

The Signature

Vol. 19 No. 45

Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, November 15, 2002

Native Sailors teach children of Heritage



Photo by JO3 Jay Price

A Sailor reads a legend of how a tribe believed a coyote and a plague of grasshoppers returned water to a nearby dried lake. Bearrunner also taught the children several Sioux words to form a sentence in Sioux.

NCC(AW/SW) Kendall Dobison

Contributing writer

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. A month dedicated to the honor of America's first citizens, the American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

American Indian Heritage Month was nationally recognized as Public Law 101-343 in Aug. 1990. It has been continued through the present day as a Presidential Proclamation. Prior to Public Law 101-343, American Indian Heritage weeks were held in various months of each year.

The Navy has had great Native Americans throughout history, some of which have been awarded the Medal of Honor, such as:

Cmdr. Ernest Evans was honored for his actions as Commanding Officer of USS JOHNSTON during sea battle off Samar Island in Oct. 1944.

Lt. Michael Thornton was honored for his actions as an U.S. Navy patrol advisor during combat in Vietnam in October 1972.

BMC James Williams was honored for his actions as a river patrol boat captain during combat in Vietnam in October 1966.

Throughout all of the services, there have been 27 veterans of Native American heritage awarded the Medal of Honor.

MWR honors NAS families

By Marnie Ackerman

Contributing writer

In honor of military families, MWR Sigonella is planning a day full of events for all ages, Saturday, Nov. 16.

The day begins with the Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run for kids and adults at 8:30 a.m., a cross country run through an orange grove. Sigonellans are then invited to gobble up fresh off-the-griddle pancakes complete with butter, syrup and juice from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

At 10 a.m., Life-Size Candyland will come to life with a parade by the Boys and Girls Scouts who will lead the characters into the larger-than-life Molasses Swamp, Licorice Castle, Peppermint Forest and more. Sigonella children will get to meet the characters and find candy and prizes.

Throughout the day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., a craft bazaar will feature handmade holiday gifts and other crafts for sale.

In celebration of Military Family Appreciation Month, ITT is offering a special family discount on a trip to the Greek Temples of Agrigento on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Adults traveling on this trip with one or more children receive \$5 off the regular adult price, and kids ages six through 12 will get 50 percent off and kids five and under will enjoy the trip for free!

Parents and kids of the Child Development Program will enjoy a Family Appreciation cake and ice cream social on Nov. 22 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

BLAST parents and children will enjoy all the Thanksgiving trimmings at a special Military Families Appreciation Meal at BLAST Nov. 22.

BLAST children will be creating a special friendship quilt during the month of November that will represent the special experiences of military families.



Photo courtesy of MWR Marketing

Members of the MWR staff sit atop the Licorice Castle in last years Candyland event.

Frightening finding on affects of smoking

By Bill Doughty

U SNH Yokosuka PAO

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) – Let's say you spend five bucks a day on your cigarette habit. In one year, you'll spend \$1,850. In ten years, you'll smoke away a brand new car.

And that's just at \$5 a day.

So one good reason to quit is cost. You'll have more money if you give up tobacco. Of course, quitting also protects you from debilitating illness that can cost even more in the long run.

Speaking of debilitating; believe it or not, smoking can have a profound, negative effect on a person's love life. In addition to making you smell bad, affecting your breathing and wrinkling your skin, smoking can destroy blood vessels, especially tiny blood vessels that affect sexual performance.

Smoking has been linked directly to sexual dysfunction in men, and it's believed to have a similar effect in women. One noted urologist, speaking

on the news program "60 Minutes," said when he sees a man smoking, he wonders "when," not "if," he will experience erectile dysfunction.

Studies show that tobacco-users in general don't live as long as non-users.

Smoking makes its biggest assault on the lungs.

People with chronic obstructed pulmonary disease or emphysema often end up on oxygen and cannot live a normal life. Many can't walk a few feet without having to sit down and try to catch their breath.

Cancer that starts in the lungs of many smokers can often have devastating effects, spreading throughout the body to involve the liver, kidneys, bones, and brain.

The Navy considers smoking as not only a health issue, but also one that affects readiness,

military bearing, and leadership by example.

According to Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5100.13B of Feb. 11, 1998:

"Tobacco use is considered the chief preventable cause of premature death and disease in the United States, killing more than 400,000 (19 per-

cent of total deaths) annually. Tobacco use in any form is addictive. Involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke has been shown to cause cancer, lung and heart

disease in healthy nonsmokers."

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified second-hand smoke – Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) – as a "Group A" known human lung carcinogen (cancer-causing agent). According to the Navy, tobacco use and ETS have an adverse effect on mission readiness.

"Tobacco use adversely affects night vision, respiratory capacity, and wound healing rates, and contributes to risk of cold injuries, including frostbite. Statistically, smokers have higher accident rates than do nonsmokers."

"Tobacco use harms readiness by impairing physical fitness and by increasing illness, absenteeism, premature death, and health care costs."

The Department of the Navy policy, according to the SECNAV instruction, is to reduce tobacco use and protect nonsmokers from involuntary exposure to ETS. "Where conflicts arise between the rights of nonsmokers and the rights of smokers, the rights of nonsmokers to a smoke-free air space shall prevail."

November is Smoking Cessation Month. Health Promotion specialists can help smokers sign up for free tobacco cessation programs. For information about how to quit, contact your primary care manager at your military treatment facility.

"... Statistically, smokers have higher accident rates than do nonsmokers."

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Italian phrase
of the week...

Fa Freddo!



(It is cold!)

SECURITY BLOTTER



Helping make the community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

Nov. 5 - Nov. 11

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 13
- Traffic accident with injuries - 2
- Car break-ins - 5
- DUI - 2
- DUI's 2002 - 32
- DUI's 2001 - 33

The

Signature

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Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG
Commanding Officer



Tired of driving that old Navy vehicle? The average age of our vehicle fleet at Sigonella is almost 12 years old. Chances are good your vehicle is even older than that.

