

The background of the slide is a photograph of the USCGC Mohawk (WMEC 913) at sea. The ship is a white-hulled cutter with a prominent red stripe along the gunwale. It has a complex superstructure with various antennas and radar equipment. The ship is viewed from a slightly elevated, rear-quarter perspective, moving towards the right of the frame. The water is a deep blue-grey, and the sky is a pale, overcast blue.

AY12
Welcome Aboard
Guide

USCGC MOHAWK
WMEC 913

Command Welcome Aboard Letter

Congratulations on your orders to USCGC MOHAWK (WMEC 913) and welcome to Key West, FL! You are coming to a ship with a proud history and an equally proud crew that is committed to professionalism, leadership, and being good shipmates. Onboard MOHAWK, you will have an opportunity to engage in a variety of Coast Guard missions including counter-narcotics, search and rescue, illegal alien immigration, homeland security, and national defense. To accomplish these missions, we'll travel throughout the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean. Regardless of your position, I am confident you will find your tour on MOHAWK to be one of the most challenging and satisfying of your career.

The MOHAWK was named after the Algonquin tribe of Iroquoian Indians who lived in the Mohawk valley of New York. This tribe became famous for their camaraderie, determination in battle, and ingenuity for overcoming obstacles. The current MOHAWK holds its place in history as the third United States vessel to bear this name and we continue to emulate the strength and skill of those early warriors. As a MOHAWK crewmember, you will be one of the links connecting the past to the present as we execute Coast Guard missions wherever the nation or the international community needs us. We will be at the forefront of America's effort to provide maritime safety, security, and stewardship.

To help you become one of us, the proud "Mohicans", we have provided information on this website about the cutter, the city of Key West, various civilian and military support services, schools, housing, the local job market, and hurricane readiness. This is meant to help your family familiarize themselves with the area before they arrive in Key West (or the "Conch Republic" as the locals call it). I hope you find it useful but please let your sponsor know if you have any questions. Your welcoming message included your sponsor's email address and phone number and they are waiting to help you.

If you have any additional questions that aren't answered here, please contact our two great Ombudsmen, Mrs. Aubrey Sigarst and Mrs. Kristin Kane, at MOHAWKOmbudsman@yahoo.com. You can also become a friend of the MOHAWK on Facebook at [U.S. Coast Guard Cutter MOHAWK](#).

I look forward to working with you. You will be part of a proud tradition of MOHAWK sailors who have lived up to the ship's motto: "Lifesaver – Enforcer – Defender". Welcome aboard!

Commander Mark J. Fedor
Commanding Officer

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Section 1

USCGC MOHAWK

Facts

United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) MOHAWK was commissioned on March 20th, 1991 at 270 feet long and 38 feet wide. CGC MOHAWK was the last 270 foot medium endurance cutter built with a hull number 913. A compliment of 14 officers and 86 enlisted are stationed on the warship. There are five berthing areas and three lounges for the crew. CGC MOHAWK's primary missions are drug interdiction, migrant interdiction, and search and rescue.



USCGC MOHAWK (WMEC 913) Current Events from 2011

<http://www.d7.uscgnews.com/go/doc/586/1113563/>

Synopsis Below:

On the May 2011 Patrol, CGC MOHAWK crew safely repatriated 198 migrants. The crew rescued migrants from unseaworthy vessels and provided food, water, shelter and basic medical care. In addition to migration interdiction operations, Mohawk's crew also partnered with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force. A boarding team from Mohawk along with a Bahamian ship rider discovered more than 5,000 pounds of lobster in the hold of a Dominican fishing vessel that had been observed fishing illegally in Bahamian waters.

<http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=b37d805c-0ead-4ba9-a3a1-a3ecdb2a5c5c>

Synopsis Below:

An estimated 6,700 kilograms of cocaine was detained from a submerged drug smuggling vessel in the Caribbean Sea. The vessel, a self-propelled semi-submersible vessel, or SPSS, was interdicted by the USCGC MOHAWK on September 30, 2011, in international waters of the Caribbean some 110 miles off of the coast of Honduras. The vessel sank during the interdiction and USCGC MOHAWK detained the four crew members, who were later transferred to Tampa for prosecution.

