

# The Signature

Vol. 19 No. 49

Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, December 13, 2002

## Construction to start on underpass project in Mineo

By JO1 Craig Coleman

Assistant PAO

With the base recapitalization project on NAS I and Marinai Housing at NAS II, construction has been a hot topic in Sigonella. A new project was signed Dec. 3 that will enhance the quality of life of Mineo residents by improving their safety. Construction will soon begin on a new underpass between SS 417 and SP 131. The intersection between the state road and the provincial road has been the scene of numerous traffic accidents.

According to Luciano Matarazzo, Public Works Department Realty Specialist, who coordinated between Italian agencies and NASSIG, impact on vehicular traffic will be minimized. "They have to prepare a detour for other people who use the road," Matarazzo said. "There will be no impact on SS 417 because they will do all the work beneath the road." The project originally called for the construction of a bridge, but after a site analysis it was decided that an underpass was the best choice in the affected location.

The current traffic flow problems at the intersection arise when a long line of cars from Sigonella wait for traffic from Caltagirone to pass before turning left onto SP 131. At peak hours impatient drivers decide to pass the cars waiting in line rather than wait. "They overtake and go toward Caltagirone, but at the same time there's oncoming traffic - and sometimes there are accidents," said Matarazzo. "We're going to eliminate that."

Leaving Mineo can also be challenging. Drivers must go from SP 131 to SS 417. "There is always the risk of a car coming from Caltagirone quite fast, in spite of the 40kmph speed limit, sometimes three times as fast," said

Matarazzo. "The only feasible solution to solve this problem is an underpass."

The project started with a letter from the base commanding officer to the Prefect of Catania, who is responsible for all safety issues in the province. After studying the proposal, the province forwarded the project to the National Highway Agency (ANAS).

The city of Mineo is contributing to the project by paying for lighting, electricity and electrical maintenance in the underpass. "This is a very important day both for Italians and Americans living in Mineo," said Dr. Giuseppe Mirata, Mayor of Mineo, at the official sign-

ing of the project. "This is significant because we are upgrading and improving the safety conditions on this part of the road, saving many lives.

The \$1.5 million dollar project, planned since 1998, is a joint effort between the Province of Catania, the City of Mineo, ANAS and NAS Sigonella.

The Sigonella PWD prepared the project for presentation to ANAS, including environmental and population impact and traffic pattern analysis. Work on the underpass is scheduled to start in Spring or Summer of 2003 and finish one year later.



Dr Giuseppe Mirata signs the underpass project.

Photo by JO1 Craig Coleman

## Volunteers needed for upcoming tax season

Article courtesy NLSO

The Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO, Bldg. 564 by NAS II Galley) is now recruiting volunteers to work for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program this year.

No prior tax knowledge is required. All training will be provided. Active duty, dependents, retirees, and anyone else interested in volunteering time to the tax center should contact the NLSO to register for the IRS Training Class now tentatively scheduled for Jan. 21 to 24. Additional tax training is also scheduled to follow.

Active duty interested in volunteering should submit a request chit via their chain of command to attend the training and volunteer time during working hours. The chit should indicate the hours the member wishes to volunteer. Volunteering to commit a whole day makes the job of manning easier, but partial day volunteers are also gratefully accepted. The tax center will open for business the first week of February.

For the few, the proud tax guru types among us - the NLSO is looking for five petty officers interested in working full-time on a TAD basis to the tax center from mid-Jan to mid-June 2003 to manage and carry out the day to day operations of the tax center. Please indicate on request chit desire to volunteer for TAD. Any petty officer looking for an opportunity to exercise leadership skills and who enjoys the challenge of finding legal tax deductions is a perfect candidate.

The VITA center electronically filed free income tax returns for over half the base population last year and it will likely file even more this year with continued support for this all-volunteer program! If there are any questions, please contact the NLSO and we will be glad to answer them!

The NASSIG VITA Program Tax Officer this year is LN1 Ignacio Tercero, and can be contacted at 624-5258. Thank you for your support for this great program!

## Transition Assistance Program teaching Sailors how to TAP resources before leaving

By JO1 Craig Coleman

Assistant PAO

Going on a long journey to a place you've never been without a map is risky. The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) offers a map to your post-military future - the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). A TAP pre-retirement class starts Dec. 16 at the Command Retention Center on NAS I.

The purpose of TAP is to prepare servicemembers who are leaving the military for life in the civilian world.

According to Amy Parke, TAP Program Manager, many people in TAP are about to embark on their first experience in the civilian job market.

"Think about the people who joined the Navy at 18 or 19. They've spent 20 years in the military and now they have to learn new ways of doing things," said Parke. "There's so much information that it's difficult to take it all in."

On the first day of TAP speakers explain what transitioning members can expect when they hang up the uniform for the last time. "We want to help people decide what they want to be when they grow up, what they want to do with the rest of their lives," said Parke.

A major step in making that choice is the Self-Directed Search, a questionnaire TAP students fill out on the first day of the class. "It's about narrowing down choices," said Parke. "If you've been a chief in ordnance you probably won't work in ordnance when you get out." The classification booklet compares what a person enjoys with what jobs may be available to them. "The Self-Directed Search can turn hobbies into a work choice," Parke continued. "It takes vague goals, thoughts and ideas and brings them into focus."



A major part of TAP consists of employment opportunity topics, including resume writing, interviewing, job searching on the Internet and more.

According to Dave Patrocky, Spouse Employment Assistance Program Manager and TAP instructor, many separating servicemembers need help in job searching techniques. "Most retirees go to work when they leave the service," he said. "We help them translate what they did in the military into civilian terms.

Patrocky's focus is on helping retirees find jobs and a major source of jobs is the federal government. More than 30 percent of federal government workers have prior military service, but before landing a government job the applicant must navigate a long list of forms, qualifications, resumes and vacancy announcements.

"I explain what all of these are and how to use them from block one," said Patrocky. "They are very straight-forward, but most people don't read them because they can be intimidating." According to Parke, it is possible for people taking TAP in Sigonella to find government jobs while overseas.

Other topics covered include veteran and survivor benefits, financial management, TriCare and education, which Parke said has been important to recent TAP attendees. "We're making some changes because course evaluations indicate that people want more information on education, so we're changing the course."

TAP has a lot to offer even if the retiree has a plan. "Even if they know what they want to do when they get out it's good to have a back up plan," said Parke. "We teach the path for a smooth transition."



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A visit to Taormina in this edition's Beyond the Gates. See page 8.

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this  
Edition

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Italian phrase  
of the week...

Vorrei fare una telefonata.



I would like to make a  
telephone call.

