U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SOUDA BAY CRETE
ΟΜΑΔΑ ΣΟΥΔΑΣ

The Beacon

Warfighting First, Operate Forward, Be Ready

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

HAPPY 238th BIRTHDAY U.S. NAVY

NSA Souda Bay's Command Chaplain, LCDR Alan Cameron is pictured with the Command Color Guard prior to the commencement of the Navy Birthday Ball at the Avra Hotel.

Story by: Peggy Bebb
NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

NSA Souda Bay celebrated the United States Navy's 238th Birthday by hosting the annual ball at the Avra Imperial Resort and Spa in Kolymbari, Crete on October 11, 2013.

While staying true to the theme "Where tradition meets today", the Navy Ball committee, with assistance from AFN, put together a slideshow of both historical and recent photos from NSA Souda Bay that ran on large, overhead screens.

After remarks by CAPT James Gibson, NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer, the Sailors and guests were treated to an impressive buffet of food, to include appetizers, a variety of salads and multiple main courses to choose from.

Following tradition, glasses were raised and toasts were made to various entities to include the Hellenic Republic, our NATO Allies, The President of the U.S., to the men and women of the Armed Forces and the men and women of NSA Souda Bay, to name a few.

With a call out to the oldest and youngest Sailors in attendance, CAPT James Gibson and MASA Sharon Covary stepped forward to slice the birthday cake with the ceremonial sword.

The evening was rounded out by a gift giveaway in which the last gift of the night was won by HM3 Hilary Simeone, $800.00 reimbursement with the purchase of a ticket home.

Quote of the Month

"The Navy has both a tradition and a future--and we look with pride and confidence in both directions."

Admiral George Anderson, CNO, 1 August 1961

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Produced by NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

CNIC ★ FLEET ★ FIGHTER ★ FAMILY

SERVING THE FLEET

On any given day, at NSA Souda Bay, our team of more than 1000 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 EUCOM/CENTCOM/AFRICOM AOR by providing, operating and sustaining superior facilities and services dedicated to combat readiness and security of ships, aircraft, detachments and personnel. The imagery on these pages provides a glimpse of the recent activity both on the airfield and at the nearby Marathi NATO pier facility.

Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Helena (SSN 725) departs Souda Bay following a scheduled port visit.

Guided missile cruiser USS Monterey (CG 61) prepares to depart Souda harbor following a scheduled port visit

Guided missile destroyer USS Ramage (DDG 61) is met by tugboats as she arrives in Souda harbor for a scheduled port visit

The amphibious command ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20), arrives in Souda harbor for a scheduled port visit. Mount Whitney is the U.S. 6th Fleet Flagship and is home ported in Gaeta, Italy

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.

Pictured above are the F/A-18 Silver Eagles from VMFA 115 based out of MCAS Beaufort, SC and pictured below is the Wolfpack MH-60Rs of HSM-75 based out of Naval Base Coronado, CA.

In the Spotlight

Security's MWD Unit

NSA Souda Bay MWDs and handlers are as follows: l to r: MA3 Shaun Beasley and MWD Betty, MA1(SW) Joseph Dominguez and MWD EEverest, and MA3 James Summey and MWD Weezy.

Story by: Peggy Bebb
NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

NSA Souda Bay is home to a military working dog handler program, led by kennel master, MA1(SW) Joseph Dominguez. Along with their assigned four-legged counterparts, the handlers can be seen around base defending NSA Souda Bay and her assets by performing antiterrorism measures, as well as law enforcement and physical security operations.

The handlers are on call 24/7 and ready at a moment's notice if the need arises. MA3 James Summey sums up the kennel's mission by stating that by "integrating the Military Working Dogs (MWD) into the existing NSA Souda Bay military security force, our MWD teams enable those forces to perform their mission more effectively, and in many cases, with significant savings in manpower, time and money.".

According to MA3 Shaun Beasley, he and Betty, his assigned MWD, train constantly to maintain their professional MWD team so they are prepared to check an unattended package or bag, to inspect every rotator that leaves the flight line or any number of other scenarios that can play out on a day to day basis.