<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2011/10/third-times-a-charm-7-tons-of-cocaine-seized/>

Synopsis Below:

In just 13 days Mohawk interdicted two drug subs, keeping seven tons of cocaine, \$180 million wholesale, off the streets of our nation. USCGC MOHAWK interdicted the self-propelled semi-submersible vessel while on a routine counternarcotics patrol in the Western Caribbean Sea. Used regularly to transport illegal narcotics in the Eastern Pacific, this is only the third Coast Guard interdiction of an SPSS in the Caribbean.

Section 2

Sector Key West

Mission

To protect the public, the environment, and U.S. interests in support of homeland security.

History

Sector Key West can trace its history back to 1824 when a 63-foot schooner named Florida sailed into the Port of Key West, establishing a permanent station in Key West. Working for the Key West Collector of Customs, the Florida and its crew collected maritime tariffs, chased pirates, prevented smuggling and rescued those in distress at sea. Today, the Sector Commander performs the duties of Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Coordinator (SMC), Captain of the Port (COTP), Federal Maritime Security Coordinator (FMSC), Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), and Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection (OCMI). Sector Key West has a unique area of responsibility; 55,000 square miles that borders the territorial seas of Cuba and the Bahamas

Base Information

Address

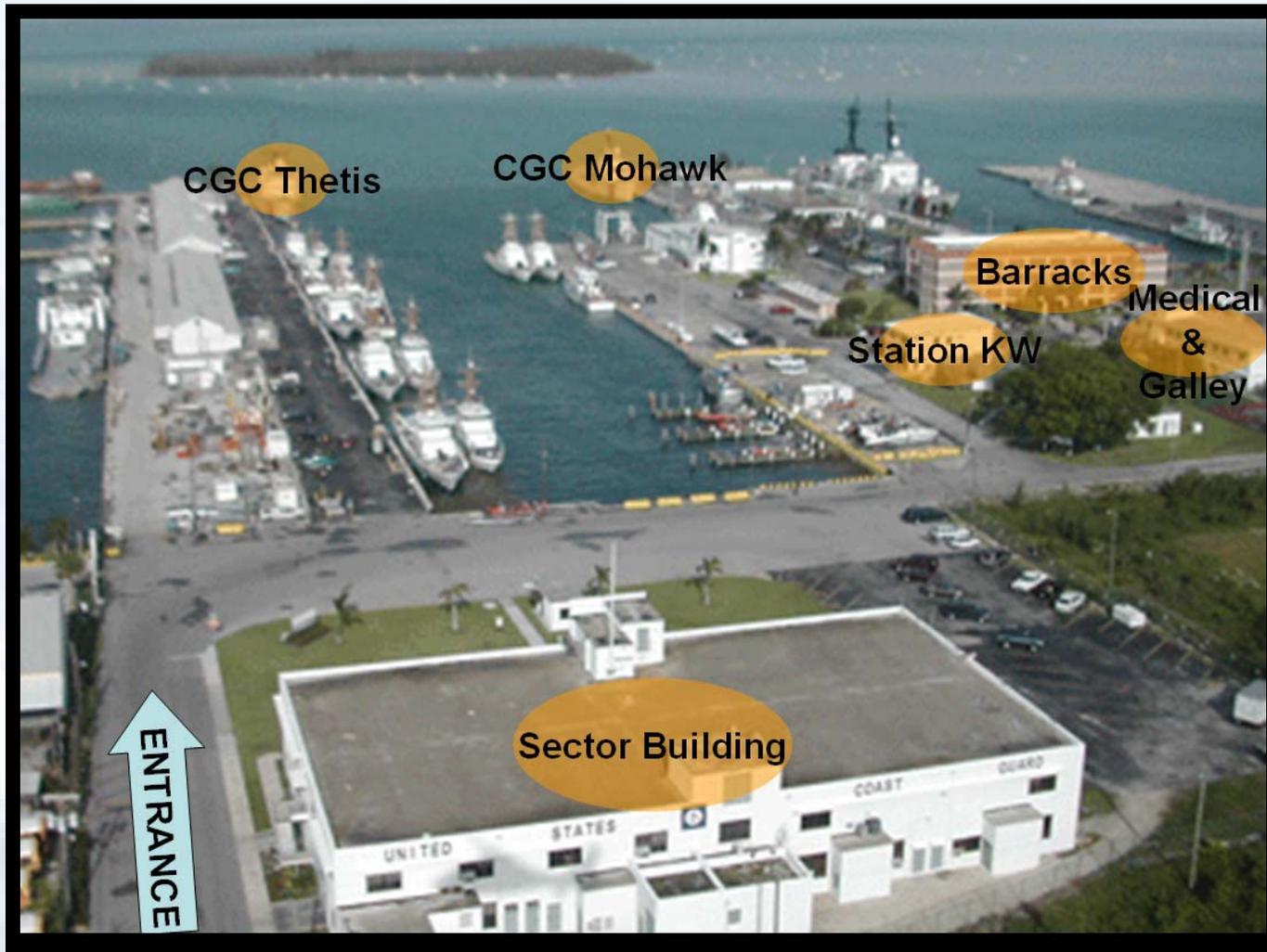
USCG Sector Key West
100 Trumbo Road
Key West FL, 33040

