

### Disaster training program challenges Sailors's skills

AN Michelle Hartgraves  
Staff Writer

After Sept. 11, the Surgeon General's concern increased regarding his 32 Naval hospitals and their ability to cope with disasters. Thus the Navy Office of Homeland Security was born.

A team of military and civilian emergency management and organizational experts travels around the world to all of the Surgeon General's Navy medical facilities.

Reservist Rear Adm. David Maserang and his team of experts recently brought training to Sigonella's hospital in the form of the Disaster Preparedness Vulnerability Analysis, Training and Exercise program (DVATEX). The DVATEX program covers a wide area of topics including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) incident responses.

The one-week training assessed NAVHOSP's ability to work with both the military and civilian community for disaster management, and to improve their ability to work internally with CBRNE.

Thirteen people make up the DVATEX team, each with years of experience in a specialized field. Pulling their expertise together, they gave lectures on incident response training, preparedness, and exercising the emergency management plan and examining its ability to integrate into local, regional, state and federal response plans.

"We bring to the table a lot of experience in Navy medicine," Maserang said. Maserang himself serves as the Illinois Department of Public Health as Director of Laboratory Services in the civilian world, and knows the Training, page 12

### Reservist brings civilian experience to active-duty personnel

JO2 David Hamilton  
Staff Writer



MA3 Brannon Porch instructs students on proper chest compression technique on a cardiac arrest patient. This is one of many scenarios students go through as part of a National Registry Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Course at U.S. Naval Hospital, Sigonella.

Being mobilized as a reservist is never an easy task, but all are prepared to face the challenges and obstacles that lie ahead of them. Often family, friends, loved ones, and a career are left behind.

Serving in the Naval Reserves for a little over three years, MA3 Brannon Porch from Albuquerque, New Mexico went above and beyond facing that challenge.

Postponing his wedding and leaving the University of New Mexico as a full-time student was an easy decision for him to make. Porch was recalled to serve a year at Porch, page 12

### Today's Hometown Weather

JO2 David Hamilton, Sec  
South Colonie, NY



High 79° F - Low 68° F  
Isolated Thunderstorms

# A step back in time

The sights of medieval times displayed in Motta celebration



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver



The line between past and present, history and now was blurred so completely in Sigonella's nearest neighboring town that, ignoring the modern distractions of cars and motor scooters, a spectator could see what the town was like 400 years ago. What were all fireworks about? Find out in "Medieval meets modern in Motta," on page 10.

## California congresswoman visits Sigonella

JOSN Steve Weaver  
Staff Writer

A member of the U.S. House of Representatives recently paid a visit to Naval Air Station Sigonella as part of a tour of European installations.

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, a Representative of the California's 47<sup>th</sup> District, left sunny California to see first hand how servicemembers live and work in sunny Sigonella and other areas such as Germany and Kosovo.

Sanchez toured many areas of the base: the military housing complexes, Child Development Center, U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella, NEX, Commissary, Supply Warehouse and MWR facilities. The congresswoman also met with Sailors at Patrol Squadron Four Five (VP-45) and Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4).

Sanchez is the ranking woman of the House Armed Services Committee and serves on the Homeland Security Committee. She is an advocate for veterans, cosponsoring H.R. 51, "The Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act." As a member of the Personnel Subcommittee, she is fighting to improve quality of life issues for servicemembers at home and abroad.

In her first visit to NASSIG, Sanchez liked what she saw. "This is my first time to this naval station, and what a great place it is," said Sanchez. "It's incredible to see all the crew, how they do their job, how professional they are, how clean everything is, and how proud they are of what they're doing for our country."



Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, representative of California's 47th Congressional District poses with Sailors from Patrol Squadron Four Five (VP-45), during her visit to Naval Air Station Sigonella.

Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver

Anyone visiting the base will notice the amount of material that comes through. "The warehouse was an amazing place," said Sanchez. "It's amazing the product that goes through this place. This base has been very strategic in supplying everybody who has been out in the Iraqi theater. I think that's very important, especially for the ships the carriers that we've had out here. Just getting the mail out to them on a daily basis is really a process. I think we can be very proud in

Sanchez, page 13



# Direct Line

**Capt. T.L. Davison**  
NASSIG  
Commanding Officer

Teachers, faculty, students and parents...welcome back to school! I hope you all had a great summer either touring Sicily, Europe or enjoying some home cooking back in the states.

I want to encourage everyone to keep a watchful eye out for the children at the bus stops and near the school. We will have plenty of kids walking around NAS 1 (either from 205, the NEX or commissary parking lot, or the bus circle) enroute to their classes. So, remember: pedestrians have the right of way. Keep your speed down and watch out for the kids...some are smaller than your driver's side window.

We have a lot of returning teachers and some new ones checking in. I hope that you all have a great year here and that you will have fun being a Sicilian! You will have a great deal of support not only from me, but also from the entire base. We're one big family and we like to take care of each other. If you need anything, just let us know. I know you are busily getting your classrooms ready! Thanks in advance for what you do here with our children.

Students: study hard. Apply yourself. There are a lot of fun things out there to learn about. Mark Twain said that his schooling would never interfere with his education. Listen to your teachers, mentors, and parents. They are there to help you receive the best educational experience you can here at NAS Sigonella.

If you find that you are having problems with your studies, tell someone! Your teachers and counselors are ready to help. School can be fun...keep an open mind and it will be!

A few new things...the kindergarten is now open and it looks fantastic! The new playground out in front is a reminder to us all the even our youngsters can learn and have fun at the same time. We are currently working on the road in front of the school to make it more convenient to park and get around the school. Teachers have access to the gravel lot near the side gate and also some spots in front of the school. We will try to work hard to get the road completely finished soon.

Last but not least, parents: take an active part in your children's education. Check in with the teachers about their progress and see how you can help. They have a big job and could use your help.

Again, welcome back to school. Go Knights and Jaguars! Have a great year.



## World breastfeeding week

**Cmdr. Karen M. Belin, NC, USN**

"Breastfeeding in a Globalized World" was the theme of the thirteenth annual World Breastfeeding Week was celebrated from August 1-7. This celebration was part of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action's (WABA) ongoing campaign to increase public awareness of the importance of breastfeeding for both mothers and their infants.

The national goal is to increase to at least 75 percent the portion of mothers who initiate breastfeeding and to increase to at least 50 percent the proportion who continue to breastfeed until their infants are at least six months old. As of 2000, only 60 percent of all hospital-born infants were receiving breastmilk at the time of discharge and only 15 percent were still breastfeeding at six months of age.

