



Team Souda Connection Family Gram

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NSA SOUDA BAY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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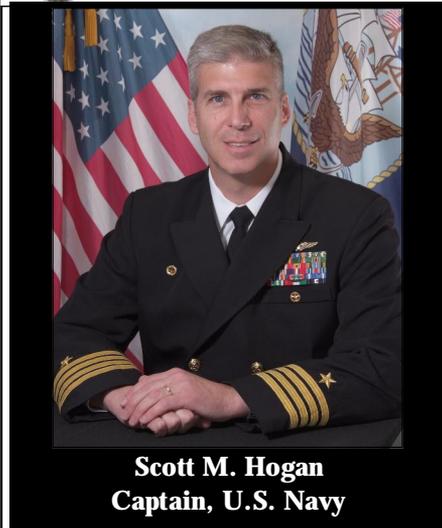


Battle of Crete

Rear Admiral Anthony Gaiani, Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, Commander Maritime Air Naples, lays a wreath during a Battle of Crete Memorial Ceremony held at the Souda Allied War Cemetery. Photo by MC3 Cayman Santoro.



From the Commanding Officer



**Scott M. Hogan
Captain, U.S. Navy**

Hello again Friends and Family of Souda Bay,

My wife Mary and I have now had the pleasure of living here on the beautiful island of Crete for over a year now and we are really enjoying it. The

work is fast paced and demanding but we all love a challenge.

All of us here have been staying very busy supporting a variety of units operating here at Souda Bay and transiting through the eastern Mediterranean.

Starting in March of this year Team Souda played a major role in supporting Operation Odyssey Dawn, the

US part of the international military operation in Libya to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. As a matter of reference for you, the island of Crete is located about 350 miles from Benghazi, Libya.

We now continue to support Operation Unified Protector, which is an ongoing NATO operation enforcing United Nations Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973 concerning the ongoing Libyan civil war.

I want to personally thank you for your continued support of your Sailor or Airman. Your role as a family member contributes directly to our mission accomplishment and is vital to our continued success. I assure you that I recognize and truly appreciate the sacrifices of our Sailors here as well as those you are working back home.

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CMC Corner



Souda Bay Family and Friends,

Summer is here and things are warming up at NSA Souda Bay in more ways than one. Aside from the outside air temperature

the tempo here has picked up quite significantly since the last letter. What I have noticed is that your Sailor here with Team Souda has been performing outstandingly. Some have been working extra long hours in support of the mission of NSA Souda Bay and all are enjoying the longer days of sunlight and all the fun that comes with that.

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 motor cycle, or even something as routine as a BBQ, take a few extra seconds to review or think about "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. Also, with more outdoor activities, comes the consumption of alcohol. I ask everyone to have a plan in place when alcohol is involved, how are you or your friends going to get home safely. And if you are going to consume alcohol, please do it responsibly.

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From the Chaplain's Corner...



Some of my earliest memories are of me sitting in the dirt, looking down a long row of grapevines at my grandfather. With a hose in one hand and pruning sheers in the other, he would walk the rows in the early morning mist humming some old hymn, *Abide with Me*. More than anything else, I remember his hands and his eyes. His hands, well worn with age, were not feeble, but just the opposite. They were strong and steady. They were working hands that moved with a determined love and confidence in their course. They moved as extensions of his very being patrolling the vines of his vineyard with all the skill and care of a craftsman. Each cut from his pruning sheers, deliberate, gentle, and kind. In a manner of speaking, they were his children. He cared for them as any loving father would. He nourished and fed them. He watered them. He pruned them

so that they would bear much fruit.

As he worked the vines, he'd look at me. His eyes peering from behind the vines, communicated so much more than words can express. My grandfather's eyes told me how much he loved me. In concert with his hands, his eyes relayed in a moment all he was trying to teach me about people and leadership, love and life. In this instance, my grandfather was teaching me the process of leadership, that art of intentional influence on others to achieve a goal or accomplish a mission. His influence, as vinedresser enabled those vines to achieve their ultimate end, fruit for the purpose of the enjoyment and sustenance of another. Those grapes did not exist merely for themselves, but as a gift for the sake of another. In this, he extracted from them the character and being of the One from whom their life flowed.

That reflection was complete in action and being, predisposition and purpose. My grandfather, as it turns out, was merely the conduit, a ready tool in the hands of another.

We too are instruments in the hands of another; men and women, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and civilians standing ready to do exactly that which we are called to do. But as the vines need a vinedresser, so we too have those appointed over us for our care. We need that leadership. We need those core values of honor, courage and commitment (about which we hear so much) to be cared for and cultivated. In the hands of great leadership this happens. In the strong and steady hands of our Command we can grow into our fullest potential, accomplishing not only our professional aspirations, but realizing our personal dreams as well.

