



JUNE 2013



DVs Embark on the Ike from Souda Bay

By Paul Farley

On 15 June, U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay had the honor of hosting a group of distinguished visitors (DV's) who transited the installation for the purpose of embarking on USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

The visiting group was made up of high level German and Swiss military and civilian officials accompanied by U.S. Embassy personnel participating in the U.S. Navy's (DV) Embark Program.

While here at Souda Bay, the group was hosted by NSA's Commanding Officer, Captain James Gibson and Executive Officer, Commander Demetries Grimes who discussed the vital mission of NSA Souda Bay as a strategically located forward operating site. The informal discussions acquainted our guests with the variety of logistics support services offered at Souda Bay used to extend both the joint warfighters' capabilities and reach.

The Navy's embark program is designed to place key leaders aboard a deployed carrier. While aboard, the visitors meet the talented young men and women who bring these ships to life, and they experience first-hand how the Navy is contributing to the security of the United States, and to the stability of the global community.

Our recent visitors were flown aboard a Fleet Logistics Support Squadron FORTY (VRC-40) Grumman C-2 Greyhound Carrier Onboard Delivery aircraft, or COD, to USS Eisenhower.

The guests spent several hours meeting with the ship's leaders, interacting with Sailors and Marines, touring the ship and observing a full spectrum of operations.

On their return to NSA from "the Ike" the DV's, without exception, expressed their appreciation for the role that Souda Bay played in supporting their trip.

For NSA this was one more successful evolution in supporting the fleet and doing it extremely well.

Quote of the Month

"God grant me the courage not to give up what I think is right, even though I think it is hopeless."

- ADM Chester Nimitz

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Souda Bay Commemorates Battle of Midway



To commemorate one of the U.S. Navy's most important naval battles of the WWII Pacific campaign, NSA Souda Bay held a Remembrance and Commemoration ceremony for the Battle of Midway on 5 June. NSA Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson, held a memorial service on the lawn outside of the command building where he spoke about the significance of the Battle of Midway for our U.S. Navy. After Skipper Gibson's speech, he along with NSA XO, CDR Demetries Grimes, Command Master Chief, CMDCM Todd Prayner and Command Chaplain, LCDR Alan Cameron traveled to the Marathi Nato Pier Complex to lay a wreath to remember those shipmates that lost their lives in this historic battle.

Pictured above, NSA Souda Bay participates in Battle of Midway Commemoration. Below, CMDCM Prayner delivers Battle of Midway Remembrance wreath. Skipper Gibson lays the remembrance wreath in the waters of Souda harbor at Marathi Nato Pier Complex.. NSA CO, XO, CMDCM and Command Chaplain render a salute to those that lost their lives in the historic battle.



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Noteworthy Events

Polish Defense Attaché Visit



NSA Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson (right) and NSA Executive Officer, CDR Demetries Grimes (left) welcome the Defense Attaché from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, COL Marek Jan Duda in the command building on Thursday 20 June 2013 for an orientation brief.

61st Civilian Personnel Council



NSA Souda Bay hosted the 61st Civilian Personnel Council (CPC) in mid June as a meeting between the US Forces (USF) and Hellenic Air Force (HAF)/ Hellenic Office of Administration (HOA) to address issues concerning Conditions of Employment (COE) related to

the employment of Local National Indirect Hire Employees. Those attending the meeting are pictured left:

Front row L-R: Al Spinelli (USF), Craig Sinclair (USF), Jean Border, US Co-Chair, COL Karanasios, Greek Co-Chair, Alexandra Karavasili (USF), Panagiota Mourtzi (HAF/HOA),

Second row L-R: LT Inch (USF), Jeffery Lind (USF), Costas Xylouris (USF), CDR Grimes (USF), Eftihia Kountouraki (HAF/HOA), MAJ Koutsorakis (HAF/HOA), MAJ Botaitis (HAF/HOA), Doug Campbell (USF).

