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Get Beth Wiruth's take on the issues affecting military families

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TRF

Trident Refit Facility keeps the silent service up and running

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Take a look at what FFSC can do for you.

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BENEATH THE SURFACE

Compass Meeting

The next Compass Session will be held Jan. 29-31 at the Kingsbay Chapel in the library from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Compass is a team-mentoring program developed by spouses for spouses. It focuses on spouses new to the Navy, however; all spouses are welcome. Compass improves quality of life through education, enabling spouses to understand, experience and meet the challenges of the Navy lifestyle. With this knowledge and realistic expectations, their journeys can be successful and rewarding.

Free babysitting is available. Please call 573-4504 or email COMPASSKingsBay@nsfamilyline.org to register.

Dolphin Scholarship Foundation Applications

The Dolphin Scholarship Foundation offers annual scholarships of \$3,250 to children/stepchildren of members or former members of the U.S. Navy Submarine Force. High school seniors and college undergraduates may apply. Applications are now available and will be accepted through March 15. Complete eligibility requirements and applications are available online at www.dolphinsscholarship.org or by contacting the Scholarship Administrator at 757-671-3200 ext. 111 or scholars@dolphinsscholarship.org.

GMH Military Housing Events

GMH would like to remind our residents that there is always something new and fun going on. Check out the events we have scheduled for the month of January. We will be introducing the GMH Walk Club. The Walk Club will meet every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. With the Walk Club you will have the opportunity to meet new people while you get into shape so come on out, you will be glad you did. Kids don't forget to drop by the office to pick up your entries for the Monthly Coloring Contest. This month's theme is Pooh & Friends; the winner will be announced Friday, Jan. 25. If you have any questions concerning these events drop by the office to pick up a copy of the calendar or call Tosha at 882-1211.

Help NMCRS Help Others

Now, more than ever, you can help at NMCRS. Death or serious illness in the immediate family, rent/mortgage, utilities, food, car repair ... you can make a difference in the life of a fellow servicemember. Call 573-3928 today.



With a salute, Rear Adm. David Kunkel gives command of the USCGC Sea Dragon to Lt.j.g. Kyra Van Echo.

Photos by MC2(AW/NAC) Will Tonacchio



Flags and pennants fly for the first time in the brisk wind aboard the USCGC Sea Dragon during its commissioning ceremony at NSB Kings Bay Jan. 14.

By MC2(AW/NAC) Will Tonacchio
Periscope staff

When people in the Kings Bay area hear the words Sea Dragon they might think of the submarine USS Sea Dragon, which traveled more than 200,000 miles during its 24-year career and submerged more than 1800 times. Decommissioned June 12, 1983, she left service with 13 deployments and four under ice operations.

"The Sea Dragon name has a historic lineage, and its transition is amazing," said Congressman Jack Kingston R-Ga., District One. "It goes from a naval submarine to a Coast Guard cutter that protects nuclear submarines."

Kings Bay honors MLK during ceremony

By MC1(SW) Joe Sabo
Periscope staff

NSB Kings Bay civilians and military personnel packed the house to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Observance at the Kings Bay Community Center Jan. 18. The crowd listened to speakers and music in reflection and remembrance of the slain civil rights activist. Every year Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which is celebrated on the third Monday of January, kicks off Black History Month.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. touched many lives," said Event Organizer Harry Gilliard of Trident Refit Facility (TRF). "It's only right that we continue to honor him and his legacy and try to fulfill the things he struggled to achieve in his lifetime." After his com-

ments, Mr. Gilliard introduced guest speaker Quentin T. McPhatter, deputy city manager of Kingsland.

McPhatter spoke of the importance of teaching today's youth of the struggles and triumphs that Dr. King lived through. "Dr. King always spoke of unity and service," said McPhatter. "Unity is defined as indivisibility and integration. Service is defined as cooperation and assistance. When Dr. King spoke, he educated, he made you feel."

