

# Coast Guard Teams Up With Tampa Bay Devil Rays'

Story and photos by PA3 Sondra Kay-Kneen, PADET St. Petersburg, Fla.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – Service members from all five branches of the armed forces gathered together for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays' "Opening Day" baseball game at Tropicana Field, in St. Petersburg, April 6.



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. - The Coast Guard along with several other military members present the American flag across the field at opening day for the Tampa Bay Devil Ray's at Tropicana Field, in St. Petersburg. Coast Guard photograph by PA3 Sondra Kay-Kneen.

Coast Guardsmen, sailors, Marines, soldiers, and airmen displayed an American flag that covered the outfield during the presentation of colors and national anthem.

Coast Guard members from Air Station Clearwater, Fla., and Sector St. Petersburg participate in this annual event to team up with the Rays' as they show their support and honor for all military members. Hundreds of fans of all ages cheered in the stands wearing a mix of Devil Rays' and armed forces t-shirts.

On May 6, more than 25 Coast Guard dependants, between the ages of four and 12 were allowed on Tropicana Field to practice throwing baseballs with their parents prior to the annual Tampa Bay Devil Rays' "Salute to the Coast Guard" game. While some parents snapped photos of the young aspiring baseball players, others prepared to break the news of leaving the field to watch the game from the stands.

"Now every time we go to a Rays' game, Cosmo insists that he is supposed to play catch on the field before the game starts," said Cosmo's mom, Tasha N. Tully, a Coast Guard Petty Officer. "He insists that they will lose if he does not go out there."

The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by Capt. Michael D. Emerson, commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater.

"Morale is very important to the Coast Guard and its members," said Emerson. "We are honored that the Tampa Bay Devil Rays' value the service we provide to the community and public."

"The Coast Guard is an important organization to our community and especially to our country, said Jason Latimer, Communication Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays'. "We are honored to have the services that they provide."



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. - More than 25 Coast Guard dependants were allowed on Tropicana Field, in St. Petersburg, to practice throwing baseballs with their parents prior to the annual Tampa Bay Devil Rays' "Salute to the Coast Guard" game, May 6. Coast Guard photograph by PA3 Sondra Kay-Kneen.