



Team Souda Connection Family Gram

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NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

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NSA Souda Bay, Building 1



From the Commanding Officer



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

Greetings from Souda Bay!

We have had a cool and damp winter here in the eastern Mediterranean Sea on Greece's largest island of Crete but spring is now here and summer is approaching fast.

We have continued to support the various afloat units and taskings of the U.S. SIXTH Fleet and have seen a steady

rise in ship numbers over the first quarter of 2009. This trend is likely to continue as we build towards the warmer months. In total, 25 ships have depended on the capabilities of Team Souda with 73 days on berth.

Today, our mission at Souda Bay is to extend Joint and Fleet Warfighting capability through Operational Support to U.S., Allied and Coalition Forces deployed throughout Europe, Southwest Asia and Africa. We do this by providing, operating and sustaining superior facilities and services dedicated to combat readiness and security of ships, aircraft, detachments and personnel.

Here at the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Souda Bay, "SUPPORT" is literally our middle name. Built on a spirit of cooperation with our Greek allies, our presence and primary mission enables fleet and airborne operations to occur in

this strategically critical area of the world. NSA Souda Bay routinely functions as a Naval Operating Base, Naval Air Station and Naval Weapons Station. NSA Souda Bay skillfully orchestrated joint U.S. Navy (USN) / U.S. Air Force (USAF) reconnaissance missions and air refueling support for Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and other joint USN/USAF and multi-national operations.

Each and every Officer, Sailor, Airman, Marine and Civilian assigned, whether permanent or transient, is a valuable member of our team and you should be very proud of your family member assigned here.

Many thanks for your continued support!



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

CMC Corner



**Command Master Chief
Christopher K. Engles**

I am CMDCM (AW/SW) Engles, the new Command Master Chief newly reported onboard from a great CMC tour onboard the THEODORE ROOSE-

VELT. CMDCM Famellos has transferred to Washington State and is already doing great things with the Sailors of the “Scorpions” of VAQ-132. My wife Kathy and I look forward to working with OUR Sailors and you, I have been in the Navy for 28 years and we have been married for 26 of those so we have extensive experience with both the Navy and separations.

In my short time onboard it is obvious to see that the Sailors are extremely motivated and professional, that I contribute to the Command climate and leadership afforded each Sailor as well as their own sense of professionalism. It is my intent to continue that level of excellence set here at Souda Bay and to continue to ensure that all of our Sailors and their Families are given the most up to date information available.

In closing let me say that I am extremely happy to be here and if you have questions or problems please contact our OMBUDSMAN (Cortney), she is a fountain of knowledge and can answer most anything concerning programs and situations. If you wish to contact me my e-mail is: Christopher.engles@eu.navy.mil



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

***By Father Brown,
Command Chaplain***

For many years, now our community here at NSA Souda Bay has had the services of chaplains and their assistants, the Religious Ministry Team (RMT). Our team of Sailors includes: PO2 Cody Mitts from Colorado, PO2 Joseph PendaNtonga from Cameroon in West Africa, LT Harry Hansen, a Protestant pastor from Georgia, and CDR Ben Brown, a Catholic priest from Kentucky. The RMT has traditionally shared space first in the building which houses our Bank, Personnel Records, Safety, Accounting, Security, Education, and other departments. Last April, we moved into our own building and since then have been, with minimal costs and lots of volunteer hours, transforming it into a Ministry Center. We want to tell you about it.

The building sits next to the Medical Department at the edge of the flight line, and practically in the shadow of snow-capped mountain peaks. One of our favorite hymns is “Sing to the Mountains, Sing to the Sea.” Formerly a storage unit for equipment used by the Construction Battalion, we now have a worship space, fellowship hall, and offices for the Chaplains and their assistants. Three members of the Emergency Management Department share space with us. However, it’s expected that they will move in the near future; when they do, we’ll have classrooms for Sunday School and Bible Study.

As a Ministry “Center,” we think of ourselves as being in many ways the pulse or heart-beat of the Command. Our programs of Prayer, Spiritual Growth, Fellowship, and Service are open to all and are designed to supply people with motivation they lack, or boost the motivation they already have, to be the best and therefore, the happiest people they can be.

We call our Center “Garden of Olives” after a place in Jerusalem, wherein Jesus Christ committed Himself to give all that He had for the sake of others. Surrounded as we are here on Crete with olive trees, we are mindful that this fruit and its olives have an incredibly long history of usefulness for both physical and religious purposes. Thus the olive tree is a great symbol for people whose ethos are built on dedication to strengthening and nourishing each other, and a readiness and resilience to meet and overcome challenges which come their way.

