



# Team Souda Connection Family Gram

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Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale, CNIC, visits NSA Souda Bay.

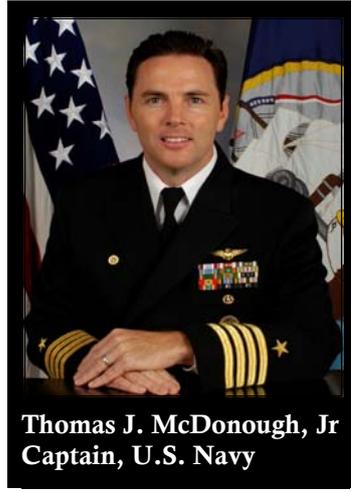
★ Full Story on page 4

**Inside this issue:**

- CO Message 1
- CMC Corner 2
- Chaplain's Corner 2
- Educational Opportunities 3
- CNIC Visits Souda Bay 4
- Awards and Recognition 5
- Holiday Safety Tips 6
- H1N1 Information 6



## From the Commanding Officer



**Thomas J. McDonough, Jr**  
Captain, U.S. Navy

Seasons greeting from the island of Crete! As many of you know, in each issue of our family-gram I've attempted to relay to you how important your support role as a family member is for your Sailor and our daily mission accomplishment here in the eastern Mediterranean.

For this edition of our family-gram I want to relay to you the words of our Commander in Chief, President Barack Obama delivered recently in his proclamation declaring November as Military Family Month. In short, he pledged his support of military members and their families and said Americans have a "solemn obligation" to preserve their well-being

The president's proclamation reads:

**Quote**  
No one pays a higher price for our freedom than members of our Nation's military and their families. As sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers are deployed, military families endure with exceptional resilience and courage. They provide our troops with invaluable encouragement and love, and serve our Nation in their own right. During Military Family Month, we honor

the families of our Armed Forces and thank them for their dedication to our country.

Though only a small percentage of our Nation's population, our troops bear the great responsibility of protecting our people. They, along with their families, serve us every day with courage and dignity. Ensuring that military families receive the respect they deserve and the support they have earned is a top priority for my Administration.

The strength of our Nation is measured not just by our success on the battlefield, but also by our ability to support those families who have made so many sacrifices for us. Time and again, military families have shown their heart in the face of adversity. warriors and our fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy.

>> Continued on page 3



# CMC Corner



**Command Master Chief  
Christopher K. Engles**

Souda Bay Families,

The summer here in beautiful Crete is over and now we focus on the upcoming weather and the Holidays. In my last letter to you I asked for your continued support in maintaining contact with your Sailor and I ask that you increase your effort because while the Holiday season brings joy and time to celebrate it also brings the separation ever closer. We strongly recommend to our Sailors that they take some well deserved Holiday leave (those dates are either: December 15-December 29 or December 29-January 14) to spend time with their families.

One of the most important steps in a Sailors career is the choice of follow on orders, this simply means; where can I make the best impact on the Navy and

what is best for my career? NSA Souda Bay takes tremendous pride in helping our Sailors make the best decision in this regard. Sailors can seek out and accept new orders up to nine months and when they are proactive the better choices are available. I ask that you take an active interest in your Sailors career and ask them where they are going next and what is best for their career.

Thank you for your support and understanding of our Sailors here, never doubt that you make a difference. To wrap this articles up let me simply say that NSA Souda Bay is in great shape due to the stellar efforts of your Sailors and that you should be extremely proud of the job they are doing, I am!

**CMDCM(AW/SW) ENGLS**



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Team Souda,

Greetings from the Religious Ministry Team. We are rapidly approaching the holiday season. This time of year gives us an opportunity to celebrate, to remember, reflect and to focus on what is important in life. The holidays typically mean a busy schedule at the Chapel. The Religious Ministry Department already has multiple programs in the planning and execution stage. In fact, we recently held our second annual fall festival, an event that brings people together from across the base and the local area. The sense of fellowship and community developed through this type of occasion is a priority for the chapel.