In 1997, The American Academy of Pediatrics identified breastfeeding "as the ideal method of feeding and nurturing infants and recognized breastfeeding as primary in achieving optimal infant and child health, growth, and development." The academy recommends the use of human milk as the only food source for infants during the first

six months of life and at least through the second half of the first year with the addition of solid foods.

Research clearly shows that human milk is far superior to any formula and that the entire process of breastfeeding is a way to save lives, reduce illness, and protect our environment. The primary goal of the campaign is to increase the awareness that human breastmilk is the best nutrition for babies during the first six months of life; while the second goal is to assure the public that breastfeeding is normal, desirable and achievable.

Here in Sigonella, World Breastfeeding Week was celebrated with poster displays in the Acute Care Clinic waiting area of the Naval Hospital, as well as the NAS 1 Commissary. Look for the informative poster displays and handouts.

Benefits to infants:

- Decreases incidence and/or severity of: diarrhea, respiratory infections, ear infections, bacterial meningitis and urinary tract infections.
- Protects against: diabetes mellitus, certain childhood cancers, food allergies, eczema and diseases of the colon.
- Enhances optimal brain and visual development.

Benefits to mothers:

- Improves post delivery weight loss.
- Diminishes post delivery blood loss.
- Reduces risk of ovarian, endometrial and breast cancers.
- Decreases risk of brittle bones (osteoporosis) in later life.

Benefits to Families

- Saves \$1,000-\$1,200 per year in the cost of formula.
- Benefits to society
- A healthier population!
- Decreases the need for health care, thereby saving healthcare dollars.
- Eliminates formula can and container waste from landfills.
- Removes the need to use energy for the marketing and production of formulas.

Our monthly breastfeeding class is offered the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Flight Line Clinic from 4:15 to 6 p.m. Please call x4769 for more information or to sign up.

## CPSC, Black and Decker Recalls drills, saws

*Courtesy NASSIG Fire Department*

Some Sigonella residents may have arrived here with the following appliances in their pack-out, or perhaps purchased them at the NEX.

The Consumer Products Safety Commission and the Black and Decker Corporation have issued a recall notice concerning 950,000 cordless drills that have switches that can overheat

and 6,100 table saws that can crack, thus creating a shock hazard.

The drills colored orange with the word "Firestorm" and those colored jade with the words "Quantum Pro" were sold in the U.S. from March 1999 through Dec. 2001 and have the following model numbers on the side of the tool. CD632, HP532, FS1442, Q145, FS15560, FS 1802, HP 932 and Q185.

The saws are 10" table saws were sold from August 2001 through April 2002 and have the model# BT2500 on a plate on the front panel above the power switch. These saws have been known to crack, and can possibly cause an electric shock.

For a free repair owners can call the company at 1-866-821-5444 or 1-866-357-0324 for information on repairs or replacement service.

## NASSIG public awareness advisory regarding "Nigerian" fraud schemes via e-mail

Recently, NCIS has received several reports of strange and unsolicited e-mails to the work and personal accounts of sailors and civilians on board NASSIG. These e-mails are part of a large and elaborate fraud scheme termed Nigerian Advance Fee or "4-1-9" fraud.

Originally perpetrated by Nigerian nationals, hence the name, variations of these schemes have also originated from other countries including Sierra Leone, Angola, Colombia and the Philippines. The e-mails, from someone purporting to be a high-ranking government official or business person, promise the transfer of millions of dollars into your personal bank account for your assistance. The message entices you into believing that you have been singled out from the masses. Often, a sense of urgency and confidentiality are emphasized in the message. Fraudulent official looking documents and photographs are also sent to the victim in an attempt to authenticate the proposition. Eventually, the perpetrators request blank official letterheads, funds for taxes and fees, and encourage travel to a foreign country. In June 1995, an American was actually murdered in Lagos, Nigeria, while pursuing a 4-1-9 scam. In response to this growing epidemic, the U.S. Secret Service has established Operation 4-1-9 designed to target Nigerian Advance Fee Fraud. For more information, see the U.S. Secret Service Web site at www.secretservice.gov

It is important to remember that the perpetrators acquire thousands of e-mail addresses through various means and send them out en masse. If you receive an e-mail as described above, DO NOT respond and simply delete the message. Remember, you can only become a victim if you respond and provide information.

If you have lost funds in pursuit of one of these schemes, immediately contact NCIS at 624-9210 and the U.S. Secret Service, Financial Crimes Division at (202) 406-5572.

## Storage tank management training available

Subject class will be conducted by EFDLANT and held here at NASSIG on 1 Oct. 2003. This four hour training will be held at Building 545B from 1200-1600. This training provides storage tank management personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary for petroleum, oil and lubricant (POL) storage tank systems de-

sign, operation and maintenance, FGS regulatory requirements, spill prevention, tank gauging and inventory control procedures. This course fulfills the training requirements established by regulations delineated in Jan. 29, 2002, Environmental Final Governing Standards for Italy and OPNAV 5090.1B, Chapter 16.

Who should attend? Personnel involved in design, construction, installation, management and operation of storage tanks.

For registration information, please contact Susan Holliday at 624-2721 or HollidaS@nassig.sicily.navy.mil no later than Sept. 28, 2003.

## AOSC new membership tea

NAS Sigonella All Officers' Spouse's Club is hosting their annual New Membership Welcome Tea on Sept. 4, 2003, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Golden Anchor on NAS 1. If you are interested in joining a non-profit organization of dynamic people who are dedicated to providing a social and charitable environment focusing on the NAS Sigonella and local Italian community, we

encourage you to become a member.

Membership is extended to spouses of commissioned officers, warrant officers, and spouses of retired officers residing in the area, as well as civilian personnel of GS-7 and above and NATO officers and their spouses. We would love to introduce ourselves to you and tell you about the incredible experiences and lifelong

memories you will have as a member of AOSC at NAS Sigonella.

If you are available, please consider joining us at this relaxing and informational reception that will include light beverages and hors d'oeuvres. Please call Debbie Spence at 095 306 428 or E-mail sicilydebbie@yahoo.com if you can attend or if you would like further information about AOSC.

## The golden rule really works



**By Chaplain Wesley Myhand Command Chaplain**

Every now and then, I go biking. Cycling gives me a chance to unwind, clear my head, work on sermons and of course, burn calories! Aug. 3 was a beautiful afternoon to be out and about. The sun was shining and a breeze was blowing, not too windy and just right. So, I am off. About 10 miles down the road, it starts raining. There were no rain clouds when I started but these were the fast-moving type that drop tons of rain and then clear off and the sun comes out again. So, I was soaked and I don't like riding in the rain because it takes forever to clean your bike afterwards.

