

The Beacon

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HST Special 2016



Warfighting First, Operate Forward, Be Ready

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Articles for publication in The Beacon should be submitted to Heather Judkins at Heather.Judkins@eu.navy.mil

Story submissions must be routed through tenant command or departmental senior leadership. Security and policy review must be completed before submissions can be considered for publication.

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Special Edition 2016



Photo by Heather Judkins

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Front Cover: SOUDA BAY, Greece (June 21, 2016) Sailors handle lines as the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) arrives at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Greece for a port call. Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is deployed in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo Heather Judkins/Released)

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Feature Articles

Special Edition 2016



Nsa_soudabay



U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete



@NSA_SoudaBay



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Souda PAO (The Beacon)

Triad Corner



- From the Desk of the CO

Team Souda,

I've been on board for about a month and the words I spoke at the Change of Command ring true thus far in my tour: "The Navy is only as strong as those serving in it." Each and every person in the command is

laser focused on NSA Souda Bay's mission, and what you accomplish in the face of undermanned departments and billet gaps while providing the highest quality service is to be commended.

This could not be more evident than what was achieved when this installation recently hosted USS Harry S. Truman, the first aircraft carrier to pull in in more than five years. Between Air Ops, Port Ops, MWR, Security, and our tenant commands like Supply and NavFac, there's no doubt I'm taking command of an installation with a clear understanding of teamwork. Outstanding and BZ to every one of you on a job well done!

Unlike my previous tours, this one is unique in that it's not just



Photo by MC2 Chase Martin

Sailors, Chiefs and officers getting the job done. Active duty military stand side-by-side with the Greek local nationals, contractors and DON employees. This mix makes for ample opportunities to learn from one another and collaborate across the board to find unique ways to meet mission goals.

I recently held Captain's Calls to hear your concerns, listen to your suggestions and gage where we, as a team, stand ready to execute our mission. Thank you for your candor and input.

I want to reiterate my top three priorities and remind you that if we master the basics in these areas, it will allow us, as a team, the time, space and energy to excel in everything else we do.

First, I am adamant about gaining and maintaining an aggressive, holistic approach to security. Security serves as fundamental requirement in any mission, and supporting fleet, fighter and family is no exception.

Secondly, I want to garner the flexibility to meet the expanding appetite and challenge for whatever operations flow through and from this base as well as the Marathi Piers. This can only be accomplished as a team effort which starts with sharing experiences and building teamwork towards a common goal.



Photos by MC2 Chase Martin



Last, but not least, we must always be cognizant of the *personal aspect and the personnel* – you who comprise Team Souda. There are a myriad of challenges, personal and professional, that go in to the life we choose to lead ... a life of service. Be there for your shipmates. My family and I are here for you, and I am here to earn your trust and lead you for the next two years of what, I anticipate will be an incredible ride.

The world is in a precarious state, the challenges are real, and we must all work together to insure that this forward operating installation is ready to provide those services needed to extend U.S., Allied and Coalition Force operational capabilities thought the region.

The Gouge



Photos by Heather Judkins

< BMCS Joseph A. Tidwell trains volunteer line handlers on proper line handling procedures.



Special thanks to Air Operations Command for volunteering to assist with line handling. >



^
USS Harry S. Truman arrives at Souda Bay, Greece with a crew of over 5,000 waiting to go on liberty.



< Special thanks to Naval Munitions Command for volunteering to assist with line handling. >



Special thanks to the Seabees for setting up the pier and assisting with the line handling..

Line handlers wait for their time to assist with mooring USS Harry S. Truman.



< Line handlers assist with the mooring of USS Harry S. Truman.

USS Harry S. Truman arrives at Souda Bay, Greece with a crew of over 5,000 waiting to go on liberty.



Photos by Heather Judkins



Mission

To extend Joint and Fleet Warfighting capability through Operational Support to U.S., allied and coalition forces deployed within the European, Central and African Commands Areas of Responsibilities (AOR) by providing, operating and sustaining superior facilities and services dedicated to combat readiness and security of ships, aircraft, detachments and personnel.

Naval Support Activity Souda Bay turned to in support of USS Harry S. Truman's port visit, 21 through 25 June, the first aircraft carrier to dock at the Marathi NATO Pier Complex in more than five years. As a Forward Operating Base, providing 'support' goes to the core of our mission statement. What the mission statement does not specify is the depth and breadth of which this support is extended.

In a true team effort, every military, civilian and local national that comprise Team Souda pulled together to provide around the clock support that covered both the NSA Souda Bay installation and the Marathi NATO Pier Complex.

