

# THE GREAT Communicator

USS RONALD REAGAN'S INFORMATION PORTAL

August 16, 2008

Surfing  
In The  
Sand



# Leadership



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“ Information is the oxygen of the modern age. It seeps through the walls topped by barbed wire, it wafts across the electrified borders. ”

**-Ronald Reagan**

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Facebook is back! How about that for an opening line? I wouldn't normally be so worried about one web site, but in this case, Facebook is one of the best ways for me to see everything I'm missing out on back home, and of course to show all the different places I'm fortunate enough to see, so you can't blame me for being a little excited.

And since we're all friends on our floating city, why not be friends with the city itself? Keep yourself up to date on the latest happenings by becoming friends with USS Ronald Reagan on Facebook.

Of course, we must be mindful of what we say on a public web site, but if we all practice good OPSEC, it shouldn't be a problem.

It will be interesting to see what access to Facebook does for the Navy. Aside from the connectivity it provides, it also provides a new level of accessibility into our personal lives and thoughts. Now more than ever the Navy will have insight into what their deployed Sailors are thinking and saying publicly. Yes, the Navy has definitely opened Pandora's box on this one, which should prove interesting in the future.

But in the meantime, hopefully everyone is already sharing their photos

and memories with our loved ones on the beach.

I hope everyone had as good a time in Dubai as I did! Shoot, I'm still finding sand in odd places, so I must have had a good time.

My big, personal draw was outside of Dubai's enclosed spaces. I went on the Sandboarding Tour, provided by MWR, with a few friends and had an excellent



time surfing the dunes as well as taking a cool swim in the mountain oasis.

I had such a good time exploring what Dubai had to offer, I decided to check in with a few other Sailors and see how their tours went. Read all about it on page six.

This issue is chock-full of Dubai goodness, from the adventures our Sailors had on COMRELS to the big hurt Ronald Reagan athletes put on the competition. Hopefully every one has some lasting memories! It's going to be a while before we see the beach again. Until we meet again, my friends.

## Contributors

### MC2 Rosalie Garcia

Garcia is a native Texan from San Antonio, Texas. She originally joined as a lithographer's mate, but can now be found roaming the ship as a videographer. Before joining Ronald Reagan Graphics Media Department, she was stationed at Misawa Air Base, Japan where she hosted her own radio show.

### MC2 Jim Verton

Verton is from Rochester, New York. At his last command, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan, he used his illustrative, photographic and writing ability to be a positive link between the U.S. Navy and the country of Japan. Verton is a life-long fan of the Buffalo Bills football team.

### MC3 (AW) Chelsea Kennedy

Kennedy grew up in Las Vegas where she found a passion for photography at a young age. She originally joined the Navy as a photographer's mate. She is aboard Ronald Reagan as part of a sea-op detachment from the Navy Public Affairs Support Element, West.

### MCSN Lex Wenberg

Wenberg studies philosophy, film, and electronic entertainment. (He likes to argue about ideas, watch movies, and play video games.) His heroes are Charles Bukowski, Robert Anton Wilson, and Hunter S. Thompson. Dislikes: bigotry, greed, judgementalism.

## Street Beat: What was your favorite part of Dubai?



YN3 Greg Kelly  
"I enjoyed sight-seeing and shopping."



Lt. Cmdr. Trisha Smith  
"I enjoyed the Mall of Dubai. It has lots stores I like to shop at back home."



A01 Toby Snowden  
"Playing hockey with the team. They're amazing!"



HM3 Andrew Confer  
"Relaxation and getting off the ship."



# Pitching in to Promote Goodwill

*Community Relations projects are good for the country, good for the Sailor.*

Story & Photo By  
MCSN Lex Wenberg

Sailors, since the early days of the U.S. Navy, have known port calls to be times for relaxation after long periods at sea. Little did they know that, even back then, they were shaping the ways host nations perceived not only Sailors, but also the United States as a whole.

