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U.S. Naval Forces Central Command - U.S. FIFTH Fleet

July 3, 2003

SECNAV's Independence Day Message

*Special message from the Honorable
Hansford T. Johnson, Acting Secretary of
the Navy*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — More than two centuries ago, a young nation loosened the chains of an oppressive tyrant and set about building a government based upon “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Thousands of Americans took up the challenge and risked their lives in the pursuit of their freedom.

A dozen years passed between their declaration of independence and the establishment of an effective government. During that time, our Founding Fathers experienced both successes and setbacks. But they never gave up hope or their dedication to the cause of freedom.

In the words of Thomas Jefferson, “The ground of liberty is to be gained by inches, and we must be contented to secure what we can get from time to time, and eternally press forward for what is yet to get. It takes time to persuade men to do even what is for their own good.”

His words echo in our actions today. Americans are risking our lives in Iraq and throughout the world in the continued pursuit of freedom. The task will be difficult, and we will experience setbacks along with our successes. But inch-by-inch, block-by-block, town-by-town, we will help secure the freedom of the Iraqi people and all who suffer under the burden of terrorism.

Our nation is extremely proud of your service. Your daily actions inspire us and affirm our continuing defense of ideals set forth 227 years ago, today.

My warmest wishes for your happiness and well being on this greatest of American holidays. God Bless each of you, your families and the United States of America.



Navy photo by PH2 Veronica C. Birmingham

USS Tarawa (LHA 1) Sailor, Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling Airman Joy Eckman adds a fresh coat of paint to playground equipment during a community relation's visit to the Hope Center for Early Welfare, a school for handicapped children in Issa Town located south of Manama in Bahrain.

Sailors trade liberty, give helping hand

By PH2 Veronica Birmingham
Staff writer

Port calls are usually a time of relaxation, but for some of the Sailors aboard USS Tarawa (LHA 1) and USS Princeton (CG 59) it is a time to give.

During a recent port call, Sailors from both ships painted playground equipment at the Hope Center for Early Development, a school for handicapped children in Issa Town located south of Manama in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Tarawa and Princeton Chaplains coordinated the community relations project through Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander 5th Fleet Chaplain's office.

The ComRel Projects Officer, Religious Program Specialist Senior Chief Robert

Mersereau, arranged the location and purchased the supplies needed to refurbish the entire playground. Approximately 100 Sailors used 20 gallons of paint and worked two days in over 100 degree temperatures to paint about an acre of wooden playground equipment.

Regardless of the blazing Bahrain summer sun, the Sailors said the heat did not hamper their enthusiasm.

“It was a success! Completed in record time,” said Tarawa Chaplain Commander Kara Seyb-Stockton.

Even though the ships' Chaplains sent out a request for just a few volunteers, the ship was overwhelmed with responses. “Princeton had over 100 volunteers. Their

Chaplain asked if they could do two ComRel projects at one time,” said

See Sailors... pg. 3

First Customer 'Tanks Up' at Iraqi Terminal

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/
U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs

U.S. and coalition naval vessels provided security June 30 for the first commercial oil tanker to receive Iraqi oil at the Mina Al Bakr offshore oil terminal. The terminal is located in the North Arabian Gulf, outside the Khor Abd Allah waterway.

The supertanker, Abqaiq, is the first offshore customer since 1991 to receive exported Iraqi oil from Mina Al Bakr outside of the United Nations' Oil-For-Food program. The vessel is scheduled to load an estimated two million barrels of crude oil

from the platform, which is connected to Iraq via an underwater piping system.

USS Chosin (CG 65), an Aegis guided-missile cruiser, and other assets from the Multinational Interception Force (MIF), provided security around the perimeter of the Mina Al Bakr Oil Terminal. Chosin served as the command platform for the Australian MIF commander.

The MIF, which consists of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard forces, and naval forces from Australia and Poland, will maintain a

presence in the North Arabian Gulf to facilitate the normalization of shipping into and out of Iraq, until an Iraqi coast guard can be established. The presence of coalition forces has also provided safety for local fisherman in and around Iraqi territorial waters.

Under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1483 and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the MIF continues to conduct Maritime Interception Operations to prevent the illegal flow of weapons into and out of Iraq.



Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet, is **Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating**.

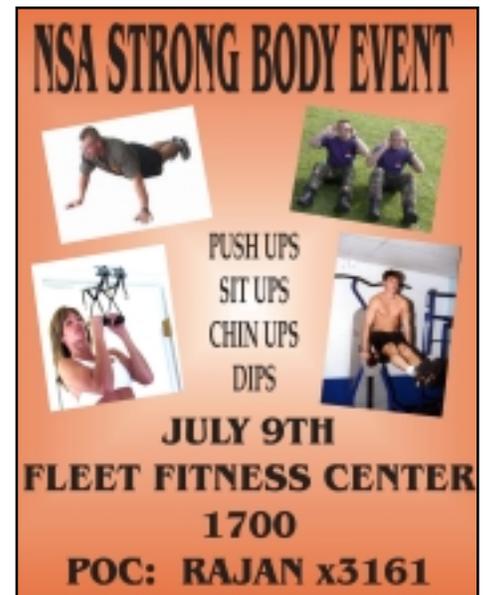
The Scimitar is an authorized publication for the men, women and families serving overseas in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command area. The editorial content of The Scimitar is prepared, edited and provided by the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet Public Affairs Office. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

Questions and comments can be directed to the Public Affairs Office. The Editor of the Scimitar can be reached at 724-510 or 724-027. Stories and input may be submitted via e-mail to: scimitar@cusnc.navy.mil.

