

The DAUNTLESS DIGEST

Sin Miedo ~ Without Fear

USCG District 8 Blog:

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/site/425/>



President Obama signs S.475

Today I have signed into law S. 475, the "Military Spouses Residency Relief Act". This Act, among other things, would provide that when a service member leaves his or her home State in accord with military or naval orders, the service member's spouse may retain residency in his or her home State for voting and tax purposes, after relocating from that State to accompany the service member.

When the military orders service members to move, spouses who move with them often have to pay taxes in a new State or locality and lose the right to vote in the place considered to be home. This legislation will alleviate these and other burdens on our military families. As the Congress has recognized, and as the legislative history reflects, this legislation is an important means of maintaining the morale and readiness of our Armed Forces and significantly enhances the ability of our military to effectively recruit and retain these highly valued service personnel.

Farewell and Wisdom from Sabrina Scott

When you think you can't, you can because you find a way. When you think it can't get worse, it does. You will find the strength to get through the rough patches. I encourage you to get to know the other spouses and take advantage of everything this area has to offer. I'd be lying if I said it's been an awesome three years, but the time flies by if you live day by day and don't count patrols.



Christmas with a Coastie Twist from Kat Haberlack

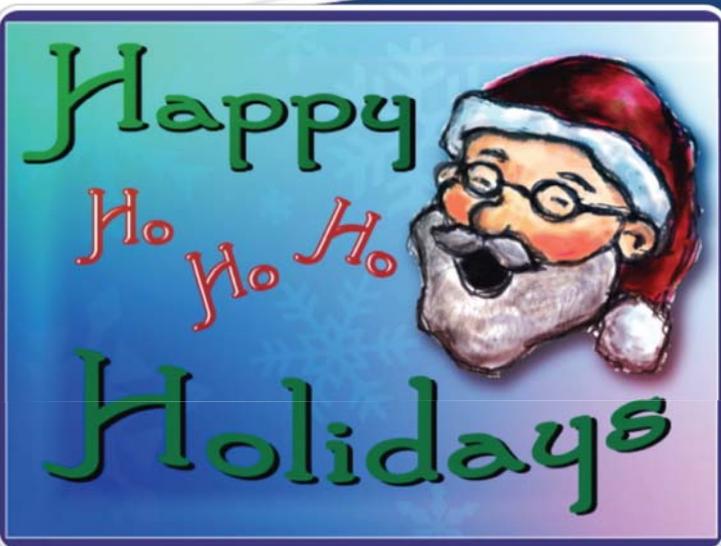
*Twas the night before Christmas and all through each state,
Coast Guard families were starting to celebrate.
Just then from the white House came an urgent call,
A crisis had arisen that would affect one and all.
In fact the U.S. State Department was frantic,
For Santa Claus had just landed in the Atlantic!
It Was foggy as ever; Rudolph had made a blunder.
Santa, sleigh, and eight reindeer were going under.
Though the stockings were hung by the chimneys with care.
Poor Santa gurgled, "I'll never get there."
When what to his wondering eye should appear;
But some coast guard cutters with their rescue gear!
The officers and crew were so lively and quick;
Sure was a lucky break for good ole Saint Nick.
With a nod from the captain. they went right to work.
Rudolph was embarrassed, he felt like a jerk.
Poor Santa was soggy, but as anyone could see,
He was very grateful to the U.S.C.G!
And we heard him exclaim as they towed him from sight,
"If it weren't for age and weight, I'd enlist Tonight!"*



New DAUNTLESS Ombudsman Website

We now have a website set up with information for spouses and incoming families to the DAUNTLESS. The site is www.DauntlessOmbudsman.com. The site has several links you may find helpful as well as a monthly calendar with our upcoming events. You are also able to access the Dauntless Digest from the site. We hope to add a photo gallery soon with pictures from past and upcoming events. Hope all of you take the time to check it out and any comments or suggestions are welcome!

