

NSA lights tree for holidays

By MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Staff Writer

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain kicked off the holiday season by lighting a large Christmas tree in the Freedom Souq Courtyard, Dec. 8.

As part of the celebration, NSA Chapel volunteers reenacted the Nativity, while groups from on and off base performed Christmas songs for gathered members of the NSA community.

During the performance, the tree was lit; while a shower of artificial snow fell on playing children as they waited for NSA's special guest, Santa Claus, who was on hand to take gift requests, pass out candy and pose for photos.

Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Samuel Rogers, assigned to NSA Chaplain's office, said the entire event was made possible through a combined effort of chapel volunteers and NSA Bahrain's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department who provided the tree and animals used in the scenes.

Rogers said that coordinating the event required several weeks of preparation as costumes for the Nativity were located and rehearsals were conducted for the performers and the choir.

"A lot of work went into this by volunteers from the chaplain's office and you can tell by looking at people that they are very satisfied," he said.

Jack Gunderson, a military child who attended the event, said he really appreciated the efforts by everyone who made the event happen.

"It puts everyone in a festive mood," Gunderson said. "It certainly puts everyone in the holiday spirit."

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Photo by Michelle Arnold

A little girl gets a photo with Santa Claus at the Naval Support Activity Bahrain Tree Lighting event, Dec. 8.

Security Sailors graduate QRF training



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Sailors assigned to Naval Security Force Bahrain conduct room entering and clearing procedures during Quick-Reaction Force training hosted by NSF's training department, Dec. 6.

By MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Staff Writer

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Ten Sailors assigned to Naval Security Force (NSF) Bahrain completed a two week Quick-Reaction Force (QRF) training program hosted by NSF's training department at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain, Nov. 11.

During the program, the Sailors learned Advanced Urban training, weapons training and how to effectively operate during close-quarters battle scenarios.

QRF instructor Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Woods said developing these specialized skill sets was vital to helping NSA sustain a capable force that could effectively respond to crisis situations.

"We've designed this course to allow the Sailors to adapt and develop from a post-standing mindset into a reaction force mindset," Woods said. "We teach them infantry tactical movements including tactical columns, cover and concealment, handle objectives effectively and how to set inner cordon, which allows them to relay feedback information to team members."

Woods said developing a local QRF was critical to establishing a team of trained professionals, who could provide a service that was previously fulfilled by local U.S. Marines added Woods.

"The Marines have their own mission here and we can't rely on outside entities in case they are called away," he said. "We have a lot of highly motivated Sailors here who volunteered to come through the course. They knew beforehand that it would be difficult, stressful and physically demanding, but they have the right mindset and all we have to do is provide them with the right tools."

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THESE STORIES AND MORE...

Family Life at NSA Bahrain

Bahrain School Carolers bring holiday joy to NSA Bahrain

By MC1 Cynthia Z. De Leon
U.S. Naval Forces Central Command

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain — Children from the Bahrain School, a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school, visited Naval Support Activity, Bahrain to sing Christmas carols around the base, Dec. 13.

Wearing handmade reindeer antlers or Santa Claus hats, the first- and second-graders, were, led by second grade teacher, Mrs. Melissa Boice, in singing carols such as “Jingle Bells” and “Feliz Navidad” to military and family members at various areas around base, starting at U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) building.

The Christmas carolers received a warm reception by the audience, who were impressed by the children’s performance and their enthusiasm.

“Their faces would just light up when they finished a song and had everyone clapping for them,” said U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Force Command Master Chief Charles Clarke. “It really put me in the Christmas spirit.”

This is the first time children from the Bahrain School have performed such an event on the base, according to first grade teacher, Julie Shusko.

“It was fairly easy teaching the children the songs because they were very eager to learn, and the children loved the fact they were going to sing on the base.” Shusko said.

The children performed for approximately 15 minutes at NAVCENT, then at the Freedom Souq, food court, the Child Development Center and the main gate before returning to school.



Photo by MC1 Cynthia Z. De Leon

U.S. service members and civilian employees listen to Bahrain Elementary School student sing Christmas carols.



