



Volume 13, Issue 23

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

November 27, 2003

SECNAV Thanks U.S. Military in Bahrain

By JO2 Timothy Walsh

Naval Support Activity, Bahrain
Public Affairs

Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England, arrived in Bahrain Sunday evening for a weeklong-Thanksgiving visit to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

England spent much of his first full day in Bahrain thanking Sailors, Marines Coast Guardsmen and civilian staff and families for their service and addressing their questions at several all hands calls. At each event, England expressed his gratitude and told his audiences that President Bush and the American people are proud of them.

In addition to his thanks, England also stressed the importance of the U.S. military in the region and in Bahrain.

"When you are in it, you don't know history is being made," England he said, "This is where history is being written ... This is where you make a difference."

"Your grandkids are going to ask you about what you did here," England predicted, saying it was no different from how people now look at World War II's Greatest Generation. He also said the changes made in Iraq will fundamentally change the world, and that



Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England, talks with Sailors and Coast Guardsmen of Middle East Force after an awards ceremony on Mina Sulman Pier.
U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Denny Lester

the more democracies in existences hopefully will result in fewer future conflicts.

England noted that no two democracies

have gone to war with each other.

The Navy Secretary predicted the allies

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5th Fleet Mine Hunters Test Unmanned Vehicles in Gulf

By Lt. j.g. Joshua A. Frey

COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT
Public Affairs

Mine countermeasure ships from the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet completed the Chief of Naval Operations-directed, mine warfare exercise MIREM 27 in the Arabian Gulf this week, verifying mine warfare tactics and equipment proficiency.

What made MIREM 27 different this year, was its use of new Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) and a new Expendable Mine Neutralization System (EMNS).

"We traditionally utilize this exercise to try proto-types, such as the UUVs," said

Cmdr. Ian Hall, Commander of Mine Countermeasure Division Three One (MCMDIV 31). "We wanted to test the ability to clear mine fields faster by using ship and UUV sonars at the same time."

During the exercise, mine countermeasure ships USS Cardinal (MHC 60) and USS Raven (MHC 61) matched up new UUV systems against the existing sonars installed aboard mine countermeasure ships in an equipment comparison.

"It is another method for getting sonar back, as opposed to the ship going into an area which may be a potential mine field," said Chief Mineman (SW) Steve Brashier, the command chief aboard Cardinal.

"With remote vehicles, the mine hunting process is much quicker because we can survey two fields at one time," said Brashier. "They offer more flexibility to clear mines."

Brashier and his fellow shipmates from Cardinal and the other mine countermeasure ships from MCMDIV 31 used sonar at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During "brown water ops" into the Khor Abd Allah waterway into Iraq, coalition Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) divers "could not see their hand in front of their face, the water was so murky," said Brashier. Thus the use of sonar, UUVs and even dolphins to identify mines were capabilities that made the

See Mine Hunters - page 2

Mine Hunters - from front page mission a success.

British minesweeping ships used an EMNS during OIF and as a result of its suc-

cess rate, the system was re-tested by the U.S. Navy during MIREM 27. UUVs were also used by Naval Special Clearance Team One (NSCT-1) during OIF, the team that also

employed dolphin marine mammal systems Mark 7 and 8 to assist in mine detection.

Unlike the existing the MNVs, the new EMNS comes with an expendable bomb built into the vehicle to prosecute mines. Rather than building an ordnance package each time to prosecute a mine, EMNS "crashes into the mine, blows it up and you grab another EMNS vehicle and plug it in," Brashier said.

Human EOD divers would normally be tasked to neutralize floating mines. With a system such as the EMNS, a remote unmanned ordnance package can prosecute the floating mine, taking the risk to divers out of the equation. Similar to gun camera footage from a strike fighter jet's bombs hitting their target on CNN, EMNS comes with cameras built into the ordnance package. Sailors operating them aboard their ship can watch their bombs destroy their targets consisting of sea mines.