Natalie Lyons, Co-Ombudsman



Art by Kat Haberlack

Cookie Exchange/Living Holiday Card – DEC 11

Last year, DAUNTLESS families started an annual Cookie Exchange and Living Holiday Card party. It continues this year on Dec 11 at 6PM at Carey Vorholt's home. Favorite cookie recipes are chosen and everyone brings 1-2 dozen to share during the evening and another 1-2 dozen to be taken home by attendees. Recipes will be printed on cards for collection. The Living Holiday Card will be presented by Pearland school band members who treat the audience to a half hour of beautiful holiday music.

Being a Coastie Kid

Being a Coastie Kid was a great way to grow up. My childhood was unique and exciting. It has probably shaped the person I am today in more ways than I am aware. I am incredibly flexible and how could I not be having become so accustomed to moving every three or so years? Adjusting to new neighborhoods, new schools and new friends was probably not the easiest thing to do but it was all I knew and I wouldn't trade growing up as a Coastie Kid for any other childhood. No place or thing is unattainable to me and this belief is surely a result of my childhood as a Coastie Kid. I am adventurous and know that nothing is set in stone. Tomorrow is a new day and there are

always chances for change and improvement. One day I was living in cold and gloomy Maryland and the next I was living in the Hawaiian islands! Having a parent serve as a member of the military is a proud and honorable claim and the childhood I was provided was nothing but the

best. Times aren't always picture perfect at home with a parent deployed but this lifestyle has given me independence and leadership skills. As a Coastie Kid you too are a member of the military and because of this can rest assure that you'll always be ready for the road ahead. ~ Brittney Boudwin, 23, living in Savannah, GA and working as an aviation designer



I think it is exciting to be a Coastie kid, but kind of nervous because the sea is deep. I like going around my dad's boat and seeing where he sleeps and his flat screen TV.

~ Jessi Vorholt

I get to meet new friends from all over and I know when my dad is gone, he is keeping me safe. ~ Megan Andrews

I like to see my Dad's boat. Also, my Dad gets to go to other states and bring back props from the states for us to experience their culture. ~

Claudia Garza

I love living in different places.

~ Kate Becerra

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I want to be Coast Guard when I grow up. It has a lot of jobs to do. You have to listen to the world. ~ Sofia Garza

Being a coastie kid means a lot of things. You have to learn many things, and eventually become the dictionary definition of a brat. The definition of a brat is a spoiled child or a child of military. Pretty much all coastie kids fit it. We are spoiled in many ways and yet we are deprived of experiences that we could have.

Some of the ways we are spoiled is small. There are all the different military discounts, cool experiences, and the uso's in the airport. Although the most important way we are spoiled is that we can be proud to say we have a parent in the military. Even if they are gone a lot, we know they love us and love their job.

No matter how long my dad is gone or how messed up his boat is, I always take pride in telling my friends that my dad is in the Coast Guard. I am always glad that he made the choice to join or my life would be so different from what it is. There are so many people and things I would have never met or done, and everyday I am thankful for and proud of being a coastie kid. ~ Emma Vorholt, 11, junior high student

I get to go on all the cool boats that my dad is on. ~ Jimmy Andrews

I love seeing Dad's ship come in and seeing the different ships he gets to be on. ~ Kyle Becerra



Christmas Gifts to Children's Hospital Request from Amy

I would like to get a group together to go give small gifts to one of the NICU's in the area or Texas Children's Hospital. As some of you know my son was born at 2 lbs. 4 oz. and spent 6 weeks in the NICU, he was born 2 days before Christmas and he received some wonderful small gifts that we stuck in his isolette (incubator) and used to decorate the area around it. It was very heart warming to receive them and they made the hospital feel more festive and homey. Some ideas for gifts would be small stockings (filled with goodies for the parents or for the child if old enough), small stuffed animals, even hand made decorations for hospital rooms or something you could tape onto the wall or isolette, anything that says Baby's 1st Christmas. Those are just some ideas. If you would be interested in either donating some gifts or helping me hand them out please e-mail me back at blondekisses553@hotmail.com

Thanks,
Amy Long



Message from DAUNTLESS CO

Hello DAUNTLESS Family and Happy Holidays,

As Carey was waiting for my input for the DAUNTLESS newsletter, she emailed me a few times, right in the middle of a number of things going on here on the ship. After I couldn't ignore her any longer (persistence is a valuable trait in an Ombudsman!) I emailed back and said I was busy but I'd try...and she said she understood and would fill the space with something else. No pressure...

