

# THE BEACON

U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece

July 2020





# The Beacon

Warfighting First, Operate Forward, Be Ready

**Commanding Officer, NSA Souda Bay**

Capt. Ryan T. Tewell

**Executive Officer**

Cmdr. Werner Rauchenstein

**Command Master Chief**

CMDCM Brian McDonough

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A view looking down from the cliffs onto the lagoon of Balos, one of the most photographed beaches in Crete and famous for its turquoise waters and natural beauty. Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.

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Front Cover: Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Shanice Winston ties an American flag-themed bow on a tent before the 4th of July Celebration, July 2. Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee.

The Parting Shot: Marines assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit exit an MV-22 Osprey aircraft upon their arrival at NSA Souda Bay. The Marines had a short layover on June 18. Photo by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.



# Triad Corner



## Team Souda,

When I joined the United States Navy 28 years ago, I could not have imagined one day serving as the Commanding Officer of NSA Souda Bay. As I look back over the past two years, I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together to support the Fleet and the entire Joint Force. Over the past two years we:

- Passed with flying colors the Operational Readiness Assessment, Commander's Inspection Program, Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART), and many other inspections
- Supported extensive forward deployed maintenance availability (MAVs) and crew swaps on submarines, surface combatants, and supply ships
- Supported countless short fused aircraft detachments moving between 3 AORs
- Completed numerous ATTT and ITTT drills to be ready for any crisis or emergency
- Were recognized as the Commander, Navy Region EURAFCENT's nominee for the 2020 Commander, Navy Installation Command's Installation Excellence Award
- Supported countless missions across all armed services, to the benefit of 3 Combatant Commanders, 2 Operational Fleet Theaters, across three continents;

along with our coalition partners, to help create a safer world

As I depart for my next assignment in Texas, as the Commanding Officer of the Houston Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Consortium, I'm taking many incredible memories with me, including:

- Hosting and participating in the Eco Challenge and Commander's Cup Basketball Tournament
- Celebrating Greek Holidays (Oxi Day, Ash Monday, Orthodox Easter) with my Greek Friends
- Getting scared out of my wits at Public Works' Annual Haunted House
- Seeing your generosity in donating your time in service to the local community
- Laying a wreath for Armistice Day at the Souda Bay Allied War Cemetery
- Eating Thanksgiving dinner with friends and family in the Galley

I am also grateful that Holly and I were able to share the experience of this beautiful island and the warmth of the Greek people with our children. Some of our favorite family memories include:

- The crazy drive up to Balos Beach

- Eating at restaurants and getting gelato in the Venetian Harbor
- Hiking to the Monasteries
- Spending a week on Naxos Island
- Making Raki with a local family
- Serving and teaching English to Refugee families

Most recently, we've all battled COVID-19 together. This deadly threat has forced all of us to change our plans and our idea of what is important. I am very proud of your courage, your resilience, and your determination to continue on with our mission amidst fear, uncertainty and disappointment. You have shown

yourselves worthy of the trust and confidence that our Nation places in each of you. As I move forward, it is comforting to know that you all will continue to remain strong and stay safe under the leadership of my successor, CAPT Rafael Facundo.


Team Souda, it has been my honor and tremendous privilege to serve alongside you. You and your families have my deepest gratitude and admiration. May God continue to bless you in your service to our Nation.

~Skipper

## ON THE HORIZON

★★★★★

### Navigating the European and African Theaters



In the 19th episode, Secretary of the Navy Kenneth Braithwaite joined Admiral James G. Foggo to discuss the importance of maritime security in Europe, diversity and equal opportunity in the U.S. Navy, and family history related to World War II and how that inspires them today. In addition, Admiral Foggo also talks about exercise BALTOPS and recent operations in the Black Sea.

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>



# Around NSA Souda Bay

## Reenlistments

Photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Courtney Oakley holds his reenlistment plaque in front of the Follow Me truck during his reenlistment ceremony on the airfield June 12.



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Heather Gayhart receives her Certificate of Reenlistment from Lt. Jose Franco, Navy Munitions Command officer, June 26 at Marathi.



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Tyjuan Troche (left), Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Courtney Curry and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Shavaughn Roberts-Brooks (right) recite the Oath of Reenlistment given by Chief Master-at-Arms Michael Mann, NSA Souda Bay security, on June 26 at Marathi.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Devyn States receives his Certificate of Reenlistment from Lt. Lucas Chatfield, NSA Souda Bay air operations maintenance officer, in front of the Follow Me truck on June 26.

# Marine Corps Military Working Dog Handlers Receive Awards

Photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs

Corporal Ethan Boden and Corporal Ulixes Hernandez each received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal on June 15 from Capt. Ryan Tewell, commanding officer, for their superior performance as military working dog handlers while stationed at NSA Souda Bay.



