



Team Souda Connection Family Gram

PRODUCED BY
NSA SOUDA BAY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SPRING 2012

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Inside this

Edition:

CO Message	1
CMC Corner	2
XO's Words	2
FFSC	3
From the desk of the Chaplain	3
Medal of Honor	4
Admiral Clingan	6
Awards Quarters	7



From the Commanding Officer



Scott M. Hogan
Captain, U.S. Navy

Shipmates and Souda Bay family and friends,

This is my final Family Gram log as Commanding Officer of NSA Souda Bay. The past two years have gone by amazingly fast. Mary and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time and are truly blessed we had the opportunity to live among the unique beauty and incredible hospitality Crete is renowned for.

Over the past two years, NSA Souda Bay was recognized as one of the premier installations in the United States Navy. What is more impressive is that recognition is distinguished across the full spectrum of Navy installation operations. In 2011, NSA Souda Bay was awarded the Secretary of the Navy's Small Shore Facility Energy and Water Management Award - the best energy and water management program in the US Navy. 2011 also saw NSA Souda Bay's

Galley and Navy Gateway Inn Suites (NGIS) achieve recognition as "5-Star" operations, a distinction shared by few commands in the entire Navy and only given to those that achieve the highest level of service standards.

NSA Souda Bay along with our sister installation, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, were the primary bases supporting NATO operations fighting in Libya. For almost nine months, Souda Bay provided a temporary "home" for 500 to several thousand personnel. For more than nine months, NSA Souda Bay hosted forces from the US, France, Qatar, and Norway. This is an impressive feat when one considers the entire population of NSA Souda Bay is only about 1,000 people. Team Souda also provided Humanitarian Assistance operations, playing a key part bringing crucial aid to the people of Egypt and Tunisia during the "Arab Spring" of late 2010 and early 2011. Bottom line: your family and friends have been continually in the forefront of historical events for the past two years. It has been a truly amazing time and they have performed superbly. For this reason, our boss, Commander, Naval Region Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia selected NSA Souda Base as his nomination for the Commander Naval Installations Command 2011 Installation Excellence Award as the best small installation in the Navy.

While these are impressive milestones, they certainly do not define my time here on Crete. I will be forever grateful to all the people who have served here - military, civilian, and our local nationals. On more occasions than I can count I have been the beneficiary of accolades of your outstanding attitude and service. I have received emails from retirees on vacation to military members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq, all of them commenting how someone on this base went the extra mile for them. There have been "Thank You" letters from Generals and Admirals who told me how impressed they were that a base this size can so easily handle operations equal to bases 3-4 times its size,...or just a note in a CO's Suggestion Box thanking me for the personal attention an MWR, NEX or NFCU employee extended to them.

Souda Bay - you have a tremendous reputation as a great command. What made me so proud on so many occasions was to see how effortlessly you did it. My biggest achievement here is how ALL OF YOU got the job done and made it look easy. Thank you for such a memorable tour.

All the best,

-Skipper Hogan



CMC Corner



Souda Bay Family and Friends,

The warm weather has arrived and not a moment too soon. We had quite a cold and rainy winter here in Souda Bay, but we weathered through it.

With the warmer weather comes more outdoor activities. With

more outdoor activities comes greater chances of injuries from those activities. What I need every Sailor, family member and friend to do, is to take a moment and look at what the dangers are of whatever activity you are about to engage in. Whether its yard work, water sports, riding a motorcycle, or even something as routine as a BBQ, take a few extra seconds to review or think "what safety steps do I need to take to make this an enjoyable activity?" Nobody wants to get hurt, but it happens. Most of the time it is due to neglecting the basic safety requirements for that activity.

I ask everyone to have a plan in place if your off duty activity includes the consumption of alcohol. When alcohol is involved, you need to ask yourself some important questions: 1) How are you or your family/friends

going to get home safely and do I have the emergency contact numbers? 2) If I choose not to plan accordingly, how is this going to affect my command, my shipmates and my family? And if you are going to consume alcohol, please do it responsibly.

The island of Crete is a fantastic place to visit. I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to come and see what your Sailor gets to see everyday, to take advantage of that. Just ensure that your Sailor is asking his or her chain of command what the rules are so nobody gets put into a position where they are violating a law or regulation.

Have a fun and safe summer.