Fire Department Rappelling Course



left to right: ABH3 Aristides Aldana practices his breaker bar rigging while Capt. Robert Sepulveda watches. Training Chief, Tim Dias provides a safety brief to fire fighter Brian Yeager, Capt Brian Kelly and Capt Robert Sepulveda prior to the start of the class. Training Chief, Tim Dias demonstrates the proper way to tie off and invert in order to do work hands free.

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Do You Have the Courage to do the Right Thing?

Souda Sailors in SAPR Stand-Down

By Peggy Bebb, NSA Public Affairs

Per NAVADMIN 158/13 and by direction from the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Chuck Hagel, NSA Souda Bay hosted the required SAPR stand-down in early June. The intent of the stand-down was to ensure service members and civilians clearly understood SAPR principles and the resources available to them.

Although mandatory for all service members, civilians were encouraged to attend the brief. The stand-down was to get the personnel to understand their accountability and role in the elimination of sexual assault, fostering a climate of dignity and respect and upholding the military core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

After a brief introduction by CMDCM Todd Prayner, NSA's CO, CAPT James Gibson discussed the stereotypical thoughts on sexual assault, such as 'he's a squared away Sailor or he's a good guy and would never do something like this' to sexual assault only happening to fe-

males. CMDCM Prayner stated that when Sailors are at Captain's Mast, it's usually not their on-duty activities that are in question, majority of the time it's the off-duty activities that warrant them at mast so he cautioned not to stereotype based on their appearance being a squared away Sailor. CMDCM Prayner also stated that recent data shows that there are more male to male sexual assaults than most would imagine, which helps to dispel the stereotype that it only happens to females.

CAPT Gibson stated that preventing sexual assault is a "leadership issue and that by wearing the uniform, we're all leaders, from the most junior Sailor to the most senior Officer." If a you witness a situation develop with a friend and see it heading in the wrong direction, CAPT Gibson remarked, "it takes a lot of leadership and courage to step in to stop it as doing so could cost you that friendship." CAPT Gibson went on to say that "One assault is too many" with CMDCM Prayner stating "Leadership

knows no rank."

Statistically, the 2012 Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Gender Survey report of active-duty personnel reported an increasing trend in sexual assault. It showed 26,000 DOD members experienced unwanted sexual encounters to which 10,700 of those were Navy. To breakdown further, 42% was unwanted touching, 23% was unknown, 15% was attempted acts of penetration and 20% was completed acts of penetration. The Navy's FY '12 Annual Report detailed the number of 726 reported sexual assaults to which 527 were unrestricted and 199 were restricted. The Navy also recognizes that there are a number of shipmates across the ranks who have not come forward and have suffered in silence.

The Navy acknowledges that sexual assault is a real problem and that the Navy owns it and must solve it and asks the question "Do YOU have the COURAGE to step up and do what is right?"



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SAPR Stand-Down Messages from Navy Leadership



Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) - Ray Mabus

Every day a new group of men and women raise their right hand and swear to join us in protecting and defending the Constitution of the United States of America. Every day mothers and fathers entrust their children to our leadership. They do so knowing they will face certain risks: combat, dangers at sea, or hazardous operations. But none of them expect the danger to come from other Sailors and Marines. We owe our Sailors, Marines and the American people a solution to the sexual assault problem in our ranks. This is a very real problem and it presents a clear danger to the very foundation of our naval culture. We can repeat that there is “zero tolerance” all we want; however, as leaders our actions must match the words in our commitment to prevent these crimes from taking place. Make no mistake, sexual assault is a crime. If someone was running across a base shooting at Sailors and Marines we would act immediately. Sexual assault requires

the same immediate action. Sailors and Marines DO NOT prey on other Sailors and Marines. Sailors and Marines DO NOT prey on anyone. Period. We can, and will, hold criminals appropriately accountable. You can count on it. Because of the reports on sexual assaults the American people are beginning to believe that there is something wrong with military culture; that we have a sexist, harassing, even threatening workplace and that we are incapable of professional behavior. You and I know that we ought to be better than that. We must be better than that to maintain the trust of the American people. We must Honor our shipmates by looking out for one another. We must have the Courage to act as an intervening bystander or to report crimes and inappropriate behavior. And we must have a commitment to our shared values and to support our shipmates who have been assaulted. The awareness, training, prevention and re-

sponse programs we have put in place have been important steps.

