

The Signature

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Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, August 9, 2002

Changes with DFAS lightens load for PSD

By JO3 Jay Price

Editor

As the Navy moves ahead with technology, many new changes will have to take place, such as the way people read Leave and Earning Statements.

On Naval Air Station Sigonella and a few other military installations around the world, LESS will be read from the internet, through the Employee/Member Self Service (E/MSS) web site hosted by DFAS. PSD Sigonella will no longer print out the statements meaning Sailors have less than a month until they need to be signed up for E/MSS.

With E/MSS, Sailors can have access to their LESSs at all times, the ability to change State and Federal tax withholdings, change allotments and savings bond deductions, update the Electronic Funds address for Net Pay, view and print Leave and Earning Statements up to two previous pay periods, view and print W-2s when available and view and print travel vouchers.

To access the E/MSS web site, members will need a pin number that can be obtained by calling the DFAS office in Cleveland, faxing or mailing. In order to establish a new temporary pin, DFAS needs the member's name, social security number, copy of the member's photo ID (if government ID is unavailable a copy of the members driver's license will suffice.), a daytime phone number and signature.

Call DFAS at 1-800-390-2348, fax 216-552-5800 or DSN 312-580-5800. Mail to:

DFAS-Cleveland/PMCAA

Attention E/MSS

1240 East 9th Street

Cleveland, Ohio 44199

DFAS will not send any form of verification and insists users wait two days after request was sent before using the new temporary pin (longer for requests sent through the mail) which will be set as the last five numbers of the service members social security number.

According to the Mil Pay Director, DKC(SW) Robert Martin, "soon it will be mandatory for servicemembers to use the E/MSS web site, PSD is taking a step forward and preparing Sailors for the changes that lie ahead."

As a way of targeting who has and has not signed onto the E/MSS web site, a button has been placed to tell the Personnel Offices who still needs to be added to the web site. By clicking the "turn off hard copy" icon, it will let PSD know how many Sailors still need to apply to the E/MSS website.

Visit E/MSS by going to www.dfas.mil/emss/.

EOD makes themselves heard



Photo by JO3 Jay Price

Recently the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Eight has been securing NAS Sigonella by removing what some call "spoiled milk." EOD was given the chance to use their new explosives range that was built a year prior. Now EOD can rid the base of explosives that have extended past their shelf-life, which are considered a hazard. In the past, EOD had to travel two to three hours to get to an explosives range, which could not be used during the summer because the neighboring area is considered a tourist area. Shown is the before and after affects of the detonation. The specialist preps the explosive, compacting it with C4 and an explosive wrap that makes the object implode leaving only dirt and rock fragmentation along with dust clouds.

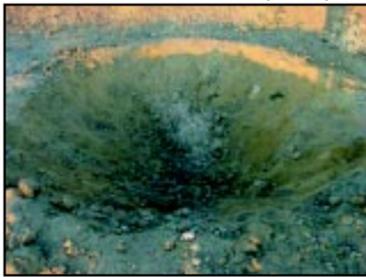


Photo by JO3 Jay Price

Wizards Dancers entertain NASSIG

Sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, the Washington Wizards Dancers came to the Med to entertain Sailors overseas. The ladies found themselves performing shows and setting up many autograph sessions during their stay in Sicily. Soon, they will head to La Maddalena to perform again before returning to the U.S. During their off time the dancers spend 10 to 20 hours a week practicing steps and keeping in shape. While basketball season is over, the girls have careers that support them throughout the year. Some are currently in college.



Photo by JO3 Jay Price



Photo by JO3 Jay Price

When asked what the dancers liked most about doing these tours, the majority said that it's nice getting the attention for a change, instead of people pushing through them to see Michael Jordan.



Photo by JO3 Jay Price

Becoming a U.S. Citizen just got easier for the U.S. servicemembers fighting war on terrorism

Lt. j.g. Giovanna Mosca, JAGC, USNR

Contributing Writer

Are you, or any of your fellow shipmates or subordinates, a service member seeking U.S. citizenship? If so, the Naval Legal Service Office has some very good news for you!

In the Oct. 2001 issue of the NLSO newsletter, the NLSO explained in detail that the Department of Defense and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have made a special expedited naturalization process for foreign-born service members seeking U.S. citizenship. To be eligible, service members must meet certain requirements, such as obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident status and having served three years of honorable service.

Recently, however, a second expedited naturalization process became available to foreign-born service members seeking citizenship. On July 3, President Bush, under section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1440), signed an Executive Order that allows for direct naturalization of aliens who have served in an active duty status during the period of Operation Noble Eagle and/or Operation Enduring Freedom. This means that those serving on active duty during the ongoing War on Terrorism may apply for an expedited naturalization process without the three-year service requirement!

When does this exception actually apply? For the purpose of this exception, the President has designated the period beginning on Sept. 11, as a period in which the armed forces of the United States were engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force. The President will set an end date for this time period at some point to be determined in the future. Basically, this exception means that all service members who served on active duty at any time since Sept. 11, may apply for naturalization using a faster procedure.