Well, relief is on the way. On Monday, we will begin our conversion to a GSA leased vehicle fleet. GSA has committed to replace 20 percent of the vehicle fleet per year for the next five years, with a guaranteed life cycle replacement schedule. NAS Sigonella will pay a fixed monthly cost for each vehicle. Our Public Works Transportation Division will still take care of maintenance, repairs, and fuel services that customers are used to now.

In anticipation of the transition, Transportation met with each customer this past April to best determine the correct type and size vehicle required for the job.

Beginning Monday, NASSIG Transportation and GSA will conduct a joint vehicle fleet inspection. Upon completion of the inspection, the U.S. Navy will turn over ownership of the current vehicle fleet to GSA and begin leasing the fleet on a prescribed monthly rate. GSA has a number of late model vehicles that should be available for immediate issue. These will be temporary replacements that are in better condition than many of the vehicles we currently have on hand, and will not count toward the first year's 20 percent replacement. We will be replacing vehicles based first on age and then mileage. Out with the old and in with the new.

The current plan is for GSA to provide U.S. manufactured vehicles that meet all Department of Transportation safety specifications. All vehicles will be equipped with automatic transmissions, air conditioning, and even radios.

We are all looking forward to arrival of the new vehicles to replace our rapidly deteriorating fleet; however, this lease arrangement will be at a considerable monetary cost to the U.S. Navy and NAS Sigonella. We will now be required to pay the cost of damage out of pocket. Please assist us by treating the vehicles with care and respect.

The Pulse

Suicide Prevention

Article courtesy of USNH Sigonella

While growing up, most of us were given the responsibility of "watching out" for a younger brother or sister. At times it did not seem so bad, while other times it seemed unbearable, particularly if we wanted to do something with our friends.

Yet, in spite of the inconvenience this form of supervision caused, we could sense the seriousness and importance of the duty that was placed on us. So while we may have grumbled and groaned, we still kept an eye out to ensure that nothing happened to the person to whom we were placed in charge.

This pattern of "watching out" for one another continued during our elementary school years as well. Often on field trips and outings we were required to have a "buddy" and each person was responsible for knowing where the other half was at all times. Generally it only took one time of losing track of your buddy before you discovered the consequences associated with such inattentiveness, usually in the form of lengthy lecture and scolding from your school teacher.

By the time we reached high school, this pattern of looking out for our friends seemed to be a natural part of the socialization process. We usually arrived and left sporting events, dances, parties, and other events with the same group. Or if someone was missing we were able to explain where they were and with whom they had gone.

Once we joined the military, this pattern of looking out for one another continued. In many cases, liberty was contingent on having a buddy if you wanted to leave the ship or base. As we got older, this form of watching out became more subtle and we learned that not only did it involve physical alertness but mental alertness as well. By mental alertness, we are talking about a "situational awareness" or familiarity with those whom we spend time with daily. It is an awareness of routines, patterns, and behaviors, and then being able to detect even minor changes when and if they occur.

Every year we receive safety training on a variety of topics, one of which is suicide awareness. Most people are able to list some of the risk factors associated with suicide as a result of the training. Yet, many people wonder why so much emphasis is placed on this topic.

The number one reason that we receive training on suicide awareness is that it is usually the *second leading cause of death in the Navy* and it is the most preventable. In over 20 years of data collection on suicides in the military, there has been a wealth of useful information that has surfaced.

One such example is that interviews with people who have made serious suicide attempts, and survived, consistently report that they did not want to die; they just did not know what else to do to end the pain they were experiencing. So, for these people, suicide is seen as a problem solving approach, in that it will stop the pain. Yet, as a result of this pain, they fail to see that their approach is a *permanent* solution to a *temporary* problem. Another factor that has been discovered from this research is that many people, (80 percent), who "successfully" completed suicide, had a diagnosable mental health condition. These conditions included depression, anxiety, and substance use, all of which can influence a person's thinking and decision-making.

One of the most important findings from these 20 years of study found that of all the completed suicides in the Navy, the majority of people did not have any formal contact with a person who could help them in the two weeks prior to their suicide.

In looking at only one year of this information it was found that 66 percent of all completed suicides did not have any formal contact with a provider who could help them, and of the 34 percent who did have contact, only five had been seen by a mental health professional.

So, the information that we have learned from these studies is valuable, and was learned at high costs in terms of peoples' lives. Yet we know that the people who are first to notice changes in someone are those that have daily or regular contact with them. Watching out for one another means noticing changes in moods, behavior, actions; if someone you work with appears more withdrawn, preoccupied, nervous, or depressed.

They may begin to lack attention to detail and make more performance errors in their work; their uniform may not look as neat and orderly; or they may appear less clean and orderly themselves. You may also notice changes in their speech: comments related to feelings of hopelessness, discouragement, and helplessness in terms of changing or improving their situation. They may even comment about not being around or a "burden" to others. Awareness is important because if we are not attentive to the signs, we are likely to miss them. In examining completed suicides, the Navy found that 80 percent of all individuals who took their lives gave some advance warning of their intentions.

What is most important is looking out for one another. By increasing our awareness of those around us, and become willing to confront problems that we see, we can help to reduce one of the most preventable causes of death in the military.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As we are about to transfer, we would like to say "thank you" to several people who have helped make our short tour here more enjoyable.

First of all, we thank the staff in the Labor and Delivery Ward at Naval Hospital Sigonella. The entire staff is outstanding! When our daughter was born in September 2001, the care received was absolutely phenomenal!

Also, we would like to thank our church family at Calvary Baptist Church, as well as the members of New Hope Church (both in Motta) who prayed for us and our daughter before she was born, and while she was born. Even though she came into this world more than five weeks early, she did not have to go to Germany, and she spent only four days in the hospital. God's awesome power was clearly displayed to us through their prayers, and we thank our church families for their prayers. Prayer is powerful!

The staff at EDIS has been a fantastic support for our family. Miss Letitia Stanton (the Speech Therapist) has worked wonderfully with our son. We are truly going to miss her and the rest of the staff at EDIS! If there was a way to do it, we would love to take everyone there with us back to the States.

And, last, but certainly not least, we wish to thank the staff at the GFOWC Child Care Center in Motta. We have never met a group of child care providers so fantastic. The attention they provided to our "special needs" son and our daughter was superior to any we have ever experienced. We wish we could take them with us as well!