I was heading home, past the NAS 2 bridge, almost to the railroad tracks when I noticed a huge water puddle. At the same time, an AFI-plated vehicle approached it and we hit the puddle at the same time. A huge wave of water, not really a tidal wave, completely engulfed me. Where once I was soaked now I was totally drenched. I could not see for several seconds. Since I was temporarily blinded I did not get the rest of the AFI-plated number.

Did you hear it yelling? Begging for you to stop? Did it ever cross your mind this could have caused an accident? I have been riding for years, so I know I was following proper procedures. Then I thought, maybe you did not know it was me

riding...that's true, you did not know. Then again, maybe you thought it was an Italian cyclist. This is not good, either. If this was done with every intention, then you are not representing America in a positive light. We are ambassadors on foreign soil. What we do here matters to what other nations will think of us. Thankfully it was not an Italian; it was only me, a fellow shipmate. Is this how you would want a fellow shipmate to treat you? Recently a master chief parked his truck at NAS 1. While he was away from the vehicle, someone backed into his truck. The person responsible for this accident left the scene, no note, no phone number, no name, and no witnesses. What was left behind was an upset master chief with a dented truck and no one honest enough to take responsibility.

Then there are some who casually use profane language as if it was their first language, wherever they happen to be. They don't care who overhears. Does it concern them that children may be listening? Or is it OK because they are not their children? What kind of an example is this to both fellow shipmates and families?

So, I ask you, are we all willing to accept responsibility for our actions and our words? When will we truly care about what we say or do to others? Do you remember the Golden Rule? It is a simple Bible verse (Matthew 7:12) worth remembering and living: "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them." If we all did this, maybe then I would be able to go bike riding without fear.

## NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

**Catholic Mass**  
Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)  
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)  
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41<sup>st</sup>  
Stormo Chapel (NAS II)  
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

**Protestant Traditional Worship**  
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

**Protestant Worship**  
Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)  
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

**Church of Christ**  
Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

**Jewish Shabbat Service**  
Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

**Weekdays**  
Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)  
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study  
4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)  
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.

## SECURITY BLOTTER



### CRIMESTOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

Aug. 18 - Aug. 24

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 14
- Traffic accident with injuries - 1
- Car break-ins - 0
- DUI - 0
- DUI's 2003 - 35
- DUI's 2002 - 35

**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. Timothy L. Davison

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Lt. Steve Curry

**Deputy Public Affairs Officer**  
Alberto Lunetta

**Asst. Public Affairs Officer**  
JO1 Craig Coleman

**Staff Writers**  
AN Michelle Hartgraves

**Editor** JOSH Steve Weaver  
JO2 (SW) Brian Johnson

The Signature editorial office is located at:  
Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily  
PSC 812 Box 3020  
FPO AE 09627  
Telephone: 095-86-5440; DSN 624-5440

This civilian enterprise (CE) newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services overseas. Contents of *The Signature* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the United States Navy. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or *City Crier, Inc.*, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. *The Signature* is published weekly by *City Crier, Inc.*, PSC 812 Box 3020, Shawn Kelley, Publisher. Telephone: 349-391-6027. Editorial submissions are welcomed from all NAS Sigonella departments, divisions and tenant commands. Editorial submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs Office via e-mail at any of the addresses located below the staff's names, guard mail stop #68 or hand-delivered no later than close of business Friday preceding expected publication date. All articles submitted by non-staff members will be considered contributing writers. *The Signature* will not publish any anonymous articles. All advertisements in this publication are the property of *City Crier, Inc.* Any reproduction of advertisements in *The Signature* is unauthorized without the written consent of the publisher.





By Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff

# Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

## Saint Agrippina Festival in Mineo

The festivities to honor *Santa Agrippina*, Mineo's patron saint, are celebrated yearly in the last two weeks of August. The main days of these celebrations are Aug. 30 and 31, when Mineo townspeople enthusiastically attend Holy masses, religious parades and perform pilgrimages.

### Life of Saint Agrippina

Saint Agrippina was a princess who was martyred by Roman Emperor Valerian in 256 A.D. because of her Christian faith. According to tradition, the holy relics of Saint Agrippina arrived in Mineo on May 17, in the year 261 A.D. Saint Agrippina is also venerated for having protected Mineo against a devastating earthquake that hit the town in 1975.

### Festival schedule

The festival opens Aug. 30 with the *Pellegrinaggio dei Nudi* (Pilgrimage of the Naked Ones), which takes place in the town's center at 5:30 p.m. *Nudi* are devotees dressed in white shorts and t-shirts with a red sash and a black velvet belt. They are called "naked ones" because in the past they used to attend processions wearing only white *causi a tita* (underpants) and carrying a holy picture of the saint and a bunch of flowers. The reason for such a simple dress relates to a legend telling about a night when a terrible earthquake woke up Mineo's townspeople from their sleep. Hundreds rushed into the streets wearing only their night-shirts and invoked Saint Agrippina for the cessation of the earthquake tremors. At the beginning of last century, the bishop of Siracusa prohibited devotees from wearing only underpants during the festival, as he believed it was an inappropriate outfit for a religious procession. During this fascinating religious parade, devotees scream in Sicilian: "Viva la nostra patrona Sant'Agrippina" (Long live Saint Agrippina, our patron saint). They also recite the rosary and sing hymns in Sicilian.

After the World Wars, many Mineo residents who survived the fighting made a vow to go on a pilgrimage every year in Mineo for the rest of their lives.

On Aug. 31, a spectacular parade featuring caparisoned horses

and the grain offering ceremony is held at 10 a.m. in the city's historic center.

Later on the afternoon, the statue of the patron saint, which is preserved inside the cathedral, is carried through the city streets at 7:30 p.m.

Following the procession, an amazing fireworks show will be performed at midnight.

### What to see

Mineo, a picturesque town criss-crossed by medieval *vaneddi* (narrow streets) features beautiful churches, buildings and the ruins of a castle.

The Church of San Pietro is a baroque masterpiece featuring beautiful paintings and has a magnificent organ dating back to 1772 and a precious walnut choir.

From the ruins of the ancient *Castello di Ducezio* you can enjoy a great view of the surrounding hills. The ruins include part of the exterior defensive walls and the main tower. This magnificent castle is named after Ducezio (495-440 B.C.) an ancient Sicilian commander who founded several cities in Sicily.

The Chiesa di Santa Agrippina, the town's cathedral that is named after the patron of Mineo, was originally an oratory (a private chapel) in 263 A.D. and later a mosque in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century since its structure was damaged by an earthquake in 1693. Inside, the chiesa features a polychrome wooden statue depicting the patron of Mineo that was made in 1518 by Vincenzo Archifel. Precious stuccoes and a unique 16<sup>th</sup> century wooden nativity scene also enrich the church.

