



Team Souda Connection Family Gram

PRODUCED BY
NSA SOUDA BAY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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INSIDE THIS

CO Message	1
CMC Corner	2
Chaplain's Corner	2
Geocaching	3
Change of Command	5
Around Souda Bay	6
Awards and Recognition	7
Meeting with the Mayor	8



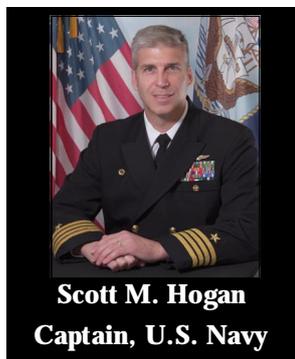
Change of Command at Souda Bay

Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan salutes Rear Adm. David Mercer stating he is ready to take charge during the change of command ceremony.

U.S. Navy Photo by MC3 Cayman Santoro



From the Commanding Officer



Scott M. Hogan
Captain, U.S. Navy

Dear Family and Friends,

I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Captain Scott Hogan. On June 25th, I relieved Captain Tom McDonough and assumed command of NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer. I am extremely proud to serve with your friends and family members who are as-

signed here. I realized soon after my arrival, that the unaccompanied tour assignments of the men and women at NSA Souda Bay creates some unique challenges and opportunities. Be assured, the safety, well being, and quality of life of those assigned is my highest priority.

It has been a very fast paced month since I checked on board. It only seems like yesterday that the NSA Souda Bay Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) put on a spectacular 4th of July celebration. It is billed as their "showcase" event and it certainly lived up to its billing. The event was held at a local water park. Admission was

free and it included all the events we come to associate with 4th of July celebrations at home: games, disc jockey, burgers and hot dogs, all topped off by a spectacular fireworks display. Everyone commented on how much they look forward to this event. My thanks to the MWR and all the other people associated with this event.

My command team is working to ensure continued support to our family and friends back home. The Team Souda Connection Family Gram is just one resource.

Continued on Pg. 3



CMC Corner

Souda Bay Families,

On June 25th we conducted our Change of Command ceremony so I would like to extend the customary "Fair winds and following seas" to Captain McDonough and to welcome our new Commanding Office Captain Hogan. Change is unavoidable in the Navy and it is one of things that keep us motivated and always sharp.

I have spoken many times in the past about YOUR Sailors and the great things they do everyday that has not changed. Living overseas brings many challenges for all Sailors but in particular our younger Sailors, this is where

your continued support comes into play. Your continued support enables our Sailors to know that things back home are in good hands and focus on the task at hand.

This will be my last column for the Souda Bay Family Gram, my wife Kathy and I are transferring to Washington DC in early September. Let me state the obvious, OUR Sailors here in Souda Bay are doing great things everyday and I will miss serving with them, they are what America is all about. It has been my distinct honor to be part of Team Souda and I wish you all the best.



CMDM(AW/SW)
Christopher Engles



From the Chaplain's Corner...



As I sit reminiscing about life, family and friends, the words to the popular R & B song sung by the Sledge Sister's "We Are Family" come to mind. The words in the second verse of this high energetic song are:

"Living life is fun and we've just begun To get our share of the world's delights; High hopes we have for the future- And our goal's in sight; No we don't get depressed-Here's what we call our golden rule; Have faith in you and the

things you do-You won't go wrong, oh no-This is our family Jewel, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah - We are Family."

While being separated from your love one I would like to encourage you to remain active and stay involved with the military services. If you are not stationed at a Navy base, please contact the nearest military installation to see what family activities are available for you (and your children) to participate in. Joining local support groups, volunteer your

time and or supporting military families with love ones in the war zone are other ways to help you during this time of separation.

What you put into life is what you will get out of life. In order to remain strong as a family, become proactive. Visit our web site and see what we are doing. Instead of becoming depressed with the separation take this time to learn a new craft or do something exciting for you.

"I am able to do all things through him who gives me strength."

Philippians 4:13



NAVY FEDERAL WINS NAVY CREDIT UNION OF THE YEAR AWARD 2ND YEAR RUNNING

The Navy Federal Credit Union Branch at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay received their 2009 Department of the Navy Credit Union of the Year award for 2009. This is the second year that Souda Bay's NFCU has won (also in 2008). The award was given by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for distinguished credit union service.

Members of NSA Souda Bay's Navy Federal Credit Union are presented the award by Capt. Thomas McDonough (center), Executive Officer, Cmdr. Eric Pfister (right) and Command Master Chief, Master Chief Petty Officer Christopher Engles (left). U.S. Navy Photo by MC3 Cayman Santoro.

Geocaching

The Modern Day Treasure Hunt

Story by Patrick McVicker

Obtain a GPS (Global Positioning System) device, some good walking shoes and the will to find a hidden treasure. This is what "Geocaching" is about: searching and discovering.