- Rick and Carol Dolan

Veterans day message from the Secretary of the Navy

Special message from the Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy
WASHINGTON (NNS) - Franklin

Delano Roosevelt once said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time that men have died to win them."

His words are a caution to all of us to never forget the lives that were given and the years of service rendered to protect the freedom we hold dear.

This Veterans Day adds new meaning to Roosevelt's wisdom. We are already at war against terrorism, and our armed forces may be called to action anywhere and at any time that freedom and human dignity are threatened.

Our history is rich with military men and women who fought for our American way of life. They knew then what we know now. Americans don't fight for land, money or religion. But we will fight to protect the principles of freedom - freedom of religion, freedom of the press and the freedom from oppression. Today, all veterans are monuments to those freedoms.

As we honor our veterans, let us also honor all who serve today, because you will be our veterans of tomorrow. You protect our nation's interests but, more importantly, you protect our hopes and dreams. You make us proud while you make us safe.

Let's help them appreciate the incredible gift Americans are given when one of our brave men and women takes an oath to protect and defend our country.

To all of you who serve and have served, I thank you. Never underestimate what you mean to America. For that, a grateful nation also thanks you. I salute you on Veterans Day. God bless America.

S.A.F.

Dogs: 2
Cats: 0
Puppies: 0
Kittens: 4



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



Photo by PHAN Philip McDaniel.

At sea aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Oct. 5, 2002 -- An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the Eagles of Strike Fighter Squadron One One Five (VFA 115) prepares to launch from one of four steam driven catapults on the ship's flight deck. The Super Hornet is about 25 percent larger than its predecessor, the F/A-18C/D, but contains 42 percent fewer structural parts. The single-seat F/A-18E flies greater ranges with heavier payloads, has a more powerful engine, and provides greater survivability. Lincoln and her embarked Carrier Air Wing One Four (CVW-14) are conducting combat missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

First Combat Action for Navy's newest strike fighter

From the Navy News Service

MACDILL AFB, Fla. (NNS) – The F/A-18E Super Hornet participated in its first-ever combat action Nov. 6 when aircraft from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) fired on Iraqi targets.

In response to hostile acts against coalition aircraft monitoring the southern no-fly zone, Operation Southern Watch aircraft, including the Super Hornets from the Abraham Lincoln, used precision-guided weapons to target two surface-to-air missile systems (SAM), and a command and control communications facility.

The SAM systems were near Al Kut, approximately 100 miles southeast of Baghdad. The command and control facility was near Tallil, about 160 miles southeast of Baghdad. The strikes occurred at about 6:30 a.m. EDT Wednesday.

Target battle damage assessment is ongoing.

Coalition strikes in the no-fly zones are executed as a self-defense measure in response to Iraqi hostile threats and acts against coalition forces and their aircraft. Today's strike came after Iraqi forces fired anti-aircraft artillery at coalition aircraft in the southern no-fly zone and moved the SAM systems into the no-fly zone in violation of U.N. resolutions.

The last coalition strikes in the southern no-fly zone were Oct. 22 against a command and control communications facility near Al Jarrah, and an air defense operations center near Tallil.

Coalition aircraft never target civilian populations or infrastructure, and go to painstaking lengths to avoid injury to civilians and damage to civilian facilities.

Publishers provide free books to U.S. troops abroad

By the Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Three major book publishers are kicking off a historic initiative to

revive the "Armed Services Editions" (ASE) effort that distributed more than 123 million paperback books to U.S. troops stationed overseas in World War II, with a giveaway of newly published titles at the Pentagon Nov. 7.

First published in 1943, more than 123 million ASEs were handed out to U.S. forces overseas. This giveaway represented the largest free distribution of fiction and nonfiction books in history. More than 1,300 titles were published, including mysteries, biographies, crime stories, adventure novels and classic works of literature by such authors as Hemingway, Steinbeck, and Melville. The original ASEs were discontinued in 1947.

Beginning this month, Hyperion, Simon & Schuster and Dover Publications will join together in publishing and distributing free ASEs to U.S. troops throughout the world, including Afghanistan, the Middle East, Cuba, Asia, and Europe, as well as forces stationed on forward-deployed U.S. warships. More than 100,000 copies of the following four titles will be sent to U.S. forces abroad in November and December:

- Medal Of Honor: Profiles of America's Military Heroes from the Civil War to the Present, by Allen Mikaelian, with commentary by Mike Wallace (Hyperion, 2002).

- Henry V, by William Shakespeare (Dover, 2002).

- The Art of War, by Sun Tzu (Dover, 2002).

- War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars, edited by Andrew Carroll (Washington Square Press/Simon & Schuster, 2002).

The books will be reformatted in the same "cargo pocket" size and will have the same vintage appearance as the original ASEs from World War II.

The new ASE initiative was launched Nov. 7 at the Pentagon in the north end of the main con-

course.

More than 100,000 ASEs will be shipped out to U.S. military installations throughout the world. Books will continue to be distributed for as long as they can be funded, and, ideally, new titles will be added to the list. Unlike the original ASEs, the new books are being paid for entirely with private donations. No government funding is being used.

Navy christens new Guided-Missile Destroyer Chafee

Special release from the Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) – The newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, PCU Chafee (DDG 90), was christened Nov. 11, during a 3:30 p.m. ceremony at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine.

The ship honors John Hubbard Chafee of Providence, R.I. Chafee distinguished himself as a U.S. senator, Navy secretary, Rhode Island governor, and a Marine with service as both an enlisted man and commissioned officer.

Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) delivered the ceremony's principal address. Serving as co-sponsors for the ship were Virginia Chafee, wife of the ship's namesake, and Diane Blair, wife of retired Adm. Dennis C. Blair, former Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. In the time-honored Navy tradition of christening ships, the co-sponsors broke a bottle of champagne across the bow to formally christen Chafee.

Chafee is the 40th destroyer of the Arleigh Burke-class and the 22nd to be built by Bath Iron Works. This multimission ship will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously. The ship contains a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons, designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

Cmdr. John W. Ailes of New London, Conn., is the commanding officer of Chafee with a crew of approximately 30 officers and 355 enlisted.