## SECURITY BLOTTER



## Helping make the community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

Dec. 2 - Dec. 8

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 17
- Traffic accident with injuries - 4
- Car break-ins - 11
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2002 - 34
- DUI's 2001 - 33

The

## Signature

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## Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG  
Commanding Officer



"Tis the season..."

Yes, it's one of those favorite times of the year. All of the shopping, food, gifts, family and friends make the holiday season great. However, when we are out shopping, there are others who are watching us. They are watching us go into local stores and carry out our goodies. Case in point, in the past week or so, we've had a rash of break-ins in the Motta area.

First, we need to remind everyone that you should not leave any valuables in your car. You should also remember to lock their doors on their vehicles as well as your home. If you are out Christmas shopping and plan to shop at several stores, take caution when storing items in the trunk of your car because some-

one might be watching you.

Thieves normally hangout around shopping centers waiting for someone to store their items in their vehicles before doing what is known as a "smash and grab." They either break the window or pop the trunk of the vehicle to steal your items. This is one of the common practices during the holiday period. If you follow a couple of simple rules, you will not become a victim if theft.

So, remember to remove all valuables from your vehicle. If you value it, remove it.

Second, always lock your doors. Some people might think that the criminals would break into their car anyway, so why lock the door. If you don't lock your door, you can't make a claim and get reimbursed for the stolen items.

Third, remember to keep your house secured at all times, even when you are home. Remember, it's shopping time for all of us, even the thieves. So, lock it up and put it away!

On another matter, the previous week our base Force Protection and Anti-terrorism team put together a series of impromptu scenarios to keep us aware of what we should do in certain situations.

This training is vital to the base so our first responders can mentally and physically prepare themselves to handle these "stresses" no matter when a situation may occur. We try to conduct these exercises with little impact to the base and the people who work here.

Unfortunately, one particular scenario at the Food Court was conducted a bit overenthusiastically. The idea was certainly not to upset customers using the facility and I have asked that we redirect some of that energy when conducting simulated emergencies around non-participants in the future.

We've got a professional group of people willing to put their lives on the line for us and I'm very confident we can keep our emergency crews trained at a high level of readiness so they can perform their duties with zeal and confidence without traumatically disrupting our community. I apologize for any inconvenience that these training exercises may have caused.

P.S. - Thanks go to the Security department for providing me the information regarding the shopping safety tips.

## The Pulse

### New addition to USHN Sig

Article courtesy of USNH Sigonella

Naval Hospital Sigonella will soon be the proud owners of a new "state of the art" CT (CAT) scanner. A CAT scan is a painless type of X-ray that uses a doughnut-shaped scanning machine and a computer to produce detailed cross-sectional images, or "slices," of parts of the body.

Installation of our new scanner is expected to begin this week. CT scanners are invaluable in diagnosing and treating spinal problems and injuries to the hands, feet, and other skeletal structures.

CT can see inside the brain and other parts of the body, into areas that cannot be seen on regular x-ray examinations. In cases of trauma, CT can quickly identify injuries to the liver, spleen, kidneys or other internal organs. Many dedicated shock-trauma centers have a CT scanner in the trauma department.

CT makes it possible to diagnose certain diseases earlier and more accurately than with other imaging tools. Because most diseases are better treated when found early, CT scans can help save lives.

Since we will not have any CT services available during this period, our physicians and Tricare staff have been busy making plans and arrangements, so that our patients will continue to receive the care they need.

During this installation period, which may take up to two months, patients in need of CT services will be taken to Cannizzaro Hospital in Catania.

During recent site visits to Cannizzaro, our physicians were very impressed not only with their staff, but with the facility and available services overall.

We are very confident that during this transition period, our patients will continue to receive excellent, quality care.

## Christmas Menu for both NAS I & II galleys

From 2 to 4:30 p.m. the galley's will be serving a Christmas meal. The menu includes:

- Chicken Noodle Soup**
- Roast Rib of Beef w/ Natural Gravy**
- Buttered Whipped Potatoes**
- Candied Sweet Potatoes**
- Savory Bread Dressing**
- French Style Green Beans**
- Hot Rolls**
- Waldorf Salad**
- Build Your Own Salad**
- Assorted Dressing**
- Assorted Beverages**
- Apple Pie**
- Pumpkin Pie**
- Cherry Cheese Cake**
- Mixed Nuts**
- Gelatin**



### Dark Fruitcake

By Bea Cook

Contributing writer

- 2 cup golden raisins
- 2 cup currants
- 2 cup dried apricot halves
- 2 cup dried figs, halved
- 1 cup pitted prunes
- 1 cup pitted dates
- 4 cup walnuts, in large pieces
- 2 cup pecans, in large pieces
- 3 oranges, grated zest only
- 3 lemons, grated zest only
- 1/2 cup candied ginger, chopped
- 2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon mace
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 cup brandy or apple juice or water)
- 1/2 cup orange liqueur - (or orange juice)
- 4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound butter
- 3 cup dark brown sugar
- 8 eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

The day before, combine all dried fruits, nuts and zest in a mixing bowl. Add the candied ginger and the spices and toss well to mix. Add molasses and liquids and mix well. Cover and let stand overnight at room temperature.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 275F. Grease four 9"x5"x3" loaf pans, line them with waxed paper and grease the paper. Coat lightly with flour. Sprinkle one cup flour over fruit mixture and stir it. Combine the remaining three cups of flour with baking powder, baking soda and salt and sift them together on a sheet of waxed paper.

Cream the butter, add the brown sugar and beat well. Add eggs, two at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the vanilla. Add all dry ingredients and beat until batter is blended and smooth. Pour batter over fruit, mix well until everything is coated with batter.

Divide batter among loaf pans, filling to 1/2 inch below top. Bake for two hours. Don't worry if they crack on top. Cakes are done when a straw inserted in the center comes out clean.

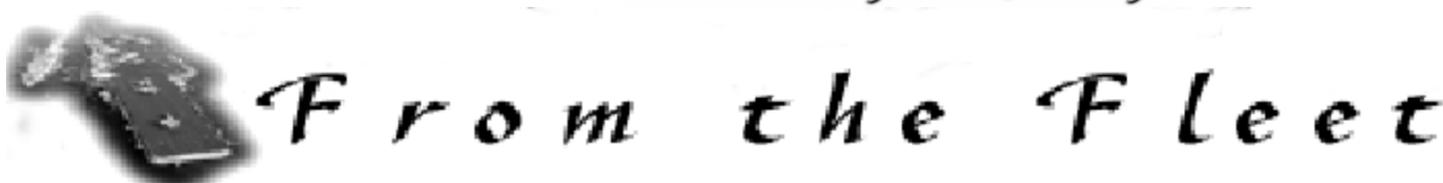
Makes four cakes.