MA3 Beasley states that the biggest misconception of his job is that all that the handlers do is "play with dogs" or as MA1 Dominguez says that "we are dog walkers"." The handlers state that though this is partly true and "definitely a perk of the job," they have daily, monthly, and annual requirements that must be met by all MWD teams to maintain their certification and to be ready to respond when called on.

Military working dogs have been used since the Revolutionary War. According to historians, they were used as pack animals and later, for killing rats in the trenches during World War I, as sentries, scouts, and mine detectors during World War II. Today's MWDs provide a valuable asset to Military Police, Infantry, Special Forces, the Department of Defense (DOD), as well as other government agencies. The MWD's senses of sight, smell and hearing enhance their detection capabilities and provide a physical and psychological deterrent to criminal and terrorist activity," according to MA3 Beasley.

NSA Souda Bay is proud of the professionalism displayed by our Military Working Dog teams on a daily basis. Thank you to the Kennel staff for all you do to provide protection to Souda Bay personnel, visitors and all assets assigned or transiting our area. Bravo Zulu on a job well done!

ASIST Training Offered to Souda Sailors

NSA Souda Bay Sailors learn life-saving suicide intervention skills

LN2 Jacqueline Witty, ASIST instructor, discusses with class participants, some possible reactions they may encounter from 'at-risk' Sailors during the Command sponsored ASIST training class.

Story by: Peggy Bebb
NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

With suicide among service members on the rise, NSA Souda Bay offered the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) to Sailors and civilians in September. The ASIST training is a two-day workshop in suicide first aid with an emphasis on helping a person at risk to stay safe and seek help.

The class learned how to recognize invitations for help, how to reach out and offer help, how to review the risk of suicide, apply a suicide intervention model and how to link people with various resources.

When asked if he felt better prepared to ask the right questions if he encountered an at-risk Shipmate, MA1 George Yonitch stated "I feel that I am pretty well prepared. The class taught me a lot about how to ask, how to act and what to stay away from. I also feel that with the amount of suicides in the military, it should be a mandatory class for all. If not for all, it should be apart of the Petty Officer Indoctrination Class."

LN2 Jacqueline Witty of the Legal Office, had instructed five classes prior to starting this course as one of two instructors.

LN2 Witty stated that "Suicide is a topic that I am very passionate about as I have dealt with a suicide first hand. I know how important it is to learn skills to try to intervene and help someone find reasons for living."

With 23 newly trained ASIST caregivers available to the Command, LN1 Witty stated that "they are 100% more prepared to intervene when they notice a person at risk. At the end of the day, this is what our goal is, for a suicide free community."

VIP Visit

Bishop F. Richard Spencer, Vicar for all military installations in Europe, visits Souda Bay on 16 October, has breakfast with Sailors and holds Catholic mass at the Chapel.

Noteworthy Events

On 9 October, Souda Bay Chiefs Mess and First Class Petty Officer Association hosted a Sailor Appreciation meal at the galley in September where they served Sailors and Airmen lunch, bussed tables and dished out ice cream.

On 21 October, Souda Bay's C.S.A.D.D chapter and NFCU held a bake sale to support C.S.A.D.D's mission of giving junior service members free, alternative activities to participate in instead of drinking alcohol.

NSA Souda Bay's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (C.S.A.D.D.) held a fundraiser 'Pie in the Face' on 9 September to support their mission of giving junior service members free, alternative activities to participate in instead of drinking alcohol.

Noteworthy Events

On 9 October, NSA Fire Department Training Chief, Tim Dias, instructs base personnel on the proper technique for adult and infant CPR as part of the training for the use of the Public Access AED devices.

Firefighters build a dam to stop a HAZMAT spill from entering a drain during training provided by Bucks County Community College Public Safety and Training Center instructors during the week on 23 September.

Souda Bay's fire department hosts Fire Prevention Week the week of 7 October with a blood pressure/ blood sugar check station.

RP3 Caleb Allison, pictured with Father Kostas, delivers clothing donated by Souda Bay personnel to Saint Charalambos Church in Chania on 18 September.

NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson, speaks to Souda Bay Hellenic Office of Administration (HOA) employees during a celebration of the Greek National Holiday, Oxi Day, held at the 115th Hellenic Air Force Officers Club on Friday, 25 October.

