

The Signature

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Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

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Photo

Navy announces High Year Tenure Policy revision

Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON - The Navy has revised its High Year Tenure (HYT) policy for two paygrades to levels that ensure continued healthy promotion opportunity for rising career-minded Sailors.

New HYT limits are noted below:

Paygrade	Former limit	Revised limit
E-4	12 years	10 years
E-5	20 years	Unchanged
E-6	22 years	20 years
E-7	24 years	Unchanged
E-8	26 years	Unchanged
E-9	30 years	Unchanged

Revising HYT limits for E4 and E6 Sailors is estimated to impact approximately 800 first class petty officers and 200 third class petty officers per year.

"Several years ago we were faced with stalled advancement opportunities and needed to give Sailors more time to advance. Our strategy paid off for 794 Sailors with greater than 19 years of service who were promoted to chief petty officer during the past two advancement cycles," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr.

"Our growth in the Top Six, combined with healthy advancement opportunities today, leads me to believe we are on the right path to developing a more experienced force. Now we need to ensure we maintain the same healthy advancement flow for our up and coming career-minded Sailors."

No Sailor affected by the new HYT limits will be required to separate or transfer to the Fleet Reserve (FLTRES) prior to Sept. 30, 2003; affected E4s and E6s may extend up to that date. The revision will be carefully phased-in to minimize the impact on Sailors affected by this initiative. For example:

- E4s who reach the old 12-year HYT limit prior to Sept. 30, 2003 must separate when they achieve 12 years of total active duty naval service.

- E4s who reach the new 10-year HYT limit by Sept. 30, 2003 must separate by Sept. 30, 2003.

- E6s who reach the old 22-year HYT limit prior to Sept. 30, 2003 must transfer to the FLTRES when they achieve 22 years of total active duty naval service.

- E6s who reach the new 20-year HYT limit by Sept. 30, 2003 must transfer to the FLTRES by Sept. 30, 2003.

- All previously approved HYT waivers for E4s and E6s will be honored.

Affected personnel are authorized to compete for advancement in fiscal year 2003: E6s may take the Jan. 2003 CPO exam and E4s may take the Sept. 2002 and March 2003 advancement exams.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott explained the reasoning behind this decision, saying "I know there's a perception among our career Sailors in the Fleet that advancement opportunities may be dropping off for those with 10 to 14 years of service.

"However, Sailors in this critical period of their service need to know there is a strong chance to move up into more senior leadership roles. Adjusting High Year Tenure limits will help preserve opportunity," Scott said. "We must be able to continue to offer steady upward mobility and advancement opportunity to all Sailors."

Sailors impacted by the reduced HYT limits and under orders or with an upcoming projected rotation date should contact their rating detailer.

Sailors in critical paygrades, undermanned ratings, or holding specific Navy enlisted Classification Codes (NECs) should submit HYT waiver requests through their chain of command.

The approval process takes into consideration several factors including: end strength, community manning (advancement opportunity and rate readiness), specialty training, scope and billet priority, and quality of life considerations.

"While the waiver process remains an option, another aspect of this policy revision is ensuring fairness by tightening up on all HYT waiver approvals," said Ryan. "We need to preserve future promotion opportunity by enforcing this policy across all paygrades."

"Our leadership has asked us to prepare for the long run as we fight the war on terrorism," Ryan said. "Adjusting High Year Tenure gates ensures our operational forces are manned to fight and win and the Sailors involved in the fight have a solid opportunity to advance."

For more information on the revised High Year Tenure Policy refer to NAVADMIN 208/02, and see your command career counselor.

Sigonella Sailor saves life

By JO1 Phil Beaufort

Contributing writer

They say that everything is connected. 'They' being scientists, philosophers, religious scholars, what have you. The overused example is of course, the Chinese butterfly. It goes like this, a butterfly flaps its wings in the Himalayas, that little puff of air joins up with a down draft caused by cooling air, which pushes more air to create a wind that ends up circumnavigating the globe, which in turn spawns a tornado in Missouri, or a blizzard in Brazil or...

Scott Plummer spent this past Fourth of July competing in the 21st Annual Chronicle Seaway Run in Muskegon, Mich. This five-K run wasn't an event he and his family thought he'd have a chance to participate in again. The reason this 45-year-old plumber and father of three had his doubts was because of Leukemia. He was diagnosed with the disease several years ago and without a bone marrow transplant his odds of survival weren't good. To make matters worse none of his children or siblings could offer a good match for a bone marrow transplant.

A thousand miles away and over six years earlier MA2 Lance Vickers decided he wanted to help someone else. "I was a Hospital Corpsman before I converted to the Master at Arms rating, I was stationed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The DoD Bone Marrow Program often came to the hospital and set up booths to "recruit" perspective donors. Signing up was extremely easy, all I had to do was give a few vials of blood," said Vickers.

Back in Michigan, Plummer was informed that a positive match had been found, but they'd have to wait, as the donor was overseas. "I did not know for sure that he was in the service, but when they first decided I was ready for the transplant it was postponed, they said my

donor was out of the country and we would have to wait a little bit longer. That gave us an idea he was military of some kind. We always had that feeling. It was kind of weird after the 9-11 event worrying about someone we did not know and not really even knowing if he was for sure in the services. When we did find out he was still overseas and in the military, we were concerned for his safety. I always make sure to inform people who ask about my donor that he's in the Navy," said Plummer.

Vickers said the weeklong process to extract the marrow wasn't as easy as giving the blood sample. "I would have to say that it was, by far, the most painful thing I have ever experienced. It is often equated to childbirth but lasts about a week. Despite all the pain and all the inconvenience I would not hesitate to do it again."

