



Vol. 20 No. 11

March 21, 2003

## Huge electricity savings on the horizon

By Peter J. Vietti  
Housing PAO

Naval Air Station Sigonella Housing Office and ENEL (the Italian electric company) have teamed up to implement a plan to offer electricity at a savings of up to 30 percent to service members residing on the economy with a valid housing contract lease agreement. Members who are contracted through a private lease are not eligible for the program. All eligible members will benefit from the tax savings. Not all members will see the same amount of tax savings since the billing rates are based on tiered levels of kilowatt-hour usage. The program will begin on April 15. This is a pilot program that is initially being offered to members residing here in Sicily. According to Antonio Panebianco, Housing Deputy Director, "This teaming effort is finally coming to fruition after three years in the making. The savings discounts offer a unique opportunity for members to substantially reduce their electricity bills and have their bills automatically debited from their Monte dei Pasche di Siena bank account."

As an example, if a member uses 800 kilowatts (approximately \$200) of power during a two-month billing cycle, the member would not be charged the usual IVA (Italian tax) equal to \$30. Additionally, the members will earn 2.6 percent interest per three-month period from Monte Dei Paschi di Siena on the balance that is retained in their bank account. This example equates to an annual savings of \$360. According to Marcello LoParo, Housing Personnel Support Supervisor and lead organizer of the tax savings plan, "we have completed a trial run with ten families. We are confident that this program will be a success based our trial run findings. We would like ENEL, page 8

## Change to School Hours?

By Mike Fitzpatrick  
Contributing Writer

Your children's school hours may begin earlier next year, or they may begin later. They may remain unchanged. A shift in school hours may affect day care arrangements, scheduling of optional extracurricular activities, children's sleep patterns and parents' daily schedules. So, this is an important topic for many Sigonellans.

School starting and ending times have been of concern to some parents of Stephen Decatur School students for at least a couple of years. The subject was discussed during last year's DODDS accreditation conducted by the North Central Association. At the time, the challenges inherent in the division of our Unit School into Elementary and Secondary Schools and the effects that significant shifts in housing situations (opening of Marinai, closing of leased subdivisions, etc.) would present for transportation were looming. It was decided that formal recommendations from the School Advisory Committee (SAC) regarding changes to school hours would be deferred until this year. Now it is time to make your opinion known!

The Secondary School Advisory Committee, an elected group of parents and teachers, is gathering broad based feedback regarding the desirability of changing school and, naturally, school bus hours from interested Sigonellans. During the week of March 10, a detailed questionnaire was distributed in the School, page 8

## Hometown Weather

Oak Harbor, WA



• Oak Harbor

High 53° F - Low 44° F  
Showers

## Standing out from the rest

By AN Michelle Watkins  
Signature Staff

What does it take to be Blue Jacket of the Year? Just ask SKSN Terra Guagliano's chain of command and they will tell you. To SK1 (AW) John Patti, the Aviation Support Division, (ASD) LPO, Guagliano is an "unsung" hero for all the unglamorous work that she accomplishes.

"Self starter"  
"Independent"  
"Organized"  
"Intelligent"

They are just a few of the characteristics that stood out to her chain of command when she was nominated as Blue Jacket of the Year, according to Patti.

Guagliano, a storekeeper working as a yeomen, is the only administrative specialist at ASD handling most of the paperwork for the division. "She was put in that position because she can work alone and we don't have to worry about supervising her. She is very reliable and on top of every thing," said Patti.

Bluejacket, page 8

Photo by PH2 Damon J. Moritz

## An alternate mode of transportation

By AN Michelle Watkins  
Signature Staff

For those who do not own a vehicle and live out in town, there are many ways to get to work. While renting a car can be expensive and stressful, other options such as carpooling or using the finger system can save money and get people to work.

The Group Home to Work Program is now extinct. The program that had buses picking up and dropping Sailors and their families at Acireale, Mineo, Paterno and Gravina was cancelled after a two week survey done to determine the number of passengers and cost per average rider.

According to Assistant Public Works Officer, CDR Robert Baker, statistics showed that for the 620 housing units serviced only two percent of the population utilized the service. On average only 12 military members were transported every morning and evening from the four housing units. Acireale had no passengers.

The program cost \$135,000 annually with the estimated costs for Mineo passengers, \$10,640; Paterno, \$8,150; and Gravina, \$6,930.

Baker recommends carpooling with friends and families to get to work and back. For example, Mineo has 404 housing units and carpooling would be easy according to Baker. Paterno has 127 and Gravina has 89 housing units. "I live in Mineo and there are always lines of cars going out every morning to go to work. We all have a lot of neighbors."

Public works is currently working on an alternative transportation program. "The government could buy the average rider a car, keep it gassed up and maintained for less than what the Group Home to work Program costs."

## Open wide; HM-15 is here



An MH-53E Sea Dragon assigned to the "Blackhawks" of Helicopter Mine Counter Measures Squadron One Five (HM-15) is offloaded from a U.S. Air Force C-5 Galaxy. The C-5 Galaxy is the largest aircraft and the MH-53E is the largest helicopter in the U.S. Military. HM-15, home based at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, is deployed to Naval Air Station Sigonella to provide support to deployed naval vessels in the Mediterranean Sea.

