

### Patrol Squadron Eight arrives at NASSIG

By AMEAN Danielle Conroy  
VP-8 Assistant Public Affairs Officer



The "Fighting Tigers" of Patrol Squadron Eight recently relieved the "War Eagles" of Patrol Squadron Sixteen as the tenant Patrol Squadron at Naval Air Station Sigonella.

The Fighting Tigers of Patrol Squadron Eight based out of Brunswick, Maine, arrived at NASSIG during the first week of February, headed by Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jeffrey L. McKenzie, and Executive Officer Cmdr. Robert B. Dishman.

The squadron is comprised of nine P-3C aircraft of varying configurations, operated by highly trained combat aircrews.

The last time Sigonella saw the Fighting Tigers was during their February to August deployment in 2000. They flew in support of (OPERATIONS JOINT GUARDIAN, DETERMINED FORGE, AND DELIBERATE FORGE.) The Fighting Tigers also participated in numerous exercises and evolutions throughout the Mediterranean area of operations.

Following an aggressive training and readiness program in Brunswick, Patrol Squadron Eight will be tested like never before. Although it has been challenging being away from home and family, and facing the day-to-day challenges of deployment, the "Fighting Tigers" are combat ready and eager to support.

In the first week, the "Fighting Tigers" hit the deck running and conducted numerous missions. According to McKenzie, none of this would have been possible without hard work, dedication and a sense of "Tiger Pride." He maintains that this deployment promises to be unlike any other the squadron has ever seen. All of the many and varied missions are essential to the European Theater.

### Patient Safety Awareness Week is coming to NASSIG

By Joan Aders,  
USNH Sigonella Safety Manager

A new era of patient safety has begun. Never before have medical errors received more attention in the media or garnered more comments in the medical community. This openness is good news for all patients. Under the banner of Patient Safety Awareness Week, U.S. Navy Hospital Sigonella will observe the week of March 9-15 by educating and building awareness for improving patient safety at the local level.

This movement calls for replacing traditional barriers to patient safety with a new culture of accountability, trust, system improvement, and continuous learning. Behind this campaign are disturbing estimates about the number of nationwide deaths and injuries each year that are caused by medical errors. New estimates recently released find 22.8 million people have experienced a medical error of some kind, personally or through at least one family member.

USNH Sigonella is seeking ways to identify and correct flawed internal systems and procedures that contribute to errors. The latest extension of this open examination is directed at the relationship between the providers and patients. This unique and invaluable bond has never been more important as communication plays an integral role in patient safety.

Talk to your doctor, nurse and pharmacist. Ask questions about every part of your care until you are comfortable in making the best and most informed decision. Write down your questions and don't be afraid to ask. It is your right to get answers, and the providers want to know your concerns about your treatment. The more you

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**Hometown Weather**  
BM3 Joseph Walters,  
EODMU-8  
Alvin, Texas



High 66° F - Low 53° F  
Afternoon showers

## Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive kicks off at NASSIG

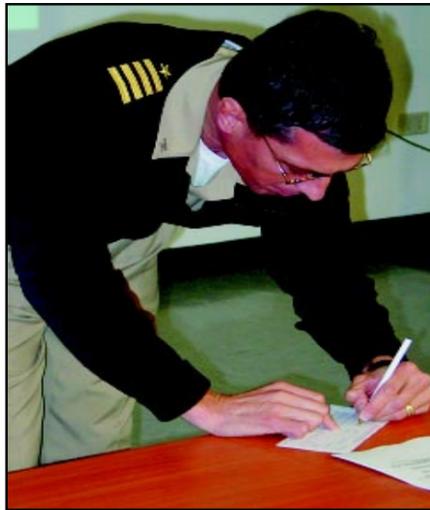
By JOSN Steve Weaver  
Signature Staff

The 2003 Navy-Marine Corps Fund Drive kicked off on Monday at building 407 on NAS II in support of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

The 2003 fund drive team expects to exceed all expectations. "We're going to enjoy it, we're going to have fun, and we're going to make 2003 the best Navy-Marine Corps Fund Drive in the history of Sigonella," said PCC (SW/AW) Bradley Morrison, Sigonella's Navy-Marine Corps Fund Drive Coordinator.

The key to the success of the fund drive is the key personnel within each command, tenant command, division or office. "We've done two training sessions with our key personnel and put together a lot of material to go out to our keypersons. We're leaving it up to our key personnel to get the word out about the support that is provided by the NMCRS," said Morrison. "In addition, we're getting information out about the fund drive."

The funds raised will ultimately benefit Sailors and Marines in need. "All the funding from the NMC Fund Drive 2003 will go back into the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society so that they in turn can provide emergency and non-emergency sup-



Capt. Ken Bitar, NASSIG executive officer, fills out his contribution form for this year's NMCRS fund drive.

port and assistance to Navy and Marine Corps personnel, their family members, and retired personnel, and under certain circumstances widowers of retired personnel."

The NMCRS isn't there for just emergency relief. "The goal of the Navy-Marine Corps Society is to educate servicemembers about their finances and their options while assisting them in a time of need," said Jennifer Contereras, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Director for Sigonella. "Where a disaster may hit this time, we'll help servicemembers with that disaster, but we're going to educate them with what steps they can take to prevent having it hit as hard the next time."

Last year, the Sigonella

NMCRS gave out about \$214,000 in loans and grants to those in need. About \$116,000 was raised by the Sigonella Navy-Marine Corps Fund Drive last year. The top things servicemembers came to the NMCRS for included emergency travel, education expenses, basic living expenses, and vehicle repairs.

The only goal for the 2003 fund drive is to increase an awareness of the NMCRS. "A monetary goal hasn't been established," said Morrison. "What we have is an opportunity to tell people about the program, to let people know what the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society does for its servicemembers."