This Executive Order is great news for Sailors seeking U.S. citizenship. It is also yet another reward for faithful service since the tragic events on Sept. 11. Sailors the NLSO turned away from applying for naturalization as a result of the three-year honorable service requirement may now be eligible to apply for citizenship!

The procedure is the same as applying for naturalization under the three-year military requirement. Service members should complete and submit several documents required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The first form is the N-400, which is the Application for Naturalization.

The other required forms are the G-325B, which is the form for Biographic Information, and the N-426, which is a Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. These forms can be obtained from <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/index.htm>. The forms are in alphanumeric order. Just scroll down to the forms needed.

Finally, remember, your command career counselor and the Navy Legal Service Office are there to help with the application process. If you have questions or need assistance regarding immigration matters, please contact the NLSO at 624-5258, or visit the OJAG website at www.jag.navy.mil.

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Italian phrase
of the week...

Dare precedenza.



(Give way.)

SECURITY BLOTTER



Helping make the community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

July 22 - July 28

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

Traffic accidents without injuries - 10

Traffic accident with injuries - 1

Car break-ins - 1

DUI - 0

DUI's 2002 - 14

DUI's 2001 - 33

The

Signature

The Signature editorial office is located at:
Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily
PSC 812 Box 3020
FPO AE 09627.

Commanding Officer
Capt. Timothy L. Davison

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Amy Derrick
aderrick@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
JOC(SW) Priscilla Kirsh
pkirsh@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Managing Editor
JO3 Jay Price

Staff Writer
SN Michelle Watkins

Community Relations
Alberto Lunetta

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Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG
Commanding Officer



We have a number of traditions in the U.S. Navy, however, none are as respected and honored as when a Sailor becomes not an E-7, but a Chief Petty Officer.

It takes more than test scores and a sharp uniform to be a Chief, it takes leadership, discipline and above all, the character to step up and announce to everyone, "I am the Chief." I want to extend my personal congratulations to all of Sigonella's newest Chief Petty Officers.

Once you know you are a Chief, and I mean really know that you are a Chief, then and only then will you be a Chief Petty Officer, and you can never go back.

Being a Chief means you are the one the junior Sailors look to for advice and mentoring, the one the junior officers look to for guidance and support, and the one the senior officers rely on to make the day to day operations run smoothly. Chiefs make things

happen not just because they have the knowledge, the experience and the fouled-anchors, but because they seek out answers and find solutions, embrace challenges and responsibilities, and are selfless, willing to make the sacrifice, willing to take that extra step.

I expect you to lead by example, as do the many Chiefs who came before you, as do the Sailors who will follow you. I expect you to represent the command and the Navy with those anchors knowing full and well the time-honored pride and heritage behind them. And, I expect the Navy core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment to mean more to you than just words on a recruiting poster.

You must demand more of yourself now than ever before because being a Chief means respect and admiration, and you will pay everyday for that respect and admiration. It is more than pride to be a Chief, it is a way of life. I challenge each and every new "selectee" to learn from the Chiefs here, who will guide you through the training process of becoming the "Chief."

Why do I challenge you, well the answer is simple. I expect you to be "the Chief" when you put on your khakis and anchors. Walk around your spaces, know your Sailors, monitor your work center or divisions progress, stay ahead of issues, and ask your personnel how they are doing. Knowing and understanding your personnel will provide you the insight necessary to lead them effectively, and they will in turn give you the support required to meet any tasking or mission.

You have earned your anchors, and you will continue to earn them every day. Congratulations! Now "turn to."

The Pulse

Oral contraception facts

Lt. Cmdr. Timothy E. Huber, MC, USNR
Contributing writer

The two hormones in the combined oral contraceptive Pill (estrogen and progesterone analogues) act together to prevent the release of an egg (ovulation) each month. If ovulation is prevented, pregnancy cannot occur. Most modern Pills are "low dose" varieties - that is, the dose of each hormone is the lowest possible to achieve reliability, regular cycles and acceptability. Today, the combined Pill is one of the most reliable methods of contraception. It is about 99 percent effective in preventing pregnancy if taken correctly. Progestin only Pills (a.k.a. "Mini-pills") do not always prevent ovulation. Their main action is to change cervical mucus and prevent sperm from passing into the tubes to fertilize an egg. These pills can be used in women who are breastfeeding.

The Pill is among the most reliable contraceptives available, but only if it is used correctly.

In everyday life, pregnancies in women on the Pill do occur, but usually as a result of imperfect use, not failure of the medicine. Combined Pills are taken once a day for 21 consecutive days followed by a seven-day Pill-free break or a seven-day period in which non-active Pills can be taken. During these seven days, a menstrual bleeding occurs. Breast-feeding moms can use Progestogen-only Pills. This formulation must be taken daily over a 28-day cycle at roughly (within two or three hours) the same time each day. There is no Pill-free break. Most pregnancies occur because users either forgot to take their Pill as scheduled (or forgot more than one), or didn't take it at the right time. Studies show that taking certain medicines, as well as bouts of sickness or diarrhea, can make the Pill less effective. Let your provider know if you are on Birth Control Pills (BCP's), especially if you are about to take a new medication.