## S.A.F.

**Dogs: 6**  
**Cats: 6**  
**Puppies: 0**  
**Kittens: 0**



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



## Center for aviation technical training takes off

By Alan Flanders, Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS)** –The Navy's Revolution in Training has come to the aviation technical community in the form of the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT). The



Official U.S. Navy photo

Center was initially stood up at Naval Air Technical Training Center in Pensacola, Fla., Sept. 6. CNATT is responsible for defining all curriculum and educational tools, as well as developing technical training solutions and professional development continuums for all aviation and for non-designated airmen. The Center is building on the Task Force Excellence through Commitment to Education and Learning (EXCEL) initiatives by continuing Job Task Analysis development for the 16 aviation technician fields.

These efforts have led to the center's single-site management, responsible for providing, developing and constantly evaluating aviation technical training. With the stand up of CNATT, the Navy is closer to realizing its goal of providing training that is more responsive to fleet needs and gives Sailors the right training, at the right time, in the right place.

"This is a great time to be part of the Navy's training revolution," said CNATT Commanding Officer Capt. Thomas Keeley. "With aviation technology changing so rapidly, it is critical Navy training be responsive to those changes and integrate them into our curriculum, labs and classrooms. Our center will take advantage of what is going on in the private sector, and our aviation technicians will be continually current in their ratings. Our Sailors will also be able to translate their Navy training into professional certifications. We are all part of the knowledge management team that is going to make that happen."

## More Sailors Investing in TSP

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs Office

**WASHINGTON (NNS)** – More than 7,500 Sailors have joined their shipmates investing for the future by enrolling in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) since open enrollment began Oct. 15. The Navy is leading the services in new enrollments, bringing the total to more than 96,000 active-duty and Reserve Navy TSP participants.

Sailors have until Dec. 31, which is the end of this current open season, to sign up for TSP, change or increase their contributions up to the new limit of 8 percent of basic pay.

"With a pay raise of at least 4.1 percent coming in January for all Sailors, I hope Sailors who can afford to enroll will consider investing a small part of the raise in TSP," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. "What a terrific way to end the year."

Enlisted personnel have increased enrollment by 6,616 during the current open season as of Oct. 31, an increase of nearly 11 percent. E-1s lead the way with 1,409 new TSP enrollments.

Officer enrollments have seen an increase of 1,501, for a hike of almost 7 percent. O-3s lead the

officer community in new enrollments with 483.

Any active-duty member of the uniformed services or Reservist in a pay status may participate in TSP. Contributions can range from as little as 1 percent to 8 percent of basic pay; also, bonus, special or incentive pay may be contributed up to the \$12,000 IRS tax limit allowed in 2003. For those serving in a combat zone, the current ceiling for contributions is \$40,000.

Recent changes to tax laws allow for an increase in the elective deferral limits, or contributions from basic, special, incentive and bonus pay not subject to the combat zone tax exclusion. The IRS elective deferral limit for 2003 is \$12,000, \$13,000 in 2004, \$14,000 in 2005 and \$15,000 in 2006.

TSP enrollment can be done online through MYPAY Web site (formerly called Employee Member Self Service (E/MSS)) at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>, or by completing a TSP enrollment form (TSP-U-1) and turning it into your servicing pay or personnel office. TSP enrollment forms are available at local Fleet and Family Support Centers, Personnel Support Detachments or online at the TSP Web Site, [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov). If you sign-up or make changes to your TSP account via the MYPAY Web site, you now have the option to print out a receipt of your transaction.

For more information on TSP click on [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).



Photo by PH3 Justin Proulx

**At sea aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Oct. 30 — TMCS Ron Wood from Sylacauga, Ala., helps Sailors develop a long-term investment strategy for retirement during a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) meeting aboard ship. Kitty Hawk is the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, operating out of Yokosuka, Japan.**

## Do Your Holiday Shopping From Home Through the Exchange Mail Order Catalog Online

By Kristine M. Sturkie, Navy Exchange Service Command Public Affairs

**VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS)** – Shoppers who want to avoid the holiday rush can now shop from home via the Navy Exchange's Web site at [www.navy-nex.com](http://www.navy-nex.com).

Once online, shoppers can access the Exchange Mail Order Catalog.

"By using the Exchange Mail Order Catalog, members are awarded the benefits of the Navy Exchange, even if they can't make it to a store," said Rear Adm. William J. Maguire, Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM).

"The website allows military exchange customers to shop from anywhere when it's convenient for them, whether that's from home or aboard ship while deployed."

The catalog offers items including gifts, housewares, electronics, jewelry, computers, tools and much much more. Shoppers can check daily for new items, closeout savings and special promotions that will offer additional savings.

Each item is shown in full color and comes with a detailed description to make selection easier.

Gift certificates in a variety of denomi-

nations are also available. When you purchase an item from the catalog, there is no charge for shipping and handling on most items. However, priority shipping is available for overnight delivery for a nominal fee.

And, as with all Navy Exchange purchases, you pay no sales tax.

Purchases can be made with a credit card or Military Star card, and can be delivered right to your home or shipped directly to the gift recipient's home at no additional cost.

The profits from merchandise sold support Navy Morale Welfare Recreation quality of life programs.

## COMPASS - A Spouse's Guide to Navy Life

From COMPASS Public Affairs

**NORFOLK, Va. (NNS)** – Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary – Tenth Edition defines a compass as a device for determining directions by means of a magnetic needle or group of needles; any non-magnetic devices that indicate direction.

So what does a compass mean to the Navy spouse?

"Whether you're a new Navy spouse or a "seasoned" one, COMPASS is where you need to be if you are trying to find your direction through the maze of Navy life," said Carman Goblen, publicity chairman and COMPASS mentor.

Sailors typically learn all they need about Navy life and traditions beginning in boot camp and Officer Candidate School, according to Goblen.

And until now, there was nothing that helped prepare the Navy spouse for his/her role.

Spouses will learn those trivial details about naval traditions that come to mean more each day of a Sailor's life in the Navy.

Goblen should know. She's served as a command ombudsman and is a Navy wife for more than 15 years.

"This class still had lots of information to offer to me," she said. "No matter how much we think we know, there's still more to learn, and rules change daily with the Navy way of life."

COMPASS was developed by Rosemary Ellis and a committee from Naval Services Family Line.

It's modeled after the Marine Corps spouse program L.I.N.K.S. (Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills) used by Marine Corps families.

"This is a new and evolving program designed for educating new Navy spouses so that they better understand the Navy system," said Goblen.

"The session will guide you through the basics of rate/rank structure; benefits and services; pay and entitlements; moving – better known as PCSing (permanent change of station) and resources."

"As a new Navy spouse, you will find this class one of the most important items to put on your to do list," Goblen continued.

