

200th issue

## Bahrain Desert Times in Review



President George W. Bush greets service members assigned to several of the tenant commands on Naval Support Activity Bahrain, Jan. 13, 2008.



NSA Bahrain personnel plant trees outside of NSA as part of Earth Day 2008.

Photos courtesy of Bahrain Desert Times

The Bahrain Desert Times (BDT) debuted on Dec. 31, 2003. Since then, the BDT has focused on providing local news and command information to the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain community. The past 199 issues have highlighted changes of command for NSA and tenant commands, visits by high-ranking officials such as the chief of naval operations, master chief petty officer of the navy and former President George W. Bush. The BDT staff has also covered the efforts of service members and their families in working with local organizations and making the NSA Bahrain community the best it can be. Here's a look back at significant events covered in the BDT.

The landscape of NSA has changed in the past eight years. Some of the biggest changes to the base have come

*IN REVIEW Page 4*



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, May 26, 2010.

### INSIDE

- 3 - CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
- FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
- 4 - WORD ON THE STREET
- 6 - MWR EVENTS & INFO



BOY SCOUTS VISIT U.S. SHIPS  
IN BAHRAIN, P. 2



NHBC BIDS FAREWELL TO HALTNER;  
WELCOMES KNITTIG, P. 3



NAVY ENTERTAINMENT HOSTS  
MENTALIST PERFORMANCE  
AT NSA, P. 4

THESE  
STORIES  
AND  
MORE...



# Family Life at NSA Bahrain

## Boy Scouts visit U.S. Ships in Bahrain



Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Richard Doolin

Lt. Mat Rechkemmer, executive officer of coastal patrol ship USS Whirlwind (PC 11), shows a MK-38 MOD 2 25mm machine gun system to Boy Scouts during a ship tour, Jan. 7. The scouts are members of Bahrain-based Boy Scouts of America Troop 826. Whirlwind is assigned to Commander, Task Force (CTF) 55, supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

By MC1(SW/AW) Richard Doolin  
NAVCENT Public Affairs

**MINA SALMAN PIER, Bahrain** — Members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 826 and Cub Scouts of America Pack 826 visited coastal patrol ship USS Whirlwind (PC 11) and U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Aquidneck (WPB 1309), Jan. 7.

Despite their name, the Scouts based in Bahrain, are international groups representing the United States, Bahrain, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, France, Germany, and Russia.

The forty boys, ranging in age from six to 17, were given guided tours of the ships' mess decks, berthings, engine rooms and pilothouses.

"The boys are thrilled," said Mark Coalmer, Troop 826 Scoutmaster. "You can see they are all very excited to have the opportunity to come out and take a look at the ships today."

The visit brought back memories for Whirlwind's Executive Officer, Lt. Mat Rechkemmer.

"I remember being in the Boy Scouts," said Rechkemmer. "I am an Eagle Scout, so it was really fun to get to show kids around who are where I was only 15 years ago, and to show them what we get to do."

The boys were inquisitive, especially about the ships' guns.

"The parts of the ship that got the most questions were the weapons," said Coast Guardsman Lt. j.g. George Shepherd, Aquidneck's executive officer. "They were asking questions about the different types of armament we have on board. They had a great time, and I had fun taking them around and answering their questions."

Whirlwind and Aquidneck are assigned to Commander, Task Force (CTF) 55, supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Richard Doolin

Executive Officer Lt. Mat Rechkemmer helps a Cub Scout out of a hatch during a tour of coastal patrol ship USS Whirlwind (PC 11).

**the Bahrain DESERT TIMES**

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www.cnic.navy.mil/bahrain

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## Students visit local wildlife park



Photo by Jessica Musgrove

Bahrain Elementary School students pet a camel during a visit to Al Areen Wildlife Park, Jan. 24. Students from the kindergarten and 1st grade went to the park as part of their Host Nation studies.



## Chaplain's Corner

### A Grandma's Religious Conviction



By Cmdr. Chin Van Dang  
Supervisory Chaplain

An elderly woman writes to her family about her recent religious experience in a big city:

"I went to a Christian bookstore and saw a 'Honk If You Love Jesus' bumper sticker. I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper. Boy, I'm glad I did! What an uplifting experience that followed! I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is... and I didn't notice that the light had changed. It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed! I found that LOTS of people love Jesus! Why, while I was sitting there, the guy behind started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, 'For the love of GOD! GO! GO! Jesus Christ, GO! What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus! Everyone started honking! I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these loving people. I even

honked my horn a few times to share in the love! There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a 'sunny beach'... I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. Then I asked my teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant, he said that it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well, I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing... why, even he was enjoying this religious experience!