If you forget your pills for a day or two, follow these instructions:

- If you miss one pill, take the forgotten one (yesterday's pill) as soon as you remember it, and take today's pill at the regular time. Although you probably will not become pregnant, use a backup contraceptive method until your next period to be safe.

- If you miss two pills in a row, take two pills as soon as you remember and two pills the next day. You may have some spotting. Use your backup method of birth control until your next period.

- If you miss three or more pills in a row, start a backup method of birth control immediately. Your ovaries may produce an egg (ovulation), and without a backup contraceptive you could become pregnant. Ask yourself, "Am I a good pill user?" Another method of contraception may be better for you.

It is clear from many studies that most women can take the Pill with no fear of short-term side effects or long-term health risks. There are many well established health benefits: prevention of pregnancy, lower risk of ovarian and uterine cancer, lower incidence of benign breast disease, less pelvic inflammatory disease, and improved cycle regularity and menstrual blood flow. Modern Pills often lead to an improvement of skin problems such as acne.

Most women will enjoy these benefits. A minority, however, will be unsuited for the Pill; some will have contraindications and may be at risk of serious complications if they take the Pill. Who should not take the pill? People who have:

- Confirmed or suspected pregnancy; blood clotting problems such as deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, heart attack, stroke; diabetes mellitus with blood vessel complications

- Known or suspected malignant or pre-malignant conditions (cancer) of the genital organs, the breasts or the liver, if sex steroid influenced.

- Undiagnosed or unexplained vaginal bleeding.

If you are not sure if you have one of these, please speak with your healthcare provider.

"Androgenic" side effects - such as weight gain, greasy hair, and skin spots - may be related to the type of progestogen used in the Pill. Studies of combined Pills containing desogestrel, for example, have found no evidence of overall weight gain compared to those not taking the Pill. Complexion improved in those with the symptoms of acne.

The Pill does NOT protect against sexually transmitted infections, including the AIDS virus. Those at risk of these infections, particularly with multiple partners, are advised to use condoms as well as the Pill.

The Pill suits most users... but not all. A very small number of patients may experience temporary side effects, especially in the first few months after starting the Pill. These side effects may include: headache, breast tenderness, changes in weight, nausea, changes in mood, and some unexpected bleeding or spotting. Studies show that these side effects with modern low-dose Pills are rare and tend to disappear after a few cycles. These mild symptoms usually go away after the second month of taking the pills. If you still have annoying symptoms in your third month of taking birth control pills, contact your doctor to see if a change in formulation or brand of the pills is indicated.

Career Decision Fair headed for Sig

By SN Michelle Watkins

Staff writer

Navy Career Decisions Fair for spouses is coming soon to Sigonella. The Naval Personnel Command (NPC), Career Development Center, will be here to provide workshops for Navy spouses to explain how the Navy works. They will also talk about the detailing process, benefits, policies of the Navy, initiatives that affect spouses, and will discuss comparisons of military and private sector benefits, compensation, and other career related issues. Several private sector experts and one of the country's top junior officer headhunters will also be on hand to answer questions.

This is the first year MWR is going to take part in the fair to promote spouse participation. In order to attract participation they have combined entertainment and presentations to make it appealing and informative at the same time.

The main goal of the fair is to help increase retention. According to Marnie Ackerman, MWR Marketing Staff, if spouses are informed on all the benefits, initiatives and how the Navy works, then more families will be encouraged to stay Navy.

The theme of the fair will be Taste of Sicily. There will be food, wine tasting, door prizes, and giveaways. The fair will also host interactive trade shows of MWR information highlighting areas of interest to spouses. There will be booths set up with fitness equipment, Adventure Unlimited information, and rental gear to promote getting outdoors. Food displays will be set up with opportunities for wine tasting.

The Career fair will take place from August 13 to 15. Separate nights will be set aside for enlisted and officer workshops so they can gain more specific information regarding their spouses.

Transportation from Mineo and free childcare will also be provided.

By participating, spouses will also have the chance to enter in for a drawing to win a new Jeep Liberty, sponsored by AT&T. For every spouse who participates in the fair, their active duty spouses will get a Friday off through their command.

Come out to the fair to learn more about the Navy and help support MWR. MWR is hoping to get the higher number of participates Navy wide, so that they could have a chance to win \$20,000. According to Ackerman, that fund will be put into improving programs and bringing something new to MWR to help boost morale for sailors and their families.

For more information regarding the fair contact Marnie Ackerman at 624-6435.



Bavarian-Style Sauerkraut

By Bea Cook

Contributing writer

With summer here and grills fired up, you can't go wrong with this topping. Use on grilled sausages or hot dogs.

1 can Sauerkraut (14 ounces)
¼ cup German, coarse ground mustard
1 ½ tablespoons Onion, minced
1 teaspoon Caraway seeds

Drain the sauerkraut. Place in a saucepan and add the remaining ingredients. Warm slowly over very low heat. Serve warm over sausages.

S.A.F.

