



Team Souda Connection Family Gram

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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.

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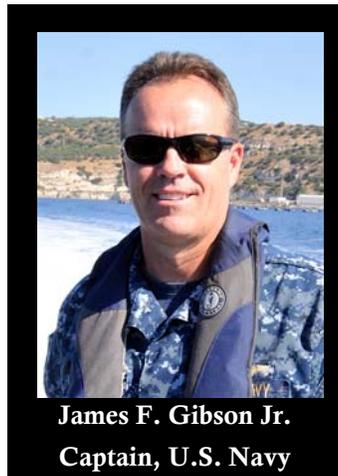
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Souda Bay, Greece (Feb. 20, 2014) Command photo of U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay and tenant commands.



From the Commanding Officer



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

Fellow Shipmates, Souda Bay Family and Friends,

We certainly had a memorable 2013 and we can be proud of the accomplishments that Souda Bay achieved. Supporting the ships and aircraft that either operate out of Souda or are just transiting through, is no easy task.

Fortunately, we've become so skilled at doing our job, that we make it look easy. We've had multiple distinguished visitors that have toured our facilities and witnessed many of you in the conduct of our mission, to include the Secretary of the Navy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the US ambassador to Greece, and all have been impressed with

Souda Bay's professionalism, high morale, and the "can do" attitude.

2014 will offer a new series of challenges. We are rapidly renovating several buildings which will enhance our ability to support operations and improve the quality of life here at Souda. The ramp expansion project will begin this year and when completed will nearly double the number of aircraft that will be able to park and operate out of Souda. Continued mission success combined with the strategic location of Souda has led to the operational expansion of the base. Additionally, many units are taking advantage of the unique training environment that the base provides.

As we continue forward into 2014, I have confidence the all of you will continue to perform at the highest level. I would like to thank all of you for continuing to excel and for the great support you are provide to US and NATO forces. I know your families are proud of the work you do and I want them to know I appreciate the support they are providing which allows our Souda team to concentrate on the mission. I wish you and your families all the best for 2014.

James F. Gibson Jr
Captain, USN,
Commanding Officer

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Executive Officer's Words



Demetries Grimes
Executive Officer, U.S. Navy

To the family and friends of our Military, US Civilian, and Local National Civilians who work together as "Team Sou-

da," thank you for the service of your loved ones and your friends.

NSA Souda Bay continues to provide sustained superior support for US, NATO, and partner air and maritime operations at the most strategic location in the region at a most critical time thanks to their dedicated service.

The extraordinary efforts of "Team Souda" makes it possible for our forward deployed forces to continue to be where it matters, when it matters. That essential capability would not be possible without your support.

We recently had the honor of hosting US Ambassador to Greece David Pearce, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey, and Commander of US Navy Region Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia Rear Admiral John "Jack" Scorby.

Each of them came for a closer look at an installation that sets the standard around

the world for others to follow in supporting forward operations.

Each departed with the highest regard for the support that "Team Souda's" 800 plus personnel provides to more than 125,000 forward deployed and transient forces annually. For those who had the opportunity to engage with our distinguished visitors, thank you for making such a great impression upon our guests.

It was a true pleasure to show them around and to introduce them to as many of you as possible.

We expect and look forward to more such engagement opportunities in the future. Again, thank you to each and every one of you here and at home for your dedicated support that makes it possible for "Team Souda" to succeed in every endeavor.

CDR Demetries Grimes, USN
Executive Officer
NSA Souda Bay, Greece



CMC's Corner



Todd Prayner
Command Master Chief

Souda Bay family and friends,

The rain and sun have been coming and going but it's much better than if it were snowing.

I'd hate to make everyone jealous but the warm weather for Sailors here can be seen on the horizon. With the impending summer upon us, soon barbeques will light up, towels and bathing suits will be packed up for the beach, cold beverages will be in the cooler and, let me tell you, your Sailor deserve it.

It seems like each and every Sailor here at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay continually out do themselves with their professionalism and work ethic every single day.

