

# THE BEACON

U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece

November 2022



# THE BEACON

Warfighting First, Operate Forward, Be Ready



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**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF** CMDCM Igor Vargas

## THE BEACON NEWSLETTER

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**Front Cover:** Chief Logistics Specialist Kelvin Smithgardner is pinned to the rank of chief petty officer by his wife, Wini Yeboah, during the Chief Pinning Ceremony on Oct. 21. Photo by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs

**The Parting Shot:** Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Airman April Cardenas participates in the presentation of colors as a member of the color guard during the Chief Pinning Ceremony on Oct. 21. Photo by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs

# Triad Corner



Ομάδα Σούδας - Team Souda,  
I've had the privilege of being your commanding officer for 90 days and I continue to be impressed. My encounters with you individually are filled with learning opportunities as you've shared your personal stories and amazing facts about this beautiful island of Crete. Collectively, you pull together daily to deliver premier service and operational support to forward operating ships, submarines, aircraft, and personnel. Honestly, spending time getting to know each of you is truly a highlight of my day. *Ευχαριστώ!*

Each of you is vital to the important work we do on behalf of the United States, Greece, our NATO allies, and coalition partners. Therefore, I ask you to remain vigilant and make safety a priority. We all encounter daily hazards that, if not paid attention to, can be very dangerous. To that end, we

have a Safety Stand-down scheduled for this month of November. Please reassess your daily tasks with your supervisors, identify hazards, and look for ways to reduce risk on the job. I encourage everyone to share perspectives about the "what ifs" and embrace becoming a learning team. Additionally, our Stand-down will also provide helpful tips on safely navigating the challenges of the winter months in Crete and the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Part of reducing risk and increasing safety is taking care of yourself. Although our operational tempo continues to be high, we built time into the schedule to ensure opportunities to take a well-deserved break this holiday season. Whether you are going to travel stateside to be with family and friends, or staying on the island with your Navy family, I hope you take time to celebrate and

rejuvenate in ways that are meaningful to you.

I believe Souda Bay is a great place to live and work because of the way we take care of each other. Be proactive and engage with your shipmates, teammates, and colleagues. Offering an invitation to share a meal is a simple act that carries so much meaning and gives you an opportunity to connect and support each other. Thanksgiving is the perfect opportunity to extend this kindness. Tiffany and I plan to spend part of our day serving a Thanksgiving feast in the five-star Minoan Taverna, complete with the time-honored American tradition of a turkey and all the trimmings. In addition to what I know will be a delicious meal – which will be open to our U.S. civilian and local national employees – I'm looking forward to spending time with you, my teammates. I know many of you will spend this holiday away from your home and family, but I truly believe

Team Souda is a wonderful extended family and that's why I encourage everyone to take part in these opportunities for camaraderie and togetherness.

I hope you will set aside a few moments this holiday season to reflect on your numerous accomplishments in 2022 and to anticipate the year ahead.

Tiffany and 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 honor, courage, and commitment you have given to Team Souda this year.

Thank you!

*~Skipper Klug*

# Η Γωνιά της Διοίκησης



Ομάδα Σούδας,

Έχω το προνόμιο να είμαι ο διοικητής σας για 90 ημέρες και συνεχίζω να εντυπωσιάζομαι από εσάς. Οι συναντήσεις μου μαζί σας είναι γεμάτες ευκαιρίες μάθησης καθώς έχετε μοιραστεί μαζί μου τις προσωπικές σας ιστορίες και εκπληκτικά γεγονότα για το όμορφο νησί της Κρήτης. Δουλεύετε συλλογικά, σε καθημερινή βάση, για να παρέχετε κορυφαίες υπηρεσίες και επιχειρησιακή υποστήριξη σε πλοία, υποβρύχια, αεροσκάφη και προσωπικό. Το να αφιερώνω χρόνο για να γνωρίσω τον καθένα από εσάς είναι ειλικρινά το αποκορύφωμα της ημέρας μου. Ευχαριστώ!

Ο καθένας από εσάς διαδραματίζει ένα ρόλο ζωτικής σημασίας για το σημαντικό έργο που κάνουμε για λογαριασμό των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών, της Ελλάδας, των συμμάχων μας στο ΝΑΤΟ και των εταίρων μας. Ως εκ τούτου, σας ζητώ να παραμείνετε σε εγρήγορση και να θέσετε την ασφάλεια εργασίας ως προτεραιότητα. Όλοι αντιμετωπίζουμε καθημερινά κινδύνους που, αν δεν τους προσέξουμε, μπορεί να γίνουν πολύ

επικίνδυνοι. Για το σκοπό αυτό, έχουμε προγραμματίσει για τον μήνα Νοέμβριο ένα Safety Stand-down, μια συνάντηση για θέματα ασφαλείας. Επαναξιολογήστε τις καθημερινές σας εργασίες με τους προϊσταμένους σας, εντοπίστε τους κινδύνους και αναζητήστε τρόπους για να μειώσετε τον κίνδυνο στην εργασία. Ενθαρρύνω όλους σας να μοιραστείτε απόψεις σχετικά με το «τι θα γινόταν αν» και να γίνετε μια ομάδα που έχει στόχο την απόκτηση γνώσης. Επιπλέον, το Stand-down θα παρέχει χρήσιμες συμβουλές για την ασφαλή αντιμετώπιση των προκλήσεων κατά τους χειμερινούς μήνες στην Κρήτη και την ανατολική Μεσόγειο Θάλασσα.

Μέρος της διαδικασίας μείωσης του κινδύνου και της αύξησης του επιπέδου ασφάλειας εργασίας, είναι η φροντίδα του εαυτού σας. Παρόλο που ο ρυθμός λειτουργίας μας συνεχίζει να είναι υψηλός, έχουμε την δυνατότητα, όσον αφορά το πρόγραμμα μας, να εξασφαλίσουμε ευκαιρίες για να κάνουμε ένα διάλειμμα αυτή την εορταστική περίοδο.

Είτε πρόκειται να ταξιδέψετε στις ΗΠΑ για να

είστε με την οικογένεια και τους φίλους σας, είτε να μείνετε στο νησί με την οικογένεια του Ναυτικού, ελπίζω να αφιερώσετε χρόνο για να γιορτάσετε και να ανανεωθείτε με τρόπους που έχουν νόημα για εσάς.

Πιστεύω ότι η Αμερικανική Ευκολία είναι ένα εξαιρετικό μέρος για να ζείτε και να δουλεύετε, λόγω του τρόπου με τον οποίο φροντίζετε ο ένας τον άλλον. Σας ζητώ να είστε προνοητικοί και να αλληλεπιδράτε με τους συναδέλφους και τα μέλη της ομάδας σας. Το να προσφέρετε σε κάποιον μια πρόσκληση σε γεύμα, είναι μια απλή πράξη που έχει τόσο νόημα και σας δίνει την ευκαιρία να συνδεθείτε και να υποστηρίξετε ο ένας τον άλλον. Η Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών είναι η τέλεια ευκαιρία για το κάνετε αυτό. Η Tiffany και εγώ, σκοπεύουμε να περάσουμε μέρος της ημέρας μας σερβίροντας το φαγητό της Ημέρας των Ευχαριστιών στην ταβέρνα Minoan, ένα εστιατόριο πέντε αστέρων, με την παραδοσιακή Αμερικανική παράδοση της γαλοπούλας και όλα τα συνοδευτικά εδέσματα. Εκτός από το νόστιμο γεύμα, το οποίο θα είναι διαθέσιμο και για το πολιτικό και Ελληνικό προσωπικό, ανυπομονώ να

περάσω χρόνο μαζί σας, τα μέλη της ομάδας μου. Ξέρω ότι πολλοί από εσάς θα περάσετε αυτές τις διακοπές μακριά από το σπίτι και την οικογένειά σας, αλλά πραγματικά πιστεύω ότι η Ομάδα Σούδας είναι μια μεγάλη και υπέροχη οικογένεια και γι' αυτό ενθαρρύνω όλους να συμμετέχουν σε αυτές τις ευκαιρίες για συλλογικότητα και συντροφικότητα.