Corporal Ethan Boden



Corporal Ulixes Hernandez

## End of Tour Award

Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs

Lt. Cmdr. Jaron Goldstein, supply officer, received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Naval Support Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella via video teleconference as he prepared to depart NSA Souda Bay.



Lt. Cmdr. Jaron Goldstein, supply officer, Naval Support Activity Souda Bay (left) stands at attention during his End of Tour Award ceremony June 19.



# MWR Fitness Center Re-opens

Team Souda Sailors lifted weights once again on June 16 at the Fitness Center, which had closed March 16 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fitness Center is now open to U.S. ID cardholders, who must call to make a reservation and observe

posted COVID-19 guidelines. Fitness Center staff are on-hand as always to help patrons, clean equipment after it is used, and enforce physical distancing and other re-opening conditions.



# NSA Souda Bay Welcomes U.S. Ambassador, Greek Defense Leaders

Story by Joel Diller, Public Affairs



Gen. Konstantinos Floros, Greek Minister of Defense Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, and Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt speak to Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman. Photo by Sgt. Aven Santiago, 352nd SOW Public Affairs.

Naval Support Activity Souda Bay Commanding Officer Capt. Ryan T. Tewell welcomed U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt, Greek Minister of Defense Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, and Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff Gen. Konstantinos Floros, to the installation on June 12.

During the leaders' visit, they toured our facilities and met with command leaders.

In remarks to the press at the end of the visit, Pyatt said, "Souda, for the United States government plays two critically important roles. First of all, it is our most important platform for the projection of American power into a strategically dynamic Eastern Mediterranean region. From Syria to Libya to the choke point of the Black Sea, this is a critically important asset for the United States as our air force, naval and other resources are applied to support our Alliance obligations and to help bring peace and stability.

But the other aspect of Souda Bay, which is less well known, is that this is the most important venue for day-to-day cooperation between Greek and American forces. I'm extremely proud of

the partnership that we have here, and the way in which all of our services, with the Hellenic Navy at the Souda Bay pier, with the Hellenic Air Force at the topside base, and the Hellenic Army at NAMFI, work every single day with our Greek counterparts to build the kind of habits of cooperation that are the essence of our alliance."



Capt. Ryan Tewell, NSA Souda Bay commanding officer, greets U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt upon Pyatt's arrival at the Hellenic Air Force 115th Combat Wing base, June 12. Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



# 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit Marines Transit NSA Souda Bay

NSA Souda Bay supported nearly 200 Marines who were embarked aboard the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group as they passed through NSA Souda Bay on June 18 while completing their crew swap. MV-22 Osprey and CH-53 Sea Stallion aircraft transported the Marines, assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) from USS Bataan (LHD 5) to NSA Souda Bay. From here, they boarded a Boeing 767 commercial airliner for their next destination.

TOP: Two MV-22 Osprey aircraft taxi on the airfield June 18.

MIDDLE: A Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter taxis on the airfield June 18.

BOTTOM: Marines assigned to the 26th MEU carry luggage from a CH-53E helicopter on the airfield.



# Greek Firefighters Receive English Proficiency Certificates

Five Host Nation firefighters received their Certificate of Proficiency in English from Cdr. Werner Rauchenstein, executive officer during a ceremony in the Fire Station June 22. Their English teacher, Dina Anetaki, successfully prepared them for the University of Michigan Language Assessment Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English, which is a standardized, 4-skill American English test at the highest level of proficiency. Not pictured: Stylianos Saravelakis and Emmanuel Prasakis.



Theodosios Marentakis



Konstantinos Tsopanikos



Nikolaos Bras



# Chaplain's Corner: Change with Purpose



Lt. Michael Spoke

Things change. I think everyone among us would agree that most of life is defined by change. Even if we could somehow manage to hold everything we can control in our lives constant, our bodies would still refuse to stay the same. Change is a constant, inevitable part of living.

And I think we need it to be. As much as we may resist change, and as difficult as adapting to changes can be, change is also what brings us hope! A bad day can be changed. Minds can be changed. Relationships can be changed. Our growth and development as people rely on the idea that we can in fact change ... ideally, for the better! Change brings opportunity for learning and improvement. Change paves the way for new discoveries. It adds new richness to relationships. It allows for new enjoyments. We can't dream without change.

That said, not all changes are voluntary — and realistically, not all changes end well. This is probably why many of us fear change. It feels like a gamble. While change can bring good things, change can also bring loss. Change can bring challenge. Change can make us uncomfortable. Some change feels better off avoided, because it can be painful.