Port calls are now referred to as 'duty ashore' aboard Ronald Reagan because of the diplomatic impact Sailors have on the host nation.

"In every location, it is a Sailor's mission to remember that he or she wears the cloth of our nation," said Cmdr.

John Denton, command chaplain. "We are not only representatives of the command, but also ambassadors of our government by virtue of being members of the armed forces."

The Command Religious Ministries Department has extra ways for Sailors to show how America can share goodwill with other countries.

Community Relations projects (COMRELS) are organized work efforts to clean up, paint and assist those in need.

COMRELS do plenty to strengthen the connection between Sailors and the

host nation by showing that the Navy is also concerned with the welfare of the host country and its people.

"We want to provide a positive representation of American goodwill," said Chief Religious Programs Specialist (SW/AW) Marcus Taylor. "The U.S. military does this by participating in programs that help the community in foreign ports."

While in Dubai, performing their duty ashore, Sailors participated in two COMRELS, helping organize donations for the Helping Hands organization and Ronald Reagan's chief petty officer selectees and

other volunteers did some much needed painting at the Dubai Autism Center.

"The chief selectee's mission at the Dubai Autism center was to paint and chip, pack boxes and perform general cleaning," said Taylor. "The students were on summer break, so they were able to get the job done."

"Everyone who did a COMREL also benefited from the real-world experience we got," said Taylor. "There's a deeper understanding of the culture that comes from working with our host country, especially since we help the disadvantaged in

# Reagan Sailors Putting the Hurt On

*Sporting events and tourneys show our Sailors came to play in Dubai.*

Story By  
MC3 Kyle Carlstrom

Photo By  
MC2 Rose Garcia

The soaring temperatures of Dubai weren't enough to keep Ronald Reagan's athletes from performing at the top of their game, err... games. Here's a recap of the sports in Dubai.

**BASKETBALL:**

RR 76ers 70  
UAE's Emirates Air 67

Following a devastating loss in Singapore, the Ronald Reagan 76ers returned to glory in their hard-fought match against the UAE's Emirates Air.

Going into halftime the 76ers led by seven but Emirates Air refused to give up and continued to push until the end coming up just short.

"The game was a fight from start to finish," said Interior Communication's Specialist 3rd

Class Rickie Darden who led all scorers with 29 points and 10 rebounds. "They would not stop, they wanted to beat us."

The game, like most port visits, is a great way for the Navy to strengthen bonds with its host nation.

"It's a great way to show camaraderie," said Emirates Air guard Francis Machika. "Me and you are friends and stuff like that; I think we should do this a lot. It's definitely a great thing."

The 76ers are now looking forward to playing whoever they can in the upcoming port visits.

"I can't wait until we go to [our next ports]," said Operations Specialist (AW/SW) 2nd Class Dion Johnson. "And play all the teams all around the world."

**HOCKEY:**

1ST GAME: UAE All-Stars 12  
USS Ronald Reagan 0

2ND GAME: Dubai Mighty  
Camels 9

USS Ronald Reagan 17

The arena fills with the sound of blades cutting across the ice and wood cracking as it connects with a hockey puck. Yes, that's right: hockey in Dubai. It's hard to imagine with such high temperatures that the idea of hockey would even be conceived.

"Hockey is known as a winter sport so having an opportunity to play in a desert during the summer months was easily a once in a lifetime experience," said Damage Controlman 3rd Class (SW) Brett Malen. "But to top that off with representing our battle group, Navy and

country is simply the pinnacle of this underway."

Despite being shutout in the first game, the Ronald Reagan team found their legs in game two and came out ready. As many as 300 spectators came out to watch.

"I know that we made a huge impact with the local community," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) Toby Snowden. "We had little kids talking to us on the bench and people cheering for both sides. The teams we played cannot say enough great things about the team, and how well behaved the crew was. They invited the team back to play them again next time we are in Dubai."