Getting involved with this year's fund drive is easy. Donors can see their keypersons to give money, fill out a check or to take out an allotment. "If people want to get involved, they can also come out and support our fundraisers," said Morrison. He said those interested can organize fund raising functions through their department's keyperson.

"If someone doesn't have the money to donate, they could always go to the NMCRF Office to see how they can volun-

### Fundraising events scheduled for this year's Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive

- March 14 - Khaki Auction from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on NAS I, raffle tickets will be sold at the NEX from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- March 15 - A dunk booth from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on NAS I, Navy-Marine Corps Fund Drive team members will bag groceries from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the NEX, and raffle tickets will be sold from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the NEX.
- April 4 - AFN Radiothon on NAS I, single-pitch double-elimination softball tournament and volleyball tournament with a raffle, food and a jail and bail from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

teer. They can volunteer an hour or two a week, in the office, at the thrift store, or whatever," Morrison said.

There is a lot of enthusiasm about this year's fund Drive by those involved. "I'm kind of excited about it, I get more and more excited as I see all this participation," said Morrison. "Every-

body I have called has been so supportive it's unbelievable."

"They're excited, they're having fun with it. I truly believe that if the leadership has fun with it, the people who participate will have fun with it," said Contereras.

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### AIMD Sailors lend a helping hand in Acireale

By JOSN Steve Weaver  
Signature Staff

Sailors from Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Sigonella took time out of their busy schedules to lend a helping hand in Acireale on Feb. 28.

The Sailors traveled to the Casa Mia, Little Sisters of the Poor, a home for the poor elderly, to help out with whatever was needed. The home has congregations throughout Europe, and includes 34 in the United States.

The volunteers from AIMD moved large and small

pieces of furniture, swept up around the perimeter, moved slabs of marble, and performed other tasks.

The community relations project was led by the AIMD COMREL Division and set up through the NASSIG Chaplains Office. "We call the chaplains office to find any institutions looking for assistance such as this one," said SKC (AW/SW) Allan Limon, COMREL project coordinator.

The inhabitants of the home appreciate the work the volunteers provided. "There are a lot of things that we can't do here," said Sister Joseph Maureen Hobin, a native of Boston. "It's great that these volunteers

came, it helps us out a lot."

The volunteers helped the residents of the home in more than one way. "It's good that the residents see young people," said Hobin. She added that volunteers such as these are essential to things like cleaning up after Mt. Etna erupting. "We can do much more hand-in-hand than if we are all alone."

"We feel glad to be able to do this," said Limon. "You get a good feeling every time you try to help someone."

Limon said events in the past, such as one in November to Caltagirone, have gone well. He is looking forward to future chances to help the surrounding community. "We're trying to do it often. It's good to help enhance our community relationship. It's also setting up a good example for our junior personnel to follow," Limon said.

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### Shake Your Shamrock Parking



Shake Your Shamrock March 14-15 from Noon to Midnight



Volunteers from AIMD clean up a walkway around the perimeter of the home. The Little Sisters of the Poor is an international congregation founded in France to help the elderly poor.



# Direct Line

**Capt. Tim Davison**  
**NASSIG**  
**Commanding Officer**

If you have watched CNN lately, you have seen numerous anti-US, anti-war and pro-US demonstrations around the world. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees basic freedoms of speech, religion, press, and assembly and the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. While a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, we all have certain rules and regulations that govern us if we choose to participate in these demonstrations.

*Department of Defense Directive 1344.10* outlines the political activities by members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty.

To summarize the directive, a member on active duty may: register, vote, and express his or her personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces. You can make monetary contributions to a political organization. You can also attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings or rallies as a spectator when not in uniform.

However, there are some limitations. *Department of Defense Directive 1325.6* outlines the restrictions we have during political activities.

We are strictly prohibited from participating in off-post demonstrations when we are on-duty, in a foreign country, when our activities constitute a breach of law and order, when violence is likely to result, or when we are in uniform in violation of other DoD Directives.

Here are some of the prohibited activities: military personnel must reject participation in organizations that espouse supremacist causes; attempt to create illegal discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin; advocate the use of force or violence; or otherwise engage in efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights. Active participation, such as publicly demonstrating or rallying, fund raising, recruiting and training members, organizing or leading such organizations, or otherwise engaging in activities in relation to such organizations or in furtherance of the objectives of such organizations that are viewed by command to be detrimental to the good order, discipline, or mission accomplishment of the unit, is incompatible with Military Service, and is, therefore, prohibited.

As a nation, we must stand together with our Allies and fight the fights that need fighting. We must protect ourselves, our families and our nation from any form of terrorism or act of aggression.

So, you have a right to protest what your government does (if you choose to) but not on duty. You also have the privilege to serve in its armed forces. Personally, I want to thank you for serving.

# Residents Urged to Dispose Of Trash & Recyclables Properly

By Peter Vietti  
 Housing Office PAO

Do you ever feel as though you have walked on to the set of an old western with debris swirling around your feet when you arrive home? Trash talk has been at the forefront of the Housing/ROICC management meetings. The management team is encouraging residents to recycle paper, plastic, cardboard and aluminum products as well as the proper disposal of trash and bulk items. According to Cmdr. Steve Bertolaccini, "we need the residents help to realize the environmental and financial rewards associated with recycling and proper trash disposal. Not only will it improve the appearance of our complexes, but we can put the money saved into community improvements."

Italian Municipal governing bodies require every township to develop and implement a recycling plan; if these plans are not met then fines can be charged against offenders. This means that if residents put recyclable materials into regular trash bins, the property owners will

be subject to fines that will be passed on to the Sigonella communities. These fines coupled with the cost of additional trash pick-ups, leave both Housing and ROICC with considerably less money to maintain and improve the community housing areas.