The interesting thing about change, though, is that whether we feel it or not, we actually have a lot of power in the process. I am not suggesting that we can somehow bypass the hard parts of grief, or challenge, or discomfort, or that we should! But I am suggesting that we can learn to engage change in such a way that we make it our ally. That we can learn not to fear it. What if we could embrace change instead of simply reacting to it? What if we embraced even the hard parts and viewed change as a doorway to new growth? To new hopes and dreams and possibilities? What if we could be intentional about something that is already inevitable?

I believe we can. I believe change can be navigated with purpose. I think it requires us to be honest and courageous about what we experience, but more than that, I think it requires us to have imagination. What possibilities can change bring you? What richer, deeper, fuller things could you grow and experience in and around you because of change? What if this next change was an opportunity to pursue a change with purpose?

Here is a 4 step process that you can use to help approach change: The OODA (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act) Loop.

- **Observe:** Ask yourself, “What are you experiencing? What do you notice? What is different & what has stayed the same?” This will help you build a mental picture of your situation.
- **Orient:** Recognize the barriers or obstacles in front of you that inhibit growth. Sometimes they are toxic relationships, destructive self-talk, or simply decisions outside your control.
- **Decide:** Develop a plan of action that will help you overcome those obstacles. It may look like leaving someone “on read,” prioritizing self-care, or even continuing to stay the course.
- **Act:** DO IT! Don't just talk about change, this is your chance to actually do something about it. As you carry out your plan with confidence, observe how it went, restarting the loop.

The OODA Loop was created as a war-gaming decision tool by USAF COL John Boyd. It can easily be used to learn, grow, and thrive in a rapidly changing environment — be it in war, business, or life.





## Hospital Corpsman Seaman Jesse Peterson



### Medical

Hospital Corpsman Seaman Jesse Peterson, from Palm Springs, Calif., joined the Navy in February 2017 after an enjoyable experience working in a food court at Desert Regional Medical Center in California. His first command was Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va., where he worked in the Emergency Room for two years. He arrived at NSA Souda Bay in September 2019, and he helps Team Souda maintain its medical readiness.

#### What does a typical day working in the clinic look like?

I work (at the) front desk where I schedule appointments, maintain medical records and make sure people show up for their appointments on time. I am also the medical readiness liaison for Souda Bay. I send out weekly emails to every active LPO (leading petty officer) or LCPO (leading chief petty officer) to tell their people "Hey, you have your personnel that are delinquent (in

immunizations, physical health assessment or anything that goes in a service member's medical record). Can we get this taken care of?" It has been pretty effective because previously we were at 88 percent readiness, but now we are at 95 percent. I also perform blood draws, and if someone is delinquent on certain immunizations, I give them shots and then update their IMR (integrated medical records).

#### What is the best part of your job?

Being a part of the Hospital Corps, I love doing my job, whether I'm taking blood draws, immunizations, or scheduling appointments. I love doing all of it. Whenever I see that caduceus, (I know) I earned that caduceus (a symbol of medicine, which depicts two snakes winding around a winged staff, which is also the symbol used for the corpsman rating badge).

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

I play football; I played in high school for four years. Now because of COVID, I usually play video games.

#### Do you have any advice for someone who wants to be a corpsman?

Do what you gotta do; it is a lot of hard work. You have to keep a sharp mentality.

#### How does it feel to be part of the corpsman legacy?

Honestly, it is a blessing. I am the kind of guy that will help people even if they don't like me because I still care about you. As a corpsman, my job is to make sure people are doing good.

#### What is a goal you would like to achieve while you are here?

Try to make rank and doing as much community service as I can.

## Kostas Kontopoulos



### Transportation Office Airfield Sweeper

Kostas Kontopoulos, who works behind the scenes operating the airfield sweeper truck and keeps the airfield and runway clean and free of debris, has been praised for his work by visiting senior leaders, base airfield managers, and pilots over the 23 years he has served the installation.

#### What is a typical day like for you as the airfield sweeper?

I sweep the north taxiway and sometimes, if the tower needs me to, I sweep the runway. But normally, I work the north taxiway for two days and the flight line for three days. To do a very good job, you must go slow and check the place that you cleaned before cleaning another place.

#### What is the best part of your job?

For 23 years I've seen airplanes that many people only see in pictures. And I love talking with the pilots. They say "Hello" to me after they land and before they leave. Many people give me coins for my job and the pilots give me patches, which I keep in my

locker.

#### What is the most difficult part of your job?

Now that they are doing the construction on the airfield I really have to concentrate on what I am doing. I have to concentrate on keeping the suction. I clean the filters to keep the machine running so it doesn't overheat and has maximum suction. It is very slow and very tedious because I drive at 3 kilometers per hour all day – you can walk faster!

#### Did you need any special training to operate the sweeper truck?

Yes. Before I got the sweeper truck license I trained with a teacher for two years. And after I got that license, I got the government vehicles license to drive other machines that have to do with the airfield, like k-loaders, forklifts, snow blowers, plow and salt truck.