Dogs: 4
Cats: 1
Puppies: 1
Kittens: 2



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

Smarter, Aggressive Approach To Drug Testing Yielding Strong Results

Courtesy of the Chief of Naval Personnel office

The Navy is testing more Sailors and finding fewer are using drugs. The Navy reports that in the first nine months of FY02, only 0.6 percent of the 751,317 samples tested — a record low percentage since it started urinalysis testing for drugs in 1981— yielded positive results for drug use. That number is an improvement from the .71 percent during the same period a year earlier.

In the first nine months of FY02, 539 fewer Sailors have tested positive for illegal drugs compared to the same period in FY01, which will translate to fewer Sailors being processed for administrative separation Navy-wide due to drug use.

"Fleet leadership, along with increased awareness and education are clearly making a difference," said Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel. "These efforts are translating into more Sailors making the right choices and fewer Sailors leaving the Navy because of a bad decision," Ryan said.

The 751,317 samples tested represent an increase of approximately 50,000 more samples from the same period last year. Of those 50,000 samples, the Navy was also able to test 34,000 more individuals by using a new software program that randomly selects Sailors. The software has been in Navy-wide use since December and eliminates some of the predictability in previous methods of selecting Sailors for testing.

Recent numbers also show Ecstasy use among Sailors this year is on the decline. According to DoD figures, the Navy is the only service to experience a decrease in Ecstasy use, with the latest figures showing the service on course for a 25 per-

cent reduction in FY02 compared to FY01. In FY01, 434 Sailors tested positive for Ecstasy. Through the first nine months of FY02, only 238 Sailors have tested positive for the drug.

"While I'm encouraged by the trends, we will not rest until every single Sailor gets the message that drugs have no part in our Navy," Ryan added.

Former troops make great employees

*By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service*

NEW ORLEANS — Two retired senior officers had plenty of great things to say here about service members as prospective employees.

"I'm always looking around and finding that the people that can jump out of planes, hit the ground, shoot the enemy and be victorious, (have) the same type of attributes that you need in industry," retired Army Maj. Gen. Charles Henry said.

Henry is the president and chief operating officer of The Veterans Corp., a nonprofit public-private venture that encourages and assists veterans wishing to start small businesses. He and retired Vice Adm. Herbert Browne spoke to attendees at the DoD Worldwide Transition Assistance Program Training Conference here this week.

Browne is the president and chief operating officer of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, a professional organization with close ties to the military.

He explained that separating military members have leadership skills corporations are desperate for. "Industry is hungry for leadership—and leadership both ways, those who can accept leadership and those who can provide leadership," Browne told the 450 military, civilian and contractor transition specialists at the conference. "The people you're advising as they enter the private sector have those skills, and they have them both

ways."

Separating service members are patriots as well, another quality desirable in American corporations. "You don't have to wear a uniform to be a patriot," Browne said. "Our young people need to realize as they take off the uniform and move into (other) clothes that ... they are in fact the same patriots they were in uniform, and they should be proud of it."

Henry said such patriots continue to serve their country even when they leave the military by "lubricating the capitalistic society that we live in." A strong economy is just as important as a strong defense, he said.

Both men said transition assistance professionals should remind their clients there is life after the military. Browne suggested service members look at transition from military the same as commencement from high school or college. "You're starting something new in your life," he explained.

"You're moving to another level," Henry said. Browne offered another piece of advice as well. He said separating service members should take the time and make the effort to check out prospective employers. During an average three-year military tour, members' overlap with supervisors is generally only about 18 months — a short enough time to have to deal with a situation that isn't necessarily a perfect fit.

In the private sector, however, it's conceivable to have the same boss for five or 10 years, he said. "They ought to be looking and saying, 'Is this the person I want to be my boss?' 'Is this the company or corporation that I want to work for?'" the admiral said.

Both men were also full of high praise for transition assistance programs and the professionals at this conference who make them successful. "The opportunity to deal with and work for veterans is what we all are here for," Henry said.



Red Cross Dental Training

Applications are now being accepted at Red Cross for the Dental Assistant Training Program. Any one interested in the six-month program conducted by the Dental Clinic can call 624-5921/5446. Application cut off date is Aug. 27.

How Did 9-11 Affect You?

Here's your chance to tell your story. The American Forces Network Europe (AFNE) and AFN Sigonella are working together to prepare special programming material for the upcoming anniversary of Sept. 11 events. AFN Sigonella is looking for people in our community who may have particularly interesting stories related to 9-11. If you were directly affected by the attacks and you are willing to discuss your experience, AFN would like to hear from you. An AFN crew will tell your story in a sensitive and respectful manner. Please call AFN Sigonella at 624-4265.

Child Find Activity

The Department of Defense Schools (DoDDS) in conjunction with CDC and EDIS are sponsoring a Child Find Activity for children three and four years of age on Aug. 13 (Shady Corner), 14 (Rainbow Center), and 15 (EDIS) from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Screenings will focus on vision/hearing, fine/gross motor skills, articulation/language development, and personal/social skills. If you have concerns in any of these areas, please call 624-3968 for an appointment.

