

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 features a complex superstructure with various masts, antennas, and a bridge. The ship is viewed from a distance, and the water is a deep blue. The text is overlaid on this image.

# 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 migrant interdiction, 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.

**CGC MOHAWK website:** [http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcMohawk/new\\_crewmembers.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcMohawk/new_crewmembers.asp)

If you have any additional questions that aren't answered here, please contact our two great Ombudsmen, Mrs. Vickie Dowell, at [MOHAWKOmbudsman@yahoo.com](mailto: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!

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# Section 1

## USCGC MOHAWK

### Facts

United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) MOHAWK was commissioned on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.



# 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

The MOHAWK'S operational commander is the Atlantic Area Commander in Portsmouth, VA. The "LANT AREA" Commander issues our operational tasking. We are a tenant command to Sector Key West so we abide by the Sector Commander's base policies.

### **Base Information**

#### Address

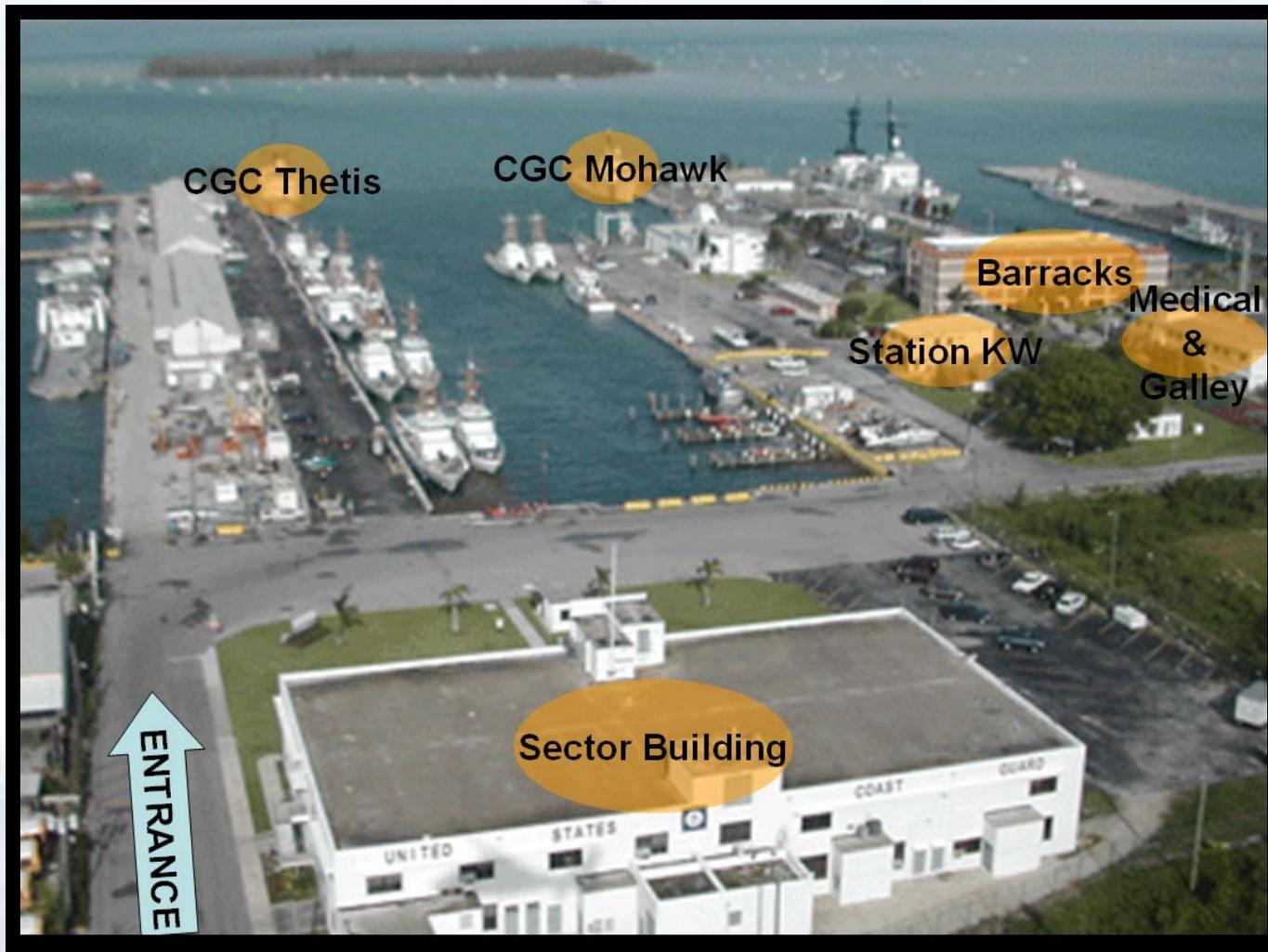
USCG Sector Key West  
100 Trumbo Road  
Key West FL, 33040

