

Ombudsman Newsletter

USCGC Confidence
9235 Grouper Road
Cape Canaveral, FL. 32920

<http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcConfidence/default.asp>

January/February 2014



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** A Note from your Ombudsman
- 2** Did you know....
- 3** January/February area events/activities

A Note From Your Ombudsman

Hello CONFIDENCE families,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyed some quality time with your loved ones. I know everyone was grateful that the CONFIDENCE was home for Christmas this year.

CONFIDENCE families are now faced with another deployment. For some of you, this may be your first full deployment, and for others, you may have endured multiple deployments. My husband has been stationed on the CONFIDENCE for 2 ½ years, and before the CONFIDENCE, we were stationed on 2 other boats. Over the many deployments, I have learned that keeping busy is the key. This is why I create these newsletters. It is an opportunity for me to list various activities/events going on in the area. If you hear about an activity/event that is not on my list, please email me so that I can send out the information to our families.

Deployments can offer a variety of different challenges. In some ways, deployments seem to get easier, and in other ways, it seems more difficult. It is always difficult to have your loved one gone, but over time I think we learn how to handle deployments better. However, everyone handles them differently. I want you to know that you are not alone. We are all in this together! If, at any time, you feel that you need a listening ear or that you have some questions, please call or email me. I am here to support you!

Brandi Ruffner
419-960-9180
confidenceombudsman@gmail.com

CG SUPRT

The CG SUPRT Program provides confidential professional counseling, education, and referral services to you and your family members. Help is available for issues such as marital and family problems, drug abuse, depression and anxiety, work/life balance, work-related concerns and career issues. Confidential help is available 24 hours a day.

www.cgsuprt.com

CG SUPRT offers free tax return filing

The Internal Revenue Service 2014 tax season begins on Jan. 31. CG SUPRT offers free 2013 tax return filing services from H&R Block. This free offer is only valid if you access H&R Block through the link on the CGSUPRT website.

Eligibility The following individuals are eligible for the free tax filing service: • All U.S. Coast Guard active-duty and members of the selected reserve. • Spouses and dependent children of the members noted above, and who are authorized in DEERS. • All civilian employees of the U.S. Coast Guard (non-contractors). • Household members and dependents of U.S. Coast Guard civilian employees.

Important documents you may need

- Social security numbers and dates of birth for you and your spouse**
- All 1098 forms (1098-E school loan interest, 1098 home mortgage interest)**
- W-2 forms from your employees for you and your spouse**
- Miscellaneous income**
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers if you're getting a refund**

Reminders • Be sure to access H&R Block Tax Services through the link provided on the CG SUPRT website at www.cgsuprt.com • Remember to wait until you receive all of your W-2s and other tax documents (1098, etc.) before you file your returns. Otherwise, you may have to amend your returns. • For first time users, make sure you have your Adjusted Gross Income. To get started, you will be prompted to create an account with a pin number. • For returning users, make sure you have your Adjusted Gross Income and Electronic Filing Pin from your 2012 tax return before you start your return. You can reset your pin on the IRS website. • Remember that electronic filing is subject to the IRS calendar. Though you may be able to complete your return, it will not be submitted to the IRS until the IRS begins accepting e-file returns on January 31st. • If you are prompted for payment, please call CG SUPRT for assistance. • CG SUPRT's H&R Block Tax Service allows for 1 Federal and up to 3 state returns per user.

Questions? If you have questions about this tax service or about your own tax returns, please call 1-855- CGSUPRT (247-8778) and ask to speak with a CG SUPRT tax consultant. Trained tax consultants are available by appointment, Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., EST. Remember services are free and confidential within the limits of the law!

Patrick AFB:

- February 14th – Free dinner at Riverside Dining Facility between 5 – 6:30/ No need to RSVP
- January 28th & February 25th at 6 pm (Shark Center)– Deployment Dinner. Please RSVP to MSgt Clifton Matthews at 321-494-5676.
- Check out the following website to find out even more benefits available to us on PAFB:
<http://www.gopatrickfl.com/>

The Dragon Festival

www.thedragonfestival.com

Taking place at Wickham Pavilion January 25th and 26th, 2014, the festival is to benefit the Save Dragon Point Foundation and will feature performers of all kinds, Highland games, Celtic music, vendors, petting zoo, pony rides, other ren-fair favorite games, and food vendors.

The Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival

www.spacecoastbirdingwildlifefestival.org

January 22 – 27th in Titusville

Meet Curious George!

Barnes and Noble/January 25th/11 am

Join us in the children's department every Saturday morning for Storytime and fun activities, highlighting new books and seasonal themes. This week is a special storytime with a visit from Curious George.

Guided nature hike at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

All ages welcome. A 45 minute interpretive hike on the trails of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (444 Columbia Blvd. Titusville). Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Groups of 5 or more please register at 264-5185. The event is free and it is held on every Saturday from 10 – 10:45.

The Food Truck Bazaar: A Moving Culinary Event

www.thedailycity.com/2011/05/thedailycitycom-food-truck-bazaar.html

Wickham Park – January 24th and February 28th

Titusville (3550 S Washing Ave) – January 27th and February 24th

5-8 pm both locations

Melbourne Music Marathon Weekend

www.themelbournemarathon.com

February 1st and 2nd

Live Glass Blowing and Local Artist Gallery

February 8th – Bohemian Lair (226 King Street Cocoa) from 12 – 8 pm

Movie in the Park

The city of Cocoa presents movies in the park at Riverfront Park. February 14th's movie is "Oz Great and Powerful" starting at 7 pm. Admission is free!

Cocoa Village Mardi Gras

February 22nd – This year's event will be a true New Orleans style Mardi Gras with a variety of Zydeco, Jazz, and Blues style entertainment, the CF News 13 parade of floats where spectators can catch hundreds of beads from 30 floats. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 at the gate. For more info, contact Leisure Services at 321-639-3500.