The Ronald Reagan hockey team is now trying to set up a

DUBAI SPORTS cont. on Pg. 12





*From Gold Anchors to Gold Bars:*

# Half the Fun is Getting There

Story By  
MC2 Rosalie Garcia

Photo By  
MCSN Oliver Cole

Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) (AW/SW) Saul Mendo enjoyed the simple things in life while living in Mexico. His family lived near one of the biggest naval ports in the city. Each day when they picked up his father from work, the family would go by the pier to see all the ships. This compelled the young Mendo to join the Navy and some day become an officer.

According to the Navy, leadership is a quality every officer should have, and many Sailors all over the ship look up to Mendo as a leader. It's no doubt why: some Sailors who work directly for him say he has a very different technique in keeping them going on the

right path.

"Chief has a very unique style of leadership [that] no one I've worked for has had," explained Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class (AW/SW) Joe Flores. "He has a way of motivating us and he gets very involved when it comes to his people and a lot of leaders are not that way."

When it comes to helping his Sailors, Mendo advises them to stay focused on what they want.

"Have a plan, do your job and everything else will come," said Mendo. "There are times it's hard and, you ask, 'why am I doing this,' but if it wasn't for those days, then we wouldn't be able to enjoy the good days."

there were plenty of rough days for Mendo, who came from humble beginnings. At the age of 14, his family moved from Mexico to Los Angeles as illegal immigrants.

"Once I was here, I kind of got off on the wrong track, hanging out with the wrong crowd and doing the wrong things," said Mendo. "I was in a gang and did all this crazy stuff."

When he went to high school, he had long hair and wore Dickies. One of his teachers, a retired lieutenant commander who served during the Vietnam conflict, told him he didn't want him in his class with his appearance and allowed him one week to clean

up his act. In response, Mendo cut his hair short and changed his clothing style. This action impressed his instructor, who took interest in Mendo taking him under his wing.

He then saw the opportunity to join the Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC). He was able to participate in events with the U.S. Navy such as a mini-boot camp.

"I always wanted to go to the Naval Academy and be a naval officer because I always thought that was the coolest thing," explained Mendo. "In fact, I wanted to be a pilot but since I wasn't a U.S. citizen, I couldn't do it."

Briefly putting his dream on hold, Mendo went to

GOLD BARS cont. on Pg. 12



# Riding Sand and Water

Story By  
MCSN Alex Tidd

Photos By  
TGC Staff

Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Alex Caston closed his eyes and took a deep breath. He knew it would be over in less than 10 seconds, but still, his pulse was racing and he couldn't help but wonder if this was such a good idea. A 75-foot, near-vertical drop is a daunting task for any person, he reasoned with himself. But at that moment, a strong gust of wind from behind was all the motivation he needed.

"Sometimes you just have to throw life to the wind," said Caston after making his "Leap of Faith."

Caston was one of many Sailors on one of the many different tours provided by the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division during our port call to the United Arab Emirates.

Caston and so many other brave souls took to the epic slides and rides at Aquaventure, the water park on Jumeirah Palm Island's signature resort, Atlantis. "Leap of Faith," Aquaventure's halo slide built directly into the side of their six-story Greek palace, gave all thrill seekers a much needed jolt of excitement.

"Aquaventure was awesome!" said Hull Technician Fireman Laura Vasher. "I didn't get a chance to take the 'Leap of Faith' but I did really enjoy 'The Surge,' the enclosed slide also at the top of the mountain."

Aquaventure also features a lazy river that didn't wind up being so lazy.

"Oh, I liked the lazy river just fine," said Caston. "It was very relaxing to just float along, but once I hit the rapids, that's when things got exciting. That water was really moving!"

"I also enjoyed the section of the river called 'Torrent,' which had large waves to surf with the

innertubes," said Vasher. 'Torrent' features a 500-gallon dump of water into the river every 15 seconds to create long-lasting and realistic waves, according to Aquaventure.

