



Team Souda Connection

Family-Gram

Uniting The Families of NSA Souda Bay

Produced by
NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

January—March 2008

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Souda Bay Sailors Contribute to Maritime Security Training in Africa

Article by SN Jennifer Hunt, Naval Media Center; and Ms. Katie Doxakis, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

In November and December 2007 three Sailors from NSA Souda Bay, BMC (SW) Donald Murray, BM2 (SW) Ian Cochran and MA2 Villanueva, deployed to Africa where they directly assisted Commander, Naval Forces Europe – Commander, Sixth Fleet (CNE-C6F) in the African Partnership Station (APS) mission. The three Sailors provided training in support of CNE-C6F's mission to enhance regional and maritime security and thereby prevent future conflicts in the waters surrounding certain African nations. The training provided by Souda Bay personnel and others from Navy commands in the region "is incredibly important as we look to the ability of those countries, particularly the Gulf of Guinea, to get a maritime capability," says Admiral M. P. Fitzgerald, CNE-C6F.



BMC Murray with one of his students. Photo courtesy of BMC Murray.

Murray and Cochran taught Coxswain courses for ap-

proximately 167 students from the naval bases at Accra and Takoradi, Ghana. Villanueva assisted in teaching the Armed Sentry Course. According to Cochran, the Coxswain Course consisted of training both in the classroom and on the water. "We did a couple days of classroom training, training them on rules of the road and just basic maneuvering skills," explained Cochran, "We did another full week of actual maneuvering: how to pull alongside piers, how to pull alongside boats, how to tie knots, all just basic seamanship and coxswain handling."

"We got a lot of feedback, positive feedback," reported Murray. Thanks to the training from NSA Souda Bay's instructors, along with others in the European region, Seamen in some African nations will "extend their maritime boundaries, says Fitzgerald, thereby increasing "maritime situational awareness and understand[ing of] what is out in

BUC Juan Campos Selected for LDO

Article by Ms. Katie Doxakis, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

On February 27, 2008 Limited Duty (LDO) and Warrant Officer selections for fiscal year 2009 were announced and the lone selectee from NSA Souda Bay was Builder Chief Juan Campos. Campos was selected for Civil Engineering Corps LDO. "I was happy and surprised," said Campos about the news, "there was some serious competition."



BUC Juan Campos at his desk in Public Works Department, NSA Souda Bay.

According to the official announcement, competition was "extraordinarily keen" this year and those selected demonstrated "sustained superior performance... steady upward professional growth... [and] increasingly challenging diverse assignments." Campos recommends that Sailors with aspirations to follow in his steps should "get out of your comfort zone and seek challenging jobs and then excel in those jobs." Campos also pointed out the importance of after hours education, either civilian or military, as being key to success.

Campos will attend 5 weeks of LDO school in Newport, RI this fall and then report to an operational command. Born in El Salvador, Campos moved with his family to Houston, Texas at the age of 13.

Commanding Officer's Message



Captain T.J. McDonough (left) presents a Navy Commendation medal to E01 Denise Gillette at the 2008 Seabee Ball.

Greetings to all family and friends of Team Souda! Over the past few months Souda Bay has continued to enjoy great success. I'm happy to report we received Commander, Navy Region Europe's nomination for the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award for 2007, and we will now go on to compete against other installations worldwide for this prestigious recognition.

Another exciting accomplishment is the extension of the "Patriot Express" flights from Norfolk through fiscal year 2009! You may remember read-

ing in a past newsletter that the flights were originally slated for termination in September 2007. The flights were initially extended through only September 2008; however we've recently succeeded with our efforts to obtain continued flights through September 2009. The flights present an important travel opportunity for families and I encourage all dependents to take advantage of these great "Space A" opportunities from Norfolk to Souda Bay and return.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that many significant quality of life improvements are underway. I, along with my staff, have been working diligently to secure funding and make plans for several major improvements on the instal-

lation that include a new Navy Exchange/Commissary project and renovation of our gymnasium. In addition to improved services and facilities, we are putting efforts forth to beautify the installation and add environmentally friendly technology to our existing buildings. It is my goal to ensure a better place for all of our Sailors to live and work and these projects are a big step in that direction.