Vickers and Plummer recently exchanged correspondence and hope to be able to meet sometime in the future. "We were both contacted one year after the procedure was completed by the donor centers and were asked if we wanted to exchange personal information. His email address was given to me by my DoD Bone Marrow coordinator and I wrote him a short letter giving him a brief look into my background, more like an introduction," said Vickers.

"It was hard not knowing who my donor was," said Plummer. "I was afraid I would never be able to meet him and thank him for saving my life. The fact that this young gentleman took the time out of his own busy life to save a total stranger's life, makes him a hero and the whole world should know."

BMT continued on page 2

Dutch visit NAS Sigonella, VP 10

By Lt. j.g. Lukas Filler

VP 10 Public Affairs Officer

Last week a Dutch P 3, aircrew and maintenance support personnel left Italy after a two week detachment in support of NATO Operations JOINT GUARDIAN and Operation DELIBERATE FORGE. This is the second Dutch detachment to NAS Sigonella during VP 10's deployment and is one of their regular operational sites. The 320 Squadron is based at Valkenburg Air Base just outside of Amsterdam (along with their P 3 training squadron) and it is the only P 3 squadron operated by the Dutch. While detached, all missions were supported by TSC Sigonella and VP 10's CTG OPS. The Dutch were selected to augment VP 10 because although they fly Update II.5 aircraft (the US flies the AIP version, an improvement program following Update III, they are the only other country with P 3 aircraft that are capable of carrying out the assigned mission. They have been contributing to Bosnia/Kosovo peace missions since 1996, but have only been flying Joint Guardian/Deliberate Forge missions since 1999.

Several members of VP 10 had the opportunity to fly with the Dutch and observe the stylistic and procedural differences between U.S and Dutch crews. The Dutch P 3 squadron is organized and run in a very similar manner to the US, but there are a few notable differences. For example, they operate their P 3s using guidance and procedures as set forth by the U.S. Navy's NATOPS, but have their own simulators and training syllabus. While American crews usually consist of three pilots for a long mission, the Dutch have only two. U.S. aircrews tend to fly together for six months to a year while the Dutch crews remain together for up to six years. The Dutch don't go on six month deployments like the U.S., but they do detach to Sigonella for a month, then home for two months, and then detach, again, to Curacao (a Caribbean island with nice beaches, gambling, great rum and weather) for two months.

U.S. aircrews also have designated members who fulfill the required observer duties, while the Dutch do not. All Dutch aircrew rotate into the observer positions, and when not flying, even the off-duty flight engineer will act as an observer. Conversely, they only fly about 30 percent of the yearly hours an average U.S. crew does. Another striking similarity between the two squadrons is that both are having retention problems. One contributing factor is that they must serve for 30 years to receive their retirement pension and benefits. Their pay to cost-of-living ratio is similar to the U.S., however, they are ten years older (than their American counter-parts) when they can start their 'second career'. In addition, either the officer aircrew career path takes them eventually to a ship or if they opt to, they can fly other Dutch aircraft but will never advance beyond the rank of O-4.

While detached here, the Dutch stayed at the Sig Inn across from NAS I and were able to find time to enjoy the sights of Sicily. In appreciation for their assistance and as a way of saying thank you, the VP 10 officers threw a farewell BBQ for the entire detachment before they returned home.

A normal month for VP 10 consists of about 25 overland Bosnia/Kosovo missions in addition to numerous NATO exercises, Souda Bay detachments, training and proficiency flights, Enduring Freedom missions, Battlegroup support missions, and various other activities that the adaptable P 3 might be tasked to fly. VP 10 is grateful for the help-the Dutch are outstanding representatives of their country's military and their professionalism serves as a great example for U.S. patrol squadrons.

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Italian phrase
of the week...

Mi può fare uno sconto?



(Can you give me a discount?)

SECURITY BLOTTER



Helping make the community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

July 8 - July 14

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 2002 - 14

DUI's 2001 - 33

The

Signature

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Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG
Commanding Officer



Last Friday, I had the privilege of taking part in a ceremony at the Ponte Dirillo Bridge near Niscredi, honoring the 82nd airborne division that perished during a landing at this site. It was an inspiration to stand where approximately 39 U.S. servicemen made the ultimate sacrifice on July 9, 1943.

The landing of the U.S. Army paratroopers 59 years ago was a prelude to the invasion of Sicily. This battle is an important part of history and, as the memorial plaque says, "from the sacrifice of these men is created the new history of Europe."

I encourage everyone to read the story about this event on page 3 and think about the sacrifices the men of the 82nd airborne division made for freedom.

On another subject, I'm sure everyone has noticed the increase in security measures at our gates over the last week. While we're still in Force Protection Condition Bravo Plus, higher authority has directed us to increase our searches. This increase required us to reactivate additional members of the Auxiliary Security Force.

We are mindful of the initial uploading of ASF when they are released from their primary duties on base. There may be some initial challenges when we activate ASF, but our security personnel are aware of this and work very hard to make the transition as smooth as possible for the servicemember being recalled as well as the department or command.

Our number one priority here is mission accomplishment, and the safety and security of our installations is integral to our ability to perform that mission effectively. Our Security Force and Auxiliary Security Force are doing an outstanding job looking out for us here. These professionals spend long hours on the gates keeping us safe and protecting our assets.

The traffic entering the base is more congested right now than what we may be used to, however the increased measures are a necessary part of our Force Protection Program. We're continuously working to make the flow of traffic more efficient for everyone.