Please watch for various events in November and December to include: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Chapel, Personal Growth Retreat, ASSIST Training, and Christmas Eve Candle Light Service and meal and also the perennial favorite of Christmas Caroling with hot chocolate. We look forward to seeing you all throughout the holidays.

Please take care of each other and your families during this stressful period. Contact the chapel if you need any assistance or more specific information on upcoming events.

God Bless,  
LT Harry Hansen CHC USN

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Festival Fellowship

The Souda Bay Religious Ministry Team held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Festival Fellowship in the evening on October 21th. Over two hundred personnel we're in attendance and over 50 volunteers supported.

The Chaplains and RPs would like to extend their thanks and gratitude for all those who volunteered to make this event a tremendous success. Starting at 1600 on Wednesday afternoon, volunteers from each NSA Souda Bay Department helped setup different activities and booths which included: Face painting, Duck Pond, Go Fish, Cakewalk, Darts, Treasure Hunt, Rock Band, among many others.

The Festival began at 1800, with a costume contest for the children at 1900, followed by the adult costume contest. Andreas Kush, dressed as Zorro, won the kids costume contest. Our very own RPSN Robert "Robby" Kawczynski, dressed as Sweeney Todd, won the adults costume contest. However, for those of you who did not win we congratulate you and everyone who joined in the spirit of the festivities and dressed up in costumes.

We would like to personally thank Silvia Mabie for baking eighty-four delicious cakes and everyone else who help bake and decorate cakes for our cakewalk. We extend our gratitude to the Commanding Officer and the Command Master Chief who helped Chaplain Reardon with judging the costume contests.

See you all next year!





## From the Commanding Officer

### Continued from page 1

This month, we celebrate the tremendous contributions of military families, convey to them our deepest respect and appreciation, and recommit ourselves to their support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the au-

thority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as Military Family Month. I call on all Americans to honor military families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in the support of our service members and our Nation.

### Unquote

I hope you take advantage of all the joys of the holiday season and on behalf of our nation and the United States Navy, thank you for your sacrifice and the tremendous support you provide throughout the year.



Thomas J. McDonough, Jr  
Captain, U.S. Navy

# 2009 CNIC REGIONAL MWR AWARDS

NSA Souda Bay is very proud to announce the selection of our supremely talented IT specialist Nikos Fragos as the John "Pat" Harden Practitioner Award for CNREURAFSWA.

Nikos' primary duty is to service all information technology equipment and provide associated expertise within the MWR department. Nikos services desk computers, WiFi lines, ADSL lines, printers, faxes, scanners and MWR laptops in six different locations. Among these locations is the fleet recreation pier located several miles away from NSA Souda Bay, NAMFI located about halfway between the fleet recreation pier and NSA, all major MWR facilities, Housing and NGIS lounges. Each of those locations has WiFi capabilities thanks to Nikos' efforts in setting up and maintaining the systems. The combined Housing and NGIS installation was a three-year process, which ended within two weeks once Nikos became involved.



Nikos is the go-to guy for MWR employees when they are faced with One Net or SAP connectivity issues, where he either finds the solution or directs them to the best place to receive assistance. He works with N6 on a daily basis, providing expertise and assistance whenever it is needed. He also works with FISC on a regular basis as the focal point for all DRMO and fixed asset issues. He also inputs and tracks all NAVFAC work orders, providing technical assistance for the MWR Maintenance department.

Nikos was selected among nominees from five CNREURAFSWA bases and is Souda Bay's first-ever winner. NSA Souda Bay is very proud of Nikos and all his achievements.

The awards were presented on Sunday, 11 October at a ceremony held in conjunction with the Navy Fleet Readiness Meeting and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Congress in Salt Lake City, UT.