Photo by MC1 Cynthia Z. De Leon

Children from Bahrain Elementary School, a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school, visited Naval Support Activity Bahrain to sing Christmas carols to U.S. service members and civilian employees, Dec. 13.

MWR OASIS RESTAURANT

Christmas Day

FREE BUFFET

*For all Military Personnel, US DoD Civilians & Family members

Tossed Salad • Potato Salad

Carved Ham
Roast Turkey
Carved Roast Beef

Cornbread Stuffing
Mixed Vegetables • Mashed Potatoes
Christmas Cake • Apple Pie
Assorted Soft Drinks and Iced Tea

25 DEC
1100-1400 • 1700-2000
Civilian Guests
and Contractors: \$ 6.00

*PLEASE SHOW VALID ID

the Bahrain
DESERT TIMES

www.cnic.navy.mil/bahrain

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Chaplain's Corner

Being God's Presence In Other People's Lives



By Cmdr. Chin Van Dang
Supervisory Chaplain

A college professor, an avowed atheist, was teaching his class. He flatly stated that he was going to prove that there was no God. Looking up, he shouted, "God, if you're real, then I want to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!"

The lecture room fell silent. Ten minutes went by. Again he taunted God, saying, "Here I am God. I'm still waiting." His count-down got down to the last couple of minutes when a Marine - just released from active duty and newly registered in the class - walked up to the professor, hit him full force in the face and sent him tumbling from his platform. The professor was out cold! The class fell silent... waiting. Eventually, the professor came to, shaken. When he regained his senses and could speak, he asked,

"What's the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

"God was busy," the Marine said. "He sent me."

As we await Christmas, we are invited to use our gifts, our talents, our possessions to express our care for those in need. Who are they? A teen that is dying for just one good word of appreciation from his or her parents; hungering for just one positive statement about him or her? Starving for just a little hug? Or maybe it's a mother who is being treated like she's just the cleaning lady or the maid all the time? Or perhaps it's a spouse quietly waiting to be told, "I love you?" Or a friend or relative who hasn't heard much from us in a long, long time? Just who or what needs our attention after we're aroused from our fat-cat complacency that sleeps deep within our souls is different for everyone.

It is true that God has given us much that He does care for us and is going to take care of us. But it is also true that He expects us to give to others just as freely and generously even when they don't deserve it. But how can we if we are so busy feasting in our complacency that we fail to see who is outside the front door of our hearts or just beyond the gate of our individualistic privacy?

During Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of God into our world, into our lives, we must remember that we have been called to bring God's presence into other people's lives.

Transition Benefits: TRICARE Offers Post Separation Health Care Option

From TRICARE Management Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) — When service members leave active duty, TRICARE offers a transitional health care option for eligible beneficiaries and their families while they look for new health coverage, officials reminded Sailors Dec. 12.

The Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) is designed to extend TRICARE eligibility for sponsors and their family who involuntarily separate from the military prior to retirement. When separating from active duty, the sponsor and family lose TRICARE eligibility. However, TAMP permits individuals in certain beneficiary categories to retain their TRICARE coverage at no cost. For more information about TAMP and enrollment options, visit www.tricare.mil/tamp.

The beneficiary categories include:

- Sponsors involuntarily separated under honorable conditions
- National Guard or Reserve members separated from the military, following an active duty period of more than 30 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation
- Sponsors separated from the military, but involuntarily retained for reserve duty
- A sponsor who separates from active duty, following a voluntary agreement to stay on active duty status for a period of less than one year
- A sponsor who receives a sole survivorship discharge
- A sponsor who is separated from active duty who agrees to become a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of a Reserve component

A sponsor is not eligible for TAMP while on terminal leave, permissive temporary duty or authorized excess leave.

To ensure continuity of coverage during the TAMP period, it is essential the sponsor and their eligible family members' information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is current. Visit www.tricare.mil/deers to update information.

If a sponsor qualifies, the 180-day TAMP period begins the day after the date of separation from active duty. Under TAMP the sponsor and family members are automatically covered under TRICARE Standard and Extra. If a beneficiary lives overseas, he or she gets coverage under TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Standard.