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the light had changed. So, I waved to all my sisters and brothers grinning and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and I felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared, so I slowed the car down, leaned out of the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks! Grandma".

When we discover something very important and valuable it's natural to want to share it with those closest to us. We are called to give testimony to God who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Do we point others to God in the way we live, work and speak?

## From the Desk of the Command Master Chief



By CMDCM Ed Lambert  
NSA Bahrain Command Master Chief

Shipmates,

With 2012 in full swing, you should take advantage of the opportunity to start fresh and get motivated this year! The Navy is becoming increasingly more competitive everyday and you need to be the top performer and best all around Sailor to continue to serve.

An opportunity to shine is right around the corner with the first, second and third class petty officer exams in March. If you haven't started studying already, what are you waiting for? More responsibility, an automatic Perform to Serve quota and a bigger paycheck are

just some of the perks that come with putting on that next rank. You'll have the opportunity to lead your fellow Sailors and make a difference in today's Navy.

Another place where you can make your mark this year is the gym. Get moving! As I said, the Navy is very competitive and when I see people go home for Physical Fitness Assessment failures, it's sad. That is solely in your hands. If you need help, find your command fitness leaders. They are just one of the resources available for you. The Naval Branch Health Clinic holds Ship Shape classes in conjunction with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness specialists to get you in shape and keep you in shape. We need to be physically fit to do the Navy's mission.

While you're taking care of yourself this year, also remember to look out for your Shipmates! Just because the holidays are over, doesn't mean people don't get down and need help. The stress of being away from family and just dealing with everyday problems doesn't disappear on January 1st. Talk to your coworkers. If you see they need help studying or getting to the gym, help them out. We are one team and need to take care of each other. Not only will it help your Shipmates, but it will help you be the person you want to be.



Photos by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Capt. Richard J. Knittig, left, relieves Capt. Rachel D. Haltner, right, as NBHC Bahrain's officer in charge as Capt. Cynthia M. Feller, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella, Italy, observes, during a change of ceremony, Jan. 24.



Photos by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Capt. Richard J. Knittig speaks to attendees of NBHC Bahrain's change of charge ceremony.

## NHBC bids farewell to Haltner; welcomes Knittig

By MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin  
Staff Writer

**NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain** — Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) Bahrain held a change of charge ceremony in the Freedom Souq's multipurpose room, Jan. 24.

Capt. Richard J. Knittig relieved Capt. Rachel D. Haltner as NBHC Bahrain officer in charge.

Haltner assumed charge of NBHC Bahrain in Mar. 2010. During her tenure, she oversaw the provision of primary care delivery to more than 3,800 beneficiaries ashore and medical support to more than 12,000 fleet Sailors, Marines and other DoD personnel operating in the Central Command theater.

Guest speaker, Commander, Navy Medicine National Capital Area, Commander, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda, Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, presented Haltner with a Meritorious Service Medal for her service at NBHC Bahrain.

Haltner thanked personnel assigned to NBHC as well as individuals who support the clinic in its mission to deliver health care to NSA Bahrain and its 89 tenant commands.

"I would like to thank each of you that

work at the clinic and those that support the clinic for your unwavering hard work, dedication and support," Haltner said. "To our medical colleagues at the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and the operational commands; together we accomplished an enormous amount of change and improvement. We brilliantly anticipated, prepared for and responded to the medical needs of those assigned in and deployed to the Kingdom of Bahrain and U.S. Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility."

Haltner's next assignment will be aboard USNS Comfort (T-AH-20) where she will be the ship's Executive Officer.

Knittig said he is grateful and humbled to have been selected to lead NBHC Bahrain. He emphasized NBHC's continued focus on delivering outstanding health care to those NBHC supports.

"You can count on our commitment to continue exceptional medical support and force health protection," Knittig said. "We will be conscious of the need to be effective and efficient, leveraged by a strong sense of mission and compassionate care."

NBHC Bahrain is the most forward deployed clinic attached to U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella, Italy, which provides care to NSA Bahrain and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Commander Fifth Fleet community.



IN REVIEW from Page 1

with new structures. U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and Naval Computer Telecommunications Station, Bahrain moved into their new building in January 2004. The Freedom Souq opened its doors in June 2006. The 188,000 square foot facility consolidated the operations of more than 20 buildings on NSA Bahrain into one force-protected building.