Ελπίζω να αφιερώσετε μερικές από τις στιγμές αυτές κατα την διάρκεια των γιορτών, για να σκεφτείτε τα πολυάριθμα επιτεύγματά σας το 2022 καθώς περιμένετε με ανυπομονησία τη χρονιά που έρχεται. Η Tiffany και εγώ θα γιορτάσουμε την ευλογία που αποτελούν οι οικογένεια, η καλή υγεία και το προνόμιο να είμαστε στην ομάδα σας. Έχετε τη βαθύτατη ευγνωμοσύνη και τον σεβασμό μου για την τιμή, το θάρρος και τη δέσμευση που δώσατε στην Ομάδα Σούδα φέτος.

Ευχαριστώ!

~Διοικητής Klug

# Chief Season at NSA Souda Bay

Story and photos by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen



Capt. Odin J. Klug congratulates the newly promoted chief petty officers during the Chief Pinning Ceremony on Oct. 21.

Team Souda welcomed seven new chief petty officers into the mess on Oct. 21 during the command's Chief Pinning Ceremony at the Fitness Center. Before donning their gold-fouled anchors, the Sailors selected as Fiscal Year 2023 chief selects worked alongside the command's leadership and chief petty officers for six weeks of specialized training and tasking. During those six weeks, the Chief's Mess joined together to mentor and motivate the chief selects as they prepared to don their new khaki uniforms.

Chief initiation season is designed to test the selectees mentally, physically and emotionally to develop key skills of teamwork, time management, tenacity and prioritization. At NSA Souda Bay, it included evolutions in physical fitness testing, firefighter training, individual leadership training and more. At the ceremony, they received their combination covers, gold-fouled anchors and a warm congratulations from Team Souda. Navy Chiefs, Navy Pride!



Master-at-Arms 1st Class Tia Yau, Capt. Odin J. Klug (middle) and Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aircraft Handling) Dwayne Black, warm-up before physical training as part of Chief Petty Officer Initiation on Oct. 19.



Capt. Odin J. Klug congratulates the newly-promoted chief petty officers during the Chief Pinning Ceremony on Oct. 21.



NSA Souda Bay chief selects and other Team Souda personnel participate in a base run as part of Chief Petty Officer Initiation on Oct. 19.

# Team Souda Congratulates the Newest NSA Souda Bay Chiefs!



**Navy Chief! Navy Pride!**



Chief Master-at-Arms  
Joseph Carey



Chief Master-at-Arms  
Caleb Goad



Chief Electronics Technician  
Corey Morris



Chief Master-at-Arms  
Joel Rash



Chief Logistics Specialist  
Kelvin Smithgardner



Chief Master-at-Arms  
Tyler Wilkinson

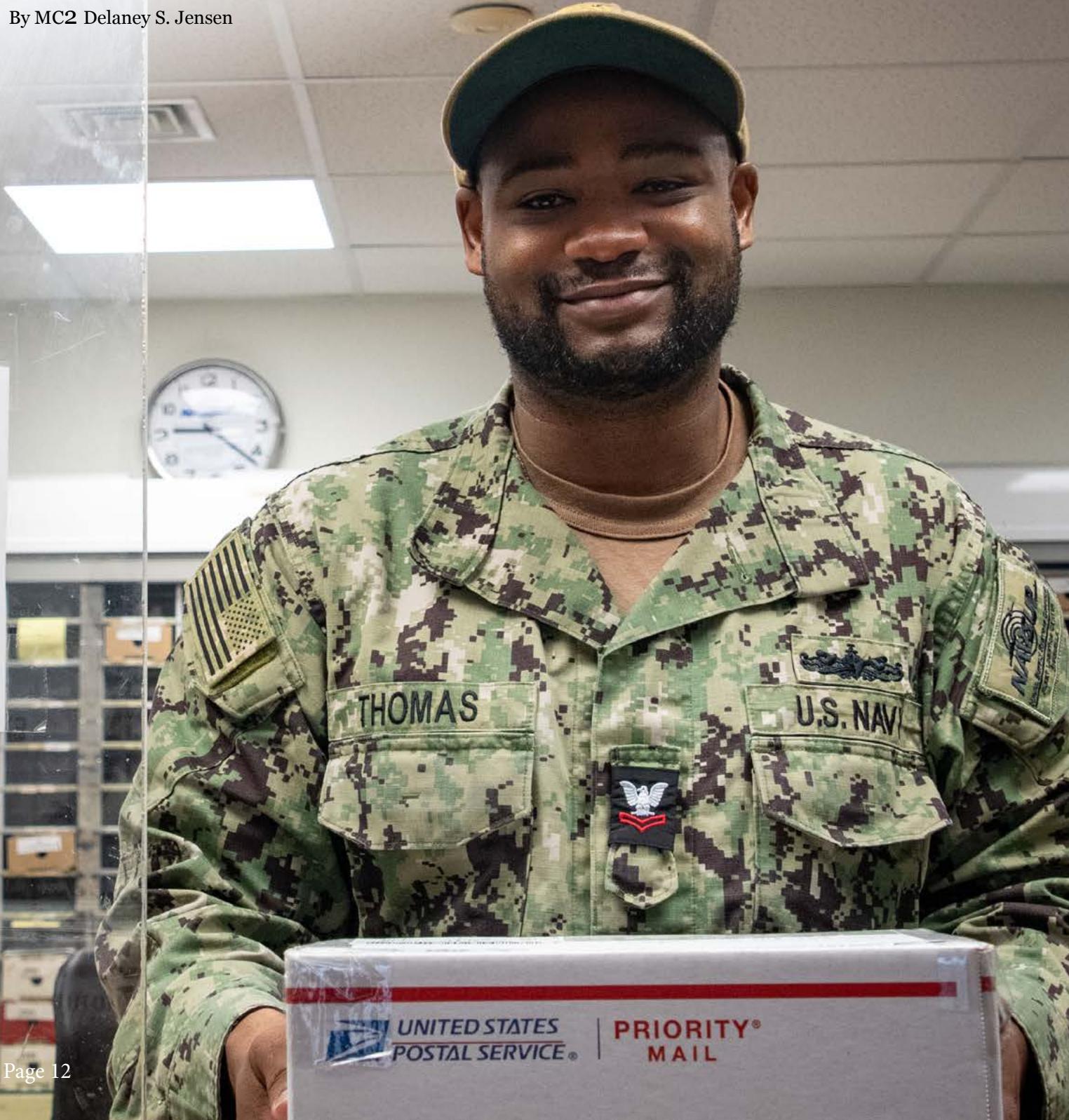


Chief Master-at-Arms  
Tia Yau

# Souda Spotlight: Retail Services Specialist 2nd Class Calvin Thomas Jr.

## Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella, Site Souda Bay

By MC2 Delaney S. Jensen



**R**etail Services Specialist 2nd Class Calvin Thomas Jr., a native of Darlington, S.C., joined the Navy in November 2017 and arrived at NSA Souda Bay in April 2022. He works at the base Post Office, which is run by the Naval Supply Systems Command, Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella, Site Souda Bay. Thomas said he enjoys working in customer service and interacting with people who need his help.

