

# The Mighty Eight

USS DUBUQUE: OUR COUNTRY, OUR HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE

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## Servicemembers Help Australian Homeless



Photo by MC1 David McKee

Sailors and Marines from USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8), USS PELELIU (LHA 5) and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit cleaned up a homeless shelter for men recovering from addiction June 30 in Darwin, Australia.

The three-building complex for A New Start Toward Independence (ANSTI) was overrun by roof-high grass and had become an eyesore and a fire hazard.

“I was really shocked when I came back last year. I’m not sure how I would have gotten this done,” said Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Counselor, Leisa Bagley.

Thirty-six men and women spent 108 man hours cutting down grass and doing other general landscaping around the buildings.

“Now the residents can take over and have a little pride in the place they will call home,” said Gilla Griffiths, another AOD counselor.

In the near future, six men will arrive at the center to attend a thirteen-week program to learn trades such as automotive repair, horticulture or culinary arts.

Without this facility and the three counselors who operate it, the many men who complete rehabilitation could fall back into the life they lived before without training to provide them with the possibility of a productive future.

“The intent was to make the place habitable for men who need rehabilitation, and these Sailors and Marines worked together to give them a good place to live and a safe environment,” said LT Demetrick Felton, a chaplain on-board PELELIU.

The benefits of community service extend beyond those who are helped. The participants spend precious liberty time away from the ship working, but

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### PAO Notes:



LCPL Jonathan Hoff with Combat Cargo took this photo of the UH-1N Helicopter.

The 22-year-old native of Arvada, CO. takes pictures to show people a different way of looking at the world. His background includes photographing the nightlife, and now he specializes in military photography.

His gear includes a Nikon D5000 camera and a Macintosh laptop. The software he uses includes Adobe Image Ready, Aperture and iPhoto.

I encourage anyone who enjoys photography, writing or drawing to submit their work to the newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

## Chain of Command



CAPT Christopher Bolt



CDR Christopher Nodine



CMDCM (SW/SCW/AW)  
Reinaldo Rosado

## Command Corner:

### *Ombudsman, Maria Stone*

Since DUBUQUE departed, my Co-Ombudsman, Connie Boley, and I have had the opportunity to make many new friends and make contact with new members of the Dubuque Family. From flat tires to losses of a loved ones, we get a variety of calls. All the ones in-between these extremes teach us how to get along without our service member.

When that ship pulled away a couple months ago, many spouses, new and experienced felt a loss and completely alone on that pier, but this could not be further from the truth. Although it is a natural feeling we are all entitled to feel, we are lucky to be "at home" where we can find our way, go on with our routines, and be free to do what we wish. Connie and I pride ourselves in putting local families in touch with area resources like getting them involved in the Family Readiness Group (FRG) events, spouses and family members have found an easy-going and laid back outlet to mingle with others that are dealing with the same feelings and trying to remain the strong support for our Sailors and Marines that have a great job to do and of whom we are so proud of. For those that choose not to get involved with the social group, or cannot due to not being here in San Diego, we, as ombudsmen, take on that job of doing it via e-mail and telephone. Regardless, the impact is the friendships that we help create and build that ultimately are priceless.

Being a military spouse is not an easy job. It is definitely not easy for our military kids either! It is also noteworthy that it is nerve-wracking and hard for parents of service members, too. There are endless worries and concerns but what joins us all in our seemingly endless wait to see that ship appear on the horizon once again, is the fact that we serve our country and our Sailors and Marines through love by being the ones in the silent ranks back here at home. Good job and God-speed, USS Dubuque! We will be right here waiting for you.

## Darwin, Australia:



**Charles Robert Darwin**  
(12 February 1809 – 19 April 1882) was an English naturalist who established that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestors, and proposed the scientific theory that this branching pattern of evolution resulted from a process that he called natural selection. *From Wikipedia*

According to The Natural History Museum Cromwell Road London, Darwin, Australia was named after the Naturalist by two friends he sailed with.

## MWR Notes

### RECENT ACTIVITIES:

**Wog Talent Show:** Thanks to all those who performed for the Trusty Shellbacks!

**Crossfit 8:15 Games – Chipper Challenge:** Thanks to all of our participants and especially to DC2 Hill for organizing the event! Look for more Crossfit Games after the Marines return in late August!