I thank you all for the encouragement and support you provide to your loved ones here in Greece. Our mission here could not be accomplished effectively without each and every one of them.

Very Best Regards,
THOMAS J. MCDONOUGH
Captain, U.S. Navy

Team Souda's 2nd Quarter Awardees



MA1 Joshua Reichard accepts an award from Commanding Officer, Thomas J. McDonough, Jr. during command quarters.

Each month members of Team Souda gather in the gymnasium for command quarters. During the second quarter, January through March, the following awards were presented during command quarters.

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals: MA1 James Kopsho, MAC Keysha Cole, MAC Jamie Kennerly, EO1 Denise Gillette, and MA1 Joshua Reichard.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals: ABF2 Kieth Ewoldt, MA2 Expedito Ramos, MA3 Raul Dallas, ABHC Danny Thomas, BU1 Nicholas Christilaw, MAC Christopher Clines, MA1 Jennifer Beucler, CM1 Brian Boyd,

MA1 Jay Gautney, MA1 James Sherrard, MA2 Jacob Zappey, EN1 Ivory Gentle, MA1 Jonathon Kendrick, MA1 Ricky Phillips, AO1 Stephen Pratte, SK1 Adler Luis Ribaya, RP2 RussTrimp.

Flag Letter of Commendation: LN1 Kimberly Roan.

Certificates of Achievement: IT1 Phineosjay Oshio, MA1 Joshua Reichard, LN1 Kimberly Roan, SK1 Lamar Simon, SSGT Elijah Manning, BU2 John Howard, RP2 Joseph Pendantonga, HM2 Elsy Pineda, YN2 Glice Planas, MA2 Bertha Riojas, HM3 StefanPetkovic, PS3

Gwendolyn Pizarro, PC3 Shannon Williams, MCSN Jennifer Hunt, Ms. Lola Anastasakis, Ms. Athina Fragudakis.

Additionally, in January, Sailors and Civilians of the Year were recognized at quarters. The recipients of this distinguished recognition were as follows.

Junior Sailor of the Year: AO2 Jeremy Zulz; **Blue Jacket of the Year:** ABH3 Lopez; **U.S. Civilian of the Year:** Mr. Roland D. Rhodes; **Local National Civilian of the Year:** Ms. Anna Farley and Mr. Konstantinos Fantaousakis.

MCPON Visits NSA Souda Bay

Article by Ms. Katie Doxakis, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

On February 25-26 the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe Campa visited NSA Souda Bay as part of his tour of the Navy Europe region. The MCPON joined Sailors during command physical training (PT) on February 26 followed by command quarters. An enthusiastic crowd welcomed the MCPON for his first trip to NSA Souda Bay and the European Region during his tenure as MCPON.

MCPON Campa started off his remarks by noting the importance of NSA Souda Bay and our Sailors. "If we didn't have this place here, we couldn't do the job that we need to do throughout this area," said Campa, "I appreciate the capability you provide. . . Our true strength rests in all of you." MCPON Campa also recognized the outstanding quality of



MCPON , Joe Campa, runs with Team Souda during morning PT at NSA Souda Bay.

Sailors assigned to NSA Souda Bay, "You are ambassadors here and the impressions you leave will last a lifetime. . . . I applaud you for your conduct and the impression you're leaving for the people here," said Campa.

Several of MCPON Campa's comments illustrated the good intentions of Navy leadership and the understanding that NSA Souda Bay is unique in the Region in that it involves mostly unaccompanied tours. "What we are asking of our Sailors and their families is a lot, it is a whole lot," said MCPON

Campa. "When I get back I'll see the CNO and he'll ask me "what can we do better?" it's that kind of feedback I'm interested in," MCPON Campa told the gymnasium filled with Sailors before opening the floor to questions. And that's exactly what he got! All sorts of questions from the audience – many focused on quality of life issues at Souda Bay and on issues of importance to Sailors considering a career in the Navy. MA1 Rhonda Corbin is nearing retirement and viewed this as an "opportunity to question policies and procedures - things that will have an impact on our careers, retirements, and the future of the Navy."