## ▶ EDUCATIONAL OPORTUNITIES IN SOUDA BAY ◀

By Mary L. Frisina Education Services Officer, Director Navy College Office

### SCHOOLING FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN

**A**t this time there is an English Curriculum section in the local private school. Some of the classes are multi age due to the limited and varying numbers of students. The core curriculum is in English and the students participate with the Greek students in Art, Music, swimming and PE. The students also take Greek and computer classes. Any sponsor with school age children should contact the school liaison officer and/or the Non DoD Schools Program to determine the status of the English curriculum classes for the year. The other options are for Kindergarten through grade 8 a full home schooling program with financial reimbursement.

Grades 9-12 have a home schooling, Virtual school or boarding school option. Further information about educational options and financial reimbursement is available at [www.eu.dodea.edu/nondod](http://www.eu.dodea.edu/nondod)

### ★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★



ABHC Danny Thomas received his Associates of Science degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical College.

# CNIC VISITS SAILORS IN GREECE

## SOUDA BAY, Greece (NNS)

**Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC) visited U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Greece, Sept. 25 as part of a tour of Navy Region**

**By Paul Farley, Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay**

This was Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale, CNIC, first trip to the region since taking command earlier this year.

While on Greece's largest island of Crete, Vitale received a detailed tour of all facilities utilized by the U.S. Navy and had the opportunity to see Souda Bay Sailors at work.

"It is very important for us strategically to have facilities in Souda Bay and having just walked through it now I am very pleased with everything that I saw," he said. "[Souda Bay] is a wonderful place, and we can't thank the Greek people enough for the great support that they give us."

"The commanding officer and the team here are clearly interested in taking care of the Sailors, families, and employees that are assigned here," he said. "You have to take opportunities and innovate where required, the gym is great example, when you recognize that you're never going to get the quality of facility that you're looking for, there's another way. Through innovative planning, Souda took that option and produced a phenomenal gym and fitness facility that is world-class."

Other facilities also caught his attention during the visit.

"I saw the new family service center that's going in that we didn't have before and that's a huge improvement," he said.

"Here at Souda," Vitale observed, "there is good thinking and planning for the future to help take advantage of a relatively small footprint in a big way, and that's all great stuff!"

Vitale explained his vision and strategic goals.

"I am pleased, right now, that we have put together through a pretty cooperative and consensus building manner the commander's strategic guidance. Now," he continued, "having just put that out, we are ready for the next step which will be to make sure that we have a good strategic plan."

NSA Souda Bay provides, operates and sustains facilities and services dedicated to combat readiness and security of U.S., allied and coalition ships, aircraft, detachments and personnel operating in or transiting through the eastern Mediterranean Sea.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Third Class John Martinez

**Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale, CNIC, center, tours NATO pier facilities with Capt. Thomas J. McDonough Jr.**



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The following Team Souda personnel have recently been recognized:

## DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MAC DALLAS MOONEY (SEC)  
MA1 ORLANDO RIVERA (SEC)

## NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

YNC DANIEL BOWEN (ADMIN)  
MAC SCOTT VENTRICE (SEC)  
AO1 CRAIG DONALD (OPS)  
MA1 JOHN RICHARDSON (SEC)  
MA1 HOWARD SMITH (SEC)

## NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

LT JOSEPH ZUKOWSKY (PORT OPS)  
MA1 LORNA BLACKBURN (SEC)  
MA1 JERMAINE BING (SEC)  
MA1 EDGARDO HIZON (SEC)  
ABF1 HAKAN CAYCI (OPS)  
MA1 ROBERT HOLLIDAY (SEC)  
LS1 EDGAR MONTESRAMIREZ (OPS)  
MA1 CHRISTOPHER SMITH (SEC)  
MA2 BENJAMIN BROWN (SEC)  
MM2 JOSEPH GUTIERREZ (ADMIN)  
RP2 JOSEPH PENDANTONGA (ADMIN)  
SK2 GORDON RUDOLPH (OPS)  
MA2 DENNIS LONG (SEC)  
MA2 CYNTHIA SLINKOSKY (SEC)  
LS2 DI HONG SO (OPS)  
MA2 ASHLEY WILSON (SEC)  
ABH2 KEVIN VINCENT (OPS)  
MA3 BRANDON SPEARS (SEC)  
MA3 DAVID BUITRAGO (SEC)