The ship's keel was laid April 2001 and is scheduled to be commissioned in the fall of 2003. Chafee will be homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as an element in the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The 8,344-ton Chafee is 511 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, an overall beam of 66 feet and a navigational draft of 33 feet. Four gas turbine propulsion plants will power the ship to speeds of more than 30 knots.



Free Goodies

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will have a raffle and table at the commissary on Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. They will be giving away freebies and holding a drawing for a special surprise. For more information contact FFSC at 624-4291.

Calling All Voices

Good or bad, loud or soft. Help add to the celebration of the Christmas holiday. The Signonella chapel is preparing a "Cantata of Carols" from around the world. For more information, please contact Isidoro at 624-4295. Join us for the joy of it. Christmas is a wonderful time to sing!

FEHB Open Season

The open season dates for Federal civilian employees are Nov. 11 to Dec. 09. During the open season, any eligible employee who is not currently registered may enroll, and any eligible enrollee may change from one plan or option to another. To do so, employee needs to access the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) through the Department of Navy Civilian Human Resources homepage at www.donhr.navy.mil. For further information, please call the Human Resources Office at 624-6681.

FEGLI Premiums

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced new premium and age bands under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program. Premiums for the basic insurance and for several of the Option B age groups have been reduced. There are NO changes to Option A premiums or to the premiums for existing Option C age bands. However, OPM has added new age bands for Option C and Option B because of the increasing number of individuals with unreduced coverage after age 65. The effective date for the new age bands and premiums is Jan. 1, 2003. Payroll offices will apply the premiums and age bands the first pay period beginning on or after that date. Further information can be found on FEGLI website at: www.opm.gov/insure/life/index.

SAWS Volunteer Meeting

SAWS will be holding a meeting Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. for all current and interested new volunteers. After a brief hiatus while they reorganized, SAWS is ready with many new opportunities for volunteers. They are looking for feral cat colony monitors, kennel help, TNR volunteers, fundraising and community education. Any personnel interested in volunteering can show up at this meeting to learn more about their mission and fill out the required volunteer forms if they wish to.

Library's Moving

From Monday, Nov. 18 to Thursday, Nov. 21, the NAS I Library will be moving from its current home (Building 232) to the old Home Center (Building 300). The old Home Center was renovated as a part of the MEGA III project to allow the library to move and clear the site for the new MWR Complex. The modernized space includes new toilets and office spaces. During the relocation, the book drop will be moved and have a reserved parking space with a sign for "5 Minute Book Drop." The ultimate home of the Library will be complete in Summer '04.

PSD Hour Changes

PSD will be changing its customer service hours effective Monday, Nov. 18. The hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the exception of Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, PSD will close at 1 p.m. for training. If payday is on Wednesday, customer service will still be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cash cage hours will remain 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The reason for the change is to enable PSD personnel to process customer requests such as Page 2 updates, pay documents, transfers and receipts.

Drop Boxes

There will be designated boxes for Holiday Dinner for Military Family Members. The boxes will be in the following designated locations: NAS I and II Chapels and both Commissaries on NAS I and Mineo. For more info, call 624-2059 or 624-4295.

Baggers Needed

Baggers are needed at the local Commissary. Must be 16 or older, have flexible hours, be dependable and have reliable transportation. Baggers work for tips only. Contact Head Bagger Jeannie or Asst. Noelia at the Commissary or call 624-3615.

Going on leave? Have you had your Area Specific Brief? Even if you are going back to the States for leave, you are required to have an Area Specific Anti-terrorism Brief. This may sound a bit overzealous, but the general attitude in the U.S. is going through a lot of changes. The idea of the Brief is to give you an understanding of what to expect when you go on leave. The United States isn't as care-free and relaxed as it was only 2 years ago. Whether you are headed to the United States or another country for leave or TAD, you need to see the Anti-Terrorism Training Officer in your Department or Command to receive a short brief of what to expect and what is expected of you. The ATTO will be able to give you important phone numbers to have handy for any problems that may occur, for example, Embassies and Consulates of the countries you will be visiting.

"FORCE PROTECTION IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY"



Cozy Hot Dogs

By Bea Cook

Contributing writer

2-8 ounce cans refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
8 cheese-filled or regular hot dogs, cut in half

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Separate dough into eight rectangles. Cut each rectangle in half lengthwise. Place a hot dog half lengthwise at one end of dough strip. Fold dough in half over hot dog; press short edges to seal, leaving sides open. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 11 to 13 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with ketchup, mustard and pickle relish, if desired. Yields 16 servings.

What does "OBLISERV" mean?

Obliserv is where the member must obtain sufficient time on their Navy contract to complete their next duty assignment. In which case, a member must Reenlist or Extend to "Obliserv." See your Dept/Command Career Counselor or checkout the Military Personnel Manual-1160 to see if you meet the requirements.

Don't forget, Naval Personnel Command requires 35 days processing time for SRB related reenlistments/extensions and 15 days processing time for Non-SRB reenlistments. Plan accordingly!

By Alberto Lunetta
Deputy PAO

Italian News

SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE



Photo by Monrif Net

Thousands of people recently grieved the victims of a powerful and devastating 5.4 Richter Scale earthquake that jolted San Giuliano di Puglia, a little village in central Italy, on Oct. 31. Italy's President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and other political leaders attended the funeral shown live on national television. Twenty-six children from a first grade class, a teacher and two elderly women died in the collapse of the local school while they were celebrating Halloween. Prosecutors have initiated an investigation into the school's collapse, questioning engineers, developers, contractors and architects on criminal negligence charges.

Violent earthquake in Italy kills 29

San Giuliano di Puglia - "I'm Luigi's mom. I am the mother of all these little angels. We commit their souls to God. I ask that our schools would be safer. No mother or father must ever suffer like this again." As reported in *La Sicilia*, these grievous words have been pronounced by one of the young victims' mothers during a recently held mass funeral for an entire class of first-grade children, one teacher and two elderly women who were killed when their pri-

mary school collapsed in San Giuliano di Puglia (a town in Molise, central of Italy) as a result of a powerful earthquake.