Of course, no trip to Greece would be complete without sampling a little bit of the local cuisine. MCPON Campa joined the Chiefs for dinner on February 25th and had positive reviews of the experience: "I sampled a little bit of the local food, which was pretty good. I sampled a little bit of the local drink and that was pretty good too."

"I appreciate the capability you provide . . . Our true strength rests in all of you."



MCPON is part of the official party at a retirement ceremony in January 2008.

CMC Corner



Greetings to all the families of NSA Souda Bay!

As always, I have great news to pass along to family members back home! The Military Spouse Career Advancement Initiative is a pilot program offered by the Departments of Defense and Labor to help military spouses develop portable careers. The program provides Career Advancement Accounts to pay for expenses directly related to post-secondary education and training, including tuition, fees, books, equipment, and creden-

tialing and licensing fees. Accounts may be up to \$3,000 for one year, and may be renewed for one additional year.

Military spouses of active –duty service members in the grades of E1-E5 and O1-O3 are eligible. Spouses in need of renewing credentials (for example, nursing and teaching certificates) upon relocating are also eligible. Go to www.militaryspouse.org for more information.

Best Regards,

CMDM(SW) Don Famellos

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Linking Together Families and NSA Souda Bay

Hello Families! We hope your 2008 is off to a great start! First and foremost, we have had a couple of changes with our ombudsman. Cortney Schwalbe will now serve as Primary Ombudsman and we have a new Alternate Ombudsman, Kristie Hansen. Kristie has been married for 7 years and has been both a reserve and active duty military spouse for 4 years. We are both very eager to serve you so please let us know how we can help!

As a reminder, we serve as a confidential information link between command leadership and Navy families. We also provide appropriate referral resources and act as an advocate for families. However, you should know we are required to report the following information to the Commanding Officer immediately: (1) Potential suicide situations, suspected and known; (2) Child abuse or neglect; (3) Spousal abuse; (4) Drug or alcohol abuse; and (5) Potential homicide, violence or life-endangering situations

If you have not given us your information, we would greatly appreciate you emailing us your name, phone number, and email address to soudaombudsman@hotmail.com. It is important to have accurate contact information for family members, should we need to get in touch with you in case of an emergency or to pass vital information.

Be sure and visit www.militaryonesource.com. It is a free tool for military families paid for by the Department of Defense. Here are a few things you will find at Military OneSource:

- Free tax preparation and filing
- Ability to contact a Military OneSource representative 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 342-9647. You can get help with everything ranging from PCS moves and career advancement/job search tools, to counseling and support during significant life changes. You can also contact a representative via email once you register on the Website.
- Download best-selling author, Mary Pipher's topics on Finding Strength in Family and Community for free. Everyone has challenging times, especially when you are separated from your service member. Pipher gives advice and encouragement on *Handling Stress, Coping and Healing, Finding Strength as a Family*, and *Connecting and Building Community*, just to name a few topics.

POST OFFICE DECREASES FLAT RATE BOX COST

The "Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box," which measures 12-by-12-by-5.5-inches normally carries a \$12.95 price tag for shipping. However, starting March 3, when this box is sent to an APO or FPO address, a \$2 discount applies, dropping the cost to \$10.95.

MILITARY SAVES WEEK - February 24 to March 2, 2008

Build Wealth Not Debt!

<http://www.militarysaves.org>

So how did you fare for Military Saves Week? Don't worry, if you weren't able to put some money away you still can! Visit your local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society office and see a Budget Counselor, or make an appointment with a Financial Educator at Fleet and Family Service Center to help you stash some cash. Summer vacation is just around the corner and now is the time to save!

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Are there topics you would like to see in upcoming newsletters? Email us your ideas!