Recently, the Housing Office has received multiple complaints about residents disposing of cooking oil in dumpsters without proper containment or the use of trash and recycling bins for bulk items such as furniture and large cardboard boxes that have not been broken down. The management team is asking for a collective community effort to do the right thing for the environment and housing communities by properly recycling plastic, paper, cardboard and aluminum. The newest community residents are kindly reminded to break down their cardboard boxes so the moving company can return to pick them up. It should be noted that trash outside the dumpsters could be torn open by stray animals or blown around the complex; therefore it is imperative for residents to never leave their

trash outside of the dumpsters.

The management teams recognize that there may be times when the dumpster nearest a residents unit may be full, in that case, we kindly ask that residents find another dumpster to properly dispose of their trash. There have been many times when one dumpster location is overflowing and the next one down is only half full. To help alleviate the overflowing problem in Mineo, additional dumpsters are being provided in the parking lots closest to the problematic areas.

Bottom line, the more residents recycle, the less trash they put into the dumpsters resulting in more savings, a healthier environment and a more aesthetically pleasing community. If you have ideas for how the trash collection or recycling process can be improved please contact Peter Vietti at [pvietti@nassig.sicily.navy.mil](mailto:pvietti@nassig.sicily.navy.mil)

All of the complexes have recycling bins, but each has different containers and pick up days. The following is a listing of containers and pick up schedules by complex.

Housing Area	Containers Provided	Recycle days	Trash p/u days	Bulk p/u days	
Marinai	R, D, B, CA	Once a month	Mon, Fri	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues every month	
Mineo	R, D, B, CA	Once a month	Tues & Sat	When Full	
Motta	C	N/A	City Dumpsters	N/A	
205	R-outside of complex, D	Every other day	Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri	N/A	
Palmeri	C	N/A	City Dumpsters	N/A	
Camporotundo	C	N/A	City Dumpsters	N/A	
Poma	C	N/A	City Dumpsters	N/A	
Satagati I & II	C	N/A	City Dumpsters	N/A	
Zappala	C	N/A	City Dumpsters	N/A	
Legend	D-Dumpsters	R-Recycle Bins	B-Bulk	C-City Dumpsters	CA- Cardboard

## The Pulse

### New TRICARE mail order pharmacy program

By Rita Arico'  
 Contributing Writer

All military pharmacy mail order customers have been switched to the new TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) Program as of March 1. This program replaces the National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) Program. Those eligible to use NMOP are eligible to use the new TMOP Program. Beneficiaries who have refills remaining under the NMOP Program as of March 1 have been transferred to Express Scripts Inc. so they can continue ordering medications on time, with few exceptions. Interested beneficiaries may register with Express Scripts Inc., at [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com). TRICARE beneficiaries living and working overseas may use the mail or-

der pharmacy if they have an APO, FPO or embassy address as long as the prescription is written by a provider licensed to practice in the United States.

The usual delivery time for medications is five to seven days. Under the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy Program, the co-pay for up to a 90-day supply for most medications is \$9 for brand name products or \$3 for generics. As always, the co-pay applies only to active duty family members; active duty members don't have co-pays. If you have refills left with the NMOP Program after March 1, 2003, you will not need a new prescription unless your order is for a controlled substance or a compounded drug. There are no changes in the drug benefit, drug formulary, or the way you pay for your new prescription.

As of March 1, your order for new prescriptions should be sent to Express Scripts Inc. New prescriptions must include your name, sponsor's social security number, address, phone number and prescriber's name, address, phone number and DEA number for controlled substances. All patient and prescriber information must be legible. Since you live overseas, a time zone indication is helpful to them.

Remember, as before, only prescriptions written by doctors licensed in the U.S., District of Columbia or U.S. territories are considered valid. Activated Reserve personnel and their family members are also eligible to use the TMOP Program if the sponsor is on active duty orders for more than 30 days. Coverage in this case begins the day the sponsor's orders begin for both the sponsor and family members.

Remember your local TRICARE Service Center can help you with more details. Please feel free to call 624-4848, or stop by the office.

### Driving — what drives us in life

By Chaplain Wesley Myhand  
 Command Chaplain

Isn't Sicily a beautiful island? Drive around. It is so diverse, so many new sights and experiences, and so little time to do everything we would like to. Have you noticed that a lot of people really try to make up for lost time by speeding? Sometimes I think we Americans are driven by a desire to imitate the experienced Italian drivers and sometimes, I think we simply lack common sense.

How can anyone explain AFI plates speeding past "yours truly" up a hill, around a curve, in the rain on my way home to Motta? Have you seen the signs at the gates with the accident numbers lately? Yikes! Now, let me change gears, change lanes...no pun intended. Ha! Ha!

What drives us in life? How many of us are experiencing pressure, deadlines, or anger, and allowing these issues to control our lives? If we allow these issues to drive and

dictate our actions, we can "lose control" and then life can become so fast and furious that it loses its joy.

I see many people here in Sigonella who allow anything and everything to take control of their lives instead of using their strength to manage some of these events.

Anytime, I travel to a new town or go sightseeing in Sicily, I use a map. It usually makes it easier for me to get there. I don't get stressed out and I don't fuss at my wife. I can drive a little slower - I don't have to be in a rush - and I can enjoy the drive. The same is true with living. Perhaps we need to slow down a bit.

Perhaps we need to map out some directions we need to head with our relationships and family. Perhaps we need to see some issues as short detours or scenic routes on our life journey.

The important question, the real issue is to decide on a destination. What is the purpose of your life. If you truly give yourself a destination and live with a purpose in life, chances are you will not crash.

