



Volume 13, Issue 18

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

October 23, 2003

USS Peleliu heads north in support of OIF



of Expeditionary Strike Group ONE (ESG 1) recently entered the Central Command's (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR).

While two of the ships, *USS Decatur* (DDG 73) and *USS Jarrett* (FFG 33), have received Commander Fifth Fleet tasking outside the Gulf, *Peleliu*, *USS Port Royal* (CG 73), *USS Ogden* (LPD 5) and *USS Germantown* (LSD 42) steamed to the Northern Arabian Gulf.

Peleliu and *ESG 1* are home ported in San Diego. *ESG 1* is the first numbered Expeditionary Strike Group

(CG 73), Guided Missile Destroyer *USS Decatur* (DDG 73), Guided Missile Frigate *USS Jarrett* (FFG 33) and Fast Attack Submarine *USS Greenville* (SSN 772). The L-class ships have embarked the 2,200 Marines that make up the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Currently, *ESG 1* is deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Being within 16 miles of Iraq sends a statement. It means we have control of the Northern Arabian Gulf outside Iraq," said *Peleliu*'s Operations Officer, Cmdr. Michael Talaga. "We can go basically wherever in these waters we need to in order to accomplish our mission."

Peleliu and *ESG 1* bring tremendous capability to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR).

"It makes us more effective because, when we have forces ashore, we can make sure they have the support they need from the sea," said Talaga. "The aircraft support is closer, in case they need a medical evacuation or they need reinforcements right away."

Peleliu's current mission is to provide a post-war presence in the region, aid in peace-

See LHA 5 - page 2

By JO3 Ben Hoisington

USS Peleliu (LHA 5)

Public Affairs

ABOARD USS PELELIU, At Sea -- Amphibious Assault Ship *USS Peleliu (LHA 5)* and the five additional ships and submarine

and the first ESG to deploy overseas. This strike group was created in the last year around the old elements of the *Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group (PELARG)*. The group consists of *USS Peleliu (LHA 5)*, *USS Germantown (LSD 42)*, *USS Ogden (LPD 5)*, Guided Missile Cruiser *USS Port Royal*

Navy celebrates 228th birthday in Baghdad

By Spc. Jennie Parsons

Commander, Joint Task Force Seven

Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Anchor's Aweigh! sang a handful of deployed Navy sailors in Baghdad, Iraq, during the Navy's 228th birthday celebration Oct. 13. The traditional cake cutting ceremony took place inside the Coalition Provisional Authority's chapel with the well-known Navy song as the grand finale.

"The Navy's birthday is really important out here because we're like fish out of the sea," said Lt. Cmdr. Timika B. Lindsay, deputy communications support officer for CPA. "It's unusual being here on the inside. We're proud as Navy members to have an integral

part in the reconstruction of Iraq."

The ceremony started off with a welcoming speech by Lindsay, which included a brief history of the Navy's birthday.

"Today, we celebrate Oct. 13, 1775, the day Continental Congress authorized the fitting out of ships for the Continental Navy," Lindsay said. "Because

this was the first legislation for what was to become the U.S. Navy, Oct. 13 is celebrated as the Navy's birthday. Today there are 295 ships and more than 4,000 aircraft-fully op-

erational, ready to fulfill its mission. One-hundred ten ships and 15 submarines are on deployment. There are a total of 42,352 Navy personnel on deployment, including 76 sailors onboard either CPA or CJTF-7 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom."

A prayer followed along with the reading of the Chief of Naval Operations' message by Cmdr. Ron L. Page, a Naval Transitions Officer helping build the Iraqi Coastal Defense Force. The CNO, Admiral Vern

Clark, motivated the troops by saying, "As we celebrate the Navy's 228th birthday, our mission remains clear: we must protect our

See Birthday - page 5



LHA 5 - from front page

keeping, security and to promote an environment conducive to rebuilding a new Iraqi government. The 13th MEU deployed in Iraq to support these efforts, while *Peleliu* and the other ships in the *ESG* will provide support to ground troops and engage in operations at sea to prevent smuggling. *Peleliu's* assets will be performing Vessel Boarding Search and Seizures (VBSS) and Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO) in support of the future of Iraq and in an effort to ensure that their oil does not seep away.