In the main square, there is another must see stop: the *Chiesa del Collegio*, a church that is part of the city hall architectural complex. Inside, it features a majestic reliquary featuring thousands of bones belonging to local saints.

The City Hall also houses a small museum dedicated to Italian novelist Luigi Capuana (1839-1915), where you can also see on display one of the first cameras dating to the beginning of last



The *Nudi* pilgrimage is held annually every August in honor of Saint Agrippina, Mineo's patron saint. Although celebrations commence earlier in the month, Aug. 30 and 31 are the most important days of the *fešta*. The festival, which has been celebrated in Mineo for hundreds of years, features religious celebrations, Holy masses, fireworks and a spectacular parade of caparisoned horses.

century. It features the novelist's study and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays also open in the afternoon from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

On Fridays, don't miss Mineo's outdoor *mercato* (market) that is situated at the entrance of the town in largo *Porta di Adinolfo* (Adinolfo Gate). At this rich market you can find almost anything. Outdoor stalls sell food (fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry, pastries) clothing, shoes, trinkets, local crafts, toys and more. It runs from 8 a.m. through 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Mineo town councilman Gino Salerno at 339-1192198 or 0933-981499.



Lip  
Ca



# Word Find

Largest U.S. Cities

C M M H U Y T F F B L F X B D N E L M I T M Q V K  
 S O E I S H Z T B R X U K A O L O K N I O M T I A  
 I I L M N X I N E O H P L S T S A D O S J N O R N  
 N O U O P N E O X W Q L C T A A I R F E T W N G S  
 U F T O R H E R L J A U A N T A T G B P H J S I A  
 Y C C N L A I A R S T E G L N E Z G J C M E E N S  
 O T H I E T D S P U S E U A D W I C H I T A R I C  
 O A I A T M S O U O L U P H O U S T O N R V F A I  
 R G C C R L A I S E L O A L B U Q U E R Q U E B T  
 W S L L A L A R S P L I O S N A E L R O W E N E Y  
 C L E A O M O L C I R A S O H M N Q D O H E E A E  
 O A V S G S O T S A K I T W E O F T O G Y K W C S  
 I I E V Q T A H T L S Y N S T O I C V A H U Y H O  
 N H L E E G L P A E E N A G R M S J B C A A O T J  
 O P A G G M X N L L I Y N T S I X K O I F W R U N  
 T L N A M V D I L E K I W H C I D X M H J L K L A  
 N E D S I N O I B P H O P N Y C I A A C N I E S S  
 A D W H N V M O S R W A C O L U M B U S M F A J  
 N A A W O H L R A T S R L E L L I V N O S K C A J  
 A L K T S N T W H H F B A L T I M O R E B T X K E  
 S I R A N L O V R N A O G E I D N A S O O I I P L  
 J H N R A A Q L A J Q H C A E I M B G N O L S A H N Q  
 O P M N M K L S U I Y Z M R E V N D P T E U Y T  
 H T D J Y O K T B L M I A M I Y H F V L O A M M Y  
 C G L S G V V H A S U F Q E E I W Z J E N I Y V E

MEMPHIS  
 MESA  
 MIAMI  
 MILWAUKEE  
 MINNEAPOLIS  
 NASHVILLE  
 NEW ORLEANS  
 NEW YORK  
 OAKLAND  
 OKLAHOMA CITY  
 OMAHA  
 PHILADELPHIA  
 PHOENIX  
 PORTLAND  
 SACRAMENTO  
 SAN ANTONIO  
 SAN DIEGO  
 SAN FRANCISCO  
 SAN JOSE  
 SEATTLE  
 ST LOUIS  
 TUCSON  
 TULSA  
 VIRGINIA BEACH  
 WASHINGTON  
 WICHITA

|             |                  |              |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| ALBUQUERQUE | COLORADO SPRINGS | HONOLULU     |
| ATLANTA     | COLUMBUS         | HOUSTON      |
| AUSTIN      | DALLAS           | INDIANAPOLIS |
| BALTIMORE   | DENVER           | JACKSONVILLE |
| BOSTON      | DETROIT          | KANSAS CITY  |
| CHARLOTTE   | EL PASO          | LAS VEGAS    |
| CHICAGO     | FORT WORTH       | LONG BEACH   |
| CLEVELAND   | FRESNO           | LOS ANGELES  |



DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

## SDS elementary schedule

Class lists will be posted Aug. 29 at school, housing areas and at the NEX.

Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. - Kindergarten Orientation - Multipurpose Room followed by 10:30 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new primary building

Sept. 2 - Orientation Day for Grades 1-5 Parents will accompany students to school, which dismisses at 11 a.m.

## Join PTO!

The Stephen Decatur Elementary School PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is ready to get the school year off to a great start! Information and membership letters were included in the elementary school packets. Please fill out the membership form and return with your dues as instructed on the form. We are going for 100 percent participation from parents and teachers, so return your form as soon as you can! Join PTO and be a positive part of your child's Stephen Decatur experience!

## Elementary school T-Shirts for sale

Look for Stephen Decatur Elementary School T-shirts! They will be available for sale during the Kindergarten Grand Opening on Aug. 29 from 10 to 11 a.m. in the kindergarten courtyard. Shirts sell for \$10 each, and students will be encouraged to wear them every Friday for "School Spirit Day." They will also be available during Orientation Day in the MPR on Tuesday, Sept. 2. The sale of school shirts is brought to you by PTO.

## Join the Jaguar Booster Club

The Jaguar Booster Club is a non-profit organization which supports the sports program of Stephen Decatur Department of Defense School. The Club assists in purchasing team uniforms, award memorabilia and some athletic equipment. It also finances sports award banquets and contributes to annual scholarship funds. Membership is open to all adult members of the Sigonella community.

The Jaguar Booster Club meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Stephen Decatur DoDD School Library at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be 2 September.

Please join us in supporting our student athletes!

**This week on...**

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mon, Sep 1 - West Wing        | AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM |
| Tue, Sep 2 - Movie: The One   | AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM |
| Wed, Sep 3 - Fear Factor      | AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM |
| Thu, Sep 4 - Meet my Folks    | AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM |
| Fri, Sep 5 - King of the Hill | AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM |

**AFN SIGONELLA NEWS NOW AIRS AT 6:50 PM MONDAY - WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S WEBSITE AT [afneurope.net/sigonella/](http://afneurope.net/sigonella/)**

LIBERTY CALL

**Fri. Aug. 29**

Winner takes all eight-ball tournament at JOX Sports bar at 8 p.m. All participants will automatically be entered in a drawing at the end of the month for a pool cue.

