



Team Souda Connection Family Gram

Produced by NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

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From the Commanding Officer

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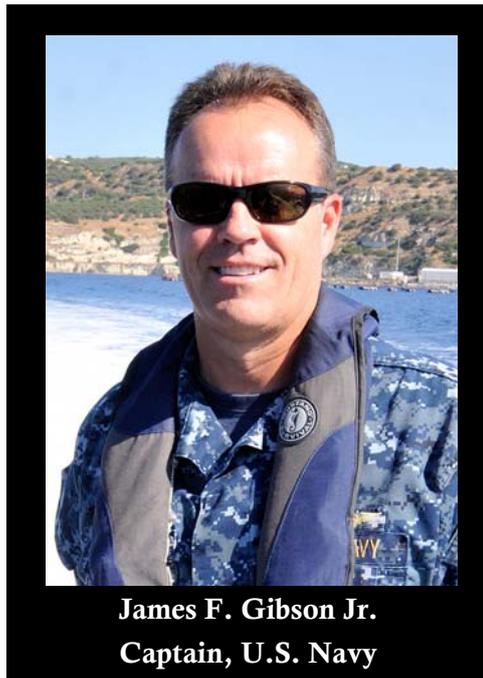
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James F. Gibson Jr.
Captain, U.S. Navy

Fellow Shipmates, Souda Bay Family and Friends

I have been extremely impressed with the demonstrated professionalism exhibited by the military, civilians, and local nationals. Your positive impact has directly related to improved operational and logistical support that Souda Bay provides to US and Allied forces. Souda Bay provides the same support that larger bases provide and in many cases Souda Bay provides more.

The welcome that my wife Margie and I received was truly phenomenal. It is truly an honor to be part of the Souda Bay family. Crete is a beautiful island that has much to offer. Crete is more than just a beautiful island, it is home to warm and friendly people. The people of Crete have been kind and generous. They are family oriented and are more than happy to invite you into their fam-

ily. We are looking forward to learn more about Greece and visit other parts of the island.

Operationally, we are hitting on all cylinders. Ambassador Smith, the US Ambassador to Greece, visited last month and during his visit he toured the Marathi port facility. While at Marathi, there was a French sub, a British frigate, a USNS ship, and a US destroyer all utilizing the facilities at Marathi. This highlights how important Souda Bay is to not only US operations, but to NATO and Allied operations. Air operations has been supporting a heavy flight schedule and hasn't missed a beat. Just another example of Souda Bay supporting US forces.

Recently, a British ship CO sent a letter to me thanking Souda Bay for all its support. He specifically mentioned how being able to utilize the NEX improved his operations. No matter what job or function you are performing you have an impact on operations. Whether you're providing a great product at the NEX, serving great chow at the galley, or improving morale and physical fitness at the gym, you are making an impact.

I am privileged to have stepped into such a fine organization. I look forward to working with all of you.

-Skipper Gibson

At the crossroads of three major theaters (EUCOM, AFRICOM, and CENTCOM) NSA Souda Bay is an important strategic Forward Operating Site (FOS) that plays a key role in extending our nations global reach.



Executive Officer's Words



Demetries Grimes
Executive Officer, U.S. Navy

To our new Chief Petty Officer selects, a special congratulations! As the son of a Chief, I have a great deal of respect and admiration for

Chiefs and the key role they play as leaders and mentors in our navy. To our departing shipmates, thank you for your outstanding service while assigned here at NSA Souda Bay. To our recent arrivals, congratulations on your new assignment. You are now part of a special team of US military, US civilian, and Local Nationals that plays a key role in supporting the fleet and extending our nation's global reach.

As the CNO has stated in his recent Sailing Directions to the fleet, "Operating forward across the globe, the Navy will provide the nation Off-shore options to win today and advance our interests in an era of uncertainty."

Assigned to a strategic Forward Operating Site (FOS) at the crossroads of three forward theaters of operations, EUCOM, AFRICOM, and CENTCOM, you are entrusted with

greater responsibilities and authorities than your peers back home, embrace them with honor and pride and keep in mind that what you may perceive to be a menial task could likely have a significant impact on your shipmates' ability to accomplish their missions down range.

You now have an opportunity to develop yourselves professionally and personally in a unique forward operating environment at an installation that has a history and reputation of providing 24/7 sustained superior support to the fleet. I encourage you to make the most of your time during your assignment here and I am proud to be serving forward with you.