Happy Spring!

Cortney & Kristie



Cortney helped raise money for the Seabee Ball during the Pie-in-the Face fundraiser. The victim: her husband!



Good Bye for Now, Crete!

Story by Ms. Marilyn Rieken, reflecting on her families' memories during her husband's assignment at NSA Souda Bay. Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Keith Rieken just recently completed a one-year assignment with the NSA Security Department. MACS Rieken was on unaccompanied orders, but visited frequently by Marilyn and son, Brett Anton.



Brett Anton, son of MACS Keith Rieken feed goats while visiting Crete. Photo courtesy of MACS Rieken.

forever. Our travels have taken us to your inner city and to the quaintness of a village in a day and the roads we have traveled are some of the most beautiful and tranquil we will ever have the privilege to encounter.

You have given us such beauty and a love of life while we have been here. Our hearts stopped on many occasions just gazing at your picturesque sunsets and endless groves of God bearing olive trees. We could never consume enough of your windy roads and the smallest of villages. The unpredictable encounter with goats and sheep alongside the road with their heaven sounding bells was always a treat for us to see and hear.

We will miss you Crete! We have loved sharing your beautiful island and calling you "home". The memories here will last a lifetime and we will always treasure your people, villages and landscape that we truly loved to see as much as possible.



Brett Anton enjoys a day at the beach with some new friends. Photo courtesy of MACS Rieken.

Good bye for now, Crete!

Crete, without a doubt, your majestic island has been the home for us on several occasions and a place of beautiful memories and genuine fondness. From the personable locals to the solemnest of strangers, all Cretans have been kind and compassionate to us during our stay and we are saddened to know that our time is growing to an end.

Crete, you have given us everlasting memories and happiness. Your solitude from the rest of the world and insurmountable beauty have captured our hearts



THANK YOU, CRETE, for all that you have unselfishly given to us and the peaceful tranquility that became our inner being while we were here. WE WILL ALWAYS HOLD YOU CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS AND WE WILL COME SEE YOU AGAIN!

The Rieken Family

"The memories here will last a lifetime and we will always treasure your people, villages and landscape. . ."

NSA Souda Bay celebrates at the 66th Annual Seabee Ball



Oldest Seabee, SW2 Richard Armstrong and youngest Seabee, BUCA Blake Regier cut the cake with CDR Kurgan.

Team Souda celebrated the 66th Seabee Anniversary in style at the Pearlé Hotel in Stavros, Crete, Greece on March 8, 2008.

Thanks to months of fundraising efforts spearheaded by the Seabee Ball Committee the event was a big success. “We raised almost \$9,000 for the event,” reported Seabee Ball Committee

President CMI Brian Boyd. “We did the typical fundraisers – bake sales, car washes. . . we made the most money from a pie-in-the-face event.”



UTC Gabe Vazquez honors POW/MIA Sailors. Also, UTC Vazquez celebrated his birthday at the Ball!

The celebration kicked off with a buffet of appetizers and complementary refreshments. The official ceremony was followed by a sprawling buffet featuring many different Greek specialties.

The ceremony, led by Master of Ceremony LTJG Cory Maccumbee, began with an invocation from LTJG Harry Hanson, Team Souda’s newest Chaplain. Guest speaker, Commander Chris Kurgan, Operations Officer NAVFAC EURSWA made remarks detailing the critical work done by Seabees around the world. Of course, the ceremony would not have been complete without singing the Seabee song!

CECA Anthony Grow and CE2 Saul Quinones perform the color-guard ceremony during the Ball.



UT2 Luis Capuchina gets the “tightest pants” award from LTJG Cory Maccumbee.



Team Souda’s Own Nashville Star

Article by Ms. Katie Doxakis, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs



EACN Abigail Crawford takes a moment to smile for the camera during her audition.

“**O**ne dream. One country. One Nashville Star!” reads the Web site of the country-music reality TV show which recently held auditions throughout military installations in Europe.

