



Team Souda Connection Family Gram

PRODUCED BY
NSA SOUDA BAY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SPRING 2010

COMMAND

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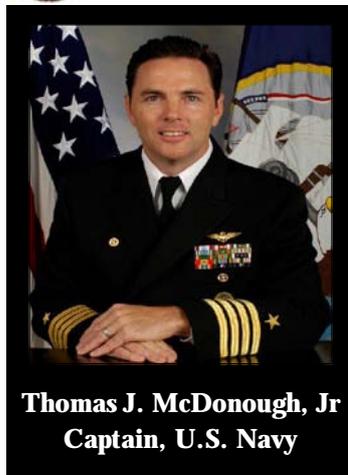
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From the Commanding Officer



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

Hello again family and friends of Souda Bay and welcome to the spring edition of our family-gram, produced specifically with you in mind.

Spring and Easter are an especially great time to live in Greece and experience this

wonderful island of Crete and the hospitality of our Greek hosts. This year has been no exception and the weather has been beautiful so far.

Here at Souda Bay we serve to provide direct daily support to the war-fighters and the many ships and aircraft that move through our area on a continual basis. We perform a vital mission here in Crete that keeps us all very busy throughout the year.

To view the latest news and images of Souda Bay I encourage you to visit our command website regularly at <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/soudabay/index.htm>. We are always looking for ways to improve our webpage and our family-gram and I encourage you to provide us with your

feedback whenever you have comments.

As part of Navy's commitment to enhance family readiness, the Navy started a monthly family gram just last month. March's Family Gram focused on medical benefits and provides Sailors and their families information on the range of medical support services available to them.

The second Navy Family Gram came out on April 1 and describes resources available to assist families of deployed Sailors,

"The Navy is committed to providing our families the same high-quality support

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CVC Corner

Souda Bay Families,

The winter weather is beginning to break and for the next eight months sunshine will soon flood Crete. Your Sailors work very hard to ensure the job is done and sometimes with very little fanfare, duty on a Forward Operating Base is much different than a Naval Station. Families are noticeably absent here and contact with family members is primarily done via the telephone or computer. The contact that you maintain with your Sailor is very important; the median age of a Sailor stationed here is 19 years 6 month. Remember when you were 19 and the responsibilities you had, now imagine standing post, piloting small boats, moving aircraft, paying people and maintaining the buildings on the base. These are just some of

the duties your Sailor is doing everyday so please keep in contact with them, a few minutes can make a huge difference in the life of a Sailor!

If you have the time and the financial means I encourage you to visit Crete and see what your Sailor does for a living. Flights vary in price depending on when they are purchased, plan early and if you can come visit your Sailor, you will be impressed! I asked in the last Family Gram that you take an active interest in your Sailors career, since that time we have had a 20% manpower turnover, things happen here very quickly. Before you know it transfer time has arrived and your Sailor is moving on to there new duty station.

In closing let me say that when I joined the Navy in 1981 I never

thought I would still be in the Navy 29 years later, the decisions made today by your Sailor will be one of the defining factors in the future. The Navy has been a great adventure for me and my family, I ask that you continue to support your Sailor and all they stand for, they are all great Americans and you should be justly proud!



CMDCM(AW/SW)
Christopher Engles



From the Chaplain's Corner...



Spring is one of the four temperate seasons, the transition period between winter and summer. It is the time of the year when plants begin to bud and the activities of animals increase. For those of us in the military, spring can be an indictor that it is time for change to occur – new orders, new assignment anywhere.

For NSA Souda Bay, such a time

has occurred in the Chaplain's Community. Chaplain Hansen has moved forward now serving on the USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) home port Little Creek, VA and Chaplain Sharon Wheaton is here. Chaplain Wheaton comes with enthusiasm, fortitude and faith. Motivated to promote the spiritual, religious, moral and personal well-being of all stationed at NSA Souda Bay, Chap-

lain Wheaton is well suited for the job.

Assisted by a team of two terrific Religious Program Specialist, RP2 Joseph Wyly (LPO) and RPSN Robert Kawczynski, she's looking forward to continuing the wonderful legacy that Chaplain Hansen and others have set.