Sailor of the Quarter for Region Legal Services Office EURAFSWA

NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson presents LN2 Jacqueline Witty her award for selection of RLSO EURAFSWA Sailor of the Quarter.

September Reenlistment

MA2 Patrick Bull reenlists for 4 years. The reenlisting officer is Port Services Officer, LT Chris White. Congratulations MA2 for Staying Navy.

(Photo by Harbor Patrol Unit Souda Bay)

October Reenlistment

AC2 Joseph Bell reenlists for 4 years on 17 October. The reenlisting officer is Operations Officer, CDR David Ellis. Congratulations AC2 Bell, for Staying Navy.

October Reenlistments

MA1 Rex Boblett, left and MA2 Arthur Bernier reenlisted for 6 years each prior to the Navy Ball on 11 October. Reenlisting Officer was NSA CO, CAPT James Gibson. Thank you for staying Navy MA1 and MA2.

(Photo by YN1 Jason Sweeney, Security Dept)

MA1 Joseph Blair reenlists for 6 years on 23 October. Reenlisting officer is NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson. Congratulations MA1 for Staying Navy.

MA3 Samuel Rottschow reenlists for 4 years on 29 October. Reenlisting officer is NSA Souda Bay Security Officer, LT Jason Lofton. Congratulations MA3 for Staying Navy.

September 2013 Awards Quarters

Pictured above, with the Command leadership, are the awardees from the September Awards Quarters. (left to right) MAC Timothy Clayton, MA2 Jonathan Roasario, LN2 Jacqueline Witty, NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson, NSA Souda Bay Command Master Chief, CMDCM Todd Prayner, NSA Souda Bay Executive Officer, CDR Demetries Grimes, LS1 Stephen Mitchell, LS1 Yelena Burich, MC1 Alma Van Der Loo, EN1 John Dunham.

Navy Commendation Medal (NCM)

MAC Timothy Clayton
LS1 Yelena Burich
EN1 John Dunham
LS1 Stephen Mitchell

Navy Achievement Medal (NAM)

MC1 Alma Van Der Loo
BM2 Armando Calvillo
MA2 Jonathan Rosario

RLSO Sailor of the Quarter

LN2 Jacqueline Witty

October 2013 Awards Quarters

Navy Achievement Medal (NAM)

MA1 Roberto maqueira
MA1 Jorge Ontiveros
ABH1 Jonathan Sandoval
AC2 Katrina Kermgard
MA2 Charles Landis
LS2 John O'Grady

Letter of Commendation (LOC)

MASN Derek Hoffman
MASN Jillian Tracy
MASA Adam Thompson

Pictured above, along with Command Staff, are the awardees from the October Awards Quarters. (left to right): MA1 Jorge Ontiveros, MA2 Charles Landis, ABH1 Jonathan Sandoval, NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer, CAPT James Gibson, AC2 Katrina Kermgard, NSA Souda Bay Executive Officer, CDR Demetries Grimes, NSA Souda Bay Command Master Chief, CMDCM Todd Prayner, LS2 John O'Grady, MASN Jillian Tracy, MASN Derek Hoffman and MASA Adam Thompson. (Photo courtesy of MC1 Benjamin Farone, AFN)

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

Welcome Aboard

Team Souda welcomes aboard the INDOC class from the week of 9 September 2013

Team Souda welcomes aboard the INDOC class from the week of 23 September 2013

Team Souda welcomes aboard the INDOC class from the week of 7 October 2013

(Photo courtesy of MC1 Benjamin Farone, AFN)

Team Souda welcomes aboard The INDOC class from the week of 21 October 2013

9/11 Memorial Run

Souda Bay participates in 9/11 Memorial Run sponsored by Fire Department

Participants in the 9/11 Memorial Run sponsored by NSA Souda Bay's fire department gather in front of the fire station after the run.