This is not an easy problem. Imaginative training and new programs are necessary and vital parts of the solution. Addressing the internal threat of sexual assault, and the challenge to good order and discipline in the fleet, requires the involved deck-plate leadership of everyone serving in the Department of the Navy. We must follow through. From the newest recruit to the most senior uniformed and civilian leaders, that kind of leadership is needed every single day.

Sexual assault is wrong. It is a crime. It can tear apart our units, and our Navy. Each of us must commit today, and every day, to eliminating this cancer from our Navy and Marine Corps.

Always Courageous.
Always Faithful.
Semper Fortis.
Semper Fidelis.



Chief of Naval Operation -

ADM Jonathan Greenert

Hello shipmates. We're having this sexual assault stand-down because we need to refocus. We need to refocus our attention on this very, very serious challenge that we have. Sexual assault is a serious offense; it's a crime. The fact of the matter is we still have shipmates assaulting other shipmates. Now think about it. These are people who go to sea together, who say they will give up their life for each other, and who fight casualties together, assaulting one another. We need to refocus. We need to take the time and remember what we're about. I need you to listen and I need you to learn during this stand-down. I'll see you out there in the fleet.



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

(MCPON) - Mike Stevens

Shipmates, you've heard our CNO. Sexual assault is serious and it's a crime. All of our Sailors deserve an opportunity to work in an environment that is safe and free of sexual assault. You and I, we have a responsibility to ensure that the conditions are set and maintained where that environment exists. Now, I call all of us to arms. I call all of us to arms to eradicate sexual assault because I believe that together there is nothing that we can not accomplish. Now let's get after it.

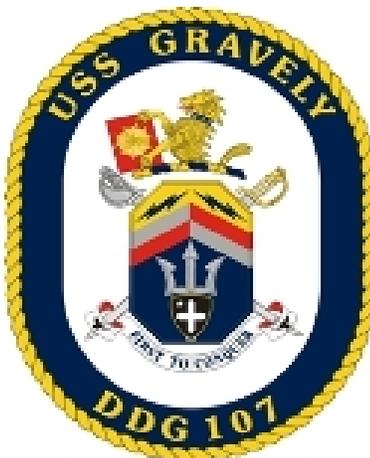


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SERVING THE FLEET

On any given day, at NSA Souda Bay, our team of more than 900 professional Sailors, Airmen and Civilians are working together to perform our mission: To extend Joint and Fleet war fighting capability through operational support to U.S., Allied and Coalition Forces deployed within the EUROMED/AFRICOM AOR by providing, operating and sustaining superior facilities and services dedicated to combat readiness and security of ships, aircraft, detachments and personnel. With the imagery on these pages we intend to offer you a glimpse of the recent activity both on the airfield and at the nearby NATO pier facility.

USS GRAVELY (DDG 107) visits Souda Bay.



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FLIGHTLINE ACTIVITY

The Sailors, Airmen, US, and Local National civilians assigned to "Team Souda" have a long history and a stellar reputation of providing 24/7 sustained superior support to the fleet, NATO and partner nations.



H-60 helicopter - The 'Night Dippers' squadron from HS-5, based out of Norfolk, Va., is currently deployed nboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.



C-2 COD - 'The Rawhides' squadron from VRC-40 based out of Norfolk, Va., and currently deployed onboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.



C2 COD - 'The Rawhides' squadron from VRC-40 currently deployed onboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.



C-17 'Globemaster III' from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., pictured with a C-2 COD from VRC-40.

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EOC Training Ensures Souda Personnel Are Ready For Emergencies

By Peggy Bebb, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

Since its inception, CNIC has been involved with innovative anti-terrorism and emergency preparedness training, an initiative driven in response to the lessons learned from previous natural and man-made disasters and the Presidential Report on the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina which read "An investment in the continued training and exercises of our command and control is top priority."