"There's a lot of legitimate trading and legitimate business going on, but there's also a lot of smuggling out there," said Talaga. "We're going to try and stop that, so Iraq can rebuild as best it can. That's money the people are losing which can be used to help rebuild a legitimate government. These operations help the Iraqi people as much as they help win the Global War On Terrorism," he added.

The seven ships of *ESG 1* have traveled 9,400 nautical miles to date, bringing their formidable war fighting abilities to play in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet, is **Vice Adm. David C. Nichols, Jr.**

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 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 Hal Pittman

Editor: JO1(SW) Dennis Herring
Layout Editor: JO2 Denny Lester

- Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Brackenbury**
- Lt. Garrett Kasper**
- Lt. j.g. Joshua Frey**
- PH1(AW) Ernest Hunt**
- PH1(AW) Shane Wallenda**
- PH2 Veronica Birmingham**
- JO3 Shawnee McKain**
- JOSN Erica Gardner**

Aquidneck, high and dry

By PA1 John Gaffney, USCG
Coast Guard Forces Southwest Asia
Public Affairs

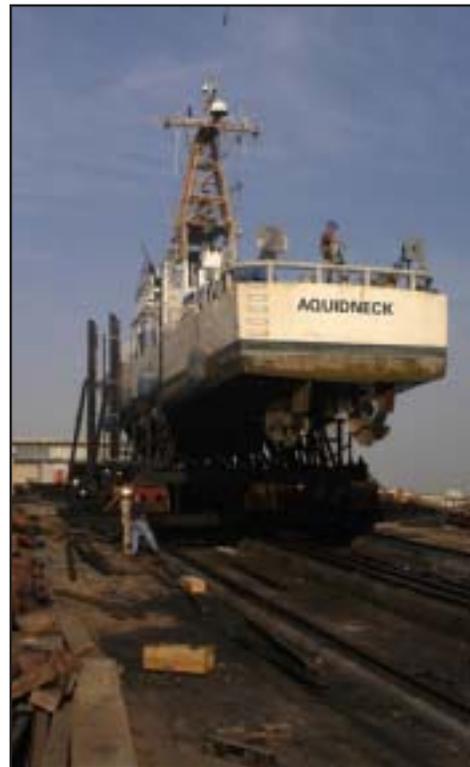
USCGC Aquidneck, a Coast Guard 110-foot patrol boat deployed to the Arabian Gulf for Operation Iraqi Freedom, has been given a break from its tedious patrol schedule for some heavy-duty maintenance.

On the morning of Oct. 13, the cutter, carefully positioned in a support cradle, was pulled clear of the water by a huge winch and hauled up a slipway at the Basrec shipyard at Mina Salman port in Bahrain.

"We took the boat over from the north dock at Basrec, put her on the Coast Guard cradle, centered her, aligned her in the cradle and brought the vessel and the cradle up simultaneously," said Coast Guard Senior Chief Machinery Technician Greg Della Rocco, assistant engineering officer for Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia.

"We started at high tide which was optimum and we had no wind so weather conditions were ideal," said Lt. Anthony Williams, commanding officer of the *Aquidneck*.

See Aquidneck - page 4



USCG photo by PA1 John Gaffney
USCGC Aquidneck, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Atlantic Beach, N.C., is high and dry after being pulled from the gulf aboard a marine railway for shipyard maintenance.



U.S. Navy photo by JO1(SW) Dennis Herring
 Lt. Cmdr. Kevin R. Morrison, executive officer of *HSV 2 Swift*, describes equipment in the pilothouse of the ship to children from the Philippine School of Bahrain during a recent educational field trip. Forty students along with four of their teachers were shown areas such as the ship's pilothouse, galley, crew berthing and flight deck. *Swift*, a high-speed wave piercing catamaran, was in port Bahrain during its deployment to the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, 5th Fleet area of responsibility in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Neon Response

Bahrain team concludes bilateral EOD exercise

By JO2 Denny Lester
Force Journalist

Bahrain-based Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams recently concluded Exercise Neon Response, a bi-lateral EOD exercise conducted in Bahrain between the U.S. Navy and Bahrain Defence Force.

EOD Mobile Unit Four, Detachment Four and the Bahrain Defence Force Field Engineering Unit came together for the annual exercise to develop common doctrine, operation and tactics.