Air Operations

American Forces Network

Anti-terrorism/Force Protection

Branch Health Clinic

**Communication & Information
Technology**

Emergency Operations Center

Fire Department

Harbor Port Security

K9 Kennel Department

Marathi NATO Pier Complex

Navy Exchange

Physical Security

Port Operations

Protocol

Public Affairs

Public Works

Security

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Motorpool

Naval Supply Systems Command

American Forces Network Souda Bay was at the pier shooting video footage of Truman pulling in. They told the story of the ship arriving to Souda Bay and the Sailors liberty call to Chania through a news video released from Naples and a time-lapse video released on social media.

AFN's support helps tell the NSA Souda Bay's Story of executing our mission as a Forward Operating Base, supporting USS Harry S. Truman's port visit to Souda Bay, and upholding the Navy's transparency policy, and reaching thousands of viewers around the world. AFN was a vital part of accomplishing the mission in supporting the Truman's port call.



Photo by Heather Judkins



Photo by MC2 Kenan O'Connor



Photo by Heather Judkins

Port Operations



Port Operations provides possibly the most critical mission support aspect for NSA Souda Bay. On a daily basis, NSA Port Operations ensures all combatant and support ships of the U.S. Navy visiting Souda Bay receive the support, supplies, resources, and services needed to conduct successful military operations at sea in both the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibilities.

Port Operations unmatched success was made evident during the recent carrier visit by USS Harry S. Truman. Port Operations was directly responsible for assuring all administrative, security, service, and support requirements were

met. Coordinating with representatives and counterparts from the Hellenic Navy and Coast Guard while simultaneously coordinating with other DOD, Federal, and Host Nation agencies to ensure proper resourcing of funds, personnel, and agreements was critical in executing one of the most successful CVN support visits to a Mediterranean port in recent history.

Lt. Daniel Woods' mammoth contributions to USS Harry S. Truman's port visit directly reflected on the overall success of the visit. He provided direct oversight to all evolutions prior to, during, and after the CVN's port call. As



the Port Operations Officer, he flawlessly brought together the different support areas provided by NSA Souda Bay, as well as our Greek counter parts, into one united front that ultimately led to a port call that will be praised for years to come. BZ on a job well done, LT!



Photo by Heather Judkins

“Port Operations ensures that all Combatant and Support ships of the U.S. Navy visiting Souda Bay receive the support, supplies, resources, and services needed to conduct successful military operations at sea in both the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibilities.”



Photo by MC2 Chase Martin



Photo by Heather Judkins



Photo by Heather Judkins

Air Operations

The Air Operations Department provided outstanding support to both the USS Harry S. Truman and USS Eisenhower. The high volume of passengers, cargo and mail shipments greatly exceeded the previous workload handled through our limited facilities!

Air Ops simultaneously hosted two separate VRC40 detachments (Det 3 and Det 4) and supported multiple daily CTF63 logistical support flights. The men and women of Air Ops performed all aircraft handling duties quickly and precisely to ensure the C-2s met their carrier landing slot times while still providing the same level of support for other Fleet, Theater and National missions.

The Air Terminal team consisting of Local National civilians and U.S. active duty and reserve Sailors, worked around the clock to support the carrier and other tasked missions. They successfully processed and handled over 1,200 passengers and 360,000 pounds of cargo and mail while extending separate handling requirements to Distinguished Visitors and media embarkation teams.

The Transient Line and Air Field Services team consisting of Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling), Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) and Aviation Support Equipment Technician active duty and reserve Sailors supported



the parking and handling requirements of 135 aircraft during HST's support period. Also working 24/7 to ensure full support were the dedicated E-28 arresting gear team and Air Traffic Controlmen (AC) working Base Operations. The arresting gear team ensured the gear was fully operational and ready to support any carrier based aircraft. Additionally, Base Ops ACs worked diligently to support flight planning requirements and diplomatic clearance issues to avoid delays in support to carrier requirements.

The coordination and hard work required to support two aircraft carriers simultaneously operating in the Eastern Mediterranean showcased the Air Operation Department's ability to successfully integrate active duty Sailors, reservists and civilians into a cohesive team to provide outstanding support to the Fleet, despite the challenges of inadequate facilities and manning.

Security

The Security Department collapsed duty sections to go to a port and starboard watch bill ensuring all hands were on deck. Security staff personnel were pulled from their regular assignments to augment the watches that covered both NSA Souda Bay and the Marathi NATO Pier Complex. Harbor Patrol Unit manned two addition patrol boats specifically for Truman in addition to maintaining their Ready 5 boat that remains on standby to respond to an incident that may occur in Souda Bay.



