

THE BEACON

U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece

December 2019





The Beacon

Warfighting First, Operate Forward, Be Ready

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Contents



Members of the Hellenic Presidential Guard, called the “Evzones”, march during a parade Dec. 1 in celebration of the 106th anniversary of Crete’s unification with Greece. The Evzones (Greek: Εύζωνες) are a ceremonial unit who guard the Greek Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Athens. They are known for their distinctive uniform, including the “fustanella”, a kilt-like garment which evolved from the clothes worn during the Ottoman occupation of Greece. Crete officially became part of Greece on December 1, 1913. Photo by Carolyn Jackson, Public Affairs.

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Cover Photo: Santa and one of his happy, young friends pose for a photo in front of the newly-lit tree during the annual Lighting Up the Season event at NSA Souda Bay. Photo by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

Triad Corner



Happy Holidays Team Souda.

Along with Captain Tewell and Command Master Chief McDonough, I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful holiday season! Whether you are going home to be with your family and friends, or staying here with your Navy family, I hope you will take time to celebrate and rejuvenate in ways that are meaningful to you. Please reflect on the support and love you have received and be sure those people know how much you appreciate them.

If alcohol is a part of your celebration, have a plan before you begin that will keep you and your friends safe. Knowing how you will get home BEFORE you have the first drink is the most important step you can take to ensure your safety, whether it's a designated driver, phoning a friend, taking a taxi or using the Tippy Taxi program. Tippy Taxi is a service that will help if you find yourself downtown without money to get back to base. Call 28210-21223 and hand the phone over to the taxi driver. They will talk to your taxi driver and when you arrive at the front gate, the command duty officer will pay your fare and you can repay it the next day. The path you will go down if you drink and drive is a terrible one. Being stopped for driving while impaired WILL impact your career and your ability to provide for yourself and your family. The consequences are even worse if you have an

accident: criminal charges, paying for property damage and living with the knowledge for the rest of your life that you've harmed someone. So please ensure your holiday celebrations are both glorious and safe!

That reminds me...One of the many things that makes our Kilometer of Excellence such a great place to live and work is the way our community takes care of each other. Please be personally involved with your shipmates this holiday season. This time of year can be lonely, especially when we are away from our families. If you see someone who appears to be lonely or depressed, take action and take them under your wing for the holidays. Don't let a shipmate suffer in silence. For example, an invitation to share a meal is a simple act that carries so much meaning and gives you an opportunity to connect and support. And if you think more support is needed than what you can provide, reach out to your supervisor, the chaplain, the Fleet and Family Support Center – myself, the Skipper or the CMC, too – we will get the resources needed!

I'm not expecting our operational tempo to wind down over the holidays like it does in many commands. There will still be ships, aircraft and personnel that need our support here so they can continue to accomplish their missions. Take advantage of slower

workdays when you do have them to prepare and plan ahead. Catch up on some of that required annual training we all need to do. If you want to advance in 2020, put in some time studying for the Navy-wide advancement exam; it will be here before you know it! Or prepare for the holiday 'Eat-Olympics' by spending some time at the Fitness Center.

Most of all, I hope you will set aside a few moments to reflect on your numerous accomplishments in 2019 and to anticipate the year ahead. I will celebrate the blessings of family, good health and the privilege of

being on your team. You have my deepest gratitude and respect for the commitment and effort you have gifted to Team Souda this year. Thank you!

I look forward to seeing all of you safely return from the holidays and I know we will continue to accomplish great things together in the New Year. Thank you for all you do each day for Team Souda!

~XO



In the 13th episode of "On the Horizon: Navigating the European and African Theaters," Adm. James G. Foggo III discusses U.S. Navy operations in the Arctic, Black Sea, and Mediterranean Sea including ABC News anchor David Muir's embark on submarine USS Florida. He talks about the recent Naval War College Combined Force Maritime Component Command course, the new Chief of Naval Operations' visit to Rota, Spain, and Naples, Italy, and his participation in the Regional Seapower Symposium, hosted by the Italian Navy in Venice.

The podcast is available on the following platforms:

<https://www.spreaker.com/show/on-the-horizon>

<https://www.c6f.navy.mil/Press-Room/Podcast/>

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/public-affairs-officer/on-the-horizon-navigating-the-european-and-african-theaters>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/on-the-horizon/id1435476433?mt=2>



SOU'DA BAY LIGHT'S UP THE SEASON

Photos by MC2 Kelly Agee and Joel Diller, Public Affairs.



THE GOUGE

EVENTS - FLIGHTLINE ACTIVITY - PORT OPERATIONS

B-52 CRETE VACATION



A U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress bomber, assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base, La., is parked on the airfield at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece, Nov. 2. The B-52, on its return flight from participating in joint NATO exercises, was diverted to NSA Souda Bay due to adverse weather conditions. The unexpected visit marked the first time a B-52 landed at the NSA Souda Bay airfield. Photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

HELLENIC AIR FORCE DAY



The Hellenic Air Force's 115th Combat Wing held an open house Nov. 8 in honor of Hellenic Air Force Day. The event included a showcase of different types of F-16 fighter jets throughout the years, a visiting F-4 Phantom, weaponry, gear and historical displays about the Hellenic Air Force. Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.

SAFETY STANDDOWN



The base Safety Office held a Winter Safety Standdown Nov. 14 in the gymnasium. Presentations were made by the Safety Office, Fire Department, and Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions followed by an information fair where representatives from support organizations were available to discuss safety-related topics during the winter and holiday season with service members and civilian personnel. Photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

GEN. TOWNSEND VISITS SOUDA BAY



Capt. Ryan T. Tewell (left), commanding officer, Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece, speaks with Gen. Stephen J. Townsend (middle), commander, U.S. Africa Command, and Col. Jason Slider, executive officer, U.S. Africa Command, Nov. 25, at the Marathi NATO Pier Facility. Townsend and his staff toured facilities and met with military personnel during their visit to Crete. Photo by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

Story and photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

Athanasios Mourmas Fire & Emergency Services



Firefighter / Physics & Math Tutor

It was his childhood dream to become a firefighter. He studied physics and mathematics in college which led him to a career as a teacher and private tutor – until he applied for a local national firefighter position with the Fire and Emergency Services department. As a firefighter recruit, he participated in a confidence course with simulated firefighting scenarios such as a forcible entry, body drag and lifting a fire hose. For the past nine months he has been working in his dream job while still tutoring students during his off-time.