“The goal of the exercise was to teach, as well as learn with a foreign military and train on improvised explosive devices,” said Lt. Jonas Frey, EODMU4 Det Four Officer in Charge. “Cross training with foreign militaries is very important, because no matter how much you think you know, you can always learn something from somebody else.”

Exercise Neon Response is just one of the more than 40 joint military exercises the U.S. Navy participates in annually with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, other foreign allies and friends, as well as other U.S. military forces in the region.

The two-week exercise consisted of a week of classroom lectures and practical applications, followed by a week of field exercises.

The second week’s hands on training included demonstrations and the tools and techniques used to defeat improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

“In this exercise we tried to cover every area an improvised explosive device could be placed,” Frey said. “From an automobile, to a boat, a ship, a building, an industrial complex or even wide open spaces, every area



U.S. Navy Photo by JO2 Denny Lester

ENC(EOD/SW/AW) Jim Winkle of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit Four, Detachment Four (EODMU4 Det Four) teaches a member of the Bahrain Defence Force, Royal Field Engineering Unit, the proper way to build an EOD tool.



U.S. Navy Photo by JO2 Denny Lester

MNC(EOD/SW/AW) Gary Myers of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Four (EODMU4), and a member the Bahrain Defence Force, Royal Field Engineering Unit, build up an EOD tool during a training scenario.

that we could cover we tried to.”

The Bahraini forces, using techniques influenced by British EOD training, offered the U.S. team insight into a different school of thought, as well as an opportunity to observe the mindset of a different culture.

“We drew a lot of personal knowledge and worldly knowledge from them on how

things operate in the Middle East,” Frey said. “We listened very intently when they gave their versions of search and witness questioning techniques. How they do it is very different from us, but very effective.”

“I was very impressed with their level of knowledge and their interpretation skills,” Frey added. “They were also tremendous hosts and it was a true pleasure for our team to participate. We look forward to participating in more exercises in the future.”

“I hope the Bahrainis and ourselves learned that we can work together,” said Master EOD Technician Aviation Ordnanceman Chief (EOD/AW) Buster G. Stancil. “I hope they learned that they can work side by side with us as we learned that we can work side by side with them. It breaks down a lot of barriers. Especially when you see a guy you’ve worked with before, you know you can trust him and it just makes it a lot easier.”



<http://www.cusnc.navy.mil>

...and just click
on ‘NEWS’

Navy EOD team, Polish security operate in Iraq

By Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Brackenbury
COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT
Public Affairs

AL HILLAH, Iraq -- For Navy EOD Task Force 56 personnel stationed in Al Hillah, Iraq, life is pretty surreal. Working alongside Polish Army soldiers and living in an abandoned palace overlooking the Euphrates and the Babylon ruins has definitely been a unique experience thus far for these San Diego-based Sailors.

Deployed to Iraq since early August, the team was originally stationed for more than two months north of Baghdad at Camp Anacanda in the city of Balad within the dangerous Sunni Triangle. Working with combined Army-Navy EOD teams, their missions included searching for weapons caches, destroying unexploded ordnance (UXO), and disarming Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the continuing effort to restore peace and stability in the area. There the team rendered safe multiple IEDs, and were themselves hit by an IED while traveling in a Humvee convoy. Fortunately, no one was killed or seriously injured.

After their stint in Balad, the highly mobile team moved more than 250 tons of gear and equipment via helicopter and convoy 55 miles south of Baghdad to Al Hillah and Camp Babylon. Designed to protect the historic Babylon ruins next to the Euphrates river from looters, the camp is home to a number of coalition countries supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, including Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, France and Germany, all under the command of the Multinational Defense force Southeast, or MND(SE).

"MND(SE) asked us to come down here to Al Hillah to provide IED response," said Lt. Jeremy Thompson, EOD team leader. "Although we're technically in the rebuilding phase of OIF, Iraqi civilians and property, as

well as coalition troops in the region are still threatened by IEDs and other small arms attacks from insurgent groups, even down here in Al Hillah. We're here to lower and hopefully eliminate that threat by finding and disarming IEDs, as well as destroying any unexploded ordnance we find." Insurgent groups are using unexploded ordnance (UXO) – found in numerous weapons caches throughout Iraq – to make the IEDs.

"Find and destroy the UXO, and sources of IED materials disappear," Thompson added.