## FLOC

SK2 PATHE NIANG (OPS)  
MR. BYRON GALE (MWR)

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

MA2 KIMBERLEE ASIAM  
AO2 HAMILTON SMITH  
LS2 DI HONG SO  
LS2 PE'ATRA WILSON  
RP2 JOE WYLY

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

ABHC DANNY THOMAS

## U.S. CIVILIAN OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER

MR. TODD J. MCKINZIE (FIRE)

## LN CIVILIAN OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER

MRS. MARIA MARAGKOU-DAKI (DISPATCH)

## SENIOR SAILOR OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER

YN1 EDWARD GARCIA

## JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER

AO2 HAMILTON SMITH

## BLUE JACKET OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER

MASN CORY BUCHANAN

## MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION UNIT AWARD

## GOOD CONDUCT

ABHC DANNY THOMAS  
MA1 EDGARDO HIZON  
CS1 MANUEL MOSQUEDA  
MA1 WILLIAM SCOTT  
MA1 ROBERT TAYLOR  
MA2 ALYSSA FOSTER  
MA2 JAMES LUMPKIN  
MA2 SHAWN TRUMPFELLER  
EN3 DIEGO CASTELLANOS  
MA3 CHRISTOPHER CROWELL  
MA3 SEAN FITZGERALD  
ABE3 ERIC GLOVER  
MA3 ZACHARY GIBSON  
AC3 WILLIAM JOSEPH  
MA3 ANDREW KATHREIN  
MA3 BRIAN MATTESON  
MA3 MEGAN RILEY  
MA3 HEATHER SIMMS  
MA3 THOMAS QUARTARO

Congratulations  
to each and  
every one for  
their noteworthy  
accomplishments

# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

## Trees

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh

tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Be sure to keep the stand filled with water, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.

## Lights

Check all tree lights-even if you've just purchased them-before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.

Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them.

Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.

Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

## TOY SAFETY TIPS

Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.

Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy that he has received as a gift, read the instructions carefully.

To prevent both burns and electrical shocks, don't give young children (under age ten) a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated.

Children under age three can choke on small parts contained in toys or games. Government regulations specify that toys for children under age three cannot have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long.

Children can have serious stomach and intestinal problems - including death -- after swallowing button batteries and magnets. Keep them away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one.

## Decorations

In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to prevent them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.

Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

Remove all wrapping papers, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened. These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child or can cause a fire if near flame.

## Fireplaces

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.

Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.

Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

**The holidays are an exciting time of year for kids, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).**

Copyright 2009 - American Academy of Pediatrics

## NEWS YOU CAN USE: H1N1 INFORMATION

**Below are some standard preventive measures that will help you avoid all varieties of the flu:**

Healthy people are more resistant to contagious diseases, so get adequate sleep, eat nutritious food, and keep physically active.

Frequently wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner. Rub your hands thoroughly; don't just get them wet.

Limit unnecessary exposure to people with coughs and fevers. No matter where you are, and especially if you are traveling, stay informed of the regional situation and recommended precautions.

Common facemasks may reduce the spread of cough and sneeze droplets from people who have the flu. (For people in high-risk environments, there are specifications for more effective respirators, which require fit-testing and training.)

There is also a host of useful information about H1N1 contained in the CNIC at [https://www.cnic.navy.mil/CNIC\\_HQ\\_Site/OperationPrepare/FluInformation/index.htm](https://www.cnic.navy.mil/CNIC_HQ_Site/OperationPrepare/FluInformation/index.htm)

## G R E E K H I S T O R Y

# "OHI" DAY

## CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF 28TH OCTOBER

On the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas (1871–1941) sought to maintain Greek neutrality, while being prepared to give some low-level assistance to the British war effort. Hitler had sought to dominate south-east Europe through economic and political means. Mussolini, on the other hand, was determined to make territorial gains at the expense of Yugoslavia and Greece. In the summer of 1940, the Italian dictator adopted an increasingly menacing stand towards Greece, authorizing the torpedoing of the Greek cruiser Elli stationed off the island of Tenos on 15 August.