#### 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.

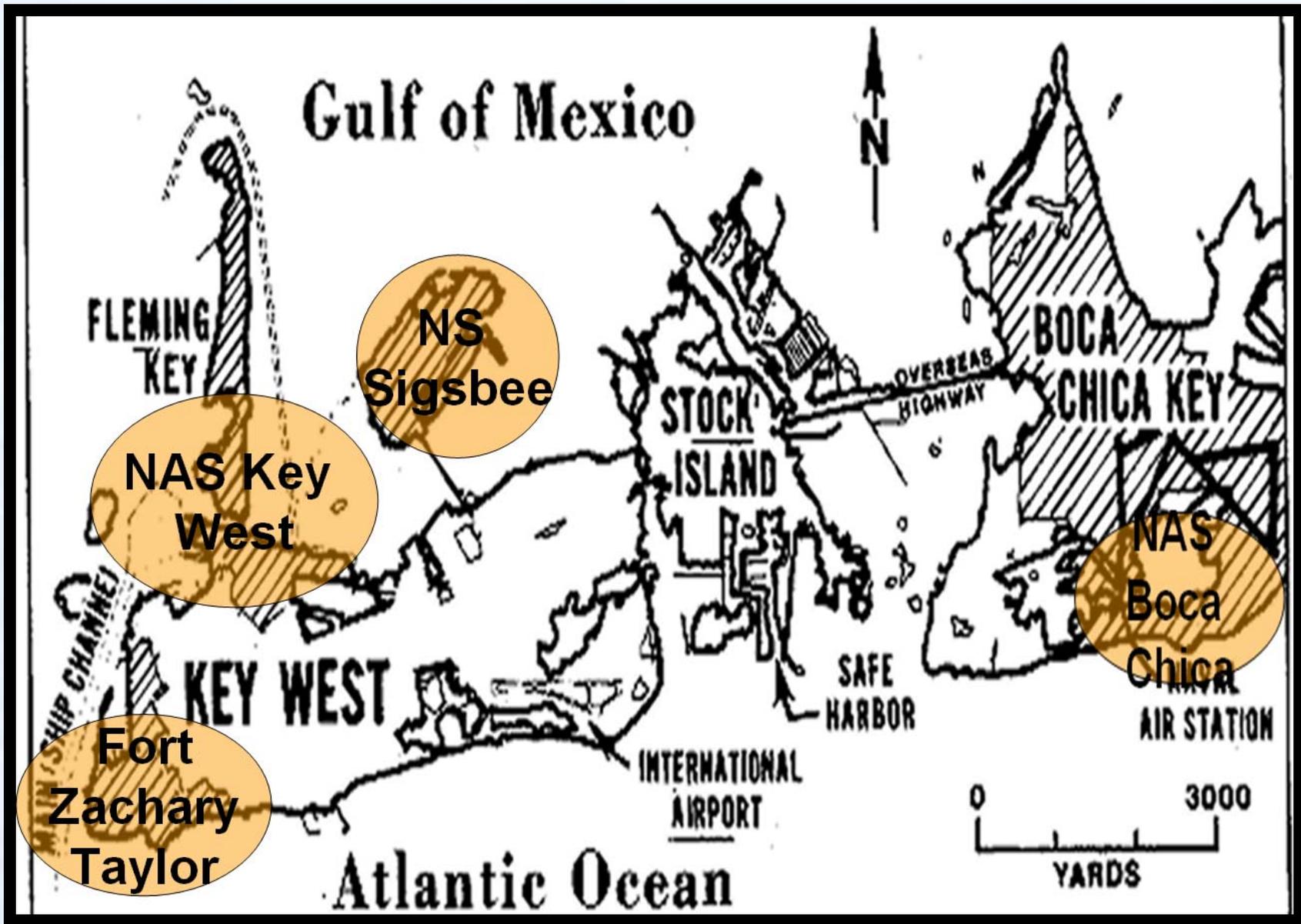
Visit the following link for gate policy information: [http://sigsbee.org/policy/gate\\_policy.pdf](http://sigsbee.org/policy/gate_policy.pdf)

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

Visit the following link for military vacation housing information: [http://spacea.net/images/keywest\\_trumborentals.pdf](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