Coordinated through Region and NSA training departments, NSA Souda Bay hosted a mobile training team of two instructors to deliver the CNIC Emergency Operations Center Incident Management Team (EOC IMT) Course. Instructors taught the course over three and a half days in which each student learned how to properly serve as a member of an Installation's EOC IMT during an emergency. EOC IMT course lessons cover EOC team member roles and responsibilities, information management, communications, and the use of C4I Suite, the Navy's current common operating picture online application.

The course also consists of a number of practical class room exercises utilizing student working groups to apply the knowledge gained during lectures. For operations center exercises, students are broken into common EOC functional groups (Operations, Logistics and Plans) and given a practical scenario of an on-base emergency where they are forced to realistically lead, brief, coordinate and plan. Each day, classroom instruction is followed by an EOC exercise that gets progressively complex as the course progresses.

The students from NSA did very well, according to Mr. Brock Bergeson, course instructor and a member of CNIC's N7 HQ staff based out of Norfolk, Va. Mr. Bergeson went on to state that the earthquake scenario that the students were given

"is a difficult scenario for any installation to handle. The difficulty only increases when a smaller installation with fewer resources is faced with this type of incident."

The training team's intended outcome was to train EOC members from Souda Bay on what would be expected from them if the EOC was activated during any time while they were attached to the installation.

NSA Souda Bay's EOC Manager, course student and recent arrival to Souda Bay, Mr. Charlie Comer was impressed with both instructors. He stated they were both "well prepared and they were able to answer any question the class had." Mr. Comer continued that he thought the class had done a great job dealing with the emergency and that "being new to NSA, this was helpful for me because it gave me the opportunity to get to know some of the folks that I will be working with during an emergency. This will help us become more comfortable working together in a stressful situation."

According to Mr. Joe Kenoyer, NSA Souda Bay's Physical Security and Force Protection Officer and course student, the training "is vital as it makes personnel realize that the 'Devil is in the Details' and it takes detailed planning, comprehensive knowledge, and a unique sense of anticipatory management to operate effectively in these 'game changing' scenarios. I know from experience that people in an extreme situation will do 'as they have been trained to do' so training is a necessary foundation" as "bad things happen when you are least ready or prepared for it."

Mr. Manny Alam, Assistant Fire Chief at Souda Bay's Fire Dept was happy he took the course as it made him "much more comfortable operating" in the EOC "in the absence of the Fire Chief." Mr. Alam went on to state that he learned to 'step back and avoid the urge to act in an 'operations'

function" and that he learned "several key functions on how to operate in the EOC as a result of the course."



Souda Bay Asst. Fire Chief, Manny Alam briefs NSA's CO, CAPT Gibson on the latest developments during the earthquake exercise portion of the EOC IMT course

Mrs. Maria Kriaraki, from the Safety department stated "the exercise was especially effective as it allowed me to see the process flow and how an EOC should operate."

As well, Mr. Peter Bosmajian, Deputy Public Works Officer for NAVFAC Souda Bay, thought that the course was "a real good introductory class for those of us who haven't had any prior involvement with or being a member of an EOC."

From a personal standpoint, my participation in the class was very informative and educational. I learned my role in the EOC as an alternate in the absence of the Public Affairs Officer as well as the roles and responsibilities of other key players in the room. The instructors were extremely knowledgeable on the subject matter and were very confident and comfortable in the delivery. I would highly recommend to anyone that has the opportunity to take this course in the future to take full advantage and attend.



Class attendees from left to right: Tim McKenzie, Instructor, Dennie Bourbeau, NSA Training Officer, Peter Bosmajian, NAVFAC, Manny Alam, Fire Dept., CWO3 Jeffrey Molnar, Operations Dept., Maria Kriaraki, Safety Office, MA1 Robert Debord, Security, Joe Kenoyer, Physical Security Officer, Richard Crane, NAVFAC, Charlie Comer, EOC Manager, HM1 Harris, Medical, CS1 Martinez, Admin, LT Jason Lofton, Security Officer, Lt Col Shawn Gunter, 95th RS USAF Commander, CDR Scott Pusateri, Medical, Brock Bergeson, Instructor and Peggy Bebb, Public Affairs (not pictured).