"I want any piece of technology to find mines without endangering the lives of my Sailors," Hall said. "We want to remove the Sailor from the mine field and use machines to render mines safe for ships to sail out of harm's way." 📷



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Michael Sandberg
The coastal mine hunter USS Raven (MHC 61) travels through the Arabian Gulf participating in Mine Warfare Readiness and Effectiveness Measuring (MIREM) Program 27. The mission of MIREM is to collect and analyze mine warfare data, which will be used to develop a database to weigh decisions on proposed improvements to existing systems or development of new ones.



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.

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U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) Shane Wallenda
Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England, reenlists seven Sailors during an all-hands call at the NSA Bahrain gymnasium. Reenlisting were BUCS(SCW) Criss Baughman, ISC Michelle Vernetti, BM1(SW) Thomas Smith, IT1(SW) Samuel Holmes, IS1(SW/AW) Rasheed Rambaran, IS1(SW/AW) Lakaysha Lewis Jones and EN2 Linda Walker. 📷



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SECNAV - from front page

would succeed in Iraq because more people want freedom and liberty than those who oppose it. However, he warned we are "closer to the beginning than we are to the end of the war on terrorism."

England last visited Bahrain in October 2001, following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. He said a lot has changed at Naval Support Activity (NSA), Bahrain, and, "This will continue to be one of our premier facilities."

"We are investing a lot of money in NSA Bahrain," England said, adding the groundbreaking ceremony he attended was an example of the continuing investment and improvement to the military in Bahrain. He also noted America's appreciation for the support of the leadership and people of Bahrain

The ceremony marked the beginning of construction on a nearly \$26 million Installation Service Support Center (ISSC). The cen-

things are debated in Washington, D.C. and the Pentagon, but only a fraction of those changes are finally approved. Currently, service members in stationed in Bahrain are exempt from federal income taxes.

Prior to addressing the crews of Navy and Coast Guard ships forward deployed to Bahrain, the Secretary of the Navy awarded the commanding officer of *USS Fletcher (DD 992)* with the Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Award, an award given to commanding officers who demonstrate the highest standards of excellence in leadership. Last month, the Chief of Naval Operations presented the award to the Atlantic Fleet recipient. Unfor-



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Tim Walsh

Above: Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England, talks with Sailors and Coast Guardsmen of Middle East Force after an awards ceremony on Mina Sulman Pier.



U.S. Navy photo by PH1 Christopher Mobley

ter will house a ship's store, theater, package store, gymnasium, food court and several other facilities and offices. Public Works officials expect to finish construction in early 2006.

One question seemed to follow the Secretary during the day. At several question-and-answer sessions, Sailors asked about a rumored change of the tax status for service members serving in Bahrain.

"It was the first question I got," noted England at a late afternoon all hands call, and said he was looking in to the issue. He reminded the gathered Sailors that many

fortunately, the Pacific Fleet awardee, Capt. Charles M. Gaouette, could not attend the ceremony at the Pentagon, because he was commanding *Fletcher*, which is currently engaged in fighting the global war on terrorism.

Following the presentation, England addressed the assembled crews. "The Commander in Chief and the American people know how hard you work out here and are very proud of what you do, of what you have accomplished. We cannot thank you enough for your service." ❧

Left: England feeds a dolphin from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 3 with assistance from DC2 Kevin Fogleman the senior mammal handler from Oakland CA. The dolphins are part of the Mark 6 Marine Mammal System which is used for anti swimmer / swimmer detection.

Below: England presents *USS Fletcher (DD 992)* Commanding Officer Capt. Charles Gaouette the Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Award. Gaouette was presented the award for demonstrating the highest standards of excellence and contributing to the improvement of leadership in the Navy.