Phone Number

305-292-8700

Sector Facilities

The sector building is the main location for sector operations. On the first floor, you have shipping and receiving, training rooms, and the workout room. On the second floor, you have the administrative office, marine inspections office, and personal offices. Reference below for further guidance.



Section 3

Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West, Sigsbee, Boca Chica

Base Facilities and Information

Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West (Trumbo Point)

USCG Sector Key West is located on the eastern end of the NAS Key West base. There is a walking gate to enter the USCG base directly, but the NAS Key West base entrance is most heavily used. There is military family lodging for Active Duty, Reserves, and Retirees. The base also has an outdoor pool for military personnel and families. NAS Key West has a Fly Navy Hotel for military guests as well as MWR Trailers and town-houses for rent. Recreational Vehicle (RV) lot rentals can be made with the Sigsbee Information, Tickets, and Tours (ITT) Office.

Naval Station Sigsbee

Naval Station Sigsbee offers military lodging for all married military families and single members stationed in Key West. Balfour Beatty Housing (military housing) has two locations: one location on Sigsbee and the other is Peary Court. On Sigsbee there is a military exchange and commissary, Navy Lodge, small workout facility, ITT (also known as MWR) Office, Child Development Center (CDC) day care facility, lounge, gas station, RV park, and boat rental facility.