I recently began Geocaching when a friend told me about it. Actually I learned about it a couple of days before traveling to Chania Crete to visit my son. I described the process to him and a friend, and we were off and running. The first cache we were looking for, we did not find. I did not have a GPS that was programmed to work in Europe. We simply read the clues and looked at photos on "Geocaching.com" to try to find the cache. The next several caches were a little easier from the clues and photos available on the website. After finding the first couple, I was hooked.

The "treasure" is usually a small plastic box with a watertight lid that is hidden in some rocks, under a tree, or anywhere else there is a good hiding location. I discovered one in a restaurant in Chania (by ordering an item using the "Secret" word) and found another in a small out of the way shop in Chania. The find usually has a logbook to sign your name and add any comments, and several trinkets or small items in the box. The only rule is, "IF you take something out, put something else back in."



This game is not going to make you rich, but it sure is rewarding. I saw several places that I would have never seen if I hadn't been geocaching. I hiked to out of the way places that had breathtaking scenery. This game is available in almost every country in the world. Crete alone has approx. 350 geocache sites throughout the island. Being a geocacher, you can make it more by initiating your own hidden treasure. To begin geocaching, just go to the website and read all about it. Register for FREE and you are on your way to an enjoyable activity that can involve your entire family.

Go to www.geocaching.com for all the details.



From the Commanding Officer

Continued from Pg. 1

However, to get more up-to-date information regarding the latest news and important information, I ask you to visit our command website regularly at: <http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/soudabay/index.htm>.

Please provide comments for things you like or would like to see. I need your feedback to ensure we are supporting you properly.

Finally, a USN ship or squadron de-

ploys as a unit and there is a cohesive support network back home to support our deployed ships and squadrons. However, NSA Souda Bay personnel are unaccompanied and that creates unique challenges. I want to assure you that my command leadership team is working diligently to address the unique challenges associated with supporting the families of our Sailors who come unaccompanied to NSA Souda Bay. We have a new Ombudsman who is currently receiving training and qualifications in order to serve you.

We will soon be coming out with more information on this important resource available to support you. As always, please keep *US* informed.

I look forward to working with all of you for the next several years. Thanks again for your continued support to your loved ones serving onboard NSA Souda Bay.

Scott M. Hogan
Captain, U.S. Navy



Hogan takes the Helm

Story and Photos by MC3 Cayman Santoro

U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay courtyard in front of the Administrative building was buzzing with activity on the morning of June 25.

Sailors, civilian (both Greek and American) employees, friends and family, gathered around to witness the time honored tradition as Capt. Scott Hogan relieved Capt. Thomas McDonough as commanding officer, U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay in a change of command ceremony.

Members of the 6th Fleet Band started the morning with ceremonial music. Hogan, McDonough, and officiating officer and guest speaker, Rear Adm. David J. Mercer, Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia Commander, Maritime Air Naples, were piped aboard. After the colors were posted by the Color Guard, Chaplain, Lt. Sharon Wheaton, delivered the Invocation, followed by the guest speaker's comments.

Mercer spoke highly of the job McDonough had done as commanding officer. "He has continued the tradition of

excellence that NSA Souda Bay has been known for over the years." said Mercer.

Then the Rear Admiral presented McDonough with the Legion of Merit Medal as an end of tour award.

McDonough gave his farewell speech and said in addition to all the command accomplishments, what he will remember most "is the personal interactions with the command Sailors, civilians and families. I will miss the world class hospitality our of host nation."

McDonough then read his orders assigning him to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in Washington D.C. and said, "I am ready to be relieved."

As the new "skipper" Hogan stated he "is excited about the opportunities and challenges ahead and is ready to take on the responsibility."

With Hogan's assumption of command, a new chapter in Souda Bay history has begun.



Top: Ens. John Caicedo stands at parade rest in front of formation during the Change of Command Ceremony.



Left: The NSA Souda Bay Color Guard presents the colors during the Change of Command Ceremony.

Photo Compilation: Rear. Adm. David Mercer (Right), Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan (Top) are piped aboard. (Left) Capt. Scott Hogan's wife, Mary, participates in the command pinning ceremony.

Ombudsman update from the Commanding Officer...

I have appointed Mrs. Davin Paul as the NSA Souda Bay ombudsman. Her primary responsibility is taking care of our families here in Crete, but she can also serve as a resource for our geographically separated families, e.g., those of you back in the United States. For example, if you are planning a trip to Crete, she can answer questions about local resources or tell you what items you'll need to bring since they can't be replaced here. And if you do visit, she'll be able to provide information and referral to you just as she does for us.

If there is an urgent need to connect with someone from the command, you should call the Command Duty Officer (CDO) at 011-30-697-207-9832. The CDO is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and serves as the official representative of NSA Souda Bay.

Problems will arise that aren't emergencies but for which you still need some help. If you live on or near a military base, you can use the Fleet and Family Support Centers or Community Services Centers. If you aren't near a military installation, there is another resource that serves the functions of base support centers: Military One Source. Military One Source is a website (www.militaryonesource.com) and a call center (1-800-342-9647) that is intended to complement assistance offered to military families by the services. Military One Source runs the gamut of situations: from needing a plumber in the middle of the night to fix a broken pipe, to needing veterinary service for a sick dog. It also handles things like helping families new to an area find childcare, or information about the school system, summer jobs – whatever is needed. Trained, licensed professionals are available by phone and can help with information, referral, or counseling.