The team has particularly enjoyed working with the Polish Army forces, whose assignment includes providing perimeter security for the Navy EOD team whenever they leave Camp Babylon on a mission.

"The Polish forces are providing valuable security for our Navy guys," said Lt. Cmdr. Marty Anderson, Jr., EOD coordinator for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, 5th Fleet. "They're a small team, so when they have to leave Camp Babylon to conduct a site survey, or more importantly, to respond to an IED call, it's beneficial to have a capable, experienced security team for force protection."

Despite significant language barriers – just two of the Polish soldiers speak fluent English and none of the Sailors speak Polish – the teams bonded incredibly well in just a few weeks. The teams also overcame a few tech-

nological challenges, such as their use of different kinds of radios. Thanks to intensive bilateral training in convoy and general security tactics, emergency procedures, and communication signals, these Polish and American service members now operate as a single integrated and coordinated team.

"Even though they had never worked with EOD teams before, the Polish learned quickly," Thompson said. "They really put a lot of trust in us, and we put a lot in them. We're grateful



Photo by JO1 Phil Beaufort

Navy EOD members and Polish Army soldiers review safety procedures and tactics before conducting a bilatera safe disposal area (SDA) site survey. The SDA will eventually be used to destroy unexploded ordnance found in the Al Hillah area. The Navy EOD team, in conjunction with the Polish, is in the area to provide Improvised Explosive Device (IED) response.

for the job they're doing. Having to disarm IEDs is one thing, but having to do it in a hostile environment is another. I trust them completely."

"The Polish are really phenomenal," said Mess Specialist 1st Class (EOD/SS) Edward Blanton, EOD team technician and collateral duty intel officer. "I feel just as safe with them as I do my other guys. I'm just hoping the Polish-English dictionaries we asked for arrive soon. 🇺🇸"

Aquidneck - from page 2

According to Chief Machinery Technician Herb Oden, chief engineer on the ship, "the operation went very smoothly." He added it was the first time the Coast Guard had brought a ship out of the water to conduct maintenance in the Middle East.

Initial inspection of *Aquidneck* revealed no problems.

"She looks exactly like I thought she was going to look with maybe just a bit more marine growth than I expected," said Williams.

While the ship is out of the water, its hull and superstructure will be sandblasted down to bare metal and repainted. To ensure the

sea worthiness of the hull, ultra-violet imagery will be taken to look for thin or weak areas. The propellers and shafts will be removed and refurbished and all machinery will be serviced. Some weight reduction measures will also be implemented during the yard period. Conventional hot water heaters will be replaced by on-demand units and air intakes changed to lighter models saving several thousand pounds of weight.

"This is a very significant package, it's a full-blown yard package," said Williams, referring to the comprehensive nature of the maintenance service.

After arriving in the Gulf, the cutters were

lifted off the motor vessel March 5, and commenced operations only four days later. Since that time, the cutters have maintained a frantic pace, accruing operating hours at a rate nearly three times that of their fleetmates back in the United States, according to Cmdr. Vincent Atkins, chief of cutter forces for Coast Guard Atlantic Area and Operation Iraqi Freedom project officer.

Completion of the shipyard maintenance period will allow the cutter to resume its torrid pace working with coalition forces to keep Iraq's waters safe for commerce, its offshore oil terminals secure and to ensure Iraq's mineral wealth benefits all Iraqis. 🇺🇸

Sea Swap initiative sees positive results after 1st year

By JO2(SW) Jason Heavner,
Commander, Naval Surface Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The third crew exchange in the Navy's Sea Swap program took place recently in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, when USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) crew members donned USS Higgins (DDG 76) ballcaps and commenced their deployment after relieving USS Benfold (DDG 65) crew members aboard Higgins' hull. After the swap, team Benfold crew members flew back to San Diego to man the hull of John Paul Jones.

Team Benfold crew members experienced one of the major advantages of Sea Swap: reduced transit time to the area of responsibility, which has been a morale boost for crews involved. "We frequently hear from Sailors that one of the disadvantages to six-month deployments are the long and tedious transits. With maximum on-station time, they are getting a quicker access to real-world missions," said Vice Adm. Timothy LaFleur, Commander, Naval Surface Forces.