*-Command Master Chief
Todd Prayner*



Executive Officer's Words

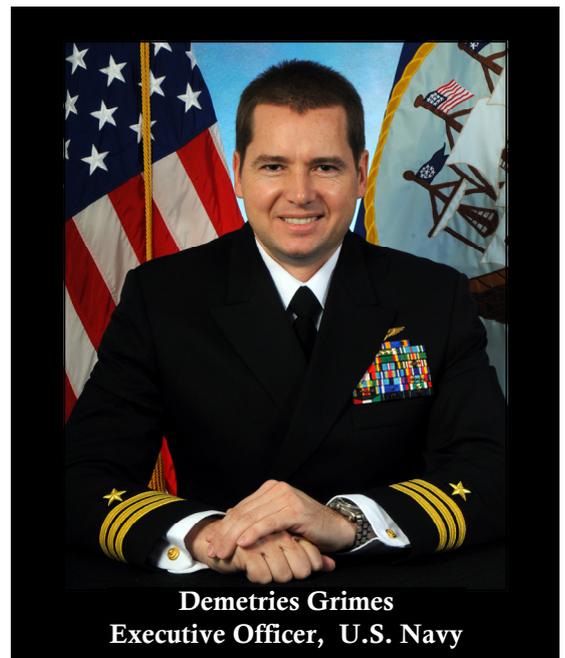


To our new arrivals welcome and congratulations on your new assignment at NSA Souda Bay (NSASB),

You have a unique opportunity for professional development in a special place with a rich history. You and your families can be proud that you are now part of a team of Sailors, Civilians, and Local Nationals that has an exceptional record of performance that sets the standard in the naval installation enterprise. As I've mentioned at "Command Indoctrination," if you are assigned to NSASB you play an important role in supporting Department of Defense (DoD) global air and maritime operations into the CENTCOM, AFRICOM, and EUCOM Areas of Responsibility (AORs). Your hard work at NSASB enables our Joint DoD team to extend our nations global reach 24/7 during one of the most challenging and dynamic times in this region's history. As sailors and civilians assigned to a strategic Forward Operating Site (FOS) you are entrusted with responsibilities and authorities above and beyond your peers both in the fleet and at home. Your hard work, dedication, and resourcefulness will ensure both your and our mission success. Keep up the exceptional work...I look forward to a great tour with you!

XO

-Executive Officer, Demetries Grimes



Demetries Grimes
Executive Officer, U.S. Navy



To all,

Greetings from the NSA Souda Bay Fleet and Family Support program. We are a very small department but do our best to ensure that family members stationed or visiting here are able to get the basic support services. For most of you, that involves some help while visiting the area and in planning your trip. Can we get Pampers? Are there any programs for children? What are the “must see” places on Crete?

Souda Bay can be a lovely place to visit, but planning ahead is essential. US family members can visit for up to three months, but must leave after then per Greek visa requirements. Non-US family members may need special paperwork and/or visas to enter the country.

Prior to traveling here, I encourage you to contact either myself or our base ombudsman, Dawn Ellis, with any questions. If we don't know the answers, we can either direct you to the people who know or seek them out

ourselves. Email is the easiest way to reach us, or you can hook up with us via Facebook pages. Email addresses are kathleen.doherty@eu.navy.mil (for FFSC) and dawn_n_ellis@yahoo.com (for ombudsman).

And if you do come for a visit, please look us up. The Fleet and Family Support Center is located on the ground floor of Building 11, immediately to the right after entering our base. We are usually here from 8 to 4 on weekdays.

-Fleet and Family Service Center



From the Chaplain's Desk



Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen!
- Hebrew 11:1

Why is my loved one so far away? This may be a question you've asked yourself lately. When somebody we care about so deeply is absent, we can't help but feel the sting of this and wonder why. In fact, your loved one may be asking this very same question as you read this. "Why I am so far away from home right now?"

I find it interesting that the New Testament biblical character named Titus, was probably asking this question as well, when he was stationed on Crete about 2000 years ago. Titus was an associate of the Apostle Paul, and he too had left his home and family members behind, finding himself on the very same

island as your service member. After some time had passed, Paul wrote to Titus to encourage him and also to refocus him on the mission at hand. In Titus 1:5, Paul writes, "For this very reason, I left you on Crete..." He then goes on to detail the important needs Titus was there to meet.

Take heart dear reader, your loved one is here on Crete for a noble reason as well. Could it be that God has placed them here to meet vital needs which they are uniquely qualified to meet, all in the service of their grateful Nation? Yes, they are making a sacrifice to do so. Yes, this is a sacrifice you that hits home in very tangible ways. However, we must not

lose sight of how worthwhile the sacrifice truly is.

Just as was the case so many years ago, there still are needs to be met. Thank you for paying the price to help our country fulfill the vital mission of defending freedom. Know it is not in vain; and know that God sees this sacrifice, and that when it seems too much to bear, He is there for you- to comfort, to strengthen, and to guide.

You are steadfastly in our prayers,

The Souda Bay Chaplain Team.