"Struggling with a new marriage is difficult to begin with, but add in an unfamiliar vocabulary of Navy terms, six month deployments, moving to a new area, enrolling kids in new schools and looking for a job. COMPASS will certainly guide you in the right direction."

The all volunteer team has many years of experience as Navy spouses, as well as a working knowledge of many of the programs discussed.

You'll meet new faces, make new friends and walk away knowing more than you knew coming in.

For more information on COMPASS, visit their Web site at [www.lifelines2000.org/familyline/compass/compass.asp](http://www.lifelines2000.org/familyline/compass/compass.asp).

## Postal Help

In an effort to better service Post Office customers and utilize current technology, NAS Sigonella and Naval Station Rota Spain have been selected as test sites for automated mail sorting. All personnel receiving mail via either test site must insure they utilize their five digit Zip Code and plus four (plus four = your individual box number). If you have a three digit box number, insert a 0 prior to your box number making it a plus four number, example:

Rank/Rate John Doe  
PSC 812 BOX 312  
FPO AE 09627-0312

## Santa Visits

Invite Santa to your establishment. Will come to command parties for free, call 347-9281522 or 340-0537618.

## Pharmacy Holiday Closure

The USNH, Sigonella outpatient pharmacy will be closed on Christmas and New Year. Please plan to call in your refill ahead of time. Our refill number is 624-4685. Here are some tips for calling in your refill. Do not wait until you run out of medications. If you know you have 10 days of medication left, go ahead and call in a refill. For more information, please call us using the same number listed above.

## No Patriot Express

Due to the upcoming holidays, there will be no Patriot Express (CAT-B) flights the week of Dec. 24th. During the following week however, there is a flight scheduled to leave a day earlier on Dec. 30. Please contact passenger services at 624-5576 in the Air Terminal if you have any questions regarding your travel since schedules are always subject to change.

## Morning News Watch

Now you can watch scrolling headlines, continuous weather and exchange rates, and put a face with the voice of your favorite radio news anchor! "Morning News Watch," airs weekday mornings from 6 to 9 a.m. on the AFN television program guide channel.

## Santa SAWS

Tomorrow, the Sigonella Animal Welfare Society will be hosting a fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the base vet clinic. From there, they will be taking photos with Santa for dogs and cats (maybe). The fundraiser is to help support the SAWS/SAF facilities. To find out more about this event, email SAWS at [saws\\_02@yahoo.com](mailto:saws_02@yahoo.com).

## Best tips to be safe with candles

By NASSIG Fire Department

Candle fires have risen to a 19 year high after a decade-long decline. Here in Sigonella, we've experienced three candle related fires within the past 60 days. These fires could have been prevented by use some thought, and by undertaking some basic precautionary measures.

- Bedrooms are the most hazardous locations to use candles, where 45 percent of all candle related fires occur.

- BOQ, BEQ and Navy Lodge residents may not "burn" candles under any circumstance. Any candles may be used for decoration or scent purposes only.

The National Candle Association recommends the following:

- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Never place burning candles near anything that can catch fire.

- Keep burning candles from small children and pets. Example, candles attract moths, the cat chases the moth, knocks over the candle.

Other tips for candle safety:

- Keep candles away from drafts and vents.
- Don't burn candles longer than four hours.
- Use the container the candle came in.
- Do not melt wax on stove for creating new candles or blending wax.
- Discard candles when half the wax is gone.
- Use sturdy candle holders that can catch melting wax.
- Never place candles in windows where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Avoid re-ignition type candles often used on birthday cakes.
- Never use candles as a substitute for a flashlight, especially in closets, attics or crawl spaces.

## Screenings

Most orders need some type of screening-Overseas, Sea Duty, Special Program to name a few. Either your orders or a message will arrive at the command stating the member must complete a screening. At this time members and their chain of command must act immediately. Most screenings have a 10 - 30 day reporting deadline to Naval Personnel Command. The Department/Command Career Counselors must send out Interim messages every 15 days to keep NPC informed. If you have any questions, contact your Dept./Command CC.

By Alberto Lunetta  
Deputy PAO

# Italian News

## SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

### Extended Christmas hours in Catania's markets

Starting Dec. 15 through 31, the Catania outdoor-market and *Pescheria* (Fish Market) will also be open on Sundays and will extend their hours during weekdays. Stalls will be open continuously from 8 a.m. through 8 p.m. Both markets will close for the Christmas holidays (Dec. 25 and 26) The markets will then close again on New Years Day and on Jan. 6. On Dec. 26 and Jan. 6, stands selling food at the Catania outdoor market will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Santa Lucia celebrations in Belpasso and Siracusa

On Dec. 13, religious festivals in honor of Santa Lucia (Saint Lucy) will take place in Siracusa and Belpasso. These celebrations provide great venues for the visitor to experience the Sicilian popular culture.

#### Life of Saint Lucia

According to tradition, Lucia, whose name means "light," was born in Siracusa in a rich and noble family in 283 AD, and was raised a Christian. Her father died while she was a child. Although Lucia consecrated herself forever to Jesus, her mother Eutychia, pressed her to marry a pagan nobleman. As Eutychia had been suffering from hemorrhage for several years, Lucia took her on a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Agata in Catania where she prayed for her healing.

That evening, Lucy had a vision of St. Agata who assured her that because of her strong faith, her mother had been cured. As a result of this miraculous cure, Lucia told her mother of her desire to give their properties to the poor and the sick. Thus, Eutychia allowed Lucia to pursue her desires. But this decision angered the man to whom she

was betrothed who denounced Lucia as a Christian.

She was brought before Paschasius, a pagan governor, but she refused to give up her faith. Therefore, the cruel governor ordered Lucia to be severely punished.

According to tradition, several miracles occurred during her torture. Soldiers tried to set her on fire but she did not burn. Paschasius then planned to force her into prostitution, but when guards went to drag her away, they could not move her.

According to a legend, Lucia's eyes were plucked out during her torture and God miraculously restored her sight. This explains why she is represented as a maiden with her eyes in a dish, on a book, or in a shell and also why she is invoked against blindness and eye diseases. Saint Lucia is also protector against fire, and the patron of people suffering from infection, hemorrhage and sore throat. Eventually, Lucia was beheaded on the Dec. 13 in the year 304 AD.

Saint Lucia body's remained at Syracuse for many years, but in 1039, Byzantine general Maniaca transferred to Constantinople (Istanbul) and then Venice, where it is still preserved in a glass-enclosed sarcophagus behind the altar of SS. Geremia e Lucia Church. Some relics are scattered in churches throughout Europe. A portion of her arm is kept inside the cathedrals in Siracusa and Belpasso. Saint Lucia is also venerated on Dec. 13 in Sweden.