On the morning of Oct. 31, a group of children was celebrating Halloween (a festivity which is becoming increasingly popular in Italy) in their classroom when at 11:32 a.m. a powerful 5.4-quake (Richter scale) occurred, flattening their three-story elementary school and burying all its occupants in a mound of dust, plaster and bricks.

The entire town was damaged leaving thousands homeless, as their houses were declared unsafe.

For a couple of days, soldiers, firemen and civilian rescuers dug around the clock through the rubble, retrieving the remain and looking for survivors. But the hope to pull everybody out soon faded, as rescue crews were only able to save 30 children and five adults. The final death toll was terrible as 26 first-graders (class of 1996), a teacher and two janitors.

Survivors were hospitalized for few days.

Tent cities have been set up in some areas to shelter over 8,000 homeless who are already facing freezing winter temperatures.

President of Italy Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and Italy's main political leaders participated in the funeral service that was held under a large tent set up outside a sports court turned into a makeshift morgue. As the population was evacuated, the sports facility was the only safe place where the small white coffins could be lined up until the rescue operations were over. The funeral was aired live on national TV.

"We did not protect them," said Ciampi taking responsibility on behalf of the country for one of the most tragic earthquakes Italy has ever suffered.

Grief and mounting anger gradually spread throughout the country and the world, as this seems to have been a "foretold tragedy." Looking at the aerial pictures of the devastated town, one is struck by the fact that the school is one of the few buildings that collapsed. The situation is even more paradoxical as the school, which was originally built in the late 1950s, was recently refurbished and a concrete second floor was recently added.

Some of the main Italian newspapers also pointed out that, according to a report issued in 1998 by a board of disaster management officials, engineers and seismologists from the Italian national civil protection service, the area around San Giuliano di Puglia was reclassified as a "high-risk area" for earthquakes.

Prosecutors, who already said this tragedy was caused by an "anomalous collapse," have begun a criminal investigation to determine whether the school structures were able to survive strong earthquakes and were built to the proper standards.

Aftershocks continue to rattle the area, also affecting other surrounding towns.

The government has declared a state of emergency in the Molise region and has allocated 50 million euro to reconstruct the earthquake damaged areas.

Caltagirone hosts fair and ceramics exhibition

Plan to attend "*A Truvatura*," on Nov. 17 an amazing arts and crafts and antiques fair which will be held in the city's historic center. The fair and the local shops will be open all day long.

Before you leave the town, remember to visit a fascinating collection of about 200 ceramic pieces from the Spanish town *Paterna* (near Valencia) that date from the 12th to the 17th century on display at the *Museo Regionale della Ceramica* (Regional Pottery Museum), located in via Roma in the northern part of Caltagirone. The exhibition explores five centuries of fine pottery production that intensive contacts and trade exchanges between Sicily and Spain. Objects on view will include ceramic basins, vases, bowls, drug jars, tiles and tile panels, and sculptures of various shapes and sizes.

The exhibition is open daily through Feb. 15, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

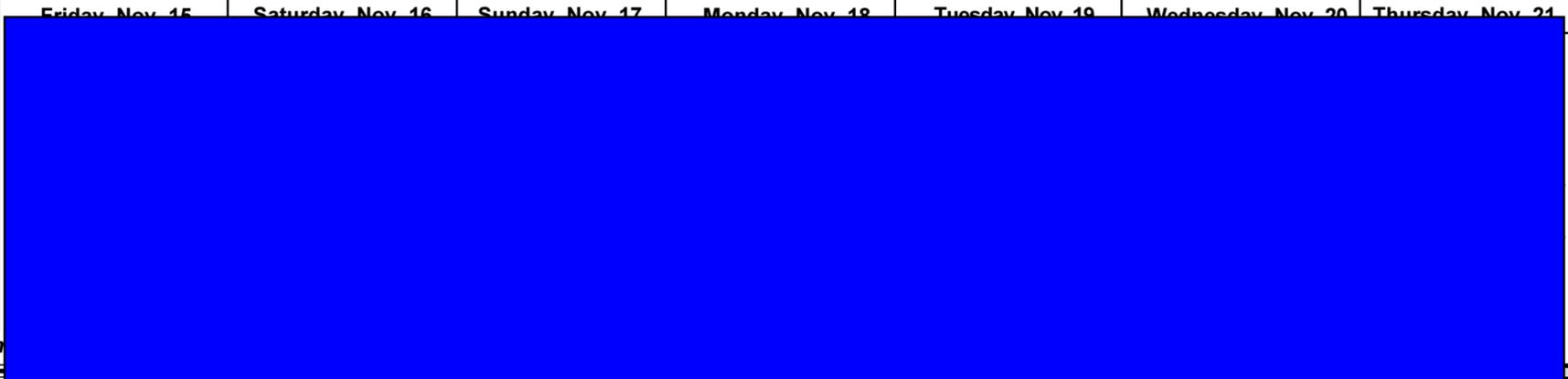
Admission: 2.5 euro adults, free for children under 18 and adults over 65, 1 euro for children aged 18 to 25. For more information call 0933-21680.



Friday, Nov. 15 Saturday, Nov. 16 Sunday, Nov. 17 Monday, Nov. 18 Tuesday, Nov. 19 Wednesday, Nov. 20 Thursday, Nov. 21

Week at a glance

Week at a glance



For inform

HOROSCOPES

ARIES: Be careful not to lead someone on if you truly have no interest. You will meet new romantic partners if you get involved in seminars or travel. You need to take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. Changes regarding your image will bring you greater confidence.

TAURUS: You can make a serious attempt at quitting those bad habits that you've picked up over the years. Misunderstandings at work could easily lead to your demise. You'll feel much better when your slate is clean again. Now is the time to concentrate on building a strong financial future for your family.

GEMINI: Direct your energy wisely this week. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. Hard work will bring rewards. Make your intentions perfectly clear and find out exactly what is expected of you.

CANCER: Moneymaking ventures may just turn your life around. Finish projects that have been hanging over your head. You can make excellent investments if you are in the right place at the right time. Exercise is always a good way to relieve stress.

LEO: You can come into money; however, perhaps not under the best circumstances. Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. The battle continues. You may want to clear the air where older relatives are concerned.