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Dennis Lester

Germantown Contributes to MIO Effort

By JO2 Andrea Leahy

USS Germantown Public Affairs

Historically, amphibious ships like *USS Germantown (LSD 42)* have been responsible for putting Marines on beaches around the world, demonstrating the capability of the Amphibious Ready Group and Marine Expeditionary Unit. Now, the San Diego, Calif.-based ship is deployed with a first-of-its-kind Expeditionary Strike Group, and it has a new mission – to support Operation Iraqi Freedom by joining coalition vessels in their search for smugglers in the Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility.

Its new mission has allowed *Germantown* to work alongside the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as coalition ships from Australia, Great Britain and Italy, enforcing UN Security Council Resolution 1483, which prohibits smuggling oil and other restricted cargo into or out of Iraq.

Under the resolution, coalition forces provide law enforcement and security functions for the area until an Iraqi maritime security

force can be established. Coalition maritime

forces are supporting UNSCR 1483 in order to help facilitate the normalization of commercial shipping for Iraq, which includes the prevention and prosecution of smugglers, and to help thwart other forms of illegal activity.

The ship's boarding team is made up of Sailors who hold a variety of jobs. There are engineers, gunner's mates, damage controlmen, and other specialists. Lt.j.g. Christopher Garcia leads the 14-member team. "Ninety-nine percent of all boardings we do as coalition forces are compliant, meaning the ship's master agrees to stop, slow down, allow us to board, and give us a full disclosure of who his crew is and what his cargo is," Garcia said. Boarding team members are armed with shotguns and 9 mm pistols. *Germantown* stays within a few hundred yards of vessels the team goes aboard, to provide extra protection to the boarding team as backup.

"If it came to a point where our small boat is coming along side to board a ship, and they start taking off or doing erratic maneuvers, our direction is to fall back," Garcia said. "We're not a combative force. Our weapons are basically for our own protection."



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Alan D. Monyelle
USS Germantown (LSD 42) makes wake in San Diego's harbor as she begins a regularly scheduled deployment. The dock landing ship is part of the first Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG-1).

not actually Navy linguists. The ship is fortunate enough to have bilingual Sailors onboard. Whether they're in English or not, copies of all documents checked are forwarded to coalition authorities along with photographs and written notes from the inspections.

The mission is crucial to the reconstruction process in Iraq. For *Germantown* and other coalition units involved in the enforcement, inspections of

vessels transiting the territorial waters are only part of the job. Vessels detained for smuggling must remain in a holding area pending adjudication by the Iraqi judiciary and the Coalition Provisional Authority. This means that crews must have food, water and access to basic medical care when required. The health and comfort inspection ensures that detained vessels have these necessities. "A lot of stuff is non-traumatic injuries... rashes, colds, minor infections," said Hospital Corpsman

2nd Class Rob Beedles. He has assisted the boarding team on half a dozen health and comfort inspections, and has also worked alongside coalition medics.

The crew's ability to provide emergency medical response in this dynamic environment was most recently tested when *Germantown*, alongside U.S. and coalition warships in the Northern Arabian Gulf, rescued eight Iraqi crewmembers from detained oil smuggler Motor Vessel Al Huda when the vessel sank Oct. 29. *Germantown* treated and housed the Iraqi men following a coordinated rescue by U.S. Coast Guard cutter Adak and Australian warship HMAS Newcastle; *USS Jarrett (FFG 33)* dispatched its SH-60B Seahawk helicopter, and Italian ship *ITS San Giusto* provided communications and first aid in the rescue effort.



"We continue to demonstrate, even to ourselves, that the Expeditionary Strike Group concept provides the potential for new missions, Rear Adm. Bob Conway, Jr., Commander, ESG-1, said.

"*Germantown* demonstrated that it could do more than operate as a delivery vehicle to Marines going ashore. The ship and its crew demonstrated that they could be mobile and agile enough to operate in a coalition environment, and support missions along the spectrum of conflict, from the more direct nature of Maritime Interception Operations to the more humanitarian mission of health and comfort inspections, to providing medical assistance to the crew of Al Huda," Conway said.

