

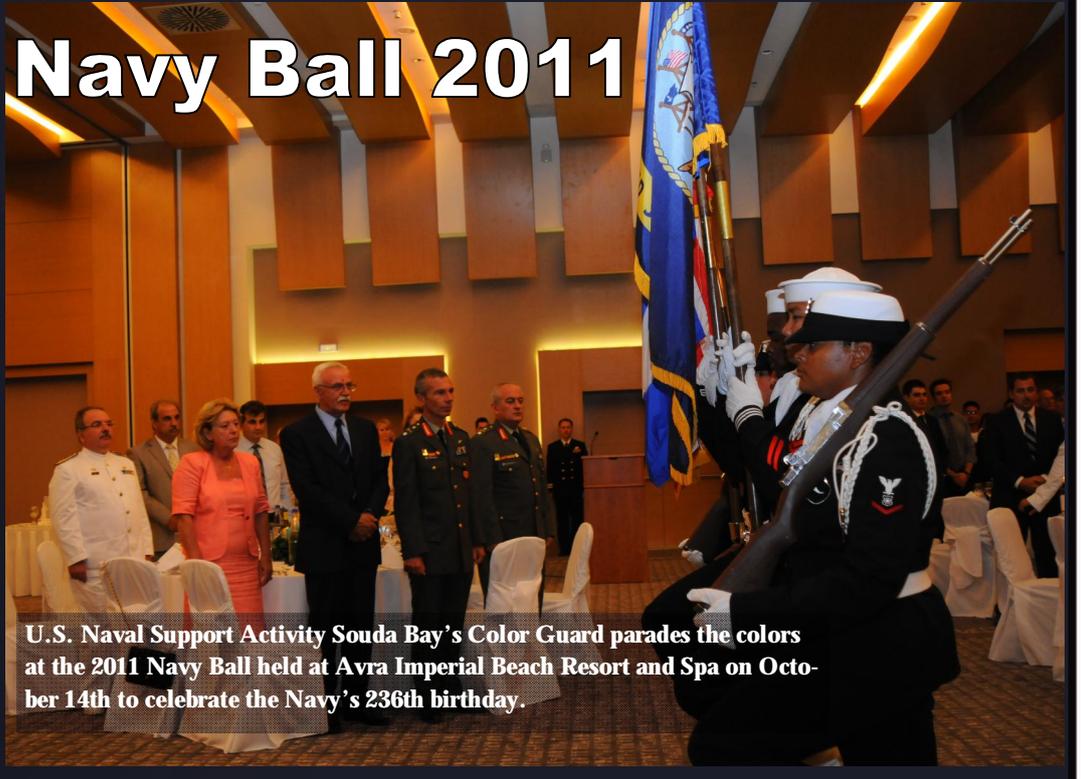


Team Souda Connection Family Gram

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NSA SOUDA BAY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FALL 2011

Navy Ball 2011



U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay's Color Guard parades the colors at the 2011 Navy Ball held at Avra Imperial Beach Resort and Spa on October 14th to celebrate the Navy's 236th birthday.

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From the Commanding Officer



Scott M. Hogan
Captain, U.S. Navy

"The Sailors here at Souda Bay are doing a phenomenal job. I'm very proud of them and very proud of the base." Those were some of the words VADM Michael Vitale, Commander, Naval Installations Command made after his visit to NSA Souda Bay, July 18, 2011.

I take every opportunity to remind anyone of the tremendous job the men and women assigned to NSA Souda Bay are doing EVERYDAY. These are not just kind words to make you and them feel better. Our people really are distinguishing NSA Souda Bay as a premier Naval Installation. Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR increased NSA Souda Bay's operations tempo over 300% compared to 2010. Despite this huge increase in operations, NSA Souda Bay continued to distinguish itself across the operational spectrum. In 2011, NSA Souda Bay was recognized with the Secretary of the Navy's Small Shore Facility Energy and Water Management Award, our Navy Gateway Inn and Galley were distinguished as "5-Star" facilities

and our gym was recognized as the best Navy gym in the Med. As a result of our 2011 performance, Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia nominated NSA Souda Bay as his choice for the Commander in Chief's Small Installation Excellence Award -a recognition as one of the premier U.S. military installations in the world. 2011 has been a truly remarkable year! Thank you for your continued support and may you have a safe and happy holidays.

