

UNIT INFORMATION

Unit Name: **USCGC SPAR (WLB 206) “The Aleutian Keeper”**



Personal Mailing Address: COMMANDING OFFICER
USCGC SPAR (WLB 206)
P.O. Box 190651
Kodiak, AK 99619

ATTN: SN/FN (YOUR NAME)
Commercial Phone #: (907) 487-5344/45 FAX: (907) 487-5511
Unit Web Site: <http://www.uscg.mil/d17/cgcspar/>

Kodiak Alaska Relocation Website:
http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/pls/psgprod/f?p=MI:CONTENT:2011520160755656:::P4_INST_ID,P4_CONTENT_TITLE,P4_CONTENT_EKMT_ID,P4_CONTENT_DIRECTORY:6185,Fast%20Facts,30.90.30.30.60.0.0.0,1

You can also get a relocation package by contacting Debbie Bower at 907-487-5525 ext. 275 or email her at Debbie.J.Bower@uscg.mil

E-mail: First Name (DOT) Middle Initial (DOT) Last Name@USCG.MIL (ALL LOWER CASE) (EXAMPLE: john.b.guardian@uscg.mil)

REPORTING ABOARD

Units Missions: Aids to Navigation (ATON), Federal Law Enforcement (LE), Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Homeland Security, Maritime Environmental Protection (MARPOL), Domestic Icebreaking

SA/SN Job Assignment: Buoy Deck Rigger, Exterior/Interior maintenance, Weight handling gear maintenance, Small boat operation, Aton Technician, Gun Crew.

FA/FN Job Assignment: Preventative Maintenance of diesel propulsion and auxiliary machinery, Small boat engineer, Buoy Deck Rigger.

Inport Watch and Duty Rotation for SA/SN & FA/FN: Inport Security Watchstander (ISW)

Underway Watch and Duty Rotation for SA/SN: Helmsman / Lookout, Boatswain Mate of the Watch (BMOW)

Underway Watch and Duty Rotation for FA/FN: Journeyman Engineer (JE)

Special procedures for reporting after hours: When arriving from the airport or ferry terminal call the cutter (907) 487-5344 and speak to the Command Duty Officer (CDO). Keep your sponsor informed as to your travel plans to ensure timely pick up. If you don't have a sponsor ask for a BM1 or MK1.

Where to Report if CGC SPAR is Underway: Upon arrival contact the BSU Officer of the Day (907) 539-7477. Check-in with PSSU (Personnel Service Support Unit) Kodiak for Barracks assignment and processing. If the cutter will be back in port in less than a week you will normally work for the PSSU until our arrival. If we will not be back in less than a week, arrangements will normally be made to have you meet the cutter. Contact your sponsor or the cutter ahead of time for our most up to date schedule.

Personal Storage Space: On board the cutter there is approx. 35-40 Cubic Feet (Locker and storage under your rack). When first reporting, a single non-rate will be placed in the barracks. The barracks are 2-person furnished rooms with a bed, locker and refrigerator. Personnel are allowed to bring a TV and limited bulky personal items (bicycle, fishing poles, stereo, etc) since the rooms must be inspection ready at all times.

Uniform worn during the Workday: Operation dress uniform (ODU) with unit ball cap and steel-toe boots, foul weather gear will be issued.

REPORTING ABOARD

Average Temperature: Summer: 50-70 degrees Winter: 10-40 degrees

Unit Mutual Assistance Representative/Phone Number: Call PSSU Kodiak YNC Sarah Schafer (907) 487-5170, EXT 155

Opportunities for Secondary Education: PSSU Kodiak has an outstanding Education Center with a full-time Education Service's Officer, located in the Main Barracks. Numerous opportunities exist for those interested in pursuing their education. Contact the unit's ESO if you have any question about secondary education.

Traditional Secondary Education - You may enroll in and complete course study through the Kodiak College (extended college of the University of Alaska Anchorage).

Non-Traditional Secondary Education – There are a variety of opportunities available. A few of which are; College Level Examination Program (CLEP); DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST); Excelsior College Examinations (ECE).