MWR said the Aquaventure tour was easily the most popular of the tours, with over 1,000 Sailors choosing to purchase tickets for an escape from the desert heat. But many Sailors also decided to



brave the challenging conditions and explore a little more of the country on tours such as the Sunset Safari or the Sandboarding Tour.

"The Sunset Safari tour was excellent," said Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Apprentice Elizabeth Boatman. "Off-roading in the sand dunes was such a thrill! The drivers really knew what they were doing, and before I knew it, we were sliding around in the sand. It was so much fun!"

"I also got to ride a camel," added Boatman. "The smell was kind of rough but it was definitely a worthwhile experience."

The Sunset Safari also gave

Sailors a chance to enjoy local foods and a belly-dancing performance.

"The Arabian buffet was really good," said Boatman. "And I had never seen a belly-dancer in person before. She was entrancing."

For Machinist's Mate Fireman Shannon Oldeschulte, the pinnacle of her Sandboarding Tour was the relaxation afterward.

"Sandboarding was definitely cool, but the best part of my tour was hitting the mountain oasis afterward," said Oldeschulte. "Watching the cliff-divers do flips and gainers off the rocks was pretty awesome, and the water was definitely refreshing."

But none of the action would have been possible without the many dedicated hours and efforts from Fun Boss, Kendra Smith.

"It was a very successful port for tours," said Smith. "There were multiple activities every day, with 12 tours and two large athletic events each day."

The turn-out and response for the hockey games were particularly impressive. The All-Reagan Hockey Team lost the first game to the team United Arab Emirates nationals, but came roaring back in the second game for an exciting victory.

"The hockey games were huge," added Smith. "The stands were packed. They'll be talking about these games for a long time around here."

All in all, the Dubai tours and activities were an outstanding success, with Sailors taking to the streets and sands of the United Arab Emirates by the thousands in search of fun and entertainment. With the help of Fun Boss, MWR and personal initiative, those Sailors found just what they were looking for.

# Being the Best Man for your Children

*New fatherhood class helps Reagan's first-time dads learn the ropes.*

Story By  
MC2 Jim Verton

Becoming a father is perhaps the most important event in a man's life. It is his chance to take what he has learned in life and bestow his knowledge and wisdom so it can be carried on into a new generation of mankind. Because it is a role of great responsibility, the Ronald Reagan Homecoming Committee offers an informative class to Sailors who are or will soon become a new father. This class is designed to prepare them for the trials and wonders of fatherhood.

The course is designed to help men adapt to the dramatic changes their lives will undergo by analyzing the different aspects and qualities

of a good male role model, said Chief Religious Programs Specialist (SW/AW) Marcus Taylor. "The role of men and women as mothers and fathers has changed dramatically since I was a kid," said Taylor. There is a wider spectrum of parental cooperation now than what there was 20 years ago, he said. "Sometimes it is the father who stays home with the kids, cooking for the family and changing diapers."

Because of the nature of military life, being home is not possible in most circumstances. Therefore, the course is tailored to fit the needs of new fathers who spend a great amount of time deployed and away from

their families, helping them to create a healthy perspective.

Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Fuel (AW/SW) Gary Ravens said that after being away from loved ones for such long periods of time, it is very important to have a positive reunion. "After so many deployments, the last thing I want is when I am making up for lost time with my son, he thinks I don't want to laugh anymore," he said.

The course covers a wide variety of topics related to fatherhood, such as what having masculinity means, handling and expressing emotions, physical and mental health, how fatherhood relates to culture,

and balancing work and family. In one exercise, Sailors were asked to identify and analyze things about their father's parenting characteristics that could have been better, which may have improved their childhood experiences. "When we analyze the answer we discover a deeper meaning in the challenges that our fathers had, turning them into lessons we can use to better ourselves as men," Taylor said.