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Souda Bay's Emergency Management Team Asks Do You Know Who to Call in an Emergency?

**ALL EMERGENCIES ON BASE
FROM DSN LINE:**

CALL - "911"

from a commercial phone (cell, home)



"28210-21911"



If and when dispatch phones are down and you cant get through, call dispatch on their emergency cell phone "694-043-1187"

The End of the Line for Souda Bay Landmark

60's Era Hangar Dismantled



Story input by Ms. Lena Koumoutsos -
NSA SB Air Terminal Manager

The Parthenon of NSASB, was originally built in the late 60's (so we were told) and served as an aircraft hangar as it stood almost in the middle of the aircraft parking apron - interestingly enough, we believe that the hangar's location was the key structure which may have set the tone as to the proximity of all other base facilities that were built at the time.

As NSASB started expanding it's role and specifically during the early 90's, the hangar served as the "temporary" work area and numerous ISO boxes were placed within its interior to support the 95th RS

and VQ who in the early 90s moved their reconnaissance operations from the deactivation of Hellenic AFB in Athens, GR to NSASB. As additional facility infrastructures were just starting to get underway, the NSA SB Fire Dept was housed within the Hangar in "MASH" type of tents, as well as the Air Terminal Operation while new facility construction projects were under way.

Throughout the last decade or so, Operations Dept fully utilized the hanger as a staging area for aviation gear, work areas and housing of temp detachments working on a short and

longer intervals. Aircraft maintenance was periodically conducted within, but as it lacked a fire suppression system - it was not fully utilized for this purpose.

Through-out it's existence, the hangar hosted a plethora of pigeons which had by its demolition established long family trees within its roof. Even though extensive mitigation efforts to relocate the pigeon residents were constantly made - these efforts were never fully successful, as the generations of pigeons normally found their way back to their hangar, heaven.



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Souda Bay Holds Frocking Ceremony

By Peggy Bebb, NSA Public Affairs

Following Naval tradition, NSA Souda Bay held a frocking ceremony on 5 June to ceremoniously ‘frock’ junior Sailors to the next rank. ‘Frocking’ has been a common practice throughout US Naval history. Naval History and Heritage Command states that “Navy Regulations as early as 1802 have personnel assuming the uniform of the next higher rank, not necessarily with higher pay, when appointed by proper authority to assume

the duties and responsibilities of that rank prior to actual promotion.” During earlier times, it was necessary to ‘frock’ someone in order to fill an unforeseen vacancy or when deemed necessary to ‘swell the ranks’ during war time, especially during the Civil War, according to Naval History and Heritage Command. Today, in the Navy, both enlisted and officers can be "frocked." When selected for promotion, but waiting for their promotion "line number" to be

released (which can take up to a year), a commander can allow the Officer or Sailor to assume the new rank. They don't get paid until their promotion line number is actually released, but they can at least wear the rank. Congratulations to all NSA newly ‘frocked’ Petty Officers.



Frocked First Class Petty Officers pictured with Command Leadership after frocking ceremony on 5 June.



Frocked Second Class Petty Officers pictured with Command Leadership after frocking ceremony on 5 June.



Frocked Third Class Petty Officers pictured with Command Leadership after frocking ceremony on 5 June.

