COMMUNICATOR

Connecting The Troops With Their Families

NAVCOMTELSTA BAHRAIN JUNE 2009

To the Families and Friends of the NCTS Bahrain Team,

First, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving with your loved ones. Everyday I am inspired by the commitment and sacrifice Sailors make to serve our country. As friends and family, you sacrifice as well. My sincere appreciation for all that you do at home and for enduring separation, so your Sailor can serve in Bahrain.

I assumed command of Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Bahrain on January 14, 2009. Every day since then has been an amazing experience. When one of my mentors learned I was coming to this position, she told me to "strap on my seat belt and enjoy the ride." She was right - the mission in Bahrain is fast-paced, has lots of ups and downs, and we never know what's around the next bend.

One thing I know for sure, your Sailors are doing great things. The services they provide and systems they support are critical to the Navy, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. Our customers include U.S. and Coalition Navies and Joint Forces throughout the region. NCTS Bahrain is frequently recognized for superior performance because your husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, etc. are true professionals who take pride in their efforts. Most recently, NCTS passed a rigorous security inspection and won the annual Outstanding Support to Customers Throughout the Atlantic Region (OSCAR) Award for the third year in a row.

Thanks again for sharing your family and friends with me and the NCTS Bahrain Team. Be proud of their accomplishments as well as your own, we couldn't do what we do without your loving support.

CDR Mary Ann L. Giese
Commanding Officer

LCDR Joe Voje
Executive Officer

To our extended NCTS Bahrain Family, I bid you greetings from The Kingdom!

Since our last newsletter, significant changes have happened at the command, not the least of which is the arrival of our new Commanding Officer, CDR Mary Ann Giese. Our high rate of personnel turnover makes for many challenges in our daily operations and command programs, but our high level of commitment to the mission and the country remains constant, in part because of the support you provide to us daily through your email, phone calls, care packages, thoughts, and prayers.

The command has successfully passed many major inspections and audits, won many base sporting events, and rewarded and promoted several of our sailors and officers over the past few months. Specifically the command passed the Department of Defense Information Assurance audit, and the Defense Information System Agency's Enhanced Compliance Validation inspection.

Our intramural teams took second place in the Captain's Cup and have had several singular successes on the field. Most recently, the command won the coveted OSCAR award from our immediate superior in command which recognized our work in providing outstanding customer support to the war fighter. These tremendous efforts have helped to fuel continued success in promotions and recognition on the individual level. Our continued success is a direct result of your unwavering support. Thank you.

CMC CORNER

Hello NCTS and Family,

Hope our newest newsletter edition finds all in good spirits. NCTS has enjoyed a very successful winter. The Sailors have risen to every challenge and succeeded at extremely high levels. You can be very proud of the accomplishment. All have represented the United States Navy with great pride and enthusiasm.

This edition also brings a sad moment to the command. Our outstanding Ombudsman, Nilsa Diaz, will be moving on as her husband transfers to his next command. She has done an outstanding job supporting family and Sailors during her one year tenure. Not only has she supported NCTS, but several other commands attached to Bahrain. She will be greatly missed. The command will forever be in her debt for her gracious performance.

Never to end on a sad note, I would like to welcome our new Ombudsman, Amy Merchant. NCTS is looking forward to continued superior performance at the Ombudsman position. Amy is very excited and eager to get to work on supporting our families. Your sailors continue to impress me daily. The long work hours, ever changing difficult schedule, and time away from families has never prevented the success of the mission. Thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve. I truly believe I am the lucky one to have such fine men and women to serve along side.

Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns at Stephen.C.Roberts@me.navy.mil. Thanks to all for the support you give to your Sailor.

CMC Stephen C. Roberts
Command Master Chief

N1 ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

The Administrative Team members are MRC Cabal, ITC Sanders, YNC Dumas, YN1 Hudson, YN1 Robinson, YN1 Weathersby, NC1 Quintall, YN3 Garcia, and YN3 Bridges. This elite team of professionals was largely responsible for the detailed planning and meticulous execution of our recent Change of Command ceremony held January 14th. CDR Leon Archibald was relieved by CDR Mary Ann Giese as Commanding Officer of NCTS Bahrain. N1 Department provides a myriad of administrative and specialized services to the Executive Staff and the 260 assigned personnel to include 3M, Spectrum Management, Civilian Personnel services, and career counseling. The department strongly supports the Navy's emphasis of "Mission First – Sailors Always".

The Arrival of CDR Giese

CDR Archibald receiving the Meritorious Service Medal from CAPT Johnson, NCTAMSLANT.

