



# Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command



## On the Front Line of Maritime Security

MCAST NEWSLETTER  
January – February 2013

### Upcoming Conferences

[ROA 2012 National Security Symposium](#)

Washington, D.C.

Jan. 28 - Feb. 1, 2013

[USIP - The Missing Peace Symposium 2013](#)

Washington, D.C.

February 14-16, 2013

### MCAST Command Contact

To provide feedback, suggest a resource or topic for future issues,

Or

To submit an article or article idea for consideration please contact [Public Affairs](#).

### MCAST



**Sailors Come to Aid of Neighbors Affected by Hurricane Sandy:** Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training (MCAST) Command deployed its Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC) capability and two Maritime Civil Affairs Teams (MCATs), as part of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Adaptive Force Package (AFP). The NECC AFP deployed Seabees, divers, Coastal Riverine Force and other assets throughout the New York-New Jersey corridor at the request of state and federal agencies to provide immediate response following Hurricane Sandy.

### Maritime Civil Affairs



The [Civil Affairs Association](#) recognizes Lt. Michael Brock, Chief Hull Technician Shane Stephenson (not pictured) and Boatswain's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ripdon Bennett as Civil Affairs Junior Officer of the Year, Civil Affairs Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and Civil Affairs Sailor of the Year for 2012. This marks the first time these prestigious [awards](#) have been awarded to Navy Sailors.

The November 30 edition of ["Duty in Djibouti"](#) features a video segment of MCAST Sailors assigned to the Joint Civil Affairs Team (JCAT) conducting a Basic Sea Survival (BSS) Train-the-trainer course at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti – Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA).

### Security Force Assistance



MCAST's SFA detachment deployed a mobile training team to Gambia to provide the [Boarding Team Operations \(BTO\)](#) course of instruction, Nov. 16-Dec. 1, to members of the Gambian Navy. The training enhances military relationships and increases U.S. partner-nation capability and capacity.

**Africa's New Pirate Problem:** Last year, pirates hijacked nearly 50 ships off the coast of Benin. The tiny African nation is fighting back – with two dilapidated patrol boats and some help from the U.S. Navy. This article, written and published in *Men's Journal*, discusses the problems faced on the West Coast of Africa and the steps being taken toward a solution.

### Returning Home



Courtesy Photo

**Maritime Civil Affairs Team 105 Returns from Seven-Month Deployment:** Maritime Civil Affairs Team (MCAT) 105 returned from Bahrain Dec. 7 after a seven-month deployment that took them to three countries in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility. MCAT 105 facilitated, supported and assessed civil-military operations throughout the deployment. Specifically, the team supported U.S. Naval Forces Central Command's security cooperation efforts between the U.S. and host nations, and the United States Embassy's cultural exchange efforts to promote people-to-people understanding.

### Quick Links:

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### Media Clips:

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### Partnership Spotlight:

[NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre](#)

[\(NMIOTC\) – Greece](#)

NMIOTC's mission is: "To conduct the combined training necessary for NATO forces to better execute surface, sub-surface, aerial surveillance, and special operations activities in support of Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO)"

"Start wherever you are and start small."

Rita Bailey