What does a typical day working in the Fire Department look like for you?

I like the physical aspect, such as drills and hands-on training. After lunch, I enjoy going to the gym to work out before my shift ends.

What is the best part of your job?

I enjoy working with the Americans and the Greeks to learn new ways of completing tasks, and live fire training.

When you're not at work, what do you enjoy doing?

I love traveling and I am a private teacher, giving private

lessons in physics.

What is the best fire safety advice you have that you want to share?

Always keep things like matches and lighters away from small children. Their curiosity may have terrible results.

What do you want Team Souda to know about the Fire Department?

It consists of people who love their job and are passionate and are always ready to help others.

Hugo Polanco Port Operations



Marine Transportation Specialist
Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa

Did you know that the Military Sealift Command is manned by civil service mariners who go to sea for a living in service to their country? The MSC's ships may not be glamorous, they are square and bulky, and their fuel rigs and cargo gear are exposed, but they provide the necessary fuel, food, ammo and cargo to the Fleet. Hugo Polanco, NSA Souda Bay's marine transportation specialist, is one of the many Navy reservists, veterans, and retirees who has been working with the MSC for nearly 29 years!

What does a typical day working with MSC ships in Port Operations look like for you?

After my morning coffee, I will monitor traffic, daily phone conference with MSCEUR, talk to the arriving

Ships Masters, conduct port briefs, daily ships visits, review ships requirements with husbanding agents, etc. Everyday is a full day and you are always on call 24hrs!

What is the best part of your job?

Having sailed on ships for many years, I know what it means to arrive in port, specifically the coordination required in support of the ship. My mind set is to support the ships the way I would want if I was the Ships Master. It is quite rewarding to ensure the ship requirements are met in order for the ship to meet its next commitment (port visits, underway replenishment, transit, etc). The neatest day was boarding and conducting a port brief onboard USNS John Lenthall while having my son Joshua (the ships Navigation/Operations/2nd Officer) in attendance.

What is the most difficult part of your job?

Maintaining flexibility. Ships schedules are not always firm, weather and schedule changes are always a possibility. Being able to react to changes in the schedule is always a challenge as it can have a domino effect for other events. Keeping a contingency for a possible change is always prudent.

When you're not working what do you enjoy doing?

As a parents of six, our spare time is quite busy. I enjoy speaking to my children (mostly adults), traveling through Europe and reading non-fiction books.

MC2 Kelly Agee Public Affairs



Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class
Photographer, Journalist, Social Media, Building Monitor, Assistant Voting Assistance Officer

Describing herself as an "artsy person", it was an easy decision seven years ago for Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kelly Agee to choose a rate that included taking photographs, shooting video and creating graphic designs. Prior to coming to NSA Souda Bay, she served on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan. Now she helps to tell Team Souda's story.

What does a typical day working in Public Affairs look like for you?

It varies every day. Sometimes I have photo shoots. Other days I am interviewing people, writing stories, and updating our social media sites.

What is the best part of your job?

Getting to talk to everyone and seeing what they do. Through the lens of a camera you get to see some pretty neat things.

So, what are some examples of the neat things you've had to cover as an MC?

When I was on the Nimitz and I got to go up in a helicopter during our deployment and take pictures of all the ships in a formation. Also, I used to love going to the flight deck and taking photos of planes taking off and landing. While in Okinawa it was fun taking photos of all the Japanese culture events we had on base including Eisa dances and how to don a kimono.

When you're not at work, what do you enjoy doing?

I love driving my sports car with my three-legged dog, Fanis, in the passenger's seat while blasting Elvis. Also, I am a huge movie buff, so watching films, especially horror movies.

What is the best advice you have about being an MC?

Interacting with people is a huge part of the job, you have to be able to communicate with everyone.

What do you want Team Souda to know about the Public Affairs Department?

We are a small department that is like a family, we are goofy and silly. We work hard every day but it is worth it to see the finished product at the end of the day.



A Day In The Life: Master-at-Arms

An inside look at how the Master-at-Arms protect NSA Souda Bay and secure the Navy's mission

Story and photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

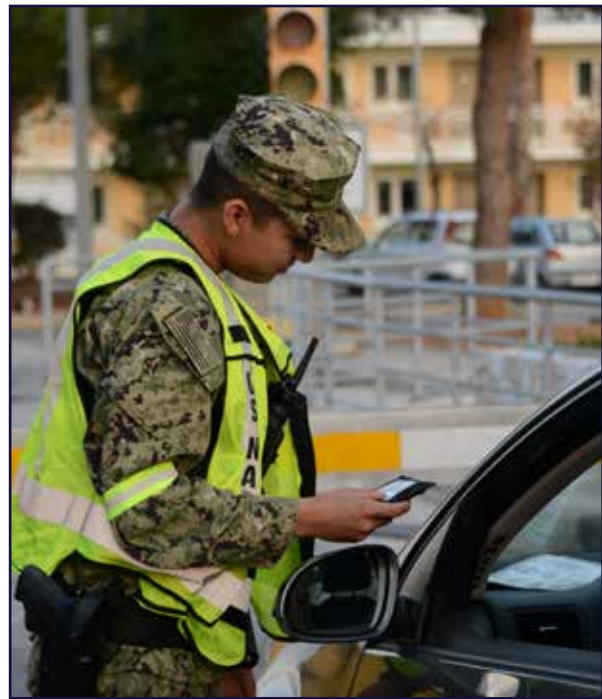
In practical terms, the Navy requires Sailors to protect and defend its people and its property. In reality, this task is demanding, complex, and at times, dangerous. The Sailors who take on this responsibility – they are the Master-at-Arms.

Included as one of the original job ratings defined in the Naval Act of 1794, the MAs have long been the Navy's law enforcement and security professionals who safeguard personnel, prevent unauthorized access to ships and installations, and protect against espionage, sabotage, damage, and theft.