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.

Genesis 8:22

Financial Fair held for Military Saves Week

Story by MC3 Cayman Santoro

During Military Saves Week this year, the Command Financial Specialist, Chief Petty Officer Russell Shields, and representatives from Navy Federal Credit Union, Fleet and Family Support Center and NCIS hosted a financial fair at Perk's Liberty Center, Thursday, February 18, 2010.

Two sessions, one in the morning, and one at 1400-1600 had information presented at the various booths in the form of pamphlets, booklets and on spot questions.

All kinds of inquiries could be

asked to the specialists. An attendee could find out what kind of saving plans to use (such as the Thrift Savings Plan), Information on how to protect against identity theft along with ways to manage a budget.

Attendees were also provided refreshments.

According to Shields about why he set up the fair, "I hope to help Sailors gain knowledge about financial responsibility and provide them with the answers that they need."



Sailors speak to Command Financial Specialist, Chief Petty Officer Russell about available retirement plans offered to the Military at Perks Liberty Center. Photo by MC3 John Martinez





SEABEE BALL 2010

Story By SW2 Terryl McCormack
Photos/Graphic by MC3 Cayman Santoro

Navy Seabees, Navy Facilities and Engineering Command Europe Africa Southwest Asia (NAVFAC EURAF-SWA) and personnel assigned to the Public Works Department (PWD) celebrated the 68th birthday of the United States Navy Seabees in Souda Bay, Crete on March 5th. NAVFAC EURAFSWA Commanding Officer Civil Engineer Corps. Captain Jeffrey T. Borowy was in attendance as the guest speaker of the ball.

The Seabee Ball Committee in charge of fundraising and organization of the event managed to raise over \$14,000 dollars in 4 months to put on a spectacular event. The base sold 212 tickets which far exceeded the numbers in previous years.

“The funds you’ve raised whether you were participating or donating, I have not seen anything like this in my 26 years in the Navy, BRAVO ZULU,” said Borowy.

The Seabee Ball is an annual event not only to celebrate the birthday of the Seabees, but also their heritage, accomplishments and traditions. There are many events that took place throughout the night. The evening began with an introduction from the Master of Ceremonies of the head table and guest speaker. Following the introduction the personnel in attendance were witness to an amazing demonstration from the color guard honoring both the American and Greek national anthems.

Before the ceremonies could end the Seabees in typical off key Seabee Fashion proudly sang their Seabee Song. This signaled the end of the ceremonies but not before the ceremonial cake was cut by the oldest non-retired Seabee, CMDR Donald Plows born in 1957 and the youngest Sea-

bee, Utilities Constructionmen Kristen Gilliland born in 1991. After the cake cutting was over the first piece of cake in accordance with tradition was given to the oldest Seabee in the room, Chief Construction Electrician (Retired) Ronald Curry born in 1943. Mr. Curry graduated in 1963 from Construction Electrician “A” school and retired before most of the Seabees in attendance were even born.

“I was nervous but I loved it,” Said Gilliland when asked about her first Seabee ball experience.

The rest of the evening was filled with excitement, exquisite local cuisine, dancing and the swapping of sea stories between the new and old generations; however prior to the end of the evening Seabee Ball Committee Chairman Steel Worker Second Class Petty Officer Terryl McCormack surprised three attendees with awards for their hard work, dedication and participation during the four months of fundraising. Chief Master-At-Arms Keith R. Woodman “Woody” was given the award for “Single Biggest Contributor.”

The second award was not given to one individual; instead it was given out as the “Largest Command Contributor.” This award was given out to the 95th Air Force Reconnaissance Squadron Detachment One. The detachment did the Air Force proud and made new friends throughout the Seabee community donating time and money to make this ball a memorable experience.

The Seabees in the days following the event also held a base-wide free BBQ as a “thank you” to all the base personnel for their support.



From the Commanding Officer

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they provide our Sailors," said Rear Adm. Michael Browne, director of Navy's personal readiness and community support branch. "One way we are meeting that goal is by providing our families with the tools necessary to successfully manage life during deployments and other prolonged separations."