**Sat. Aug. 30**

Visit Lipari, one of the seven Aeolian Islands, with ITT. Explore the island on a bus tour, stopping for wine tasting and lunch at an agrituristic farm. You'll also visit the archeological museum and see the castle with a wonderful view of the sea and old town. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

**Sun. Aug. 31**

Visit the town famous for its wine and the movie "The Godfather," Principe di Corleone with ITT. Also visit the royal hunting palace of Reggia Ficuzza, located in a beautiful nature preserve. After touring, relax with lunch at the winery. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

**Mon. Sept. 1**

It's BINGO night at Live Wire at 6:30 p.m. Cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m. Come early for a good seat. Cash prizes every week.

Visit Calascibetta Palio for a Horseback Riding Festival with ITT. The town still holds on to traditional Arabic customs that have been mixed with Christian festivals such as the celebration of Madonna del Buon Riposo. This festival features traditional Arabic style horse races and riding demonstrations. There will also be the possibility to see the archeological area composed of 300 artificial caves used as tombs dating back to the 8th century B.C. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

**Tues. Sept. 2**

NASSIG Dart League at 6 p.m.

**Weds. Sept. 3**

Do you ever find yourself sitting in your room with nothing to do but sit there in your room with nothing to do? Join Liberty for some exciting rounds of spades. It's free to play and win.

Join the kayaking class at Adventures Unlimited from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the NAS I pool. Call AU at x4271/x3718.

# TRIVIA

Who invented the frankfurter sausage (the first version of today's hot dog)?  
 Who was the first person to conceive of the helicopter?  
 Alaska and Utah have the same state tree. What is it?  
 At the end of the war, how many Nazis were executed in Washington, D.C.?  
 What is the world record, in seconds, for balancing a 159.6kg Mini on someone's head?

(Answers on page 12)

## Movie Connection

AWF's Theater Schedule

### Friday, Aug. 29

1 p.m.  
*Rugrats Go Wild (PG)*

5:30 p.m.  
*Hollywood Homicide (PG-13)*

8:30 p.m.  
*Seabiscuit (PG-13)*

### Saturday, Aug. 30

1 p.m.  
*Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13)*

3:30 p.m.  
*Alex & Emma (PG-13)*

6:30 p.m.  
*American Wedding: American Pie 3 (R)*

### Sunday, Aug. 31

1 p.m.  
*Rugrats Go Wild (PG)*

3:30 p.m.  
*Charlie's Angels 2: Full Throttle (PG-13)*

6:30 p.m.  
*T3: Rise of the Machines (R)*

### Monday, Sept. 1

1 p.m.  
*Rugrats Go Wild (PG)\**

3:30 p.m.  
*Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life (PG-13)*

6:30 p.m.  
*American Wedding: American Pie 3 (R)*

### Theater Closed Tuesdays Wednesday, Sept. 3

5:30 p.m.  
*Hollywood Homicide (PG-13)\**

8:30 p.m.  
*Seabiscuit (PG-13)*

### Thursday, Sept. 4

5:30 p.m.  
*Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life (PG-13)*

8:30 p.m.  
*The Hulk (PG-13)*

### Friday, Sept. 5

5:30 p.m.  
*How to Deal (PG-13)\*\**

8 p.m.  
*LXG: League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13)*

\*\*\* Future Re-release \*\*Sneak Preview \*Last Showing  
 (All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at

# Horsing around with Cowboy John

Cmdr. Lissa Wohltmann  
Staff Writer

If you are looking for a bit of Americana in this land of romance, fine wines and delectable pasta, then rustle on over for some horse trekking via Adventure Unlimited.

You will travel by bus through some exceptionally picturesque countryside to arrive at the horse farm, Escursioni a Cavallo. Instead of being greeted by a dark-haired, Mediterranean-looking Sicilian, you will meet your guide, Cowboy John. A feather in his cowboy hat, a large silver belt buckle and spurs on his cowboy boots creates his authentic Western wear. His blue jeans and black corduroy vest also give the look of someone straight out of the Wild West. You can almost picture this man sitting around the campfire recounting stories of riding the biggest bull in the all-important Texas rodeo.

As this lean lone cowboy saunters over to greet the newest tyros, he firmly shakes your hand and introduces himself. "Howdy," he'll say in his slow Southern drawl. And welcome to the farm.

Cowboy John will give all the instructions on how to ride and how to avoid being a victim of a horse's excitability.

"The safest place (to be) is on that horse," he said to the group during a recent trek.

He continued with a few safety tips then moved on to the fun part of riding.

"I'm all for safety," he drawled. However, "this is a pleasure ride."

After conveying a few more tips, it was time for each member of the group to navigate through the horse manure and jump on a specially chosen horse. There would be no lessons on mounting the horse. To Cowboy John, slipping your left foot in a stirrup on the left side of a horse, bounding up, then throwing your right leg over the saddle, was as easy as roping a sleeping steer.

Influencing this noble creature to turn was another task that was left unsaid. Yet, a local rider, Arturo, was tasked with giving each neophyte the secret. "Sinistra, destra, stop," he said in Sicily's native tongue



while pulling on the reins to denote left, right and stop.

At last it was time to ascend the 4,000-foot climb to the middle of Mt. Etna, just above Nicolosi.

Cowboy John quickly mounted his Arab thoroughbred, Nuvela, gave her a little kick and a yell, and then away he rode. Following right behind, though, were six Americans either wanting a taste of back home or simply needing a new experience.

"I was just looking for something to do," Mary Martin said. She was visiting her husband, MA1 (SW) Derek Martin, and wanted to do

as much as possible while in Sicily.

PC3 Carrie Jo Latham, on the other hand, wanted to ride because after being stationed so far from home for two-and-a-half years, she wanted a taste of America.

"It reminds me of home," she said. As a child, Latham used to ride her horse, Tigger, while on her grandfather's farm in Plymouth, Ind. As luck would have it, Latham discovered another little piece of home with a fellow rider. IT1 David Phillips also rode horses as a kid in Plymouth, Ind. The two of them swapped stories of their hometown school. They even remembered Mr. Mercer, the social studies teacher at Lincoln Junior High.

"He's been there as long as the building has," Phillips said about this junior high school legend.

While trotting along trails of dusty volcanic ash, through dense forest, open fields and macadam, this group climbed to see a spectacular view of Acireale, Pedara, Catania, Acicastello, Giarre and other small towns. On top of this mountain was one of the many burned-out little shacks that blemish the landscape.

"This is my special cabin," Cowboy John said with a smile and a wink. "You have a moon roof or a sun roof, depending how you look at

it."

After soaking up the extraordinary panoramic view and all the picture taking, it was time to go home. The group descended Mt. Etna. On this three-hour trip, all had a wonderful time.

It's a definite must," Mary Martin said about the trip.

Phillips agreed yet had one complaint. "I could have done without eating all that dust."