I ask that everyone be patient during this time and continue to show our security personnel the respect they deserve. Expect some delays and allow yourself plenty of time to arrive safely.

The Pulse

Dehydration

Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Huber

Family Physician

We don't think of water as food, but it is as important to our health as any of the nutrients. Every cell in the body uses water. The human body is made up of 60 to 75 percent water. The body will not function well if it is not hydrated, without water, the chemical reactions and metabolic processes of the body would not take place. Water makes up the major portion of our body fluids and it is involved in every portion of life. Without it, we cannot digest food, have a functioning neurologic system, lay down bone, lubricate joints, and regulate body temperature.

On average, your body losses eight to 12 cups of water a day. This is increased by: exercise, hot weather, low humidity, higher altitudes, high fiber diets, and consumption of caffeine and alcohol containing beverages. In general men need to replace about 12 cups of fluid daily and women need to replace eight to 10 cups (breastfeeding women need 12-14). Not all of this fluid is generally replaced by drinking water, although water is the major way of meeting your fluid needs. Replace fluid by drinking water, fluids without caffeine or alcohol, and eating soups and foods naturally high in water, such as fruits and vegetables.

Drink at least eight cups of water a day. You can count skim milk, 100 percent fruit juice, and decaffeinated teas as part of this because they are mostly water. If you engage in heavy exercise or spend much of the day outside in the Sicilian sun, increase your fluid consumption.

One way you can judge your level of hydration is by the color of your urine. Your urine should be clear to very pale yellow. The darker and stronger smelling your urine is, the more dehydrated you are. Thirst and headaches are not accurate gauges of hydration. By the time you feel thirsty, you are already one to 1.5 liters behind.

There are many ways to increase your water consumption: at work, keep a large water bottle on your desk (sipping from it frequently), keep a pitcher of water in your refrigerator, carry a water bottle with you when you leave the house, change to decaffeinated coffee, tea and soda, instead of caffeinated beverages. For every caffeinated beverage you drink, drink a glass of water, drink a glass of water before meals and snacks, order water at restaurants, add lemon or lime to your water if it allows you to enjoy water more.

BMT

—continued from front page

"The opportunity to do something that meaningful for someone else, whether you know them or not, does not happen that often. My advice to anyone is to participate in this program. I was on the list for almost five years before I was called to help someone. The more people who sign up the better chance a bone marrow match can be found for someone in need. I saved the life of someone I didn't even know. It was an easy decision and I suspect that it would be the same for any of my

shipmates."

Each year the American Cancer Society releases its projected statistical figures on new cancer cases and possible cancer related deaths. Society projections estimate 1.285 million new cases of diagnosed cancer and over half a million American fatalities in the year 2002.

But statistics don't tell the whole story. Scott Plummer finished a five-K run this year in 40 minutes and 14 seconds, all because six years ago a Sailor, a thousand miles away, made a decision to help someone else.

Navy to bring personal development to sailors

By JO2 Jd Walter
Task Force EXCEL Public Affairs Office

TASK FORCE EXCEL WASHINGTON, DC – The Fleet and Task Force for Excellence through Commitment to Education and Learning (EXCEL) are getting a unique opportunity to partner with FranklinCovey to provide the latest, best-in-class educational opportunities and tools to satisfy the Navy's credentialing process. "Once again the Fleet and Task Force EXCEL are adopting and adapting the best of the best from a private industry so that our Sailors have the tools and opportunities to excel," said Rear Adm. Harry Ulrich, director of Task Force EXCEL.

By engaging private industry and academic leaders, the Navy gets a first-hand look at how the most successful companies in America train and educate their employees. Additionally, the Navy can compare proficiency standards and development opportunities of industry and academia with its own, and identify areas requiring enhancement. "We are excited to advance our work with the Navy and greatly appreciate this opportunity to work together to develop the best tools and opportunities," said Frank Gavin, vice president of Government Programs at FranklinCovey. "The Navy is committed to ensuring Sailors get every chance to grow and develop both professionally and personally."

The Revolution in Training is designed to provide greater opportunities to Sailors, while giving them the most up to date, training and tools available to ensure their success. The first step, however, is identifying the proficiencies required of Sailors to meet the navy's overall mission requirements. This is where the training industry has typically played a role in the revolution, by creating professional and personal continuums based on industry standards. The Navy is able to develop educational opportunities that satisfy industry's credentialing process, giving Sailors the same certifications and professional awards as their industry counterparts.

"We are making Sailors employable, not simply employed," said Ulrich. "Our relationship with industry is crucial to the success of the revolution. FranklinCovey, as recognized leadership experts provide us the opportunity to create the best Personal Development program possible, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to work with them and tap into their store of knowledge."

To learn more about the Revolution in Training, visit www.excel.navy.mil.



Buffalo Burgers

Bea Cook

Contributing writer

1 pound ground beef
1 can (10 3/4 oz.) Tomato Soup
1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
4 hamburger rolls

Shape the beef into four patties, 1/2" thick. Cook patties in skillet until browned. Pour off fat. Add soup and hot pepper sauce. Heat to a boil. Cover and cook over low heat five minutes or until done. Top with cheese.

Serve on rolls with soup mixture. Kitchen Clip: blue cheese salad dressing is traditionally served with buffalo wings to offset the heat. This buffalo burgers recipe translates this tradition with a crumbled blue cheese topping. Serve the burgers with celery sticks, just as restaurants do with wings, or with a green salad.

S.A.F.