Story by Peggy Bebb
NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

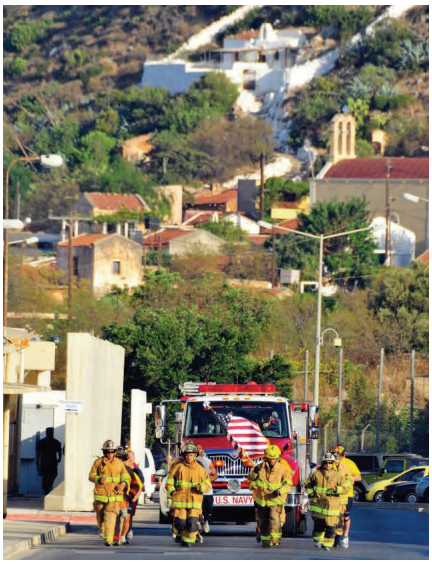
NSA Souda Bay fire department paid tribute to the 343 fire fighters that lost their lives during the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on 9-11-2001 by sponsoring a memorial run from the fire department to India post and back to the station. The run was open to all NSA base employees and the fire department was quite proud of the runners that showed up to participate.

To "symbolize the struggle that firefighters might have gone through when they realized they had to run for their lives" on 9-11, eight fire fighters from NSA Souda Bay's fire department ran the route in full turnout gear according to ABH1(AW/SW) Jonathan Sandoval, Air Operations Department and NSA Souda Bay Fire Department volunteer. At only fifteen years old when the attacks happened, ABH1 Sandoval remembered watching the news in disbelief as to what was happening, noting that 9-11 had a big impact on his life. Three years later, ABH1 Sandoval joined the Navy and after nine years, he acquired all the training from the Navy and stated "fire fighting is something I enjoy and couldn't see myself doing any other job but this one."

Manny Alam, Assistant Fire Chief, stated he participated to "pay respect to the men and women that died that day. They paid the ultimate price doing a job I love and feel honored to be a part of. Knowing they ran in to the danger zone to save people, people they don't even know, while the natural reaction was to run out is a trait of a first responder. As a small tribute to all the individuals affected, this token is our way of saying that we will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made".

"This event seemed to have brought an esprit de corps within the command" according to MACS Michelle Coronado, from NSA Souda Bay Security Department. "Many people came out to support on short notice and had a sense of pride for being there and a sense of gratitude for our firefighters."

Knowing that firefighting is, more often than not, "a thankless profession," Assistant Chief Alam was proud of the turnout for the run and the support displayed along the way. Assistant Chief Alam went on to say that "firefighters do the job out of a desire to serve, the excitement of the profession, and the desire to do what others can't or won't. I firmly believe respect is a critical trait and today, NSA Souda Bay Fire Department displayed ours."



MA Olympics held at NSA Souda Bay

Story by: MA1 Claudia Burnett,
NSA Souda Bay Security Dept

During September NSA Souda Bay's Security Department conducted it's first ever MA-Olympics. Never heard of it?

When LT Jason Lofton, NSA Souda Bay Security Officer, arrived last year he brought the idea of developing a competition where all MA 's could show what it takes in this rate. "I wanted them to use their continuous training and use it in a competitive way, to boost morale and promote team cohesiveness within the Security Department," says LT Lofton. "Similar to the civilian police force use to compete against each other, especially K9 teams. It was my blue print for this idea." It took 19 month in the making from the idea to the realization.

The Security Training Department with MAC J. Centeno and MA1 A. Penrod took the lead in planning the event. "I did some research on what disciplines civilian police departments use for their annual police force competitions. These examples were tweaked and modified to fit the Rate of a Master-at-Arms," says MA1 Penrod. For MAC Centeno, not only was targeting the training objectives important, but as well safety for each participant and team cohesiveness.

Each team was physically and mentally tested during the events. It included an active-shooter scenario, which could happen in reality anytime, referring to the recent event in Washington, DC.

During the Olympics each duty section competed against each other in several categories over the course of four weeks. The categories included weapons assembly, volleyball tournament, obstacle course, 400 m relay swim in four different strokes, Active-Shooter scenario using Airsoft guns, dodge ball tournament, and tug-of-war. Each member of a section had to compete at least in one of the events.
"We still need to make some improvements on the different categories, but all in all it was a success and the sailors had fun", said MAC Centeno, after brainstorming and debriefing with his Training Department.

But this is not were the story ends. LT Lofton's vision is a regional competition. Each command would conduct their own tournament and send their best teams to a regional tournament. The best team of the tournament wins a trophy and keeps it for a year until the next annual regional competition and would host the new annual tournament.