### Why did you join the Navy?

I joined the Navy to start a new career and see the world. My first command was the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Then I came here; so island to island. You could say I really enjoy the island life.

### What do you do at NSA Souda Bay?

My job is to process regular mail and registered mail and provide great customer service. We also support the ships that come in. Coming from a ship myself, I know how it feels to be waiting for packages and how long it can take for people to receive items they want or need. It makes me feel good to be on the opposite end and to be able to get our Sailors the packages they have been waiting for.

### What role does your department play for NSA Souda Bay?

My job is equally as important for the people stationed on NSA Souda Bay because everyone needs mail. No matter who you are, especially living the island life, we all need mail. It feels good to see the smiles on people's faces when they get a package they have been waiting a long time for.

It also helps with morale. If someone is having a bad day, everything changes when they have a package come in. After they pick it up, they go back to work feeling happy, which in turn contributes to their team. They can work better alongside their

teammates to complete the mission with that good attitude.

### What is your favorite thing about the work you do at NSA Souda Bay?

My favorite thing is customer service. I love talking with customers. I have always been a people person, so just interacting with customers makes me happy.

### What has been a career highlight here?

Recently, I was nominated for Sailor of the Quarter and got to go to the board for it. Just being nominated was a real honor for me, and it made me feel as though my command really saw and took note of the work I have been doing. That was a great moment for me.

### What are your long-term career goals?

Currently I am working on my Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. My overall goal is to get my degree and stay in the Navy for 20 years. After that, when I retire from the Navy, I want to start working for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service or NCIS.

### When not at work, how do you spend your free time?

I like going to the beach, going out to eat and spending time with friends. I also like making music. I rap and send the recording to my friend back in Hawaii to mix together. On the Navy side, I am the Multicultural Committee Treasurer. I enjoy learning about different cultures, and displaying it via PowerPoint for people in the command.

# Souda Spotlight: Maria Simben Administrative Assistant/Translator Command Management Office

By Kostas Fantaousakis, Public Affairs



**M**aria Simben was born in the Netherlands. In her early twenties, she moved to Greece where she worked in the tourism sector. She started working at NSA Souda Bay for the Navy Exchange as a Sales Clerk/Cashier in July 2004. She was hired by Command Management in 2009 as an Administrative Assistant/Translator and at the end of 2013 Maria was asked to step in as the Commanding Officer's secretary.

## **What is a typical day at NSA Souda Bay like for you?**

There are very few "typical days" in the Command Suite. After 9 o'clock the workflow starts picking up and meeting requests start rolling in, either by email or in person. Some days, there are urgent requirements and, in that case, I confer with the CO and/or XO to decide how we can change their schedules, in a way that all parties can keep to their respective timelines. There is never a dull moment!

## **What role does your office/department play for NSA Souda Bay?**

I mainly manage the CO's and XO's calendars, and sometimes the CMC's. There are always plenty of meetings waiting to be scheduled. On top of that we have DV visits on a regular basis and Host Nation events that the CO attends. I also do purchases for Command Admin, which can be a challenge, especially at the end of the fiscal year.

## **What is your favorite part of your job at NSA Souda Bay?**

I like the constant workflow, and my favorite part is the scheduling. It is like a puzzle that you have to solve and when all the pieces finally fall into place it's very gratifying. Furthermore, I believe it's very interesting to be part of the dynamics of a military installation and to be so close to the Command epicenter.

## **What has been a career highlight here?**

The most important career highlight here was when the temporary position of CO's secretary was turned into a permanent one. I appreciate the trust that the Triad put in me and even though 9 years have passed since then, I still consider it an honor and a privilege to work in the Command Suite.

## **When not at work, what do you enjoy doing?**

Apart from reading and watching police series on Netflix, I love spending time with my family, especially with my granddaughter Louisa, who has stolen my heart from the day she was born! We also have a rescue dog, called Sam, that we adopted 8 years ago and is the sweetest creature you can imagine.

## **What are your goals while working at Command Admin?**

I plan to retire in two years. My only wish is that, until then, I can keep doing my job with the same optimism that I've always had. I believe that with a positive attitude you can tackle any problems you face or tasks that lay ahead of you!

## **What is something else you want Team Souda to know about you or the work you do at NSA Souda Bay?**

I think Team Souda is the best crew! Keep doing what you're doing!!!

# Souda Spotlight: Angela Buenrostro Program Assistant Fleet & Family Support Center

By Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs



**A**ngela Buenrostro, a native of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., is a program assistant for the Fleet & Family Support Center. Prior to joining Team Souda in January 2021, Buenrostro was a developmental specialist where she worked with children, aged newborn to 3 years old, and supervised a team of other developmental specialists. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology.

## **What do you do at NSA Souda Bay?**

At NSA Souda Bay I am the Program Assistant for Fleet & Family Support Center. In this role I work alongside the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate where I provide training to our Sailors and base community and assist with scheduling appointments for counseling.

## **Why do you feel your work is important to the mission?**

Fleet & Family Support Center is essential for mission readiness to assist and meet the obligations and challenges of our Navy Sailors, families and civilians. Our services help with family readiness that may affect job satisfaction, job performance and personnel retention.

## **Why did you want to work at NSA Souda Bay?**

My husband and I moved to Greece when he got a job as a base firefighter. In doing so, I've had to put my own career on hold in support of his. When the opportunity arose, however, I wanted to challenge myself by working with a different type of community. Even though I'm not prior military I enjoy helping people, and I wanted to learn about the military lifestyle and assist in helping our active-duty military and their families with my skills.

## **When not at work, what are you doing?**

On my off days, I enjoy hanging out with my husband and two dogs. I have a Golden

Retriever named Ollie who is obsessed with the ball and all he wants to do is play fetch. I also have a Dalmatian named Halligan, who loves to play tug-o-war. In addition, I enjoy crocheting blankets, outfits and stuffed animals. Lastly, I spend my free time exploring the island and reading books.

## **What is something you have enjoyed about living in Greece?**

Something I enjoy about living in Greece is the friendly culture of Crete, the nature and the amazing food the island has to offer. It is my first time living overseas and the people I have met have made me feel welcomed and part of the community.

## **What is something you have found interesting about Greece since living here?**

Something I have found surprising about Greece is that their language has some similarities to my Mexican culture. Certain words and pronunciations are alike. Another interesting thing is that on Sundays it is family day and most of the stores are closed to honor that.

## **What would you like Team Souda to know about your work?**

I am the first face you will encounter when walking in to Fleet & Family Support Center and I am always willing to help in any way that I can. Everyone is welcomed to come in, we are never the wrong door.

# AROUND NSA SOUDA BAY

Awards

Reenlistments

Events

Operations

## AWARDS AT QUARTERS FOR OCTOBER 13

### Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Chief Air Traffic Controller Moreen Garrow

### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Norris Howard

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Matthew Bakken

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Sean Sweetay

### Flag Letter of Commendation

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Jimmie Byrd Jr.

Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Koreem Washington

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Tyreese Jones

Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Giovanni Melendez

### Letter of Commendation

Ms. Anastasia Vasilaki

### Letter of Appreciation

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Dylan Arellano

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Declan Thibodeau

Builder Seaman Mark Allen

Mr. Giannis Grivas

### U.S. Civilian of the Quarter

Ms. Anastasia Vasilaki

### Safety Person of the Quarter

Mr. Giannis Grivas

### Civilian Length of Service Awards

Mr. Evangelos Kotsolakis (35 Years)

Ms. Aikaterini Kotsifaki (30 Years)

Mr. George Ksirakis (30 Years)

Ms. Stamatia Anomerianaki (25 Years)

Mr. Eleftherios Daskalakis (20 Years)

Mr. Georgios Makridakis (20 Years)

Mr. Anastasios Mavredakis (20 Years)

Mr. John Frame (15 Years)

Mr. Andreas Stamatakis (15 Years)

Ms. Eleni Trachalaki (15 Years)

Ms. Despoina Kountouraki (5 years)

### Meritorious Advancements

Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Trevor Barrett

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Justin Segarra

Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Cheryl A. Sonderman



Capt. Odin J. Klug, commanding officer, Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, recognizes Team Souda's Sailors and Civilians for their outstanding achievements during an awards ceremony at the base fitness center on Oct. 13.

Photo by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen



NSA Souda Bay

# REENLISTMENTS



**“I am excited for the next step in this adventure. It is important for me to have a stable career and be able to show my daughter I can support her. I do everything for her.”**

MA2 Kyle Franchi, Oct. 13, 2022  
Reenlisting Officer Cmdr. Michael Mosi  
Photo by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen



**“I am signing a two-year reenlistment to accept follow-on orders back to Souda Bay, Greece: I absolutely love it here!”**

MA2 Jacob Perry, Sep. 28, 2022  
Reenlisting Officer Ensign Christopher Gibbs  
Photo by MACS Raymond Nicholson



**“I’m receiving a Selective Reenlistment Bonus! I’m signing up for five more years to accept follow-on orders to Naval Station Rota to be part of their security department.”**

MA3 Sada Mize, Sep. 28, 2022  
Reenlisting Officer Ensign Christopher Gibbs  
Photo by MACS Raymond Nicholson



**“I love the different experiences being in the military brings me. I like going to new places every few years and being able to travel. I also really enjoy the variety of moving to a new job to learn new things and meeting new people. It’s a good fit for me.”**

LS1 Brianna Glynn, Oct. 25, 2022  
Reenlisting Officer Chief Warrant Officer Jeremy Mott  
Photo by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen

# Team Souda Celebrates the Navy's Birthday

Photos and Story by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen



Team Souda celebrated the Navy's 247th birthday both on and off base this year. Preparation began in the kitchen as Baker Victoria Ligeraki decorated a cake for the U.S. Navy's birthday at the Minoan Taverna on Oct 12. Ligeraki said that one of her favorite activities is decorating the ceremonial desserts for Team Souda; one of many reasons she is thankful for the opportunity to work at NSA Souda Bay.

The next day, her hard work was well received as Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aircraft Handling) Seaman Victor Fabela—the youngest Sailor onboard NSA Souda Bay—and CMC Igor F. Vargas cut the cake together before sharing with other attendees at the Minoan Taverna.

Team Souda also commemorated the Navy's birthday with a traditional Navy Ball. The event was hosted by the Navy Ball Committee and took place at the Avra Imperial Resort in Kolympari on Oct. 14. The central theme of this year's Navy Ball and birthday was On Watch - 24/7 for 247 Years. Sailors and honored guests enjoyed the chance to celebrate the Navy and paid respect to those who have stood and those who continue to stand the watch throughout the years.



Baker Victoria Ligeraki, a local national employee at the Minoan Taverna, displays the cake she decorated to celebrate the U.S. Navy's 247th birthday.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aircraft Handling) Seaman Victor Fabela (left) and Command Master Chief Igor F. Vargas (right) cut a ceremonial birthday cake commemorating the U.S. Navy's 247th birthday at the Minoan Taverna on Oct. 13.



Yeoman 2nd Class Erica Williams (left) and Yeoman 1st Class Timothy Tims (right) pose together during the Navy Ball on Oct. 14.



The color guard presents colors at the Navy Ball.



Cmdr. Margrette Moore and Air Traffic Controller Airman Alex Beaucamp cut the Navy's 247th birthday cake at the Navy Ball.

# George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group Arrives in Souda Bay



Story by Carrier Strike Group 10 Public Affairs

Photo by Nikolaos Fragos, MWR

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SOUDA BAY, Greece (Oct. 6, 2022) The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) – along with the embarked staff of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10, George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group – arrived in Souda Bay, Crete, for a scheduled port visit Oct. 6, 2022.

The port visit provides an opportunity to further strengthen the enduring relationship between the United States and Greece, and allow the Sailors of GHWBCSG a chance to experience the allied nation's culture.

"The defense and security cooperation between the United States and Greece is at an all-time high. We value the relationship we have with our Greek allies and the bases and support facilities at Souda Bay continue to serve as a "crown jewel" in the eastern Mediterranean Sea that enable U.S. and NATO missions, interoperability, and security in the region," said Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, commander, CSG-10, GHWBCSG. "We are stronger when we work together with our allies, and also when we build upon the already strong relationships we have with them."

During their time in port, Sailors will depart the ship to experience and appreciate the people and culture in and around Souda Bay. It will be the ship's first port visit since departing Norfolk on Aug. 10, 2022 for a planned deployment.

"Our Sailors know the importance of our responsibility to represent our families, cities, states, and shipmates as Ambassadors wherever we go, and we look forward to enjoying a well-deserved port visit with our friends in Souda Bay," said Capt. Dave Pollard. "We value the importance of the relationships we have with our allies, and we look forward reinforcing and building upon that foundation."

The ship's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) team worked with local and regional partners to line up a variety of tours and daytrips for Sailors to experience the region. Trips include a daylong hikes and trips to well-known historical and cultural sites. In addition to MWR trips, Sailors will also have the opportunity to participate in clean-up events organized with and through local officials.

"It will be good to spend time in a beautiful country enjoying the local food, art, and history to recharge from being on the ship," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) First Class Jose Mercado, George H.W. Bush's Sailor of the Year. "But we know it's also important to give back to the local community while we have these opportunities to enjoy the culture and learn about regional history."