Jeepsters Meeting

Jeepsters, put it on your calendar. The long awaited Jeep club is finally going to start. Fellow Jeepsters have been waving at each other, small talking about starting a club, well, now its going to happen. This club will be a family club so bring you wife, husband, kids, girlfriend, boyfriend, whatever. It will also be community active, toy runs, orphanage visits, clean ups, etc. We will schedule Jeep runs, drives to various places on and off the island. Have shows, and 4-wheel-drive with and without the local 4-wheel-drive clubs here on the island. If you own a Jeep, no matter the model, and want to have some fun, come to the Family Restaurant located on SS 417, about half way to Mineo, on Aug. 16, at 7 p.m. Membership is open to anyone, no matter their citizenship as long as they drive a Jeep. This meeting is to gauge interest in the club and to have a good dinner. It's a Jeep thing! Call Ben Johnson at 624-0375 if you have any questions.

Sports Physical Day

Once again, the Annual Sports Physical Day brought to you by the Naval Hospital Sigonella and DODDS will be held on Aug. 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All students interested in participating in a high school sport during the school year are required to have a yearly screening physical. In order to participate in the sports physical day, students must have a completed sports physical form and a current Adolescent Clinic consent. If the student does not have consent, a parent or guardian must accompany him or her. Sports physical forms and Adolescent Clinic consents may be picked up at the Ambulatory Care Clinic front desk, the Teen Center, the Stephen Decatur School and the Mineo Recreation Center. Please contact the Naval Hospital at 624-4530 for questions.

Supply Road Show

On Aug. 13 from 8 to 10 a.m., there will be a presentation as part of the annual Supply Enlisted Road Show. The presentation is intended for all supply rates and is also applicable for supply officers. Each year, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Supply Community, along with personnel from the Supply Enlisted Community Management Branch, travel across the globe to present this show. This forum is an excellent opportunity for our Sailors to obtain critical career information. Topics to be covered include advancement, supply initiatives, retention, recruiting, career planning, special programs and separation/retirement.

Congratulations on your selection to Chief Petty Officer!

ABEC(Sel) Jeffrey Evanchak	ATC(Sel) Shawn Wright	ITC(Sel) Christine Hanna
ADC(Sel) Bruce Wolfe	AWC(Sel) Robert Castilleja	ITC(Sel) Manuel Lopez
ADC(Sel) Wilberto Alvarado	AWC(Sel) Keil Roland	MAC(Sel) Richard Salter
ADC(Sel) Henry Bishop	BMC(Sel) Joseph Severino	MMC(Sel) Michael Capps
ADC(Sel) Andrew Hardy	BMC(Sel) Mark Wynalda	MSC(Sel) Sean Dearmin
ADC(Sel) Kenneth Musick	CEC(Sel) Cajan Nelms	NCC(Sel) Michael Romero
AEC(Sel) Michael Mastin	CEC(Sel) Roy Martinez	OSC(Sel) Keith Taylor
AKC(Sel) Matthew Brannon	ENC(Sel) Michael Peters	PCC(Sel) Hector Riveria
AKC(Sel) Jimmy James	ENC(Sel) Marvin Tharrington	PRC(Sel) Gabriel Cantu
AKC(Sel) Ramon Taruc	ETC(Sel) Tim Kelly	QMC(Sel) Brian Schrack
AMC(Sel) Aaron Rawson	FCC(Sel) William Ball	SHC(Sel) Antonio Gonzalez
AMC(Sel) Shane Sevigny	HMC(Sel) Arturo Alonzo	SMC(Sel) Trent Harrell
AOC(Sel) Johnny Elliott	HMC(Sel) Rene Rigorosa	SKC(Sel) David Early
ATC(Sel) Robert Chaney	ICC(Sel) Leon Brown	SKC(Sel) Jimmy Martinez
ATC(Sel) Nancy Estrada	ITC(Sel) Joseph Collins	YNC(Sel) Nanette McLaughlin

By Alberto Lunetta
Community Relations

Italian News

SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

Medieval Festival continues in Motta

Keep on enjoying a glimpse of a bygone age. Motta medieval festival continues through Aug. 20 with performances, entertainment, games, food, dances and concerts that will take place in the other two city Rioni (Districts): *Vecchia Matrice* and *Maestri*.

As for the *Rione Vecchia Matrice*, celebrations include parades in period costumes, performances of minstrels, jugglers and street artists such as jesters, fire-eaters, acrobats, fortunetellers and storytellers, flag waivers and banquets. All events will kick off Aug. 13 and will be held every evening along piazza Dante and piazza del Castello (near the medieval castle) until Aug. 18.

A lavish medieval banquet in period costume that will delight your palate will be prepared according to centuries old recipes on Aug. 18 at 9 p.m. Following the banquet, an amazing fireworks show will end the festival. Call *Rione Vecchia Matrice* at 095-306301 to reserve as seats are strictly limited.

On Aug. 14 and 17, an enthralling medieval play named *Mata e Grifone* featuring *Gruppo Batarnù* will be staged at 11 p.m. in piazza Castello. The play, which originates from a 10th century Arabic legend, tells of a happy ending love story between two lovers (a black emir and a white princess) thwarted by circumstances beyond their control that are related to the cultural barriers and the skin color. The show features exceptional stage effects.

On Aug. 16 at 9 p.m., an enchanting storytelling show featuring *La Giostra* will take festival goers through an emotional journey in the music and sonnet tradition of medieval Sicily.