Pictures provided by:
MA1(SW/AW) Claudia .Burnett

NSA Souda Bay Participates in International Coastal Cleanup

33 Sailors and Civilians join global initiative and clean debris from local beach

NSA Souda Bay volunteers that participated in the 2013 International Coastal Cleanup are pictured with the truckload of trash collected from the Macheria beach area in Stavros, Crete.

Story by: Peggy Bebb
NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

NSA Souda Bay participated in its first International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) on 20 September, 2013. 33 Sailors and civilians participated in this global initiative that was started in 1986 by the Ocean Conservancy, a non-profit environmental advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. that promotes healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems and opposes practices that threaten oceanic and human life.

The ICC is the world's largest volunteer effort to clean up waterways and the ocean, according to the Ocean Conservancy website: www.oceanconservancy.org. Data shows that in 2012, the ICC took place in 97 countries and over 10 million pounds of trash were picked up.

Ms. Julie Shane, NSA Souda Bay Environmental Director, stated that the beach chosen is, "because of its configuration and location, a significant collection point for ocean debris. That made it the perfect candidate for this clean-up, which focuses on ocean trash." Macherida beach, located in the Stavros area of the Akrotiri peninsula is a small, hidden cove where large amounts of trash had accumulated, not only on the beach itself but also on the water's edge.

With the assistance of the volunteers, there were a total of 30 bags of trash collected to include a couch, personal hygiene items, syringes, cigarette butts, plastics, glass and metals, to name a few. LS1 James Adegoke, LPO NAVSUP FLCSI Souda Bay, stated that he was "speechless and depressed" when he arrived at the cleanup site where he noticed trash "in different corners, embedded in rocks, in the water and inland." He was happy to be a part of the cleanup effort and that with the amount of trash on the beach in the beginning was, by far, reduced after the cleanup was complete.

Ms. Shane went on to say that "marine debris has impacts from entangling and choking marine life to ruining beaches and depressing local economies. We have done our part in making this beach accessible and protecting marine life."

MWR Happenings

Sailors participate in Focus Groups

MWR holds three focus groups for Sailors to offer suggestions on various Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs and facilities offered at Souda Bay.

Pasta Day 5K run (photos by MWR)

Over 50 Souda Bay personnel participated in the first ever Pasta Day 5K Run on 17 October All runners received a coupon, redeemable for a great Pasta buffet later that day at the club. Congratulations to all participants..

MWR Happenings

Command Fitness Leader (CFL) Course (photos by MWR)

MWR NSA Souda Bay held a Command Fitness Leader (CFL) Course in October and certified 7 more CFL's that will lead the NSA Souda Bay Command PRT. Two of the seven students, UT2 Jacob Phelps and AO2 Zachary Hansen, got an overall score of OUTSTANDING on their PRT. Congratulations to all seven new CFL instructors.

Souda Sailors participate in NMIOTC 7K run (photos by MWR)

NSA Souda Bay Sailors and Airmen participated in a 7K run organized by NATO Interdiction Operational Training Center (NMIOTC). The event focus was not only on the winners of the race but also on the athletic spirit, and was an excellent opportunity to build camaraderie with our host nation counterparts. NSA Souda Bay won 1st-3rd place honors in both the men's and women's categories. Congratulations to both the Souda Bay Sailors and Airmen and to NMIOTC for a successful and fun event.

CSADD Sponsors Trunk or Treat for Souda Bay Community

Souda children enjoy an evening of games and goodies provided by base personnel

Story by: Peggy Bebb
NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

With the assistance from various base organizations and the participation of numerous individuals, NSA Souda Bay's CSADD chapter hosted the annual Trunk or Treat celebration for the young ghouls and goblins from the base community.

Children of all ages came dressed as their favorite character s and strolled from car to car and table to table in hopes of gathering a few goodies or playing games to win a prize.

At the end of the evening, it seemed everyone had a wonderful time. The Sailors and Airmen that came dressed up to hand out candy, to those that took the extra time to decorate their vehicles to get into the Halloween spirit all the way down to the youngest child walking around showing off their fabulous costume, the event was a huge success.

Thank you Souda Bay CSADD members and all participants for bringing a little bit of Americana to the little folks at Souda Bay and thank you to the NSA community for making this night fun for all.