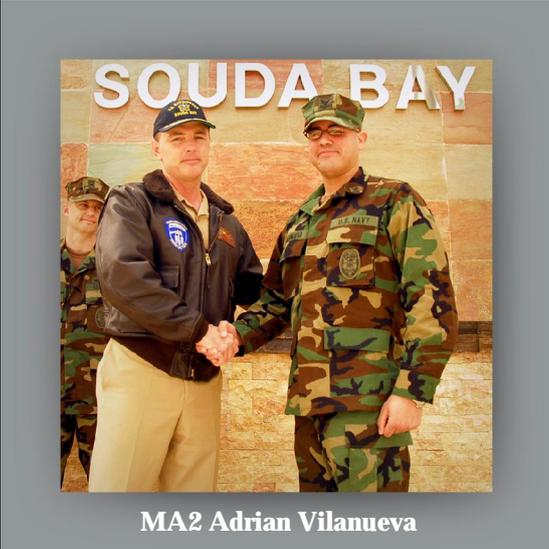
We are for people who are married or single, service members or civilians, Americans or other Nationalities, of all faiths and no faith. And, people are coming; the place is nearly full every Wednesday and Sunday, with people coming and going all the time. We believe it is becoming one of the more popular spots on Base. We’ll use this “spot” in the Family Gram to keep you up-to date on what’s happening.

Reenlistments

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2009

Sailors of NSA Souda Bay stepping up to the plate during these hard times and reenlisting into the U.S. Navy.

Sailors were discharged and sworn back into active duty for 2-6 more years of Naval Service. Shipmates celebrate with them as they reenlist back to the Navy family. The Commanding Officer is honored to see so many of his sailors obligating themselves to the defense of the United States.



AZ2 Ana Louisa Agront Villafane



MA1 Lorna J. Blackburn



SK1 Geordane Deleon



MA3 Mallory Deltenre



MA3 Nicholas Sharpe
MA3 Akeem Wilkins
MA3 Curtis Mozingo



MA3 Mendez Delacruz



MA2 Quentin P. Goss



MA2 Kimberlee Asiam



CSC(SW/SCW) Angel I. Canlas



SK2 Di So



MA2 Dennis M. Long



SK2(SW) Sterling Sanders

March 25th

Greek Independence Day

Anniversary

March 25th is one of the holiest days for Greek Orthodox Christians, the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. On March 25, 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras seized the opportunity by raising the banner of revolution, in an act of defiance against the Ottoman Empire and marked the beginning of the War of Greek Independence. The Greeks were under the Ottoman rule for nearly 400 years. During this time their language, their religion and their sense of identity remained strong.

The people of Greece shouted "Freedom or Death" and they fought the War of Independence for 9 years (1821-1829) until a small part of modern Greece was finally liberated and was declared an independent nation.

The war for independence was supported abroad by intellectuals and prominent world figures of the day including Lord Byron in England and Daniel Webster and Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe in the United States.

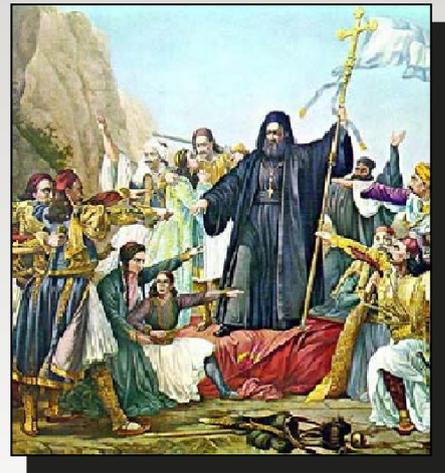
The struggle for the liberation of Greeks continued. In 1864, the Ionian islands were added to Greece; in 1881 parts of Epirus and Thessaly. The islands of the Eastern Aegean and Macedonia were added in 1913 and Western Thrace in 1919. After World War II the Dodecanese islands were also returned to Greece.

Crete was liberated in 1897 and remained an Autonomous Principality. On December 1, 1913, the Union of Crete with Greece was finally achieved.

March 25th is both a national (Greek Independence Day) and religious holiday (Annunciation). There is a school flag parade in every town and village and a big armed forces parade in Athens, the capital of Greece. Before the parade, a doxology is held at the Athens Metropolitan Cathedral, officiated by Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, and attended by the President of the Republic, the country's political leadership, the Armed Forces leadership and

all major Greek officials.

After the doxology, the President of the Republic is greeted with full military honors at the Syntagma Square where he lays a wreath at the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' outside the Greek parliament building.



Bishop Germanos of Patras raising the Greek flag at the Monastery of Agia Lavra in Peloponnese.

