

Tropical Times

January 12, 2012



U.S. service members, British personnel and DG21 workers climbed aboard USNS Sgt. William R. Button for a tour of the MSC ship, and a tour around the island of Diego Garcia Jan. 7. The Button's crew gave a tour and a brief overview of what their job consists of on a day-to-day basis.



Submitted By
Lt. Cmdr. Robert Spencer
Command Chaplain, NSF Diego Garcia

A group of us were fortunate to recently tour USNS Sgt. William R. Button. This ship is part of the Military Sealift Command (MSC), and it's what we call a "container and roll-on/roll-off ship." This vessel is designed to open itself up, which allows cargo to roll-on and off with ease. This whole theory first came into play during the 1980s. It was a new idea to pre-position combat-loaded ships throughout the world. When trouble erupts, the ships will sail to the troubled area and join up with personnel who would then unload the stored cargo. Combatants would then use this off loaded equipment to fight wars. After touring this tremendous beast of a ship, it did not

take me long to formulate my thoughts into the "four C's" of cranes, cables, cargo and containers. Four mammoth cranes sit atop the ship. They have unbelievable lifting power, which is needed to move their cargo on and off this floating warehouse. To increase their already awesome lifting capability, they can "twin" the cranes for even more power. The cranes can only operate with the steel cables that appear to be everywhere overhead. A lot of smaller cargo was stored in containers stacked on the top deck. The holds below decks contained the guts of the war

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Chaps Tours MSC Ship

material: tanks, amphibious vehicles, earth movers, artillery pieces, Humvees, etc. This was only one hold that we toured. Tons of other equipment and logistics were also on board in other different compartments. Enough gear can be stored to sustain 17,000 Marines for 30 days without resupply. Knowing this was not the largest ship in the squadron is incredible. Others can be a third longer in length. The vastness of it all is just unbelievable. I had to think of the enormity of God's universe to put this into a spiritual perspective. We know of our solar system with the surrounding known planets. Chances

are, there could be even more solar systems, planets, galaxies, and who knows what else, out there. It's just too huge to try to capture it all. This brings me to my second point: the love that God has for us also cannot be measured or contained because it is just too massive. It's more than we can imagine, and that's a good thing.

"This is how you shall build it: the length of the ark shall be 300 cubits, its width 50 cubits and its height 30 cubits."

(Genesis: 6:15)

COMPSRON TWO'S "Lap Around the Island"



Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron TWO hosted a seven-hour mini-cruise for invited guests on board USNS Sgt. William R. Button, Jan. 7. The cruise lasted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and included breakfast, lunch and a tour of the ship. The ship circled Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory and awards were given to the ship's staff by the Commodore, Capt. Charles G. Emmert.



NEWS *from around the fleet*

Christofferson relieves McDowell as Georgia Blue Crew's CO at Diego Garcia

By U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia Public Affairs Office

DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory – Capt. Daniel G. Christofferson relieved Capt. John K. McDowell as commanding officer of the Trident-class submarine, USS Georgia (SSGN 729) (Blue), at a change of command ceremony held on the island of Diego Garcia, in the British Indian Ocean Territory, Jan. 10.

The ceremony, although brief, was carried out with all the pomp and circumstance accustomed with this time honored naval tradition.

Guest speaker and USS Georgia's commanding officer (Gold), Capt. Michael K. Cockey, bid farewell to his Blue crew counterpart, acknowledging the ship's success under McDowell.

"I want to express my sincerest appreciation to the crew, everyone here and back in Kings Bay, Ga., who worked so hard to keep this ship on deployment for 14 months,"

Cockey said. "Whether underway, or pier side at Kings Bay and here, in Diego Garcia, for repairs, everyone did a great job maintaining the ship and keeping her mission-ready under Capt. McDowell."

McDowell, in his farewell speech, acknowledged how he'd challenged the crew, "to be innovative and always ready to respond to any challenge." He too praised the crew and everyone involved with the maintenance and repairs done to the ship under his watch.

