independence Day Celebration with a Cultural Night and Foot and Float Parade June 8-9.

Home to many overseas Filipino workers, Diego Garcia showcased to those in attendance why “It’s more fun in the Philippines.”

“We have been planning this for months,” said Linda Corpus, Philippine Independence Day Committee Chairperson. “My sincerest thanks and appreciation goes out to the whole Filipino community for the wonderful and successful celebration. It was an outstanding demonstration of Filipino bayanihan [unity].

Maraming salamat [thank you].”

With a strong Filipino presence on the island, according to Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Jed Bantugan, commemorating Philippine Independence Day plays a significant role for those far away from home.

“Take a moment to look around, if you haven’t yet, and you will notice that a majority of the work force here is done by Filipinos,” said Bantugan, a native of Bataan, Philippines. “They are the backbone-doing jobs we’d normally do on a daily basis at a naval base. Without them, completing the mission would be difficult.”

The evening’s Cultural Night featured a traditional attire fashion show and various traditional dances-the Vinta, Singkil, Malong, Tinikling and many more.

“We practiced for almost a month,” said Arianne Fernan-



Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory (June 9, 2012) - Sailors stationed at U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, participate in a dance routine as part of a Philippine Independence Day parade June 9. The parade consisted of 11 floats, all honoring the heritage of the Philippine culture. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Eric A. Pastor)

dez, Singkil performer. “Our performance was more difficult than last year’s, so I was nervous and excited at the same time. I was focused on getting the routine down and when it was all over I was relieved-nonetheless it was all worth the effort.”

Fernandez and her fellow Singkil dancers won first place, bettering their second place finish last year. Singkil is a Muslim Dance usually performed by a man courting a woman.

Day two of this year’s celebration ended with a Foot and Float Parade featuring festive costumes and floats depicting various festivals in the Philippines. Diego Garcia’s Filipino-American Association featured Sailors in a Bayanihan Festival performing the Paruparong

Bukid-a Philippine folk dance imitating the graceful movements of butterflies.

“Aside from walking in my first parade, being that I am not of Filipino descent I learned a lot about the culture,” said Yeoman 1st Class Patricia Simmons. “We practiced for two days and got down the steps, but its funny how in front of a crowd our nerves got the best of us. All in all, it was definitely a great time-one I will not forget.

“I can’t wait to tell my daughter I danced in a parade, she will be very excited,” added Simmons.

Philippine Independence Day was proclaimed in June 12, 1898 when Filipino Revolutionary Forces declared sovereignty and independence from Spanish Colonial Rule.

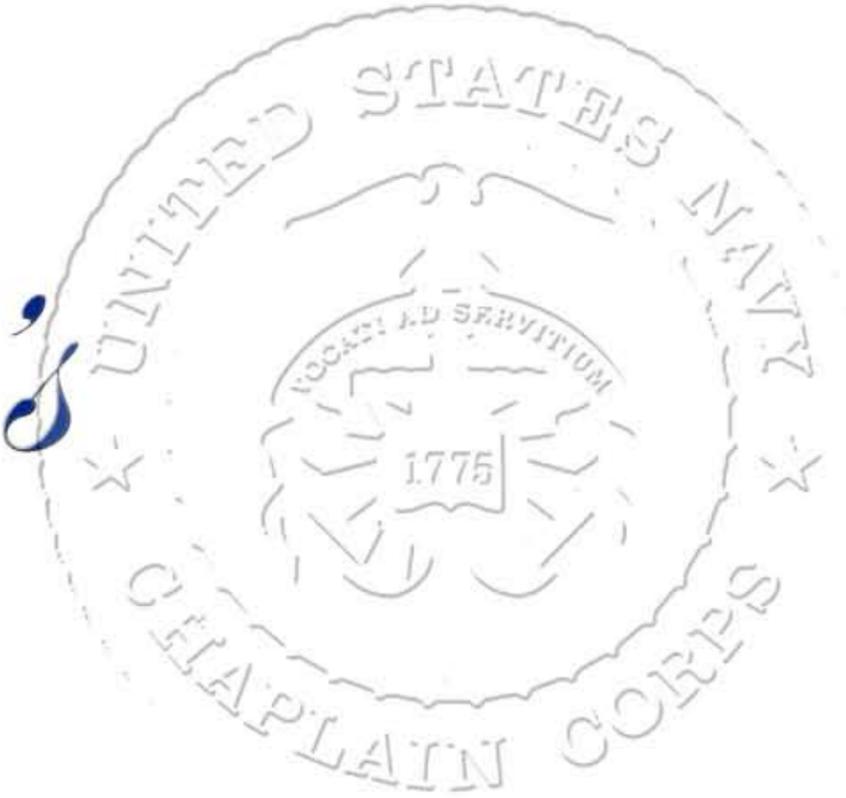
DG Celebrates Philippine Independence Day





**Submitted By
Cmdr. (Sel.) Robert Spencer
Command Chaplain,
NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia**

C hapter owner



“Change of Command”

This week we had a change of leadership aboard Diego Garcia. It happens every year usually in June. Capt. Tidwell relinquished his command to our new skipper, Capt. Skiff. It was a very successful year for Tidwell as it was for all of us as we look back with pride and forward with anticipation for another great year aboard our beautiful island. For those who were here last June for Tidwell's ceremony, you will remember how it was almost rained out. At the last minute we had to move the ceremony under the pavilion at Jake's Place to avoid the incoming rain shower. We could see the rain approach us from across the lagoon. After a few minutes of transition, we still managed to have the festivities while starting on time. This year

things worked out better for us. We had threats of rain but it did not materialize. For this month of June we will also have all four of the U.S. Air Force tenant commands to change leadership as we did last year.