Germantown is currently deployed to the Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Navy Secretary Breaks Ground On Installation Service Support Center

Michael Kennedy
NSA Bahrain Public Affairs Officer

During a special visit, Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England led groundbreaking ceremonies Nov. 24 at Naval Support Activity (NSA), Bahrain for the P-911 Installation Service Support Center (ISSC). The target date for the two story, nearly \$26 million facility is Feb. 2006.

Public Works (PWD) Officer in Charge Lt. Cmdr. John Ellwood welcomed the Secretary of the Navy to the new ISSC site, featuring a modest gathering of dignitaries and personnel from various tenant commands.

"This facility has long been needed," Ellwood said, "and we expect to see it completed 28 months from now."

NSA Command Chaplain (Cmdr.) Robert Marshall followed Ellwood with a brief invocation.

According to NSA Bahrain Commanding Officer Capt. Jay Smith, this was a notable day for the Public Works Department.

"This project represents the growth of the base here," Smith said. "The Installation Service Support Center will help elevate the qual-

ity of life for all personnel and families."

England, on a tour of the 5th Fleet region, strongly advocated the benefits of the new project.

"We want the best facilities for our men and women in the service," England said. "Bahrain has a lot to offer, and this project makes this base even more appealing."

Joining the Secretary of the Navy for the groundbreaking were Ellwood, Smith, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/ 5th Fleet Chief of Staff Capt. Bill Gortney, Gulf Regional Engineer Army Corps of Engineers Col. Albert Bleakley, and Contract Project Manager Ayman El-Gayar.

In the planning stages for more than six years, the 188,000 sq ft. building will combine numerous outlets into one force protected facility. These services include the Ship's Store, Post Office, Food Courts, the Oasis Clubs and Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Offices.



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Erica Gardner Gortney, El-Gayar, England, Smith and Bleakley at the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new Installation Service Support Center at NSA Bahrain.

Overall, the new ISSC will take the place of operations in over 20 buildings.

MWR and Supply Issue will operate the P-911 facility, planned for attachment to Bldg 264 (TQ) and ending near Bldg 263 (TQ). However, PWD will maintain the building.

According to PWD Ens. Kent Simodynes, business hours will remain normal for all operations in the ISSC.



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- CTCIM 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, Catholic Chaplain

RP2 Harris
RP3 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

USS Enterprise Aircraft Strike Again in Iraq

USS Enterprise (CVN 65)
Public Affairs

ABOARD USS ENTERPRISE, At Sea – Strike fighter aircraft from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1, flying from the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* (CVN 65) in the North Arabian Gulf, attacked enemy targets near Kirkuk, Iraq, Nov. 23, in support of Operation Ivy Cyclone.

Two Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 312 F/A-18 Hornet strike fighters from Enterprise's embarked Carrier Air Wing 1 each dropped a 1,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) in

the attack, striking an enemy position.

This strike was the carrier's second use of precision-guided munitions in the past five days.

Enterprise deployed with three Hornet squadrons, of which is the "Checkerboards" of



one of the "Checkerboards" of VMFA-312, based at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C. All aircraft involved in the strike returned safely to Enterprise. Enterprise is the Navy's only aircraft carrier currently deployed to the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/ Commander, 5th Fleet area of responsibility fighting the global war on terrorism.