Christofferson said he looked forward to returning to the



DIEGO GARCIA, British Indian Ocean Territory (January 10, 2012) – Commanding Officer, USS Georgia (SSBN 729) (Gold), Capt. Michael K. Cockey (forefront) gives his remarks at the change of command ceremony that saw Capt. Daniel G. Christofferson relieve Capt. John K. McDowell as commanding officer of the Trident-class submarine, USS Georgia (SSGN 729) (Blue). The ceremony was held on Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, Jan. 10. Georgia, homeported in Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., is in Diego Garcia to conduct a scheduled crew swap and take on supplies. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Benjamin Malvezzi)

fleet.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to be in command again," Christofferson said. "I am very happy to be returning to the fleet and back in charge of a submarine, commanding Sailors again, instead of in charge of a desk and commanding paperwork."

Christofferson was referring to his previous duty station as part of the Joint Staff where he served as a strategic planner for the Deputy Directorate for Strat-

egy and Policy - Cyber Division.

Georgia is home-based at Kings Bay, Ga., and consists of two crews – Blue and Gold – each consisting of 165-personnel. The Trident-class submarine was in Diego Garcia for its scheduled crew swap.

NEWS

from around the fleet

Plan Your Family's Care

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Andrea Perez, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- In support of mission readiness and worldwide deployability in the new year, Navy officials remind Sailors of the importance of maintaining a current Family Care Plan.

"A Family Care Plan benefits Sailors by allowing them to have instructions in place to take care of family members who are unable to care for themselves," said Bill Harris, Family Care Plan program manager. "A detailed plan also ensures Navy personnel can fulfill their military duties, including deployments, normal and extended work hours, temporary assigned duty, weekend duty and more."

A Family Care Plan is a group of documents, including a Family Care Certificate (NAVPERS 1740/6), Family Care Plan Arrangements (NAVPERS 1740/7), and

legal documents such as custody or separation agreements, custody and support orders, divorce decrees or related written agreements.

"A good Family Care Plan takes care of Sailors and family members, and contributes to commands being fully mission ready," said Harris.

Formal documentation of a Family Care Plan is required under any of the following conditions:

- * A Sailor with primary or shared physical custody of a minor child or children who is not married to the other natural or adoptive parent of the minor child or children.
- * Both members of a married dual-military couple where one or both have primary or shared physical custody of a minor child or children.
- * Sailors who are legally responsible for an adult family



EVERETT, Wash. (Nov. 17, 2011) Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Samuel Siemers is reunited with his family after returning to Naval Station Everett from a six-month deployment to the western Pacific Ocean aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Ford (FFG 54). Ford participated in the multi-national Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kyle Steckler)

member who is incapable of providing for themselves in the absence of the Sailor.

* Certain family circumstances or other personal-status changes resulting in a Sailor becoming legally and primarily responsible for the care of another person.

"Sailors must submit a new or updated Family Care Plan upon reporting to a new duty station, change in caregiver circumstances, or change in personal or family circumstances, such as birth or adoption of a child, or assumption of sole care for an elderly or incapacitated family member," said Harris. "Failure to maintain an adequate Family Care Plan may result in administrative separation from the Naval

service."

More information can be found in the Family Care Plan instruction, OPNAVINST 1740.4D.

Support for caregivers designated in Family Care Plans is available Navy-wide through Fleet and Family Service Centers, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Military One Source, base Child Development Centers, Navy Operational Support Centers and community and family support groups.

For more information, visit

<http://www.npc.navy.mil/SUPPORT/READINESS/Pages/FamilyCarePlan.aspx>

NEWS *from around the fleet*

31st Annual Stockdale Leadership Awards Presented by CNO

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Shannon Burns, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The chief of naval operations (CNO) presented the Vice Adm. James B. Stockdale Leadership Award to two commanders at the Pentagon in the Hall of Heroes Jan. 5.