PAO: CDR Jeff Alderson
Editor: JO1(SW) Dennis Herring

Staff Writers:
JO2 Denny Lester
JO3 Shawnee McKain
JOSN Erica Gardner

Staff Photographers:
PH1(AW) Ernest Hunt
PH1(AW) Shane Wallenda
PH2 Veronica Birmingham
PH2 Daniel Lapierre



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Veronica Birmingham
COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT Chief of Staff Captain James Hanna cut his farewell cake during a recent awards ceremony. Hanna has served on board COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT for the last 38-months.



Command Religious Program Naval Support Activity Bahrain



Weekly Schedule of Events

Monday

1200-Catholic Mass -
Chaplain's Office annex
1700-Gospel Choir Practice -
Chapel/Training Facility

Tuesday

1200-Catholic Mass -
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex
1830-Gospel Bible Study -
Chaplain Parker's home

Wednesday

1200-Catholic Mass -
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex
1700-Gospel Choir Practice -
Chapel/Training Facility
1815-Gospel Choir Practice -
Chapel/Training Facility

Thursday

1200-Catholic Mass -
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex
1630-1700-Confessions -
Chapel/Training Center
1730-Catholic Vigil Mass -
Chapel/Training Center

Friday

0930-Catholic Mass -
Chapel/Training Center
0930-Navigator's Bible Study -

Dome's Multi-Purpose Room
0930-Protestant Children's Friday
School - (ages 5-14) Youth Center
0930-Protestant Adult Friday School
Navy College Classroom #2
1100-Protestant Worship Service -
Chapel/Training Center
1100-Church of Christ Service -
Chaplain's Office annex
1130-Gospel Friday School Class -
Navy College classroom #2
1300-Gospel Service -
Chapel/Training Center
1800-Protestant Friday Evening
Fellowship - Chaplain Parker's home
* Jewish Shabbat Service 2nd Friday
of each month, Chaplain's office
Chapel annex

Saturday

0900-2nd & 4th Saturday of each
month, Gospel Men of Wisdom
Ministry - Oasis POC Bro. Miller
1545-Protestant Campaigner's Bible
Study - Bahrain School room 53,
POC Ketan

Sunday

1200-Catholic Mass -
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex

1800-Protestant Evening Worship
Service- Chapel Training Center
1915-Handbell Choir rehearsal -
Chapel Training Facility

Lay Personnel:

Muslim- CTICM Young
Church of Christ- SSG Veasey
International Church of Christ- PH2 Daniel P.
Lapierre
Latter Day Saints- CDR Hansen
Jewish- LTJG Joshua Frey

NSA Chaplain Staff:

Capt. (Sel.) Parker, Command Chaplain
Lt. Borger, Catholic Chaplain
RP1(SW) Jefferson-Brooks
RP2 Harris

NAVCENT Chaplain Staff:

Capt. Tidd, Command Chaplain
Cdr. Parisi, Catholic Chaplain
RP2 Redfield
RP2 Mosqueda

Note: If you have any questions regarding any of the
Command Religious Programs,
please contact our office at 439-4235/4303 or 724-235/
303, Sunday - Thursday.

* Event participation is contingent upon Force Protection
Conditions*

Sailors... from Front Page

Mersereau. Force protection regulations allowed only 50 of those Sailors to attend.

Many of the volunteers commented they have been participating in ComRel projects for years.

"Volunteering, it's the best thing you can do in your life," said Mess Management Specialist Chief Choy Lucero, "You know you will be doing something good for someone."

"It's a good way to see different parts of ports you pull in to rather than just staying on the beaten path, and we get to see a little bit different perspective of Bahrain," said Quartermaster Third Class Jake A. Davies.

Mersereau explained that Navy Chaplains organize ComRel projects as another way for Sailors at home and abroad to help foster mutual acceptance, respect, and cooperation with their host country, and gives them a chance to have new experiences.

As the volunteers packed up and start departing the playground, Mersereau washed the remaining paint from his hands and reflected on the purpose of the day, "People are doing nice things for our community back home, we are just returning the favor," said Mersereau.



