

AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL

Serving Federal Firefighters through Knowledge and Strength



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WELCOME NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SOUDA BAY FIREFIGHTERS,

**THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO
JAMES ULLMAN, PRESIDENT, AFGE LOCAL 1156**

**AND TO
FRED KRAFT, EASTERN US AT-LARGE REGIONAL LIAISON,
AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL**

When the firefighters at Souda Bay contacted the AFGE Firefighters Council last Fall, it wasn't with the usual questions. Although they did have a number of questions that the Council answered for them, what they really wanted was to become part of AFGE's family. This presented a new organizing challenge for the Council. How could the Council help these firefighters become members of an AFGE Local? What needed to be done?

It was a lucky day for those firefighters that they contacted Fred Kraft, the Council's Eastern US At-Large Regional Liaison. Fred is a member of AFGE Local 1156, an active and thriving Local whose President, Jim Ullman was quick to step up to the plate. Jim and Fred immediately started the FLRA process to have Local 1156 certified as the exclusive representative for all of the Souda Bay fire and emergency services personnel. The ballots were sent; the firefighters voted; and, "a majority of the valid ballots [were] cast for the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1156, AFL-CIO, as determined by the Federal Labor Relations Authority."

The story behind gaining almost 100% of the Souda Bay firefighters as members of AFGE Local 1156 tells a lot about AFGE's newest members as well as it evidences the great support firefighters can obtain from the Firefighters Council and from an AFGE Local 1156—Local 1156.

Welcome Souda Bay firefighters and congratulations to all! We look forward to working with you and having you as active members of the Firefighter Council and of AFGE Local 1156.