It is important that you stay up-to-date with the latest information and I encourage you all to actively pursue and use the many information resources available to you. A great place to start is the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center's website at <https://www.nffsp.org>.

You are a key part to our success and I encourage you to communicate regu-

larly. Thank you for the continued support that you provide to your Sailor or employee serving here at Souda Bay.



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

Bowling For Souda



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Hamilton Smith poses alongside his bowling trophies. From February 26 to the 28th, Smith emerged victorious as the number one player during a bowling tournament in Heraklion, Crete. The avid bowler became the winner of the 3rd round of the B and C Bowlers by the Hellenic Bowling Federation, a singles tournament for men and women, beating out 104 other competitors. Some of Smith's other accomplishments including bowling the perfect game with a score of 300 on more than one occasion. "After winning, I felt like I was the best in Crete, I was on top of the world," said Smith.



We are proud to announce that the Souda Bay Branch of Navy Federal Credit Union received the Department of the Navy Credit Union of the Year Award for 2009.

This particular branch assisted your family member(s) and took extra time to help with their financial readiness and plans for a secure future.

We applaud their continued support for the military personnel at Souda Bay.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The following personnel have been recently recognized for their accomplishments through hard work and dedication. Bravo Zulu to all!

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL



LT. HARRY HANSEN (CHAP)
QMCS DANIEL DICKSON (OPS)
BUC ROMMEL GONZALES (PW)
AMC RUSSELL SHIELDS (SEC)
MA1 ROBERT GRUBBS (SEC)
MA1 JOHN WASHINGTON (SEC)

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



AC1 DONALD EDWARDS (OPS)
MA1 BRIAN LALLY (SEC)
MA1 ORLANDO RIVERA (SEC)
BM1 JOSHUA SHANE (OPS)
MA1 JAMES SHERRARD (SEC)
ABH1 WILLIAM THOMPSON (OPS)
MA2 KIMBERLEE ASIAM (SEC)
BM2 RIPDON BENNETT (SEC)
LS2 RAVINDRA BISSESSAR

EN2 HUNTER GARRETT (OPS)
ABF2 GERALD HACKETT (OPS)
MA2 ANGELA MIOSEK (SEC)
LS2 CASSANDRA MOODY (OPS)
MA2 PABLO GUTIERREZ-RADFORD (SEC)
LS2 CRAIG SCOTT (OPS)
MA2 GERRY WINKLER (SEC)
MC3 CAYMAN SANTORO (PA)
MA3 SARA SARGENT (SEC)
MA3 ELIZABETH VILLALOBOS (SEC)

ASSOCIATES OF APPLIED SCI- ENCE IN FIRE SCIENCE

ABH1 WILLIAM THOMPSON (OPS)

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

MA2 ROBERT GERBER (SEC)
ABH2 ALFREDO RUELAS (OPS)
MA3 WILLIAM BARRY (SEC)
MA3 MICHAEL CAMPOS (SEC)

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

MA1 RONNIE RAY (SEC)

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR 2009

AO1 JAMES VUU

SENIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR 2009

YN1 EDWARD GARCIA

LOCAL NATIONAL OF THE YEAR 2009

MR. MICHALIS CHATZIDAKIS

U.S. CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR 2009

MR. ORA "TEDDY" GALE

SSOQ

AC1 SCOTT BRADY

JSOQ

MA2 SANDY COSMETORRES

BJOQ

MASN AARON RICHARDS



Story by MC3 Cayman Santoro

U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay recently commemorated the grand reopening of the Navy Exchange (NEX) Mini-Mart with a ribbon cutting ceremony, on Friday, February 26.

Chaplain, Lt. Sharon Wheaton was the master of ceremonies for the event as service members and DoD civilians alike stood outside to witness the significant quality of life improvement event.

"I would like to share a little history about NEX Mini-Marts, comprised of commissary and exchange merchandise, was birthed to meet the health and comfort needs of service members and families in isolated locations where commissaries were not established," said Wheaton

The NEX Mini-Mart was recently refurbished to include more space for goods and a wider variety of choices for consumers to pick from. Remodeling has been in process for five months and began on 15 September, 2009. The combination of the new NEX store that opened in September and the new NEX-Mart translates to over 1,500 new line items now available to NEX shoppers at Souda Bay.