#### What are your favorite memories of being an airfield sweeper?

I have a memory of an F-18 pilot who was here between 2012 -2014, I don't remember exactly. The pilot stopped, opened the

canopy and gave me a coin as something to remember and then left for the north taxiway -- look now I have goosebumps just thinking about it!

Another story is about my brother-in-law who has a restaurant in Vietnam. One day an American pilot, he is retired now, went there for vacation and saw a picture of me with my brother-in-law and my family at the desk where you pay. He told my brother-in-law "I know him and I remember seeing him in Souda Bay."

#### What do you like to do outside the office?

Every day after work I go to the gym with my son who is 16-years-old. We lift weights. We do cardio. Sometimes TRX. We do something different every day. Sometimes I go for a bike ride. And I relax because I work all day and I need to relax. I go to sleep very early because I need to rest. On Saturdays and Sundays I go to the beach and I go to restaurants. This is my life.

## Christine Missios



### Command Inspector General Investigator

Christine Missios started her career with the Navy at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., 29 years ago as a staff accountant. She transitioned to auditor and then to Region Inspector General while working in the Navy Region Northeast Inspector General office. She later worked as an IG investigator for Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and as a Senior Investigator for CNIC Headquarters. She joined Team Souda in [2019], where as the Command Inspector General Investigator, she helps keep Team Souda's programs within regulations.

#### What does the Command Inspector General do?

We really handle four functions in the Souda IG office. The four key IG functions are to administer the Hotline Program, conduct targeted compliance inspections, facilitate the Command Inspection Program (CIP), and coordinate the Managers Internal Control (MIC) program.

#### What types of complaints do you investigate?

The type of things we would investigate are fraud, waste, abuse, and significant cases of mismanagement. And, for example, things like ethics violations, travel card misuse, purchase card misuse, military whistleblower reprisal - there are a whole variety of things. But the main thing is, for a complaint to be appropriate for IG investigation, it would have some potential to affect the mission of the Navy or violate a regulation, standard, or policy. The IG hotline program is more about addressing issues affecting the integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of operations of the Navy or the appropriate use of tax dollars and resources.

#### Outside of work, what do you like to do here in Crete?

I love Crete! My husband Jim and I both do, we just love it. When I first got here I said I was going to collect a stone from everywhere I go because it's free and it's a nice, real memento of where you went. And I have this whole jar filled with all these pebbles from all the

different beaches, and I write on them with a Sharpie the date and which beach it was from. So, I have that little collection of stones. And we do a lot of kayaking and biking.

#### What do you want Team Souda to know about the Inspector General's office?

I want people to know that I am here for one thing, and even though I have been teleworking some lately because of the COVID. I am always reachable by my cell phone number, which is +30 694-043-1119. I think sometimes people think the IG is the "gotcha, watch out you're in trouble," but we don't want to have that reputation. We want to be viewed as a helper and as being here to help people make sure they are in compliance and that they are following the regulations, so that we, as a team, will stand up to any outside scrutiny.



# Agia Triada Monastery: Where Tradition and History Meet Modern Agriculture

Story and photos by Kostas Fantaousakis, Public Affairs



The main entrance of the monastery inside the exterior fortress-like walls.

The Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of the Holy Trinity Tzagarolon (Greek: Agia Triada Tsangarolon) is one of the most important monastic complexes in Crete with a rich contribution to the history and education of the island. It is located in the Akrotiri peninsula in the Chania regional unit. The monastery is considered to be one of the most important in Crete due to its history, size and rare architecture.

The monastery was built in the 17th century by the brothers Jeremiah and Laurentius Tzagarolon who came from a great Venetian-Cretan family and had strong influence in both the Orthodox population and Catholic Venetians. The exterior was built following the architectural style of a Venetian fortress.

The monastery was extensively damaged during conflicts with the Ottomans, and was rebuilt after the Greek revolution.

The main church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. In the 19th century the monastery was established as an important theological school where hundreds of Greek orthodox students graduated. The school was later moved to the Agios Matthaïos area in Chania.

## Museum

The monastery hosts a museum on its premises which contains a collection of Greek Orthodox icons, religious attire and manuscripts from the 12th century. A large number of exhibits were destroyed during two devastating fires.

## Production

According to the monastery's Abbot, Bishop Damaskinos of Dorylaion, the monastery maintains a number of vineyards and olive tree fields, as well as a live-stock unit. This allows them to produce wine, honey and olive oil on the premises. These products are sold in a small store on-site, enabling the monastery to be fully self-sustained.

The monastery is famous for its wine, offering a unique selection developed over centuries and employing modern technology to produce vines perfectly adapted to the microclimate of the Akrotiri area of Chania.