Although this ride took place miles away from America, it still captured the look and feel of romance and wonder of the West.

## Operation Tribute to Freedom and the NFL want you

From Operation Tribute to Freedom Task Force

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Operation Tribute to Freedom (OTF) and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering for "NFL Kickoff Live", set for 6 p.m., Sept. 4 on the National Mall. The NFL and OTF are inviting you and your family to join them for this free season-opening kick-off concert.

"The NFL is very gracious to provide this opportunity to our servicemen and women around the world. What an exciting way for our military members to be able to see such great entertainment," said Col. Dan Wolfe, executive officer for Operation Tribute to Freedom.

All military and Department of Defense personnel who want to attend the concert should go to the Web site at <http://www.ima.army.mil>, click on the "OTF" icon to get information about the event, then click on the "Register" icon to sign up.

The first 5,000 uniformed men and women will have stage-front access at the show, which will feature a number of world-renowned entertainers, including Aerosmith, Mary J. Blige, Britney Spears, Good Charlotte and Aretha Franklin, who will sing the National Anthem just prior to the start of the football game.

An additional 20,000 uniformed servicemembers and their families will have preferred access to the event.

The concert will be immediately followed by the NFL's season opener between the Washington Redskins and New York Jets. The game starts at 9 p.m. and will be shown to the Mall audience on large Jumbotrons.



## International Cooperation Shines at KEFTACEX

By Ensign Adam Clappitt, KEFTACEX Joint Information  
Bureau Public Affairs

KEFLAVIK, Iceland (NNS) — The Keflavik Tactical Exchange (KEFTACEX) is the largest anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise in the Atlantic this year, and it fosters a spirit of cooperation and teamwork as seven NATO allies come together to learn and practice ASW skills.

For the rest of the week, Sailors and aviators from Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States will be in Iceland to show the world that the allies are as close as ever.

"Right now, we're engaged in a war on terrorism, we're still engaged in Iraq, and there have been many allies by our side as we have gone through this," said Rear Adm. John Waickwicz, commander, Fleet Air Keflavik. "When you look at all the exercises canceled throughout the world because of wartime operations, it's a testimony to the governments that want this training and this exercise to take place."

The exercise almost didn't happen this year, because worldwide commitments made it difficult to find a submarine with which the aircraft could train. At the last minute, the French donated a nuclear-powered submarine to the exercise. The submarine is a central part of the training, and it is a big reason NATO countries participate in KEFTACEX each year.

"Canada has a responsibility for surveillance in the North Atlantic, but we don't have our own sub," said Major Ilo Nero of the Canadian Navy. "We need to rely on other countries' subs for ASW training."

# SPORTS

## Captain's Cup Swim Meet Results

- |                  |                                    |                |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. PWD 195 pts.  | 4. NEPMU 7/Security (TIED) 34 pts. | 7. NCTS 10pts. |
| 2. AIMD 65 pts.  | 5. Hospital (Dental) 21 pts.       |                |
| 3. VP-45 41 pts. | 6. PSD 12 pts.                     |                |

## Captains Cup Swim Meet: Come on out, the water's warm

JOSN Steve Weaver  
Staff Writer

There was a lot of splashing, splashing, diving and swimming going on Saturday at Naval Air Station Sigonella's NAS II pool. The pool played host to swimmers young and old as they back stroked, butterflyed and freestyled in a competition that took place under the scorching hot Sigonella sun.

The meet comprised 13 events ranging from a tiring 400-meter freestyle to a plethora of 50-meter events. The kids and adults were all vying for Captain's Cup points for their respective commands, but the event was friendly competition. "Any active duty member or their family can compete for points for their command," said Rich McKeown, aquatics supervisor. "We hold it every year at the end of August or early September."

Many of the competitors having swimming in their blood. "I swam in high school and college competitively," said Lt. Cmdr. Brian Brochu from Patrol Squadron Four Five (VP-45). "I've been on some master's tours and trained for some triathalons. I'd say I'm a pretty big swimmer. The Official U.S. Masters association is for any swimmer who's 18 or older who wants to continue to compete competitively in swimming. There's 70 and 80-year-old people who still compete in masters swimming."

Brochu, whose favorite event is the butterfly, admitted that the most competitive event of the



Swimmers competing in Saturday's Captain's Cup Swim Meet at the NAS II pool get a jump on the competition in one of the 13 events held. PWD swam to a commanding win in the event.

day was the 100-meter individual medley. "We were all touch touch touch, it was a very close race," he said.

Capt. Michael Blount of public works enjoyed the 100-meter IM as well. "The 100 IM was a great race, the top three people all finished within a half second of each other."

Blount's family were all on hand for the competition. It seems swimming runs, or swims, in the family. Blount has been swimming since the age of 10, and encouraged his kids to start swimming early. "It started as en-

couragement, then after a few years as they got better and more confidence in swimming they started to really enjoy it," he said. "It became easier and easier to get them to swim practice."

When one or more of the members of his family were in the water, the others were shouting their encouragement. This happens wherever there is a competition. "I swim masters, and they come out and support me during my swim meets," said Blount.

Another experienced swimmer taking in the competition

was IT1 Mary Wilson of NCTS. "I've been swimming since I was a kid," said Wilson. "We lived on a lake. My mother is paranoid, so we all had swimming lessons." Wilson swam in many events, but had a favorite. "I like the breaststroke, that's my favorite," she said. "I did okay, I'm doing better than I used to."

Everyone had a good time at the meet. "What usually what happens is everybody has such a good time that if I held this same event next week, I'd double the amount of people," said McKeown. "This is my second

time doing it, I've also done it at lots of other bases. It all depends on how close the captains cup race is to, and how many people the commands send out."

"This is great, I wish I could have got more VP-45 people aware of it," said Brochu. "Because we just got on deployment, it's been so hectic at work lately, I was in meetings for two hours this morning and finally just looked at my executive officer and said, 'Sir it's a Captain's Cup event, I'm going to be getting points for VP-45, I have to go.'"

The quality of swimmers here is impressive. "I'm impressed with the quality of the swim team here," said Brochu. "I've swam with swim teams from Maine to Massachusetts, Buffalo, Florida, Washington, Japan and Bahrain. This is a really great pool, great facility, very strong program with a lot of good young swimmers. I'm looking forward to the next five months here."

"There was high quality competition in men's and women's," said McKeown. "Some fast times. A couple of the events I was glad I wasn't in."

Blount encourages more people to come out and swim. "It's great that the pool is heated, we have year-round swimming, he said. "Since the pool has become heated, I'd say that the patronage has quadrupled."

"Turned out really good, everybody had fun," said McKeown.