### Celebrations in Siracusa

On Dec. 13, the festival begins at 10:15 a.m. with a solemn Holy Mass celebrated at the cathedral. During the Mass, religious chants are also performed.

At 3:30 p.m., the carriage weighing 14 tons and

the saint's holy relics, on top of which a silver statue of Saint Lucia is located, are carried in procession for seven hours from the cathedral to the church of *Santa Lucia al Sepolcro*. Three groups of 48 men wearing green berets alternate in carrying it. Many devotees, who also come from the neighboring cities, follow the procession barefoot.

During the festival, the blessing and the free distribution of the "*cuccia*" (cooked wheat) takes place in several houses and churches. *Cuccia* is a typical food that is prepared for the Saint Lucia celebrations. Tradition says it was first cooked in Siracusa in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as Santa Lucia worked a miracle during a terrible famine in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

One story says that Siracusa's bishop gathered the starving people in the cathedral to pray and implore St. Lucia for a miracle. Suddenly, a dove flew down from the sky and roosted on the bishop's shoulders. At the same time, a ship loaded with wheat sailed into the harbor. The wheat was immediately cooked and eaten by the people of Siracusa Today, the *cuccia* is served as a delicious porridge enriched with ricotta cheese, chocolate and candied fruits.

### Celebrations in Belpasso

On Dec. 13, Belpasso's celebrations begin at 11 a.m. at the cathedral with a procession during which the 18<sup>th</sup> century silver statue depicting Saint Lucia and her relics will tour the historic center. Fireworks will be performed while devotees dressed in a white tunic named *Cappa* will accompany the holy carriage. After the fireworks, religious chants will be performed in piazza Duomo. At 3:30 p.m., another religious procession proceeds throughout Belpasso. One hour later, some devotees perform the spectacular "*Corsa della vara*" (running while carrying the Santa Lucia statue up to a slope) in

via Terza Retta di Levante.

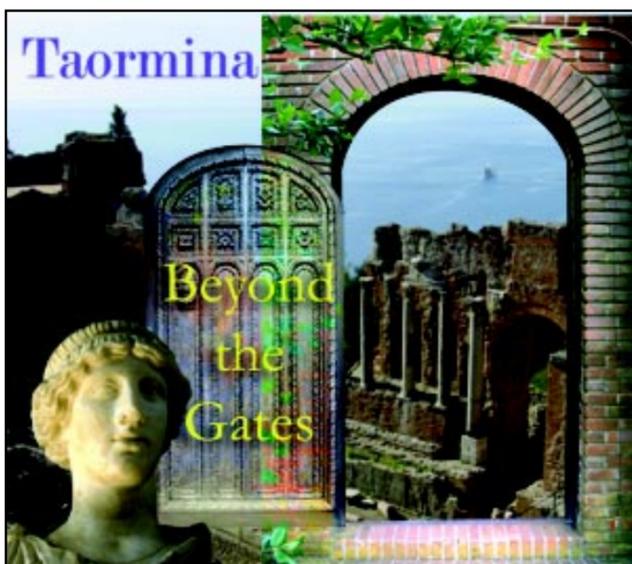
At 7:30 p.m., 50-foot tall *Carri* (mechanized floats) featuring scenes of the life of Santa Lucia will be displayed in the historic center. The tradition of building floats originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the local *Mastri* (craftsmen), wanted to express their special devotion to the saint.

On Dec. 14, a Holy Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. In the evening, starting at 10 p.m. fireworks and music shows will be performed.



Photo courtesy of Santa Lucia official website

Religious festivals in honor of Santa Lucia (Saint Lucy) will be held in Siracusa and Belpasso. In both cities, carriages, on top of which the saint's holy relics and a silver statue depicting Saint Lucia are placed, will be carried in procession by devotees wearing green berets (in Siracusa) and



By JO2 Jay Price

Editor

Every week ITT offer trips to many places throughout Sicily and sometimes Italy. The shopping trip to Taormina was a wonderful look at what Sicily has to offer.

The day started as the bus rolled up to collect the many passengers and soon travelled down the stretches of highway for about an hour and a half. As the bus whipped around the many curves along the cliffs, we could see we were getting close because we saw the bay and the city that was engraved into the side of the mountain cliffs.

One good thing about joining a tour is that parking isn't something you have to worry about and coming to Taormina, it's not something bus drivers have to worry about either. A large covered bay rests at the bottom of the hill just below the city where many buses could park and let off their passengers, a smaller and more maneuverable bus would come by every 15 minutes or so to collect those tourists and take them up to where the city really begins... a long street of shops and restaurants.

The tour guide led us to the biggest attraction Taormina has to offer - the Greek Roman amphitheater. Built by the Greek, the huge stage was used to boost sound throughout the stadium that in turn helped the actors and musicians.

Once the Romans came and conquered the area, the theater was transformed into an arena where gladiators would compete against each other and sometimes fierce animals.

The city also attracts visitors because it was used in several movies, including "Mission Impossible" and a bar that was used in "The Godfather."

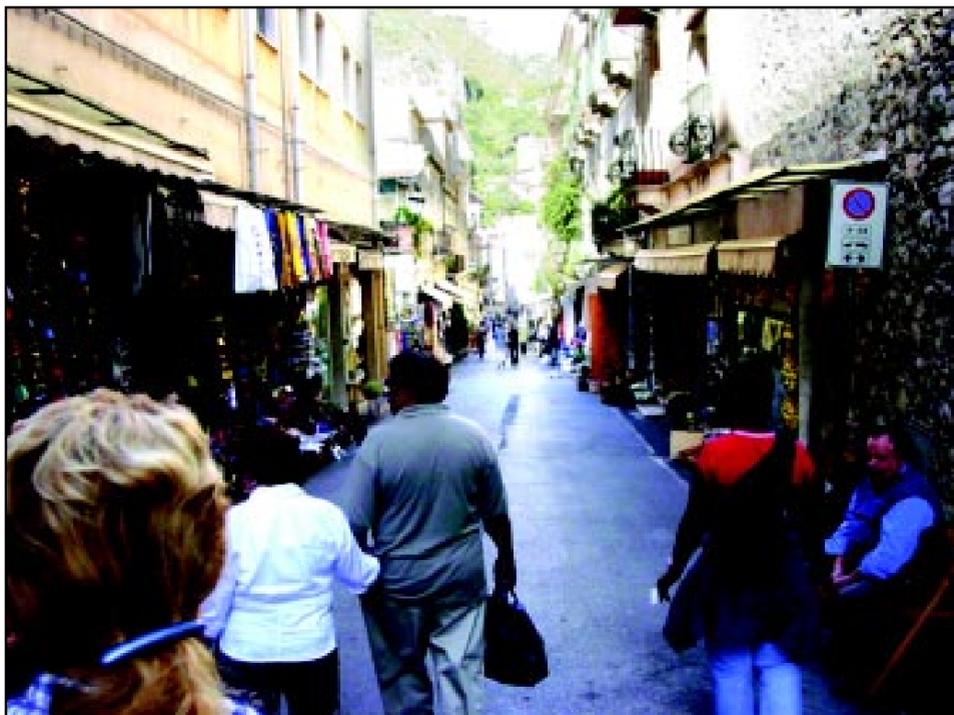
Being a tourist community, Taormina is lined street after street with shops that sell many types of knick-knacks, toys, food, shoes, clothing and souvenirs.