Adm. Jonathan Greenert presented the annual award, which is presented to two active duty commanding officers below the rank of captain, to Cmdr. Gerald N. Miranda, representing the Pacific Fleet, and Cmdr. Robert B. Chadwick, representing the Atlantic Fleet.

Miranda and Chadwick were presented the award due to their leadership, personal initiative and exemplary performance and contribution to the overall success of the operational units they command.

"These men excelled in all areas in command," said Greenert. "They both said it was about getting a crew of good people that worked with them and inspired them."

Greenert went on to describe the power behind the two successful commanding officers. He credited their spouses who, like all military husbands and wives, bear much of the burden of military service each day and keep their loved ones "in the channel and off the rocks." Beside every suc-

cessful person, there is the support of a family, said Greenert.

Miranda took command of the San Diego, Calif.-based USS Asheville (SSN 758) in August 2009. He has earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Joint Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), and the Combat Action Ribbon.

"How it came to be that I was chosen among a field of so many fine commanding officers is truly unbelievable," said Miranda.

"Although my name is on the plaque, it's really a crew award. Without my courageous and dedicated crew this recognition would not be possible. Each and every Sailor onboard shares in this award's prestige; they are a group of ordinary men doing extraordinary things."

Chadwick, who is currently serving as deputy executive assistant to the vice chief of naval operations, reported aboard the Mayport, Fla.-based USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) in November 2009. During his tour as the commanding officer, Roosevelt deployed in support of operations off the east coast of Africa and was awarded the Battle "E" for 2010. He has earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Medal (four



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jan. 5, 2012) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert delivers remarks during the 31st annual Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award Ceremony at the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Shannon Burns)

awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal.

"Although this award is being presented to me I honestly feel as though it is a unit award," said Chadwick. "This award is for inspirational leadership and if that is true inspiration flowed both ways because I was inspired every day by the Sailors of Roosevelt. I won't presume that I fully earned it the highest compliment I could receive would be that I was a commanding officer that Roosevelt's remarkable crew deserved and I accept this award on their behalf."

Both awardees were nominated by their peers and were recommended by their fleet commanders for consideration by a panel of senior officers. The Stockdale Leadership award is an annual award and is presented to two commissioned officers, one each from the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets who are on active duty below

the grade of captain who are in command of a single ship, submarine, aviation squadron, or operational warfare unit. It was established in honor of Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale. His distinguished naval career symbolizes the highest standards of excellence in both personal example and leadership. Candidates must be nominated by their peers who themselves must be eligible for the award.

Stockdale was a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a pilot. In September 1965, he ejected out of his A-4E Skyhawk over North Vietnam and for eight years was held prisoner and was frequently tortured. In 1976, he received the Medal of Honor. He served as president of the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., from October 1977 until August 1979. Stockdale died in 2005 and is buried at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

For more news, visit www.navy.mil.

Thursday
12

Friday
13

Saturday
14

Sunday
15

Monday
16

Tuesday
17

Wednesday
18

Powerboat Class
Basic Boating
Marina
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Powerboat Class
Basic Boating
Marina
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Windsurf Board
Paddling Race
Marina
2:30 p.m.

3 on 3 Volleyball
Jake's Place
6 p.m.

Library Trivia Contest
Base Library
5 p.m.

Sidestroke Swim
Competition
Base Pool
6 p.m.

Closest to the Pin
Competition
Coral Sands Golf
Course
5:30 p.m.

Case # 39
Horror
R
8 p.m.

Priest
Horror
PG 13
8 p.m.

Friday the 13th
Horror
R
10 p.m.

Cedar Rapids
Comedy
R
8 p.m.

Win Win
Comedy
PG
10 p.m.

The Fighter
Action
R
8 p.m.

For Colored Girls
Drama
R
8 p.m.

One Missed Call
Horror
PG 13
8 p.m.

Crazy Stupid Love
Comedy
PG 13
8 p.m.

You can now find the Galley's menu in the top right corner of our CNIC homepage.

Tropical Times

United States Navy Support Facility
Diego Garcia British Indian Ocean
Territory

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Executive Officer

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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.