# George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group Arrives in Souda Bay

## Contracting: The work behind the scenes

Story by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs

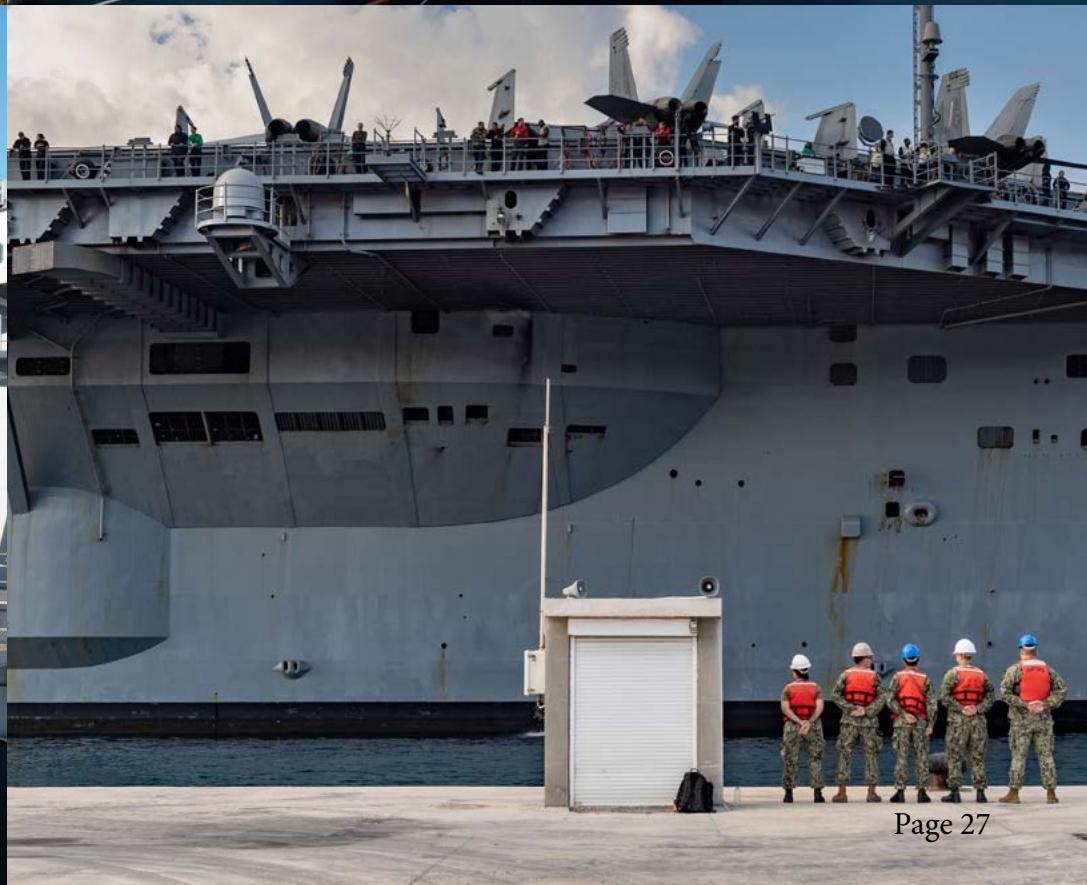
Photos by Nicholas S. Tenorio and Nikolaos Fragos

The NAVSUP contracting team at NSA Souda Bay provides the behind-the-scenes logistical support required to bring ships from the fleet in to port at the NATO Marathi Pier Complex. The contracting team, who are members of a tenant command from Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella, Site Souda Bay, must put in place all the local and regional contracts required to support all types and sizes of ships.

“When you take a look at the bigger picture, without contracting, nothing can happen,” said Michelle McGibbon, the supervisory contracting officer for NAVSUP FLC Sigonella, Site Souda Bay. “But we’re also kind of the invisible parties, because people don’t really know the complexity of everything involved.”

Such contracts ensure that a ship is piloted into port; that cranes are available and that the brow is assembled; that the ship’s waste is removed and properly disposed of; that potable water is provided to the ship; and that the ship’s crew has transportation from the pier to NSA Souda Bay and the city of Chania.

“Every ship has standard husbandry needs. Things like the fenders, tugs and pilots. When a ship comes in, it always needs potable water and waste removal. These are all standard things,” explained McGibbon. “The only difference with an aircraft carrier is that it’s bigger than everything else. We have two to three times the amount of items that we have to get for them, as well as many times the number of crew members to transport around.”



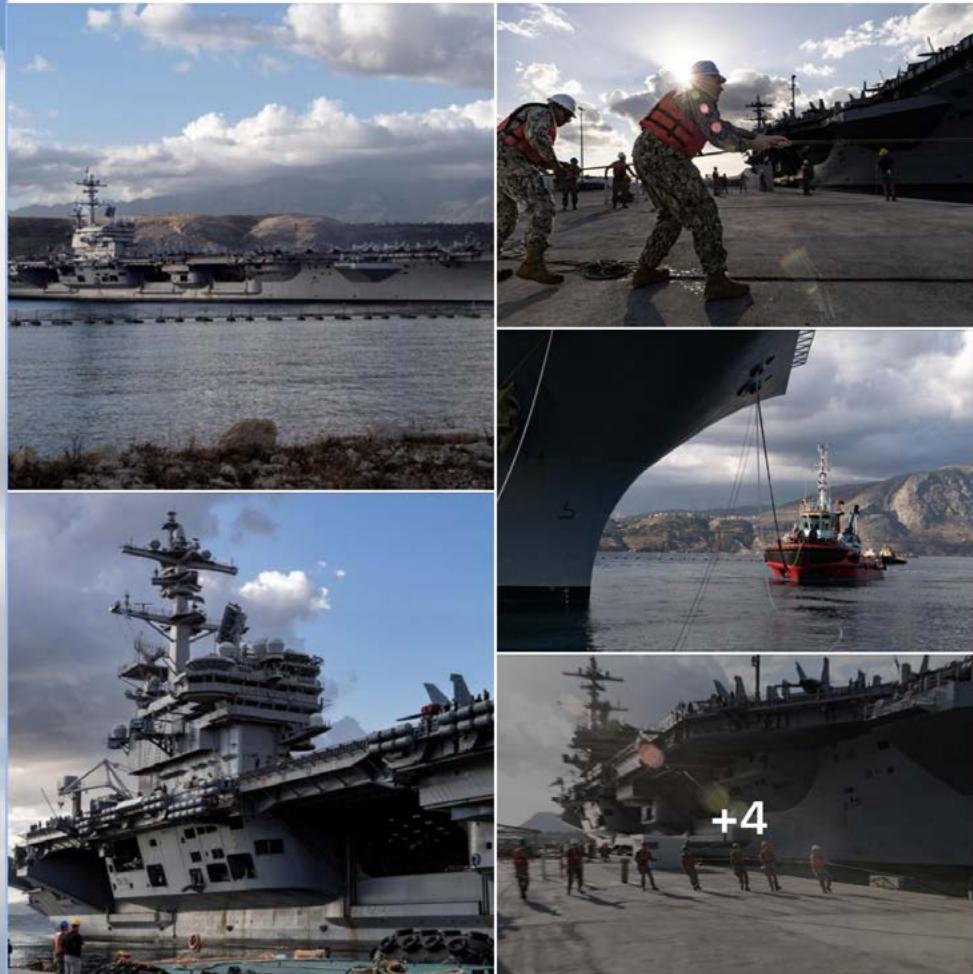


NSA Souda Bay

Published by Nsa Souda Bay · October 6 at 2:19 PM ·

Team Souda welcomes USS George H.W. Bush!

Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central U.S. EMBASSY ATHENS USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77)  
U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet



Enjoy your time in port over there and stay safe.  
Thank you for all you do to protect US!

Yay my son made it to land! Thank you to all who have sacrificed so much to do what you do, our U.S. Navy!

Glad these sailors are finally getting a much needed break! Thank you Team Souda for making this visit possible for our friends and loved ones aboard CVN77



My daughter's ship ❤️

Makes me proud to know I served there back in 76-77! Thanx for the memories!