New First Class Petty Officers

- MA1 Joseph Blair
- IC1 Todd Lanterman
- YN1 Jason Sweeney



New Second Class Petty Officers

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| MA2 Lindsey Bakke | MA2 Gregory Drew |
| MA2 Cedrick Ike | MA2 Jeremy Banks |
| MA2 Arthur Bernie | MA2 Stephanie Ferrara |
| MA2 Patrick Bull | MA2 Timothy Bolton |
| MA2 Kara Blom | MA2 William Osortocastro |
| AO2 Jessica Robinson | MA2 Vernon Colbert |
| MA2 Christopher Santucci | |

New Third Class Petty Officers

- RP3 Caleb Allison
- MA3 Jeremy Hardison
- MA3 Charles Hummel
- MA3 Luis Lopezmontealegre
- MA3 Zachary Morris
- MA3 Jerell Ordonio

June 2013 Awards Quarters



June 5, 2013 Awards Quarters awardees pictured above with NSA Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson, Executive Officer, CDR Demetries Grimes and Command Master Chief, CMDCM Todd Prayner after the awards ceremony.

Congratulations to the following Sailors for their outstanding achievements. Bravo Zulu on a job well done!

<p>Navy Achievement Medal (NAM):</p> <p>MA1 William Ellwood MA2 Joshua Hunter AO2 Jessica Robinson.</p>	<p>Flag Letter of Commendation (FLOC):</p> <p>MC3 Brent Pyfrom MA3 Samuel Ruttschow MCSN Chris Cavagnaro MASN Lissette Perez</p>	<p>Sailor/Junior Sailor and Blue Jacket of Quarter for FY13 2nd Quarter:</p> <p>LS1 Stacey Sobieski MA2 David Ferris MA3 Krystal Yagovane</p>
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Welcome Aboard



INDOC GROUP WEEK OF JUNE 3



INDOC GROUP WEEK OF JUNE 17

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Softball Season is Underway

First Pitch on New Field

By Peggy Bebb, NSA Public Affairs

After \$750,000 and 4 months of construction, NSA's CO, CAPT Gibson tossed out the ceremonial first softball pitch on the newly resurfaced multi-sport field to indicate the start of the official softball season on 11 June.

The construction project was extremely fast, according to Mr. Bob Woodruff, Souda Bay's MWR director, especially for a project of this "size and we are very grateful for the extra attention given to this project by NAVFAC to ensure it was completed in time to play a full softball season."

The new field has the flexibil-

ity to play a variety of sports to include soccer, flag football, kickball and to be used for other outdoor activities as well.

With the removal of the grass field, the command will definitely save money on irrigation as the new synthetic surface is irrigation free.

The material chosen for the new field, is called 'revolution' and is made from the newest generation of field turf. It is the closest material to real grass and according to Mr. Woodruff, "it gives the players the opportunity to safely slide into bases in softball and slide tackle in football."

The newly renovated athletic

field is a welcome addition to NSA Souda Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation program and Souda Bay's Sailors will definitely get usage out of it.

Here's to the start of a new softball season, on a brand new field. Play Hard, Play Fair, Play Safe and PLAY BALL!

(all images provided by NSA Souda Bay MWR department)



NSA Souda Bay's newly resurfaced 'revolution' turf multi-sport athletic field is pictured below.



War Fighting First, Operate Forward and be Ready!

Navy's CPO 365 Initiative

By Peggy Bebb, NSA Public Affairs

On a bright, sunny Friday morning in early June, 19 First Class Petty Officers (FCPO) and Chief Petty Officers (CPO) from NSA Souda Bay set out on a team building hike as a part of NSA's CPO 365 program.

Sent off on the venture by CMDCM Todd Prayner and lead by MAC Paul Parrish and GMC Troy Carr, the group hiked Avlaki Gorge, a paved footpath that leads from arguably one of the oldest Cretan monasteries, Gouverneto Monastery, down to the sea, with intentions of building a rapport between the CPO mess and FCPO Mess.

The Navy's CPO 365 program went Navy wide in 2010 under the command of then MCPON Rick West and has transitioned into current MCPON Mike Stevens reins.

The program consists of two phases and is intended to train first class petty officers throughout the year. All fcpos participate through the duration of phase one, which starts in September every year and ends when NAVADMIN announces the CPO selection. Phase two starts at the selection process and concludes with the pinning ceremony. CPO 365 offers the First Class Petty Officer the opportunity for year-round professional development that

combines training, team building and physical activities.