One of the real-world missions that Higgins took part in was the coalition force that launched Toma-

hawk Land Attack Missiles onto military targets in Iraq during the opening stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Shortly after the Benfold crew swapped hulls with Higgins in April, they executed numerous queries and boardings of vessels suspected of having ties to the Al Qaeda terrorist network. They also conducted maritime intercept operations in the north Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden, which successfully deterred senior Taliban and Al Qaeda operatives from choosing an avenue of escape.

"Sea Swap has been running more smoothly and efficiently than planned," said Cmdr. Thomas Deitz, Command, Naval Surface Force operations officer. "There were initial concerns when OIF began last spring as far as the responsibilities like battle groups, strike forces and maritime intercept operations. With the increased rate of forward presence that we've been getting out of the two platforms, it's been very effective."

According to Dietz, the program has been so effective that plans are being drawn up to include Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates but no dates have been set yet.

Despite the positive results of Sea Swap, it's still too early to say if the concept will be a mainstay

in the surface force, but when it comes to experimenting with other classes of ships, LaFleur said, "Yes we are, which is why we tried this program out, to see what works and what doesn't. So if increased forward presence is needed in a certain part of the world, we'll know if swapping crews is a viable option. You can't know that unless you do it and find out."



Birthday - from front page

homeland, our freedom and our way of life by stopping the forces of terrorism wherever they may hide. We are the greatest Navy in the world because of you. You can justly take pride in this great Navy and nation in which you serve. Your service is helping to keep America a lighthouse of hope and a beacon of freedom. I am honored to serve with you. Happy birthday, Shipmates."

A birthday address was given by Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, which included a thorough history of the Navy's origin. In closing, Bremer used the 40-year-old words of John F. Kennedy as words of advice: "...any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'"

The cake cutting ceremony followed, which out of tradition, was done by the youngest and eldest sailors, along with the ambassador and a retired Navy sailor.

Closing remarks were made, Anchors Aweigh was sung and afterwards sailors socialized and lined up for a piece of the birthday cake.

"The Navy's birthday is one of the few times in the year we have the opportunity to focus on the Navy family," said Page. "And just like any other family- we have a birthday."

Many of the sailors felt as if the Navy has done a great deal for them. "I've done more



U.S. Navy Photo

The eldest and youngest Sailors, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority, and a retired sailor cut the traditional Navy birthday cake in the CPA's chapel in Baghdad.

in my Navy career than I could've ever done outside," said Lindsay. "The Navy has provided me with direction and purpose as to where I want and need to go. I'm also really excited about the Navy being out here and being a part of this history making evolution."

Chief Jason D. Taggart, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Communications agrees, "The Navy has provided me with a career that I can be proud of and look back

on. It's given me the opportunity to serve my country."

As dedicated service men and women finished their cake and went back to work, Page explained what the Navy means to him. "The Navy has made me who I am today," said Page. "It's given me its core values- honor, courage and commitment. I love the Navy. I always have and always will. And it's just that simple."

Girl Scouts learn safety lesson from NSF Bahrain

By JO3 Shawnee McKain
Force Journalist

The girls of Girl Scout Troop 2, *Love Troops Overseas*, recently spent some time with some Naval Security Force personnel aboard Naval Support Activity Bahrain, to learn what they do, how and why they do it.

The Brownies, ranging in age from five to eight, are children of servicemembers stationed in Bahrain. They learned what to do in case of an emergency, learned about the military working dogs and what they do and took a ride around base in security's 'armadillo' truck.

"We hosted the Girl Scout troop here to talk about Drug Abuse Resistance Education and what to do in case of emergencies," said Naval Security Force Leading Petty Officer Master-at-Arms 1st Class Johnny Douglas. "They also got to meet the security officer, operations officer and the physical security officer."

After meeting Ensign Michael McPherson, NSF's Operations Officer, and asking as many questions as they could think of, the girls met one of the military working dogs and watched a McGruff video on safety.

"I learned never to talk to strangers and to never go in their car even if they say your mom told you to," said six-year-old Erika



U.S. Navy Photo by JO3 Shawnee McKain

The Girl Scouts of Troop 2 pose for a picture with MA1 Johnny Douglas of Security and their fingerprints after a demonstration on how Security takes them. The Girl Scouts spent the morning with Security personnel learning what to do in case of emergency, the military working dogs and what exactly happens on base.

Meyers, one of the Brownies.