I had some time to think about the shame of my failure to get a few words written for the newsletter, and decided I needed to reprioritize my worklist to get this done. All of the work we are doing is important, and all the sacrifices our families are making are important, and sometimes we have to decide what important things are not getting done and what can wait until later. Sometimes we get it wrong...for me, communicating with you about the inspiring work your spouses are doing is too darn important to blow off. So my thanks to Carey for understanding, and my thanks to you all for keeping things at home running smoothly until we can get there.

I may have said it before, but the work we do is important. There is a temptation to downplay the importance of Food Service Specialists keeping detailed books of our groceries, to minimize the diligence and attention to detail for our engineers working on the ship's machinery, or our deckforce chasing rust, painting the ship and caring for our protective equipment. As we have learned over the past few weeks, every task matters. Every purchase order the SK's work and every piece of recognition or correspondence that YN1 tracks matters. H1N1 has given us all an opportunity to appreciate the efforts of our HS1. Each individual task of itself probably doesn't spell success or failure, but each small task done right is important because it reinforces our pride in doing our best...a big deal when the lives of our friends and neighbors are on the line for, say, Search and Rescue, or stopping drugs from entering the country. If we were to start taking shortcuts, or blowing things off that aren't really big ... maybe no one would ever know, and maybe the task not done or not done well would not mean we failed. Or maybe the Ombudsman would let us off the hook, and we'd think no more of it. But there ends up being such a blurred line between the small, unimportant items and the really big, significant items, that I feel comforted that your husbands don't take the shortcuts, they focus their best efforts on even the smallest tasks, and because of that, we have a really great ship with a really great reputation for getting the job done, and done right. I can't say if that extends to work around the house...I know Valerie could probably give you some feedback on my attention to detail when it comes to laundry or taking the trash out...but at work, your husbands are all superstars.

We are going through some work that is not particularly fun or glamorous. And it is not all going perfectly. But the crew's morale is incredibly high and getting higher....we're working circles around the rest of the Coast Guard here in Portsmouth, and we're getting better and better at our jobs everyday. We realize that our situation here is not one we would pick for ourselves, but since we're all in it together, we've all agreed to at least make the best of it and enjoy our company. That is, until we can get back in your collective company! I feel blessed to have such a great group of people to work with, and will continue to strive to earnestly remain worthy of the hard work and sacrifices made in the name of DAUNTLESS and the Coast Guard - even if it means working a little harder to submit an article to the Ombudsman Newsletter. Thanks again for all your patience and support - and I hope you enjoy this month's edition. See you soon.

DAUNTLESS Families

Bryan (BM1) and Melissa Hirn

Bryan and Melissa met during her last year of nursing school and they were married in December of 2005. They have spent the last 5 out of Bryan's 8, career years with the Coast Guard on the Texas Coast. During those years they had the opportunity to travel to many states along our nation's coast lines. They recently purchased a home with acreage near Dallas, Texas, which has been exciting and a challenge especially during a deployment. Melissa is currently a grad student and works as an emergency room nurse. They have three Boston Terriers; Boomer, Tucker and Toby and hope to expand the family soon with a little one. The Hirn family enjoys college football (a house divided of Oklahoma University and University of Texas fans), traveling, and outdoor activities.



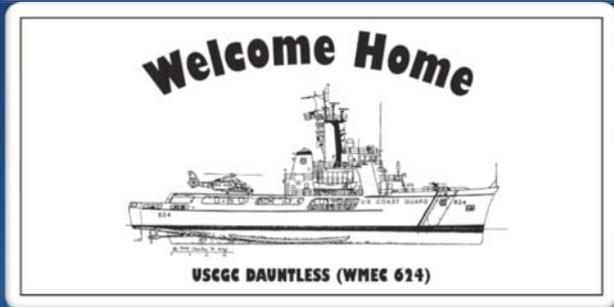
Anthony (MK2) and Jessica Scott

Anthony and Jessica met in 2000 in Tampa, Florida and were happily married 5 years after that. They were blessed that Anthony's first duty station in St. Pete, FL was close to where Jessica attended college. Shortly after becoming newlyweds, the Scotts made their first transfer together to Portsmouth, Virginia where they lived for 4 years. Virginia provided a great place for them to enjoy many weekend trips to places like New York City and Washington D.C. This past summer the Scotts made way for their second move together here to Texas, where they feel right at home with the warm weather and friendly people. The Scotts love taking weekend getaways, visiting family and friends, and just hanging out together. Jessica also enjoys her job working full time as a pediatric speech language pathologist.