VIRGO: A long discussion is in order if you wish to clear the air. Take a close look at documents before signing on the dotted line. Lighten up your serious attitude. Pamper yourself for a change.

LIBRA: Ferret out information that will hold others responsible for their actions. Your mate, however, may not be too pleased with you. Get down to business. They will not have the patience to wait for you to complete things that they've asked you to do. Opportunities for partnerships are present; but get every detail in writing.

SCORPIO: Try to mix business with pleasure while traveling. Don't gossip. Home improvement projects will go well if you delegate work to all your family members.

SAGITTARIUS: It's a favorable time for real estate, investments, and moneymaking opportunities to be successful. Limitations with females could lead to unfortunate circumstances. Romance could develop through social activities or short trips. Don't expect new acquaintances to be completely honest about them selves.

CAPRICORN: You can make new friends and experience new things if you do a bit of traveling. A lack of support and negativity have been the main problems. Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you.

AQUARIUS: Don't be afraid to confront situations concerning loved ones in order to solve any problems that may exist. You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you. Dealing with in-laws or relatives will not be in your best interest. Look into physical activities that will help get rid of some of that tension you may be feeling.

PISCES: You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. Your ideas may be good, but they aren't necessarily right for everyone. Watch for empty promises that may give you false hope.



THE MOVIE CONNECTION



Theater Schedule

Friday, Nov. 15
1 p.m.: The Santa Clause II (G)**
5:30 p.m.: The Four Feathers (PG-13)**
8 p.m.: City By The Sea (R)
10 p.m.: Ballisyc: Ecks vs. Sever (R)
Saturday, Nov. 16
2 p.m.: Blue Crush (PG-13)
4:30 p.m.: Swim Fan (PG-13)
7:00 p.m.: The Banger Sisters (R)**
9:30 p.m.: The Ring (PG-13)
Sunday, Nov. 17
1 p.m.: The Santa Clause II (G)
3:30 p.m.: Stealing Harvard (PG-13)
6 p.m.: The Four Feathers (PG-13)
Monday, Nov. 18
5:30 p.m.: Simone (PG-13)
8 p.m.: City By The Sea (R)
Tuesday, Nov. 19
5:30 p.m.: Blue Crush (PG-13)
8 p.m.: The Ring (PG-13)

Wednesday, Nov. 20
5:30 p.m.: Swim Fan (PG-13)
8 p.m.: The Banger Sisters (R)
Thursday, Nov. 21
5:30 p.m.: The Ring (PG-13)
8 p.m.: The Four Feathers (PG-13)
Friday, Nov. 22
5:30 p.m.: The Tuxedo (PG-13)**
8 p.m.: The Banger Sisters (R)
10 p.m.: Trapped (R)**
Saturday, Nov. 23
11 a.m.: The Santa Clause II (G)
2 p.m.: Swim Fan (PG-13)
4:30 p.m.: Stealing Harvard (PG-13)
7 p.m.: Ballisyc: Ecks vs. Sever (R)
9:30 p.m.: The Four Feathers (PG-13)
Sunday, Nov. 24
12 p.m.: The Santa Clause II (G)
2:30 p.m.: The Tuxedo (PG-13)
5 p.m.: Native American Dancers

*** Future Re-release **Sneak Preview *Last Showing, (PNO- no children admitted)
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at 624-4248).

The Santa Claus II (Rated G)

Scott Calvin has been Santa Claus for the past eight years. But Santa's world is turned upside down when his own son, Charlie landed on this year's "naughty" list, and if Scott doesn't marry by Christmas Eve just a month away he'll stop being Santa forever. Desperate, Scott turns to the elves' new invention, a machine that can replicate anything to create Santa II and he leaves his double in charge.

Things quickly go south at the North Pole when Santa II institutes some strange redefinitions of what's naughty and nice; worse yet, when Scott finally falls for a potential Mrs. Claus, she threatens to drive a wedge between him and Charlie.

In a climactic battle pitting Santa, Charlie, the new Mrs. Claus, and the elves against Santa II and his army of tin soldiers, the future of Scott's family, the North Pole, and Christmas itself, hangs in the balance. Cast: Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell, Nicole Lerou.

TRIVIA

What snake gives live birth apposed to laying eggs?
What is the only Shakespearian play written without any songs?
What flower is used to make vanilla?
Who is the only president to give his inaugural address without using the word "I"?
What was invented first, the match or cigarette lighter?

(Answers on page 7)

Best Sellers-- Crib Toys



Kick and Play Piano
Celestial Music Activity Wrap Around
Kick Start Busy Crib Activity Center
Little Smart Peek-a-boo Apple Acres
Sparkling Symphony Mirror



They did what? Healthy Choice!

When a group of visitors at a zoo inquired whether the refuge had problems with people sticking their hands in the tiger cages, a tour guide placed her arm inside the tiger cage, demonstrating the gentility of captive Siberian tigers and beckoned the full-grown animal. The tiger, which was new to the facility, sauntered over and began to lick the woman's hand in an apparent display of affection. When the woman playfully scratched the tiger's nose, the animal recoiled and closed its jaws around her hand.

The woman discovered that the tiger did not intend to return her arm, and pulled away in a panic. Another tour guide reported that the beast worked its way up her shoulder in two seconds and tore her arm off at the socket. He said he tried to retrieve the arm, but "the tiger did not want to give it back." Though the arm was not found, the woman was airlifted to a nearby hospital and treated for an accidental amputation. But the tender-hearted tour guide bore no ill will toward the cat, and begged authorities from her hospital bed not to put down the animal as punishment for its unsavory meal choice.

Off the Rack!

The Time Machine

This movie, which spent two weeks at the top of the box office list early this year before moviegoers got a collective clue, is a perfect example of the Hollywood hype that is far more creative and successful than the film it meant to endorse. Bold trailers with flashy special effects do not make a great movie. Exhibit A: *The Time Machine*.

Guy Pearce, who last graced the screen in the brilliant *Memento*, plays Dr. Alexander Hartdegen, a Columbia University physics professor in the early 20th century.