The Command Career Counselor is proud to announce the following personnel chose to stay Navy: IT2 Mounger, IT1 Emerson, IT1 Padowski, IT1 Phan, IT1 Anderson, ET2 Matthews, IT2 Thomas, IT2 Cambridge and IT2 Hamilton! Whether it's the pride of serving their country or providing for their families back home, Congratulations on your Reenlistments!

Please join us at NCTS in congratulating the following outstanding Sailors on their selection as Senior Sailor of the Year (SSOY), Junior Sailor of the Year (JSOY) and Blue Jacket of the Year (BJOY) for 2008:

IT1 Douglas (SSOY)
IT2 Mounger (JSOY)
ET3 Maltry (BJOY)

The most recent N1 Changing-of-the-Guards are Chief Cabal assumed the duties as 3M Coordinator from Chief Quejado. ET1 Solomon was relieved by NC1 Quintall as Command Career Counselor and YN1 Weathersby reported and has assumed the duties of Assistant Security Manager.

Last, but not least, we prepare to bid farewell to Petty Officer Brunner, Admin Assistant. Your dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm will be missed.

N2

The N2 Department has seen a few changes in the last quarter, we lost CE1 Abadilla who retired in Jan along with CE1 Ramos who departed for Diego Garcia and we have also gained CE1 Gomillion from NCTS Naples and CE2 Stewart who arrived from Mayport FL. CE2 Davis also returned from his school at Keesler AFB in MS and graduated at the top of his Electronic Principles class, this was the first of two schools he needs to fulfill the requirements to obtain the 5601 (UPS Technician) NEC.

In the cable plant Mr. Gill Javed celebrated 10 years with NCTS, he has done an outstanding job as the cable plant manager and hope that he remains part of the NCTS BCO team for another ten years.

N3

N3 Department is always welcoming new members to its Technical Control team. We are proud to welcome LT Simien as N3 Department Head, CWO3 Smith as N31 Division Officer, ITCS Gaines as N31 LCPO, ITC Meinke and ITC Snaer as the new FTOC Watch Officers, as well as IT1 Nasongkhla, IT1 Gilliam, IT1 Brunner, IT2 Bach, IT2 Cole, IT2 Robinson, IT2 Martin, IT2 Martinez, IT2 Urquiza, IT2 Warrick, IT3 Hernandez, ITSN Weaver, and ITSR Cosby. They all have quickly integrated into this division and readily contributed to command mission readiness.

Since the last newsletter, we have had many interesting things happen within the lifelines of N31.

Reenlistments, Extensions and Advancements:
Chief Petty Office David Holme and IT2 Martin reenlisted for four years, and IT2 Charles extended his current enlistment for two months. ITC David Holme was also selected for LDO.
IT2 Warrick, IT2 Lee, IT3 Abano and IT3 McCarty were advanced to the next pay-grade after results from the September 2008 advancement exams were posted December 2008. The command and N31 congratulate them on a job well done.

FTOC Watch Officer Qualifications:
Congratulations to ITCS Matthews and ITC Meinke for achieving their qualification as Fleet Telecommunications Operations Center (FTOC) Watch Officer.

NCTS Senior Sailor Of The Year:
Awarded to IT1(SW) Cyrena Douglas by the Commanding Officer.
At NCTS Bahrain PO Douglas was one of many who stood out because they best represent the qualities the Navy value most in our people. The selection board process was difficult, but PO Douglas' first line leadership, rating expertise, and desire to positively affect our Navy and our Sailors won out. Her next step is to represent NCTS Bahrain in Norfolk, VA at NCTAMS LANT for Atlantic Region Sailor of the Year. Good Luck and Congratulations.

N6

We are delighted to welcome CWO4 Jerry Hillman, ETCS James Badger, ETCS Kevin Hartless, ETCS Keith Weathers, ETC Donald Cusimano, ITC Dewayne Whitfield, ET1 Martin Belan, IT1 Joshua Jacumin, ET1 Lorenzo Garcia, ET2 Dean Morales, ET2 Jason Chambers, IT2 Mark Williamson, ET2 Danielle McCoy, ET2 Frejohn Dangcalan, ET2 Pleas Morton, ET3 Tiffany Reinhardt, and ET3 Schoonmaker to the finest Department onboard NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain. We are certainly going to benefit from the experience and excellence of these 17 new members of the N6 family.