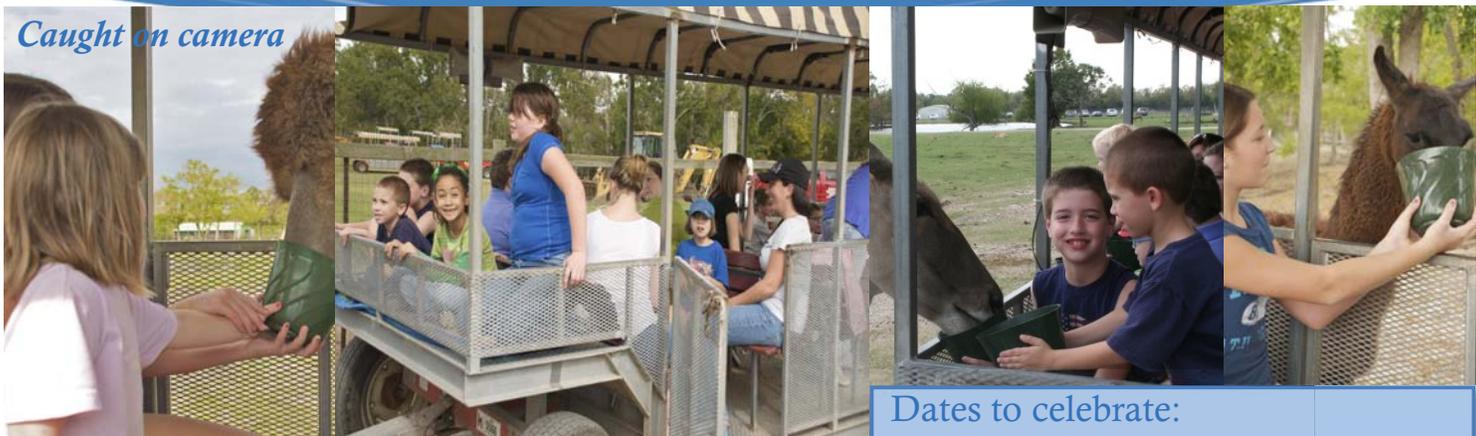


Did you know.....

- Admission to the Houston Zoo is free for active duty military personnel and their families (limit 5 persons - 2 adults/3 children - per visit, effective July 1, 2009). A valid Military ID must be shown. Offer not valid for ticketed special events.
- Enterprise Rental Car offers a discount that can be found under the links section at <http://www.coastguardspouseassociation.com/>
- AT&T Military Discount offers 15% Monthly Service Charge discount available to active and retired military personnel, 2yr. contract required. Handset Pricing: Business 2 year equipment price or best retail offer. Standard IRU validation requirements: Must show valid government employment ID at retail point of sale or validate online with a recognized government email domain (.gov, .mil, et al.) via our online [eCommerce site](#). Military FAN/Code: 2422480
- Old Navy discount: All stores in the continental US honor our military on the first of every month by giving you a ten percent discount on your purchases on the first of every month! "We'll drop and give you ten!" Discount is not eligible on previous purchases.



Thanks to Valerie Andrews, we now have a Welcome Home banner. As wonderful as it is, we think there's a special touch missing. We'd like for the children to decorate it with Christmas/Holiday themed items and will have tape and adhesive ready on the pier Homecoming morning. Further details will be announced in upcoming emails.



Dates to celebrate:

- 3 – Bryan Hirn's birthday
- 9 – Xander Leppo's 3rd birthday
- 10 – Bryan and Melissa Hirn's anniversary
- 11 – Ben Smith's birthday
- 13 – Kaeden Smith's birthday
- 28 – Jeff Smith's birthday