Today, the Navy's

Security Forces are a composite of active-duty, civilian, local nationals, and contractors. At NSA Souda Bay, this diverse group works across many divisions to protect our critical infrastructure, ensure our continuity of operations, and enforce the policies and procedures designed to protect our personnel, facilities, and equipment. But since there are existing threats that never take a break, there are those who must always stand the watch – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The watch bill is divided into four sections (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta) – two day sections and two night sections –



who work in 12-hour shifts on a “2 days on, 3 days off, 3 days on, 2 days off” rotating schedule.

These are the MAs who are sentries posted at the gates, patrol officers who secure aircraft parked on the airfield, harbor security boat coxswain and crewmembers who escort visiting ships, and military working dog handlers who search vehicles and buildings for drugs and explosives. They provide a safe environment for Team Souda and also for fuel, cargo, ammunition, and repairs provided to transiting aircraft, ships, and submarines, each with their own missions to carry out.

NSA Souda Bay Security Officer Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gary Groesbeck said that in the short time he has been at this installation he can see that the master-at-arms community is resilient against the unique

“I am a United States Sailor.

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

I proudly serve my country’s Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment.

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.”

– Sailors Creed

on duty they are required to meet with the rest of their section at guard mount.

challenges it faces and enables the installation to carry out its mission successfully.

“Without our MAs standing the watch, NSA Souda Bay simply couldn’t carry out its mission here,” said Groesbeck. “From the airfield to the port, the security we provide 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is absolutely vital for our installation to provide the support that it does.”

The following is a glimpse into what a “typical” day might look like for the MAs standing the watch across the installation.

Guard Mount

For an MA assigned to a watch section, the work day begins at the armory when they receive their assigned weapons and “arm-up” for their shift. But before they are allowed to go

LEFT PHOTO:

MAs assigned to Charlie section stand in formation during guard mount, Nov. 19, 2019.

RIGHT PHOTO:

Master-at-Arms Seaman Elias Fernandez checks an identification card at an entry control point Nov. 19, 2019.

“Guard mount is when everyone shows up to complete our muster,” said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Shawn Shirley. “We make our gear check, and make sure everyone is good to go. Make sure everyone is fit to do it – make sure no one smells like alcohol, nobody is tired and falling asleep.”

On this day, MAs assigned to Charlie section must be ready to meet at 5:45 a.m. in the training classroom for guard mount before relieving the night-shift of the watch. The MAs casually talk with each other as they begin to stand in

formation. As guard mount kicks off, the MAs recite the ‘Sailors Creed’, the definition of deadly force, the seven justifications of using deadly force, and their chain of command. Each Sailor and their equipment are inspected to confirm that all are present, accounted for and ready for duty.

The section’s leaders stand at the front of the formation and provide relevant information important to the shift’s mission and pass along details of any new or changing procedures. When there are no further questions, all break for their respective posts.

Sentries and Patrol

A sentry is a MA who stands guard at an entry control point and is the first face seen by those approaching an installation. They check identification cards and grant authorized personnel access to the installation.

There are also MAs who patrol this installation, which is divided into several zones, either on foot or in a vehicle. They rotate throughout their shift throughout these zones to provide a constant roving patrol.

One of these zones includes the airfield where, to secure the aircraft parked there, an MA assigned to the watch bill checks the fence line, escorts vehicles, and

looks for suspicious activity.

Because there are specific rules for how the flight line operates, the MAs who patrol this zone are required to have the Airfield Vehicle Operator Course along with the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course.

“It is extra training because they have to know how to drive on the flight line, what to avoid” said Shirley. “Because (the airfield) is a completely different world than what’s out there.”

Deadly Force

Force that a person uses causing, or that a person knows or should know would create a substantial risk of causing, death or serious bodily harm.

7 Justifications

Deadly force may only be used when reasonable, including, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

- (1) Self-defense and defense of other DoD personnel.***
- (2) Defense of others.***
- (3) Protecting assets vital to national security.***
- (4) Protecting inherently dangerous property.***
- (5) Protecting national critical infrastructure.***
- (6) Performing an arrest or apprehension, or preventing escape.***
- (7) Defending against animals.***

Source: SECNAVINST 5500.37



RIGHT: Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Kevin Schneider, a coxswain, operates a harbor security patrol boat, Nov. 19, in Souda Bay.

LEFT: Master-at-Arms Seaman Johamed Rodriquez performs bite training with Military Working Dog Diego, Nov. 27, at the kennel on the installation.

Military Working Dogs

The military uses working dogs like specialized pieces of equipment to supplement and enhance their capabilities – because trained MWDs can detect explosives or drugs better than humans.

At NSA Souda Bay, a kennel master and MWD handlers train with four detector dogs: Diego, a Belgian Malinois; Weezy, a Labrador; Zico, a Belgian Malinois; and Gerry, a German Shepherd.

“Every day we are at work, the dogs are with us,” said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Dustin Ahlschwede, a military working dog handler. “We take them out and we utilize them for searching vehicles, buildings, foot patrols. We do training on all parts of the base – detection training and patrol training for the dogs that are patrol-qualified dogs.”

The MWD handlers also perform bite training with the dogs up to several times a week. Master-at-Arms Seaman Johamed Rodriquez, a first-term Sailor aspiring to attend the MWD handler candidate school,

volunteers during his off-time as kennel support. On this day, he wore the bite suit.

“The first day I was in the suit I was nervous – you can even ask these other guys,” said Rodriguez. “I’m not the greatest decoy but it’s something to learn. I love it. I personally love it. I love being in the suit.”

But the question everyone asks is, does it hurt?

“So, it’s not like any pain you’re going to feel,” said Rodriguez. “There’s a spot on the suit that the dog will bite that you will feel like a little pinch, it’s mainly just pressure.”

After the MWD handlers finish their bite training, Ahlschwede explained there is paperwork to fill out for every time they use a dog.

“At the end of the day we have to log everything we did,” said Ahlschwede. “All the vehicles we swept, buildings, piers, watercraft, whatever we search it goes into the system.”