Four years after Hartdegen's fiancé is murdered in a Central Park mugging, he cracks the secret of time travel in order to go back in time and save her life. He finds out the hard way that he can't change her fate by traveling backward in time, so he sets out to find a way to do it in the future.

Hartdegen sees the future of 2037 and, after traveling a few more years into the future, witnesses the disaster that will change life on Earth as we know it.

800,000 years later mankind is divided into two species: the prehistoric humanoids who live on the walls of gigantic canyons carved by glaciers in future Manhattan and the morlocks, a subterranean race that hunts its humanoid cousins for food.

From this point on, Hartdegen seems to completely forget why he traveled to the future, especially after meeting the beautiful Mara, played by Irish pop princess Samantha Mumba.

The movie is based on the novel of the same name by H.G. Wells. It would have done better to stick closer to its source material. However, if you want a special effects extravaganza this could be the movie for you. Just don't expect it to make much sense.

By JO1 Craig Coleman

Tips to keep your home safe and warm

Article courtesy of CDC

Follow these safety tips from CDC, the National Fire Protection Association, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to prevent injuries and deaths related to heating your home.

- Install a smoke alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. Test it monthly. If it has a 9-volt battery, change the battery once a year.

- Install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. If your alarm sounds, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that you press the reset button, call emergency services (911 or your local fire department), and immediately move to fresh air (either outdoors or near an open door or window).

- Know the symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, fatigue, dizziness, and shortness of breath. If you experience any of these symptoms, get fresh air right away and contact a doctor for proper diagnosis.

- Make sure heating equipment is installed properly. Have a trained specialist inspect and tune up your heating system each year.

- Keep portable space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn, including bedding, furniture, and clothing. Never drape clothing over a space heater to dry.

- Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Never leave children in a room alone when a space heater is in use.

- If you use a kerosene heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never put gasoline in a kerosene heater, it could explode. Before you refuel the heater, turn it off and let it cool down. Refuel outside only.

- When using a kerosene heater, keep a door open to the rest of the house or open a window slightly. This will reduce the chance of carbon monoxide build-up in the room.

- Have your fireplace chimney and flue inspected each year and cleaned if needed. Open the flue and use a sturdy fireplace screen when you have a fire. Burn only untreated wood; never burn paper or pine branches—pieces can float out the chimney and ignite your roof, a neighbor's roof, or nearby trees.

- If you use a wood-burning stove, have the chimney connection and flue checked each year. Make sure the stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and coals.

- Never use your range or oven to heat your home, even for a short time.



Arrivederci Sig helps move Sailors in the right direction

By SN Michelle Watkins

Staff writer

Amidst the bustle of packing, a service member and his family prepare to leave Sigonella, Sicily. Whether it is their last duty station overseas before they return to the United States or they are moving to another overseas location, NAS Sigonella hosts Arrivederci Sig to help a Sailor and or his family better be prepared when they leave.

"Arrivederci Sig helps for an easier transition off the island," said Mike Moran, Relocation Manager. The class goes over important information such as financial information on budgeting money and how to take care of the small details.

Participants in the class are given presentations from Customs, MVRO, PSD, Navy Legal, Housing, Personnel Property and more.

Here transferring Sailors learn what needs to be done before they ship their goods, what they can and can not ship, even though they may have bought here, such as necklaces made with ivory or wine, and how to make claims if any of their personal property gets damaged during shipping and moving.

Participants also learn from MVRO, the process of shipping privately owned vehicles (POV) and what they need to do before getting it inspected to be shipped out.

"Not being educated on what they can do before they pack out can cause problems," said Moran. Not only does the class inform those leaving but also answers questions participants

may have. "Being prior Army (retired), I share all your experiences and I know what you are going through," stated Moran.

Those who are transferring need to call Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) four to six months out to schedule for a class due to limited seating. Moran would like to have as many active duty as possible. Spouses can sign up for a class on a space available basis. For more information contact Mike Moran at 624-4291.

"CHEERLEADERS OF AMERICA"

The Cheerleaders of America are scheduled to perform Monday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. They are an all-star squad of former NFL cheerleaders who have come together to support America's Team, our US military, by bringing them a touch of home. The event will be held at Jox and is free. For more details, call 624-5604.

Tax season; need volunteers

By Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Eichenmuller

Contributing writer

Looking for a chance to learn a valuable skill and an opportunity to shine? The Naval Legal Service Office Detachment Sigonella is calling all volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for Tax Year 2002!

The VITA program is one of the most beneficial and popular programs that Navy lawyers have ever coordinated for the Sailors of the U.S. Navy.

It provides a tangible economic benefit—free tax preparation and filing—to every active duty and retired member of the U.S. Navy, their dependents, and all DoD civilian employees accompanying armed forces overseas. In recent years, approximately 55 percent of those eligible have taken advantage of the VITA program.

The VITA program works like this: the headquarters for the Judge Advocate General's Corps (that's Navy speak for Navy lawyer) coordinates getting training and forms from state governments and the Internal Revenue Service sent to our installations and to get our sites designated to electronically file returns. Our local Naval Legal Service Office then coordinates all the logistics: procuring physical spaces, computers and other necessary equipment, and training volunteer personnel to work in the Tax Center.

The IRS lends great support to our VITA program. The IRS in recent years has been able to send personnel onboard our military installations to provide a one week basic tax training course to the VITA volunteers.

Navy lawyers from JAG Corps headquarters then go out to the installations and teach a one week advanced tax training course. There is also an additional 3-5 day training session on the use of the tax filing software.

Last year, the VITA program Tax Center at Sigonella benefitted thousands of military and DoD civilians.

The Center filed 1,999 returns electronically and filed 306 paper returns, serving 56 percent of the NASSIG population, and collecting over \$2.46 million in refunds for Sigonellans. A conservative estimate indicates that Sigonellans collectively would have paid approximately \$169,000 for services comparable to those provided free of charge by the VITA program Tax Center.

Here at Sigonella, it takes about 5 full-time personnel and 25-30 committed volunteers to make the VITA Program happen. The NLSO is now taking names of active duty and civilian personnel interested in volunteering for Tax Year 2002.