NAS  
Boca  
Chica  
AIR STATION

SHIP CHANNEL

KEY WEST

SAFE  
HARBOR

INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT

Fort  
Zachary  
Taylor

Atlantic Ocean

0 3000  
YARDS

# Section 4

## Key West Florida

### History

Not long after Christopher Columbus reached the New World in 1492, adventurer Ponce de Leon and fellow Spanish chronicler Antonio de Herrera set sail toward Florida in search of the elusive Fountain of Youth. They never found the Fountain but they did find the Florida Keys. The day was Sunday, May 15, 1513. Here is precisely what Herrera wrote for posterity: "To all this line of islands and rock islets they gave the name of Los Martires [The Martyrs] because, seen from a distance, the rocks as they rose to view appeared like men who were suffering; and the name remained fitting because of the many that have been lost there since."

There is no record that anyone from their ship came ashore and for hundreds of years, the island chain was left mostly to the pirates. Eventually, the pirates were chased away by a fledgling U.S. Navy pirate fleet established here in 1822.

Settlers followed while the native Indian population, the Calusa and mainland tribes, died out. On Key West, all that was left of the Calusa tribes were their bones. Early Spanish settlers thus referred to Key West as "Cayo Hueso" or Bone Island. Those early settlers set up groves of Key limes, tamarind and breadfruit. In the Lower Keys, pineapple farms flourished and a large pineapple factory was built which furnished canned pineapple to most of eastern North America. In later years, a thriving shark processing factory was established on Big Pine Key. Amidst the abandoned farms, it employed workers to catch sharks and skin them. The hides were salted down and sent north to the home factory in New Jersey.

Other settlers in Key West and in Islamorada became wreckers who salvaged goods from ships that foundered on the nearby reefs. Some say the wreckers deliberately lured ships onto the shoals. Whatever the truth, Key West became the wealthiest city in the United States. Later, sponge harvesters found a good market for the sponges they gathered in the waters of the Keys. Still later, cigar makers from Cuba established factories in Key West. Railroad tycoon Henry Flagler built his impossible railroad "that went to sea," and wealthy visitors traveled to vacation in the Keys.

All this, in turn, died out, and in the Great Depression the Keys seemed to face a bleak future. The city of Key West went bankrupt. It was then, with federal aid, that Keys officials decided their islands still had something to offer: sea, sun and a good year-round climate. In the weather beaten, shabby era of the 1930s, the railroad was destroyed by a ferocious hurricane and the concept for a highway to take its place was born. The famed Florida Keys Overseas Highway opened in 1938, but the outbreak of World War II dashed prospects of tourist gold.

The U.S. Navy, which had driven off the pirates a century earlier, came to the rescue again by turning Key West into a submarine base. In 1949, shrimp were harvested commercially in the Keys for the first time. They quickly earned the nicknamed pink gold. Tourists finally began to come in earnest. Today, more than three million visitors arrive each year. For most, the Florida Keys are the closest thing they will ever find to the fountain of youth.

## **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/todo.html>

## **Social Media (Local Support Groups Specific to Key West)**

**Both of these Facebook sites have an outstanding support network for families relocating to Key West, FL.**

**There is extensive amount of housing info, location, places to visit.  
You can always ask, and the support network will be there.**

**Facebook:**

**Group: Key West Wives**

**Group: Key West Yard Sale**

### **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 building on Trumbo Point 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.fla-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. Visit the Pay and Personnel Center for more information:

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

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>



# 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.

The Coast Guard Clinic can only treat active duty Coast Guard members located at Sector Key West. The phone number is 305-292-8715. Depending on your level of Tricare Coverage, dependents will coordinate their medical care through the Navy Medical Clinic Key West, or a civilian medical provider.

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](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)

It is imperative that the Active Duty Member have Direct Access updated with the following info: Home Address (physical location of residence), email addresses, phone numbers – specifically cell phone, emergency contacts, and dependent info. If all of this info is updated in Direct Access, CG Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (CGPAAS) will be up to date.

<https://cgpaas.uscg.mil/>

The communication for hurricane season is passed through the CG Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (CGPAAS). You can use the self service feature in Direct Access to update your information or login directly to CGPAAS at <https://cgpaas.uscg.mil> Contact YN1 Bob McMonagle at the following email for more information: [robert.j.mcmonagle@uscg.mil](mailto:robert.j.mcmonagle@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.

**It is extremely important that the dependents make contact with the Ombudsman in the event there is an evacuation or shelter in place.**

# 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 sea. 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!!*