Harbor Patrol

As assigned to harbor patrol begin their day at guard mount with their respective section before driving to the Marathi NATO Pier Facility. From the piers in Minoan Basin harbor that opens up into Souda Bay, they operate a fleet of patrol boats which are used to secure the water around the piers and escort high-value assets, such as aircraft carriers, destroyers and submarines, which dock at Marathi while receiving support from NSA Souda Bay.

On this day, Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Kevin Johnson, a coxswain, and Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Jerry Savage Jr., a crewmember, operate the “station vessel” patrolling the water within their area of responsibility, which extends several hundred yards beyond the piers.

“Boats coming in and out – if they come anywhere close to our [area of responsibility] it’s up to us to

screen the vessel to see what’s wrong,” said Johnson. “If it’s a hostile act or if it’s just a casual observer passing through, we alleviate the situation and either push them out or deal with it if it comes to a level of force higher than that.”

Savage Jr., a Sailor serving his first overseas tour, said his responsibility as a crewmember is to take instruction from the coxswain, operate the gun, perform the line handling, and communicate any important information.

Harbor patrol also has a “ready vessel” on stand-by, ready to respond if a threat is something more than a civilian boat that veers too close.

“Luckily, we’re in a pretty safe area,” said Johnson. “But we’ve got to stay vigilant.”

What's Cooking: Souda Bay Celebrates Thanksgiving

Story and photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



Culinary Specialist 1st Class Christopher Taccaban decorates the Thanksgiving cake.

NSA Souda Bay’s Fleet Inn galley employees are preparing for the biggest meal of the year, the Thanksgiving feast. Their main job, as they see it, is to make sure their galley transforms into a home-away-from-home for Team Souda.

“Most of us are unaccompanied and we don’t have time to cook or anyone to share our meal with,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jon Marigundon, food service officer. “I think the galley takes on the big role of boosting the morale of the Sailors.”

There’s a recipe for success when creating a holiday meal designed to serve anywhere from 200-400 people, from putting together a mouth-watering menu to making sure the right food is ordered, cooked properly, and ready to serve when the galley doors open.

Just like when cooking Thanksgiving at home, the day starts early for the galley team. Richard Lafile, storage

keeper, will perform breakouts at 6:30 a.m., which consist of finding the needed food items on a list, and taking them out of their boxes to thaw or placing them at the correct food prepping station.

Preparation is key, Lafile said, to making sure all the food will be ready to serve on time.

“I try to make sure that the meats are broken out way ahead of time,” said Lafile. “There are a lot of meats that have to be thawed out perfectly so nothing is still frozen. Then the cooking can be done nice and neat.”

What delicacies will Lafile be checking off his list? While traditional Thanksgiving fare like turkey, ham, cranberry sauce and mashed potatoes are certainly on the menu, this year the galley team is offering a ‘twist’ on the standard meal: fried lobster tail with sweet and sour sauce, shrimp cocktail and seafood chowder have all been added.

“It is going to look a little different then it has in the past, but we are looking forward to something new,” said Allen Greer, head cook.

During the meal service, Greer has many responsibilities in the kitchen. His role is cooking the food and making sure that everything is prepared correctly and that directions given by the food safety officer are carried out.

Grier also has the task of managing the ‘guest’ crew of chiefs and officers who serve the Sailors their Thanksgiving meal – a Souda Bay tradition.

“We have had some good characters on the line ... they are good-humored guys and they have fun with the Sailors. It is a good time,” Greer said.

According to Athena Kapetanakis, food service

manager, they never know exactly how many people will end up attending the meal.

“If there are more than what you have anticipated, having enough food is the hardest part,” said Kapetanakis. She helps keep a watchful eye on the ‘guest’ servers to make sure they are giving the right amount of food in a portion. “You can run out of food very fast if people are being (too) generous.”

Keeping portions to appropriate size also means everyone has room for dessert. This year there will be assorted pies and cakes, ice cream and the star of the show, the Thanksgiving cake, made by Culinary Specialist 1st Class Christopher Taccaban.

Taccaban said making the cake is a way he can show his support for fellow Sailors who are “far away from their families during this time of the year.”



Cook Maria Galiatsou prepares a Thanksgiving classic food, turkey, for the feast.

Head Cook Allan Greer hands Cook Maria Galiatsou rolls to be baked in the oven for the feast.

Storage Keeper Richard Lafile checks his inventory of foods, before performing his morning breakouts.





Winter Driving in Greece

Story by NSA Souda Bay Safety Office.

Weather, road conditions, vehicle type and the amount of driving experience you have are all factors that contribute to your safety when navigating Crete’s roads. The Safety Office offers these Top Ten Tips for Staying Safe in Souda Bay!