Hoping my sweet boy gets a chance to explore the area! So proud of him.

I love U.S. military ❤️ 🇺🇸 ❤️

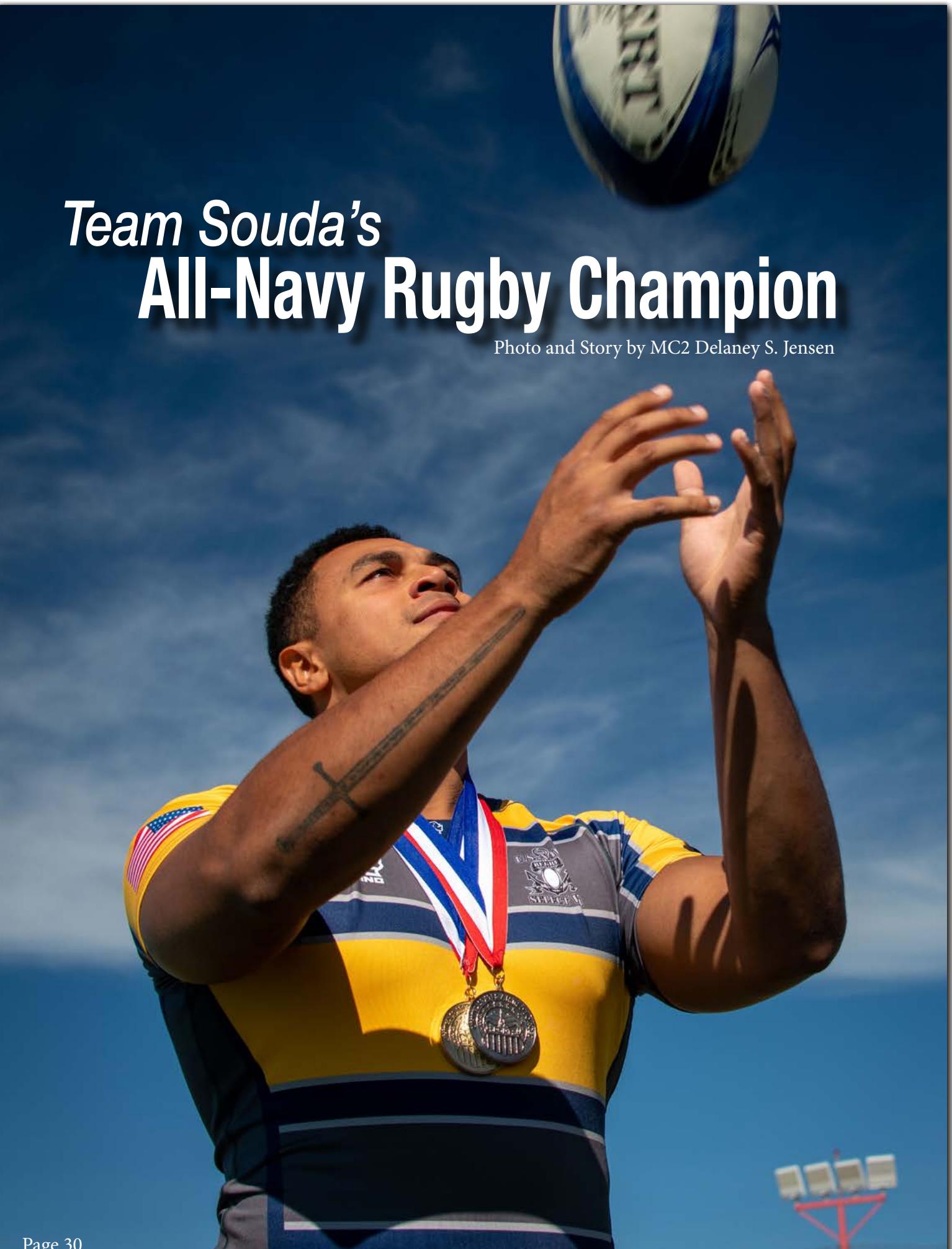
Thank you to the best Navy in the world! Our grandson is on the mighty CVN 77!!

Thankful these men and women FINALLY get some R&R



# Team Souda's All-Navy Rugby Champion

Photo and Story by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class DeShon Bell found his passion for Rugby early in his life. As a high school junior, he tried rugby for the first time and immediately fell in love with it.

"The culture is something you don't really find in too many sports. I've made lifelong friends playing this sport," said Bell. "In other sports there is a certain type of competition in the team. You are always competing with each other for a spot, but in rugby we make the team better as a whole. We lift each other up."

After high school he played at Washington State before ultimately joining the U.S. Navy, but his Rugby career didn't stop there. Bell played on a local team in Bangor, Wash., where a few of his teammates told him he should try out for the All-Navy Rugby team.

So he did.

"Initially I was nervous," said Bell. "The last time I played this high level of rugby was back in college over six years prior, but after the first few days of training I was like, 'I got this.' When they told me I made it, I was very excited for the opportunity to represent the Navy on an international sports stage!"

The All-Navy Rugby team is an opportunity for Sailors with the appropriate skill set to compete



Master-at-Arms Second Class DeShon Bell with his 2022 Armed Forces Championship team after their 2nd place finish. Courtesy Photo by MA2 DeShon Bell.

at the highest level in the Armed Forces. To make the All-Navy team, players must first participate in a trial camp to compete for 12 selected and two reserve roster spots. However, in 2022, they selected 12 players and only one reserve. Bell had to compete among 23 other participants chosen to go to the camp that year.

Bell made the team. In fact, he has now competed in the last two consecutive Armed Forces Rugby Championships.

"One you get on the big stage, and you see yourself on the Jumbo Tron: You know this is it," said Bell. "When we won the Armed Forces Championship last year in 2021, it was the first time the Navy had ever won. Now we have gone to the championship back to back. It was a very emotional moment for us knowing that we had won the entire thing."

Bell continues to play rugby in his spare time and said, "I can go pretty much anywhere around the world and find a rugby community that will invite [me] in. I even play for a local club out here, and they are now some of my best friends out here. It's good for building friendships with people outside your inner circles. Just all sorts of people from all walks of life."



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class DeShon Bell poses with his 2022 Armed Forces Championship 2nd place medal.

# Trunk or Treat 2022

Photos by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs



Team Souda personnel hand out candy to Trunk or Treat participants.

Team Souda MWR hosted a “Trunk or Treat” for base personnel and their families on Oct. 28. Trunk or Treat is a carnival-style Halloween activity where participants decorated their vehicles with Halloween-themed decorations and handed out candy.



Children in costume received candy from cars adorned with Halloween decorations.



Jackie Manos, Navy Federal Credit Union manager, hands out candy to Trunk or Treat participants.



Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Josh Hickman and family dress up in “Cars”-themed costumes.

# Seabee Haunted House 2022

Story and Photos by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen, Public Affairs



Seabees pose for a group photo in costume before participating in their Haunted House on Oct. 29.

Team Souda members and their guests got their hearts racing during the Seabee Haunted House Oct. 29-30. The multiple-room scare fest let the Seabees inject some frightfully good-natured Halloween spirit into Team Souda participants.



Builder 3rd Class James Hunchuck participates as an actor in the Seabee Haunted House.



Equipment Operator Constructionman Jiya Gan-none participates as an actor in the Seabee Haunted House.