In May 2010, the government of Bahrain and the U.S. Navy hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at Mina Salman Port, marking the beginning of a \$580 million military construc-

IN REVIEW Page 5



Seaman Mercy Sabblah, assigned to amphibious dock landing ship USS Comstock (LSD 45), holds a student in the nursery at the Regional Institute for Active Learning (RIA), during a community relations event, July 24, 2011.



Evacuated families board their flight for home as Rear Adm. Daniel S. Mastagni, vice commander, Navy Region Europe, speaks to some of the children boarding the aircraft at Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, in July 2004.

## Navy Entertainment hosts mentalist performance at NSA

By MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin  
Staff Writer

**NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, Bahrain** — Entertainer Craig Karges performed for members of the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain community at the Freedom Souq, Jan. 19.

Hosted by Navy Entertainment, Karges's visit was one stop in a three-week world tour at venues in multiple locations throughout Asia, Italy, Bahrain and the U.S.

Karges, who describes his profession as part magician, illusionist and mentalist, has performed for service members and their families since 2002 and has conducted eight world tours over the years.

"Meeting all the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and their families as well as reconnecting with children from childhood, I always have the time of my life doing these shows," Karges said.

During his show, Karges relies heavily on audience participation and often interacts with approximately 40 attendees in any given show. His performance involves feats of extrasensory perception, illusion and "just a lot of weird and unusual things going on up on stage."

"He's a very talented performer," said family member Laura Strader. "I enjoy how he interacts with the audience and makes it more than just a one-man show. He really knows how to make people feel like they have a hand in the direction of which way the show goes."



Photo by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin

Entertainer Craig Karges, right, speaks with an audience member during his performance at NSA, Jan. 19.

WORD ON THE STREET:

### Who do you think will win the Superbowl?



Sgt. Adiana Souza  
MARCENT

"The Giants."



Ensign Kerrie Coleman  
CTF 53

"I think the Giants are going to pull it off."



Master Sgt. Chris Wood  
MARCENT

"The Patriots."



Staff Sgt. Steven Visnick  
FASTCENT

"Giants."



Sgt. Ryan Schaffer  
FASTCENT

"It won't be the Patriots."



ET3 Lance Taniguchi  
NAVCENT

"The Patriots, of course!"



IN REVIEW from Page 4

tion project. Scheduled to be completed in 2015, the project will develop 70 acres on the waterfront to support U.S. and coalition ships and personnel as well as a flyover bridge that will link the site to NSA Bahrain.

September 2010 marked the completion of the sports complex. Covered with artificial turf, the ball field saves millions of gallons of water and countless dollars in grounds keeping salaries.

The buildings and structures haven't been the only changes and improvements on base. The NSA Environmental Department and base volunteers have worked on numerous occasions to make the base aesthetically pleasing as well as Earth-friendly with tree plantings and base cleanups in honor of Earth Day. NSA's Environmental team has been recognized for its efforts with more than 15 awards from the CNO, Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of Defense from 2003-2010.

In addition to being good stewards of the environment in Bahrain, NSA focuses on families. One of the major events concerning families was the departure of more than 900 Department of Defense dependents in July 2004. Dependents were ordered to leave due to



Service members and their families enjoy a barbecue dinner at the NSA Labor Day Celebration, Sept. 4, 2011. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored event featured live music, a craft fair, a motorcycle and car show and activities for children.



Members of NSA Bahrain's Emergency Response Team carry a simulated casualty to a designated medical area during Desert Sailor, Feb. 28, 2005.

tensions in the region. Adult family members were allowed to return in Nov. 2008 and all family members were authorized in June 2009. With the return of all family members, the Child and Youth Programs opened a new Child Development Center, School Age Care program and Teen Center in Jan. 2010.

There have been many changes in leadership on the installation. In January 2009, Commander, Navy Region Europe (CNRE), Naples, Italy, assumed operational and administrative control of Navy Region Southwest Asia (CNRSWA), formerly headquartered on board NSA Bahrain as well as remote bases and installations within its area of responsibility. With responsibilities for support to USAFRICOM, established October 2008 and the disestablishment of CNRSWA, CNRE has been renamed Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia. The realignment eliminated NSA Bahrain's regional support role, allowing the command to focus on its support to the facility and the then 80 tenant commands assigned.

## NCIS TMU - REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY! 3940-4271

Have you observed any suspicious activity in or around Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain or while moving around the island? Has anyone followed you to work in the morning? Have you observed anyone videotaping the NSA Bahrain Pedestrian Gate? Have you noticed an increase in protest activity you believe should be reported? Is there an active ongoing protest in your neighborhood? If so, we encourage you to contact the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Threat Mitigation Unit (TMU) and make an official report. The TMU is a dedicated unit of NCIS Special Agents and Master-at-Arms whose primary duty is the response to and investigation of suspicious activity affecting USN personnel and assets in Bahrain. TMU also carefully monitors and disseminates local protest information in an effort to keep U.S. service members out of harm's way during local protest activity. We rely on your reports to ensure the safety of our base, our personnel and our families. Contact TMU 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 3940-4271.