*-Commanding Officer
Scott Hogan*



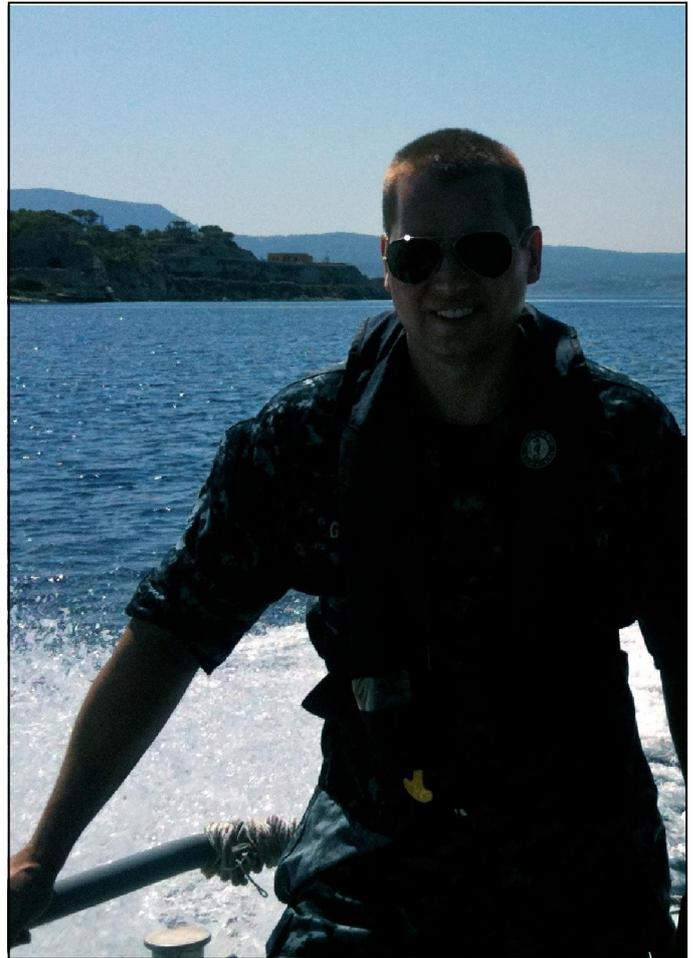
Executive Officer's Words



Team Souda,

It is a great honor and a great pleasure to serve here at NSA Souda Bay (NSASB) with you as your new Executive Officer (XO). As I was reviewing the Command's submission for the Commander-in-Chief's 2012 Installation Excellence award last week, I was amazed at the exceptional performance of the Sailors, Civilians, and Local Nationals assigned to NSASB that comprise "Team Souda." This past year "Team Souda" broke new records and set new standards for operational excellence that are receiving the highest level of attention in Washington, DC...nearly 300% increases in sustained air and port operations despite ongoing major Military Construction (MILCON) improvement projects is no small feat. As I mention to all of our NSASB newcomers at "Command Indoctrination," if you are assigned to NSASB, you are either directly supporting DoD, NATO, and Coalition operations into the CENTCOM, AFRICOM, and EU-COM Areas of Responsibility (AORs) or directly supporting personnel engaged in those very activities. Your hard work at NSASB enables our Navy and our Joint Department of Defense (DoD) sister services to extend our nation's global reach during one of the most challenging and dynamic times in this region's history. "Team Souda's" phenomenal reputation as a 24/7 strategic Forward Operating Site (FOS) is the result of your hard work, dedication, and resourcefulness. Keep up the exceptional work...I look forward to a great tour with you!

-Executive Officer, Demetries Grimes



"The Sailors here at Souda Bay are doing a phenomenal job. I'm very proud of them and very proud of the base... this is a major operation of our Navy and for NATO and the support that they are getting here is unlike any level of support that they are getting from any other base because its close proximity. This base has been doing a phenomenal job in keeping those [OPERATION UNIFIED PROTECTOR and OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN] operational forces supplied, keeping them read in ever respect, and I can't tell you how proud I am of how well they're doing their job here."

-VADM Michael C. Vitale
Commander, Navy Installations Command
at NSA Souda Bay, July 18 2011



CMC Corner



Souda Bay Family and Friends,

I have to echo XO's comments on how well "Team Souda" is per-

forming. Some of the items XO spoke about are ways that the Navy is recognizing the hard work the team is doing each and every-day. The numbers speak for themselves. Your Sailor, US Civilian and Local National Civilian team is second to none. You should be very proud of them.

The holidays are fast approaching and with that comes the usual holiday stress. Make sure that with all the things we have going on in our lives that you take time for yourself. I don't mean that in a selfish way, but you do need a little "me" time. Find something that makes you happy and do it from time to time. Also, look out for one an-

other. The holidays can sometimes be a not so joyful experience for some. Maybe they have something going on in their lives that those close to them can only see. If this is the case with someone you know, contact a professional and get that person you care about the help they need. Swing by your local Family Support Center if you are near one and see what assistance they can provide. If you are not near one, call our Ombudsman who's number is on the cover and she can help get you pointed in the right direction. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

*-Command Master Chief
Todd Prayner*



From the Chaplain's Desk



A jet screams overhead so loud you can feel it in your gut. Through the thunder you hear a voice call out "Chaps!" A young Sailor you know and you can see some hurt in his eyes. "Hey, Shipmate, how are you?" "Not so good today, Chaps, I'm just a little down." "I see, what going on?..." That's how it starts, more often than not. Somebody, missing home. Somebody missing their spouse, their kids... you name it. Family issues, work, marriage trouble. A need for somebody to care. A need for God's presence to walk in and say, "It's going to be alright. I'm here... and always will be. A

need for prayer, a need for blessing. That's what we do, we're Navy Chaplains. It's called ministry of presence.