Medal of

HONOR

Photos and Story by MCSN Chelsy Alamina

Retired Army Col. Bruce P. Crandall speaks to NSA Souda Bay service members.



U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay held an All Hands call in the courtyard to welcome a Medal of Honor recipient April 5. Retired Army Col. Bruce P. Crandall spoke to the service members, hosted a lunch with a selected few, and toured the military working dog kennels and the Marathi NATO pier facility.

Crandall was approximately 20 years old when he was drafted into the United States Army. After graduating, he was commissioned as a fixed-wing helicopter pilot and later received the prestigious Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of La Drang in 1965, in which he flew 22 missions in an unarmed helicopter into enemy fire. He was successful in delivering supplies and ammunition to his fellow soldiers and also evacuated some 70 wounded. As the Vietnam War came to a close, Crandall had flown over 900 combat missions.

Crandall's Stetson, displaying his rank and various platoons.



Crandall humbly shared his story with NSA personnel and considered his actions to be "non-heroic," stating that he was only reacting to the

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situation with the skills and abilities that the United States Army taught him. Following his speech, Crandall was presented with a plaque from NSA's Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan, as a gift from the command.

After the All Hands, Crandall was accompanied by select Sailors and Airmen to dine with him in NSA's galley. Crandall told stories of his time in service to his fellow service members and answered their eager questions.

Crandall also had the opportunity to witness the capabilities of the military working dogs and their handlers. Two of the trained dog handlers demonstrated their techniques on how to apprehend a suspect by using a body suit for the dog to attack. The team of handlers, along with their dogs, posed for a photo with Crandall following his interview with Armed Forces Network Souda Bay.

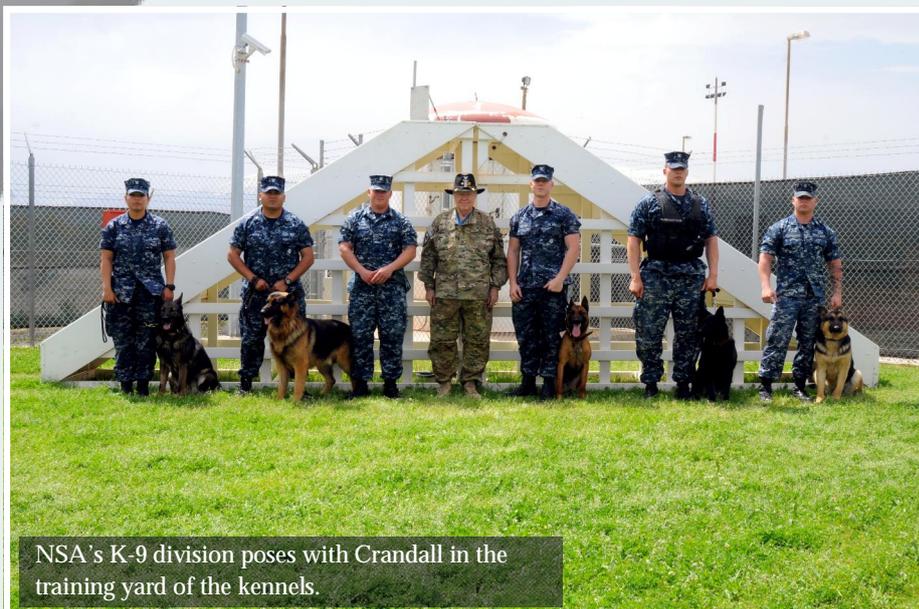
His visit, although short, was appreciated by all personnel stationed at NSA Souda Bay .



Sailors and Airmen attentively listen to Crandall's speech.



NSA's Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan, presents Crandall with a plaque to show the command's appreciation.



NSA's K-9 division poses with Crandall in the training yard of the kennels.

Admiral Clingan addresses Sailors at NSA Souda Bay.



Admiral Clingan Visits Souda Bay

Story and Photos by MCSN Chelsy Alamina

Sailors stationed at U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay focused on Admiral Bruce W. Clingan, the newly appointed Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples, as he addressed All Hands April 4, 2012 in the command gymnasium. Clingan commended the Sailors on their hard work and dedication to their jobs as well as the welfare of the command. The elimination of sexual assault was a Navy-wide topic Clingan

chose to discuss with attendees, stating that even though the issue wasn't prevalent in Souda Bay compared to other commands throughout the world, that it could be found anywhere at anytime with any person. The need to take care of ourselves and our shipmates is important, it shows respect for others; treating each other with dignity creates a command climate that rejects harassment of any form.



Sailors listen to Clingan speak on Sexual Assault Awareness.



Sailors focus on Clingan during his All Hands call.