Photo by MC2 Chase Martin



Photo by Heather Judkins



Photo by Heather Judkins



Photo by Heather Judkins



Photo by Heather Judkins

MWR/NEX

MWR personnel worked many hours beyond normal schedules, and facility operations were extended at both topside and at the Marathi NATO Pier Complex to cover the increased number of patrons experienced during USS Harry S. Truman's port visit to Souda Bay. However, the Fleet Recreation Team at Marathi piers did the really heavy lifting. Early opening and later closing of the Argonaut Recreation Center, additional points-of-sale for food and beverage, significantly boosted

WiFi signal, and increased local tours offerings were some of the steps taken to insure a successful and enjoyable visit for the Truman Team.

It would be unfair to single out individuals for exceptional performance during this particular event, so suffice it to say the NSA Souda Bay MWR Team put forth a concerted effort that resulted in a most successful visit for USS Harry S. Truman. BZ!



Photos by Heather Judkins

The Navy Exchange (NEX) expanded their service hours and offered a variety of services on the pier to the Truman Sailors. Besides a large increase in our sales, we delivered over 100 pallets of merchandise to the Truman as well as pallets to USNS Big Horn and several orders to other visiting ships. Our warehouse team did all of this and still off-loaded merchandise to the stores. This was all accomplished due to

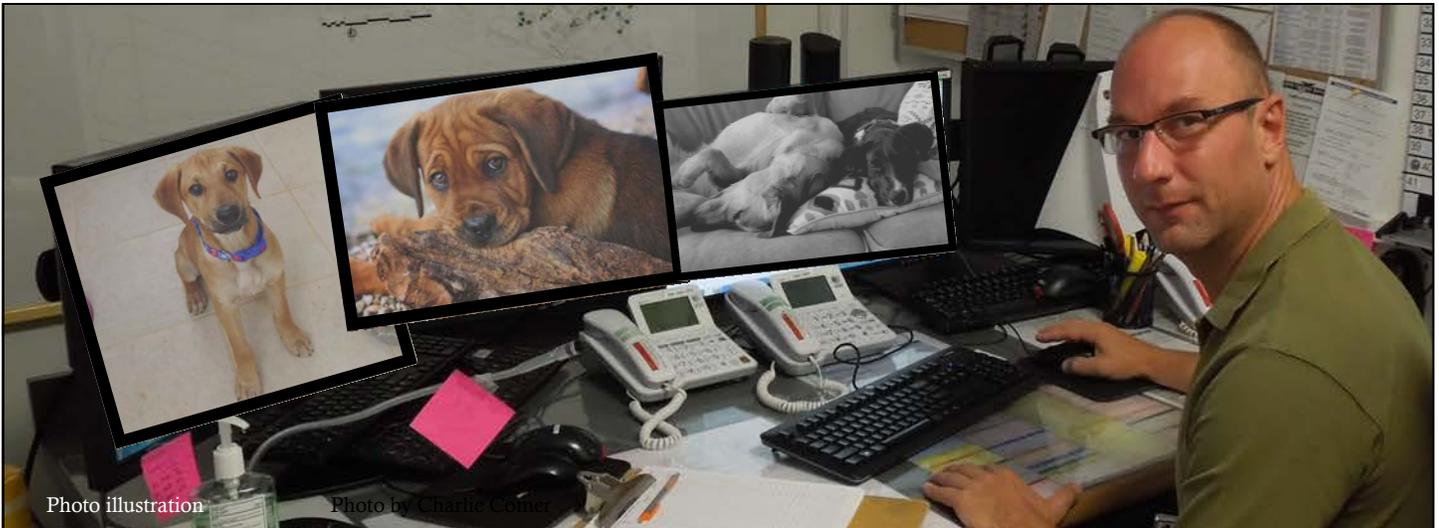
the incredible teamwork and dedication of the entire team, that worked very long hours and tirelessly provided great customer service to all our patrons, both permanent party and visiting.

Team NEX wants to extend a special 'thanks' to the Argonaut and Security for their assistance. Argonaut staff helped with creating signs to help patrons know where services were located and they opened their till to assist with making change.