NSA Paradise Theater

THURSDAY	
27	1530 Pocahontas (G)
	1730 American Wedding (R)
	1930 Pirates of the Caribbean (PG 13)
FRIDAY	
28	1530 Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG)
	1730 How to Deal (PG 13)
	1930 Open Range (R)
SATURDAY	
29	1530 Lady and the Tramp (G)
	1730 Uptown Girls (PG 13)
	1930 Bad Boys 2 (R)
SUNDAY	
30	1730 Demolition Man (R)
	1930 Sea biscuit (PG 13)
MONDAY	
1	1730 Liar Liar (PG 13)
	1930 S.W.A.T. (PG 13)
TUESDAY	
2	1730 Demolition Man (R)
	1930 American Wedding (R)
WEDNESDAY	
3	1530 Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG)
	1730 Inner Space (PG 13)
	1930 Pirates of the Caribbean (PG 13)

SPY KIDS 3-D: GAME OVER (PG) Antonio Banderas & Alexa Vega: Carmen's caught in a virtual reality game designed by the Kid's new nemesis, "The Toymaker" and it's up to Juni to save his sister and possibly...the world. (85 min)

S.W.A.T. (PG 13) Samuel L. Jackson & Colin Ferrell: A young special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team member, demoted after his hothead partner accidentally shoots a hostage, gets a second chance when a new "elite" team is put together that can bring some luster back to the force. Their first job is to transport a killer who promises a 100 million dollars to anyone who can bust him out. (116min)

UPTOWN GIRLS (PG 13) Brittany Murphy & Dakota Fanning: The freewheeling daughter of a rock legend is forced to face the realities of life after her accountant runs off with her fortune. After taking a job as a nanny for the daughter of a record company executive just to pay the rent, she finally discovers what it means to be an adult...by teaching a child how to be...a child. (93 min)

AMERICAN WEDDING (R) Jason Biggs & Alyson Hannigan: With East Great Falls High School now just a memory, the kids have grown into adults ready to wreck a new rite of passage...the marriage of Jim and Michelle. With Stiffler in charge of the ultimate bachelor party and everyone else on edge, it will be a miracle if the wedding ever comes off. (102 min)

BAD BOYS 2 (R) Martin Lawrence & Will Smith: This time the BOYZ head up a task force investigating the flow of ecstasy into Miami. Their search leads them to a dangerous drug kingpin with friends in high places whose plan to control the city's drug traffic has touched off a violent and bloody underground war. (146 min)

INNERSPACE (PG) Dennis Quaid & Martin Short: A hell-raising experimental test pilot, volunteers to be miniaturized and injected into the bloodstream of a test rabbit in a secret medical program. As he is about to be injected, a scientist steals the syringe in an attempt to recover a stolen computer chip that was also miniaturized in the experiment. (120 min)

HOW TO DEAL (PG 13) Mandy Moore & Allison Janney: A teenage girl, disillusioned with love after observing the dysfunctional relationships all around her, decides that finding true love is almost impossible...at least until a tragic accident causes her to realize that true love can occur, even under unusual circumstances. (102 min)

PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN (PG 13) Johnny Depp & Geoffrey Rush: After the Governor's daughter is kidnapped by a cursed pirate Captain, one of her childhood friends agrees to team up with another rogue pirate and search the seven seas to rescue her. The pirates have another plan in mind for the girl. They need the necklace she wears and her blood to end a curse that's been placed on them. (143 min)

DEMOLITION MAN (R) Sylvester Stallone & Wesley Snipes: With the death penalty abolished, the punishment for a capital crime is to be frozen in cryogenic sleep. When a psychotic mass-murderer is accidentally revived, he begins to terrorize the peaceful citizens of San Angeles. The only hope is to thaw out someone who can stop him — a nasty cop, unjustly convicted of murder. (115 min)

SEABISCUIT (PG13) Tobey Maguire & Jeff Bridges: A mustang-breaker and a half-blind ex-prizefighter team up with a millionaire and his rough-hewn, undersized horse Seabiscuit to capture the title of "Horse of the Year" despite overwhelming odds. Based on a true story. (141 min)

LIAR, LIAR (PG13) Jim Carrey & Maura Tierney: When the son of a fast-talking attorney blows out the candles on his birthday cake, he has only one wish, to force his father, a habitual liar, to tell the truth for one day. When the boy's wish comes true, his dad's biggest asset, his mouth, becomes his biggest liability. Can he really change? (87 min)