Award Recognitions

Includes awardees from
JAN2012-APR2012

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

UT1 DANIEL M. DELLAMONICA
(PW)(PREVIOUS CMD)

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MA1(EXW) KEVIN L. MCPHER-
SON (SEC)(PREVIOUS CMD)

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

LS1 YELENA N. BURICH (AIR
OPS)(PREVIOUS CMD)
BM2(SW) JARRET K. MCKINNEY
(PORT OPS)

MA1(SW) BRANDON R. MILLER
(SEC)

BM1(SW/AW) OMAR E.
NAVARRO (OPS)

MA2 JOSHUA R. SCIARRATTA
(SEC) (PREVIOUS CMD)

MA2(SW/AW) CLAUDIA BUR-
NETT (SEC)(PREVIOUS CMD)

MA2(SW) GREGORY D. CHEAT-
WOOD (SEC)(PREVIOUS CMD)

MA2 CHRISTOPHER A. PARRISH
(SEC)

MA2(SW) JAMES E. STINYARD
(SEC)(PREVIOUS CMD)

YN2 COREY COBERLY (SEC)

MA3 LUCAS W. ROBISON (SEC)

MASN ZAHARY S. DAVIS (SEC)

FLAG LETTER OF COMMENDA-
TION

MA1 CHRISTOPHER P. GARRETT
(SEC)

MA2 SEAN T. TAYLOR (SEC)

MA3 NICHOLAS M. WHISKER
(SEC)

MA3 BRIAN A. POIRIER (SEC)

ENFA JASMINE C. BLAKE (OPS)

ENFA RACHAEL N. STROTHER
(OPS)

MA3 RACHEL M. ARP (SEC)
(PREVIOUS CMD)

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

MA2 ANTHONY SEAMAN (SEC)

MA3 TIFFANY R. MILLER (SEC)

MA3 JOHNNY A. OLIVER (SEC)

MA3 MELINDA L. RODRIGUEZ
(SEC) (PREVIOUS CMD)

MA3 KENNETH D. WOOLRIDGE
(SEC)

MASN AARON J. RAISH (SEC)
(PREVIOUS CMD)

MA2 JOEL J. MOBLEY (SEC)

MA2 JOSHUA RICHIE (SEC)
MA3 ADAM D. FORKER (SEC)
MA3 BROOK JOHNSON (SEC)
MA3 MARTIN KOCHER (SEC)
AC3 MARIO SANTIS (OPS)
MASN JEREMY J. BOYD (SEC)
MASN JOSHUA W. DAVIS (SEC)
MASN KYLA M. MAKOUSKY
(SEC)

CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER

MR. ORA "TEDDY" GALE (ISD)
MR. SOTIRIOS KAGADIS (EM)
MA1(SW) DOUGLAS TEROU
(SENIOR)(SEC)

FROCKING

MASN MARC MENDOZA
MASN PHILLIP SUDDETH
MASN ALEXANDER COTTER
MASN ALEXANDER M. COTTER
(SEC) (PREVIOUS CMD)

ASSOCIATES DEGREE

MA1 TERRY D. PURCELL (SEC)
(CRIMINAL JUSTICE)

CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT SER- VICE AWARD

MR. MIHALIS HATZIDAKIS
(30 YEARS)
MRS. EFTIHIA PAPADAKI
(30 YEARS)
MR. NIKOLAOS ORNERAKIS
(10 YEARS)

OF THE QUARTER AWARDS

MR. NICOLAS ORNERAKIS (LN)
(ADMIN)
MR. BRIAN YEAGER (U.S. CIVIL-
IAN)
RP3 DIAMOND MONIE (BLUE
JACKET)(CHAPEL)
MA2 CANDANCE WILLET
(JUNIOR)(SEC)
MA1(SW) DOUGLAS TEROU
(SENIOR)(SEC)
ABH2 ERIC S. SMITH (JUNIOR)
(OPS)
MCSN CHELSY I. ALAMINA
(BLUE JACKET) (ADMIN)

OF THE YEAR AWARDS

ORA (TEDDY) GALE (U.S. CIVIL-
IAN)(N6)
HARALAMBOS (BOBBY)
ANETAKIS (LN)(ADMIN)



Photos by MCSN Chelsy Alamina and Paul Farley.

The High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV2) is one of Military Sealift Command's two high-speed vessels and is part of the 30 ships in the Prepositioning Program which ensures efficient distribution of U.S. military gear to operating areas throughout the world.



The Blue Ridge class command ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) visits Souda Bay.



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Chelsy Alamina

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Tell us how we can improve our family gram!

Mail your comments to the return address above or e-mail: SoudaPAO@eu.navy.mil

For the latest news and updates on NSA Souda Bay visit <http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/soudabay/index.htm>