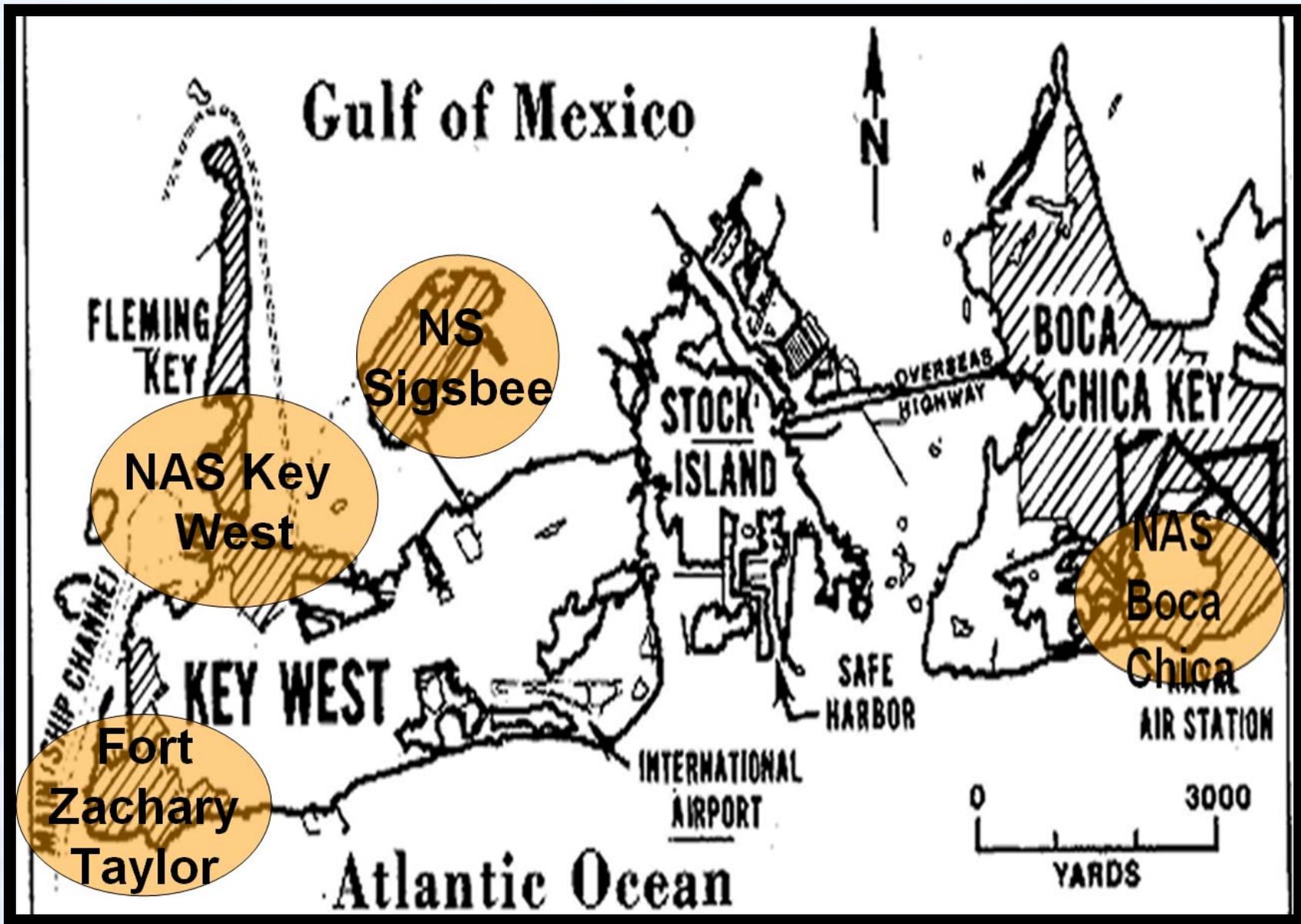
Visit the following link for gate policy information: http://sigsbee.org/policy/gate_policy.pdf

Visit the following link for military housing information: <http://www.naskeywesthomes.com/defaultFamily.aspx?cid=41>

Visit the following link for military housing information: http://spacea.net/images/keywest_trumborentals.pdf

Naval Air Station (NAS) Boca Chica

To attain gate passes for visiting friends and family, members must drive to the front office of Boca Chica just outside the gate. NAS Boca Chica has a newly renovated fitness center where members may sign up for free personal trainers or classes. More fitness information may be found at the NAS Boca Chica fitness center and Sigsbee ITT office. There is a marina with boat docks, a beach, and a grill area. There is a bowling alley and post office on base as well. Saint Leo University bases out of NAS Boca Chica (further information found in section 5).