Dogs: 5
Cats: 1
Puppies: 0
Kittens: 6



Call 624-3200 for the Stray Animal Facility if you are looking for a particular animal (i.e. Breed, size, color or age).



From the Fleet

Tracking the Future

By Vicky Falcón
 Naval Air Systems Public Affairs

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NNS) — Two Navy vessels ride the waves of the Mediterranean Sea side by side during an underway replenishment. Huge pallets are loaded from one ship to another as a handler impatiently waits for a critical piece of equipment being delivered somewhere among the T-shirts, tools and toiletries coming aboard. How will he find it?

In the not-too-distant future, that handler may hold a small scanner, which will quickly alert the user as the piece is brought aboard, signaling the exact location of the crucial part.

"We are working to make life easier for the sailor as well as the civilian workforce," said Chuck O'Brien, team lead for the Automatic Identification Technology (AIT) group. O'Brien and his team run a laboratory in St. Inigoes, Md., an annex of the Naval Air Systems Command's Patuxent River site.

"We are unique in DOD (Department of Defense)," said O'Brien. "NAVAIR recognized the potential of this technology and has taken the lead in the evaluation and exploitation of emerging AIT products to benefit the warfighter, both at the front lines and behind the scenes."

The team's capabilities, expertise and experience have been recognized by other government agencies as well. AIT customers include Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), the Office of Naval Research, as well as the U.S. Army.

The laboratory is responsible for evaluating potential process improvements to Navy functions by incorporating AIT mediums such as bar codes, contact memory buttons and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags. RFID tags come in many sizes and shapes, and are versatile in their potential uses. They can be used as electronic labels, or tags, which can then be "read" at a distance - quickly and reliably.

According to O'Brien, RFID provides an accurate, hands-free ability to identify products, track movements and record transactions. "If it moves, the system knows it," he said.

As part of NAVSUP's Afloat Supply Department of the Future (ASDOF) initiative, the Lab was tasked to conduct an evaluation of commercial RFID products for use in a shipboard environment. A prototype was installed onboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) for three weeks to demonstrate positive inventory control of aviation repairables without paper documentation. In addition, extensive testing was conducted to determine that emissions from the tags will not interfere with ships systems nor will ships systems affect the function of the RFID system.

A similar effort on USS Normandy (CG 60) was undertaken to show the receipt, stow and issuance of repair parts. The tests successfully used RFID tags to automatically track material movement around the ship.

The lab is also conducting product tests for NAVSEA, outfitting a test sample of spare parts for Virginia-class submarines with RFID tags. The tests are being run with the shipbuilder to assess the performance and savings of RFID.

According to O'Brien, the team is also working on a research and development project for the Office of Naval Research, building an RFID tag that uses ultra wide-band frequency. "We're on the leading edge of this technology," said O'Brien. "Ultra-wide band was just approved for limited use four months ago."

The test will be used to show the viability of RFID tags with sensors attached to monitor ozone-depleting substances (Halon and Freon) at the storage depository in Yorktown, Va. "If a leak occurs at the facility," said O'Brien, "an alert will automatically be triggered through the tag to the database."

The Army has also leveraged the Navy's abilities in evaluating RFID technologies and has used the Lab for environmental tests of "smart labels" to determine the survivability and durability of the commercial products being considered for package labeling.

As the leader in naval aviation technologies, NAVAIR is committed to providing the warfighter with the necessary tools to enable absolute combat power. O'Brien and his team are fulfilling that commitment by working to make life easier for the sailor. To this end, NAVAIR recently awarded a five-year contract for AIT engineering and technical services to promote further expansion and adoption of AIT in its business processes.

The future of RFID is being evaluated right now, but according to O'Brien, it has a lot of promise. "This product has the potential to improve reliability while reducing the cost of operation, and that can only benefit the warfighter."

Sailors Saving for Retirement

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — With less than a month left in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season, nearly 74,000 active and reserve Sailors are positioning themselves for a more prosperous future.

Sailors are leading the way in Thrift Savings Plan involvement with 4,470 new active duty enrollees, twice the number of new enrollees as all the other services combined.

TSP is a way to save and invest money on a tax-deferred basis. That is, contributions and earnings are not reported as income until they're withdrawn from the plan. TSP is a government-run plan that has historically had good rates of return with very low administrative costs. The largest group of Sailors investing in TSP are E-1's, comprising over 900 new enrollees. At an early age these Sailors have learned the value of "paying yourself first."

No matter how much time a Sailor has to invest in TSP, it can be a sound financial decision. TSP investments are 'portable' - you can keep it

if you leave military service. Money invested in a TSP account may be rolled over to another IRS eligible retirement plan after leaving military service. Thus a TSP account can have a valuable place in any retirement planning scenario.

Sailors may sign up for TSP or increase their contributions up to the allowable limit from now through July 31. Enrollment for TSP or investment changes can be done online at the Department of Defense Employee/Member Self Service Web site <http://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm>.

Contributions can range from as little as one percent to seven percent of basic pay; also, bonus and incentive pay may be contributed - up to \$11,000 in 2002. For those serving in a combat zone, the current ceiling for contributions is \$40,000.

Basic pay contribution limits increase through 2006 when TSP contributions will be limited only by IRS rules. TSP was not designed to replace the military's retirement plan. It is meant to be a convenient way to for Sailors to invest in a variety of investment vehicles to provide additional money for retirement.

There are currently five funds to choose from: The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average return of 6.5 percent.