With the time that was allotted for us to wander around on our own, there was a place to visit that was not only beautiful, but also peaceful and quiet. The public garden, masked by thick trees, kept the sun from spoiling the serene atmosphere. The garden overlooked the bay and had little coves in the bushes that stored benches for people to stop and stare at all the sights. Wild flowers, bushes, exotic trees and cacti enclosed the area, and it took at least 40 minutes to walk around.

While shopping was one of the things you could do to occupy your time in Taormina, it's not the only thing.



The Sicilian carts are still used each day to display the heritage and culture of the city. Horses are dressed in a fancy collage of feathers and ornaments along with the carts. The full meaning of the carts can be found in the tourist office in the heart of Taormina.



Above, tourists with the large number of shops that line Taormina's streets, including street vendors and shops that sell food, clothes and souvenirs.

Below, the public gardens, or Giardini Pubblici, is a small flower speckled forest that rests on the lower part of the city and is encased with a variety of trees that hold its beauty in.





Friday, Dec. 13

Saturday, Dec. 14

Sunday, Dec. 15

Monday, Dec. 16

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Thursday, Dec. 19

Week at a glance

Week at a glance

## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES:** Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment. Your partner may make you feel jealous and unloved. You won't get the reaction you want from your mate this week. Your high self esteem will benefit others by example. Friends will be loyal and caring.

**TAURUS:** Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. This is a wonderful week to look into courses or hobbies that interest you. You will have to watch out for minor health problems related to stress. You should be on the road.

**GEMINI:** Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. Property investments will payoff. Something is causing upset and confusion on the home front. You can't lock your partner up and if you keep restricting their freedom you may be left out in the cold.

**CANCER:** Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. Make changes to your living quarters that will please the whole family.

**LEO:** Erratic behavior at home may be hard to handle. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Your communication skills are at an all-time high. Be sure to question any detail that you feel could leave you in a precarious position at a later date.

**VIRGO:** Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. Don't let someone try to bully you into doing things their way. Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. Try not to overspend on friends or family.

**LIBRA:** You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. You could make extra cash through creative hobbies. Changes regarding your career direction will payoff handsomely.

**SCORPIO:** Organize your house and be sure to include the whole family in the projects you have set out to do. Get out and get active. Make sure all of your travel and driver's documents are in proper order. Look for something entertaining to do. You've got that competitive edge.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Social events will be favorable. Get back into a routine that promises a better looking, more aware individual. You can enjoy the company of others and come in contact with an ideal mate, if you get out and mingle. Keep tabs on your spending.

**CAPRICORN:** Financial limitations are likely if you take risks. You will have extra energy; put it to good use. Romance may be likely if you travel. Verbal abuse could lead to carelessness.

**AQUARIUS:** Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. Your ability to converse with charm will entice someone you may have had an interest in for some time now. You need to look into new philosophies. It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this week.

**PISCES:** Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Think about your budget before booking a trip. You may find yourself in a predicament with family members.

For information on community events call MWR at 624-5271.

# THE MOVIE CONNECTION

## Theater Schedule

<p><b>Friday, Dec. 13</b> 5:30 p.m.: Barbershop (PG-13) 8 p.m.: Knock Around Guys (R)** 10 p.m.: Red Dragon (R)</p> <p><b>Saturday, Dec. 14</b> 11 a.m.: Treasure Planet (PG)** 2 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 5 p.m.: White Oleander (PG-13)** 7:30 p.m.: Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 10 p.m.: Barbershop (PG-13)</p> <p><b>Sunday, Dec. 15</b> 1 p.m.: Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie (G) 3:30 p.m.: Tuck Everlasting (PG)** 6 p.m.: Die Another Day (PG-13)</p> <p><b>Monday, Dec. 16</b> 5:30 p.m.: White Oleander (PG-13) 8 p.m.: Die Another Day (PG-13)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Dec. 17</b> 5:30 p.m.: The Tuxedo (PG-13)* 8 p.m.: Red Dragon (R)</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Dec. 18</b> 5:30 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 8:30 p.m.: Trapped (R)*</p> <p><b>Thursday, Dec. 19</b> 5:30 p.m.: Barbershop (PG-13) 8 p.m.: Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13)</p> <p><b>Friday, Dec. 20</b> 5:30 p.m.: Abandon (PG-13)** 8 p.m.: Brown Sugar (PG-13) ** 10 p.m.: The Ring (PG-13)</p> <p><b>Saturday, Dec. 21</b> 11 a.m.: Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie (G) 2 p.m.: Tuck Everlasting (PG) 4:30 p.m.: The Transporter (PG-13) 7 p.m.: Analyze That (R) ** 21:30 p.m.: Knock Around Guys (R)</p> <p><b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b> 1 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 4 p.m.: Treasure Planet (PG) 6 p.m.: Red Dragon (R)</p>
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\*\*\* 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).

**White Oleander (PG-13)**  
When her mother is sent to prison for committing a crime of passion, a young teenager journeys through a series of foster homes and struggles to become her own person. Starring Michelle Pfeiffer, Allison Lohman, Patrick Fugit and Noah Wyle.

**Knockaround Guys(R)**  
Tired of being mere errand boys, four sons of mobsters convince their crime lord elders to finally give them a shot at the big time. When they lose a bag of cash, the four come face-to-face with the betrayal and bloodshed that's all part of the business. Starring Berry Pepper, Vin Diesel, Seth Green, Andrew Davoli and John Malkovich.

**Tuck Everlasting (PG)**  
A teenage girl on the cusp of maturity longs for a life outside the control of her domineering mother. Lost in the woods near her home, she happens upon a boy unlike any she's ever met before — he and his family are kind and generous and they take her in as one of their own. Ultimately, she must decide whether to return to her life or stay with her beloved friend and his family forever. Starring Alexis Bledel, Ben Kingsley, Sissy Spacek and Amy Irving.