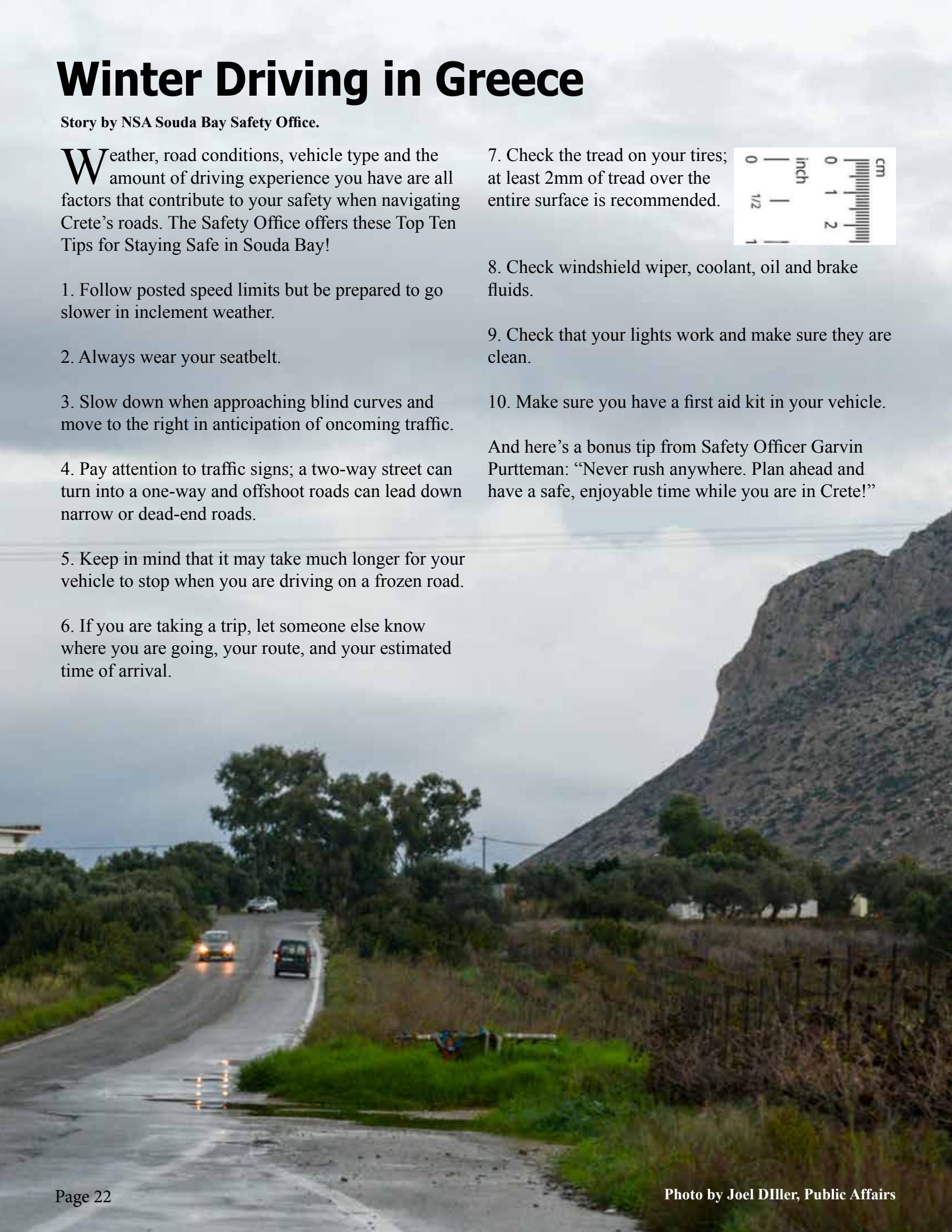
- 1. Follow posted speed limits but be prepared to go slower in inclement weather.
- 2. Always wear your seatbelt.
- 3. Slow down when approaching blind curves and move to the right in anticipation of oncoming traffic.
- 4. Pay attention to traffic signs; a two-way street can turn into a one-way and offshoot roads can lead down narrow or dead-end roads.
- 5. Keep in mind that it may take much longer for your vehicle to stop when you are driving on a frozen road.
- 6. If you are taking a trip, let someone else know where you are going, your route, and your estimated time of arrival.

7. Check the tread on your tires; at least 2mm of tread over the entire surface is recommended.



- 8. Check windshield wiper, coolant, oil and brake fluids.
- 9. Check that your lights work and make sure they are clean.
- 10. Make sure you have a first aid kit in your vehicle.

And here’s a bonus tip from Safety Officer Garvin Purttman: “Never rush anywhere. Plan ahead and have a safe, enjoyable time while you are in Crete!”



Community Outreach

Photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



Sailors from U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay volunteered for a community outreach project at the Souda Animal Shelter November 16. The project consisted of helping repair pens, feeding animals and playing with them, as well as opening food packages.

Holiday Gift Collection 2019

Are you looking for an opportunity to share some holiday cheer and support the local community?

Take part in the Souda Bay Community Relations Gift Donation program! The Chaplain’s Office and the Public Affairs team are coordinating holiday gift donations for 35 children and young adults at the Chania Boys Center and the St. Nektarios Girls Care Center.

Details on how to donate:

New toys, clothes, shoes, individual sports equipment and cosmetics (perfume, body spray) make great donations. If a charger or power supply is required please make sure it is 220v. The children do not speak English so please do not donate anything that requires English language skills like books, card games, etc.

Donations accepted through December 18 in the Public Affairs Office, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 2.

Get more information by calling the PAO team at 266-1348 or emailing SoudaBayPAO@eu.navy.mil.

Antonija Hibic
Navy Gateway Inns and Suites



“The family putting up the Christmas tree and waiting for Santa Claus to come and give gifts.”

Aviation Ordnanceman Airman
Zachary Burns
Navy Munitions Command



“Drinking hot chocolate and going to see Christmas lights.”

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class
Jasmine Stokes
Port Operations



“Going to my uncle's house; he makes everyone omlettes and pancakes for breakfast.”

Legalman 1st Class C.B. Casey
Legal



“Picking out the holiday tree. The first week of December my family goes to a lot. We find the best one, bring it home and decorate it.”

Nikos Valassis
Housing



“Waking up early with my wife on Christmas, placing the presents under the tree and waiting to see the reaction of them opening the presents.”

Lt. Cori Wallace
Public Works Department



“My family opens one present on Christmas Eve. It is typically a gadget from my dad. They are useful but also really funny.”

The Word On The Street

What is your favorite holiday traditon?



Zafirenia Xylouri
Command Management



“Going to family gatherings and exchanging gifts.”

Damage Controlman 1st Class
Petko Stefanov
Emergency Management



“To get with my family. My mother will cook her famous vegetarian dishes like rice, beans, rolls and salads. My favorite is banitca.”

Holiday Traditions in Greece

by Kostas Fantaousakis, Public Affairs. Photos via Wikipedia.com

Greece is a country where traditions and customs are a part of everyday life. For Greeks, the Christmas season runs from Christmas Day, on December 25, through Epiphany, on January 6.

Christmas is known as “Christougena” (Χριστούγεννα) and people wish Merry Christmas to each other by saying “Kala Christougenna” (Καλά Χριστούγεννα). The name day of “Manolis” (Emanuel, Manos or Emanuela), is also celebrated on Christmas Day, and friends and relatives will stop by to wish them “many happy returns” or “Hronia Pola!” (χρόνια πολλά).

Food plays a large role in the holiday in Greece, just as in the United States. “Melomakarona” (μελομακάρονα) are semolina, cinnamon, and clove cookies drenched in honey. These cookies are enjoyed during Christmas, while “kourambiedes” (κουραμπιέδες), a cookie made with rosewater and butter and sprinkled with powdered sugar, are served on New Year’s Day.