At NSA Souda Bay there was just one person auditioning for the show – Engineering Aid Constructionman (EACN) Abigail Crawford. Crawford sang “When Will I Be Loved” by Linda Ronstadt for the

audition. “I prefer classic rock or blues,” said Crawford of her musical tastes.

“It’s been fun,” said Crawford about her experience, “but I wish more people would have participated.” The good news for Crawford is that she will automatically move on to the next round of competition. The final “all military casting call” will happen in Norfolk, Virginia in a performance onboard a Navy ship — yet to be determined — on April 12. In the on-board audience will be “Nashville Star” producers scouting for possible contestants for the television

show. The April 12 program will be videotaped, and segments will air on “Nashville Star” later this year.

Crawford reports that most of her experience comes from singing Karaoke. Singing, however, is not her only talent. Crawford also plays guitar and violin. Additionally, she is a standout performer on the job—her hard work earned her a selection as Blue Jacket of the Quarter in 2007. Whatever the result of the Nashville Star contest, it’s clear that Crawford is destined for success!

NSA Souda Bay: Getting Bigger and Better!

Article by Ms. Katie Doxakis, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

Nearly everyone onboard NSA Souda Bay is hearing more noise these days...the noise of construction underway. Several projects aimed to improve the quality of life for Sailors at NSA Souda Bay have started and several more are slated to begin in the coming months.

One of the most anticipated projects, construction of a new 18,000 square foot Navy Exchange facility, was formally started at a groundbreaking ceremony in February. The project also includes a renovation of the existing 8,600 square foot Navy Exchange facility. NSA Souda Bay, Facility Engineering and Acquisition Division Director, Lieutenant Junior Grade Shirley Zhang anticipates that the new facility will be completed by February 2009. Upon completion, the existing NEX will be closed for 3 months to undergo renovations. Both facilities are expected to be up and running by May 2009, according to Zhang.

Another big quality of life improvement



Captain McDonough and NEX Manager, Mr. Ron Dahl "break ground" at the official ceremony marking the beginning of construction on the new Navy Exchange at Souda Bay.

will be experienced by Sailors around November 2008 when the expansion and renovation of the Morale, Welfare, & Recreation (MWR) gym is complete. Athletic Director Byron Gale has requested funding for new weight machines and cardio equipment to fill the new facility. "Renovations in the existing building include a wood floor in rooms specifically designated for aerobics, yoga, and spinning classes," said Gale. "Quality of life will be negatively impacted during the construction," predicts Gale, "but we'll

keep cardio machines open throughout the construction." The new facility will be a "big improvement" over the existing structure.

Construction on Building 2, home of the galley and Naval Media Center, started in February. "The main purpose of the construction is to retrofit the building so that it is a seismically safe facility," explained Facility Engineering and Acquisition Division Director, Lieutenant Junior Grade Shirley Zhang. According to Zhang, the project will eventually effect galley customers when the kitchen scullery, and later the front wall of the galley, undergo renovations. "The Galley food service will continue to operate, but customers will need to use paper plates and utensils for a period of time." The timing of the inconveniences are difficult to predict as the speed of the construction depends heavily on weather and structural findings.

Other projects anticipated for the near future include construction of an auto hobby shop, roof repairs on several buildings, installation of solar panels on barracks, and construction of a flight line fence.

Fidel: The Luckiest Dog in Europe

Article by MA1 Rhonda Corbin and Ms. Katie Doxakis, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs



Fidel gets a shot from the local vet in preparation for his trip to Germany. All veterinary expenses are paid for with donations.

On March 4, 2008 Fidel, a stray dog discovered onboard NSA Souda Bay, was delivered to a loving home in Meckel, Germany. How does a

stray from Greece end up in Germany? It starts with a dedicated group of volunteers and is made possible with generous donations from countless Sailors, U.S. civilian employees, and Greek employees onboard NSA Souda Bay. And, in this case, it wouldn't have happened without the work of one dedicated volunteer – Master-at-Arms First Class (MA1 (SW/AW)) Rhonda M. Corbin.