# National Hispanic Heritage Month

Story and Photos by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs



Team Souda personnel cut a cake in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month during a presentation coordinated by the Multicultural Committee.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized each year from Sep. 15 to Oct. 15 by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. Team Souda's Multicultural Committee coordinated a Hispanic-American Heritage presentation on Oct. 12, during which Sailors with Hispanic origins discussed their cultural heritage. The presentation concluded with a cake-cutting and the Minoan Taverna prepared a special menu in honor of the observance.



Command Master Chief Igor Vargas discusses the importance of diversity as part of a strong Navy fighting force during a presentation in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month on Oct. 12.

# Fire Prevention Week

Story and Photos by Kostas Fantaousakis, Public Affairs



**Sparky the Fire Dog assists firefighters delivering a fire safety presentation at Theodoropoulos International School in Chania, Greece, on Oct. 12. Photo by Kostas Fantaousakis, Public Affairs**

NSA Souda Bay Fire & Emergency Services recognized Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 10-14, by promoting fire safety around Chania, Crete. Fire Prevention Week is a national awareness campaign intended to teach children, adults and teachers how to stay safe in case of a fire.

As part of Fire Prevention Week, Team Souda firefighters, along with Sparky the Fire Dog, paid a visit to Private School Mavromataki-Mitera and Theodoropoulos International School in Chania where they taught the children how to react in case of fire, demonstrated the functions of firefighter equipment, and answered questions from the students about fire safety.

“The most important thing firefighters taught the children is that they need to have a plan with their family and a meeting point. The children got to meet the firefighters from close-up and wear firefighter suits. They really enjoyed it,” said Soula Galanakis, one of the teachers at Theodoropoulos school.

To promote fire safety on base, the firefighters set-up a Fire Station Open House that included static displays of response equipment and conducted tactical demonstrations. During the Open House, firefighters challenged each other to a Chili Cook-off that was judged by visitors.



**Team Souda firefighters participate in a Chili Cook-off during an Open House at the Fire Station. Photo by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs**



**Matthew Labrise demonstrates the use of emergency rescue equipment during the Open House at the Fire Station. Photo by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs**



**Sparky the Fire Dog makes an appearance at the Chili Cook-off as part of Fire Prevention Week. Photo by Nicholas S. Tenorio, Public Affairs**

# Environmental Matters

By William R. Smith, Environmental Programs Director



Hello Team Souda. Plastic is in almost everything we use. From toothbrushes and sunglasses, to electronics, medical equipment and construction materials, you can find plastic material just about anywhere you look. For example, it's easy to spot a plastic water bottle, but did you know that plastics make up about 50 percent of the volume of new cars? In 2018 alone, more than 14 million tons of plastics were used for packaging materials, including water bottles and other food containers. Of the 14 million tons, only 30.5 percent was recycled or used for energy recovery. The remaining 69.5 percent was either landfilled or left unmanaged in a not-so-environmentally-friendly manner.

Ever since the evolution of plastics manufacturing in the mid-1960s this material has been building up out-of-sight and out-of-mind. It was not until 1997 that a potential ecological disaster called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch was discovered by Charles

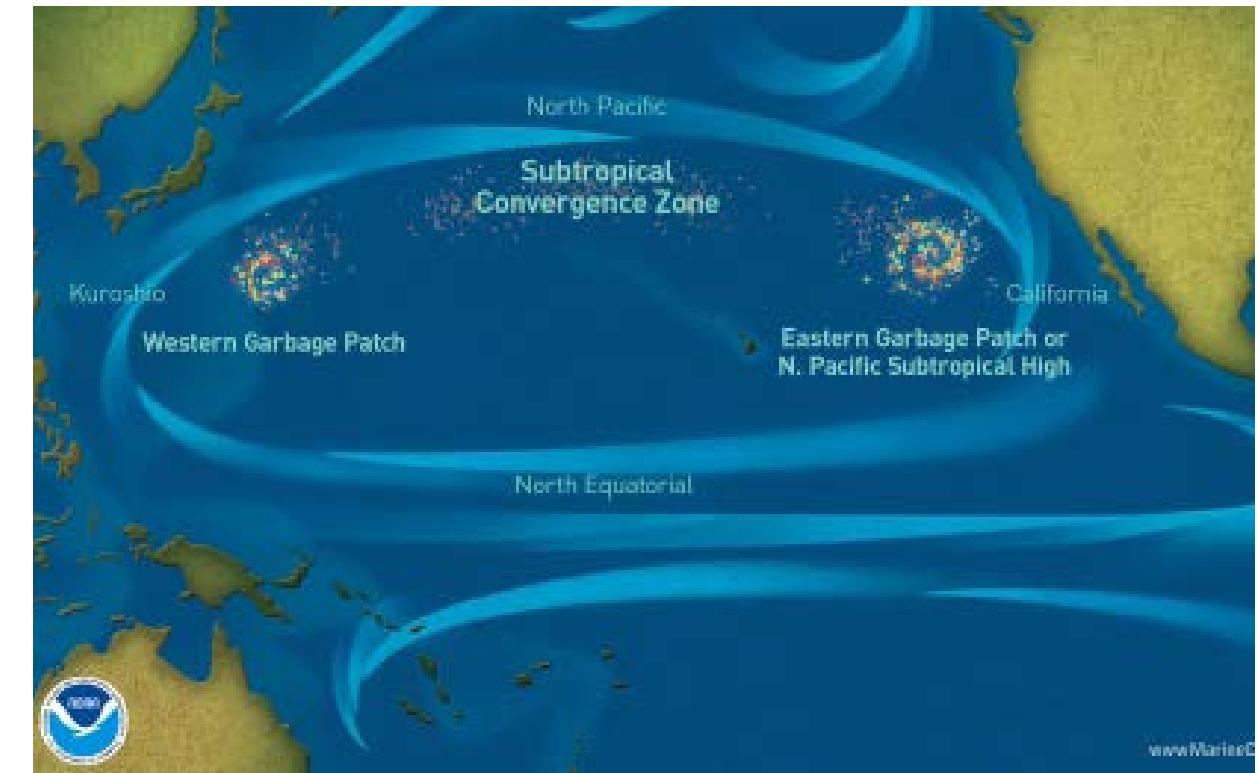
Moore while sailing from Hawaii to California after a yachting race. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a loose collection of plastic litter that stagnates across many thousands of miles in the North Pacific Ocean due to rotation of ocean currents.

In addition to the daily plastic waste that escapes the landfill, some strange events have contributed to the masses of plastic that pollute the oceans. For example, shipping containers full of everything from sneakers, to hockey gear, to rubber duckies have been lost during storms in the Pacific.

The consequences of all this marine debris has its effect on the natural environment. Some marine life die when they mistake the material for food while others are at risk of entanglement. Large masses of plastics can block out the sun, causing disruptions to the ocean's microscopic organisms, thereby disrupting entire food chains. Plastics also contain harmful chemical pollutants that leech out into the environment.