Today, after many historical adventures, the monastery continues to play an important role in the religious and economic life of Crete and is well worth the visit by newcomers to NSA Souda Bay.



Vintage religious items, such as Holy Communion cups, spoons and attire, are some of the exhibits included in the museum.



Original religious manuscripts, some as old as the 12th century.






## Fleet and Family Support Center

Supporting the needs of Team Souda's active duty, family members, and DoD civilians

Here's How We Support Team Souda:

<b>Clinical Counseling</b> Confidential, short-term, individual, couple, family and group counseling and crisis intervention.	<b>Family Advocacy</b> Prevent and address incidents of child and domestic abuse and neglect.
<b>Sexual Assault Prevention and Response</b> Provide victims with information and emotional support through the medical, legal, and investigative processes. Education and training for SAPR Victim Advocates and the community.	<b>Relocation (Lending Locker)</b> Online resources and a Loaner Locker with basic household items such as dishes, pots & pans, to help until household goods arrive.
<b>Relocation and Transition</b> Resume writing, federal job searches, interviewing skills, and application assistance.	<b>Information and Referral</b> Topics on the services available at the FFSC, online, and through our partnerships in the community.
<b>Workshops and Classes</b> Stress management, anger management, team building and other topics (upon request).	<b>Ombudsman</b> Provide information and answer questions to help service members and their families deal with the unique challenges of the military lifestyle.

Online Resources:

 NSA Souda Bay FFSC	 DoD Safe Helpline Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community <a href="http://www.Safehelpline.org">www.Safehelpline.org</a>	 <a href="http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/soudabay">www.cnrc.navy.mil/soudabay</a> Fleet and Family Readiness > Support Services
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Location: Bldg. 11 (Ground Floor of Barracks)  
Hours of Operation: Mon – Thurs 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
DSN: 314-266-1689/1690 COMM: +30 282-102-1689/1690  
24-hour SAPR Victim Hotline: +30 694-043-1130 | 24-hour SARC: +30 694-043-1129





Story and photos by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs







N SA Souda Bay Sailors celebrated the Independence Day holiday July 2 in the Navy Exchange parking lot. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department got creative in order to hold the event during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they delivered an evening of fun that had Sailors celebrating 244 years since America gained its independence. At the celebration Sailors were served boxed meals containing a choice of a cheeseburger, barbecue pulled pork or a hotdog; along with potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, watermelon and lemon pie. Games included corn-hole toss, jump rope and a Home Run Derby. The night ended with a virtual fireworks display and the movie John Wick shown on a giant outdoor screen.















**R**isk is a situation involving exposure to danger and the possibility that something unpleasant or unwelcome will happen. Safety is the condition of being protected from something that causes danger, risk or injury. In life, people draw upon their experience and knowledge to make judgements about the risks they experience. The more experience and knowledge, the greater the ability to make good judgements.

In the same way, the Naval Support Activity Souda Bay Safety Office works to reduce the risk to the installation's people and property to preserve its capability to fulfill the mission. They are in the business of preventing accidents. Experience is documented in training systems, standard operating procedures and after-action reports. Knowledge is gained through inspection programs and safety investigations.

### Facility Inspections

On this day, Garvin Purttelman, Safety director, and Maria Kriaraki, deputy Safety director, perform a general facility inspection at the Fleet's Inn Galley. But before visiting to the facility, they begin their

inspection at the Safety Office.

"The actual inspection is not only present at the facility, but it is also at [the Safety office] where we look at the processes, the training and whatever else the department has," said Kriaraki.

Kriaraki said they also review the department's instructions, regulations, codes and guides and any previous deficiencies recorded in the Navy's Enterprise Safety Application Management System (ESAMS). "We look at different deficiencies that were there previously to try to see if they are going to be there again."

At the Galley, Purttelman and Kriaraki said they are looking for anything that could create a type of hazard, such as electrical systems, heat sources, causes for slips, trips or falls, and the Lock Out-Tag Out procedures.

The Galley's manager meets the Safety Office inspectors and together they walk through the facility, looking for potential hazards. They open electrical panels, check kitchen shelving units for sturdiness, review hazardous material checklists, test alarm systems and the walk-in freezer's door latch.

Garvin Purttelman inspects the salad bar's electrical panel in the Galley on June 17.



Any discrepancies found during the inspection are provided to the facility manager and annotated in ESAMS. Once the discrepancy is fixed, the Safety Office returns to inspect it and closes it out in the system.

### Keeping Team Souda Safe

According to the National Safety Council, fall-related injuries account for 32 percent of all preventable, nonfatal injuries. Purttelman said that injuries resulting from slips, trips or falls are also common with Team Souda. The Safety Office participated in an installation-wide effort with Public Works and several other departments to identify high-risk areas on the installation.