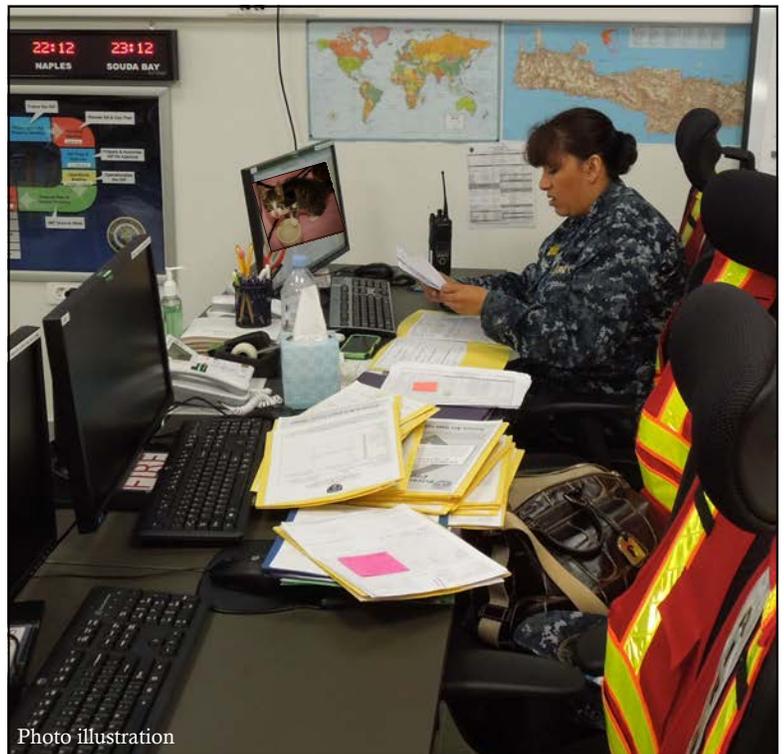
Security really went over and above for us providing an armed escort whenever we needed one, to include unscheduled euro runs to the Truman. Business was good all around.



Emergency Management



Emergency Management operated the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) 24/7 at Activation Level 1 during USS Harry S. Truman's port visit. The EOC tracked ship personnel issues with NCIS, Truman's Quarter Deck, Shore patrol, local Chania Police, Hellenic Coast Guard, medical facilities and the local news media. The EOC was staffed with the Executive Officer, EMO or EOC Manager, Command Duty Officer, the Security Officer and the Communications Room Dispatcher. The EMO and EOC Managers worked alternate 12 hour shifts. To provide 24/7 coverage.



NAVSUP



Photo by Heather Judkins

From 21 to 25 June 2016, the NSA Souda Bay team successfully supported USS Harry S. Truman (HST) after more than five years without a CVN visit to the island of Crete, a true testament of the team mentality that permeates our installation! The Fleet Logistics Command Logistic Support Representatives (LSRs) planned, coordinated, and directed all aspects of contracts, cargo, mail, and logistics services in support of this visit.

With accolades from the HST Supply Officer such as, “the smoothest port visit yet,” HST left with a very happy crew.

Even before the Logistics Request (LOGREQ) was available, the Logistic Support Command team pounced into action and gathered historical LOGREQS in order to identify existing resources, potential gaps, and establish mitigation plans with the Contracting Team. Once an actual

LOGREQ was received, communications with the HST Principal Assistant for Logistics began in order to start clarification and coordination for each

requirement in the LOGREQ. The team established a Cargo Staging and Process Flow Plan, a Logistic Command, Control, and Communication Plan, a Service Requirements Check List, and several other executable plans.

The day prior to arrival all services and equipment were verified as staged and functional in order to ensure operational readiness. On June 21 the moment HST was declared “moored,” all services started to take place in a well-choreographed manner allowing for a very successful and uneventful first day.

During the stay, the LSRs created an “around the clock” watch bill at Pier K-14, where they were in constant coordination with the Ship and Service Providers. This approach enabled the LSRs to quickly

respond to any unforeseen situations or requirements.

The visit was very successful. With accolades from the HST Supply Officer such as, “the smoothest port visit yet,” HST left with a very happy crew.

This constitutes the first time husbanding and logistic services for a CVN visiting Souda Bay were provided by U.S. Sailors instead of the traditional Commercial Husbanding Service Provider (HSP). This feat is even more impressive when considering all other ship visits the team successfully managed while simultaneously serving the HST, including USNS Bighorn, USNS Grapple, USNS Arctic, USS Gonzalez, USS Porter, and USS Anzio.



Photo by Heather Judkins

Safety



Written by Jerry Hollenback
NSA Souda Bay Safety
Director

Electrical wiring, gas generators, flammable tents, vehicle/pedestrian traffic, crane and forklift operations, along with hot weather and thousands of Sailors. The visit had the potential for a serious mishap from the moment the ship was tying up to the pier. Fortunately, there were a lot of behind the scenes activity, as well as some timely on-the-spot corrections. Overall operational risk management

There were a lot of moving parts for a carrier visit, and the Safety Office saw almost everyone putting “Safety First” during the visit.

(ORM), and sound leadership by everyone involved ensured that the risks were well mitigated.

The overwhelming majority of the Harry S. Truman crew conducted



themselves professionally, and are responsible for much of the success. While MWR, Port Operations, Security, Supply, Emergency Management and countless others from Souda Bay were proactively ensuring that day-to-day ops went smoothly.

Statistically speaking, there was a high probability for a major mishap. The safety culture that exists in the Navy today instills accountability throughout the ranks, and is a true testament of everyone’s safety efforts.