A change in command is a public ceremony that informs the command and the public that a different person is now in charge. They are now responsible and accountable for everything that happens or fails to happen. They also have the necessary authority to lead that organization.

One thing is certain for people of faith. We can have our “Changes of Command” in the military, civilian, political, or religious aspects of our lives. Regardless, we know that God is always in

charge. Yes, we make our own decisions and some of those may not meet the approval of our heavenly boss but he will continue to work with us. He has given us free will and he respects that to the point that he will not usurp what he has already given us. Even with his power and authority he will not bully us to do the right thing. What he may do is prick our conscience or touch our heart as a way to get our attention. However, that choice to do or not to do what is right will always be ours. He gives us many opportunities to grow in his grace with his teachings, commandments, and scripture that will bring us happiness and success. What more could we ask for in a leader?

“By what authority are you doing these things? Or who gave you this authority to do them?”

(Mark 11:28)

What's happening in Diego Garcia

ACT and CLEP Tests

ACT AND CLEP TESTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER AND TAKE ON ISLAND THROUGH DANES. ONCE TESTS ARE ORDERED, IT TAKES APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS TO RECEIVE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE HAVE AN EXAM ORDERED, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER, LT NOBLE. ONCE THE EXAMS ARE RECEIVED, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED AND WILL NEED TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE THE TEST ADMINISTERED.

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.

Sexual Assault Prevention

THE FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER WILL BE HOLDING A FOUR DAY TRAINING COURSE FOR PERSONNEL WISHING TO BECOME SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE VICTIM ADVOCATES.

WHEN: JUNE 25-28 FROM 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

WHERE: FELLOWSHIP HALL IN CIVILIAN ATTIRE

JUNE 29 WILL BE A MAKEUP DAY FOR THOSE WHO MISS ANY PORTION OF THE TRAINING.

Household Goods:

NAVSUP GLOBAL LOGISTICS SUPPORT (GLS) HOUSEHOLD GOODS (HHG) SERVICES INITIATED A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN JUNE 4, IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE HOUSEHOLD MOVES EASIER ON FAMILIES. VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION:
[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/NAVYHHG](http://www.youtube.com/user/navyhhg)

[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NAVYHHG](http://www.facebook.com/navyhhg)

[HTTPS://WWW.NAVSUP.NAVY.MIL/NAVSUP/OURTEAM/NAVSUPGLS/PROD_SERV/HOUSEHOLD](https://www.navsup.navy.mil/navsup/ourteam/navsupglslprod_serv/household)

IN ADDITION TO LEAVING COMMENTS ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES, CUSTOMERS CAN E-MAIL HHG AT

HOUSEHOLDGOODS@NAVY.MIL

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.

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE CHAPEL EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHT AT 8 P.M., BEGINNING FRIDAY, JUNE 12.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE MEETING FACILITATOR AT DAVID.L.EDDY.CIV@MSC.NAVY.MIL, THE CHAPLAIN OR LT. GRGURICH.

Friday
15

Saturday
16

Sunday
17

Monday
18

Tuesday
19

Wednesday
20

Thursday
21

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

4 Mile Walk-A-Thon
Fitness Center
8:30 a.m.

50K Tour De Diego
Stage 1
Marina
8:30 a.m.

4 on 4 Life Vest
Water Polo
Base Pool
6:30 p.m.

Basketball
Tournament
Fitness Center
6 p.m.

Hole In One Challege
Coral Sands Golf Course
5:30 p.m.

Tour De Diego
8 Miles Off Road
Stage 2
Jakes Place
5 p.m.

Ides Of March
Comedy
R
8 p.m.

Final Destination 5
Horror
PG 13
8 p.m.

Haywire
Action
R
8 p.m.

The Debt
Action
R
8 p.m.

Contagion
Action
PG 13
8 p.m.

21 Jump Street
Action
R
7 p.m.
Island Room

Drive
Comedy
PG 13
8 p.m.

Dolphin Tale
Adventure
PG 13
10 p.m.

Apollo 18
Comedy
R
10 p.m.

Tropical Times

United States Navy Support Facility
Diego Garcia British Indian Ocean
Territory

Commanding Officer
Capt. Richard A. Skiff Jr.

Executive Officer
Cmdr. Stephen E. Petras

Command Master Chief
CMDM(SW/AW) Robert L. Johnson

Public Affairs Officer
MC1(SW/AW) Ryan B. Tabios

Tropical Times Editor
MC3 April D. Adams

Command Journalists
MCSN Eric A. Pastor

This funded newspaper is an
authorized publication for
members of the U.S. military
services.

Contents of the Tropical Times
are not necessarily the official
views of, or are endorsed by, the
U.S. Government, Department of
Defense, or Department of the
Navy.

All editorial content is prepared
by U.S. Navy Support Facility,
Public Affairs, Diego Garcia.

**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.