**SECURITY BLOTTER**

**CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE**  
 624-6389  
**Feb. 24 - March 2**

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:  
 Traffic accidents without injuries - 15  
 Traffic accident with injuries - 4  
 Car break-ins - 3  
 DUI - 3  
 DUI's 2003 - 14  
 DUI's 2002 - 35

**NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities**

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

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

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

**Latter Day Saints**  
 Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

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

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

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

### Semi-annual sun outages may affect AFN signals

AFN customers may experience brief programming interruptions now through March 15, as the spring "sun outage" period occurs. These seasonal outages, which take place each spring and fall, affect all satellite communications, including the AFN radio and television services distributed by the American Forces Radio and Television Service.

These programming interruptions are characterized by a complete loss of signal for several seconds to even 10 or 20 minutes. They occur when the sun's position aligns with broadcast satellites and Earth station receivers. The sun's radiation overpowers the broadcast signal causing this disruption of service.

The effect of sun outages on satellite programming received at the AFRTS Broadcast Center at March ARB, California, will be minimal because alternate satellite feeds can be used in the event of a sun outage. However, the AFRTS satellite signals distributed to regional and local AFN affiliates may experience more significant outages due to their reliance on the single AFRTS satellite feed.

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# NAVY NEWS

## Fire Safety Tips: staying safe in clubs

From the NASSIG Fire Department:



You may have seen the news about the recent club disasters in the states and wondered how it could happen? In these two particular instances the patrons were in overcrowded facilities and were prompted into panic by the use of pepper spray in one incident, and in the other, by fire that was caused by the use of unauthorized pyrotechnics that ignited and quickly spread along the combustible ceiling. Visual special effects in stage productions have been used for centuries to enhance the drama, mood, or setting. Sports arenas, movie theaters, malls, stadiums, circuses, tented assemblies are subject to "happenings" that for whatever reasons can be potentially dangerous.

Sigonella's should be assured that all of the base's places of assembly meet and exceed all life safety concerns including occupant capacities, sufficient exits, illuminated exit signs, accessible doors, emergency lighting and sprinkler protection. The Fire Prevention Division

along with the Safety Department inspect all the Station's places of assembly, MWR club facilities, carnival rides, festival booths, fireworks displays and bandstand presentations prior to your attendance. One of our concerns is that you may frequent clubs or attend festive events off-station and although Italian fire code requirements similar to ours are in effect, they are difficult to enforce or monitored.

Most owners of places of assembly agree to comply with all statutory requirements when seeking an operating permit, however, it's the managers of these facilities who are usually responsible to monitor daily activities. Since the emphasis is to make money, the more in attendance, the greater the profit.

For your safety you should consider the following:

Try to find a seat or table near an exit. Most people will exit a building the way they came in! Sit in the rear of a theater near the aisle whenever possible.

Complain to the manager if you see an exit door chained, hasp-locked or blocked.



The above pictograms are two examples of what you may observe when on the economy. The right indicates a meeting area, and the left is the way to an exit.

Avoid overcrowded disco's, rock concerts, or similar gatherings. Excessive alcohol affects people's excitement, judgment and reactions. People are often severely injured by crowd surges such as charging the stage attempting celebrity contact, autographs, etc. If things look like they're getting out of hand, get out of harms way if possible.

If you find yourself in a fire scenario or in a collapsed building resulting from an earthquake, stay low to the ground where the air is cooler and cleaner. Crawl to an exit if possible. If available, use your cellular phone to contact police or fire to indicate your location.

Report any unusual activity or what you believe to be unsafe situation or condition to the site manager.

## Navy, Marine Corps leaders to Congress: We Are Ready

By JOC Walter T. Ham IV, CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — When the top leaders from the Navy and Marine Corps recently testified on Capitol Hill, their message to Congress was loud and clear: their team is combat ready.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee testified before the House Armed Services Committee during the Department of the Navy posture hearing recently.

"Today, approximately 60 percent of our ships are underway, including six deployed carrier battle groups, and 63 percent of our Marine operating forces are forward deployed," Johnson said. "Our Navy Marine Corps team is well trained, highly motivated, and

ready to meet the call from our nation."

The CNO said retention and manning successes have enabled the Navy to "surge" forces to where they're needed, and he thanked the Congress for the investments they've made in readiness.

"Since 1968 when I joined the Navy, I have never seen the Navy as ready as it is today. It's a capable, persistent, combat force. It represents the return on investment that you in the Congress, speaking for the American people, have made in our readiness. And we are grateful," Clark said.

"I also want to thank you for the exceptional support that you have provided to our Sailors, our most cherished resource, the brave men and women that we call upon in this country to represent us and the values that we believe in," Clark added.

Hagee told the representatives about

some of the Navy Marine Corp team's many deployments around the world in support of the global war on terrorism.

"Along with our sister services, the Navy-Marine Corps team continues to play a key role in the global war on terrorism and in the establishment of stability and security in many of the world's trouble spots," Hagee said. "Marines, both active and Reserve, are operating side-by-side with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, NGOs (non-government organizations), diplomats and many others, in diverse locations from Afghanistan, to the Arabian Gulf, the Horn of Africa, Turkey, the Georgian Republic, Colombia, Guantanamo Bay and the Philippines."

Johnson thanked the Congress for its continued support of the Navy Marine Corps team and the families who support it.

"The Navy Marine Corps team's successes reflect the strong and sustained support by the Congress, as well as those on the homefront, our dedicated civilian (and) contract employees and the great American mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, and children who support the forward deployed defenders of freedom," he said. "We're eternally grateful for all the hard work and sacrifices they and all of our supporters are making."

The CNO said that the Navy Marine Corps team is ready to respond, if called.