CRETAN RECEIPE:

Pork with celery

This is the traditional dish served on the feast of Ayios Dimitrios in the village of Platanias, in Chania. Saint Dimitrios is the patron saint of Platanias. All housewives prepare this dish on the 26th of October, the name day of the Saint.

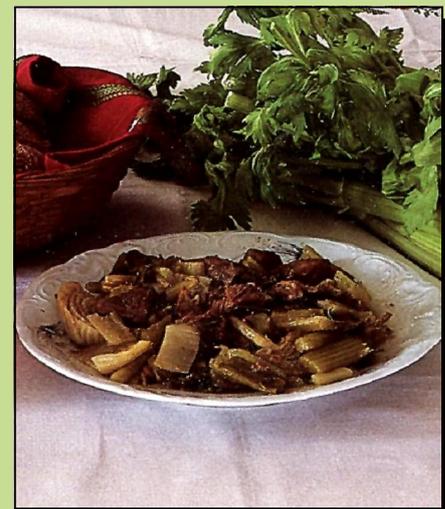
INGREDIENTS:

2.2 lbs of boneless pork
3.3 lbs of celery, roughly chopped
2 finely chopped onions
1/2 cup olive oil
the juice of 2 lemons, salt and pepper

METHOD

Boil the celery in water for 5 minutes and drain. Cut the meat into stewing pieces and brown it with the onions in the oil. Add 2-3 cups water and let the pork cook for about three quarters of an hour. Add the celery, salt and pepper and continue cooking on low-heat. Don't stir the food with a spoon: simply gently shake the whole pot so as to avoid burning the meat. When the water has been absorbed and the meat is tender, add the lemon juice.

(Wild celery can also be used)





AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

MACS DANIEL KIMBALL (SEC)
MA1 PETER KENDRICK (SEC)
MA1 SHAWN TAYLOR (SEC)

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MAC JOSEPH DINO (SEC)
MA1 ANGELA VANDEN-
BRANDE (SEC)
ABH2 MARK MILBRETT (OPS)
AO2 TYREL BRANSOM (OPS)
(PREV CMD)

MOVSM

MA1 ROBERT HOLLIDAY (SEC)

SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER (4TH QUARTER)

SK1 GEORDANE DELEON (OPS)

BLUE JACKET OF THE QUAR- TER (4TH QUARTER)

ABH3 GEORGE JOSEPH (OPS)

CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE (EUROPE CAMPUS)

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

MS. JULIA CANAGA (CTC)

NAVY COMMUNITY SERVICE

GOOD NEIGHBOR FLAGSHIP AWARD

MR. PAUL FARLEY ACCEPTED
ON BEHALF OF THE COM-
MAND

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

MA1 LANE FERGUSON (SEC)
SK1 HERNANDO RASAY (SEC)

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

AMC RUSSELL SHIELDS (OPS)
MA1 HOWARD LONG (SEC)
PC1 FRANK PERKINS (FISC)
CE2 ROBERT EVANS (PWD)
YN2 DARRELL RATLIFF
(ADMIN)
IT3 HARLEY DOMINGUEZ
(NCTAMS)
HM3 TIMOTHY EVANS
(MEDICAL)

PS3 GWENDOLYN PIZARRO
(CSD)
MR. TYRONE HARRIS (MWR)
MR. TODD MCKINZIE (FIRE)

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MA1 ROBERT GRUBBS (SEC)
(PREVIOUS COMMAND)
MA1 JOSEPH MAVER (SEC)
MA2 MIGUEL BITTONY (SEC)
SK2 STERLING SANDERS (SEC)
MA2 ADRIAN VILLANUEVA
(SEC)
MASN JOSEPH ZURHEIDE (SEC)

BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES

UTC GABRIEL VAZQUEZ (PWD)

ASSOCIATES OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

CM1 JOSHUA OGLE (PWD)

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

EA3 ABIGAIL CRAWFORD
(PWD)

Space Available Travelers (SPATS) Red Bandana Award

Best OCONUS Pax Terminal Hon- orable Mention

MS. LENA KOUMOUTSOS and
Terminal Staff

Congratulations to each and
every one for their notewor-
thy accomplishments



SOUDA BAY OMBUDSMAN

Linking Together Families and NSA Souda Bay

By Cortney Swalbee and Christie Hansen

Hello Souda Bay Families!

At the beginning of March, the Military Saves Campaign of "Build Wealth, Not Debt" came to an end. Souda Bay sailors did a great job! Everyone had an opportunity to learn valuable tools and methods for saving and investing. During these tough economic times it is important to save. Let's all take the challenge of "building wealth, not debt" all year round! The MilitarySaves.org website has many resources you can utilize. Check out their website:

www.militarysaves.org/resourcekit/individual_resources.asp

Planning a trip to Crete to visit your loved one this summer? While we can't offer to buy your plane tickets, we do offer free vacation planning!