## TRIVIA

How did Catherine the Great die?  
How many bones are in the human body?  
By what relation is Supergirl to Superman?  
How many arms do squids have?  
What degree is the North Pole tilted toward the sun during the summer solstice?  
(Answers on page 11)

### Best Sellers-- Computer Games

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets  
Zoo Tycoon  
Warcraft III: Reign of Chaos Collector's Edition  
The Sims Unleashed Expansion Pack  
The Sims Deluxe Edition



## They did what?

### Bad smells!

Robert filled a bathtub in his small West St. Paul apartment with gasoline thinking to remove some heavy stains from some clothes, but was understandably bothered by the fumes. That's when he had his second bad idea of the day. He tried to cover the smell with a selection of lit candles and incense.

When firefighters arrived at the scene of the explosion, they found the apartment windows blown out, and the internal walls were shifted and weakened so badly that they were forced to evacuate the entire building.

Robert himself, at the epicenter of the blast, was not injured as bad as expected. He was taken to the hospital in critical condition with severe burns, but was expected to pull through.

## Off the Rack!

### Eight Legged Freaks



Based on Ellory Elkayem's 1997 award winning short film "Larger than Life," "Eight Legged Freaks" is a film searching for a genre. Comedy is where I would expect to find something as off the wall as this, but then again mutant spiders could classify this film sci-fi.

Whatever the genre it doesn't change the fact that Freaks is in desperate need of a plot. The fact that it's based on a short shows a great deal. The 99 minute movie was about 79 minutes too long.

While Freaks lacked a plot it did supply a little comic relief, in very brief spurts, from the drama of everyday life.

The film takes place in Prosperity, Arizona, and stars, I use that term loosely, David Arquette and Kari Wuhrer. However the giant spiders of the movie steal the show. That's right giant spiders, that mutate because of toxic waste, and begin to wreak havoc on the small mining town. Before long the whole town is becoming snacks for the oversized arachnids, all the while they are trying to fend them off and get outside help.

The film is rated PG-13 but it gets a little disgusting in parts and I wouldn't recommend it to any arachnophobiacs, or anyone with something better to do than waste 99 minutes of their life watching this pitiful attempt at movie making.

By JO2(SW) Brian Johnson



Photo by Lt. Louis Guarno

Boy Scout Troop 53 build the set for the upcoming pageant as part of a COMREL project.

## Troop 53 helps community pageant

By JO1 Craig Coleman

Assistant PAO

During the holiday season many local commands are performing community relations (COMREL) activities. Most of our tenant commands sponsor their activities aimed at helping the local national community. One recent COMREL was performed not for the Italian community but for Sigonella, not by a Navy command, but by Boy Scouts of America Sigonella Troop 53.

The performance of community service is a big part of scouting. Troop 53 decided to assist their own community by helping build the set of this year's base Christmas pageant. The scouts made background flats for the stage, according to Life Scout William Guarno, 15. "We took pieces of wood, drilled them together, added cardboard, tape and paint," he said.

The 14 scouts and eight adult volunteers worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They used photographs projected on the backdrop as a guide, drawing, then painting the necessary scenes. "It was neat," said Guarno. "I didn't

realize how well it would come out. I thought it was fun."

Troy Miller, the writer/director of the Christmas pageant, "The Season Opener," in which a little league baseball team from the country teaches the Christmas story to a street gang, was pleased with the scouts' efforts. "It was fantastic," he said. "The flat that was the most fun was the graffiti flat. It was up to their imagination and a place where they could put a piece of themselves."

Six Boy Scouts will perform in the pageant, with another three members in the technical crew.

Sigonella Troop 53's also participated in another COMREL project with the Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC) children's holiday shopping spree as they became Santa's Helpers at the Nearly New Shop on NAS I.

New members and adult volunteers are always welcome. Contact the Sigonella Scout Master Lt. Louis Guarno at 624-4686, 335-762-5467, or at their new web site at [www.geocities.com/sigonellatroop53](http://www.geocities.com/sigonellatroop53).

## Swimming not an abandoned sport during winter

By JO2 Jay Price

Editor

The winter's bite seems to restrict a lot of fun outdoor activities, as you can see your breath with each step you take. When running isn't appealing, the NAS II pool offers another solution.

As you step onto the pool's deck, you can see the steam rising, forming a mist that overlaps the pool. It's warm temperature can easily beckon anyone out of the mid 50-degree climate. Since the end of October, the NAS II pool has been operating with a heater stabilizing the temperature at 80 degrees, says Tracey Patras, the lead lifeguard for the facility.

Patras says the pool's temperature stays near 80 degrees year round, and will only feel warm or cold due to the surrounding temperature. For example, if the temperature is 109 degrees outside, the 80-degree pool will feel like it's freezing with the 29 degree temperature change; the opposite is true for the cold winter climate.

"The pool will remain open unless we're in Thunder Condition 1," explained Patras, so a light rain will not deem the pool unusable. Also, volcanic ash could close the pool, but that will cause a cancellation of most outdoor activities and the facility will try to put out tarps to keep the ash from spoiling the pool's water.

The NAS II pool is open Monday through Friday in three shifts: from 6 to 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Also, there will be a Sigonella Swim club starting in January, which will keep track of how many meters members swim while on the station. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including individual parties for members who swim 10,000 meters.

Jan. 1, there will be a Polar Bear Dip at the NAS I pool (not heated), where participants can start the year off by swimming a length of the pool. 50 participants will receive sweatshirts that support the activity.

## SIG SPORTS

Tomorrow is the Jingle Bell 5K and 10K Fun Run. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the race starts at 8:30 a.m. in the AFN Parking lot on NAS I. Pre-register at the Fitness Centers, there is a small fee due for the event. T-shirts for all and awards for the top finishers. This is a Captain's Cup Event.

Downtown Freddie Brown 3-Point Shootout on Saturday Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. at the NAS I Gym. Test your accuracy from behind the arc. Men's and Women's categories, awards for top three. Free.

Kempo-Jitsu Martial Arts happens every Monday and Wednesday at Activity Zone on NAS I. Kids practice from 6 to 7 p.m. and adults from 7 to 8 p.m. Classes are free.

Recreational Boxing every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Activity Zone on NAS I. Participants must be 18 years or older. Call Chaplin Creider at x4295 for more information. The classes are free.

### Group exercise classes

**Circuit** – Challenge yourself to a great cardio and strengthening workout all in one class. Go back and forth between cardio work to strengthening exercises using body bars, dumbbells, exercise bands, the stability ball and the Reebok step. (NAS I)

**Firm and Burn** – Tone up your whole body using dumbbells, bands, etc. This class focuses on higher repetitions and light weights. Perfect for any fitness level. (NAS I)

**Kickboxing Aerobics** – This class burns calories, tones muscles, and improves flexibility through punches, kicks, and other boxing-based moves. You'll train your abdominals, upper and lower body throughout class. (Mineo)

**Kid Boot Camp** – Children age 7 and up can join this class for some fun exercise. Class consists of fun children's activities like somersaults, crab soccer, and other hand-eye coordination games. This class is a great way for kids to burn off that extra energy. (Mineo)

**Power Flex** – Get strong, shapely muscles using Body Bars, dumbbells, exercise bands, the Reebok step and the stability ball. Work all your major muscle groups each class. Feel the burn!