CDR Demetries Grimes, USN
Executive Officer



CHAPLAIN'S INSIGHT

"Vision for Life"

Vision is an important quality for military leaders, corporate CEOs, politicians, architects, artists, and the like—but it is not just something for "them", it is also something for "us." Let me ask you, do you have a clear vision for your life right now? Can you see what matters most, and what you truly want to accomplish during your time on the earth?

Vision is something we probably all agree would be nice to have, but where is it found? How is it cultivated? The answer may surprise you. While there are a variety of ways a person can develop a clear vision for their lives, often vision seems to arise most strongly and clearly when it is forged in the fiery trials of life. The very challenges that threaten to overwhelm us, can

force us to see life from a new perspective, to reexamine the status quo, and to think deeply about our true priorities. To drive this home even further, as you bravely face the specific hardship of having a loved one so far away (serving here with us in Souda Bay), I want you to know that good can come from this difficult season of life.

In 95 A.D., the Apostle John, faced a similar geographical challenge. He was banished by the Roman government to a Greek island not too far from Crete, called Patmos. This left him isolated from those he loved and cut off from all relational support. As he faced his difficult lot in life, what kept him going then can be the same things that keep us going now.

First, John patiently endured painful circumstances for a cause he believed in. Likewise, the distance between you and your service member is not in vain, it is for a just and worthy cause. Freedom is defended, democracy is protected, and innocent lives are kept safe because of the sacrifices you and your

family are making. Don't lose sight of the cause.

Secondly, we note that it was while John was enduring these difficult days of isolation that he received the most famous vision known to man. It was during this time period of his life that John was given a clear view of heaven, of hope, and of ultimate victory—and wrote the book of Revelation. His vision would provide purpose, clarity, and direction to countless lives in the centuries that would follow.

My prayer for you would be that during this time of separation, God would reveal to you a clear picture of what victory looks like for you, for your family, and for the years ahead. Like the Apostle, as you endure hardship for a noble cause, may isolation produce a clear vision for life.

Blessings,

The Souda Bay Chaplain Team.



CMC's Corner

Team Souda, Well, summer is almost over. It's hard to believe that the children back home will soon return to school if they haven't already. Everyone here at Souda Bay has been working very hard supporting our mission. What makes it tougher than normal, is that we experienced one of the hottest summers on record here. However, with the vast number of beaches here, I hope everyone had a chance to take some time off and cool your heals in the water.

I want to take a few moments to congratulate our newest Sailors who will be advancing to the ranks of Chief Petty Officer on 14SEP12. They are: LNC (Select) Ronspies, MAC (Select) Terou, MAC (Select) Quichocho, and MAC (Select) Clayton. This is a very important time for these Sailors and their families. They have worked very hard to get to this point in their careers and if you have a chance to see them or their families back home, congratulate them.

Overall, our Safety mishap numbers are better than last year. But we continue to hurt ourselves on

and off duty, at work and at home. I need everyone to take a look at what your plans are and just step back for a few moments to look and see if you are overlooking an important safety step. Life is too precious not to take a few extra moments to make sure we are safe in what we are doing. Also, our DUI numbers are better than last year, but Navy wide they are up. The Navy is experiencing very good retention numbers these last few years. We have more civilians who want to become Sailors and more Sailors who want to stay Navy. There are various reasons why this is happening, but I bring this up to make a point. Do not make it easy for the Navy to tell you that you need to go home because you got a DUI. If your plans are to make the Navy a career or you plan on getting out at the end of your current enlistment or contract, do so on your terms when your ready. Not because you made a bad decision and got behind the wheel after you were drinking. Your career, more than likely, will not survive it. Not to mention anyone you may have hurt as a result of an accident resulting from your driving while intoxicated. Pick up the phone and call for help if you



Todd Prayner
Command Master Chief

find yourself in this situation. That is a call most would rather receive than the one if you are in an accident or the cause of one.

Please have a safe remainder of the summer.

v/r,
Master Chief

CMDCM(SW/AW)
T. E. Prayner
Command Master Chief

▶ THE OMBUDSMAN'S ADVICE ◀

Command OMBUDSMAN (dawn_n_ellis@yahoo.com)

PLAN AHEAD TO ENSURE YOU ARE FULLY PREPARED!