The following websites offer great information including Cretan history, traditions, and tourist sights. You can even learn a few Greek words before you come!

<http://www.explorecrete.com>

<http://www.cretegazette.com>

We realize it is not easy to be separated from your loved ones who are stationed here in Souda Bay. We want to make sure you have all the support you need in the states.

If you need any referrals for base services in your local area, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*We would greatly appreciate you emailing 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.*



www.militaryonesource.com (800) 342-9647

Don't forget to check out the **Military OneSource** website. It is a free service with a wealth of information. You can reach someone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Have a wonderful Spring!

Kindly,

Cortney & Kristie



Primary Ombudsman: Cortney Schwalbe
Alternate Ombudsman: Kristie Hansen
Email: soudaombudsman@hotmail.com
Phone: 011-30-697-334-0071

By Peri Yeager

AMAZON WOMEN

Fact or myth?

Amazons appear in Greek mythology, literature and in many works of art. They were supposedly a nation of female warriors and hunters, usually depicted on horseback, wielding bows, spears, double eaded axes, helmets and half shields. Archaeological findings on Crete have led some scholars to believe that these legends may be based on history. The ancient Minoan culture seems to have been matrilineal, their religion centered on female deities with ceremonies led by priestesses using the holiest religious item, the Labrys (double-headed axe).

Frescos from this time show men (painted red) and women (painted white) both participating in the physically challenging sport of bull-leaping which involves somersaulting over the back of a charging bull. More images of women occur than men in archaeological records, both on Crete and in excavations on Santorini all of which strongly suggests that Minoan women occu-

piated a prominent place in society. The Arkalochori Axe, Aghia Triada sarcophagus and Minoan Snake Goddess figurine can all be viewed at the Heraklion Archaeological Museum in Heraklion, Crete.



Amazons fighting.
(Frieze from the Parthenon)

LOGARI WINERY TRIP

Article by Ms. Gloria J. Marcoux, NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs



On 14 February 2009, I decided to go on one of the MWR trips to a local winery in Logari. Now, I have taken a few MWR trips in the past, and they offer a variety of trips throughout the month, but this was something new and different. I had not seen this type of outing on the calendar and was excited to experience something different on the Island of Crete.

I had never seen how the locals make wine. Therefore, since the 14th was Valentine's Day, I thought this would be a nice "distraction" because my husband was working. Of course, this trip to the winery



would have been 100% better if my hubby was with me, but since he was working, I went with the van group.

As I rode with the group, we chatted and speculated as to what kind of place this winery would be. No one had any idea what to expect. So when we finally arrived, all of us were pleasantly surprised. Even though the building had been built only twenty years ago, it looked

like it had been there for hundreds of years. It was quaint and picturesque, offering small garden areas which surrounded the building. Of course, you can not have a garden area without the appropriate chickens and turkeys parading around for the guest to take pictures.

As we gathered around the tour guide, he proceeded to explain the beginning process of wine making. He showed us the vats in which the wine is processed and then described the process of putting the wine in barrels so it can age. While



walking through these corridors which were in the basement, I felt I was entering through a passage in time. I was surrounded by barrels of wine and bottles of wine aging gracefully, waiting for their time to make an appearance in the outside world.

At the end of the dark and mysterious corridors, we entered the bottling assembly area. This is where they bottle, cork, and label the wine. When our tour guide finished describing the bottling process, he announced that we would go to the dining area for the wine tasting. At last, the tasting of the wine! This is what all of us had been waiting for since we signed up for this trip.

When we reached our destination and sat at the tables, our tour guide started to reveal the secrets we all had been waiting

– the types of wine we would be sampling. We sampled a dry



white, a dry red, a semi-sweet red, and a sweet red – all so delicious! With bread and cheese provided, we luxuriously sipped our wine and basked in the glow of good company and good conversation.

After we drank and eaten, we were all eager to purchase the wares. Our tour guide brought us to their store in which we could buy a variety of wines they made. Some of us purchased modest amounts, but of course, there were a few who decided the wine was so high quality, they decided to procure cases of various flavors of wine. So with our merchandise in hand, we brought our trophies back to our van – heading off into the sunset and dreaming of having our own sampling of wine at home



Commanding Officer
NSA Souda Bay
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67th U.S. Navy Seabee Birthday Ball MARCH 2009

Sailors of NSA Souda Bay having a good time in a very successful 67th Birthday of the Seabees. This ball is an annual tradition celebrating the appreciation establishment of the Seabees since March 1942. The birthday kicked off with social hour, full course meal, continuing with laughs, dancing and an all around good time ending with the ceremonial cutting.