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Veronica Birmingham
COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT Chaplain's office community relation project (ComRel) Projects Officer, RPCS Robert Mersereau and Sailors from USS Tarawa (LHA 1) add a fresh coat of paint to playground equipment during a community relations visit to the Hope Center for Early Welfare, a school for handicapped children in Issa Town, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Now Showing At NSA's Paradise Theater

July 4 - 10 2003

Friday- July 4

1530 *Pinocchio(G)*
1730 *Shanghai Knights(PG-13)*
1930 *Instinct To Kill(R)*

Saturday- July 5

1330 *Treasure Planet(PG)*
1530 *Head of State(PG-13)*
1730 *Phone Booth(R)*
1930 *Friday after Next(R)*

Sunday- July 6

1730 *The Quiet American(R)*
1930 *Chicago(PG-13)*

Monday- July 7

1730 *Disputed(R)*
1930 *How to Lose a Guy in
10 Days(PG-13)*

JUNGLE BOOK 2(G)... 72 min... Haley Joel Osment & John Goodman: In this sequel, Mowgli leaves his new girlfriend and his human life behind to return to old friends and life in the jungle where he was raised. Shere Khan is out for revenge.... Can Baloo and crew help Mowgli avoid Khan's lethal claws?

FRIDAY AFTER NEXT(R)... 85 min... Ice Cube & Mike Epps: After Craig & Day-Day finally move out of their parent's house and into their own crib, they get jobs at a local mall as unarmed security guards. When their house is robbed on Christmas Eve by a crook dressed as Santa, they team up once again, to track the crook down.

BASIC(R)... 99 min... John Travolta & Connie Nielsen: An ex-Army Ranger turned DEA Agent is asked to lead an investigation into the circumstance surrounding the disappearance of a feared, and often hated sergeant and several of his trainees, on what appears at first, to be a routine training exercise in the jungles of Panama.

INSTINCT TO KILL(R)... 90min... Mark Dacascos & Missy Crider: When a happily married woman discovers that her husband is really a violent serial killer, she turns him in and testifies against him. When he escapes prison and vows to get revenge, she hires a self-defense trainer who can teach her how to defend herself and just maybe end the nightmare once and for all.

PHONE BOOTH(R)... 81 min... Colin Farrell & Kiefer Sutherland: A driven, self-absorbed, and slightly amoral Manhattan public relations "executive" makes the mistake of his life when he answers a ringing phone on a busy midtown street. On the other end of the phone is a madman who tells him he will be shot dead if he hangs up or tries to leave the phone booth.

THE QUIET AMERICAN(R)... 101 min... Michael Caine & Brendon Fraser: Set in 1952 during the Vietnamese liberation war from French rule, an opium-addicted British reporter, who's in love with a young Vietnamese woman, is dismayed when a young American CIA agent seems to have eyes for her as well.

PINOCCHIO(G)... 100 min... Roberto Benigni & Nicoletta Braschi: Classic story of a wooden puppet come to life, and his magnificent odyssey to become a "real boy." Despite guidance from the beautiful Blue Fairy and the love of his father Gepetto, Pinocchio's curious spirit leads him into one wild adventure after another, distracting him from his goal & distancing him from his loved ones.

UNDISPUTED(R)... 93min... Ving Rhames & Wesley Snipes: A heavyweight boxing champ, accused, convicted and sent to prison for rape, discovers that he has competition when a fellow inmate sets up a prison boxing match to determine just who is the "Undisputed" prison champion.
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS(PG-13)... 107min... Jackie Chan & Owen Wilson: After taming the Wild West in Shanghai Noon, Chon Wang and Roy O'Bannon are back in the saddle, but this time Chon is out to settle a score and avenge the death of his father while also keeping Roy away from his sister who has uncovered a world wide conspiracy to murder the royal family.

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS(PG 13)... 118min... Mathew McConaughey & Kate Hudson: A columnist for a women's magazine proposes an article to cheer up a jilted girlfriend on how to get a guy to fall in love with her and lose him in ten days. The guy picked also has agenda. He's made a bet that he can get a girl to fall in love with him in ten days in order to win a lucrative campaign for his company.

TREASURE PLANET(PG)... 96min... Emma Thompson & David Hyde Pierce: Follow a young cabin boy aboard a glittering space galleon as he and the crew set off on an intergalactic treasure hunt for the legendary "loot of a thousand worlds." Based on Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island."

Tuesday- July 8

1730 *Head of State(PG-13)*
1930 *Tears of the Sun(R)*

Wednesday- July 9

1530 *The Jungle Book 2(G)*
1730 *Phone Booth(R)*
1930 *Antibody(R)*

Thursday- July 10

1530 *The Hot Chick(PG-13)*
1730 *Two Weeks Notice(PG-13)*
1930 *Basic(R)*

HEAD OF STATE(PG 13)... 95min... Chris Rock & Bernie Mac: When a popular Democratic presidential candidate dies unexpectedly on the campaign trail, there is no one to take his place. Resigned to losing the race, the party puts an unknown Washington D.C. alderman on the ticket just to take up space. No one ever expects this grass-roots campaign to actually become a serious contender.

TWO WEEKS NOTICE(PG 13)... 101 min... Sandra Bullock & Hugh Grant: Lucy is a brilliant lawyer, with a sharp strategic mind and an ulcer. It's not the job that gets to her; it's her millionaire boss who treats her more like a nanny than a Harvard law grad. Now, after five long years of calling the shots on everything from his clothes to his divorce settlement, she's finally calling it quits.

Story ideas?

Contact **The Scimitar** staff:
scimitar@cusnc.navy.mil / 439-4027