Gulf of Mexico

FLEMING
KEY

NS
Sigsbee

NAS Key
West

STOCK
ISLAND

OVERSEAS
HIGHWAY

BOCA
CHICA KEY

SHIP CHANNEL

KEY WEST

Fort
Zachary
Taylor

INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

SAFE
HARBOR

NAS
Boca
Chica
AIR STATION

Atlantic Ocean

0 3000
YARDS



Section 4

Key West Florida

History

From a historian's point of view, Key West has an interesting beginning. To be considered is the island's ownership as private property, ownership by the Territory of Florida, ownership by the U.S. Government and finally as a local incorporated entity. John W. Simonton purchased the island on January 19, 1822 from Juan Pablo Salas, who had acquired it as a Spanish Land Grant in 1815 from Don Juan de Estrata, but as a new U.S. Territory the original Don Juan de Estrata Land Grant to Salas had to be confirmed - no U.S. deed could be granted. In reality it went round and round with claims and counter claims. John Simonton soon took on three northern partners: John Whitehead, John Fleming and Pardon Greene. On the scene arrived General John Geddes of Charleston who had also purchased Key West. It was discovered that Don Juan Salas had sold it twice, first to John Strong, a lawyer no less, and then to Simonton. As if this were not bad enough, Strong had also previously sold Key West to George Murray before John Geddes. In summary, Salas sold it twice, Strong and Simonton, and Strong twice, Murray and Geddes. Simonton had already divided it up amongst three others: Whitehead, Fleming and Greene. Greene made several strategic moves by buying up claims in his name. On May 23, 1828, Congress acknowledged the land grant of Salas was confirmed. Simonton as the legal owner. We might surmise that this was Florida's first land scam. Amazing as it legally appears, the Territory of Florida with an Act of Incorporation incorporated the City of Key West on January 8, 1828. I have never fully researched this, but my understanding with Monroe County's Territorial Representative Richard Fitzpatrick changed its name to the Town of Key West on November 28, 1828. (<http://www.keyshistory.org/keywest.html>)

Entertainment

Key West is a great location for beach loungers. Although the water is not coral and seaweed free like most United States beaches (Key West is a marine sanctuary), the water is always warm and the beach is always a great time. Key West's Duval Street is where the night life is. You are also two hours from the mainland and three hours from Miami, Florida. There is just too much to do on this small island to mention, so here is a great link to visit: <http://www.keywest.com/bars.html>

Basics for New Military Reports

Balfour Beatty Navy Housing is military housing. Normally people will forfeit their entire amount of BAH. Single members can also live in housing, but you'll be paying fair market value for rent. If you intend to live outside of military housing, Craigslist is the place to start identifying what you are looking for in the lower keys area. Hotels are everywhere if you are looking to find lodging during your house hunting days. The Fly Navy on NAS KW and the Navy Lodge on Sigsbee are highly recommended as well. ITT (MWR) Rentals located on NAS Key West offer full size condo's with a kitchen, three bedrooms, and a full bath. They accept pets.

Website: <http://www.fl-keys.com/pdf/maps/KeyWestOldLg.pdf> ;



Section 5 Education

Elementary Schools

There are quite a few elementary schools in Key West area. Please visit the below link to attain further information:

<http://elementaryschools.org/florida/key-west.html>

Sigsbee Charter School is located on Naval Station Sigsbee and is frequently the school of choice by military families. Visit the following link for more information:

<http://www.sigsbee.org/>

High School

Key West High School is the main high school in the lower keys. Visit the following link for more information:

<http://high-schools.com/schools/11372/key-west-high-school.html>

College

Florida Keys Community College and Saint Leo University (Boca Chica Naval Base) are the two lower keys colleges. Saint Leo University bases out of NAS Boca Chica and offers traditional and online courses for service members, civilians, and retirees. Saint Leo University accepts the Post 9-11 Montgomery GI Bill. Tuition Assistance is accepted at both facilities as payment for classes as well. Visit the following links for more information:

<http://www.saintleo.edu/Admissions/Continuing-Education-Locations/Florida/Key-West-Center>

<http://www.fkcc.edu/>

Section 6

Pay and Allowances

Pay and Personnel Center

The United States Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center (PPC) outlines coast guardsmen pay and allowance rates. Rates for underway sea pay, basic allowance housing (BAH), danger pay, basic allowance for subsistence (BAS or food), and much more can be found on the website. It is always a good idea to verify your first paychecks at your new unit are correct. If the military is overpaying you, they will audit you later. Visit the Pay and Personnel Center for more information:

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/rates.asp#bah>



Section 7

Medical Care

Key West has a fully capable medical staff which works with the Key West Naval Branch Medical Clinic. The Key West Naval Branch Medical Clinic has an optometry clinic, dental clinic, standard medical care clinic, and pharmacy. The Navy Medical Clinic is located on Key West and has an active Tricare department. They can treat Active Duty members, dependents, retirees, and veterans.