Interested persons can either sign up at the NLSO's customer service counter in Building 564 (next to the NAS II galley) or they can call the NLSO and ask to speak to this year's Tax Officer, LN1 Ignacio Tercero at 624-5258.

The NLSO will assist active duty members in seeking permission from their chain of command to participate in the VITA program, if desired. Tax training sessions will begin in Jan. 2003.

Finally, the NLSO would like to acknowledge and thank once again the outstanding volunteers for the Tax Year 2001 VITA program: VITA Chief Coordinator FTC Robert Jobst; VITA LPO, AS1 Chris Creverling and each and every one of the rest of the VITA staff: Ms. Linda Altemus, EM1 Alexander Bacalso, HMC Benjamin Booker, CE1 Alex Canonizado, CE3 James Carmesin, HM2 Phillip Cobrand, HM1 Eric Conn, MA1 Mayo Gayares, HM2 Darwin Griffin, Ms. Cynthia Jones, ET2 Katrina Kincaid, HM2 Justin Menezes, IT3 Meagan Myers, ET2 Paul Pugh, Ms. Tempey Robertson, AKC Ronald Sandico, PC3 Valencia Warrior, and Ms. Anna Young.



Jive Turkey Trot 5k

Join the Captain's Cup Race starting at the NEX Staff Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m. This is a part of the Holiday Fever 2002 Kickoff. Wear old shoes as this cross-country run will lead through the orange groves. Free pancakes after the run. Call 624-4483 for details.

Kempo-Jitsu Martial Arts

Classes have already started and space is available for more students. The classes are free and are held every Monday and Wednesday at the Activity Zone. Kids learn the arts from 6 to 7 p.m. and adults 7 to 8 p.m. Call the Fitness Center at 624-5243 for more details.

Recreational Boxing

Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. there will be recreational boxing at the Activity Zone. Participants must be 18 years or older. Contact Chaplain Creider at 624-4295 for details.

Flag Football Results

Oct. 30

PSD vs. AIMD 12 - 6
COMSTA vs. Security 8 - 6
VP-16e vs. PWD 28 - 6

Oct. 31

AIMD vs. FLC 28 - 6
VP-16e vs. Hospital Hosp. forfeit
VP-16o vs. NMCB-5 12 - 13

Nov. 1

PSD vs. COMSTA 20 - 12
HC-4 sv. PWD 6 - 30
OPS vs. Security 14 - 6



Embargoed goods:

Beware

By Robert Szostek
USEUCOM Customs PAO

Mannheim, Germany - Iran, Cuba, Iraq, North Korea and Libya are countries whose goods are currently under embargo by the USA. Shoppers should beware of acquiring products produced in these nations because they may be prohibited from entering the United States although often for sale overseas.

Iranian products are generally banned but a special dispensation allows travelers and household goods shippers to send Iranian foods, carpets, rugs and tapestries to the United States.

"The only condition a shipper must fulfill is that carpets, wall hangings, or tapestries must be for the shipper's personal use. They may not be for resale," said William L. Johnson, deputy director of the USEUCOM Customs Executive Agency.

He also added that many foods are banned from importation to the United States to prevent infestations of foreign pests. Iranian products still have to meet these restrictions. Meat products and fresh fruits and vegetables are of special concern. However, Johnson explained there are no agricultural restrictions on the Iranian products commonly available in Europe such as dried fruits and nuts.

The Treasury Department reports many people trying to import Cuban cigars into the United States. However under most circumstances Cuban products are banned from the USA and officials warn that penalties for attempted smuggling include confiscation of the items, civil fines and, in appropriate cases, criminal prosecution which may result in severe fines and imprisonment.

Cuban products are not banned in Europe, Johnson continued, and are therefore openly on sale in many places. This may lead Americans stationed in Europe to think the U.S. embargo has been loosened. "This is not the case," Johnson emphasized. Americans on shopping sprees to the Czech Republic or Poland should also be wary of buying Cuban products. These former Communist countries have trading links with Cuba and sell Cuban merchandise such as the cigars and rum. Only people returning directly from Cuba after a licensed visit there are permitted to bring a limited number of Cuban cigars into the United States.

"If people already have items from embargoed countries, they should dispose of them before they travel back to the States," Johnson added. However, people with expensive items should call a military customs office to find out the ban's effective date. "If you can prove you owned an item outside the embargoed country before the sanctions came into effect, you'll be able to import it into the United States," Johnson explained.

Full details of all U.S. embargoes are available online at www.treas.gov/ofac/ from the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Satisfaction survey

Kristin Medhurst
DoDEA PAO

ARLINGTON, VA. - Dr. Joseph Tafoya, Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), today announced the upcoming administration of the DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey.

From Nov. 1 to Dec. 13, students, parents and teachers will be asked to respond to questions about the Department of Defense schools. Survey results will allow schools, districts and areas to make improvements in the educational services provided to DoD students.

This is the first year that the DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey will be administered on-line. Access to these surveys will be via an easily identifiable link on the DoDEA Web site home page (www.odedodea.edu).

Parents who do not have access to the internet will have other alternatives, such as scheduling a time at their child's school to complete the survey using the school's computers, or requesting a paper copy from the school to complete and return to the school, so that it can be mailed to Arlington VA.

The surveys are brief and should take less than 20 minutes to complete. Parents are asked to complete a survey for each child enrolled in a DoD school in grades pre-Kindergarten through grade 12.

Students in grades 4th through 12th will be asked to complete the survey in the computer lab during one of their classes. All certified teachers and education support staff would also be completing the survey.

Once all surveys are completed, the results will be tabulated and reported to the DoD schools and communities. The survey is based on the "Phi Delta Kappan/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitude Toward Schools" so that a national comparison can be made between the DoD schools and public schools in the states.

Besides having a national comparison, the results will also be useful to school personnel to identify areas for improvement.

Football Standings

Ops	9 - 2
PSD	8 - 3
Security	7 - 4
VP-16e	7 - 4
COMSTA	7 - 4
PWD	6 - 5
Hospital	6 - 5
VP-16o	5 - 6
HC-4	4 - 7
AIMD	4 - 7
FLC	2 - 9
NMCB-5	1 - 10