**Cinema at Sea:** Special thanks to H&S for helping out with the popcorn available during last Sunday's post-Wog Day Cinema at Sea!

### COMING ACTIVITIES:

**Dodgeball Tournament**  
(NEXT WEEK!)

**Letters from Home**

**Tailgate Games**

**Knockout Tournament**

**CrossFit 8:15 "Death By Cards"**

**DUBUQUE Idol** (Tentatively Scheduled for SUN, 29 AUG)

COMSERV Cont.

for Sailors like MM2 (SW) Antonio Davis, it was a chance to spend time with the people of Australia and do some good work and serve as an am-

*“I was really shocked when I came back last year. I’m not sure how I would have gotten this done,” said Leisa Bagley.*

bassador for his country and the U.S. Navy.

“I encourage anyone to participate in community service projects and spend time with locals. It is a chance to do something too and show others that we are men with good character,” said Davis.



Photo by MCI David McKee

SSGT Matthew Wendt puts the finishing touch on the yard of Edythe Lodge, one of three buildings Sailors and Marines from the Peleliu ARS landscaped June 30.

## FOCUS: Anti Terrorism and Force Protection



Photo by MCI David McKee

**N**on-Lethal Weapons Instructor, SH1(SW) Erick Underwood sprays a Sailor of the Ship’s Reaction Force-Basic (SRF-B) course June 28 on the Flight Deck of the USS Dubuque (LPD 8) with Olerium Capsicum (OC) spray. OC spray is used by law enforcement and security personnel as a non-lethal means to control security threats. All personnel who carry the weapon must experience the effects of OC contamination so they know the effects and symptoms of OC spray if attacked with the agent.

All ship’s personnel who have not received SRF Basic when they check in to the ship must take the course during indoctrination. This basic skill set is necessary to protect the ship from threats, intruders or other perpetrators onboard the ship. The techniques include basic personal self defense, tactical team movement, weapons qualifications and the deadly force continuum (rules of engagement).

## 4th of July on Dubuque

Photos by MCI David McKee



The steel-beach picnic, DUBUQUE Idol and Cinema at Sea offered Sailors and embarked Marines the chance to relax on the day of our Nation’s independence. Though they are not home, the steaks, hot dogs and hamburgers and entertainment were reminders of the families and homeland they protect, and the Nation’s work.



Photo by MC1 David McKee

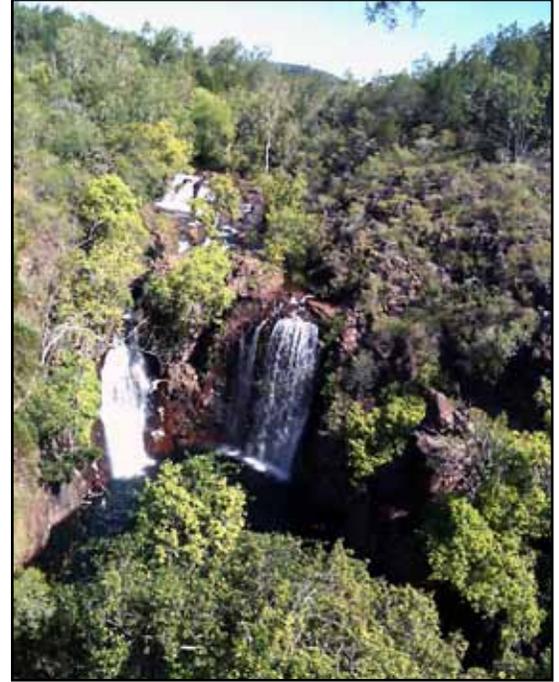


Photo by MA2 Alejandro Dominguez



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Photo by MC1 David McKee

The above photos were taken by a variety of Sailors onboard DUBUQUE. Photographs like these are a valuable part of our upcoming cruise book. This will be the ship's sunset cruise book and should be a reflection of the crew. If you take pictures on liberty or on duty, pass them onto your division cruisebook representative.