In an older Crete tradition, each family raised a hog, called “hiros” (χοίρος) which was slaughtered on Christmas Eve and served as the main dish the next day. The custom of eating turkey for Christmas dinner arrived in Europe in the early 1800s, although some families do still enjoy pork as part of their holiday fare.



Christmas Boat decoration in Greece.

Although many Greek families now follow the popular tradition of decorating a Christmas tree, the original Greek custom involves decorating a model ship. When many Greeks were working as seamen and would return during Christmas after a long time at sea, their wives would celebrate by decorating small wooden boats as a way of saying welcome home.

In another variation of this tradition, children would go door to door singing “kalanda” (Christmas carols) and carrying small wooden boats, either illuminated to light the way or with enough space to store treats given to them by the residents after they sang the carols.



Melomakarona (left) and kourampiedes (right) are the usual treats during Christmas holidays in Greece.

Caroling remains an important tradition in Greece. Children go caroling on Christmas Eve, New Year’s Day and for the Epiphany. They go door to door, knocking and waking up the residents; it is good luck if the carolers wake you. The resident is asked, “Na ta poume?” This can be translated into “shall we say them?” meaning “shall we sing to you?” After the positive answer the children start singing. A couple of minutes later the wish of “Hronia Polla!” brings the carols to an end. While the reward in older times used to be cookies, sweets or fruits, today most people give a small amount of money. Thus every household is prepared with a pile of coins ready to give to the children.

Unlike the western tradition, presents are opened in Greece on New Year’s Day, which is known as “Protochronia”. This is because the first day of January is also St. Basil’s Day, who is Father Christmas in Greece. He brings presents on January 1st, when his name day is celebrated, unlike other European traditions, where Saint Nicholas arrives bearing gifts on Christmas Eve.

According to the traditional story, St. Basil (from the city of Caesarea) once called on the citizens to raise a ransom payment to stop the siege of the city. Each resident gave whatever they had in gold and jewelry. When the ransom was raised, the enemy was so embarrassed by the act of collective giving that he called off the siege without collecting payment. St. Basil was then tasked with returning the unpaid ransom, but had no way of knowing which items belonged to which family. So he baked all of the jewelry into loaves of bread and distributed the loaves to the city, and by a miracle each citizen received their exact share.

It is traditional on St. Basil’s Day to serve “vasilopita” (βασιλόπιτα), a special cake with a lucky coin called a “flouri” (φλουρί) baked inside. The head of the household serves the cake by first crossing the cake with his knife, and then cutting the first slice for God, then the next for the baby Christ, followed by the “Panayia” (Virgin Mary). The next slice is for the household and after that a piece is sliced for each member of the family starting with the eldest. Finding the “flouri” in your piece of cake means good luck will follow you all the forthcoming year.



An Orthodox priest throws a cross into the sea during Epiphany.

January 6, Epiphany, is known in Greece as “Theofania” (Vision of God) or Fota (Lights).

The first sanctification of the Epiphany (The Enlightenment) takes place in church on the eve of the holiday. Afterward, the priest goes from house to house holding a cross and a basil branch. As he walks through each house, he uses the basil to sprinkle (bless) all the areas of the home with holy water. Families also bring some holy water back home for their members to drink as a blessing.

On January 6, a long procession is formed and follows whatever road leads to a body of water – the sea, a river or even a reservoir. In front of the procession are the cherub icons, followed by the priests, then dignitaries, and all the people. In larger cities, the procession becomes more elaborate with the addition of music and military contingents.

At the end of the sanctification ceremony a priest throws a cross into the water, thus blessing the waters. Those who dare – mostly the younger people of the village – jump in the usually icy water and compete to retrieve the cross. The person who brings the cross up to the surface will enjoy good luck and health for the entire year.

Awards at Quarters

Photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



November Awardees:

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Electronics Technician 1st Class Justin Dane

Flag Letter of Commendation

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Jeremy Kim

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Andrew Lundquist

Master-at-Arms First Class Eileen Cabrera

Religious Program Specialist 1st Class

Kalli Hoevelman

Blue Jacket of the Quarter

Boatswain's Mate Seaman Casandra Henandez

Letter of Commendation

Christopher O'Connor

Zafirenia Xylouri

NSA Souda Bay Congratulates Our Sailors of the Year!



Senior Sailor of the Year

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Michael McCarroll

Sailor of the Year

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Shavaughn Robertbrooks

Junior Sailor of the Year

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Erick Garza

Blue Jacket of the Year

Air Traffic Controller Airman Emily Tucker

Reenlistments

Photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marcus Watkins, NSA Souda Bay security officer, presents the Certificate of Reenlistment to Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Anthony Dodson on Nov. 19 during a ceremony in Guardian Hall.



Lt. Cmdr. Travis Semones presents the Certificate of Reenlistment to Yeoman 1st Class Andrew Turner on Nov. 22 during a ceremony on the flight line.

This is Guardian Hall

Story and photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



The center of Guardian Hall depicts a Spartan helmet to associate Master-at-Arms with Spartan warriors.



The Master-at-Arms badge with anchors.



A thin green line spans the length of the hallway as a reminder that Master-at-Arms maintain order during unrest.

As you walk through the Security building’s basement door, you enter a long hallway. A thin green line leads you along bright paintings on the wall – a mural depicting the security department’s sections including Harbor, Weapons, Training, and topside

operations. This is Guardian Hall, a tribute from the NSA Souda Bay Security Department to the U.S. Navy’s five rated fallen master-at-arms.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marcus Watkins, former NSA

Souda Bay security officer, said Guardian Hall is a standing reminder of what it means to be a master-at-arms.

“It is designed to make sure that those Sailors understand that at any given time they could be called to hold the line and the five fallen that are on that wall in Guardian Hall says that all over it,” Watkins said. “When they arm up that is the first thing that they see and the last thing they see when they disarm, so I would like them understand it is important what they do.”

