

The Mighty Eight

USS DUBUQUE: OUR COUNTRY, OUR HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE

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Sailors and Marines Serve Guam



Photo by DC3 Edmund Schafer

SSGT Matthew Wendt shares his time with residents of the Yonal/Talofof Senior Citizens Center in Talofof, Guam June 3.

Talofof, Guam -- Sailors and Marines from USS Dubuque (LPD 8) and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (15th MEU) were eager to serve the Guam community at two community services projects on the Island June 3.

More than a dozen servicemembers visited the Yona/Talofof Senior Center in Talofof, where they had the opportunity to converse, eat, play music, and even dance with local seniors.

LCDR Mike Foskett, the chaplain for the ship, said that his command and the entire Navy are fully dedicated to fostering good relations with local communities, wherever Sailors and Marines travel.

"This is the essence of the Navy and the Marine Corps," he said. "The individual Sailor and Marine that joins to make a difference and they want to get out and interact with the community. I hope that's the message [the seniors] get."

Foskett added that community service projects performed while in foreign ports are a great opportunity for Sailors and Marines to absorb local culture and get a better understanding of the world.

"One of the reasons they joined the service was to see the world and experience different cultures," he said. "So I think that community service projects are so important for widening their horizons."

The Sailors and Marines agreed with the chaplain, and said that they were eager to learn from people who were so rich in culture and had experienced so much during their long lives.

"I saw an opportunity to get to know the people on the island, explore,
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PAO Notes:



The photo of the replenishment at sea above is an example of Sailors at work. Photos of the Day are snapshots of what we do every day. These photos will be sent to our families back home via email, the Internet and our newsletter.

You can provide photos and artwork on a CD in JPEG format, samples of writing in a MS Word document.

If you would like to contribute photos or writing, contact MC1 McKee.

Chain of Command



CAPT Christopher Bolt



CDR Christopher Nodine



CMDCM (SW/SCW/AW)
Reinaldo Rosado

Command Corner:

CMDCM Rosado Stresses the Importance of Communication:

We have been successful so far on this deployment as the captain has said. We had good liberty in Guam, conducted VBSS operations with the Marines, and we have thrived on Dubuque.

The key to our continued success is communication. I am talking about up and down the chain of command and to our loved ones back home.

The work we do is complex and requires complete focus. If we see something wrong, we tell somebody. If there questions or concerns, we don't hope someone else will bring to someone elses attention.

While we cross the ocean, we have to remember our families back home. They don't know what we are doing, and the less they know, the more they wonder and worry. We have a phone center, and we have email and other technological tools available on the Internet. Remember OPSEC, but don't forget to phone, write or email your families, friends and other loved ones.

We have phone cards for sale in the ship's store, and don't forget that there is nothing like receiving a nice letter.

Remember, there is also United Through Reading. YN1 Rankins, HM1 Barredo and RP3 Steuben are eager to help you send a video to your family.

Ocean Wanderer Joins Dubuque



Many saw and photographed the albatross that followed the ship for several days on the first leg of our deployment. Most likely, it was either a short-tailed, Black-footed or Laysan Albatross.

These birds are known to live up to half a century, fly up to 90 mph, and the wandering albatross has a wing-span up to 11 feet.

The albatross will fly thousands of miles to feed its young and spends up to 10 years at sea only return to land to mate.

Upcoming MWR Events



YN1 Rankins, the winner of the ship's first 'Texas Holdum' tournament, eyes his hand.

Gator Challenge: Build your beach body. Weekly weigh-ins and nutrition updates will keep you on track and informed. Stay tuned for more information.

Poker Tournament: Meet YN1 Rankins on the mess decks tonight for a Poker Tournament. Prize for winner TBD.

Chess Club: Sunday, 1300 13 JUN. LS2 Rios heads up this club on the mess decks. No prizes this week.

Cinema at Sea: Sunday, 13 JUN. Free popcorn and sodas included. Volunteers welcomed!

Dubuque Idol: Sun 27 JUN. Can you sing, dance or do the splits? Share your talent with the crew by expressing your interest to any MWR Committee Cabinet member; LT Parra-Orlandoni, SHC Lyons or LTJG Conti-Vock.

Community Service Cont.

and meet new people and see new faces,” said Boatswain’s Mate Seaman Francisco Vasquez. The seniors were also excited and eager to interact with the servicemen.

“They were enthused and excited to have people from the mainland, on Navy ships, visiting the island and to bring them out here to mingle and share stories,” Johnny Afaisan, the center manager.



Photo by DC2 Jeremiah Johnson

Seaman Francisco Vasquez dances with a resident at the Talafofo Senior Center June 3.

Rosa Rayes-Newby, whose husband was a retired Navy chief, told the Sailors and Marines that they have brightened her day, and that she appreciated their visit.

“I enjoy having you guys over here at the center,” said Rayes-Newby. “We are having fun this afternoon.”

As they mingled, they found out that they had things in common with the elders, and that the seniors had led interesting lives. “I’m already playing the ukulele with someone,” Vasquez said. “He’s teaching me some of the chords, and I am teaching him some of my stuff. Cool.”

“I was just talking to one of the

seniors, and she was telling me what it was like back in the war,” Foskett said. “That’s just unbelievable.”

The visiting servicemen said they hoped the seniors enjoyed the visit and realize that there are people thinking about them and caring for them.

“I hope at the end of the day they had a great experience and that we hopefully made their day better,” Vasquez said. “And that they know that there are people really caring out there.”

Sailors were also on hand to help feed and care for abandoned animals at Guam Animals In Need (GAIN) in Yigo.

As a nonprofit organization, GAIN relies on help from volunteers to help them care for animals housed at the shelter. Currently more than 130 dogs, cats, rabbits and other animals call GAIN home.

The Sailors and Marines cleaned out kennels, fed the animals and took them out of their kennels for some exercise.

CPL Nicholas Turner, of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 15th MEU, said the volunteer effort at GAIN was a great way for Sailors and Marines to reciprocate the hospitality they’ve received, as well as Guam’s tropical weather.

“We came here as a joint force of Marines and Sailors to give back to the community; basically spend some time cleaning kennels [and] taking care of animals,” he said.

“We do care about other issues and we do want to spend our time being well rounded basically in the community.”

Turner said it’s important for servicemembers to take an active role in the community.

“I think not only just as people helping other people or helping animals, I think it’s also important that people see – civilians see – that

the military is about more than just the ability to fight and defend the country,” he said. “We do care about other issues and we do want spend our time being well rounded basically in the community.”

Machinist’s Mate Fireman (SW) Edward Burgos said he enjoys helping others and volunteering at GAIN seemed like a good opportunity to give back to the community.

It’s good for the blue/green team, and the military in general, when you go out and do something positive wherever you go,” Burgos said.

CPL Jason Leavitt, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 15th MEU, said he volunteers at various community events and organizations, such as GAIN, since he joined the Marines as a way to say “thank you” to the communities that support him and his fellow brothers-and-sisters-at-arms.

“From personal experience the communities helped me out a lot,” he said. “This is a good way for Sailors and Marines to give back to them.”



Photo by LCPL Jonathan Hoff

Fireman Edward Burgos plays with a dog at the GAIN center June 3.

(story by MC2(SW) Peter Lewis and Oyaol Ngirairiki Joint Region Mairiannas Public Affairs.)

Farewell to San Diego

May, 18 2010



Photo by Chunwoo McKee