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

Ancient Aptera

Story and Photo by MC3 Cayman Santoro

Ancient Aptera, was one of the most important city-states of Crete. Its ideal location was determinative for its development in an important commercial and political center. By two harbors, Minoan and Kissamos, located on both sides of the Souda Bay, Aptera was able to control the naval activity going by the island.

The first epigraphical occurrence of its name is found in the Linear B tablets (14th – 13th century B.C.). A major earthquake during the 7th century A.D. along with the invasions of the Saracens that followed marked the definitive abandonment of Aptera as a city.

The era of the city's greatest peak was the early Hellenistic period (end of 4th – 3rd century B.C.). At that time, Aptera experienced an economical and political flourish; beings to mint its own coins and develops diplomatic relations with important centers of the Hellenistic world.

Just a half hour away from base, it is a historic site to which visitors can walk around and take photographs of the detailed ruins and the expansive landscape.



From the Commanding Officer

Continued from Pg. 1

Hopefully, many of you will have the opportunity to visit your loved ones here in Crete in the coming months.

If you have the chance to travel to

Greece I assure you that it will be a trip you'll never forget.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable and safe summer wherever you may be.

Best regards,
Scott M. Hogan
Commanding Officer

WATER MAINTAINER'S WATERY RHYTHM

Story and Photos by MC2 Xander Gamble

The water that Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete uses comes from the local Greek community. Before the installation's Sailors and Airmen take a sip or use it to shower, Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SCW) Jeffery Ladd inspects it to make sure the chlorine levels are just right.

As the Utilities and Energy Management Technician, Ladd controls all the water on base. He said, "As long as there's water to flush the toilets, and to shower in, and to cook with for the galley's concerns, everybody's happy." But when Ladd takes off his uniform, he goes home to a work to a different rhythm.

When Ladd was younger, he started to teach himself how to play the drums. "First of all, I came with the desire to play," he said, "and I just kept practicing. I started playing on buckets when I was young."

He grew up near a college campus, and during the football games, he would go out to listen to the drummers play the half time show. He said, "I want to do this. And then I got some sticks and I started playing." His parents bought him a drum set and he has been playing ever since.

Ladd works with Construction Electrician 1st Class (SCW) Luis Fernandezdelara, who has become a fan of Ladd's musical talents. Fernandezdelara said, "When I came to his house and I saw his studio... I was amazed to see his studio. Unbelievable."

The first time Fernandezdelara saw Ladd's studio, he said, "I was imagining rap music, maybe some high-beat rock and roll type music, you know, high speed." But when Ladd started playing, Fernandezdelara discovered that his first impressions were wrong.

Fernandezdelara said, "I'm an old guy. I like my classical-type slow music, right. When I heard him play once, I had no idea what he was playing. But the music was very smooth."

Ladd wanted to play in a band since he was younger, and he kept practicing so that he could find a band to play with. Fernandezdelara said, "When he gets on the drums, he has no sheet music, he just blows the drums away."

When Ladd discovered that he could use programs to mix and create his own music, bringing together many instruments, he taught himself another instrument. Fernandezdelara said, "He's playing the piano, has no sheet of music, and he's just rocking it. And I'm looking at him, I'm like, wow!"

"I have the military side, which people see every day," said Ladd, "but here, I get to be with the music, and I can be whoever I want to be, when I want to be it, and of course music has no boundaries. It can be anyone, anywhere, anytime. It can be anything."



Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SCW) Jeffery Ladd tests the water at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay to verify that it is free of any contaminants.



Ladd shows off his various Keyboards



Ladd goes through the motions of potential drum beats.

Fun and Friendship Day

Story and Photos by
MC2 Cayman Santoro

As the busses arrived at U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, earlier rains gave way to clear skies. Bus doors opened and from them emerged smiling faces. These were the faces of participants in NSA Souda Bay's 10th Annual Fun and Friendship Day, which was held Wednesday, May 11.

The event, organized by a committee of command volunteers, is a community outreach effort in which special needs facilities in the local area head to the base to partake in events designed around fun.

The centers that participated this year included the 3rd Public School of Chania Kindergarten and Autistic Children's Center of Chania. The participants were given colored shirts to indicate their team and were assigned an NSA "buddy" that escorted them throughout the day and helped get them involved in various activities.

"I loved it. It is a great experience and it really helps to open your eyes and appreciate the small things in life. I would love to do this everyday," said UTCN Kristen Gilliland, one of the volunteers. "I couldn't stop smiling the whole time," continued Gilliland.

The buddies included Sailors, Airmen and civilian volunteers. At the end of the day, a barbeque was held and medals were passed out to all participants. The event was paid for entirely by fund raising efforts held over the last few months that included car washes, bake sales, breakfast burrito sales and even a pie-in-the-face auction.

"I'd like to extend my personal thanks to all of you that volunteered as well. We are extremely fortunate to have people like the volunteers that support this event, especially when you see the impact it has on these children. I can't thank you all enough," said Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan.