Taylor recalled an inspiring quote about the responsibility of fatherhood from a recent speech by President Barack Obama. "In many ways, I came to understand the importance of fatherhood through its absence,

FATHERHOOD cont. on Pg. 12

## Reel Time

*Plot is An Unfamiliar Concept:*

# Little Below Surface of "Fighting"

Story By  
MC3 (AW) Chelsea Kennedy

Set on the streets of New York, "Fighting" is a movie about a typical young kid running through the city getting things done by shady means. Channing Tatum ("Step Up", "Step Up 2: The Streets", "Stop-Loss") is Shawn, a young, reserved Southern boy trying to make a buck selling fake Harry Potter books and knock off iPods when he gets in a scuffle with someone on the street. Terrence Howard ("Hustle and Flow", "Awake"), plays Harvey, a ticket scalper who is trying to rip Shawn off, who notices his uncanny ability to bare-knuckle fight and approaches him about underground fighting with the promise of a quick buck.

For Shawn, who has been living out of dark dingy hotel rooms and occasionally sleeping on park benches, it seems there is no need to think twice.

The character development is quite slow and I didn't really find out the motives behind most of the characters' actions until well into the movie, but it works; it

drew me in with the little details as the movie develops.

Shawn's love interest, a cocktail waitress played by Zulay Henao, adds to the chick factor, making the movie more palatable for both sexes.

Zulay's skeptical, English-challenged grandmother steals every scene she's in, while never seeming like anything but a real person.

Harvey has a random crew of miscreants who make some of the scenes a little lighter. However, it seems like they are just kind of there, with no explanation of who they are or how they know Harvey.

If you're looking for a profound drama filled with action and suspense, this movie isn't for you. There isn't a deep plot to this movie. Much of what is going on lies just beneath the surface, waiting to come to light and never really does.

This movie is a drama first and an action film second. The fight scenes are good and keep the tension with some

exciting twists during the fight scenes but doesn't show much of the fighting, using quick cuts and shaky close ups.

During the fight scenes Shawn seems to be made of steel because he gets up again and again after multiple punches to the head. For a film called "Fighting" I would have expected better fight scenes. Instead all we get is mediocre fights all while the plot leaves us wanting more.

This movie is rated PG-13 which I think is much of the problem with this movie. There needs to be more, the movie just isn't raw enough to be a fight movie. I think they were trying to reach a larger audience by cutting sex scenes and keeping the dialogue clean. But it just made the whole movie seem a little weak.

Overall the movie was worth the watch and might make a good date movie because it has enough fighting for most guys to be entertained and there is enough of a love story (and eye candy) to keep the girls interested.



# THE FLEET

## MCPON Urges Sailors to Look out for Shipmates

By MCCS Bill Houlihan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – During a conversation with Sailors Aug. 5, the master chief petty officer of the Navy (MCPON) said that stress on the Navy family and operational stress control while deployed will be two significant points of emphasis for him for the rest of the summer.

“We have to look out for each other. I need everyone to be on the lookout for the signs of stress because too often our Sailors aren’t going to seek help on their own,” said MCPON (SS/SW) Rick D. West, when he spoke with Sailors assigned to the White House Communications

Agency on board Anacostia Naval Station.

“No one should feel they’re in this by themselves.”

West has been addressing stress control most of the summer. He says it’s the Sailors who have concerns but don’t share them with leaders and shipmates who worry him as much as those crew members who are referred for counseling or treatment.

“As much as we know about it and as many tragedies we’ve had to endure, I’m betting there are still thousands of people across our Navy who need help but aren’t asking for it.”



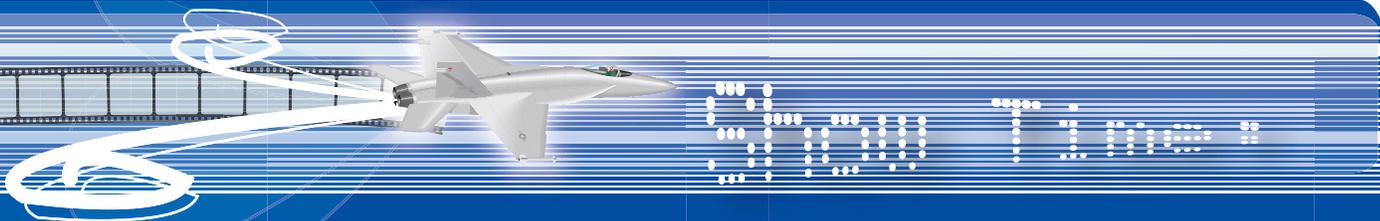
West said it is his intent to discuss the problem with every group of Sailors he speaks with and focus on breaking down the myth that admitting to a problem is a sign of weakness or can hurt a Sailor’s career.