The girls will also be involved in Security's Identi-kid program next week. There they will be fingerprinting the base children and video taping them in case of an

emergency.

"I think this is important because we got a chance to meet the kids, and they got to see what we do," Douglas said. "Now they know our faces and know our job."



Command Religious Program Naval Support Activity Bahrain

Weekly Schedule of Events



Monday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1700 - Gospel Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility
Tuesday	1130 - Praise Ministry - Chapel Training Facility 1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1830 - Gospel Bible Study, Chaplain Parker's flat
Wednesday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 1630 - Catholic Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1730 - Protestant Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1830 - Gospel Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1830-2000 - Alien Youth Group Bible Study (grades 9-12), Bahrain School Room NTC 2000 - Gospel Praise Dancer's rehearsal, POC Elder Sorrells
Thursday	1130 - Praise Ministry - Chapel Training Facility 1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1630-1700 - Confessions, Chapel/Training Facility 1730 - Catholic Vigil Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 1830 - Gospel Intercessory Prayer Ministry, POC Miller 1830 - Children's Choir Practice - Chapel/Training Facility. POC Sister Diane
Friday	0815 - Catholic CCD classes. POC Monika Thompson 0930 - Catholic Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 0930 - Protestant Adult Friday School II in the CPO Lounge at the Dome 1100 - Protestant Worship Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1130 - Gospel Friday School Class, Navy College Classroom #2 1300 - Gospel Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1330 - Gospel Children's Church ages 5-10 in the CDC, POC Mrs. Fulson 1830 - Catholic Bible Study - Fr. Borger's flat
Saturday	0730 - Protestant Single and Geo-Bachelor Men's Study in the Dome Conference room 1545 - Protestant Campaigner's Youth Bible Study, Bahrain School Rm 53 POC Ketan
Sunday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1800 - Protestant Evening Worship Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1900 - Gospel Praise Dancer's rehearsal, POC Elder Sorrells

Laypeople:
 Muslim- CTICM Young
 Latter Day Saints- Cmdr. Hansen
 Jewish- Lt. j.g. Frey
 United Pentacostal- CW3 Moody

NSA Chaplain Staff:
 Cmdr. Marshall, Command Chaplain
 Lt. Borger, Catholic Chaplain
 Lt. Johnson
 RP1(SW) Jefferson-Brooks
 RP2 Harris
 RPSN McCalister

NAVCENT Chaplain Staff:
 Capt. Tidd, Command Chaplain
 Cmdr. Pugliese, Catholic Chaplain
 RPC Ponce
 RP2 Mosqueda

Questions regarding Command Religious Programs, please contact NSA Bahrain Chaplain's office at 439-4235/4303 or 724-235/303, Sunday - Thursday.

Event participation contingent upon Force Protection Conditions

Month of Ramadhan begins Oct. 26

This year Ramadhan will begin on or near October 26, 2003 and end on or near November 24, 2003.

During Ramadhan a Muslim does not eat, drink or smoke from daybreak, when a thread of light may be seen on the horizon, until the sun has set. The believer must abstain from sexual activity, listening to music and as far away as possible from all pleasures of the senses. During the night, pleasures of the senses are again allowed.

During the fasting month, everyone continues with his or her normal means of livelihood. The end of Ramadhan is usually characterized by a slowing of life, particularly official and business life, when

very little gets done. Muslims work a six-hour day and offices, businesses and schools are open shortened hours. As the month advances the general pace of life slows as sleepless nights take their toll.

Everyone, regardless of their religion, is expected to show respect by observing the fast in public. That not only means not eating and drinking, but no smoking or chewing gum or tobacco as well. Don't blare your radios, drink coffee from your travel mug, smoke or chew gum in your car on the way to work. If riding a bicycle, don't drink from your water bottle. The same goes while running - no sips from your Camelback.

Dressing modestly is very important. When exercising wear long pants and a shirt that fully covers your upper arms.

All activities and food service will remain as usual at NSA but keep in mind the Muslim Third Country Nationals will be working a shortened day and feeling the physical strains that fasting can bring.

Most importantly, fortify yourself with extra patience. Services may be slower and tempers may be faster as the month progresses.