On Aug. 18 at 3 p.m., *Palio of the Martino* one of the most spectacular events of the medieval festival will take place in the *Maestri* district located in via Vittorio Emanuele near the Ponte (bridge) in the upper part of Motta. The tournament consists of striking a puppet while riding a horse. The puppet represents a Saracen soldier considered to be the devil. Riders then shoot a mobile target with a spiked stick. Eventually, riders hit small rings with a pole while riding.

Every evening starting at 8:30 p.m., the *Maestri* district will host flag waiving shows, fencing contests, medieval war machines and arts and crafts markets.

For more information visit Motta tourist Office located in piazza Umberto n.42. Open Monday through Friday from 6 to 8 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Motta Tourist Office

The enthralling medieval festival continues in Motta through Aug. 20, taking place within the other two city's Rioni (districts): *Vecchia Matrice* and *Giovani Maestri*. The festival features a spectacular Palio as well as medieval plays, performances, dances, concerts, banquets and amazing flag waiving shows. Every evening, festival attendees can enjoy medieval food that will be prepared according to the original recipes.

Buccheri hosts Medieval Celebrations

From Aug. 16 through 18, a mesmerizing medieval festival will be held in Buccheri, a town nestled in the Iblei Mountains in the Siracusa province. This amazing event annually draws more than 80,000 visitors.

The origin of these celebrations date back to the middle age when Prince of Buccheri decided to hold a big fair where all vendors from the surrounding cities would convene. It's been several centuries and this fair is still re-enacted again every year in this beautiful medieval city. Arts and crafts and medieval food stands will be set up in the fascinating backdrop of the local medieval castle while strolling performers and minstrels will entertain festival attendees throughout the dense network of narrow alleys.

On Aug. 16 at 8 p.m., a medieval fair featuring local produces will

be set up in piazza Roma. In the evening, the antics and skills of jugglers and acrobats belonging to the Italian groups *Compagnia del Drago Nero* and *Medini* will be displayed in the evening. Austrian ensemble *Blassinigg & Neumayr* will perform harp music and Irish band *Hil* will enchant festival goers with stunning Celtic music, and *Hocus Pocus*, from Venice will present an exciting medieval drama.

A spectacular parade in medieval period costumes featuring painstaking reconstructions of decors, settings and choreographies will be held on Aug. 17 at 5 p.m. throughout the historic center and will end in piazza Fratti. Following the parade, flag waivers from Faenza will perform together with stilt walkers jugglers and musicians featuring Irish music.

On Aug. 18 starting at about 6 p.m., a magnificent parade featuring all artists that have performed on the preceding evenings will be held until late night. The evening's entertainment will conclude with a grand finale of fireworks at midnight.

The festival schedule might be subject to changes. For more information call Buccheri City hall at 0931-880155 or 0931-873566. When calling be ready to speak Italian.

Buccheri is about one hour from Sigonella and can be reached by taking the Catania-Ragusa national road and driving until you reach the Vizzini intersection. Drive through this intersection for about 10 minutes and follow signs for Buccheri.

Onion festival to be held in Giarratana

Plan to attend the annual Onion Festival set for Aug. 14 at 5 p.m. in Giarratana, a town located in the slopes of Monte Lauro in the Ragusa province. Festival visitors can enjoy delicious onion based dishes filled with potatoes and fresh tomatoes, a variety of local *formaggi* (cheeses) and local wine. Giarratana's onions are special as they are very sweet, pulpy and uniquely big.

The festival that will be held along via XX Settembre in the historic center of Giarratana also features arts and crafts markets, antique and collectibles fairs, folklore parades and live music.

Giarratana is about 50 miles from Sigonella and can be reached by taking the Catania-Ragusa national road. Go until you get to the crossroad that says Vizzini. Drive through the intersection toward Vizzini and proceed to Monterosso Almo and then follow signs for Giarratana.

Sigonella Boy Scouts

By PH2 Troy D. Miller

Contributing writer

As the sun was rising on July 5, 2002, eight boy scouts and six adult leaders from Troop 53, pulled away from the Sigonella Scout Hut and began their three day trek to Dautphe, Germany so they could attend Boy Scout Camp at Camp Freedom. The boys were anxious to get to Camp Freedom, and they enjoyed seeing the Italian, Austrian and German countrysides. "It was really cool to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa. I have never seen it before," said Blake Bender, a member of the troop.

Over 20 troops attended Camp Freedom. They came from Scotland, Belgium, France, Germany, Kuwait, Italy and Egypt. Over 280 boys flooded the campground with their enthusiasm and their desire to learn new skills by working on merit badges. "I never thought I would be working on merit badges with scouts from Kuwait. It was neat to see that they followed the same Scout Oath and Scout Law that we do," said William Guarno, the Boy Scout Patrol Leader.

During their stay at Camp Freedom, Troop 53 earned 44 merit badges, took first and third place in the primitive bowling tournament, and took second place in the Camp Freedom Man Run, which was a relay pentathlon. But the thrills came when it was announced at the end of the week, that Troop 53 earned Honor Patrol. "I couldn't believe my ears. I thought I was dreaming. I had no idea we were going to win such an honor," said Mike Moran, Troop 53 Boy Scout.