Summer is a great time to visit your loved one in Greece. The getting here may pose a few challenges but will provide lasting memories. The small military community and the local community have many things to offer. The Fleet and Family Service Center and the OMBUDSMAN have several resources to help you plan ahead to ensure you are fully prepared. Though several families have been very fortunate to accompany their spouses to Greece, they would love to meet and get to know as many of the extended families as possible. We have recently cre-

ated a Facebook page for the Significant others of those military, civilian and contractors assigned to NSA Souda Bay (NSA Souda Bay Significant Others). If you are a family member (mother, father, spouse, etc.) of someone stationed here, please feel free to join our group to learn about the local happenings, ask questions, and get advice. Not only can we assist you in conjunction with the Fleet and Family Support Center in preparing for your trip here, we can also provide recommendations and assistance once you arrive. I look forward to hearing from you!

IN MEMORY OF ABF1 DANG HOANH THANH



Tribute to ABF1 Dang for memorial service in NSA's Chapel on 10 August 2012

The U.S. Naval Support Activity lost a key member of our Souda Bay Team when Aviation Boatswainsmate Fuels 1st Class Dang Hoanh Thanh died on August 3rd, 2012 as a result of heart failure while on leave visiting his family in Dong Nai, Vietnam.



Photos from ABF1 Dang's funeral service in Vietnam

Petty Officer Dang was assigned to NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella Site Souda Bay Fuels Department for the past year and also had a previous assignment here at NSA Souda Bay.

Petty Officer Dang will be greatly missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

He is survived by his parents and nine brothers and sisters who live in Vietnam.

May he rest in peace.

9 NOV 1973 - 3 AUG 2012

The Catholic of Vietnam
Xuân Lộc Diocese
Thánh Tâm Parish

Biên Hòa, August 17, 2012

LETTER OF GRATITUDE

From: Đặng Văn Huynh

Address: 10/1 Kp2, Tân Hòa, Biên Hòa, Đồng Nai.

To:

- *President of the United States of America*
- *The United States Navy*
- *US Ambassador to Vietnam*

We, Mrs and Mr **Đặng Văn Huynh**, parents of **Dang Hoanh Thanh**, would like to express **our deep gratitude** to the President of the United States of America, and to the US Ambassador to Vietnam, and especially to the United States Navy, for the good training for Dang Hoanh Thanh to become an obedient son in our family, also a heroic serviceman. We would like to say thanks to our son's leaders and to all his friends. You all had brought happiness to our son during the time he studied and lived with you. Our thanks also goes to those who helped him in his early period at the USA. Our thanks to his very lovable teachers at the Secondary School of Berwyn.

To the Vietnamese Government - External Relation Office, Judicial Assembly of Police of Bến Thành Ward, Chợ Rẫy Hospital -, please accept our true gratitude for all your help so that our son's funeral service today could be well done.

Dear President of the United States of America, The United States Navy, and US Ambassador to Vietnam,

"Oh, a great country!" That is what Dang Hoanh Thanh wrote in a letter sent to us from the USA when he had just arrived there!

After having had graduated from the Secondary School of Berwyn, Dang Hoanh Thanh joined the United States Navy, and there he received a very very good formation and training for his personality, character and career.

That is why, on behalf of Dang Hoanh Thanh and / or together with him, we love to say thanks a thousand times to his leaders, to his classmates and, to his friends in Greek, to all people who, in one way or another, have a certain relationship with him, share with him many things in life.

Dang Hoanh Thanh and we all would like to say: we love all you very much!

Finally, let us say sorry for the project our son leaves unfinished, sorry for that he is not able to serve at the United States Navy any more.

Once again, we greatly appreciate all your presence here, which is a very big consolation to us.

And in the hope and in the faith in Jesus Christ, if **"For in Him (Jesus Christ) we live, and move, and exist"** (Act 17,28), we all will frequently meet together in Jesus Christ, too.

Đặng Văn Huynh

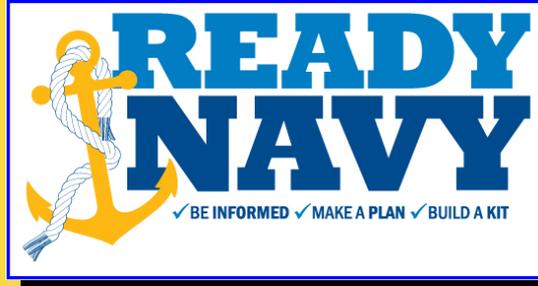
I AM! ARE YOU?