The F Fund is the TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average return of 7.2 percent. The C Fund is the TSP's large-company Stock Index Fund. Since 1991 the fund has earned an annual average return of 12.9 percent. The S Fund is the TSP's medium and small company stock index fund. The I Fund is its International Stock Index Fund. Both funds opened in May 2001, so neither has a long-term track record with regard to returns. Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the US Government against losses. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds - but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

"TSP offers something for everyone, whether a Sailor is young, old, conservative or aggressive in their financial strategy," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr.

"I'm delighted to see so many younger Sailors enrolling, and encourage our career-minded Sailors to look into the program, even if they plan on retiring in a few years. The investments today will pay off at tax time and they can keep the fund or transfer it to another retirement fund when they retire," Ryan said.

Investment decisions should be made with long-term goals in mind since the money is invested for retirement. The risks and returns of each fund should be investigated before investing. Armed with complete, accurate information, Sailors and their families can decide how much to invest in which fund.



Test Cancellation

The Navy College Test Control Officer will be on leave from July 26 until Aug. 26. During the time of his absence Navy College will be unable to give any CLEP, DANTES, or Excelsior exams. Please plan accordingly. For more information call 624-2519 or 624-2511.

VA Meeting

The Veterans Affairs Representative will be at NAS Sigonella on Aug. 21, to hold a general GMT. Contact Fleet & Family Support Center at 624-4291 for further information.

Required Use of Headlights

According to Catania Polizia Stradale (Traffic Police) officials, the Italian Government ratified the entire traffic regulation bill. In addition to the changes that were posted on June 27, the new law also includes the requirement for all cars to have headlights on 24/7 while traveling on the highway regardless of visibility. Violators will be fined 32 EURO. All new regulations took effect on July 10. Here is the list of the Sicilian turnpikes and freeways on which motorists are required to have their lights on:

Catania- Messina

A19 - Catania- Palermo

A 20- Messina- Palermo

A 29- Palermo - Trapani- Mazzara del Vallo Strada Statale (National Road) n. 114 from

Catania to Siracusa (lights must be turned on when you get to the Augusta exit and kept on until you reach Siracusa. Past Siracusa sud (south) exit, there is another four-mile stretch of highway until Cassibile on which lights are required as well).

Catania and Messina Tangenziale

Associates through VU

Vincennes University has Associate degrees available that incorporate the journeymen certificates awarded through USMAP. This is a great opportunity for Sailors to get their AAS degree with as little as 23 general education credits after transferring in their certificates. There is no limit on non-traditional credit (i.e. CLEP, DANTES, and SMART), and only six credits must be taken with Vincennes. Any questions contact Dawn Light (Academic Counselor) Navy College 624-2511, or fax 624-2516.

Correction to Castle

Opening Hours

In last week's *The Signature*, we published the opening hours to the Donnafugatta Castle in "Outside the Triangle." Since that time, the hours have changed and according to Ragusa Tourist Office the new opening hours are from Tuesday until Sunday, From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. Tickets can only be purchased one hour before each closing time. For more information contact the castle ticket office at 093-2619333.

Remembering the 82nd Airborne

By JO3 Jay Price

Managing Editor

59 years ago, July 9, 1943, held the battle of Ponte Dirillo, where 39 members of the U.S. military lost their lives in one of the first invasions of Sicily.

To pay homage to those men who gave their lives, a plaque stands brazed into the bridge the 82nd American Airborne fought to defend.

On July 9, 1943, 38 Army Paratroopers and one Navy ensign dropped from the sky to the Gela plains. Unfortunately, due to unexpected weather patterns, the troops were scattered about the fields. Most had landed remotely close to their target, while many others were blown several miles from the target.

As they regrouped into several small units, one such unit, led by Army Lt. Col. Arthur Gorham, secured the Ponte Dirillo bridge with minimal casualties to either side. This was part of "Operation Husky," the quest to restore Europe to peace and end World War II. The landing on July 9 was to secure the guns ashore and pave the way for the main invasion on the 10th.

On July 10, despite the confusion, the reassembled paratrooper force held back the Livorno Tank Division from high ground from the west and finally, throughout the long drawn-out battle, the Livorno Division withdrew after losing 16 tanks. On July 11, in the early morning, the German Goring Panzer Tank Division counter-attacked from the east of Niscemi toward the Gela plain. From there, the vicious fighting had ceased the Panzers at the Gela-Niscemi Vittoria Crossroads, where the two great armies clashed.

The 7th Army never retreated or offloaded men or material from the island to the ships. Each one of the 38 paratroopers and the one ensign died within those three days, and because of them, the operation was truly successful. The plaque on Ponte Dirillo Bridge stands as a timeless artifact of remembrance to the brave souls of the 82nd American Airborne.

It reads:

The night of July 10, 1943 was witness to bloody combat between the 82nd American Airborne Div. and Italian and German Troops. Extreme were the losses, supreme was the heroism and from the sacrifice of these men is created the new history of Europe.

AD

By Alberto Lunetta
Community Relations

Italian News

SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

Jamiroquai performs in Catania

It's jazz-funk time in Catania as Jamiroquai, a world-renowned British band led by talented front man singer and songwriter Jay Kay, who has sold 18 million albums throughout the world, will perform on July 27 at 9:30 p.m. The concert will be held at the Playa Amphitheater near Catania's lighthouse. The cost of a ticket is 26 Euro. For more information and tickets call 095-7167186.

Tomato Festival in Pachino

Plan to attend a lively two-day food festival celebrating the Ciliegino (cherry tomatoes), a small, sweet, pulpy and unique tomato cultivated in the Pachino area. The festival also features other Pachino tomato varieties such as the Costoluto and Tondo Liscio as well as other local produce (black truffle, almond, buffalo mozzarella, artichoke, saffron, olive oil, wine, chocolate and cheese). Booths will open July 19 and 20 at 4:30 p.m. in piazza Vittorio Emanuele. Attendees can sample and buy some of the locally grown delicacies.