"Your Navy, the nation's Navy, is ready. It is combat ready. It is forward deployed. It is on scene," Clark said. "The young men and women in your nation's Navy are serving with great distinction."

For more on the Navy and Marine Corps, visit [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil) or [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil).



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## Additional medical staff called to supplement USNS Comfort crew

From National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — Medical and support staff from National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) and several other Navy medical units in the region have been ordered to join the Navy's hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) deployed to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

The deployment of more than 800 additional crew members will bring the ship up to its 1,000-bed hospital capability.

Comfort deployed Jan. 6 as part of the repositioning of forces and assets in support of the president's global war on terror and future contingencies. One of two U.S. Navy hospital ships operated by the Military Sealift Command, Comfort's primary mission is to pro-

vide flexible medical response to support wartime operations.

When operating at full capacity, Comfort has a medical treatment facility staff of more than 1,200 active-duty Navy medical and hospital support personnel, and more than 60 Department of the Navy civil service mariners who operate the ship. Comfort is equipped to care for the victims of all types of medical trauma including the

effects of a chemical or biological attack.

Comfort will be staffed with an extensive variety of general and specialized services to include trauma treatment, surgical and intensive care. Some specialty fields include OB/GYN, psychologists, radiologists, pharmacists, certified nurse anesthetists, laboratory technicians, physical therapists/technicians and medical administrators. Supply and support

## Recap CORNER

### NAS II Minimart Expansion

In 2004 the NAS II MiniMart is planning to expand the present facility. The project will add an additional 1500 sq. meters to the existing facility. With ever increasing numbers of families moving into Marinai, the addition will supply much needed space and allow the NEX to reconfigure their store to better serve their customers.

Construction should begin in April of 2004 and be completed in December of the same year. The expanded and renovated facility will contain an enlarged retail area, a new beauty shop, administrative spaces, barber shop, Bee Bar, new restrooms, and storage spaces.

The community park and playground next to the NEX/DECA parking lot will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Capt. Davison on Friday, March 14 at 4 p.m. during the Shake Your Shamrock Festival. All interested parties are invited to attend.

How Sig 2.3 affects you: There will be a lot of work on Halsey Road in front of the school from March 4 to June 30. Please be aware of the construction limitations and plan accordingly.

## West Coast Ships Offload in Kuwait

By JO1 Joseph E. Krypel  
Commander, Amphibious Group 3 Public Affairs



BM2 Carrie Vanderheiden, assigned to Beachmaster Unit one (BCU-1) directs an LCAC (Landing Craft Air Cushion) from Assault Craft Unit One (ACU-1) as it comes ashore. ACU-1 and BCU-1 are both deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

CAMP PATRIOT, Kuwait (NNS) — A joint-service, multinational force is currently participating in the offload of seven American West Coast ships at Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

The armada of ships, known as Commander, Task Group (CTG) 51.6, recently arrived to offload personnel and equipment for possible future contingencies in the Central Command area of responsibility.

This is the third such offload to take place at Camp Patriot. More than 2,000 Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen make up Camp Patriot, which is the location for CTG 51.8.

During the week-long process, Camp Patriot residents will work with their Kuwaiti counterparts in ensuring weapons systems, aviation assets, combat equipment, military supplies and more than 1,500 Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Battalion are transported from the beach to their specific mission areas.

Typical loads include 155 mm Howitzer artillery guns, light armored vehicles (LAV), high-mobility multiwheeled vehicles, a variety of trucks and trailers, power generators and other miscellaneous military supply requirements.

According to Capt. Donald P. Cook, the "mayor" of Camp Patriot, the offload requires close attention and cooperation from all parties involved.

"We work as a team here. We are a coalition not only of American forces, but a multinational cooperation with our host nation and others."

The ships of CTG 51.6 will transition their cargos through the use of the Navy's landing craft, air cushion (LCAC) hovercraft, land craft, utility (LCU) boats and a multitude of helicopters assigned to the task group.

Task Group 51.6 ships are USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS Cleveland (LPD 7), USS Dubuque (LPD 8), USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52), USS Anchorage (LSD 36) and USS Comstock (LSD 45).

CTG 51.8 is deployed to Kuwait to support the global war on terrorism and to prepare for possible future contingencies.

## News Briefs

### Budget with the best!

Do you want to help your community while working in a professional environment? How about improving your problem solving skills, pattern identification skills, and interpersonal communication skills? Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society's budget counselors work diligently assisting military families plan for the future, manage their expenses, and handle unexpected emergencies. Help us make a difference! If you would like to work with us come by our office or give a call at 624-4212.

### Lifeguard Training

The American Red Cross is offering the Lifeguard Training course March 10 to 16. If you are interested call 624-5921/5446 to find out more.

### SEABEE Ball

Tickets for the SEABEE Ball, March 15, are now on sale. There will be free T-shirts and wineglasses with every ticket bought. Prices are as follows:

E-5 and below \$10.  
E-6 \$15.  
E-7-O4 \$20.  
O5-O6 \$25.

Government Employees \$20.

UA3-UA1 \$15.  
UA4 and all UC \$10.

For more information call 624-6912. Corsages and boutonnieres are also available.

### Volunteers Needed

Red Cross is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions. Leadership positions: Station Chair/Volunteer Coordinator or Case Worker. Other volunteer opportunities are: Hospital and Flight Line Clinic and much more. Call 624-5446/5921.

### Job Available

The U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella, is soliciting for one part-time personalized service contract for one Phlebotomist. Sources must be eligible for U.S. Employment. Closing date is March 18. Solicitation packages are available at the Supply Dept. Purchasing Office NAS II. Call Mrs. Saladino at 624-5723 or Mrs. Randazzo at 624-3792.