Mixed in with microplastics are larger pieces of plastic. Most plastics are refuse from land activities in North America and Asia. Some plastics are accidentally dumped from oceangoing vessels. All the plastics on this photo were culled from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Photographs by Rebecca Hale, National Geographic



Garbage patches are large areas of the ocean where litter, fishing gear, and other debris - known as marine debris - collects. They are formed by rotating ocean currents called "gyres." You can think of them as big whirlpools that pull objects in. The gyres pull debris into one location, often the gyre's center, forming "patches." Courtesy graphic from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Here at Souda Bay there are several periodic beach cleanups coordinated by the Chaplain that help to prevent the creation of a "Great Mediterranean Garbage Patch". Behind the scenes at NAVAFC, the Environmental Team continues to prevent solid waste from impacting the environment. You can lend a hand by ensuring that waste materials are properly disposed of and by placing recyclable materials into the designated bins.

In Fiscal Year 22, the average amount of solid waste generated by each person assigned to NSA Souda Bay was 3.2 pounds. This was down from 3.5 pounds in 2021.

In Fiscal Year 22, we diverted from land disposal 99.8 percent of all construction debris accounting for 246 tons of solid waste being recycled. This is equivalent to roughly the weight of 82-90 small passenger cars. Great job Team Souda!

As a Department of Navy Sailor have you been on a deployment at sea where the ship had to navigate around this Great Pacific Garbage Patch? If you have, I would be pleased to hear about it by sending me an email at William.r.smith@eu.navy.mil.

In the next issue of Environmental Matters, I will give you a glimpse of what sustainability really means.

Environmentally Yours,

*The Environmental Guy*

# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Denise Prendergast, Regional Resiliency Counselor, Fleet & Family Support Center  
Photos by MC2 Delaney S. Jensen



October was Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention month. The subject of domestic violence is often misunderstood. People are more likely to consider this crime to be “none of their business” than any other crime. Statistically, however, it has reached epidemic proportions. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States.

Allow that statistic to sink in: 20 people per minute. That equals about 10 million women and men per year.

Within the military population, the findings are also staggering. As of

September 2021, roughly 100,000 incidents of domestic violence have been reported since 2015.

While staggering, statistics are only a part of the story. Most incidents of domestic violence are never reported.

These numbers also do not include victims of neglect or emotional abuse, which create as many issues and scars as physical abuse. Emotional abuse includes: berating and name-calling; gas lighting (manipulating someone into believing they are crazy, or into questioning their perceptions and reality); humiliating or embarrassing; ignoring boundaries; and being possessive and/or controlling.

Emotional abuse is often a way for the abuser to control their partner and create a dependency. The abuser seeks to reduce the victim's self-esteem and interfere with the victim's connections to family and friends. Emotional abuse can become physical when the abuser's control is questioned. It can also lead to stalking behavior, tracking a partner's location, repeated calls and texts and demands to see or know who the partner is with. More than 60 percent of female and 44 percent of male survivors were stalked by a current or former partner.

It is easy for people who have not dealt with this issue to be quick to judge. For example, someone may ask: “Why don't they just leave?” Or think: “I would never let someone do that to me.” As a therapist in the family advocacy program for almost nine years, I can honestly say that it is not

that simple. If it were, domestic abuse would not be such an epidemic.

Every victim that I have worked with is shocked and embarrassed, and cannot believe the situation they are in. Domestic violence increases gradually over time. No one is violent on a first date or there would never be a second. Usually it is not until the relationship is in a committed state by marriage, children or a shared domicile that the abuse becomes more blatant. By that time, leaving has become much more difficult.

It can be more difficult to report abuse within the military due to financial constraints or the fear of risking the perpetrator's career.

The event held at the Anchor on Oct. 20 was called, “In her Shoes”. Members of Team Souda were able to step into the shoes of a domestic abuse victim. It illustrated the barriers and difficult choices that victims are often forced to make. Through this process participants can make their own choices in each situation, which will lead them to an outcome and another choice. It was an inside and very personal look into the trauma with both abuse and the difficulties of leaving and seeking the right help.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any kind of violence in your intimate relationship, or if you would like more information about building healthy relationships, please reach out to FFSC at DSN 266-1689, Civilian 282-102-1689. The more we know, the more we can offer support, resources and safety to each other.



Capt. Odin J. Klug discusses the importance of domestic abuse awareness as it relates to operational readiness during a domestic violence awareness event organized by NSA Souda Bay's Fleet and Family Support Center on Oct. 20.



Capt. Odin J. Klug, commanding officer, signs a Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation that called upon Team Souda to increase its participation in our efforts to prevent sexual assault, thereby strengthening the Navy community.



Civilian Victim Advocate Angela Buenrostro explains an experiential training exercise called, “In her shoes”. The awareness training engaged Sailors on how to help families, friends and concerned community members learn how to assist individuals who are at risk for domestic abuse.

# November 8: Hellenic Air Force Day

Information and images: Hellenic Air Force Official Website ([www.haf.gr](http://www.haf.gr))

The Hellenic Air Force has a storied history that includes involvement in many of the world's major conflicts of the 20th century, including the Balkans War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War. From its founding in 1911 during the dawn of aviation warfare until the present day, the Hellenic Air Force has sought to maintain a modern and powerful deterring force capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Nov. 8 is Hellenic Air Force Day and a holiday for NSA Souda Bay's local national employees. This is the day the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates the 'Feast of the Synaxis of the Archangels', which includes Archangel Michael, the patron saint for the Hellenic Air Force.

The 115th Combat Wing commemorates Hellenic Air Force Day Nov. 4-8 with an exhibition of aircraft and other weapon systems. Specialist staff provide information on the exhibits and the Wing will be open to the public.

## Exhibition Schedule:

Nov. 4-7: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nov. 8: 1 to 5 p.m.



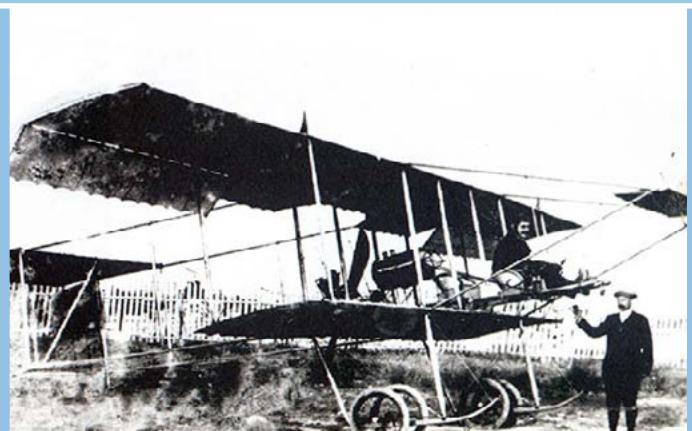
Archangel Michael, patron saint of the Hellenic Air Force, Byzantine and Christian museum of Athens, 14th century  
AD. Source: Wikipedia.com



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1911



In 1911, the Hellenic Government commissioned French experts to establish an Air Service. As a result, six officers were posted to France to be trained as pilots, while the first military aircraft were ordered from the French firm Maurice and Henry Farman.

1917



During World War I, the first Hellenic War Squadrons were established to carry out continuous missions above enemy lines. During the conflict, 17 aviators were killed.

1940



World War II brought the Hellenic Air Force into direct conflict with the Italian Air Force who outnumbered Greece's aircraft 463 to 77. Despite the numerical advantage, the Hellenic Air Force managed to observe enemy movements, destroy enemy supply lines, provide protection to friendly troops and impede the Italian air force's mission.

1952



Greece joined NATO in 1952 and the Hellenic Air Force embarked on a plan to upgrade and reorganize to meet contemporary requirements.

# The Parting Shot...