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Savannah Hughes, from Fallon, Fla., is the Sailor who brought Watkins’ vision

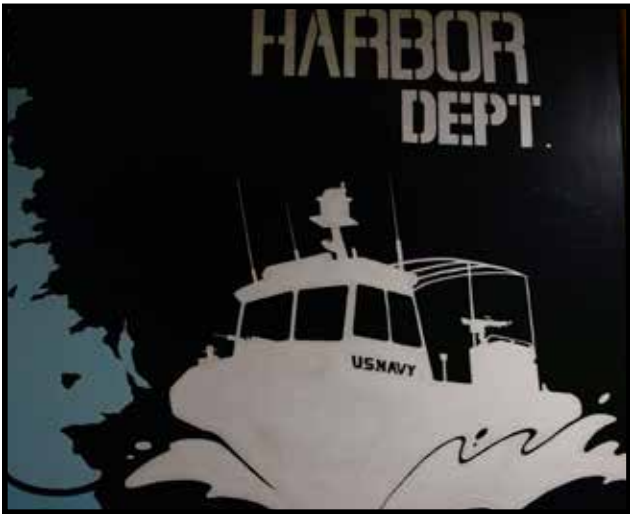
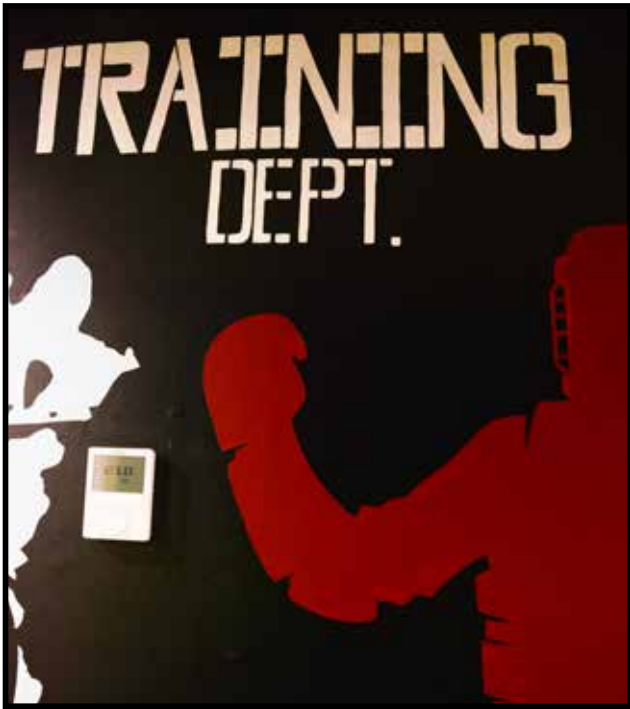
to life; he selected her for the honor after viewing her portfolio.

Although Hughes has been sketching and drawing comics for years, she said Guardian Hall is her first mural.

Hughes spent three days sketching Watkins’ ideas, and an additional 30 days painting the mural. The art lover said she didn’t mind the long days, where she painted for 8 to 12 hours per day.

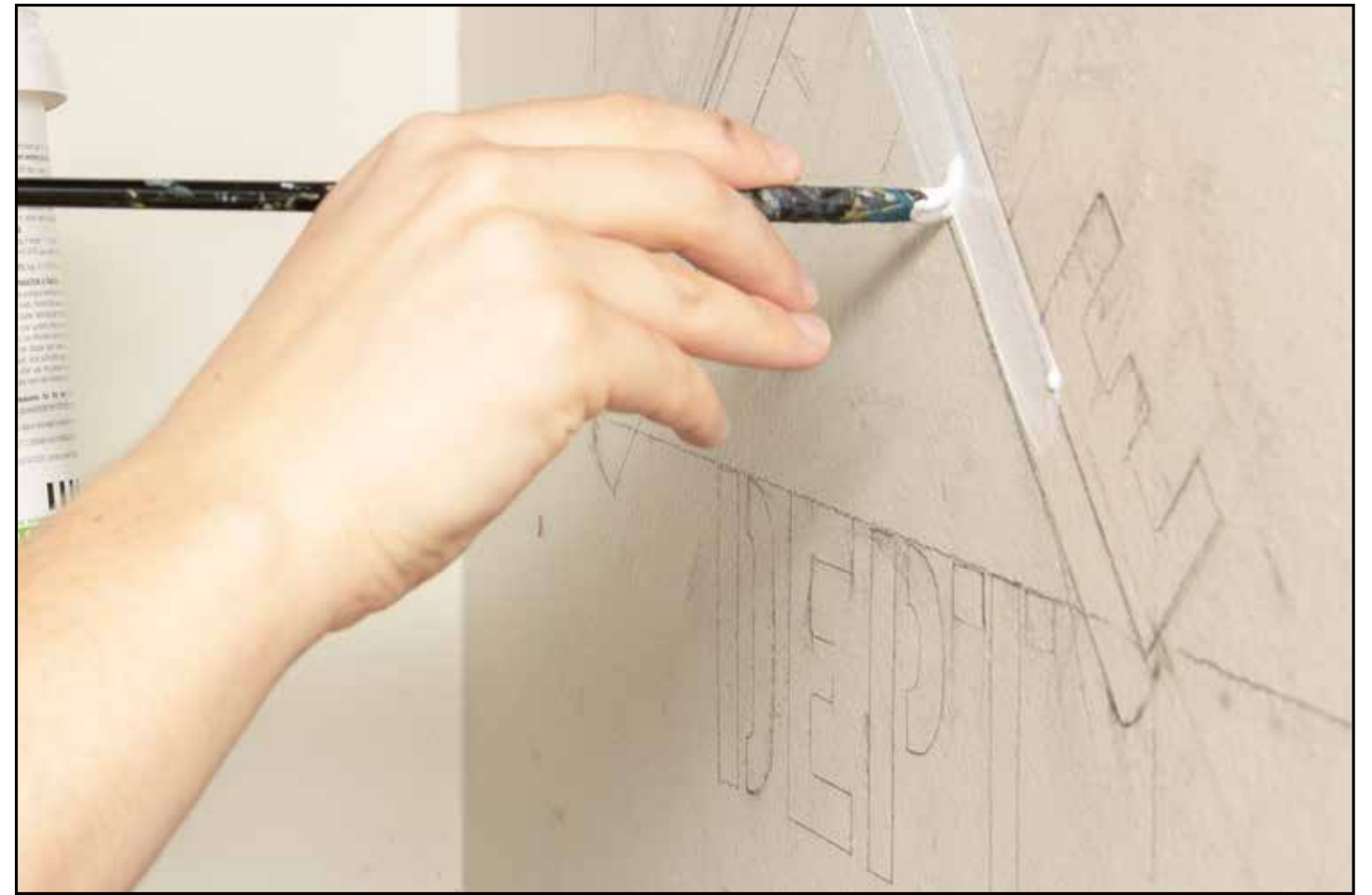
“It gave me a sense of purpose,” she said. “Having something that I love to do and have something you wake up to makes you feel really good.”