The penalties for breaking the fast vary. At most, in Bahrain, you may be fined, but at the least, yet significantly, you will show disrespect for our host's religion. ☞



NSA Paradise Theater

THURSDAY

23

- 1530 Finding Nemo (G)
- 1730 Terminator 3: Rise of the Machine (R)
- 1930 Halloween 2 (R)

FRIDAY

24

- 1530 Piglet's Big Movie (G)
- 1730 Bruce Almighty (PG-13)
- 1930 Gigli (R)

SATURDAY

25

- 1530 Beethoven (PG)
- 1730 Clueless (PG-13)
- 1930 Alex & Emma (PG-13)

SUNDAY

26

- 1730 Hulk (PG-13)
- 1930 Terminator 3: Rise of the Machine (R)

MONDAY

27

- 1730 Small Soldiers (PG-13)
- 1930 Dumb and Dumberer (PG-13)

TUESDAY

28

- 1730 Crocodile Dundee (PG-13)
- 1930 Alex and Emma (PG-13)

WEDNESDAY

29

- 1530 Bruce Almighty (PG-13)
- 1730 Small Soldiers (PG-13)
- 1930 Lara Croft: The Cradle of Life (PG-13)

PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE (G) John Fiedler & Jim Cummings: Focusing on the tiniest member of Winnie the Pooh's extended family, this is the story of the self-confidence that timid Piglet finds when his friends are endangered. With the Book of Memories, Piglet is the one resident of Hundred Acre Wood who can save them. (75 min)

BRUCE ALMIGHTY (PG-13) Jim Carey & Jennifer Aniston: A "Human Interest" television reporter in Buffalo, NY is discontented with almost everything in life, despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend. At the end of the worst day of his life, he angrily ridicules God...and God responds. He challenges the disgruntled reporter to take on the job to see if he can do better. (101 min)

ALEX & EMMA (PG-13) Luke Wilson & Kate Hudson: An author with writer's block and gambling habits that put him deeply in debt, hires a young stenographer to help him finish his novel in 30 days, so he can pay off a loan shark. As he begins to dictate the novel, the opinionated stenographer challenges his ideas at every turn and eventually, ends up changing everything. (96 min)

BEETHOVEN (PG) Charles Grodin & Bonnie Hunt: Mr. Newton, head of a suburban family of five who thinks the best pets are goldfish, keeps his family running in an orderly fashion. That is until their entire lifestyle is disrupted by the antics of an enormous but beguiling St. Bernard named Beethoven. (87 min)

DUMB & DUMBERER (PG-13) Eric Christian Olsen & Derek Richardson: Set in 1986 when mentally challenged best friends Harry and Lloyd were teenagers, this is the madcap comic tale of their attempt to get out of the "special needs" department and into regular high school life. (85 min)

HULK (PG-13) Eric Bana & Jennifer Connelly: While working on genetic DNA

experiment programs, Dr David Banner uses himself as a guinea pig. The experiment fails but his damaged DNA is passed on to his son, who, many years later, like his dad, works in a research lab where he is accidentally exposed to radiation that transforms him into the incredible HULK. (138 min)

SMALL SOLDIERS (PG-13) Kirsten Dunst & Gregory Smith: Technology runs amok when computer chips designed for space age weapons are used in children's action figures. When a small boy's army of toy soldiers suddenly comes to life and begins to wage war on the Gorgonites, the town of Winslow Corners will never be the same. (109 min)

TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINE (R) Arnold Schwarzenegger & Nick Stahl: On the verge of Judgment Day, it's a dark time for the resistance as Skynet is about to go online. The most advanced Terminator ever, the T-X has been sent from the future to ensure their success by ending the life of John Conner. But as before, the resistance will be come back in time...to protect him and save humanity. (109 min)

GIGLI (R) Jennifer Lopez & Ben Affleck: When an inept hit man is assigned the job of kidnapping the brother of a California district attorney, he holds the man hostage in his own apartment. When a female assassin is sent to "oversee" the crime and ensure that it is done right, the two killers soon find themselves at odds...on the run...and in love. (121 min)

LARA CROFT: THE CRADLE OF LIFE (PG-13) Angelina Jolie & Gerard Butler: Archaeologist extraordinaire Lara Croft must face her greatest challenge yet after she discovers a sphere that is said to contain the mythical "Pandora's Box" in an underwater temple, only to have it stolen from her by the leader of a crime syndicate and a villain who wants to use it as a doomsday weapon. (130 min)