The result was a Pedestrian Safety-Related Improvement project where the Public Works Department is making repairs and improvements across the installation. Lt. Cdr. Ryan White, public works officer, said their scope of work includes: repairing damaged sidewalks; repainting crosswalks, street lines, no parking zones, and curbs for better visibility; adding new crosswalks; installing railings to prevent falls to lower levels; installing handrails on stairs, curbs, and ramps; improving sidewalk ramps with more gradual slopes; installing new sidewalk ramps for pedestrian access; and replacing signs that are faded and adding new signs where required.

During the summer season, activities and holiday festivities are enjoyed by many but also include risks. The Safety Office helps to identify and mitigate these risks by reviewing the Operation Risk Management assessments of the activities and events held by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

In preparation for the base's Independence Day holiday celebration, Amiee MacDonnell, MWR director, said that the Safety Office looked at the general environment where the event was taking place to identify any equipment that someone could bump into or cords running across a walkway that someone could trip over.

"In this particular venue, there are a variety of uneven surfaces in the Navy Exchange parking lot, so (we are) making sure those have been marked to avoid any trips or falls," said MacDonnell. She said the MWR team is also "making sure that our event tents, especially if it is windy, are properly anchored to prevent those from flying away and injuring someone."

Throughout the year, the Safety Office also keeps Team Souda safe by conducting scheduled inspections. They visit higher-risk programs either quarterly or semi-annually. "If it's administrative, it's a low risk," said Kriaraki. "If it is operational, the risk is higher so we do more inspections throughout the year."





**Maria Kriaraki checks a shelf's sturdiness in the Galley on June 17.**

Monthly safety meetings attended by department representatives who are designated as collateral duty safety officers by their supervisors, provide information and training. Topics include the proper use of personal protective equipment, ladder safety, maintaining correct posture sitting at a desk, and frequently asked questions about the novel Coronavirus. The representatives are responsible for passing the information along to their co-workers.

“[A department safety representative’s] responsibility toward us would be, for example, to do self-inspections of their workplaces and to report any hazards that they may see to us,” said Kriaraki. “And we would help them, recommend how they would fix it.”

The Safety Office also participates on the Installation Training Team during installation-wide exercises to identify hazards where people are put into scenarios that fall outside their normal routines. Kriaraki said the Safety Office uses Operational Risk Management to identify any hazards to keep those participating in the exercises safe.

**Safety Stand Downs**

Safety Stand Downs are another way the Safety Office shares important information to prevent large mishaps from happening. In previous years, a Summer Safety Stand Down was held in the gymnasium where guest speakers discussed important topics about

safety in Crete, followed by an information fair with booths manned by departments such as Medical, Fire and Emergency Services and Fleet and Family Support Center. However, Purtteman said that due to COVID-19 restrictions that prevent large groups from gathering, this year’s stand down had to be different.

Kriaraki said the Safety Office provided the presentations on CDs to each department to hold their own Safety Stand Down. The rosters from each department were provided back to the Safety Office to be entered into ESAMS to document the training record. Purtteman said that the office put a lot of effort into making the presentation interesting and visually appealing this year, which he noted yielded a higher participation rate compared to previous years.

**Safety Investigations**

An accident does not need to happen for the Safety Office to do a safety investigation, said Kriaraki, noting that people can make a report of unsafe or unhealthful hazards they see and the Safety Office will go investigate.

“They can [make a report] anonymously either through ESAMS, they can leave a note under our door, or they can come by and tell us personally and say ‘Hey, listen I don’t want to be identified.’ As long as we know and someone reports it to us,” said Kriaraki.

What happens if an accident does occur?

Purtteman said the Safety Office conducts an accident investigation, writes an after-action report, and revises standard operating procedures and changes processes, if necessary, to prevent like occurrences from happening again.

Kriaraki said an important thing to remember about when the Safety Office investigates an accident is that they are not looking for who is at fault. “We’re not doing a safety investigation to point fingers. We’re just looking for prevention measures.”

Purtteman said that the notes and evidence they gather during an investigation cannot be revealed to departments outside of the Safety Office, such as Legal or Security. “What is reported to the command is ‘Mishap 1A’, just very generic information. To get more information, for let’s say judicial punishment,

[the request for information] would not go through us.”

**A Community Effort**

Purtteman said that safety is not just the purview of the Safety Office; it is a community program and it takes the effort of everyone to make the program successful by decreasing mishaps and risks.

“Two sets of eyes are always better than one. The whole installation-wide eyes are better than just this one Safety Office,” said Purtteman. “So, we encourage not just our safety representatives but everybody throughout the command, if they see a hazard, report a hazard.”