"This just goes to show the boys that when they work together as a team anything is possible. It started a year before camp even started. When we took the boys on campouts

and when the boys bag groceries at the 7-Day to raise money, it taught them that they are not a solo flight, but a team and working hard as a team can bring on great rewards," said Lt. Lou Guarno, Troop 53 Scout Master.

However, learning to work together as a team and learning different skills through earning merit badges wasn't all the young boys learned. "I learned that my personal limits are far more than I thought they were," said Bender. "Camp pushed me hard and showed me that I am more than I thought I ever was."

The boys had built many high lights into their memories over the week at camp. But they weren't alone. The adult leaders also had high lights of their own. I was fortunate to be elected and tapped out for the Order of the Arrow (OA). OA is a special group within boy scouts that one has to be elected in. Only those who uphold the Scout Law and Scout Oath are elected. OA is a youth run organization and it is much more difficult to become OA as an adult than as a youth. When they called my name at the Order of the Arrow Tap Out ceremony, I couldn't believe it. I was thrilled and honored. But when I found out afterward that three adult leaders from Troop 53 went to bat for me and fought tooth and nail so I would be elected, that honor of becoming an OA member became all that more special and sentimental.

Troop 53 earned and learned so much at Boy Scout Camp. And they would like to thank you, the Sigonella Community, for without your prayers and support, this trip would have never been possible. They would also like to invite all boys who are between the ages of 11 and 18 to join Boy Scouts. The troop meets every Wednesday night at 4:30 p.m. at the Scout Hut behind the new NEX.

SIG SPORTS

Recent Results:

Intramural Softball Regular Season Final Standings:

"A League"		
Weapons	17	7
COMSTA	16	8
AIMD	16	8
PWD	12	12
Supply	8	16
Security	7	17
TSC	4	20

"B League"		
VP-10	10	1
ETD	9	2
Mad Dogs	8	3
Public Enemy	7	4
HC-4	7	4
EOD	6	5
NMCB-7	5	6
OPS	5	6
COMSTA	4	7
Hospital	2	9
Supply Hitmen	1	10
AIMD	1	10

Womens League		
MWR	8	0
AIMD	4	4
Supply Divas	5	3
COMSTA	2	6
Security	1	7

Upcoming Events:

Captain's Cup Intramural Bowling League
League Formulation Meeting Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. at TenPins Bowling Center. Season begins Sept. 11. Earn points for your command just by participating! Awards and bonus points for top three teams. For more information, call Sonny Rametta at x4302.

Free Tennis Clinic: Aug. 26-30

From 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the NASI Courts. Pick up some new skills and strategies and sharpen your game! Get ready for the NASSIG Tennis Championships in Sept. See you on the court. For more information, call Ron at x2710.

Camp Darby Invitational Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

From Aug. 31 until Sept. 2, the Camp Darby Slow Pitch tournament is set for Labor Day weekend.

(Camp Darby, Italy) Softball is a way of life for thousands of people in the summer. And what better way to wrap up summer and the softball season than at Camp Darby's Labor Day Invitational Softball Tournament? Jimmy Roddy, Tournament Director, says, "Participants will be impressed with our fields, facilities, the American Beach and Tuscany. Camp Darby is a great place to play ball."

Play is open to men and women's teams. Entry fee is \$150 per team. All participants will receive a specially designed T-shirt. 1st & 2nd place teams will receive a team trophy and individual trophies, while 3rd place team receives a team trophy.

ASA rules apply. Rosters are limited to a maximum of 15 players. Players must be U.S. DOD ID cardholders, and at least 18 years of age. Rosters should include each team member's name, age and rank.

Registration fees and team rosters are due by August 24. Make checks payable to: CMWRF and mail to:

Fitness Center, AST-Livorno

Attn: Jimmy Roddy
Unit 31301 Box 60
APO AE 09613

Lodging is available at Sea Pines Camp & Lodge. For information regarding both contact the Sea Pines Camp & Lodge at DSN 633-7225, Civilian +39-050547225, or E-mail: lodging@darby.setaf.army.mil.

For further information contact the Tournament Director, Jimmy Roddy at DSN 633-7438 or E-mail Jimmy.Roddy@darby.setaf.army.mil.

Charity Soccer Tournament

On Aug. 12 at 9 p.m., a charity soccer tournament will be held at Mineo's soccer stadium (Campo Sportivo Nunziata). An Italian-American mixed team from Sigonella, and two local Italian teams will participate in the competition. The proceeds raised from the tournament will be donated to a catholic Mission in Madagascar.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES: You could be tempted to overspend on unnecessary items. Try not to donate to organizations if you can hardly afford to take care of yourself. You will get upset over trivial matters. Don't blame others for your own stubbornness.

TAURUS: Pleasure trips will be a form of healing for your emotional state of mind. Be prepared to encounter new friendships that will provide you with valuable information. Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at a group meeting; however, keep your thoughts to yourself at home.

GEMINI: Think of changes to your home that will please and add to everyone's comfort. You can prosper if you invest in property or mutual funds. Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy. Emotions will be fluctuating if you let in-laws or relatives irritate you about matters that are really none of their business.