Since the last newsletter, we have had three more MVPs that deserve special recognition. ET3 Ashley Kim (November), ET2 Shaun Matthews (January), and ET3 Jeffrey Schoonmaker (February) displayed exemplary performance that went above and beyond the call of duty. They have all shown extraordinary leadership and continue to be examples for the rest of us. We look forward to great achievements by these three stellar sailors.

The N6 family enjoyed good food and fun at various events. ET2 Kellee Garita nearly broke the table when she loaded it down with her Thanksgiving dinner for those of us not returning home for the holidays. ET2 Scott "Gumbo" Sonnier threw his own going away party with a monstrous batch of Louisiana Gumbo at the now famous Zam Zam Plaza. ET2 Daniel Jacobson wowed the crowd at his Hail & Farewell party, presenting various dishes and BBQ flavors. We also enjoyed an N6 potluck with many different flavors and cultures represented.

N7 SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

CNO has approved the merger of the storekeeper (SK) and postal clerk (PC) ratings to the logistics specialist (LS) rating. The conversion officially begins Oct. 1, 2009 for all active-duty Sailors according to NAVADMIN 326/08. The SK rating badge will be used to represent the new LS rating. With most PCs gone from smaller ships, the storekeepers are doing that work already, and it's been successful!

Citibank was awarded the SmartPayR2 master contract on May 2nd, 2008, to provide Purchase Card services for the Department of Navy. Supply Department has since streamlined the purchase card program here at NCTS for a smooth transition under the new contract which became operational on Nov 30th, 2008. Historically, NCTS has spent between $200 to $250 thousand annually for supplies and services using the Purchase Card.

Bravo Zulu to SK2 Washington for his participation during the 2009 NSA ERT "Desert Sailor" training from 15-25 Feb, 2009. SK2 graduated on Feb 27th and was awarded for completing all requirements of the Technical Rescue Collapse Structure and Technical Rescue Confined Space courses.

Bravo Zulu to SK2 Ulyse as captain of the NCTS basketball team leading them to 1st place for the NSA Captains Cup Basketball tournament!

CONGRATULATIONS on the reenlistments of SK2 Peniston and SK2 Kankam! Two of the most exemplary Storekeepers in the fleet reenlisted on March 5th, 2009. SK2 Kankam will be transferring to Fleet Industrial Supply Center Sigonella in April and SK2 Peniston is transferring to Navy Recruiting District New York the following month in May. We wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas", see ya in the fleet gentlemen.

Our newest member to the Supply team has some BIG SHOES to fill, SK3 Newell arrived on March 12th from USS Bataan (LHD 5) homeported in Norfolk, VA. Welcome aboard shipmate!

Supply Department established a new partnership with local community RIA school, our primary mission was to mentor 12 disabled students. In addition, this will foster a stronger community relationship between the locals and the military service members. Logistics cadre welcome our new additional team member SK2 Charles Biney coming from DDYJ Japan. Our new version of Microsnap database is being installed by TNOSC team which provides more efficient and reliable database that will enhance our logistical customer service support. This year the supply enlisted road show traveled to Bahrain and presented the latest career information about the supply rating.

SK2 Ulyse assists SK3 Newell move parts in the Supply Bay.

N8

NCTS WINS ANOTHER BATTLE IN THE DAILY FIGHT TO SECURE DOD NETWORKS

-Story by LCDR Zuliani

Over the past few years, senior leadership has really placed an emphasis on network security and readiness. The SECDEF, USCENTCOM, USSTRATCOM, CNO and NNWC, all have turned the emphasis and focus on Information Assurance and the operation and security of our networks. So it was no surprise when the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Enhanced Compliance Validation (ECV) inspection team arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the 29th of March, NCTS Bahrain was well prepared!

IT1(SW) Bobbie White uses her swipe card to access a restricted area onboard NCTS Bahrain

The DISA Field Security Operations Division performs the ECV inspection and is responsible for strengthening DoD networks by certifying and inspecting them against known vulnerabilities and threats. Headed up by a civilian team lead, a 9 person squad landed in Bahrain to review NCTS Bahrain's ONE-Net NIPRNet and SIPRNet connections and validate the connections meet the required security standards. "We have been preparing for the ECV for the past 13 months," said CDR Mary Ann Giese, NCTS Bahrain Commanding Officer. "Our adversaries attempt to compromise DoD information systems daily and can exploit these LAN/WAN connections -- we train like we fight, and the results of the ECV were clearly evident that we do."