If you would like to contact the NSA Souda Bay Safety Office, you can visit them in Building #53 or give them a call at (DSN) 266-1235 or (Commercial) +30 28210-21325.

**Explosive Safety Officer**

Michael Bowers, explosive safety officer, has oversight of 10 explosive safety programs on the installation and performs an Explosive Safety Self-Assessment each year to identify and correct any findings.



But departments that are indirectly related to explosives, such as the Public Works Department’s Transportation Office, must also be checked. If a forklift lifts some explosives, it has to be a specific forklift with a specific set of maintenance requirements, said Bowers.

“What I do is I keep check on everyone here that has anything to do with explosives and I go through all those programs with them,” said Bowers. “We go around and we hit every one of those programs and everyone that applies to and do an assessment. And at the end of that assessment we come up with a report of any findings that we found ourselves ... and not only fix them, but we fix the root of the problem.”

Bowers said he works with departments both directly and indirectly related to explosives. Naval Munitions Command and Security Forces maintain an inventory of weapons and ammunition, so he checks on their physical security procedures.

Bowers said that he is also a pier safety loading officer who must be on site whenever an explosive item is loaded or unloaded at the piers.

“I’m there not to supervise the explosives but from the bigger picture when I’m looking at the pier,” said Bowers. “It’s the bigger picture. We’re on the pier – who else is there? Who doesn’t need to be there? Let’s get rid of them. What else is going on on the pier? Let’s shut it all down - because when you handle explosives that’s the only thing that happens.”



**Lisa Tillman**  
**Navy Exchange**



**“Sitting in the sun at the beach.”**

**Master-at-Arms 2nd Class**  
**Annette Anaya**  
**Security**



**"I enjoy working out outside. I have a gym in my backyard and I usually work on my tan as I lift weights."**

**Air Traffic Controller**  
**1st Class Daniel Ferdinand**  
**Air Ops**



**“Traveling around the island.”**



**Potato**  
**Marathi Duck**



**“Swimming at Marathi.”**

**Lt. Michael Spoke**  
**Religious Ministries**



**“Barbecuing, playing yard games  
and playing baseball.”**

# Word on the Street

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

The grid contains the following illustrations:

- Row 1: A person fishing with a rod and reel; a person in a yellow kayak; a person scuba diving; a person fishing from a chair.
- Row 2: A person swimming in a pool; a person running; a person holding a surfboard; a person playing basketball; a person running with a dog.
- Row 3: A person skateboarding; a person on a surfboard; two people playing tennis; a person sitting by a campfire.
- Row 4: A person sitting under a beach umbrella; a person climbing a rock; a person windsurfing; a person riding a horse.