“That’s the biggest problem as I see it. Too many of us feel that depression or suicidal ideation is a stigma, a character flaw that we’re ashamed to admit. Well, none of us have good days every day.”

West will be filming a video on operational stress control which should hit the fleet by the end of the summer. He said he would like to use that

opportunity to discuss with Sailors of all ranks different approaches to recognizing and dealing with stress.

“From seaman to admiral, we have a shared responsibility to stay ahead of the curve. What does that mean? We train hard, stay fit and healthy, look out for each other. When you notice signs of stress in yourself or others - cutting corners, irritability, trouble sleeping - talk to a shipmate, friend, family member or someone else you trust. If you see the signs of more serious stress, get help immediately from your chain of command, chaplain or medical provider.”



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## CH 2

0830-1250: Lord of War  
1920-2250: Aeon Flux

1250-1600: Crank  
2250-0730: Torpedo Run

1600-1920: Shoot 'Em Up

## CH 3

0830-1250: Hannibal Rising  
1920-2250: Final Destination

1250-1600: Cloverfield  
2250-0730: Jaws

1600-1920: Jumper

## CH 4

0830-1250: All the Kings Men  
1920-2250: Silent Hill

1250-1600: Supercross  
2250-0730: There Will Be Blood

1600-1920: Vantage Point

## CH 5

0830-1250: Slumdog Millionaire  
1920-2250: The Brothers Solomon

1250-1600: Date Move  
2250-0730: Groundhog Day

1600-1920: The Waterboy

# 17 August 2009

## CH 2

0830-1300: Mission Impossible II  
1710-2140: Indiana Jones

1300-1710: I Am Legend  
2140-0730: Destination Tokyo

## CH 3

0830-1300: Alien  
1710-2140: Knowing

1300-1710: Freedomland  
2140-0730: A History of Violence

## CH 4

0830-1300: Elizabethtown  
1710-2140: The Caine Mutiny

1300-1710: August Rush  
2140-0730: The Great Debaters

## CH 5

0830-1300: Slap Shot  
1710-2140: Hellboy 2: The Golden Army

1300-1710: You Don't Mess with the Zohan  
2140-0730: Hannah Montana: The Movie

# 18 August 2009

## CH 2

0830-1300: The Legend of Zorro  
2000-2220: The Prestige

1300-1630: Analyze This  
2220-0730: Hollywood

1630-2000: Appaloosa

## CH 3

0830-1300: Flightplan  
2000-2220: The Mist

1300-1630: Wickerman  
2220-0730: Flyboys

1630-2000: The Hills Have Eyes

## CH 4

0830-1300: The Kite Runner  
2000-2220: Seven Pounds

1300-1630: No Reservations  
2220-0730: State of Play

1630-2000: Prime

## CH 5

0830-1300: The Man  
2000-2220: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

1300-1630: Mars Attacks!  
2220-0730: Hairspray

1630-2000: Footloose

# Sudoku

		1	2	6		4		
2					3		5	
9	8		7				1	
		6	9					3
8				7				2
3					4	1		
	9				2		7	4
	4		6					1
		8		9	7	6		

## SEADOGS

SO, EH, HARD TO FIND GOOD WORK WITH ONLY ONE HAND, AY, BUDDY?

ACTUALLY, THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING PRETTY GOOD... SORRY.