On the eve of 28 October 1940, Italy's ambassador in Athens, Emanuele Grazzi, handed an ultimatum from Mussolini to Metaxas. In it, the Duce demanded free passage for his troops to occupy unspecified "strategic points" inside Greek territory. Metaxas rejected the ultimatum with the words "Alors, c'est la guerre" (French for "Then, it's war."). In this he echoed the will of the Greek people to resist, a will which was popularly expressed in one word: "Ohi" (Όχι) (Greek for "No"). Within hours Italy began attacking Greece from Albania. The outbreak of hostilities was first announced by the Athens Radio early in the morning of the 28th, with the famous two-sentence dispatch of the General Staff: "Since 0630 this morning, the enemy is attacking our vanguard on the Greek-Albanian border. Our forces are defending the fatherland".

Shortly thereafter, Metaxas addressed the Greek people with these words: "The time has come for Greece to fight for her independence. Greeks, now we must prove ourselves worthy of our forefathers and the freedom they bestowed upon us. Greeks, now fight for your Fatherland, for your wives, for your children and the sacred traditions. Now, over all things, fight!" the last sentence being a verbatim quote from The Persians by the dramatist Aeschylus. In response to this address, the people of Greece reportedly spontaneously went out to the streets singing Greek patriotic songs and shouting anti-Italian slogans,

and hundreds of thousands of volunteers, men and women, in all parts of Greece headed to the Army recruitment offices to enlist. The whole nation was united in the face of aggression.



**Painting of Alexandros Alexandrakis, depicting Greek soldiers in Greek-Italian War (1941) during bayonet charge**

The ultimatum was followed three hours later by the Italian invasion of northwest Greece. This was quickly repulsed, with Greek forces capturing a substantial area of southern Albania before the advance ground to a halt in atrocious weather. The Italian forces were stronger in artillery and mortars than the Greeks, and enjoyed absolute superiority in air forces, which they did not manage to exploit properly. Poor motivation, as opposed to the Greeks, and the rough terrain of Epirus, which favored the Greek defense, also played a role in the outcome. The Greek Army spent all available resources to attain their victorious defense and counterattack; as a consequence, the German attack Operation Marita found a limited resistance from the exhausted Greeks in April 1941

Despite the ultimate triumph of the Axis powers in the Greek campaign, the Greek resistance to the Italian invasion, according to several historians, greatly affected the course of the Second World War. More specifically, it has been argued that the need for a German intervention in the Balkans delayed Operation Barbarossa, and caused losses, especially in aircraft and paratroopers during the airborne invasion of Crete, which affected its outcome. Further-

more, the need to occupy the country, suppress the partisans and defend it against Allied actions, tied down several German and Italian divisions during the course of the war.

Also important was the moral example, set in a time when only the British Empire resisted the Axis Powers, of a small country fighting off Fascist Italy, something reflected in the exuberant praise the Greek struggle received at the time. Most prominent is the quote of Winston Churchill:

*"Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks".*

28 October, the day of Ioannis Metaxas' rejection of the Italian ultimatum, is a day of national celebration in Greece, named **Ohi Day** (Greek for "Day of No"). Military and student parades take place in Athens and all major cities. For several days, many buildings in Greece, public and private, display the Greek flag. In the days preceding the anniversary, television and radio often feature historical films and documentaries about 1940. This day serves also as a day of remembrance for the "dark years" of the Axis Occupation of Greece (1941-1944).

Sources: Encyclopedia.com, Wikipedia



**Greek soldiers celebrating New Year on the Albanian Front, 1 January 1941**

**Commanding Officer  
NSA Souda Bay  
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## **WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!**

Tell us how we can improve our family gram!

Mail your comments to the return address above or e-mail: [Paul.Farley@eu.navy.mil](mailto:Paul.Farley@eu.navy.mil)

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

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US AT SOUDA BAY**



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Third Class John Martinez