MCPON Stevens stated to his Chiefs that "we are the most respected group of enlisted leaders in the world and must ensure that we provide the type and level of training that ensures this remains true today and in the future."

According to MA1 Robert Debord, an NSA Souda Bay CPO 365 trainee and hike participant, he feels that "team building exercises are always useful tools and I think this one went pretty well. I hope for more participation in the future."



NSA Souda Bay First Class and Chief Petty Officers gather for a group photo after hiking the Avlaki gorge down to the water's edge from Gouverneto Monastery during a CPO 365 team building event.



MA1 Joe Dominguez pictured with Katholiko Monastery (Monastery of St. John the Hermit) in the background.



CPOs and FCPOs gather in the parking lot at Gouverneto Monastery while awaiting the start of the team-building hike down Avlaki Gorge.

War Fighting First, Operate Forward and be Ready!

NSA Chapel Hosts Vacation Bible School

By NSA Command Chaplain, LCDR Alan Cameron

From 17-21 June 2013, the NSA Souda Bay Chapel hosted Vacation Bible School (VBS). Attended by 51 children VBS Director, LtCol Dawn Ellis (USMC) spearheaded the planning and execution of the week's festivities and was assisted by 20 volunteers as well as chapel staff, RP3 Dennis Hughes and RP3 Caleb Allison.

The attendance was the best we have had in recent years and the support from our community and active duty Sailors was "Outstanding".

From a Christian philosophy of life, the purpose of VBS is "Spiritual Development" with a focus on school age children. In this community, in particular, where most of us are "geo-bachelors" or "single Sailors" focusing in supporting the U.S. Fleet in transit, we forget that we actually have families with children that are part of our Staff and immediate community.

VBS allows us to engage with these young families and aid in developing and nurturing spirituality. Spirituality is central to our human experience, the core of our character, and it must be nurtured in order to develop a moral and ethical foundation. VBS

is a well orchestrated program that allows parents to engage their children, in a systematic fashion, with spiritual and character development.

This year our theme was "Facing Fears, Trusting God" - based on 2Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love and sound judgment". Each day we expanded that theme and encouraged our children to "Dare to Change", "Dare to Speak Up", "Dare to Believe", "Dare to Stand Strong", and "Dare to Trust". We met from 0900-1200 Monday-Friday and every 20 to 30 minutes we rotated through different activities to include a general session with music and songs, crafts, Bible Study, snacks and sports. On the last day we had additional games for parents to engage with their children and a pizza lunch was provided by Navy Federal Credit Union to conclude our EPIC VBS.

The week of VBS was the culmination of nearly 5 months of planning and executing in a timely manner. I'm grateful for each of my volunteers, the community support we received, the hard work behind the scenes provided by Mrs. Ellis, RP3 Hughes, RP3 Allison and the financial support (budget) that made this event possible. Indeed, we are a community for our community and a sense of belonging was felt. The children did not want VBS to end and that's

always a great sign of a well engaged program that meets a need. I will leave Souda Bay knowing we have made a difference in young families and this community, and that's a sweet reward!

Very respectfully,
Chaps

By MA1 Emily Buster, NSA Security Department

I was driven to volunteer because I loved VBS as a child and thought it would be fun to help out with the kids. We got to work with all of the age groups because we led the singing and dancing.

It was fun to work with the different age groups and tailor the way we taught according to the group's skill levels.

At the end of the week I felt really good about the program that we had all worked together to do. It was really nice to see how the weeks of planning had paid off and how happy the children were. It was really great for me to be around the kids because I have a 6 yr old at home and it just felt good to be around kids again.

V/I,
MA1 Buster, Emily



VBS attendees and volunteers watch a slideshow of the week's activities.



MASN Sharon Covary (left) and MA1 Emily Buster engage the 3-5 yr olds in activities.



Chaplain Cameron engages in a bit of stretching exercises with the youngest VBS attendees.



MASN Sharon Covary (right) sings along with the children during the morning's music class.



Chaplain Cameron recognizes all of his volunteers for their hard work in organizing and leading the 2013 Vacation Bible School.

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