A folklore music show will be performed on July 20, at 9 p.m. in the main square.

Pachino is located about 40 miles south of Siracusa and can be reached by exiting Pachino on the Catania-Siracusa road n. 114.

Summer Sales begin in Sicily

Plan to do some shopping on the local economy as Sconti (sales) time has just kicked off in Sicily. This is a great opportunity to buy high quality Italian clothes and shoes at a lower price. Sales season should be officially over on Sept. 10 although many retailers will continue offering price reductions until they clear all their winter-season merchandise.

Before you get ready to take advantage of the great

sales, keep in mind the following pointers and legal advice that Italian Consumer Associations recommends to consumers.

First of all, always make sure in advance you understand if the retailer respects the rules. If not, go to another shop unless you speak enough Italian to put your foot down. Hangtags must show two prices, the regular and the marked down price. Reduction percentage of the price must also be written on the tag.

Keep your receipts and any documentation of purchases because the merchant is obligated to replace defective merchandise even during sales.

Distrust shops displaying prices that are "too good to be true." If the sale's percentage is higher than 50 percent of the base price, there is something fishy going on as merchandise might be shopworn or damaged.

When you shop at sales remember to compare prices. As a consumer, it is your job to research the best discount deal available. You should check and recheck the quality of any item you plan to buy.

Retailers must accept credit cards as usual. Distrust the ones displaying on shop windows that they don't.

If you can, try to shop in stores you already know to be sure that the sale is fair. If you just arrived in Sigonella, check big department stores. They usually offer trustworthy discounts.

Baroque Festival kicks off in Militello

From July 21 through 27, Militello will host an astonishing Baroque Festival featuring costume parades, painting contests, dancing, medieval tournaments reenacting the golden age of chivalry, fashion and flag waving shows, and an amazing living chess match.

The origins of the celebrations for the Settimana del Barocco (Baroque week) are linked to the historic figure of Prince Francesco Branciforte, the city's enlightened governor from 1604 to 1622, and to his fabulous mar-

riage with Giovanna of Austria, a rich granddaughter of the emperor Charles V that took place in Monreale on Aug. 20, 1603.

The festival kicks off July 21, with a painting contest with the theme "The historic center of Militello," that takes place in piazza Municipio (main square) at 9:30 a.m. In the evening, at 6 p.m., the Giostra dei Cavalieri, a breathtaking medieval tournament is held in largo del Calvario, a square located on the south end of Militello right before taking the road toward Caltagirone. Knights representing seven districts of ancient Militello compete to win the Prince's Banner. The competition consists of several skilled challenges performed on horseback and archery contests.

At 8 p.m., the grandiose wedding party that took place in Militello in 1604 to honor Branciforte and his wife is reenacted with a lavish parade in period costumes featuring music, dancing, live theatre, firework shows, stilt walkers and beating of drums. Parade leaves from largo del Calvario and continues along via Roma, via Balanza, via Umberto, via Maiorana and piazza Municipio (the main square).

Following the parade, The Asymmetrical Mirror Dance Company from Milan performs a Baroque dance show in piazza Municipio at 9 p.m.

Later, at 10 p.m., a classic music concert is performed at the Municipio (City hall).

On July 22, an exhibition featuring ancient chessboards and Baroque dresses opens at 7:30 p.m. at the church Oratorio della Madonna Della Catena. At 9:30 p.m., a performance including 16th century instrumental music and literature on music is staged at the Chiesa (Church) di San Benedetto.

A fashion show featuring dresses by Austrian Prince and designer Egon Von Furstenberg and Italian designer Gabriella Ferrera is held in piazza Santa Maria della Stella on July 23 at 9 p.m.

On July 26 at 6 p.m., local artists decorate via Matrice



Photo Courtesy of Militello Tourist Office

The living chess match is one of the highlights of the stunning Baroque festival that will be held in Militello from July 21 through 27. The festival features costume parades, painting contests, concerts, dancing, medieval tournaments reenacting the golden age of chivalry, fashion and flag waving shows.

with a carpet of flowers inspired by Baroque themes.

Later at 9:30 p.m., the Militello Maris Stella Polyphonic Choir presents a concert at the Church of Santa Maria la Stella. The program features music by 17th century Sicilian Choirmaster Michelangelo Falvetti.

On July 27, a living chess match is staged in piazza St. Agata (near Militello's main square) at 8 p.m. the match is inspired to a 16th century manual on how to play chess written by Pietro Carrera, a local priest and scholar. In 1617, Pietra wrote this innovative book (it introduced new techniques on playing chess) to please Branciforte who had a passion for chess.

Later at 9 p.m., a flag waving show is performed in piazza Sant'Agata. The festival's grand finale, featuring stunning fireworks shows and water games, takes place at 10 p.m. in piazza del Castello. Militello can be easily reached by taking either the Scordia or the Palagonia exit on the Catania-Gela roadway.

Photo



AD

HOROSCOPES

ARIES: Some time spent with that special someone should be your intent. Lunch, a long walk, or a quiet dinner will secure your position in the relationship. You have to confront matters or you could lose self-esteem. Reevaluate your position and make decisions about your future goals.

TAURUS: Try to spend more time with children and relatives. Get back to basics and reevaluate what is important in life. You should want to feel good about yourself and your goals. Get involved in groups that are creative in nature. You may enjoy doing something musical for entertainment.