## The Lane

### Free tennis clinic

Pick up some new skills and strategies and sharpen your game. Starting Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. at the NAS II tennis courts. For information call 624-2710.

### 1st ever NAS Sigonella Labor Day Invitational Bowling tournament

Starting Aug. 30, Sigonella's best bowlers take on teams from all over Europe. Before the tournament a 27 game local qualifying tournament will be held. For information call the bowling center at 624-4302

### 2-on-2 horseshoe tournament

Come out to the NAS II ballfield Saturday, Aug. 23, at 10 a.m. for some free grub and a chance to show off your horse footwear tossing skills. This is a Captain's cup event. For more information call 624-2710.

# Medieval meets modern in Motta

Story and Photos by  
**JOSN Steve Weaver**  
*Staff Writer*

Motta Santa Anastasia came alive this weekend with the sights and sounds of the medieval times. Ornate costumes, swords and banners of all kinds were struttin' down the streets of Motta for the enjoyment of all in attendance. Everywhere one looked, it was as if a portal opened up to a different time.

This festival is held in celebration of Saint Anastasia, the patron saint of Motta. The religious festival was complemented by fireworks, folklore and music shows held in the different city districts (Rioni).

Sailors from Naval Air Station Sigonella's Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD) and children from Military Housing Complex 205's Youth Activities Center were given the chance of a lifetime, to become part of the pageantry.

AIMD's AMAN Philip Ard was given an interesting request by his neighbor, Ivan Pellegrino, a local national who works in BOQ Supply. "He asked me to get a group of friends... people who would be reliable and to have a good time doing this," said Ard. Pellegrino asked Ard and his friends to dress up as Spanish warriors and join a parade through the streets of Motta during the festival. "He said there's going to be a parade, we get to dress up like medieval knights," he said. "I thought that sounded like a fun thing to do, and everybody else here thought that would be fun."

The Sailors had a hard time adjusting to their new uniforms when they first put them on and marched under the Sicilian sun. Some would walk a few steps before something fell off. Others had a hard time finding a warrior helmet that fit their Sailor head. After a while, they got used to their uniforms and began reciting quotes from Monty Python. "We are the knights who say NI!"

"This is great," said Ard. "I'm just excited to dress [up in the outfits] and walk around the streets."

The costumes, replicas of Spanish uniforms from 1282, looked very authentic and apparently took a lot of work to make. "The suits are all homemade by a medieval stylist from northern Italy by the name of Angelo," said Pellegrino. "He made 200 suits in four months by hand...everything is made by hand." The Sailors were part of one of three "teams" as Pellegrino called them, Rione Vecchia Matrice, who wore green and yellow colors. The other teams included I Cereo Giovani Maestri, who were predominantly blue and white, and Rione Panzera, who were predominantly

red and orange.

There was a certain story from medieval times that went along with all the costumes. "Every four years they go back and do different stories from medieval times," said Pellegrino. "This time they're talking about the I Vespri Siciliani." The Sicilian Vespers is the common name given a rebellion by Sicilians against their French rulers in 1282.

This marks a first for Americans in Motta. "This is the first time Americans dressed in the Saint Anastasia festival," said Pellegrino.

Another group of Americans, youngsters from the 205 Youth Activities Center, made a very colorful appearance in the festival. The group of girls were invited to don purple, red, orange, green and other

colorful dresses and carry flowers through the streets with Italian girls of the same age.

"It was a neat experience, it was different," said Ginger Brown, 205 recreation aid. "It was something that we wouldn't experience if we weren't living here in Italy. It was very hot, but the kids enjoyed interacting with the Italian girls."

The girls were surrounded by the sights and sounds of horses with medieval riders, queens and bands trumpeting their fanfare. "They were excited to see all the people," Brown said. "They liked to see the queen. It was great for them. You have these tiny girls and they saw all the costumes and people...they thought it was cool."

The girls were going to take part in a second day,

but the first was enough for them. "We were going to participate in the second day, but the first day took a toll on the girls," said Brown. "They had to wait three hours before they started walking, but they stuck it out."

They stuck it out and now have something they can tell their children when the time comes. The same goes for the Sailors from AIMD. "This is the first time I've done something like this with the community," said AM3 Sean Warren of AIMD. He said this was something interesting to do that deviated from the normal routine. "This is actually something to do with society."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Ard. "How many Americans get to do something like this?"





“This is great. How many Americans get to do something like this?”

*-AMAN Philip Ard of AIMD*

The medieval festival in Motta presented a host of intricate costumes, replicas of a bygone era. People from all over gathered along the streets (opposite page, far left) to catch a glimpse of the color and culture. Sailors from NAS Sigonella’s Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD) (opposite page, center right bottom) wore hand-made costumes resembling Spanish warriors from 1282. Girls from the 205 Youth Activities Center (left) and many other girls from the Center joined Italian girls in wearing colorful skirts in the festival. This marked the first time in the festival’s history that Americans have been part of the festival.





Photo by JOD David Hamilton

MA3 Brannon Porch reviews a quiz to prepare active duty personnel for National Emergency Medical Training (EMT) Certification. Porch puts his civilian skills to work volunteering his time at NAS Sigonella's Naval Hospital as an EMT and as an instructor for the American Heart Association.

**Porch from page 1**

NAS Sigonella in the Security Department "Being recalled to active duty has given me an opportunity to give back to my country," said Porch. "I am very happy with my decision to join the Navy, and I am proud to be serving."

When Porch arrived March 28, his focus was not only standing 12-to-14 hour days in a professional manner as a patrolman, but much more. He wanted to contribute in a way that would put his civilian skills to work. As an American Heart Association Basic Life Support instructor, Porch became a familiar face around NAS Sigonella's Naval Hospital.

When not patrolling the gate, he volunteered his time and efforts teaching a 160-hour National Registry Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Course for active duty personnel. "I enjoy the interaction between the students and watching the learning process take place," said Porch. "Being able to pass on experiences that I have had as a 15-year veteran in the Albuquerque ambulance service and fire rescue is important to me."

Karen Taylor, NAS Sigonella's hospital volunteer chairman, is very thankful for Porch's contributions. "Petty officer Porch volunteered 45 hours of his time at the hospital within the last two months," said Taylor. "It is a great service when someone like him is able to juggle his working schedule to volunteer his time."

You will not only find Porch volunteering his time as an instructor while off duty, but in the emergency room service area as well. Lt. Charles White, emergency room nurse, could not say enough about his role. "He brought much knowledge to several of the scenes here at the hospital," said White. "He also acted as an excellent liaison between the law enforcement side of things and the emergency room staff."