During the opening ceremony Wheaton introduced a variety of speakers including NEX European Vice President, Frank Miller, DeCA Mediterranean Zone Manager, Salah Ud-Din, General Manager for NEX Mart Souda Bay, Ron Dahl, and ending with Commanding Officer, Capt. Thomas McDonough who was the one to cut the ribbon.

Ud-Din told everyone in attendance, "This is your store, let us know what we can do to improve. We are committed to your quality of life."



Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class James Vuu enters the newly refurbished NEX Mart to see what is available for purchase after the ribbon cutting ceremony.
U.S. Navy photo by Paul Farley

Community Service

Story by MC3 Cayman Santoro

To help strengthen the bond between the locals of Crete and the servicemembers stationed at U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, the command recently organized a community service project. Over the course of several days, different groups of Sailors went over to Chania Public Nursery School to help repaint the facilities.

To the right is a collage of Chief Petty Officers and Command Master Chief, Christopher Engles, contributing to the refurbishing of the center. U.S. Navy Photos by Ms. Peggy Bebb.



Bringing the funny to Souda Bay

Story and photos by
MC3 Cayman Santoro

Members of the Boston Comedy Festival takes a far leap from Boston to bring humor and laughter to the servicemembers and civilians of NSA Souda Bay. Four Comedians brought by Morale Wellness and Welfare and Navy Entertainment: Tony Boswell, Jim McCue, Kenny Rogerson and Becky Donahue came together to present their humorous material Tuesday, February 9 at Diamonds.

Continuing on their European tour, they traveled from Naples, to Sicily then made a stop at Souda Bay. After the show, Rogerson provided some insight and his views on the tour for the troops:

" This is my first time performing for the troops overseas. My manager initially approached me and asked 'do you want to perform for military members?' to which I replied 'yes, it would be extremely worthwhile'. I decided to do it because you people are defending our freedoms. To me, your sacrifice far outweighs mine of being away from home for a few weeks to make the troops laugh. " -Kenny Rogerson

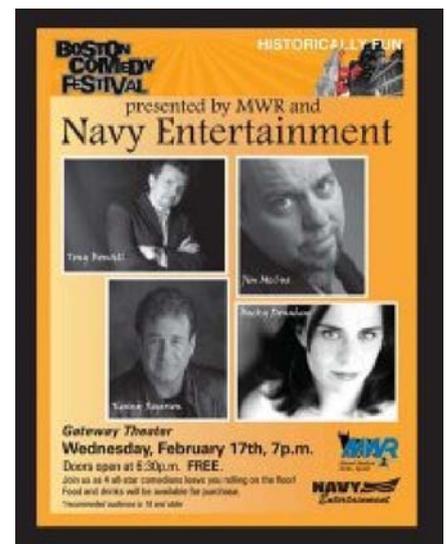
The four comedians delivered on various forms of humor to keep the audience laughing including interesting anecdotes and acute observations. Each comedian has been traveling and performing along the comedy circuit all over America and bring-



Sailors of Souda Bay enjoy the entertainment provided by comedian Kenny Rogerson as he preforms one of his skits at Diamonds

ing their acts to overseas. It is not just the entertainment value that keeps these comedians going, "I enjoy meeting all the Sailors. I don't care where I go, I do not come for the fancy hotels or the vacations, but I come here to entertain you all," stated Rogerson.

They will continue their tour to Bahrain and Rota, Spain.



Above: A Navy Entertainment/ MWR Flyer that was presented to Sailors before the event.



From Left to Right: Kenny Rogerson, Becky Donahue, Jim McCue, Public Affairs Officer, Paul Farley and Tony Boswell stand together displaying their command coins after the event.

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

Flagstaff at Souda Bay

March 2010

MUSICIAN 2ND CLASS CORY GILLUS PLAYS THE GUITAR IN FRONT OF NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SOUDA BAY'S ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING DURING A CONCERT PRESENTED BY THE NAVY BAND, FLAGSTAFF ON MARCH 29.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Cayman Santoro