Recently the Coast Guard's medical clinic has temporarily relocated to the Naval Branch Medical Clinic. The Coast Guard Clinic is able to treat active duty Coast Guard members. The phone number is 305-293-2390.

All newly reported members must immediately go to the Tricare Department and switch to Tricare South to be seen at both the Coast Guard Clinic and Naval Branch Clinic. The Key West Naval Branch Medical Clinic phone number is 305-293-4872.

http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhjax/BHCS/Key_West/Pages/default.aspx

There is one main hospital for the Lower Keys area and that is Lower Keys Medical Center. Emergency room care is available at Lower Keys Medical Center.

<http://www.lkmc.com/default.aspx>

Section 8

Hurricane Info

When a hurricane threatens the keys, active duty military prepare for heavy weather according to the Key West Hurricane Plan. Everyone else evacuates to Orlando (mandatory for active duty, highly encouraged for dependents)

The communication for hurricane season is passed through the One Call Phone tree system. YN1 Michelle Holzer will update the One Call Data Base with the active duty member's primary phone number and any other additional phone numbers members would like to add (example: spouse's phone number and house number). Contact YN1 Michelle Holzer at the following email for more information: michelle.g.holzer@uscg.mil

In the event that Key West faces a mandatory evacuation, CGC Mohawk will get underway and military families will travel to Orlando, FL. Each year Sector Key West updates the hurricane policy and it is distributed to all active duty members stationed in Key West, FL.

Listed on the next few pages are several important hurricane preparedness suggestions / guidelines to assist you throughout hurricane season.

Hurricane Preparation

Store valuable items (jewelry, tools, antiques, etc.)
Bring outdoor items inside
Clean out your refrigerator. Throw away anything that will spoil.
Elevate your belongings
Fill garbage cans and bathtubs with water for flushing, bathing, etc.
Fill plastic bottles with water to freeze
Secure homes by closing windows, doors, close shutters, locate main turn off for electricity, water and gas.

Insurance

****Confirm with Renters insurance company you are covered for both flood and wind****

Renters insurance covers your personal property, not your landlords.
Ask your insurer about replacement value
Depreciated Value (Balfour Beatty / Navy Insurance)
If you are not renting, do you have wind and flood insurance? Do you have depreciated value or full replacement value insurance?

Evacuation Preparations

Two week supply of medications
Have your vehicle serviced and full of gas
Get some cash together, at least \$250.00
Make an inventory of your property
Insurance
Store important papers in a safe place

Important Papers

Drivers license
Social Security card
Proof of residence (deed or lease agreement)
Insurance Policies
Birth certificates
Marriage certificates
Stocks, bonds, negotiable certificates
Wills, deeds, copy of recent tax records
Immunization records
Power of Attorney

Personal property inventory

Serial numbers
Dates purchased
Receipts
Videos
Pictures

Special Needs / Medical

If you have a special needs situation, contact HSC McGovern at Sector Key West.

Females that are pregnant in third trimester or considered high risk are required to register with the Sector Key West HSC and the Navy Clinic.

A large white ship with a prominent red funnel is sailing on a blue ocean. The ship is viewed from a distance, and its reflection is visible in the water. The text "Welcome Aboard Shipmate!!" is overlaid in a black, cursive font in the center of the image.

*Welcome Aboard
Shipmate!!*

USCGC MOHAWK

Personal Mailing Address:

CGC MOHAWK
100 Trumbo Road
Key West, FL 33040

Commercial Phone: 305-292-8750

Fax: 305-292-8729

Unit YN: YN1 Michelle Holzer: michelle.g.holzer@uscg.mil

Unit HS: HS1 Joanne Kurek: joanne.c.kurek@uscg.mil

Unit Website:

<http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cutter/cgcMOHAWK/>

We have a facebook page, so just search for CGC MOHAWK!