Sponsors and their eligible family members may enroll in TRICARE Prime or TOP Prime if they live in an area where either is offered during the 180-day TAMP period. If they were enrolled in Prime or TOP Prime while on active duty, they must complete a new enrollment form and send it to the appropriate regional contractor, preferably before leaving active duty, to re-enroll for the TAMP period. The enrollment date is retroactive to the sponsor's separation date.

During TAMP, the sponsor and their family members are covered as active duty family members and all rules for that beneficiary category apply, including any applicable deductibles, cost-shares and copayments. For program cost information, visit www.tricare.mil/costs.

If a beneficiary is eligible for care under TAMP and has a newly diagnosed medical condition related to active duty service, he or she may qualify for 180 days of care for the specified service-related condition. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/tcsr.

During TAMP, dental care provided in military dental treatment facilities is on a space-available basis.

For more information about the TRICARE Dental Program, visit www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com.

TRICARE's transitional health care option for eligible beneficiaries and their families is one of many transition benefits available to involuntarily separating Sailors including those affected by the Enlisted Retention Board.

For the latest ERB information, visit Navy Personnel Command's ERB website; www.public.navy.mil/bupers-nps/boards/ERB/Pages/default2.aspx.

Santa Claus is coming to town



Only at my **NEX**
Navy Exchange

NEX ground floor lobby | Saturday 17th of December 2011 | 13:00-15:00

NEX customers bake sweet treats



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Navy Exchange (NEX) Bahrain cookie baking winners (front row from the left) Chief Hospital Corpsman Victor Flores, Jaleesa Ellison, Taylor Broaddus and Janine Walsh present their cookies at the conclusion of NEX Bahrain's second annual Christmas cookie baking contest held at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, Dec. 3. Forty people participated in the event for the chance to win NEX gift certificates. Also shown (back row from the left) Ernestine Stewart and NEX Bahrain General Manager Dan Cougevan.

Installation post office processes thousands of pounds of holiday mail

By MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Staff Writer

NAVSUP FLC Bahrain Post Office — More than 500,000 pounds of mail will be processed by the staff of U.S. Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center (NAVSUP FLC) Bahrain Post Office during the holidays.

The two-month period between Nov. 15 and Jan. 15 is traditionally the busiest time of the year for the United States Postal Service.

NAVSUP FLC Bahrain Post Office's Leading Petty Officer Logistics Specialist 1st Class Dustin Griffith, says his combined staff of 13 service members, government service and host nation civilians are working hard to provide expedient and professional service to the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain community.

"We receive and distribute mail for the U.S. embassy, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, the Coast Guard and NSA Bahrain's 89 tenant commands," Griffith said. "With the holiday season, we receive approximately 400 pieces, such as mail bags, daily that must be opened and distributed; it's a lot of mail."

Local civilian employee Sayed Ahmed Ali has been working for the NAVSUP FLC

Bahrain Post Office for seven years and says he and his co-workers work hard to process the mail in an expedited fashion.

"We are here to get our customers their [packages] in a timely manner and to help them if any issues arise," Ahmed Ali said.

Ahmed Ali says that he and his colleagues take care to handle each parcel professionally; however, sometimes items show up damaged. He adds that if customers receive damaged packages, they have three options they can pursue:

1. If the package was not insured by the company that sent the item here, notify the company right away. Most companies will send a replacement.

2. If the package was insured, the customer must file a claim for the item by bringing the package to the post office and opening it in front of postal employees. If severely damaged, postal employees will help start the claims process by supplying a claims number that will be filed by the customer at USPS.com. USPS will process the claim by sending a letter to ask the package recipient for the price of the damaged items. Customers can help their claims process by supplying photos and receipts of the damaged content. If photos and receipts cannot be provided, USPS claims personnel will



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

NAVSUP FLC Bahrain Post Office employee Ronald Cunha empties a mailbag at NSA, Dec. 12.

try to locate identical or similar items to substitute the damaged goods.

3. If the package is uninsured and damaged and not sent by a company then NAVSUP FLC Bahrain Post Office employees will repackage damaged parcels and document on the package that it was received in that state.

Griffith added that it's extremely unfortunate when customers receive damaged parcels. Although his staff tries to offer the

best service possible to all their customers, the postal service is like any other organization and has its limits.