CANCER: You can make new connections through friends or relatives. Relationships may be hard to handle. Do not make rash decisions about your personal life. Deceit around you is evident. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time.

LEO: You're in a high cycle for romance. You need to get out if you want to meet potential partners. Mingle with those who have similar interests, and you should be able to start something.

VIRGO: You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do. Discord may arise with someone you're close to. You can form new partnerships, but don't move too quickly; things may not be as they appear. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly.

LIBRA: You may have a problem with coworkers if you try to tell them what to do. You should avoid getting involved in the personal problems of colleagues. Anger could lead to problems. Your sensitive, affectionate nature will capture the heart of anyone you are attracted to.

SCORPIO: Don't go hog wild when it comes to entertainment or you could find yourself short of funds at the end of the month. Get involved in worthwhile endeavors and meet new friends. Try not to be too emotional with those around you. A female colleague may cause problems for you.

SAGITTARIUS: Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues. You can make new friends who could turn into intimate connections if you join clubs or take creative courses. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. Family members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home.

CAPRICORN: Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues. You can make new friends who could turn into intimate connections if you join clubs or take creative courses. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can.

AQUARIUS: Your dramatic nature may be too much to handle. Try not to be overbearing where family is concerned. Don't make mountains out of molehills if you want to avoid conflict. Children may be less than honest with you. Don't jump too quickly regarding an investment that appears to be good. Be an observer before getting involved.

PISCES: Be aware of any deception on the part of those you deal with. Use your charm, but don't sign or agree to anything. Some situations may be blown out of proportion. "Make love, not war" should be your motto. Debates will stifle passion and result in estrangement.



THE MOVIE CONNECTION



Hey Arnold the Movie (Rated PG)

Life in the big city can be lonely. Luckily, Arnold and his pals live in a neighborhood so close-knit it could pass for a small town plopped down in the middle of a major metropolis. But when a powerful developer wants to knock down all the stores and houses so he can build a mammoth "mall-plex," it looks like Arnold's neighborhood may be history. With the help of a sassy superhero and a mysterious deep-voiced stranger, Arnold and Gerald cook up a scheme to save their beloved blocks before it's too late. Can they find the crucial document before the bulldozers roll? Or will the next "Hey Arnold!" movie be called "Boyz Without a Hood"? Voices of Spencer Klein, Craig Bartlett, and Christopher Lloyd.

Signs (Rated PG-13)

When a five-hundred-foot design of circles and lines mysteriously appears carved into a family's crops in rural Pennsylvania, the family patriarch sets out to find the truth behind the unfolding mystery. Cast: Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix, Cherry Jones.

TRIVIA

What color was the Golden Gate Bridge traditionally painted?
 What bird lays emerald or forest green eggs?
 What article of clothing did Mark Twain invent?
 What was the first creature to travel into space?
 What is the most common noncontagious disease in the world?

(Answers on page 7)

Best Sellers--Magazines



Maxim
 Time
 Entertainment Weekly
 Sports Illustrated for Kids
 House Beautiful



They did what? How the west was won!

Desert marksmen aim their weapons at Saguaro cacti so frequently that Arizona was forced to declare the "sport" a felony. Offenders risk a \$100,000 fine and three years in prison. But that doesn't stop sharpshooters like 27-year-old David, who opened fire on a Saguaro and was killed when it fell on him.

He reportedly fired two slugs from a 16-gauge shotgun at a 27-foot cactus, and began to shout, "Timber!" He only had enough time to utter the first syllable before a 23-foot section of the prickly plant fell and crushed him beneath its spiky skin.

Off the Rack!

A Walk to Remember



From what I hear, this movie was based on a book written by Nicholas Sparks. I hardly read novels of a movie because it gives me a distorted image of how many changes take place. For those of you who have not seen or read *A Walk to Remember*, all the more better. Shane West (*Get Over It, Whatever It Takes*) plays Landon Carter, a self-involved, 'spare no one's feelings' kind of character.

When Landon gets caught for some wrong doing, he is forced next to Jamie Sullivan (Mandy Moore, *The Princess Diaries*) the not so cool kid and pastor's daughter. From the time they meet until the time the movie ends, it's a classic romantic movie... he hates her, she doesn't like him, he falls for her, she loves him in return, and so on.

This movie is set mostly for a teen audience, clean throughout the movie. The movie was well written and the film shots captured many of the emotions the characters were going through, the only problem is that the movie was rather slow. At the beginning of the movie it gave hints of what's to come, but took forever to get there, often cutting to a quick joke or anecdote to keep the viewers attention.

The movie's ending was great, but in my opinion, they could have made it stronger. The only way to elaborate is to tell the ending, which will spoil the whole thing, so I'd rather not. What I will say is that it was great seeing Landon getting along with Jamie's father, who didn't seem to care for him all that much.

Now I wonder what the book is like...

Also, as a side note, if any Sigonellans have seen any movies recently and would like to share what they thought, *The Signature* staff would be happy to publish your review. Reviews can be sent to thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

By JO3 Jay Price

AD