In 1983, President Reagan signed a bill making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a national holiday, the first observance of which was in 1986. This year marks what would have been the 79th birthday of the civil rights leader, humanitarian and clergyman.

Babylon Anderson of Harmony Baptist Church of

Jacksonville provided musical entertainment through out the event, which seemed to have a positive impact on the crowd, making some sing along and others sway.

Dr. King's legacy is honored every year because his vision enabled and empowered all people.

People can see the results of his life's work today as we watch female and minority candidates running for President.

"Dr. King's work is why I am here," exclaimed Joel Garrido of TRF. "After De-segregation, I and other Filipinos were allowed to join the Navy as ratings other than ship's steward. I was the first Filipino store keeper on the USS Independence in 1973. I am grateful for the opportunities afforded me by the work of great leaders like Dr. King."

Coast Guard commissions Sea Dragon

Cutter designed to protect submarines coming into or out of Kings Bay

On Jan. 14, the legacy of the Sea Dragon came back to life with the commissioning of the United States Coast Guard Cutter Sea Dragon. The Sea Dragon measures in at 84 feet long and an official crew size of 15 members. It is part of the Marine Protector Class of boats constructed by Bollinger Ship Yards of Lockport. Assigned to the Marine Protection Unit at Kings Bay, the Sea Dragon will be a single-mission unit designed to protect submarines coming into or out of Kings Bay.

"Recently the Maritime Forces, Chief of Naval Operation, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps unveiled their maritime strategy," said James Howard, Strategic Systems Programs' Director of Plans and Programs Division. "In that strategy the Sea Dragon will play an important role with its ability to provide its unique capabilities to the very important mission of protecting critical Navy assets."

When submarines pull into or out of Kings Bay they are normally surfaced, during this time the submarine becomes

more vulnerable and more of a target. To help protect the submarines while transiting to and from Kings Bay, the Coast Guard has created a specially trained team that will have broad law enforcement authority to include the authority to establish, patrol, and enforce zones that exclude any other boating access. Overall the Sea Dragon will provide additional security measure for submarines in transit.

"Escorting ships is a mission the Coast Guard has done for the majority of its service, but now my crew and I get to go into uncharted territory by becoming a single mission asset," said Lt.j.g. Kyra Van Echo, commanding officer of the Sea Dragon. "Now that the commissioning is over, we'll jump right into training and preparing to be one piece of the MFPU security puzzle."

By 2010, there will be ten boats used by the MFPU to protect and secure the waterways while submarines transit to and from Kings Bay. The Transit Protection Program will consist of two cutters and 12 coastal patrol boats that range in size from 33 feet to 65 feet.



Photo by MC1(SW) Joe Sabo

Harry Gilliard of Trident Refit Facility (right) presents Quentin McPhatter with a glass plaque for participating as keynote speaker at this year's Dr. Martin Luther Kings Jr. National Holiday Observance Service held at the NSB Kings Bay Community Center Jan. 18. During his speech, McPhatter spoke of the importance of teaching today's youth the struggles and triumphs that Dr. King lived through.

Kings Bay, GMH partnership a success so far

By MCSN Dmitry Chepusov
Periscope staff

After almost a full year of preparation and planning, Commander, Navy Region Southeast successfully formed a partnership with General Military Housing

to revamp housing assets into affordable quality units managed by a private entity. This major change towards a public private venture raised many concerns by military residents, but GMH and the Kings Bay Housing Office seemed to have formed a good team. In fact, GMH has quickly and

effectively established itself as an integral part of the Kings Bay family.

"GMH has a proven track record at other installations where they have been awarded projects," said Housing Installation Program Manager Paul Petroski. "We have had nothing but positive results

from the entire company. The partnership with our office is very strong. The relationship between GMH and our staff is that of a team, like a fine-tuned machine very well put together."

One issue GMH had inherited was a backlog of maintenance issues resulting from

an inefficient system of unspecialized workers and a lack of proper funding. Being experienced professionals in the field and having the financial backing, the company quickly took charge of the prob-

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