Ratings Present at Unit: BM, YN, DC, MK, EM, ET, SK, CS, HS, IT

Nearest City and Distance: The city of Kodiak is located eight miles from the Base. The closest major city is Anchorage, Alaska located approximately 200 air miles from Kodiak

Nearest Military Facility and Distance: CGC SPAR is co-located with BSU, PSSU, HSWL Kodiak and Air Station Kodiak

Exchange and Commissary: Both are located on Base.
<http://www.kodiakmwr.com>

Religious Denominations in the area: The Star of the Sea Chapel is located on base and provides both Catholic and Protestant services. There are many other churches available in the community; most can be found on the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce web page (<http://www.kodiak.org>)

Common Destinations of Deployments: You can expect to visit numerous islands in the Aleutian Chain including; Unimak, Unalaska, Adak, and Attu. You can also

expect to work in the Bering Sea and the Arctic Sea. CGC Spar also visits Juneau, Ketchikan, Homer, Seward, Nome, and Anchorage.

TRAVEL

The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is a beautiful way to see Alaska's Inside Passage, and is a popular choice for PCS travel in and out of the state. However, choosing this mode of transportation includes accepting some risk, as major delays resulting from mechanical and budget issues have caused problems for multiple members over the past few years. If you choose this method of transportation it is **highly** recommended you have an alternate plan for travel, and discuss this plan with your dependents and unit sponsor in case of ferry delay or cancellation. Should you choose to utilize the AMHS for travel, in accordance with references (c) and (d), all ferry tickets for PCS transfers to and from Alaska shall be purchased through your servicing travel management center (TMC) and charged against the centrally billed account (CBA). To make ferry reservations contact the Alaska Marine Highway System at 1-800-642-0066 or visit the AMHS website at <http://www.dot.state.ad.us/amhs>. Once reservations have been made, send a copy of your endorsed orders from your SPO to ADTRAV to charge the CBA **no less than 60** days before your scheduled sailing date. If payment is not received from AMHS **60 days before your sailing date**, your reservation will automatically be cancelled. Travel time onboard AMHS is actual time using the most direct route possible. In the event of any unscheduled ferry delays, be advised that non-chargeable absence may be authorized or approved by the member's new Commanding Officer when actual travel exceeds authorized travel time for reasons beyond the member's control such as natural disasters (e.g. hurricanes, floods, fires, etc.) not to include normal regional weather conditions, restrictions by Government authorities, and difficulties in obtaining fuel for a POV. When approved by the receiving Commanding Officer members who elect and are authorized to travel via the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) ferry may be granted non-chargeable absence for any additional days spent en route waiting for a scheduled or delayed ferry. **Additional travel days and entitlements are not authorized.**

INFORMATION A NEWLY ARRIVING MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

In the past, members have received their orders and after graduation from Cape May decided to marry prior to arrival at their new unit in Kodiak. If you plan to marry prior to your arrival in Kodiak you **MUST** contact your new unit as soon as possible!

Kodiak is considered an overseas billet; Therefore **Entry Approval** must be requested and granted before dependents arrive. Failure to complete this critical element of your transfer may result in **NO** entitlement to reimbursement of travel/transportation expenses. Not gaining entry approval will also have a direct impact on your availability to occupy Family Owned Housing. You should also be aware that marriage and command sponsorship will increase your length of tour on Kodiak. Again, communication with the Area Housing Officer and your Command will greatly assist your assignment efforts. If you are married and/or have children that will be accompanying you, you **must** have them medically and dentally screened prior to gaining entry approval. This process should be started as soon as possible after you know you will be coming to Kodiak (or any other overseas unit). The forms will need to be completed by your dependent's primary physician and dentist. If you are on the Special Needs Program, this is not an automatic disqualifier but will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Please inquire with your administrative representative or Company Commander if you have questions. Questions can also be directed to HSWL Kodiak's Rockmore King Clinic administrator or supervisor @ (907) 487-5757 extension 107/109.

There is no "mass transit" available on the island. The town of Kodiak is located approximately 8 miles from the base. Weather is cold during the winter and it rains approx. 70 inches a year, there is normally not a lot of snow accumulation during winter, although we do experience a lot of ice. You can see ice, snow & rain combinations on the same day at any time during the winter (November – May). During summer the weather is cool to warm but never hot and Kodiak does experience a lot of rain and fog. During summer the sun can stay up as late as midnight and rises again at 0400, but during the winter months the days can be very short with the sun rising at 1030 and setting again at 1630.

MEMBERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

Messing Availability: Yes, Shipboard and base Galley

REPORTING ABOARD

Quarters and or Barracks available: Both are available, Unaccompanied Personnel Lease Housing is not available, Single Non-Rate will more than likely live in the barracks

Rate of Auto Insurance for typical single 18-20 year old: \$100-150/month for full coverage and \$50-75/month for liability insurance. Prices all depend on your personal driving past and type of vehicle. Rates for Alaska are generally higher than the lower 48 states due to higher repair costs.

Should member submit housing application to Housing Office: No

Firearms on Board and in Barracks: Members can bring firearms to their next unit. They can be stored in Spars armory or in the military polices armory. At no time are they allowed to be stowed in member's barracks room or vehicles.

Banking: There is an ATM in the Exchange on base. Several banks and credit unions are available in the community. <http://www.kodiak.org>

Local Malls and Outlets: There is a very small outdoor mall/shopping center in town approx. 20 businesses made up of independently owned stores and restaurants. Wal-Mart is the only larger discount store located on the island. Kodiak is a small town (population 13000+ for the entire island) with limited expensive shopping, many people use catalogs or online shopping for the best deals.

MEMBERS WITH DEPENDENTS

Cost of average two bedroom apartment in the area: \$900-\$1400 – Most rental units on Kodiak WILL NOT except pets!! Please keep this in mind if you receive a mandatory release from assignment to Owned Housing. Most rental rates DO NOT include the cost of utilities.

BAH rate for all Ranks can be found on the Per Diem Web Site at: Our zip code is 99615 <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm> Are Lease Quarters Available: No - BSU Kodiak has ample Family Housing, especially for member and spouse. There are no plans to expand the Leased Housing Program in Kodiak at this time.

Is There Government Owned Housing Available: BSU Kodiak operates over 400 housing units located throughout the complex. The number of dependents a

REPORTING ABOARD

member has determines the type of housing member will be offered. The average wait for housing in Kodiak can be anywhere from 5-30 days depending on the time of year you arrive. For the most current information you are encourage to contact the Kodiak Housing Office at 907-487-5170 X144 or X145.

Medical Care for Dependents: There are several options available to Coast Guard families. Coast Guard Rockmore-King Clinic, Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center and the Kodiak Island Medical Associates to name a few.

Level of Tricare: Coast Guard Families living in the Kodiak area can elect to use TRICARE Prime Remote. The Rockmore-King clinic is an excellent source of information should you have additional questions.

Is Concordia Dental available: Yes – Kodiak has five participating providers located within the community.

Is it advisable to bring dependents when first reporting aboard: Since Kodiak is an overseas assignment all personnel reporting in must go through overseas screening and receive entry approval from PSSU Kodiak. If you are a single member and getting married while on leave to your new unit in Kodiak, it is very important that you obtain entry approval for your new spouse and any children before you arrive. This process can be lengthy. Upon receiving notification of transfer to CGC SPAR, immediately engage your supervisor to begin completing the required dependent screenings. Upon receiving entry approval, families are encouraged to come to Kodiak together. Again, we stress the importance of communicating your intentions to your command!!

Education for Children: The City of Kodiak has four public elementary schools, one public middle school and one public high school located throughout the Kodiak Island Borough School District. Elementary students that live on base in government housing usually attend Peterson Elementary School, located adjacent to the BSU Kodiak Complex.

The following comments were provided by a junior Petty Officer recently assigned to CGC SPAR.

Kodiak is a quiet town with some of the most beautiful scenery you will ever have the opportunities to see in your Coast Guard career. If you are not into the great outdoors Kodiak is the place to get started, there are many areas to fish, hunt, hike, and camp. When winter approaches you will see less of the sun but a lot of snow

REPORTING ABOARD

which brings in the winter sports. If you are interested in winter sports there are a few choices of where to go but you will have to hike unless you own a snowmobile or a quad. The climate in Kodiak is cold all year long so bring warm clothes for your time here and remember (cotton kills). The town of Kodiak is small consisting of only a couple restaurants and stores which include Walmart, Safeway, McDonalds and several locally owned restaurants. The base provides an exchange along with a commissary. MWR provides a gym with exceptionally nice workout equipment which includes a basketball court, solar therapy, cardio gym, weight training area, a large pool, and racquet ball courts. MWR also provides a bowling alley and a movie theatre on base which almost always has special offers.

Welcome Aboard CGC SPAR we hope you enjoy your time!!!