## PREVIOUS ANSWERS

9	8	2	3	1	5	7	6	4
4	6	3	8	7	2	9	5	1
7	1	5	4	6	9	3	2	8
3	9	1	5	2	8	4	7	6
2	4	7	1	3	6	8	9	5
8	5	6	7	9	4	1	3	2
5	7	8	6	4	3	2	1	9
1	2	4	9	5	7	6	8	3
6	3	9	2	8	1	5	4	7

## Girl Power!

ABE3 Tiara Moore and her shipmates prepare themselves for flight operations on the ship's flight deck. Moore and several of her female shipmates manned catapult three and four in Ronald Reagan's first all-female catapult team.



## COMREL

Continued from pg. 3

each port we visit. That includes people with physical, age or socio-economical disadvantages."

Sailors also felt glad to bridge cultural gaps between the U.S. and Dubai by working with local people, and helping them to help their own underprivileged.

"Not only was I actually helping real people," said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class (AW/SW) Daisy Estevez, "I was also helping build our good name over there."

As a diplomatic mission, COMRELS are essential to winning the hearts and minds of the people in our allied countries.

"Without question," said Denton. "COMREL projects foster goodwill between the U.S. and our host nation, and are a very healthy, wholesome outlet for Sailors who wish to volunteer and touch the lives of others."

Estevez was part of a team that assisted the Helping Hands Organization in getting clothes to battered women.

"The Helping Hands COMREL, in partnership with USS Chancellorsville, provided a valuable service by sorting and packing donated items," said Taylor. "They got a lot done in two short days."

"As a member of the Aviation Ordnanceman Association," said Estevez, "I've pledged to do one COMREL per port. I'm helping people, promoting my organization and it's only taking a couple hours of my time."

Each port offers different COMRELS Sailors can participate in.

"COMRELS can include such things as painting a hospital," said Denton. "Others include laying the foundation of a school, helping the elderly, visiting an orphanage, doing yard work (cutting grass, sprucing up a garden) at a special education school, visiting children in a hospital, cleaning rooms for those who are intellectually challenged and cleaning up a beach front."

At Ronald Reagan's next port, Sailors will again be able to pick from a variety of ways to enrich their lives, help others who need it, and strengthen the bonds between the U.S. and our allies.

## SPORTS

Continued from pg. 4

game for our next port, but is more than anxious for their game versus the Army team in Hawaii.

### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT: CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

V-1 Flight Deck Warlords 17  
VFA-115 Eagles 14

With heat and tough competition, an 11 team softball tournament took place on the first day. In the end the VFA-115 Eagles took on the V-1 Flight Deck Warlords for the championship game.

It has been said that "the winning team doesn't know the score," but the Warlords say it wasn't about the score.

"The whole team forgets," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) (AW/SW) 1st Class Joe Flores. "Score doesn't matter when we're having fun but I think the final score was 17-14."

Having the chance to play was a great way to break away from the normal routine while being underway.

"It relieves the stresses of everyday work on the flight deck and we love competition," said Flores. "We, as a team, were there to have fun, we were just happy to get one win, then we got on a roll and contributed together as a team. I would like to thank all the team members for all their efforts."

Whether they won or lost, all of Ronald Reagan's teams enjoyed their time in Dubai and were glad to help strengthen the bond between the city of Dubai and the Navy.

## GOLD BARS

Continued from pg. 5

college for two-and-a-half years. This gave him time to gain residency and in February 1993, become a legal resident of the United States. That same month, he joined the Navy, but it wasn't until January 1994 that he went to boot camp. Since he was still not a U.S. citizen, he was limited to what he could do. However, one of the jobs he was offered was as an aviation boatswain's mate (handling). His first assignment was aboard USS Tarawa (LHA 1) for five years.

As an airman, he knew an "old, crusty air boatswain's mate" who had been in the Navy over 20 years, was also Mexican and from Texas. Mendo saw his aviation warfare device and asked how he himself could wear the wings.

Since it was not a requirement, the Air Bos'n wrote a chit for Mendo and had it routed.