Within NCTS Bahrain, the N8 Department is charged with providing secure, obtainable, and reliable services and data to all customers, DoD users, and most importantly the warfighter. The N8 Department consists of the Theater Network Operations Security Center Middle East and the Indian Ocean Region Network Operations Center. "One of major initiatives during the past year, was to integrate the shore and fleet NOCs into the same department," said LCDR Joe Voje the command's Executive Officer. "Both NOCs provide services to the same customer base but placing the two within the same department enabled us to gain various efficiencies, shed redundancies and increase the security posture of both domains."

The ECV inspection focused on 9 elements:

- *Enclave Review*
- *Traditional Security Review*
- *Network Review*
- *Vulnerability Scan*
- *Joint Vulnerability Assessment Program (JVAP)Cross Domain Solutions*
- *Host Based Security System (HBSS)*
- *Wireless Review*
- *Domain Name System Review*
- *Releasable (REL) Demilitarized ZONE (DMZ) Review*

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N8 prepared for the ECV by following DISA's technical and administrative guidance. DISA provides the governance for an agency to meet the minimum standards, controls and requirements for securing and configuring each ECV element and domain properly. By following and incorporating each of the various core areas into our daily operations, N8 was able to have a strong baseline heading into the last few months of preparations. The core areas consist of the Information Assurance Vulnerability Management (IAVM) process, Vulnerability Management System (VMS) procedures, Gold Disk scans, Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGS), Security Checklists and Security Readiness Review Evaluation Scripts.

"N8 set a goal to have the least amount of Category I and II vulnerabilities as possible," said Renee Anderson, an Information Assurance Officer for the TNOSC ME. "Two months prior, we went to a 6 day work week and it was definitely a team effort. One team was solely focused on completing the security checklists, one team continually scanned the networks, and one team completed the STIGs. We also combined our physical security team with action officers from NAVCENT, and tackled a majority of the Traditional Security Review together."

The DoD defines Category I vulnerabilities as weaknesses that can allow an intruder inside an agencies network but one that can also endanger the networks connected outside of the DoD by infiltrating the Global Information Grid. There are also Cat II and III vulnerabilities. The concept behind an ECV is to have the
least amount of vulnerabilities and no holes in any of the elements reviewed. The ECV determined Bahrain operates in a deny-by-default policy with tight boundary defense, and an aggressive scanning and self-assessment program. When the week long inspection was completed the FSO ECV team awarded NCTS with a passing grade.

"The process and procedures NCTS undertook for this inspection enabled a large percentage of my command to gain valuable experience and hands on training. This is a tough environment and operational requirements dictate the pace in the NAVCENT AOR. Following JTG-GNO and NNWC guidance is vital to securing our networks while we deter piracy and counter violent extremism and terrorist networks in maritime areas of responsibility."

SPORTS

The NCTS Basketball Team brought home the First Place trophy by defeating top seeded Security in the final game of the season, 58-44. Finishing the Captain's Cup 2008-2009 basketball regular season with 11 wins and 5 losses (2 previous losses to Security), the NCTS hoop squad was definitely the underdogs going into the championship series. In a three game series, NCTS lost Game 1 then bounced back to take Games 2 and 3 in front of a capacity crowd. Leading scorers for Game 3 were IT1(SW/AW)David Sampson (22 points) and SK2(SW) Jeffrey Ulyse (18 points).

Earlier in the season, the NCTS hoop squad displayed their talents as they competed against the DODDS Bahrain Varsity Boys Basketball team. The event was an exhibition game held in the NSA Bahrain gymnasium in efforts to prepare the local high school team for their annual tournament held in Germany.

The NCTS Basketball team was comprised of 14 players on the roster and were led by coaches, IT1(SW/AW) Jawan L. Fizer and NCTS Command Master Chief Steve Roberts. Coach Fizer states, "The season as a whole was pretty exciting, especially being able to finish on such a high note winning the championship series."

SPORTS

NCTS TAKES HOME FIRST SOFTBALL TROPHY

The NCTS Freqz completed the Winter 2008 softball season with a 6-3 record and finished in third place after losing a close tiebreaker game in the playoffs to heated rival the South West Asia Chief Petty Officers Association. The Chiefs jumped out to an early lead, but during the changeover of the second inning the XO ran out onto the field to give the team command ball caps that seemed to revitalized the team and get them back on their game. The next inning the bats caught fire and the Freqz took a small two run lead. From that point on it was back and forth with the Chiefs having a 4 run lead going into the seventh and final inning. Unfortunately NCTS could only muster 2 runs and lost the game 14-12. The third place finish was the best ever for the command and added the first team softball trophy to NCTS' ever growing display case.