**Yeoman 3rd Class  
Dante Miner  
Admin**



**“Being able to travel to new places in Crete and finding new beaches.”**



## What is your favorite outdoor activity?



## Vasiliki Tsoli Navy Exchange



**“My favorite activity is of course swimming and hiking up to the mountains and exploring Cretan nature.”**

**Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Mario Soto  
American Forces Network**



**“Hiking. Some of my favorite places are Sfakia, Glyka Nera and Agia Roumeli.”**

**Chief Navy Career Counselor  
Anthony Wagner  
Career Counselor Office**



**“Anything active near or on a beach!  
Cornhole, volleyball, football...  
you name it!”**

**Jackie Manos**  
**Navy Federal Credit Union**



**"I enjoy boating around Crete  
with my family."**

**Logistics Specialist 2nd Class**  
**Kristin Bland**  
**Navy Munitions Command**






**“I enjoy relaxing at the beach and working on my tan.”**

**Lene Nempavlaki**  
**Spa Tours**



**“Hiking at Omalos. I have a 2nd home at the village of Vatolakkos and on the weekends I love hiking there.”**

 **Logistics Specialist 2nd Class**  
 **Natoya Osage**  
 **Naval Supply Systems Command**

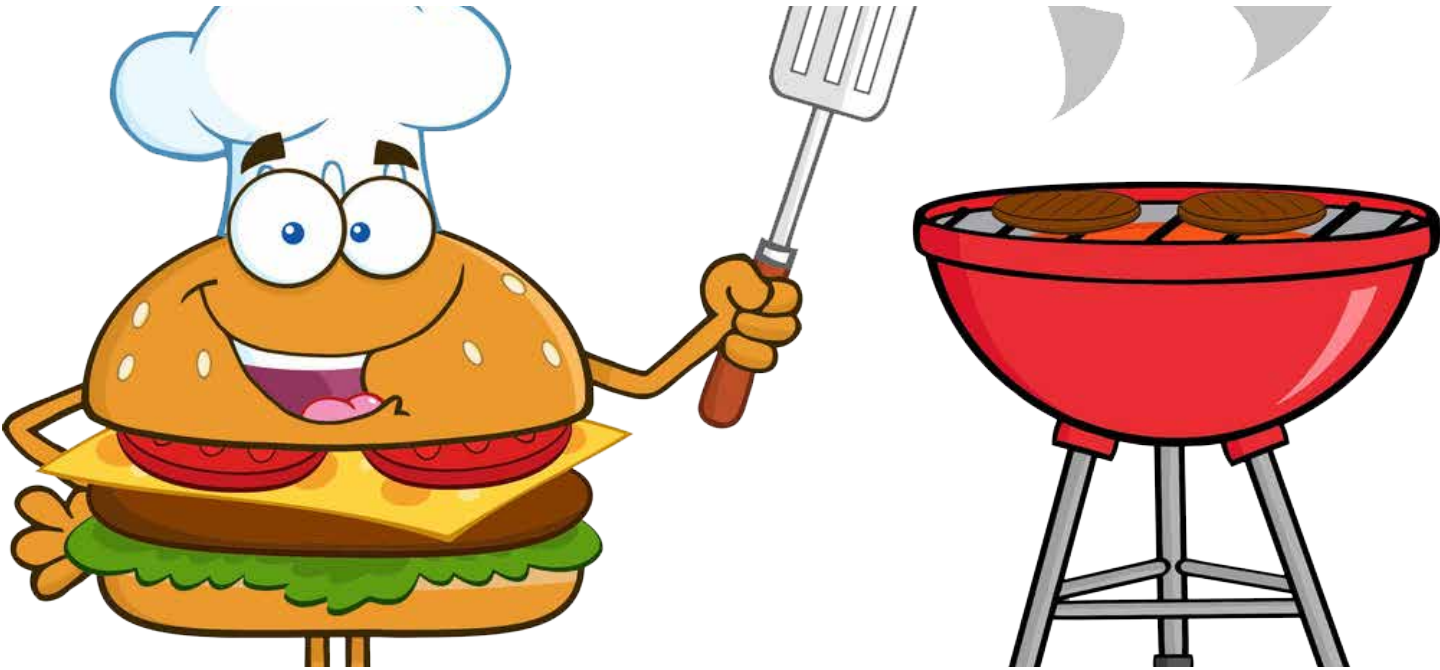


**“Road trips with the ladies. Exploring the sights and sounds of this beautiful island.”**



# Summer Fire Prevention and Safety

Story by Garvin Purttteman, Safety Office



It's summer in Crete and there are many amazing things to do. As you plan for special summer events, think about how you can mitigate potential hazards, particularly the hazards associated with high temperatures. High temperatures lead to an increased health risk, as well as an increased chance of starting fires.

### Fire Safety Warning and Grills

Presently, the risk of starting a fire in the Chania prefecture is very high. Because of this, the NSA Souda Bay Fire and Safety departments strongly recommend against having open flames on the installation (or at your house) – while using a grill, for example. If you are planning to have a barbecue, use a propane-fueled grill. If you use a charcoal grill, make sure it has a lid so you can close it. In addition, you should always keep combustible items away from the barbecue area and keep a portable fire extinguisher nearby. Clean the grill cavity often to keep grease from accumulating, since grease tends to flare up and cause burns.

### Regulatory Issues and Fines for Non-compliance

Please be advised that Host Nation regulations strictly prohibit any kind of camp fire/bonfire from May 1

through October 31. Ignoring this fire protection regulation is considered a criminal offence and you could be prosecuted. We anticipate that the local authorities will be stricter during this period of extremely high temperatures; therefore, the Safety Office strongly recommends that you don't barbecue on public lands or beaches during the restriction period.

### Emergency Escape Route Planning

When fires start in hot summer conditions they generate huge wind up-drafts that help the fire roll forward with the wind at alarming speeds. While you are enjoying outdoor activities such as hiking in the local mountains, it is imperative that you maintain a high state of awareness of the wind direction and plan a possible escape route. For fire emergencies on base, call 9-1-1. Off base, call 282-102-1911.

Fires are incredibly dangerous and can quickly cause a major disaster. No matter what activity you intend to enjoy this summer, applying operational risk management during the planning process can help avoid hazards and ensure that your sun days are fun days!

Have a hazard-free summer!

# Public Affairs Office

We Tell Team Souda's Story

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## Here's How We Support You:

### Photo and Story Coverage

Group Photos, Events, Reenlistments & Awards

### Volunteer Opportunities

Beach Clean-ups, Animal Shelter, Boys Center, and more

### Contact Us

DSN: 266-1642/1392  
SoudaBayPAO@eu.navy.mil

### Studio Photos

Offical Portraits:  
Tue / Wed 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Package & Passport Photos:  
Fri 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



# The Parting Shot...