Unit Missions:

Counter-Narcotics, Alien Migrant Interdiction, Homeland Defense, Search and Rescue

Qualifications

Inport and Underway Watch Rotations

- **Inport:**
 - Upon reporting into CGC MOHAWK you will be standing a 1-3 rotation until you are fully qualified
- **Underway Watch Rotations:**
 - Typically you'll be standing a 2 watches a day until qualified
- **Damage Control Performance Qualification Standards (DCPQS)**
 - All personnel onboard will have a period 45 days to complete basic DCPQS and a period of 90 days to complete advance DCPQS

Typical SN/FN Duties:

- **For newly reported SA/SN your duties will be:**
 - **Inport: Qualify as a security watch stander**
 - **Underway: Qualify as a helm/lookout**
- **For newly reported FA/FN**
 - **Inport: Qualify as a security watch stander**
 - **Underway: Qualify as an underway security watchstander**

Reporting In

- If the cutter is underway check into building 48 at Sector Key West, FL
- If the cutter is inport and after the work day
 - Call the quarterdeck at: 305-292-8750
- Uniform to report in:
 - Tropical Blue Long with combination cover
- Uniform during normal working hours
 - Operational Dress Uniform (ODU)

Ratings Present At Unit

- **Operations Department:**
 - IT, GM, ET, BM, OS, ME
- **Engineering Department:**
 - MK, EM, DC (FN)
- **Deck Department:**
 - BM (SN)
- **Support Department:**
 - YN, HS, SK, FS

<http://www.gocoastguard.com/find-your-career/enlisted-opportunities/enlisted-ratings-descriptions>

Sponsor

- If your sponsor or running mate is not available contact:
 1. YN1 Michelle Holzer
 2. Division Chief
 3. Officer Of the Day (OOD)

Temporary Housing

- There are several hotels in Key West to stay at when you arrive
- MWR has vacation rentals that accept pets:
 - http://spacea.net/images/keywest_trumborentals.pdf

Housing for Married Members

- There is military housing available on Sigsbee
 - <http://www.naskeywesthomes.com/defaultFamily.aspx?cid=41>
- The next best place to look for housing is Craigslist – Lower Keys
- Check BAH rates:
 - <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/rates.asp#bah>

Housing for Single E-4 and above

- Single E4 and above members are not required to live onboard MOHAWK
- Check BAH rates below:
 - <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/rates.asp#bah>
- There is an option to live on Sigsbee or Peary Court as a single member:
 - <http://www.naskeywesthomes.com/defaultFamily.aspx?cid=41>

Housing for single E-2/E-3

- Upon reporting in you will be living onboard until fully qualified
- After you are fully qualified, you will be able to request a barracks room through the chain of command

Medical Care Key West

- Naval Air Station Medical Clinic
 - http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhjax/BHCS/Key_West/Pages/default.aspx
- Coast Guard Medical Clinic is also located at the Naval Branch Medical Clinic
- Hospital: Lower Keys Medical Center
 - <http://www.lkmc.com/default.aspx>

Local Banks in Key West

- Our first recommendation would be USAA
 - If you have a small town bank, there is a possibility that ATM card will not work in foreign countries (fraud protection reasons)
- In Key West:
 - Lower Keys Federal Credit Union
 - Bank of America
 - Wachovia
 - TIB Bank of the Keys

Shopping Centers

- Locally:
 - Commissary (Sigsbee)
 - Exchange (Sigsbee)
 - Sears
 - Kmart
 - Home Depot
 - Various Grocery Stores
 - Local shopping stores
- Nearest Mall:
 - Dolphin Mall located in Miami, FL aprox 200 miles

Education

- Elementary Schools
 - <http://elementaryschools.org/florida/key-west.html>
 - Sigsbee Charter School:
 - <http://www.sigsbee.org/>
- High School
 - <http://high-schools.com/schools/11372/key-west-high-school.html>
- College
 - <http://www.saintleo.edu/Admissions/Continuing-Education-Locations/Florida/Key-West-Center>
 - <http://www.fkcc.edu/>