### Lost and Found

Lost anything lately? You might want to check the fitness centers first. The Fitness Centers' lost and found is piling up. Items not claimed will be donated to the Nearly New Store.



By Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff

# Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

## Contemporary art exhibition in Catania

From March 15 through 23, *Arte Oggi 2000* will present an exhibition featuring the works of Francesco Toraldo. An Italian world-renowned contemporary painter, Toraldo comes from sunny Calabria. His most favorite subjects are jazz dances, sailing and regatta scenes. Toraldo's vivid paintings will be on display in a charming atmosphere at the *Achab Café* (located in Catania near the train station in viale Africa n. 31), an unusual but cozy place for an art display.

Complementing this exhibition will be several music shows featuring a tango dancing show (March 15 at 8:30 p.m.), jazz concert (March 16) and opera singer performance (March 22). Exhibition hours are Monday through Sunday 6 p.m. to midnight. Admission is free. For more information and detailed schedule contact Mr. Gianni Lupo at 347-6783803 or e-mail [arteoggi2000@yahoo.it](mailto:arteoggi2000@yahoo.it).

## Policeman killed in train shootout with ultra-leftist terrorists

Rome- As reported in *Il Corriere della Sera*, the fear for a new wave of domestic terrorism has been gripping again Italy since last Sunday when a Italian policeman was killed and another injured during a shootout on a Rome-Florence train involving two left-wing militants allegedly belonging to a new cell of the *Brigate Rosse* (Red Brigades), a far left-wing terrorist group organization that carried out several attacks and political murders in Italy during the 1970s and 1980s including the assassination of Prime Minister Aldo Moro in 1978. According to witnesses, the shooting began when a transport police patrol asked a pair for identity documents in a routine check. Desdemona Lioce, one of the two suspects, who reportedly had an "icy stare," pulled out a pistol and put it to the head of one of the police-

men. Right after, the situation became out of control. One policeman was shot dead and several shots were fired during the struggle. Eventually, a second police officer, despite he was injured, arrested both Lioce and her male companion Mario Galesi who died later on the same evening after undergoing surgery for his injuries. After the arrest, Lioce refused to answer investigators' questions and only stated that she was a "political prisoner."

Lioce and Galesi, who have been on the run since 1990s, have been linked to the murders of Massimo D'Antona and Marco Biagi, two university professors and government labor advisers who were shot dead in 1999 and 2001 for their important role in drafting the current government controversial labor market reform.

Italy's Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu said that the arrest of this pair would shed light on the two earlier murders. Investigators, who believe that the terrorists were probably planning an attack or a robbery, seized important items such as notebook pages with names and phone numbers, a micro-camera, floppy disks and newspaper articles.

Yesterday, Emanuele Petri the slain policeman was honored with a solemn state funeral.

Alleged Red Brigades activists have been claiming responsibility for the murder through anonymous telephone calls.

## Salemi celebrates St. Joseph through votive breads

In Sicily, bread as holy food is linked to the cult of St. Joseph that is celebrated throughout the region. One of the most fascinating traditions is the one celebrated in Salemi one, a city located in the province of Trapani.

Devotions to San Giuseppe take the form of constructing altars full of local food that is symbolically offered to the poor and needy. According to tradition, the number of items on the altar can't be less than 19 or more than 101. In Salemi, elaborate bread altars are an

important part of the public celebration. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century the *Cene di San Giuseppe* (St. Joseph Dinners) also called the "St. Joseph's Table" are prepared for the festival that is held on March 19. These special "dinners" which actually take place at midday, consist of a banquet offered by the devotees to a group of children who symbolize the Holy Family. It includes 101 courses, all of them meatless, because of Lenten obligations. Spaghetti mixed with olive oil, breadcrumbs, sugar, cinnamon and parsley, different kinds of cakes and vegetarian omelets are among the food offered to the young guests. The devotee, who prepares the meal, is someone who shows belief and reverence to St. Joseph. The saint's help could be invoked for the healing from a sickness or just to express devotion. The preparation of the dinner starts eight days before the festival. Three poor children referred to as *Santi* (saints) or *Virgineddi* (virgins) who represent the Holy Family, are invited to the meal to celebrate the holiday. St. Joseph is worshipped as the saint of Providence and the patron and protector of the family and of the poor, both embodied in the invited guests. The building of a chapel-like structure, made of wood or iron, next to the tables, where the *Cena* takes place, is the other ritual of the celebration. The chapel contains a three-tiered altar that is surrounded by an ornamental roof-like projection framed in myrtle and laurel, and hung with lemons, oranges, and hundreds of small, ornately shaped breads.

The altars contain candles, crosses and other religious objects, flowers, select foods, a jar of wine and three large, more intricately ornate breads (*Cudduri*) intended for the kids. These breads, which represent the Holy Family, are set in the first step. A large framed print of St. Joseph or of the Holy Family is placed at the center of the chapel.

During the banquet, the believers in honor of Saint Joseph recite monologues and prayers named *Parti*. While eating, the three kids offer food to the visitors.



Photo courtesy of Arte Oggi 2000

From March 15 to 23, an exhibition featuring the works of Francesco Toraldo, an Italian world-renowned contemporary painter, will be set up at the *Achab Café* in Catania. Complementing this exhibition will be several music shows featuring a tango dancing show (March 15 at 8:30 p.m.), jazz concert (March 16) and opera singer performance (March 22).

At the end of the meal, the landlords take big bread, which was formerly blessed, to the table. Eventually, it is divided and distributed among the visitants.

This popular tradition has been kept for a very long time, every year it attracts thousands of tourists.