The mural depicts the Training, Patrol and Harbor departments, and the Spartan warrior.





Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Savannah Hughes paints the background for the Guardian Hall mural.



Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Savannah Hughes applies primer on the wall.

Shadow boxes honor the fallen Master-at-Arms: Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Monsoor, Master-at-Arms 1st Class John Douangdara, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Sean Brazas, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Brodsky and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Mark Mayo.



Community Joins Together for Remembrance Sunday

Photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



Ceremony attendees gather to remember and honor those who sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.

NSA Souda Bay leadership participated in the Remembrance Sunday ceremony Nov. 10 at the Souda Bay War Cemetery.

Although the service commemorates the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian men and women involved in the two World Wars and later conflicts, Capt. Ryan T. Tewell was invited to lay a wreath to honor American service and sacrifice. The ceremony included hymns, prayers and a two-minute moment of silence.

Representatives from U.S., Greek and British military and civilian organizations participated to remember and honor those who sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.



In keeping with the somber atmosphere, a lonely bagpiper performs a song.



Capt. Ryan T. Tewell places a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice.



Members of the Greek Special Forces pay their respects during the ceremony.



Fallen Master-at-Arms Remembrance Ceremony

Story and photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

Security Forces held a Fallen Master-at-Arms Remembrance Ceremony Nov. 5 to commemorate the U.S. Navy’s fallen master-at-arms.

NSA Souda Bay’s Security Officer at the time, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marcus Watkins, spoke on the importance of expressing gratitude for those that gave the ultimate sacrifice and their extraordinary achievements.

“Their bravery deserves tribute as they are now missing from our ranks,” said Watkins. “They are the heroes who have given their lives in order that our country and our Navy might be safer, their units more secure and our cause more just.”

During the ceremony the citations were read and shadow boxes unveiled for the five fallen Sailors:

Master-at-Arms 1st Class John Douangdara, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Monsoor, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Sean Brazas, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Brodsky and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Mark Mayo.

Capt. Ryan T. Tewell, commanding officer, spoke of Team Souda’s appreciation for our security forces.

“As your creed says ‘you hold an allegiance to your country and you are honor-bound as guardians’. That devotion extends to all of us. We can feel it,” said Tewell. “I need, we need, Team Souda needs you to know that we feel that, that we know it and we are humbled by it... Thank you for your service, for your dedication and for your honor-bound duty as guardians and for being our security team that never stops.”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Chief Master-at-Arms William Woolery and Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Jessica Merrywell salute a shadow box to pay their respects to Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael Monsoor; Chief Master-at-Arms Matthew Fitzgerald and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Nico Villanueva unveil the shadow box for Master-at-Arms 1st Class John Douangdara; Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Jason Breedlove and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Dustin Ahlschwede stand next to the shadow box for Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Sean Brazas; Chief Gunner’s Mate Kevin Founds and Master-at-Arms Samantha Berrios salute a shadow box to pay their respects to Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Brodsky; Chief Master-at-Arms Michael Mann and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Ugiarolo unveil the shadow box for Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Mark Mayo.



Upcoming Events | Εκδηλώσεις

Dec. 3-27: Gift Wrapping

Where: Liberty Center

Don't have time to wrap your gifts? Bring your presents to the Liberty Center and we'll wrap your gifts for free.

Dec. 4: Holiday Decorating Party

Where: Liberty Center at 5 p.m.

Come enjoy a night of fun, singing and decorating your Liberty Center and enjoy some home-baked goodies.

December 5: Awards at Quarters

Where: Gym at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 6: Community Christmas Party

Where: 115th Combat Wing Officer's Club

Purchase your tickets at the Community Recreation Center by Dec. 4.

Dec. 10: Christmas Card Workshop

Where: Liberty Center from 5 to 9 p.m.

Stop by to create your own cards while nibbling on holiday treats.

Dec. 10: Spinathon

Where: Gym from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Spin your way to a high calorie-burning workout in this fun two-hour event.

Dec. 11: DIY Christmas Ornament

Where: Liberty Center from 5 to 9 p.m.

Dec. 12: Make a Ginger Bread House

Where: Liberty Center at 5 p.m.

Dec. 12: Christmas Ultimate Body Sculpting Workout

Where: Gym from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

A 90-minute workout designed to challenge your muscular and cardiovascular endurance as well as burn off some of those extra holiday season calories.

Dec. 13-24: 12 Days of Christmas Incentive Program

Where: Gym

Complete 12 exercises in 12 days and earn a T-shirt.

Dec. 16-Jan 1: "What's Baking?"

Where: Liberty Center at 5 p.m.

Come to the Liberty Center every day for some fresh baked, homemade goodies.

Dec. 17: Dueling Pianos Holiday Show

Where: Shipmates at 6 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of great music and great fun courtesy of Armed Forces Entertainment.

Dec. 19: Jingle Bell Jog

Where: Gym at 7 a.m.

Dec. 19: Darts Tournament

Where: Shipmates at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 25: Christmas Meal

Where: Galley

(Dinner from 2 to 5 p.m.)

Dec. 26: Karaoke Night

Where: Shipmates at 6:30 p.m.

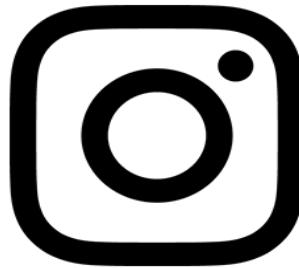
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and more

Contact Us

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