**Power Walk** – Meet by the Mineo gym for an outdoor power walking class. Feel free to bring your stroller or dog along with you. Learn how to burn calories and tone your lower body through this structured walking class. (Mineo)

**Step** – Have fun learning basic to intermediate choreography on the Reebok step. Cardio, toning and abdominal work included in this hou-long class. Great for any level participant. (NAS I & II)

**Spinning** – challenging cardiovascular workout on specialized indoor bicycles. Burn serious calorie and tone those legs with 40 minutes of Spin, followed by abdominal work and stretching. Classes are limited to 9 participants, so call ahead or come in early to get a bike. (NAS I & II & Mineo)

**Step/ Sculpt** – Hi/lo and step aerobics with more dance-based moves. Basic to intermediate level class. Abdominal training and toning exercises follow the aerobics segment. Class meets in Mineo only.



The Naxos Sea can be seen from many peak areas in the city, such as the Greek-Roman theater, the public gardens and along the shopless streets that span around the city proper.

## Navy carrier named in honor of former president

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Secretary of the Navy Gordon England officially named the Navy's 10th Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, CVN 77, in honor of World War II naval aviator and former President of the United States George Herbert Walker Bush during a ceremony Dec. 9 at the Pentagon.

"USS George Herbert Walker Bush will serve as a worldwide symbol of our resolve," England said during the ceremony. "It will be a reminder of the 'Greatest Generation.'"

Sen. John Warner of Virginia, a former Secretary of the Navy himself, joined England and the former president for the event. In the senator's comments, he reminded everyone how important Bush's role as a naval aviator in World War II was to people growing up in America then.

"This is a very special occasion, to be able to honor a great American hero whose humility knows no limits," Warner said. "(During World War II) the idol of all of us was those who took the the air. We all looked up most to them."

After unveiling a model of the ship, Bush thanked those responsible for the honor.

## Navy stands up center for service support

By Lt. Andy Gist

Navy Supply Corps School Public Affairs  
**CENTER FOR SERVICE SUPPORT, ATHENS, Ga.** – One of the latest products of the Navy's Revolution in Training, the Center for Service Support (CSS), provisionally stood up operations October 1, 2002. The Navy Supply Corps School (NSCS), Athens, Ga., is the site of the new learning center, which is designed to be the knowledge manager for 16 enlisted ratings (AK/SK, DK, DM, JO, LI, LN, MS, MU, NC, NCCR, PC, PH, PN, RP, SH, YN).

The supply school's record of training excellence and focus on service oriented training, including logistics and supply, make Athens a natural fit. The CSS will be directly responsible for the personal and professional career development of more than 46,000 enlisted Sailors in the logistics, administrative, and media ratings.

The center will be responsible for developing and maintaining the highly detailed professional development continuums that define the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) Sailors must master to achieve specific career milestones. The center will also be responsible for developing and delivering the tools and opportunities Sailors need for their personal development. The center will be responsible for the curriculum, maintenance, and delivery for all training elements that currently deliver logistics, administrative, and media ratings training.

"The center is new business for NSCS, but its location in Athens is a testament to the reputation of the school as a center of excellence in Navy education and training," said CSS Commanding Officer Capt.

Bob Monette, who will continue to guide the NSCS as its commanding officer as well. "I highly encourage everyone involved in these enlisted communities to go to the Website and see what we are doing and provide feedback. The revolution is for Sailors, we need Sailor input to be successful."

To learn more about the Center for Service Support and the Navy's Revolution in Training, log onto <https://www.nko.navy.mil>

## Center for surface operations underway

By JO1 Jd Walter

Naval Personnel Development Command PAO  
**CENTER FOR SURFACE OPERATIONS, SAN DIEGO** – The Center for Surface Operations (CSO) provisionally stood up operations October 1, 2002, in San Diego. The purpose of the center is to bring together the research, development, implementation and management of all professional development tools and opportunities for four professional mariner ratings (BM, MA, QM, SM), and basic Seaman.

CSO is capitalizing on the efforts of the Task Force for Excellence through Commitment to Education and Learning (EXCEL) working groups that set out to develop professional continuums for the ratings. The Learning Center will become the knowledge managers for the rating communities, using Navy Knowledge Online (NKO), the Navy's new single point access to the Revolution in Training, to allow Sailors a single point of access to all professional development information.

The Learning Centers are the core of a new education and training structure being implemented by the Naval Personnel Development Command (NPDC), under the auspices of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC).

"The mission of the Center for Surface Operations is to develop training and education, by using the best practices available, and the best technologies available, to maximize our Sailors' proficiencies," said CSO Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Johnson. "By encouraging our Sailors to be the very best they can be, and supporting those efforts with the very best tools and opportunities, we will achieve the Chief of Naval Operation's vision of a more responsive, more agile Navy."

To learn more about the Center for Surface Operations and the Navy's Revolution in Training, log onto <https://www.nko.navy.mil>



## Rough travel

<http://gorp.com/index.html>

If hiking in the Peruvian Andes sounds like your idea of a perfect holiday, then consider GORP your travel guru. Great Outdoor Recreation Pages will not only tell you where to go, but also how to get there and what gear you'll need. At gorp you'll find regular columns on what's happening at U.S. National Parks, wildlife and the latest in adventure news.

## For culture vultures

<http://www.guggenheim.com/>

It's the grand master of museum web sites. Guggenheim.com is more than an online catalog of one of the world's great museums. The site uses technology to convey space and movement – no easy accomplishment on a two dimensional monitor. In partnership with the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Guggenheim plans to offer a collection of performance art pieces and a worldwide art listing.

## Overseas travel watch

[www.state.gov/travel](http://www.state.gov/travel)

Servicemembers serving overseas have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the world. See it safely by using OVERSEAS-TRAVEL: HANDBOOK U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, located on this site. Find out if your potential destinations are under any travel restrictions or warnings. You can also check global crime rates, traffic reports and hospital ratings.

## Web Extra!

### Everything you need to know about

**movies**  
*The Internet Movie Database probably has more information than even the most dedicated movie buff will ever need. Plot outlines, online reviews, cast lists – you can find them on any movie site. How about bios of every actor who played in the most obscure movie you've never heard of? What about how much Waterworld grossed – in Guam? A movie/TV quote of the day? Check out IMDB.*