Porch's supervisor, HM2 James Tyler, remembers quite well a situation where Porch was an asset to the emergency room staff. "Two staff members had to run out on an ambulance call, so after about three hours sleep, he volunteered his time working close to 12 hours," said Tyler. "He is a quick learner and the nurses turned to him as though he was a permanent part of the staff."

Porch's civilian skills have not gone unnoticed as a member of the Security Department's Mobile Afloat Security Team (MAST) for the security department. He has served as the medic for the team and has put medical response kits together to assist with injuries ranging from trauma to cardiac arrest. While teaching CPR, he qualified more than 30 people to perform the procedures to save someone's life.

Security's Ronald Moseley, detachment chief, is always looking for skills and talents in his personnel other than daily duties that may be of assistance. "Petty Officer Porch brings many skills to the team as an EMT," said Moseley. "He adds a whole new aspect to our MAST team. It allows the team to be more self-reliant with the capability of handling emergency situations."

As Porch prepares to demobilize on Sept. 9, he will leave NAS Sigonella with no regrets of hoping he had accomplished more. According to White, the only regret is that he could not stay on active duty.

**Training from page 1**

importance of being prepared.

"We all bring something to the table, that is what our team does. We come into the hospital and look at their standard operating procedures ahead of time... we check on everything, to give them suggestions on improving it. We try to give the Surgeon General an idea of how well his people are prepared to cope with disasters around the world."

Up to six months after their training in Sigonella, the hospital will stay in contact with the DVATEX team, e-mailing discussions and questions back and forth to improve the hospital's incident procedures.

"We will point them to a better understanding of how to better manage chemical and biological casualties... it is just a beginning of our ability to cope with the new age of vials we see in the world."

Maserang hopes that the training will give the military community more confidence in Navy medicine's capability to manage any type of disaster.

"Navy medicine is a defensive weapons system," said Maserang. "Just like the failings or radar and guns on a ship, your best resource is a fit Sailor who can do his or her job. That is what Navy medicine is here for, to help that person do their job and the Navy to complete its mission."

**Trivia Answers**

- 1) Johann Georghehner
- 2) Leonardi Da Vinci
- 3) Spruce
- 4) Seven
- 5) 33 seconds

## Dental Corps Celebrates 91st Anniversary

By Aveline V. Allen, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy's Dental Corps celebrated its 91st anniversary Aug. 22, with a combined active and Reserve force of 1,582 men and women dedicated to ensuring the quality dental care of Navy personnel, their beneficiaries and retirees.

These committed dental professionals have supported Navy Medicine's mission of Force Health Protection (FHP) with their many contributions and efforts abroad and at home.

"Dental Corps officers ensured that Navy and Marine Corps forces were deployed at levels of dental readiness at or exceeding 95 percent, with many units deploying at 100 percent," said Rear Adm. Dennis D. Woolfer, chief of the Dental Corps. "Plus, many units deployed at record levels of dental 'health,' the key indicator of their potential to remain dentally ready for the duration of the operation."

Not only are Dental Corps personnel striving to achieve the FHP mission, but they also displayed their operational readiness talents during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

"One-hundred forty Dental Corps officers, active-duty and Reservists, deployed aboard ships with organic dental departments, with medical augmentation platforms aboard USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), the Casualty Receiving and Treatment Ships, and ashore with the fleet hospitals. Elements from two active-duty dental battalions and one Reserve dental battalion went into the deserts and mountains with the Marines," said Woolfer. "Those dental officers were well trained and well equipped to provide the necessary dental care, plus, they were prepared to do so even if challenged by chemical or biological threats. Currently, approximately 25 dental officers remain engaged in OIF."

OIF is just one of many operations the Dental Corps has been involved with recently. They are also very heavily involved in combating terrorism.

"The Dental Corps has taken an aggressive stance on being more aware of and better prepared to assist during Navy Medicine's response to acts or threats of terrorism," said Woolfer. "Following the attacks of Sept. 11, dental officers at all 15 dental commands participated in the formal CBRNE [chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive] training prescribed by the Naval Medical Education and Training Command (NMETC)."

The Dental Corps is currently working on two new initiatives, which include OIF 'after-action' reports and optimization of dental services at dental treatment facilities.

"First, there will be the analysis of the after action reports from Operation Iraqi Freedom to glean some 'lessons learned' that will improve the delivery of dental care in the operational or combat theater," said Woolfer. "Second, will be the goal of optimizing the delivery of dental services at our fixed dental treatment facilities. Success in this endeavor will result in significantly increased productivity which will directly support maintaining a healthy, fit fighting force."

Although Woolfer is extremely proud of the Dental Corps this year, he admits the entire operation includes many other personnel.

"I am especially pleased this year that the actions of Dental Corps officers preparing for and participating in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom have added another chapter to the proud legacy of the Dental Corps," said Woolfer.

Sanchez from page 1

particular of the function here, and to see all of our [Sailors and Airmen] do a good job out here.

Families are also important to the congresswoman. She met with Sigonellan families in the housing areas. "I went to see some of the families," she said. "I think that's important, how we treat the families of our armed forces."

Sanchez knows a thing or two about family. She and her sister Linda were the first "sister act" to serve in the U.S. Congress. "It's family, it's a big thing," said Sanchez. "First of all because there aren't that many women in Congress, there's 60 out of 435. So to have two sisters is a pretty amazing thing. It's the first time in the [history] of Congress that there's been two sisters. It's nice because she's ten years younger, she's the little sister so I get to boss her around still and teach her the ropes. Washington can be a hard town, so it's nice to have family there, and someone who understands the kind of work that you do."

Being on the Armed Services Committee, Sanchez is very interested in quality of life for



**Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, representative of the 47th Congressional District of California, talks with some of the pilots in the Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) hangar during her visit to Naval Air Station Sigonella. Congresswoman Sanchez's European tour includes stops in Germany and Kosovo.**

servicemembers. "I'm interested not only with personnel issues, whether you think we're paying you enough, how we're treating you families, this whole issue with optempo, especially with respect to the Iraq situation right now," she said. "But also looking at the systems, trying to figure out where we can find the money to upgrade what we need to do."

NAS I has seen its share of upgrades, and Sanchez was quick to notice some of the improvements. "The quality of life here is pretty good compared to some of the other bases I've seen," Sanchez said. "I think if we work on some of the housing it will be even better. Of course we're always concerned, in particular since Sept. 11, of force protection and making sure first and foremost that the facilities and families are safe. So that's something we're going to work on. As far as I can see the food establishments, the commissary, the exchange, they're world class here."

The congresswoman left with a message for the servicemembers on the base. "We're so proud of the work that they do," she said. "The job that they have is so important. I know that every American feels the same way as I do...that we support them, that we're behind them, and that they're really making us proud out here."

Photo by JONN Shaw Weaver