GEMINI: Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. Try to curb overindulgence this week. You can accomplish a lot if you direct your thoughts toward starting your own small business on the side.

CANCER: You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Think about starting your own small business, but don't invest too much of your own money. Be innovative. You will have to control the way you feel. Your reputation will be affected. You may have to explain your actions to your family.

LEO: Be sure to sidestep those who are eccentric or unpredictable. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Romance will develop through work related activities. You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. You may not be in a position to make hasty decisions.

VIRGO: You may cause a fuss if you come on too strongly in public. Use discretion, especially if involved with someone from work. Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool if someone backs you into a corner. Take care of your personal needs.

LIBRA: Your lover may cost you financially. Put your energy into your work or moneymaking ventures rather than into your emotional life this week. Don't expect support from your mate. Sit back and observe, regardless of how hard that might be. Patience will be of utmost importance. Hidden matters are likely to surface.

SCORPIO: Don't fall for damaging rumors, and refuse to get involved in gossip. Consider the source before you believe what you hear. Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity.

SAGITTARIUS: You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you. You can expect to have a problem with your lover. Don't put off the things that they have asked you to do.

CAPRICORN: Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. You may feel a need to make changes to your legal documents. You can solidify your relationship if you plan a special evening with your mate.

AQUARIUS: You can develop your creative talents if you take the time to practice your art. Don't be shy; show your abilities! Someone you work with could try to undermine you. Your lack of responsibility and attention has been a key issue in your relationship.

PISCES: Your greatest enjoyment will come through social activities and pleasure trips. Resist the temptation to gamble. Risks will not be profitable. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments.



THE MOVIE CONNECTION



Undercover Brother (Rated PG-13)

Undercover Brother is a blast from the past, recruited to infiltrate a sinister underground movement headed by The Man. But before he can take care of business, he must undergo an attitude adjustment and trade in his "fro" and platforms for tennis sweaters and penny loafers. Cast: Eddie Griffin, Denise Richards, Dave Chappelle.

Road to Perdition (Rated R)

In Depression-era Chicago, hit man Michael O'Sullivan is known to friends and enemies alike as the "Angel of Death." Uncompromising in his work, he is just as devoted to his private life as an upstanding husband and father. But when those worlds collide, taking the lives of his wife and younger son, O'Sullivan and his surviving son leave their home behind and embark on a startling journey of revenge. Cast: Tom Hanks, Jude Law, Paul Newman.



TRIVIA

What is the most popular first name in the world?
Which football player position scores the most points overall?
Dueling in Paraguay is legal as long as both parties are what?
Name two creatures with no cerebral cortex (without it, they feel no pain).
What is un-factual about the name A-bomb?
(Answers on page 7)

Best Sellers--Car Stereos

Sony In-Dash CD/MP3 Player
LA590 - American Legacy Series

JVC In-Dash CD Player
LA9950 - Legacy Sapphire Series

Alpine In-Dash CD Player



They did what?

Reindeer rapids

Two men decided to increase their income by illegally transporting shed elk antlers out of Yellowstone Park. The antlers sell for about \$7 a pound, and a big set can weigh 30 pounds. The two men thought long and hard about the best way to get the largest haul of antlers out of the park without being observed. Cars were too risky because there was a ranger checkpoint on the roads. Backpacks couldn't carry enough to make it worth their while. They decided to use a boat. Well, not exactly a boat, a rubber raft.

After loading the raft to the bursting point with antlers, the men pushed off and began their journey. They hadn't gone far before they hit some treacherous rapids, and the bouncing antlers punctured the raft. One of the antler thieves swam to shore, made it to the road, and hitched a ride into town. The other was not so lucky. A week later he floated up on a beach used by local sunbathers.

Off the Rack!

The Majestic



Set in 1951, *The Majestic* stars Jim Carrey as Peter Appleton, a blacklisted writer struck by a mishap that erases his memory. As so many amnesiacs before him, Carrey wanders around aimlessly until someone tells him who he is. Unfortunately, that someone mistakes him for his son. Supposedly, Carrey resembles WW II hero Luke Trimble, whose body was never found. Soon, the whole city believes in the miracle that one of their own has returned and Carrey is paraded through the streets as a new sign of hope and spiritual lift.

More than any other film in recent years, *The Majestic* is pure Americana, a reflection of the golden age of America and the heyday of Hollywood. Most importantly though, like true golden age films, *The Majestic* has heart. Carrey deserves a some credit; he holds the silliness in check well enough to really let us care about his character. But it's the supporting cast, an innocent bunch of beaten-down townfolk and "widowed" girlfriends who really give this film its soul.

As a subplot, Carrey helps rejuvenate the local movie theater, which helps give him a slight glimpse of memory of his real life. When his memory finally does come back, the FBI catches up with him. From there, the movie gives a little light on the black list scandal, which I found really interesting.

I have to say, this movie turned out real well, it put Jim Carrey in a lead role where he wasn't calling to the animals or hitting himself. With all the other movies out, I can't see Carrey winning the Emmy, but at least he has a start. I highly recommend this movie to all viewers of all ages.