Salemi is located on a hill in the heart of the Trapani province. It can be easily reached through the Catania - Palermo highway. Once in Palermo take the Palermo-Mazara del Vallo highway and exit Salemi.

## NMCRS from page 1

A Navy-Marine Corps Fund Drive raffle including prizes such as a mountain bike, an ITT trip for two to Corfu, a digital camcorder and more, started Monday and will end on April 3. To purchase tickets, see your NMC Fund Drive keyperson or attend one of the special events on NASSIG. The drawing is scheduled for April 4.

## AIMD from page 1

The COMREL project also gave the volunteers a chance to work as a team. "What I like about this is how we come together as a team and give back to the community," said AS2 Petagay Myers of AIMD. Myers also said doing work such as this in a foreign country reflects well on the servicemembers who give of their time.

"It was a great experience knowing I helped people that needed help," said AS3 Adrian Elizalde of AIMD.

## Safety from page 1

know the better your care will be.

Work with your doctors and nurses by providing complete information. If possible, write down and bring your medical history including special conditions and illnesses with you. Provide information on all medications, including herbal, dietary supplements and over-the-counter drugs. It is also helpful to provide names and telephone numbers of other doctors as well as any allergies to food or medications, or sensitivity to any products.

Illness is a stressful time for patients. Having an advocate, someone who supports you, is an important consideration in your treatment. Select a person you can communicate with and trust. It's important to select someone who is assertive and not intimidated easily. Be precise in what you want help with and what you can handle on your own. Clarify your options for hospitals, doctors, diagnostic tests, and procedures or treatment with everyone involved. Your involvement and participation is the best way to ensure your own safety.

The benefits of medicines are the helpful effects you get when you use them. The risks of medicines are the chances that something unwanted or unexpected could happen to you when you use them. Dispensing prescriptions drugs has been identified as one of the more serious components of risk to hospitalized patients in the private sector. Some specific ways to lower the risks and obtain the full benefits of medications is to talk with your doctor or pharmacist. Keep an up-to-date written list of all medicines that you use, even those only used occasionally, include any herbal products or supplements.

Once you choose to take the medication, become knowledgeable about the brand, what the medicine looks like. When, how, and how long to use them. And always ask for written information to take with you. Read the label and follow directions for your medication. Make sure you understand the directions; ask if you have questions or concerns. Avoid interactions with any other medicines by gaining knowledge about your prescription. Lastly, monitor the effects of your medicines, as well as the effects of other products that you use.

U.S. Naval Hospital, Sigonella has designed this campaign to spur a movement that will put Sigonella at the forefront in addressing patient safety. The importance of patient trust is paramount. Patient safety has a measurable impact on quality of health care now and in the future. Communication and partnership: Safety starts with all of us.

SUNDAY	MONAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</b>					March	7 No School	8 <b>Golf Tourney 4-Person Scramble</b> 8:30 a.m. Il Picciolo Golf Club 624-4483/5243
9 <b>Siracusa and Sea Food Resturant</b> Call ITT 624-4396	10 <b>Kindergarten Registration Packets</b> mailed to parents re-registration until March 21	11 <b>Travel Club Meeting</b> 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Take 5 624-5187	12 <b>Women's Heritage Fun Run</b> 7 a.m. for Registration TSC parking lot	13 <b>E-5 Exam</b> 6:45 a.m. NAS II Gym	14 <b>Shake Your Shamrock Festival</b> until March 15 Noon to Midnight NAS I	15 <b>Paintball</b> depart NAS I 8:30 a.m. Liberty 624-5187	
16 <b>Wine Tasting and Artists' Studio Tour</b> ITT 624-4396	17 <b>St. Patricks Day</b> 	18 <b>Beary Special Sibs</b> 3 to 4:30 p.m. pediatric waiting room 624-4291	19 <b>Navy College New Hours</b> Mon-Thur 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fri 8:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.	20 <b>E-4 Exam</b> 6:45 a.m. NAS II Gym <b>Acireale City and Shopping</b> ITT Call 624-4396	21 <b>Mardi Gras Day</b> 4 to 5 p.m. BLAST Call 624-3712	22 <b>Catania Market Trip</b> 9 a.m. Liberty Call 624-5187	
23 <b>Wine Tasting and Studio Tour</b> ITT Call 624-4396	24 <b>Kindergarten Registration</b> until April 7	25 <b>Boys and Girls of America Torch Club</b> every Tuesday 4 to 5 p.m. 205 Housing	26 <b>Treasure Hunt</b> 4 to 5 p.m. BLAST Call 624-3712	27 <b>Taormina City and Shopping</b> ITT Call 624-4396	28 <b>Women's Heritage Month Luncheon</b> 1 to 3 p.m. NAS II Galley	29 <b>Agrigento Valley of the Temples</b> ITT Call 624-4396	
30 <b>Randazzo Market and Valle Galfina Wine Tasting</b> ITT Call 624-4396	31 <b>Free Tennis Clinic</b> until April 5 5 to 6:30 p.m. NAS II tennis courts Call 624-2710	April	1 <b>Gotterdammerung by Richard Wagner Opera Show</b> ITT 624-4396	2 <b>Rainbow Playgroup</b> 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing	3 <b>Photo Safari Meeting</b> 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Golden Anchor Call 624-5271	4 <b>Catania Shopping</b> ITT Call 624-4396	5 <b>Mirabella Imbaccari Lace Village</b> ITT Call 624-4396

## Trivia Answers

- 1) Betty Jean McBricker
- 2) Jonas Grumby 3) Bellybutton
- 4) Buddy Holly
- 5) April 14, 1912

# Famous Speeches

Rearrange the blocks to discover the message.