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West speaks with local Girl Scouts during his visit to NSA Bahrain, Jan. 15, 2011. USA Girl Scouts Overseas Bahrain was handing out cookies to service members as part of Operation Thin Mint.



## HR Classified Ads

### BG POSITIONS:

**Who May Apply:** Current BG employees of CTF-53 only.

**Announcement:** NSA-12-007

**Position:** Transportation Assistant, BG-2102-07

**Department:** CTF-53, Bahrain

**Opening Date:** 23 Jan 2012 - **Closing Date:** 29 Jan 2012

### CONUS:

**Announcement:** SE26907-03-594481N5240608

**Position:** MATERIALS HANDLER SUPERVISOR

**Department:** MWR, Bahrain

**Opening Date:** 01/23/12 - **Closing Date:** 01/30/12



## ITT

### Belly Dancing Dinner Show

**Thursday, January 26**

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

### Go-Kart Racing

**Saturday, January 28**

- Time: 1600
- Max 6 people; ITT Price: \$27.00

### Guided Cultural Tour of Bahrain

**Sunday, January 29**

- Time: 0900 – 1600
- Min 14 people; ITT Price: \$35.00

### Belly Dancing Dinner Show

**Thursday, February 2 & 16**

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

### Arabian Experience

**Friday, February 3 & 24**

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

### Go-Kart Racing

**Saturday, February 4**

- Time: 1000
- Min 6 people; ITT Price: \$27.00

### Guided Cultural Tour of Bahrain

**Sunday, February 5, 12, 19 & 26**

- Time: 0900 – 1600
- Min 14 people; ITT Price: \$35.00

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

**All dates and times  
are subject to change**

## Movie Schedule

**Friday, January 27**

### Theater A

- 10 a.m. - Dolphin Tale (PG)
- 12 p.m. - How To Train Your Dragon (PG)
- 2 p.m. - Columbiana (PG-13)
- 4 p.m. - Contagion (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. - Our Idiot Brother (R)
- 9 p.m. - The Descendants (R)

### Theater B

- 11 a.m. - The Smurfs (PG)
- 1 p.m. - Winnie The Pooh (G)
- 3 p.m. - Cowboys And Aliens (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. - The Change-Up (R)
- 7 p.m. - Priest (R)
- 9 p.m. - Fast Five (PG-13)

**Saturday, January 28**

### Theater A

- 10 a.m. - Avatar (PG-13)
- 12 p.m. - Twilight: New Moon (PG-13)
- 3 p.m. - Ironman 2 (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. - Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark (R)
- 7 p.m. - Ides Of March (R)
- 9 p.m. - The Debt (R)

### Theater B

- 11 a.m. - Rango (PG)
- 1 p.m. - Cars 2 (G)
- 3 p.m. - Art Of Getting By (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. - Hanna (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. - Another Earth (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. - Pirates Of The Caribbean:  
On Stranger Tides (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.

# MWR NSA BAHRAIN

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**Thursday, January 26**

**Texas Hold'em Night**

- Time: 1800

**Friday, January 27**

**\$3 Mall Shuttle**

- Time: 1200-1600; City Centre

**Saturday, January 28**

**Wahoo! Indoor Water Park**

- Time: 1200

**Sunday, January 29**

**Sunday Sundaes**

- Make your own ice cream sundaes! Free

**Monday, January 30**

**Speed Pool**

- Time: 1200; Free pizza for players

**Drag Racing**

- Time: 1900; BIC

**Tuesday, January 31**

**Last Buck Party**

- Time: 1700

**Wednesday, February 1**

**9-Ball Tournament**

**Thursday, February 2**

**Ground Hog Day Madden Tournament**

**Friday, February 3**

**\$3 Mall Shuttle**

- Time: 1200-1600; City Centre

**Sunday, February 5**

**Super Bowl Party!**

**Sunday Sundaes**

- Make your own ice cream sundaes! Free

**Monday, February 6**

**Speed Pool**

- Time: 1200; Free pizza for players

**Wednesday, February 8**

**Ladies' Night Wahoo! Water Park**

- Time: 1730

**Thursday, February 9**

**Grand Mosque Tour and Lunch**

- Time: 1400

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