But wait, there's more! In addition to regular services, and counseling your Chaplains go wherever the Sailors are. We do this because of our high calling to serve God and our Service members. We show everyone that Navy core values have their origin in the mind of the Almighty. We surround our Sailors with a Divine love and hope from above, a very present help in time of trouble. We care for their souls, applying the Medicine of Immortality as directed

from the Great Physician, Himself. We lift up the downtrodden, preach release to the captives, bind up the broken hearted. We stand shoulder to shoulder and back to back with all whom are called to serve their country. We are the visible presence of God walking through the ranks strengthening and blessing each and everyone we come across. As one Sailor recently put it, "Chaps, I never knew how much God cared for me. With God on my side I feel like I can do anything. Thanks." For our service members; we care and we're always there.

--Your Chaplains at
Souda Bay

**Faith is the
substance of
things hoped
for, the
evidence of
things not seen!**
- Hebrew 11:1

Navy Ball 2011

NSA Souda Bay, Crete

Story and Photos by MC2 Cayman Santoro

U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay's Color Guard parades the colors at the 2011 Navy Ball held at Avra Imperial Beach Resort and Spa on October 14th to celebrate the Navy's 236th birthday.



Within the elegant hallways of the Avra Imperial Beach Resort and Spa, many stood proudly in dress blues ready for the night to commence. Over 200 servicemembers, local nationals, family and friends joined together for a night to celebrate the Navy's 236th Birthday on October 14.

Everything was presented in a golden light while the tables were lined with crisp white tablecloths and various white statues of Gods and Goddesses from Greek Mythology.

With the mood set, the evening's festivities began with U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay's Color Guard presenting the colors, the Hellenic Army Band playing the National Anthems of both the United States and Greece, and the Invocation delivered by Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. David Rozanek.

Following the traditional POW/MIA recognition, the Two-Bell Ceremony paid tribute to fallen shipmates. As lights in the ballroom dimmed and the candle lit, the tolling of the bells reminded the attendees of the reverence owed to departed shipmates and to those who guard the honor of our country upon the sea, in the air and upon foreign soil.

Master of Ceremonies, Master Chief Petty Officer Jonathan Rowcliffe, introduced Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan, who provided welcoming remarks and provided a speech stressing the importance of remembering and inspiring.

The theme of the night was "Preserving Legacies, Inspiring Sailors" which was addressed with NSA Souda Bay's history in a short film produced by American Forces Network Detachment Souda Bay.

Chief Petty Officer Mark Sterling and Seaman Taylor Achterberg were the oldest and the youngest Sailors in attendance took part in a cake cutting ceremony which symbolized the passing of tradition from the seniors to the juniors and the transfer of new vitality from the juniors to the seniors.

Chaplain, Lt.j.g. Charles Mallie, lead the benediction then closing remarks concluded the official ceremony.

A night of revelry continued in its place, filled with food, dancing and music.



Top: Sailors and civilians dance to the “Cupid Shuffle” right after the conclusion of the ceremony.

Middle (Left): The arrival of the Official Party which included Commanding Officer, Capt. Scott Hogan, Executive Officer, Cmdr. Demetries Grimes, Command Master Chief, Master Chief Todd Prayner and their spouses

Middle (Right) : Capt. Hogan begins to toast shipmates stationed overseas

Left: Logistics Specialist 1st Class Pamela Esgeb, Air Traffic Controller Seaman Mario Santis and Aviation Boatswains Handling Seaman Colin Robertson pose for a photo



Chief Master at Arms David Sanders rides his bicycle near Stavros Beach during the cycling portion of the Eco-Challenge.



Participants run into the ocean at Loutraki Beach to start the swim portion of the Eco-Challenge.

ECO-CHALLENGE



NSA SOUDA BAY, CRETE, GREECE

Story by MCSN Chelsy Alamina
Photos by MC2 Cayman Santoro

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay held its 10th Annual Eco-Challenge on October 8. It consisted of six teams of five persons each and each person competed in one of the physical challenges in a relay-style race. The challenges started at dawn and began with kayaking, followed by biking, then hiking, then running and finally swimming.

The competitions lasted most of the day and concluded with an awards ceremony and a barbecue for all participants and volunteers involved. Plaques were given to the winners of each individual race, to the overall winning team, and also to the many volunteers that helped make the Eco-Challenge a success.



Participants commence the kayak portion of the Eco-Challenge at dawn in the Marathi Basin.

Personnel Specialist 3rd Class John Haines performs a deadlift during U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay's Strongman Competition.



Story and Photos by MCSN Chelsy Alamina

Master at Arms 3rd Class Marcus Locklear stands alongside other participants, after winning the competition.



Master at Arms 3rd Class Richard Erk participates in the Truck Pull portion during the Strongman Competition.



The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer *USS The Sullivans*(DDG-68) arrives at Marathi NATO Pier facility for a routine port visit. The Sullivans is homeported in Mayport, Florida and is currently operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Chelsy Alamina

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>