

NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS

NAVAL MEDIA CENTER FLEET SUPPORT DETACHMENT SAN DIEGO

STORY: San Diego Padres Military Opening Day

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VIDEO

AUDIO

ANCHOR LEAD

The "Boys of Summer" have started swinging their bats with the goal of reaching the World Series. One team off to a great start toward that goal is the San Diego Padres.

ANCHOR TWO

But it wouldn't be Padres baseball without the military. Petty Officer Bill Johnson-Miles, of our San Diego detachment, tells us how the Padres thanked Sailors and Marines at one of their early home games.

Open with stadium
announcer natsound

"Welcome to Military Opening day, with our annual salute to the armed forces."

Narration:

This salute began with the Navy Leap Frogs dropping out of the sky into Qualcomm Stadium.

Lead Frog
description

(Natsound Break)

OS2(PJ/DV) Michael
Ford, Navy
Parachute Team
Leap Frogs, HT:
Lineville, AL
Tape 1, 21:31:00

"I think it's awesome... (AE) ...we're just having a great time, happy to come out and be part of the day, military day."

Narration:

And the pre-game activities continued with the swearing in of both Navy and Marine Corps recruits, and the re-enlistment of two petty officers.

PR2(AW/PJ) Albert
Cruz, EOD Mobile
Unit 3, HT: San
Bernardino, CA,

"This is great. This is the best thing that ever happened... (AE) ...You can't get any bigger than this. I mean you've got a crowd of over... I'd say thousands of people, and

Tape 1, 23:23:08 this makes it all happen."

Narration: Then Sailors marched in with all 50 state
 flags while Marines unfurled the giant U-S
 flag, just in time for the national anthem.

Sailor singing (Natsound Break)
national anthem.

MU3 Francine Singh "Oh, it's a great feeling. All, about 50,000
Navy Band San people watching you, and it makes you feel
Diego, HT: Brevard proud... (AE) ...because we're all
NC, Tp 1, 8:50:17 representing people that can't be here, maybe
 over at Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, or whatever...
 (AE) ...I feel proud because I'm serving my
 country, and it's a good feeling.

Narration: And then it was time to play ball.

Collage of players (Natsound Break)
hitting ball and fans cheering.

RP3 Andre Floyd, "Hey, I love the Padres for having a military
MCRD San Diego, day. Any time I can celebrate with me and my
HT: Los Angeles, devil dogs, it's all good."
CA, Tape 3,
1:26:10

LCPL Kenneth "I think it's good. I mean, it shows that
Gipson, MCRD San they appreciate the military, us being here,
Diego, HT: Los us supporting the city and everything.
Angeles, Tape 3
2:47:22

More baseball (Natsound Break)
and cheering.

Bob Cowles, "Ah it's great, it's great. You know, I get
Retired Navy & emotional every time it's here. I wish there
Navy Spouse, were more military days... (AE) ...it means a
Padres Fan Service lot to me."
Representative
Tape 3, 9:26:28

Narration: Sailors and Marines also mean a lot to the players.

Barry Larkin,
Cincinnati Reds
Short-Stop, Tape 1
5:22:19 "They're kind of like the front line. And my father was involved in the military at one particular point, and I'm very appreciative for the guys that go put their lives on the line for us."

Tony Gwynn,
San Diego Padres
Right Fielder
Tape 3, 17:09:09 "They're a part of San Diego. When you see the Navy guys coming in with the parachutes, you know the fans get a real kick out of that, but it's a little bit more than just parachuting into a stadium. When you go into the service, there's got to be more of a commitment than just jumping into stadiums. And as players, you know, I think we realize that. I've been here a long time so I realize that. I think most of the fans realize that, too."

Narration: This day, the fans were mostly military and they cheered the Padres to a six to two win over the Cincinnati Reds.

Ken Caminiti, San
Diego Padres,
Third Baseman,
Tape 3, 14:54:09 "Oh, yea, they're always a big help to us. They come out there and root us on. You know they get us excited. We always appreciate it when they show up because they come in bunches and they're very vocal. It's a good group of guys."

Wally Joyner, San
Diego Padres,
First Baseman,
Tape 3, 12:06:22 "You know, San Diego has a great homebase for those people, for the military, and it's always fun to see the excitement that they have when they come to the ballpark. They bring a lot of enthusiasm and I don't know who is having more fun, us out in the field or them up in the stands."

Fans in the stands (Natsound Break)

Tony Gwynn
Tape 3, 17:37:02

"It wouldn't be Padre baseball, especially a day game, without the military here."

Narration:

And it's awfully hard to be stationed in San Diego without rooting for the Padres. Navy Journalist Bill Johnson-Miles, San Diego.

BUMPS...

1. Wally Joyner, San Diego Padres First Baseman
2. Steve Finley, San Diego Padres Center Fielder
3. Ken Caminiti, San Diego Padres Third Baseman
4. Reggie Sanders, Cincinnati Reds Center Fielder
5. Eduardo Perez, Cincinnati Reds First Baseman
6. Rob Picciolo, San Diego Padres Bench Coach
7. Bob Cowes, San Diego Padres Fan service Representative, Navy Retired, Navy Spouse
8. MU3 Francine Singh, Navy Band San Diego, HT: Brevard, NC