Awards and Recognition

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

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MC1 LISA KEDING (AFN)

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

CS1 MANUEL MOSQUEDA (HOUSING)

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

LT ROBERT SCALISE (MED)

MAC EUGENE DANDO (SEC)

ROBERT SCALISE (MED)

MAC EUGENE DANDO (SEC)

SWC WILLIAM FULLER (SAFETY)

MA1 SHAWN MELLOR (SEC)

MA1 TERRY PURCELL (SEC)

LS1 JOHN TRUMATA (SEC)

MA1 JIM MOUSER (SEC)

BU1 MICHAEL KOMOROWSKI (PWD)

MA2 JAMES LUMPKIN IV (SEC)

ABH2 CARLOS MEZA (OPS)

MA2 BRYCE DEAN (SEC)

ABH2 QUILLIAM SMITH (OPS)

MC2 ALEXANDER GAMBLE (AFN)

MA2 JEREMY HINES (SEC)

MA2 BENJAMIN HULTS (SEC)

LS2 PE'ATRA WILSON (OPS)

MA2 REBECCA WOLFBRANDT (SEC)

FLAG LETTER OF COMMENDATION

MA3 EBONI R. JOYNER (SEC)

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

MA1 SHANISHA RAGLAND

MA2 ALEX FINLEY (SEC)

MA2 JASON PFLEIDERER (SEC)

MA2 DIDIER HIRWANTWARI (SEC)

MA2 CHRISTOPHER CROWELL (SEC)

MA2 CHRISTOPHER CURNEW (SEC)

MA2 PABLO GUTIERREZ-RADFORD (SEC)

LS2 CASSANDRA MOODY (OPS)

MA2 RUSSELL HUTCHINS (SEC)

MA3 RYAN MCNAMARA (SEC)

MA3 MEGAN RILEY (SEC)

MA3 HEATHER M. SIMMS (SEC)

MA3 BRADLEY W. WALTERS (SEC)

MA3 KEVIN BRAVO (SEC)

MA3 NICHOLAS EAKIN (SEC)

MA3 YASMIN GRAY (SEC)

MA3 ZACHARY GIBSON (SEC)

MA3 MICHAEL JONES (SEC)

MA3 EVAN RICHARDSON (SEC)

MA3 RICHARD WILKIN (SEC)

MA3 SHONTWANETTE WILLIAMS (SEC)

MASN LISA MCGUIRE (SEC)

MASN MATTHEW GERARD (SEC)

MASA MICAH J. STEVER (SEC)

LN CIVILIAN OF THE 1ST QUARTER

STAVROS KERAMYDAS (COMMAND SUPPORT)

U.S. CIVILIAN OF THE 1ST QUARTER

TYRONE HARRIS (MWR)

CFC PLAQUES

MC2 MELISSA NEAL (MEDIA/PLATINUM)

AO2 ANDRE MCFADDEN (NMC/GOLD)

MOVSM

MA1 EMILIO VERDUGO (SEC)

FROCKING

PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS FROCKING

YN2 (YN1) GRANVILLE JOHNS II

PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS FROCKING

ABH3 (ABH2) DAVID ALVARADO

MA3 (MA2) EBONI JOYNER

PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS FROCKING

MASN (MA3) SAMUEL BENNE (SEC)

LSSN (LS3) BRANDON GAGE (OPS)

RPSN (RP3) ROBERT KAWCZYNSKI (CHAPEL)

MASN (MA3) BRIAN KUSUMA (SEC)

MASN (MA3) BRIAN POIRIER (SEC)

MASN (MA3) AARON RICHARDS (SEC)

MASN (MA3) EVAN RICHARDSON (SEC)

MASN (MA3) ADAM THOMSON (SEC)

AROUND SOUDA BAY

Softball Photos by MC3 Cayman Santoro



Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel Dickson, playing for Operations Department, swings for the fences, resulting in a base run against NSA Souda Bay's Fire Department



Lt. Cmdr. David McCarty pitches the ball to NSA Souda Bay's Fire Department.



Lt. Lloyd Regas reaches second base before ABH3 Cory Hintz can make it safely there during the Operations / NSA Souda Bay Fire Department game on August 3rd.



Commanding Officer, Capt. Thomas McDonough, commemorates the grand opening of the Souda Bay Coffee Shop with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with members of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Committee. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 John Martinez.

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: SoudaPAO@eu.navy.mil

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

Meeting with the Mayor

June 2010

SERVICEMEMBER VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN A COMMUNITY RELATIONS EVENT IN WHICH THEY RE-PAINTED A DAY CARE CENTER WERE SHOWN APPRECIATION BY THE MAYOR OF CHANIA, KIRIAKOS VIRVIDAKIS, DURING AN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE FOURTH PUBLIC NURSERY SCHOOL OF CHANIA.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Cayman Santoro