Recently, our base was visited by Rear Admiral John C. "Jack" Scorby, Jr., Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia. During Scorby's visit, he had this to say about your Sailors:

"I'll tell you, what's really impressed me the most about coming back to Souda Bay is if you think about the amount of people who are assigned here, yet the amount of people they support. When it is all said and done there's

about 1,100 people, with a mix of one third, one third military, civilians and host nationals, yet they're supporting a population that transits through here either via the piers, down at the port or through the air field of about 120,000. So, that is a very limited number of people supporting that number of folks and they are doing an absolutely tremendous job."

Without seeing their work for yourself, it is hard to impress upon you how impressive our team is. Day in and day out, the work they do helps support the fleet in a big way. Whether it is working a logistics work order ensuring food reaches the cargo hold of a support ship or doing building maintenance to keep our facilities looking brand new, your Sailor is doing an excellent job.

Best wishes,

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



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

Recently, I saw a photo of the earth taken from 1.67 billion kilometers away by the NASA probe Cassini. From that distance, the earth is just a tiny blue dot in the middle of the vast blackness of the universe. It's humbling to realize that every living person in existence is on that small blue dot; that everyone who has ever lived and ever will live is on that small blue dot.

It's easy to feel small and hopeless when faced with the realization of just how small this planet is in the universe. And, it's easy to feel small and hopeless when you're as far from home or as far away from loved ones as we are here in Crete.

I know that there are times when I feel like the distance from here to my family might as well be 1.67 billion kilometers, but I take comfort in knowing that God takes care of the small things.

What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. —Jesus

God knows where you are, what you're facing, and how small you feel. If God knows what happens to the sparrow He knows what's going on in your life.



**R. J. LeCompte,
LT, CHC, USN
Installation Chaplain**

You may feel small, but God is paying attention to you. I want to encourage you to trust God during this time of separation. This experience of separation can only make you feel small if you allow it to; because the truth is that you are important to God.

Trust that He is using this time to make you a better person, to expand your circle of influence, and to strengthen your independence.

You can choose to see this time of separation as the opportunity for you to get in shape, to read that book you've been meaning to read, and to take that college course you've been interested in. This time of separation is the time for you to spread your wings a little and become a mentor to someone around you who is hurting. This is the time for you to build positive relationships that will see you through not only this time apart but future difficulties as well.

So in conclusion, I want to encourage you to take advantage of this time apart to trust God for growth in your life. You need to understand that God knows that this is an important time in your life. And, in knowing that God is looking out for you, you'll feel less small

and less alone.

"...the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. — Jesus

Very Respectfully,

Chaplain LeCompte

▶▶ USNS Spearhead (JHSV 1) arrives in Souda Bay ◀◀



The U.S. Navy's joint, high-speed vessel USNS Spearhead (JHSV 1) arrives in Souda Bay for a scheduled port visit. The U.S. Navy's first-in-class joint, high-speed vessel is on its first operational deployment supporting theater security cooperation efforts and the international collaborative capacity-building program Africa Partnership Station in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

(U.S. Navy photo by Paul Farley/Released)

SERVING THE FLEET

On any given day, here at NSA Souda Bay, our team of more than 900 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. With the imagery on these pages we intend to offer you a glimpse of the recent activity both on the airfield and at the nearby NATO pier facility.



Fleet Replenishment Oiler, USNS Leroy Grumman (TAO-195) within the 6th Fleet AOR onto a cargo net to be craned onboard the ship.



USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20),



USS Monterey (CG 61)



(USS Ramage (DDG 61)

SERVING THE FLEET



USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58)



Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Helena (SSN 725)

FLIGHTLINE ACTIVITY



A NASA WB-57 aircraft arrives at NSA Souda Bay and is led off the runway by Souda Bay Air Operations T-Line



A U.S. Marine Corps KC-130 air refueler is captured between the rotors of a Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey during takeoff.



A C-141 aircraft

FLIGHTLINE ACTIVITY



A C-37 Gulfstream



The F/A-18 Silver Eagles from VMFA 115 based out of MCAS Beaufort, SC



The Wolfpack MH-60Rs of HSM-75 based out of Naval Base Coronado, CA.