To make a long story short, Fidel was discovered by NSA Souda Bay security personnel back in November 2007. He was fostered by Corbin, a member of Souda Bay Friends of Animals Association (SBFAA), while SBFAA members searched the local area for a permanent home for Fidel. With all efforts in the local area exhausted, SBFAA put an ad

in the Stars and Stripes newspaper. A German national married to a retired Air Force Master Sergeant answered the ad. After answering many questions and sending photos and videos via email, Peter and Angelika decided to adopt Fidel. Corbin made all the travel arrangements and accompanied Fidel to his new home in Germany.

"Within two days half the village had been by to see Fidel," reported Corbin. "Fidel and his new family have miles and miles of paths and fields to walk and roam," said Corbin about the new home in Germany. There are many stray cats and dogs in Greece looking for good homes, thanks to Corbin and the many generous donations there is one less! For now, Fidel is the luckiest rescue in Europe.

**Commanding Officer
NSA Souda Bay
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Team Souda Gets Involved in the Community!

Just because they are living outside the United States, doesn't mean Team Souda Sailors forget about giving to the community! Sailors at NSA Souda Bay enjoyed the spring weather while helping out in the local community on Saturday March 8. Fourteen Navy and Air Force personnel joined forces to do some yard work in a community near the base. "Everybody likes to help people," said Chaplain LTJG Harry Hanson, "the volunteers are excited about getting involved in the community."

Also this quarter, the Chief's Mess led fundraising efforts to purchase and donate a ping-pong table to the local boy's home in Chania.



Above: Volunteers work on pulling weeds during a community relations project.

Below: ACC Pablo Rosado-Vargas plays ping-pong with a local boy at the Chania Home for Boys. Photo by MCC John Valente.



Crete, Plato's Atlantis?

Article by Ms. Perri Yeager, Newsletter Volunteer

Crete was the center of Europe's most ancient civilization, the Minoans. Archaeological excavations reveal it to be one of the most sophisticated cultures of its time. Including multi-leveled, heated homes, a complex sewage/plumbing system, highly developed agriculture with an extensive irrigation system, a code of laws giving women the same legal rights as men and the sport of jumping/fighting bulls with only a rope (the only example of this type of bull fighting in world history). Scenes of this sport can be found on the walls of the Palace of Knossos, near the Cretan town of Heraklion and on artifacts housed in the Heraklion museum.

Plato wrote about Atlantis in 355 BC. Some think he made it up to tell a story, but his characters state several times in the dialogue that it is genuine history translated from the Egyptians. Plato went into great detail about the city and its location which suggests an in depth knowledge rather than fiction created to

illustrate a point. He describes elaborate, multi-leveled, heated homes, running water, flushing toilets and the sport of hunting bulls with ropes. He also describes a great catastrophe involving earthquake and flood that destroyed Atlantis.

In 1500 BC, Santorini, an island 70 miles north of Crete, (some believe it was once connected to Crete) experienced one of the largest volcanic eruptions on the planet. Scientists have compared it with the most powerful volcanic explosion in historic times, the Krakatoa eruption of 1883. There, a tsunami 120 feet high, hit neighboring islands, killing 36,000 people. Ash blackened the skies for three days and the sound of the explosion was heard as far as 3,000 miles away. The Santorini explosion is estimated at four times as powerful as Krakatoa; the eruption destroyed most of the island along with coastal communities of Crete, contributing to the collapse of the



The capitol of Atlantis from <http://www.crystalinks.com/atlantistheories.html>.

Minoan culture.

Numerous details of the story of Atlantis in Plato's dialogues of Timaeus and Critias match what is known about Minoan civilization, the two major arguments against Crete being Atlantis is Plato's city existed 9000 years before his time and locates it west of the Straits of Gibraltar but oddly enough, if only two minor mistakes had been made and it was 900 years before and east of Gibraltar, it would have pinpointed Minoan civilization on the island Crete. There is no current evidence of any sophisticated civilizations existing in 9000 BC.