"He was like, 'you remind me a lot of me when I first joined the Navy' and asked what I wanted to do in the Navy," said Mendo. "I told him I wanted to be an air bos'n someday."

The Air Bos'n took him under his wing until he retired, and then a divisional chief took over. With one year in the Navy, Mendo made third class petty officer, then made second class in his second year. After his first sea tour was over, it was either time to get out or move on to his next command.

Mendo reenlisted with orders to Spain where he picked up first class and that is when the little bug of making chief started to get to him. He put in a package for the Officer Candidate School and then

the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program; however he did not get selected for either one.

"My initial goal was to be an officer, but I put it to the side because I wanted to make chief," said Mendo. "In my eleventh-and-a-half year, aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68), I picked up chief."

He applied for the LDO program two more times, and on the third try, he finally got picked up.

Mendo was actually going to work out when Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Mark Rudes called him over and said, "Congratulations, sir, you got picked up for LDO."

When he didn't believe him, Rudes went down to his office, got the list and showed it to Mendo.

"I felt like the whole world came down on me so I went to a little corner and a couple tears came down," explained Mendo. "It has a lot of meaning to me because for one, I promised my dad that I would be an officer."

The second reason was that it showed he was able to accomplish anything he was lacking during his initial interviews.

"Even to this day I still haven't taken it in," said Mendo. "I think the day it's really going to hit me is the day of my commissioning."

Mendo will be commissioned February 1, 2010 aboard Ronald Reagan and will report to LDO school February 22, 2010.

Mendo said, "If you stay with your goals and continue on with it, you can get whatever it is you want to do." That is exactly how he started with the goal of becoming an officer.

"I had that goal from back then, but it's going to be one of those bittersweet things for me because I love being a chief too," said Mendo. "It's going to be kind of hard to let go."

## FATHERHOOD

Continued from pg. 8

both in my life and in the lives of others," said Obama. "I came to understand that the hole a man leaves when he abandons his responsibility to his children is one that no government can fill. We can do everything possible to provide good jobs and good schools and safe streets for our kids, but it will never be enough to fully make up the difference.

"That is why we need fathers to step up, to realize that their job does not end at conception; that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child but the courage to raise one."

The New Dads course is offered every maintenance day at 1400 in the ship's theater. More information can be found on the Command Religious Ministries Department (CRMD) intranet page or at [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org).

# SOD

## SAILOR OF THE DAY



August 13, 2009

Name: A03 Violeta Garcia  
Dept/Div: WEPS/G2  
Job Title: Admin Asst./TPO  
Where are you from?  
*San Diego*  
Why did you join the Navy?  
*To go to school and to travel.*  
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?  
*I was surprised.*  
Who do you hold responsible for your success?  
*My mother.*  
Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?  
*My favorite place was Australia.*  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?  
*Stay positive and focused.*

August 14, 2009  
Name: AG3 Jonathan Cole  
Dept/Div: OPS/OA  
Job Title: METOC Technician  
Where are you from?  
*San Diego*  
Why did you join the Navy?  
*To get an education.*  
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?  
*I felt excited.*  
Who do you hold responsible for your success?  
*Chief Select Constantine.*  
Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?  
*My favorite port was Sasebo, Japan.*  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?  
*Take the road less traveled.*



August 15, 2009

Name: SK3 Irish Tapat  
Dept/Div: VAW 113  
Job Title: Maintenance Man  
Why did you join the Navy?  
*For educational opportunity.*  
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?  
*I was excited.*  
Who do you hold responsible for your success?  
*My SK1. They trained me good.*  
Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?  
*My favorite place was Korea.*  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?  
*Always do the right thing.*

**Tactical  
Performance**

**LEADERSHIP**

Mission Accomplishment

**MILITARY  
BEARING**

Command or Organizational  
Climate/Equal Opportunity

**TEAMWORK**

Professional  
Expertise

**Do you  
have all  
the pieces  
to your EVAL?**