By JO3 Jay Price

AFN Sigonella television schedule

CET	Friday, July 19	Saturday, July 20	Sunday, July 21	Monday, July 22	Tuesday, July 23	Wednesday, July 24	Thursday, July 25	Friday, July 26	CET
00:00	ESPN News	ESPN News	Saturday Night Live	Sports cont.	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	00:00
00:30	MLB	Movie: <i>Clueless</i>			Movie: <i>The Flintstones</i>	MLB	MLB	Movie: <i>Batman Forever</i>	00:30
01:00			It's Showtime at the Apollo						01:00
01:30				Spin City					01:30
02:00				Entertainment Tonight	Movie: <i>The Elephant Man</i>			Movie: <i>Gentlemen Prefer</i>	02:00
02:30		Movie: <i>Dead Poets Society</i>	Late Friday	WWF Superstars					02:30
03:00				America's Black Forum		ESPN News	ESPN News		03:00
03:30	ESPN News			Meet the Press		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	03:30
04:00	Headline News					ABC World News	ABC World News	ABC World News	04:00
04:30	ABC World News		Entertainers	Headline News		ESPN News	ESPN News	Headline News	04:30
05:00	ESPN News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	05:00
05:30	NBC Nightly News	ABC World News	Hour of Power	ESPN News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	05:30
06:00	Sesame Street	ESPN News	Creflo Dollar	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	06:00
06:30		NBC Nightly News	Coral Ridge Hour		Sagwa	Peter Rabbit			06:30
07:00	Teletubbies	Dragon Tales	Christopher Closeup	Harold and the Purple Crayon	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	Blue's Clues	Teletubbies	07:00
07:30	Wheel of Fortune	Dora the Explorer	Cafe Video	Wheel of Fortune	Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	07:30
08:00	Oorah Winfrev	Mary Kate & Ashley	Little Bear	Oprah Winfrey			Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	08:00
08:30		The Odd Parents	Wishbone		Port Charles	Port Charles	Port Charles	Port Charles	08:30
09:00	Port Charles	Jackie Chan	Familv Movie:	Port Charles	Guidina Light	Guidina Light	Port Charles	Port Charles	09:00
09:30	Guidina Light	Lizzy McGuire						Guidina Light	09:30
10:00		Rhonda		Guiding Light	General Hospital	General Hospital	Guiding Light	Guiding Light	10:00
10:30	General Hospital			General Hospital			General Hospital	General Hospital	10:30
11:00	Headline News	This Old House	Cinema Secrets	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	11:00
11:30	Judge Judy	MotorWeek	At the Movies	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	11:30
12:00	Today	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Today	Today	Today	Today	Today	12:00
12:30			Army News						12:30
13:00		WWF Smackdown	MLB						13:00
13:30									13:30
14:00	Arthur	My Wife and Kids		Winnie the Pooh	Mighty Ducks	Hey Arnold	Rugrats	Arthur	14:00
14:30	The Proud Family	King of Queens		Wild Thornberries	The Weekenders	Recess	Happily Ever After	The Proud Family	14:30
15:00	7th Heaven	Enterprise	WWF Superstars	Horrible Histories	In the Mix	Croc Files	Pokemon	7th Heaven	15:00
15:30		Law & Order		Brothers Gracia	Taina	Bonehead	Men in Black		15:30
16:00	Jeopardy!		Andromeda	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	16:00
16:30	Headline News			Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	16:30
17:00	CNN	Headline News	SportsCenter	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	ESPN News	CNN	17:00
17:30	Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News	NASCAR	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	17:30
18:00	The Simpsons	SportsCenter		60 Minutes	7th Heaven	VH1 Military Diaries	Friends	The Simpsons	18:00
18:30	Malcolm in the Middle	MLB				Bernie Mac	Everybody Loves Raymond	Malcolm in the Middle	18:30
19:00	The Bachelor			The West Wing	Movie: <i>Hollow Man</i>	Dark Angel	Fraiser	The Bachelor	19:00
19:30							Scrubs		19:30
20:00	Alias			NYPD Blue		Boston Public	ER	Alias	20:00
20:30									20:30
21:00	Headline News			Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	21:00
21:30	Tonight Show w/ Jav Leno		MLB	Tonight Show w/Jay Leno	Tonight Show w/Jay Leno	Tonight w/Jav Leno	Tonight Show w/Jav Leno	Tonight Show w/ Jav Leno	21:30
22:00									22:00
22:30	Late Show w/ Letterman			Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w/Letterman	Late Show w/ Letterman	Late show w/ Letterman	Late Show w/ Letterman	22:30
23:00									23:00
23:30				ESPN News	ESPN News				23:30



Photo

Recent Results:

Freedom Fest Arm Wrestling Competition

- Men's Division
 1st Place: Chris Phillips
 2nd Place: John Lightner
 3rd Place: Andrew Johnson

- Women's Division
 1st Place: Midnight Waters
 2nd Place: Toni
 3rd Place: Andrea Decanini

Upcoming Events:

Free Wallyball Clinic: July 29 & 30 (5:30-6:30 p.m.)

If you have never played this sport or want to get a few pointers before the big tournament, come on down to the NAS II Gym and check it out! You'll learn the basics of an "off the wall," fast-paced, exciting new sport! It's basically volleyball in a racquetball court. You'll love it! For more information, call Ron at x2710.

Inner Tube Water Polo Clinic: Aug. 5, 7 & 9 (5:30-7:30 p.m.)

Splash around with a purpose! Our local expert will teach you the fundamentals of this goofy but challenging sport. Gear up for the tournament and have some fun at the same time. If you can swim...you can play! It's free! For more information, call Rich at x5335.

Inner Tube Water Polo Tournament: August 10 (noon-6 p.m.)

It's cool! It's wet! It's loads of fun! You do not have to have any water polo experience to play. Just sign up your 5-person team (eight max) at the NAS II Pool by Aug. 8, and we'll have a blast! Free entry and BBQ for all participants and fans! Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams. For more information, call Rich at x5335.