"Unfortunately there's not a lot we can do in that last scenario, that's why we encourage our customers to insure all high-value parcels to ensure they obtain the best service possible from the U.S. Postal Service," Griffith said. "If it's something you absolutely can't live without, it doesn't hurt to insure it."



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Members of the Quick-Reaction Force training class practice cover and concealment techniques, Dec. 6.

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During the program the students would begin each day with a 6 a.m. group physical training session followed by the performance of morning colors. The instructors then hosted classroom sessions to teach the students entering and room clearing, hallway and ladder well clearing, coordinated entry, occupancy control and assault rehearsal techniques. Afterward, the students tested their performance with physical application exercises to demonstrate what they learned in class.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Lee Eckert said he enjoyed the training because it offered the Sailors an opportunity to absorb a large volume of information in a short period of time.

"I've been to similar courses in the past and they are usually drug out for a few more weeks whereas in this two-week compressed class, we're taking in a lot of information and successfully putting it all together," Eckert said. "The instructors have a lot of experience, are passionate about the training and are doing a great job disseminating the information."



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Woods speaks to members of the Quick-Reaction Force training class prior to the start of a tactical exercise.

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The efforts from the two organizations, Rogers added, helped provide a strong family atmosphere, even to service members who are away from their families during the holiday season.

“Many people are separated from families during this time of year, so hosting these types of events helps bring people closer together to give them a sense of home,” he said.

Rogers said fostering a sense of home was equally apparent by the large number of people who came from the local Bahrain community to observe the ceremony.

“I was really surprised by the number of requests we received from the local community to come on base and attend the event,” he said. “There is a huge Indian-Christian population here, and they wanted to come on base and see their children sing Christmas carols. Also we had a lot of request from British and Australian expats to attend as well. It was a huge event.”



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Members of the Naval Support Activity (NSA) community cheer and reach for falling snow during a tree lighting ceremony held at NSA, Dec. 8.



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Girls of USA Girl Scouts Overseas Bahrain sing “Joy to the World” to members of the NSA Bahrain community.



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Girls of Sacred Heart Catholic Church’s Jesus Youth Music Ministry perform.

MCPON speaks with CSADD Sailors



Photo by MC1(SW) Sonja M. Chambers

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West poses with the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain Chapter of Coalition of Service Members Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) during his visit, Dec. 4. West spoke with the group about the difference they are making as junior Sailors. NSA Bahrain CSADD Secretary, Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 2nd Class (SW/AW) Nicholas Goodson said it was great that West took time out to talk to CSADD. “He knows that our program is really important, actually vital, not only here at NSA Bahrain, but to the entire fleet as well,” he said.

Santa visits CDC children



Photo by David Sidney

Children from the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain Child Development Center meet with Santa in front of one of NSA Bahrain’s Fire and Emergency Service fire trucks, Dec. 8.

HR Classified Ads

CONUS:

Announcement: SE10343-12-570297N5206983
Position: MANAGEMENT ANALYST, GS-0343-12
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Announcement: SE10201-12-571688N5045448
Position: HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST, GS-0201-11
Department: Commander, Navy Installations
Opening Date: 12/05/11 - **Closing Date:** 12/19/2011

USO brings rap music to NSA



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Rap music artists Tech Nine and Chris Calico perform for members of the NSA community at NSA, Dec. 13. The performance at NSA marks the first stop of an eight-day USO tour that will take the artists to various locations throughout Bahrain and Kuwait to entertain service members in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

