

ISSUE: United States Coast Guard Operations at Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA and in St. Mary's, GA

A recent expansion of U. S. Coast Guard personnel at Naval Submarine Base (NSB), Kings Bay is an example of how increased Coast Guard presence in Kings Bay is critical in maintaining maritime border safety concerns and the protection of U.S. Naval assets in the region.

- Kings Bay is strategically located between the busy ports of Savannah, GA and Brunswick, GA to the north and Jacksonville, FL to the south.
- Waterfront facilities, including piers, boat ramps and small boat maintenance, offer a wide range of support to Coast Guard inshore and offshore operations.
- Kings Bay is a secure location at which to locate critical facilities and from which to base operations.
- Proximity to naval and other military forces can effectively provide the opportunity to increase the number of missions, thereby increasing the effectiveness of surveillance in the maritime awareness domain.

Coast Guard presence in Camden County, GA: Maritime Force Protection Unit (MFPU) Kings Bay operates out of the NSB, Kings Bay. Its mission is to provide security for the Trident submarines during inbound and outbound submarine transits from NSB, Kings Bay.

- Unit was officially commissioned July 24, 2007.
- Current staffing strength of 70 active duty and reserve personnel. 50 active duty billets are to report aboard during the summer 2008 transfer season. The unit will be at full strength at 140 active duty billets by fiscal year 2010.
- The USCG SEA DRAGON (Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB) 87367) arrived and was officially commissioned in January 2008.
- The second 87' CPB is scheduled to arrive in December 2008.
- The first of six 65' escort vessels will arrive during the summer of 2008.
- The delivery of the 33' vessels (special patrol craft-law enforcement) are delayed due to funding.

Maritime Safety and Security Team Kings Bay (MSST) 91108. The MSST is co-located with the St. Mary's Police Dept. and is a mobile unit with specialized capabilities that performs a broad spectrum of port safety and security operations. A quick-response unit, it meets changing threat environments in harbors, ports and waterways across the Nation and in locations outside the continental U.S.

- Unit is staffed with 84 active duty personnel.
- Unit capabilities include high-speed armed homeland security boats, canine explosive detection teams, an underwater detection dive team and a highly skilled law enforcement boarding team.
- The unit will be losing its' dive capability in 2008. The Coast Guard is consolidating its' dive program and will base all dive operations from Chesapeake, VA and San Diego, CA. The unit will be losing 3 active duty billets due to the consolidation.
- Formally assigned as an Atlantic Area command, all CG deployable specialized forces (DSF) now report to the newly established Deployable Operations Group (DOG) in Washington D.C. The DOG provides organized, equipped and trained DSF's to Coast Guard, Dept. of Homeland Security and interagency operational and tactical commanders.

Recommendation: Continue to identify and increase Coast Guard roles at Kings Bay as new technology, platforms and procedures are integrated to enhance maritime domain awareness.

Recommendation: MFPU is a Navy program completely funded by the Navy. Provide funding to deliver the 33' vessels (special patrol craft-law enforcement) and funding for a facility to house the unit.

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