WASHINGTON – Accept the challenge and find out more in September as the U.S. Navy launches Ready Navy, its emergency preparedness and public awareness campaign.

side the area that each member of the family can notify that they are safe. Also, plan ahead for how you will evacuate the area and where your

navyfamily.navy.mil). If you are stationed overseas, learn about additional Noncombatant Evacuation Orders procedures.

Be Informed: Find out what disasters are most likely to happen in your area and the history of their occurrence, and learn about any specific instructions or information you may need to know regarding these specific disasters.



Build a Kit: The best way to prepare for the unexpected is to create one or more emergency kits that include enough supplies for at least three days. Keep a kit prepared at home, and consider having kits in your car, at work, and a portable version in your home ready to take with you.

Have a Plan: Another important tool you and your family need to prepare for possible emergencies is a family preparedness plan. Everyone in the family should understand what to do, where to go, and what to take in the event of an emergency. Your emergency plan should include how your family will communicate with each other, particularly if normal communication methods, such as phone lines or cell towers, are out. Have a contact person out-

family will meet if you are evacuated separately. Learn about the mustering requirements at your command and become familiar the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) (<https://>

These kits will enable you and your family to respond to an emergency more effectively. Your various emergency kits will be useful whether you have to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Be sure your kits address the needs of small children, individuals with special needs, and your pets.

THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED IS TO CREATE ONE OR MORE EMERGENCY KITS THAT INCLUDE ENOUGH SUPPLIES FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS.

**READY NAVY
COMING SOON
TO A BASE NEAR YOU!**

**FROM OUR
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is sponsored by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with numerous entities including the DoD. NPM is held each September to encourage Americans to make sure they are prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. Since 2004, National Preparedness Month is observed each September in the United States of America. During the

month of September, Americans are encouraged to make sure they are prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

September 2012 marks the ninth annual NPM and this year's slogan is: "Pledge to Prepare, Awareness to Action". The goal this year is to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans to take specific steps to ensure that their homes,

workplaces, and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds.

Steps include:

1. Get an emergency kit
2. Make a plan
3. Be informed about emergency hazards

Be ready,
Vincent L. Seiferd, Jr

The following link is the Navy's new "Ready Navy" web site.
<https://www.ready.navy.mil> Check it out!

Serving the fleet



Jul. 05, 2012. The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72) departs the harbor following a scheduled port visit on the Greek island of Crete. Vella Gulf is homeported in Norfolk, VA and currently on a scheduled deployment operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.



Jun. 18, 2012. The Ohio-class guided missile submarine, USS Florida (SSGN 728), approaches Souda harbor for a port visit on the island of Crete. Florida is homeported in Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Georgia and is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.



Jun. 25, 2012. The Ohio-class guided missile submarine, USS Florida (SSGN 728) is escorted by a harbor patrol boat as she gets underway from Souda harbor following a port visit on the island of Crete. Florida is homeported in Kings Bay, Georgia and is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

Summer 2012



Jun. 22, 2012. USS Cole (DDG 67) conducts a berth shift during a port visit on the Greek island of Crete. Cole is currently on a scheduled deployment and operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.



Jun. 13, 2012. Master at Arms 3rd Class Justin Nunnally watches the area as the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS ANNA-POLIS (SSN 760) gets underway following a routine port visit. Nunnally is attached to U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay's harbor patrol and assigned as forward gunner.



Jul. 06, 2012. The guided missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) departs the pier following a scheduled port visit on the Greek island of Crete. Jason Dunham is homeported in Norfolk, VA and currently on her maiden deployment operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

The sailors, airmen, US, and Local National civilians assigned to "Team Souda" have a history and a reputation of providing 24/7 sustained superior support to the fleet, NATO, and Partner nations.



SOUDA BAY, Greece (Aug. 28, 2012) USS Halyburton (FFG-40), an OLIVER HAZARD PERRY-class frigate, arrives for a scheduled port visit. Halyburton is homeported in Mayport, Fla. and currently on a scheduled deployment operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.



U.S. Navy photos by Paul Farley

For the latest news and updates on NSA Souda Bay visit: <http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/soudabay/index.htm>
Other official Souda Bay Links: <https://www.facebook.com/NSASoudaBay>
http://www.flickr.com/photos/nsa_souda_bay