

Hello Grey Ghosts,

We hope this message finds you well and are planning to join us in Key West this Fall.

KEY WEST REUNION UPDATE.

The 531 Gray Ghost Squadron reunion will be in Key West from Tuesday 30 September to Saturday 4 October at the Navy Key West Trumbo Point Annex.

No plans for activities are firm yet, pending previously requested member input, but the agenda is fast passing the Commander's Intent into a Warning Order. We are wanting input from the members. Ideas include a Trolley Tour of Key West, Tour of Ernest Hemingway Home, Key West Aquarium, Half day Fishing Charter, and Sunset / Cocktail cruise. Please provide us with some ideas if you know the area. An all-day trip to the historic Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas National Park is an option if there is enough interest. It's a 70-mile one way trip on a catamaran ferry with a tour of the fort.

The main venue will be the Trumbo Point NAVY INN (The old "Fly Navy" BOQ, managed by Navy Exchange, with a brand-new added building). Our "Ready Room" Meetings will be held there, and a block of rooms have been set aside for members to reserve. The rooms that are blocked are all located in the brand-new Fly Navy 2 building. They are single rooms only with a Queen-sized bed. If you wish to have a suite you must reserve one in the Fly Navy 1 building, which is older, for an additional fee. Check-in for both buildings is at Fly Navy 1 building.

There is NO food available in either building but a small NEX is on site.

The price for the Queen rooms is \$134 per night per room, no taxes or fees. Reservations should be made individually by guests at 877-628-9233, Option "1"

For those interested in group living, MWR provides Vacation Rentals nearby. They offer a two-bedroom mobile home for \$142 per night, or a three-bedroom villa for \$167 per night. Reservations should be made individually by guests at 877-628-9233, Option "2".

If you have a Military Retiree ID, or a VA "Service Connected Disability" ID (not expired), you can have access to the Navy Inn, Vacation Villa, and the base on your own recognizance. For those without, one of the squadron members will have to sponsor you on a ratio of one sponsor to ten members for both residence and base access. Final lists will have to be sent to the Navy Inn two weeks out, and we might have to go to the visitor center together in person to get base passes.

EVERYONE, WITH OR WITHOUT RETIREEE ID, MUST HAVE a Vehicle Pass ID issued by the Visitor Center at Boca Chica which is located six miles east of Trumbo Point.

Here are the instructions for the Navy Inn Reservation:

1. Call central reservations, 877-628-9233, Option "1"
2. Group ID #311-301-102-09, 531 Gray Ghost Squadron USMC
3. "Put my name into the system"

4. NAVY INN, TRUMBO POINT, KEY WEST
5. Block dates are 30 September - 4 October. Make sure you reserve what YOU want.
6. They will ask for your name, address, phone #, email, rank/ service, and a credit card. \$134 per night, no taxes or fees.

Here are the instructions for the MWR Vacation Rentals:

1. Call central reservations, 877-628-9233, **Option "2"** . There have been some reported difficulties using this. If you experience a problem, call the Key West office direct at 305-293-5000
2. There is no group ID, no block dates
3. Reserve VACATION RENTALS, TRUMBO POINT, KEY WEST
4. They will ask for your name, address, phone #, email, rank/ service, and a credit card. 2BR \$142 per night. 3BR \$167 per night.

There are plenty of hotels near Trumbo Point for those of you who would prefer to spend \$300 a night for a two-star hotel without the Navy vibe.

For your planning purposes, THE VISITOR CENTER IS AT THE BOCA CHICA NAVAL AIR STATION.

Saratoga Avenue
Bldg A641, Boca Chica Field
Pass and ID, NASKW Main Gate
Key West, FL 33040-9029
305-293-2806

For questions and activity suggestions, contact me at lipsturkin@hotmail.com

Hope to see you in Key West!

Semper Fi.

John Durkin **2025 Key West Reunion Coordinator**