CAT TIN NANN LIE A CRE OPO  
 TO FO FER TH ALL A D D FAT  
 CON GIIT SIT TIIRS D C ON TIO  
 ME VEDRE THE FCU IN AGO L.  
 NEW EN QUAN: CEI BER, OS B  
 FD FNT ROU ATF AT TY, PR ON  
 YEA CON N A EDIR S RIH AN COR  
 IS SEV LR


# Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

## Give Me Liberty

By Kashia Sachs  
 Brickley Weekly, 5<sup>th</sup> grade newspaper,

I think that the "Give Me Liberty" book we are reading in Social Studies class is a really great book. I have learned a lot from it. I think that it is really interesting to learn about the Revolutionary war. We watched a movie about the book and the War. I think it explains a lot of what happened. I can't wait until we read the next chapter about "Give Me Liberty".

I think the Declaration of Independence was so important. They fought for their freedom, and if they did not, Americans would not have the freedoms we have now. I am proud to be an American and proud of the way people have served our United States. We are free people in our United States of America because of those who fought for it.

I would like to say thank you to all of the people of the United States that are fighting for our freedom today.

**Fri. March 7**

Stop by Take 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by joining in the games.

Learn the history of Catania. Visit Elephant Square, the fish market and the Roman amphitheatre and Bellini Opera House with ITT.

Parents bring your children to 205 Youth Center so you can enjoy an afternoon out.

**Sat. March 8**

Tee off at 8:30 a.m. at 11 Picciolo Golf Club for the Goofy Golf Tourney.

Go with Liberty for a trip to Siracusa. Minimum of four to go, maximum of 13.

Explore Mt. Etna on horseback with AU. Go on a three-hour tour and experience wonderful views. Don't forget to bring your camera.

Visit the Condorelli Candy Factory, located in Belpasso, with ITT. See the process of candy and chocolate egg making that will be exported to Europe for Easter.

**Sun. March 9**

Go to Siracusa with ITT, which is one of the oldest towns in Sicily. Visit the most important museum in Europe. Then relax at a Sicilian seafood restaurant.

**Mon. March 10**

Do you have a weird middle name? If so the most peculiar middle names win free soda and chips.

Reading club meets from 4 to 5 p.m. at 205.

**Tues. March 11**

Come join other single Sailors to share travel tips and stories. Find out about "off beaten track" treasures while enjoying free pizza at Take 5 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Interested in becoming a spin instructor? Dont miss the Spin workshop at NAS I or II, from 5 to 9 p.m.

**Weds. March 12**

Science Club will meet at 205 Housing from 4 to 5 p.m.

**Thurs. March 13**

Singles, craving for Mexican food? Satisfy your hunger with Liberty. Liberty will pay up to 10 Euro for your bill. Minimum of four to go, Maximum of 13.

## Brownies visit Motta



Photo by Lt. Steve Curry

NASSIG Brownie Troop 29 recently visited the Norman Castle in Motta S. Anatasia. They learned the history of the castle, how medieval people worked, and how the castle remains the centerpiece of Motta's landscape. The Brownies finished off the field trip by visiting the World War II German Cemetary in Motta.

# TRIVIA

From the Flintstones, what was Betty Rubble's maiden name?  
 On Gilligan's Island, what was the Skipper's name?  
 What external body part was Alfred Hitchcock missing?  
 Who died in "American Pie," the song?  
 What day did the Titanic sink?

(Answers on page 6)

# Movie Connection

MWIE's Theater Schedule

### Friday, March 7

1 p.m.  
 Pinocchio(G)\*\*

5:30 p.m.  
 Catch Me If You Can (PG-13)

9 p.m.  
 A Guy Thing (PG-13)\*\*

### Saturday, March 8

11 a.m.  
 The wild thornberrys (PG)

2 p.m.  
 Lord of the Rings:  
 Two Towers (PG-13)

5:30 p.m.  
 Just Married (PG-13)\*\*

8 p.m.  
 Shanghai Knights (PG-13)

10:30 p.m.  
 The Recruit (PG-13)

### Sunday, March 9

1 p.m.  
 Pinocchio (G)

3:30 p.m.  
 Solaris (PG-13)

6 p.m.  
 Catch Me If You Can (PG-13)

### Monday, March 10

5:30 p.m.  
 The Recruit (PG-13)

8 p.m.  
 Lord of the Rings:  
 Two Towers (PG-13)

### Tuesday, March 11

5:30 p.m.  
 Catch Me If You Can (PG-13)

9 p.m.  
 Shanghai Knights (PG-13)

### Wednesday, March 12

5:30 p.m.  
 Lord of the Rings:  
 Two Towers (PG-13)

9 p.m.  
 Solaris (PG-13)

### Thursday, March 13

5:30 p.m.  
 Two Weeks Notice (PG-13)

8 p.m.  
 Antwone Fisher (PG-13)

### Friday, March 14

5:30 p.m.  
 Shanghai Knights (PG-13)

8 p.m.  
 Narc (R) \*\*

10 p.m.  
 Dare Devil (PG-13)

\*\*\* Future Re-release \*\*Sneak Preview \*Last Showing

(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at

# This week on...

Sat. Mar 8- Law & Order (Season Premiere)  
 AFN Atlantic 4:00 PM

Sun. Mar 9- NASCAR: Atlanta 500  
 AFN Atlantic 6:30 PM

Tue. Mar 11- 7th Heaven (Season Premiere)  
 AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Tue. Mar 11- Movie: "Charlie's Angels"  
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Fri. Mar 14- Profiles From the Front Line  
 (Series Premiere) AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

**QUESTIONS FOR THE HOUSING DIRECTOR?  
 CATCH "FEEDBACK" WED. AT 6:30 PM**

**ZFM 106.0 NOW PLAYS COUNTRY AND  
 WESTERN 9-11AM**

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