MWR NSA BAHRAIN SCHOOL BREAK 2011 Holiday Events

DECEMBER 18-29

*FOR AUTHORIZED MWR PATRONS

18 DEC CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY BREAKFAST
 0800-0900 at the Oasis Hall
 Kids are FREE, Adults \$5 per person
 VISITORS FROM THE NORTH POLE WILL BE STOPPING BY TO SAY HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| | 18 DEC ★ HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTS | ▶ 1630-1730 at the LIBRARY |
| | 19 DEC ★ ROCK WALL EVENT | ▶ 0900-1100 at the CLIMBING WALL |
| | 19 DEC ★ HOLIDAY BOOK CLUB | ▶ 1630-1730 at the LIBRARY |
| | 20 DEC ★ REINDEER GAMES
(Sporting Stations, Parachute, etc) | ▶ 0800-1100 at the SOFTBALL FIELD |
| | 21 DEC ★ HOLIDAY JUMPY LAND
(Jumpy Castles and Video Games) | ▶ 0800-1100 at the OLD GYM |
| | 22 DEC ★ MOVIE AND SNACKS Featuring SPY KIDS | ▶ 1200-1400 at the MOVIE THEATER |
| | 27 DEC ★ REINDEER GAMES
(Sporting Stations, Parachute, etc) | ▶ 0800-1100 at the SOFTBALL FIELD |
| | 28 DEC ★ HOLIDAY JUMPY LAND
(Jumpy Castles and Video Games) | ▶ 0800-1100 at the OLD GYM |
| | 29 DEC ★ MOVIE AND SNACKS Featuring RANGO | ▶ 1100-1300 at the MOVIE THEATER |

PARTICIPATE TO WIN!
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THE MORE TICKETS THEY HAVE, THE MORE CHANCES OF WINNING!
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3RD PLACE	★ \$50 NEX CARD
7 CONSOLATION PRIZES!	★ \$25 NEX CARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: X 4231



ITT

Swim With The Dolphins

Saturday, December 16

- Time: 1000 – 1300
- Min 5 people; ITT Price: \$37.00

Belly Dancing Dinner Show

Thursday, December 22

- Time: 2030
- Min 10 people; ITT Price: \$30.00

Santa's Grotto

Friday, December 23

- Time & Cost: TBA

Al Bander Resort BBQ

Saturday, December 24

- Time: 0900 – 1600
- Min 10 people; ITT Price: \$29.00

Cooking Demonstration Of Arabic Food & Dinner

Thursday, December 29

- Time: 1645
- Min 5 people; ITT Price: \$23.00

Arabian Experience

Friday, December 30

- Time: 1400 – 1900
- Min 5 people; ITT Price: \$18.00

Group Fishing Trip

Saturday, December 31

- Time: 0530 – 1000
- Max 8 people; Group Cost: \$352

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

All dates and times are subject to change

Movie Schedule

Friday, December 16

Theater A

- 10 a.m. - A Muppet Christmas (G)
- 12 p.m. - The Polar Express (G)
- 2 p.m. - Columbiana (PG-13)
- 4 p.m. - In Time (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. - The Change-Up (R)
- 9 p.m. - Fright Night (R)

Theater B

- 11 a.m. - Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG)
- 1 p.m. - Rango (PG)
- 3 p.m. - Cowboys And Aliens (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. - Larry Crowne (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. - The Hangover 2 (R)
- 9 p.m. - Fast Five (PG-13)

Saturday, December 17

Theater A

- 10 a.m. - Jingle All The Way (PG)
- 12 p.m. - Elf (PG)
- 3 p.m. - A Better Life (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. - Contagion (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. - Our Idiot Brother (R)
- 9 p.m. - What's Your Number (R)

Theater B

- 11 a.m. - Judy Moody: And The Not So Bummer Summer (PG)
- 1 p.m. - Rango (PG)
- 3 p.m. - Hanna (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. - Super 8 (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. - Friends With Benefits (R)
- 9 p.m. - Transformers: Dark Of The Moon (PG-13)

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.



Thursday, December 15
Big Time Texas Holdem Tournament
 • Time: 1800

Friday, December 16
\$3 Mall Shuttle
 • Time: 1200-1600; City Centre

Saturday, December 17
Show a Dog Some Love!
 • Time: 0900
 • Volunteer at the Animal Shelter

Sunday, December 18
Sunday Sundaes
 • Make your own ice cream sundaes! Free

Monday, December 19
Speed Pool
 • Time: 1200; Free pizza for players

Wednesday, December 21
Jingle Bell Rock Holiday Party
 • Time: 1730

Thursday, December 22
Magic Planet
 • Time: 1730
 • Arcade and Amusement Centre

Friday, December 23
Christmas Movie Marathon

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Game Night
 • Time: 1100

Monday, December 26
Speed Pool
 • Time: 1200; Free pizza for players

Wednesday, December 28
Poker Bowling
 • Time: 1100

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