Jackie-Ann Canaga, UTCN Kristen Gilliland, and McGruff the Crime Dog, played by MA3 Hedca Neufville dance with a guest from the Daily Care Center for Children with Special Needs during the 10th annual Fun and Friendship Day.



Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan, presents medals to the participants of the 10th Annual Fun and Friendship Day during an awards ceremony.

FROCKING

The practice that we currently refer to as frocking has been in common usage in one form or another throughout the Navy's History. There does not seem to be a definite point however, at which the practice was first established. The original use of the term "Frocking" to describe the current policy is also unclear, but probably of recent vintage as it does not appear in earlier documents (18th-19th centuries). The 1974 version is the earliest Bureau of Naval Personnel Manual to contain the policy itself and refer to it as frocking.

Frocking is a United States military term for a commissioned or non-commissioned officer selected for promotion wearing the insignia of the higher grade before the official date of promotion

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS

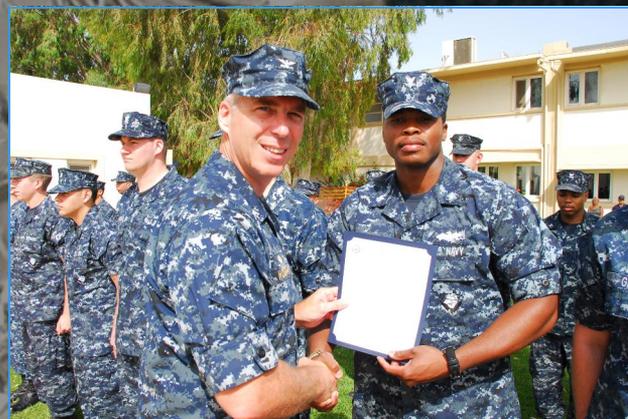
MA3 JOHNNY BARRON
MA3 ROY DUDLEY
MC3 LUKE EASTMAN
MA3 TYLER EBINGER
MA3 ADAM FORKER
MA3 DEBRA GREEN
MA3 THOMAS MARSH
MA3 JOHNNY OLIVER
MA3 ARTURO PARRA
MA3 MICHAEL SETTLEMIRE
GM3 MATTHEW SLAVKA
MA3 LEE WIGGINS
MC3 RYAN WILLIAMS

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS

MA2 JAMES BELL
MA2 ARIEAL BOBB
MA2 JUSTIN BRANDENBURG
AC2 EDWARD CASTILLO
EN2 HAI DUONG
LS2 BRANDON GAGE
MA2 JESSICA GOODE
MA2 CHARLES HUNTER
MA2 AMBER ORTEGA
MC2 CAYMAN SANTORO
MA2 ELIZABETH WAID
MC2 MICHAEL WRIGHT



MA2 Jessica Goode



MC2 Michael Wright



MA2 Amber Ortega



Newly frocked Petty Officers stand in ranks



4th of July Celebration



Story by MC2 Cayman Santoro
Photos by MC2 Cayman Santoro and MCSA Chelsy Alamina

The Independence Day Celebration was in full force at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay at the Limnoupolis Water Park located 8 km from the city of Chania near the community of Varipetro. The event, organized by Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted servicemembers and department of defense civilians for a day of fun in the sun.

The day kicked off with everyone enjoying themselves throughout the park's many attractions, including multiple water slides, various pools and a lazy river. Also servicemembers competed in a four on four volleyball tournament with Operations becoming the victor.

As the evening set in and the temperatures lowered, everyone gathered around for barbeque and other foods. Lt. Frank Ramirez served as master of ceremonies while he entertained the crowd with jokes. Ramirez also organized various contests for servicemembers to compete in to win prizes, such as a rap-off and dance-off. Prizes included a 64 gigabyte Ipad and Cruise Line tickets to Gramvousa.

As the sun set, fireworks lit up the night sky to conclude the day.



From the Chaplain's Corner...



Continued from Pg. 2

To that end, we, as well as those above us, have a great help. I would like to encourage you to make diligent use of all that is offered. Take full advantage of that help from above. If you are a leader, from Him, learn how to lead. Receive guidance from the One who orchestrates all things according to His hand. Your Navy Chaplains stand ready to help you in that journey. Help can come from anywhere, but the greatest help

comes from above. Always remember, Navy core values are strengthened in the Chapel.

LTJG Charles Mallie
Command Chaplain



CMC Corner

Continued from Pg. 2

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 please remember that there are several rules that are in place that restricts how long and how often one can come for a visit. Some are host country immigration laws and others are Navy pay and allowance regulations.

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.

CMDMCM(AW/SW)
Todd Prayner

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.cnic.navy.mil/soudabay/index.htm>

Destroyer at Souda Bay

May 2011

THE GUIDED-MISSILE DESTROYER, USS MAHAN (DDG 72), ARRIVES IN SOUDA BAY, CRETE, FOR A PORT VISIT. THE MAHAN WAS ON A SIX-MONTH DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATING IN THE U.S. 6TH FLEET AREA OF OPERATION.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Cayman Santoro