Photo by PH2 Damon J. Moritz

## MWR Navy Teen Scholarship deadline coming fast

By Nilsa Diaz-Jarero  
MWR Marketing Director

Navy MWR is going all out again this year. They are sponsoring the Navy Teen Camp Scholarship Program. Up to 135 Navy international teens ages 12 to 17 will be chosen to go to camp this summer, all expenses paid. Five different camps have been chosen with each having its own unique summer camp quality. Put your creative writing skills to work by writing a 150-word essay saying

why you would like to attend the camp that you have chosen and why you should be chosen. Now all there is left to do is pick out the lucky Navy teens and get them to camp. Pick up an application at the Teen Center at NAS I or the Mineo Rec Center. Applications and essay must be received by April 1.

Teens will be met at their final destination by the camp and a Navy Representative. If an airline escort is desired, that is the responsibility of

the parent to arrange and fund.

The following are the camps you can choose from:

**High Cascade Snowboarding Camp** Timberline, Mt. Hood Oregon July 30-Aug. 8 Ages 12-17 (must be 12 by July 30, 2003)

**Woodward X-sports Camp** Woodward, PA July 20-26 Ages 12-17 (must be 12 by July 20, 2003)

**World Sports Camp** Easthampton, MA July 20-26 Ages 12-15 (must be 12 by July 20, 2003)

**U.S. Space Camp** Huntsville, Alabama July 26-August 1

**Sea World/Busch Gardens Adventure Camp** San Antonio, Texas July 12-18



# Direct Line

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

What does it take to be a leader? It doesn't take a high school diploma, college degree or an Ivy League university laureate to qualify as a leader. You do not have to have a commission to be a good leader either, or even be in the military. Some of our finest leaders at Sigonella are civilian employees and some are even dependents. What you do need is the opportunity to lead. Opportunities are given to us everyday. What we do with those chances can prepare us all to be the leaders we need.

Leadership is learned. You were not born a leader. We continually educate ourselves on a daily basis on being an effective and efficient leader. We conduct training classes all the time to better prepare ourselves to become leaders. We observe others' capabilities and hopefully emulate their positive leadership by example.

Now, let me tell you about a World War II veteran. He was the most decorated U.S. soldier in World War II. He was awarded 33 awards and decorations including the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States of America. He also received every decoration for valor that his country had to offer, some of them more than once, including five decorations by France and Belgium. He was credited with killing over 240 of the enemy while wounding and capturing many others; he became a legend within the 3rd Infantry Division. Beginning his service as an Army Private, he quickly rose to the enlisted rank of Staff Sergeant, was given a "battle field" commission as 2nd Lieutenant, was wounded three times, fought in 9 major campaigns across the European Theater, and survived the war. His name was Audie Murphy.

Now most of us remember his *To Hell and Back* autobiographical bestseller book and movie, which he starred in. The movie was Universal's highest grossing picture until 1975 when *Jaws* came out. He was a humble Texan doing the job he was called to do. He didn't aspire to be a leader...it came gradually and he chose those opportunities to succeed. He didn't want to be a hero either but fate worked out in his favor. Tragically, he was killed in a plane crash in 1971. His gravesite is the second-most visited grave at Arlington National Cemetery.

You don't need medals, courage, or a diploma. Each of you can do it if you just have the opportunity. I know you have the potential...but will you take the chance? Ralph Nader said, "I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." Don't settle for being a follower when you can become a leader!

Take the lead!

## Editorial

### Stray Animals: A threat according to the NAVOSH Safety Program

What do you think about the stray animals around the bases and housing areas? Do you feel they are a safety threat to your children or to you? It seems there are no clear rules about stray animals. AFN broadcasts informative commercials everyday telling us not to feed the animals. In contrast, the February 14th edition of the Signature invites us to help feed the animals, while providing them a home on base through the SAWS Program. Who are we supposed to listen to?

In addition to AFN's "infomercials", there are two local publications that military personnel and their families are expected to abide by. One is located on the InfoSig website under the Safety Department link. "Safe-guarding people from injury is top priority," according to the CO's Policy Statement. The Mission Statement of the Safety and Occupational Health Department at NASSIG states that "U.S Naval Air Station, Sigonella is fully committed to supporting the NAVOSH Program to ensure safety..." Available online: <http://infosig.sicily.navy.mil/safety/>

The other publication is located on NAVOSH Success Stories Home Page. It informs us of the Safety Poster Program, which has been "enthusiastically received by Navy commands and other services throughout the U.S. Department of Defense." The program conveys messages through posters that are supposed to "help save workers and their families from illnesses, injuries, and disabilities on the job, at home, and during recreational and leisure activities." Posters can be ordered online promoting this program. One of the posters mentioned in this article displays a picture of a cat with the inscription "Fluffy looks cute and cuddly for a stray, but she may scratch and bite a feeding hand. Remember, an unvaccinated stray poses a serious health hazard." Available online: [http://www.navosh.net/strategic/success/stories/pdfs/safety\\_poster\\_storysigonella1.PDF](http://www.navosh.net/strategic/success/stories/pdfs/safety_poster_storysigonella1.PDF)

The NASSIG animal control department at security has begun a program to help reduce the number of strays on base and all housing areas. The program began in the month of January 2003. Resident complaints have encouraged security to expedite the program to housing areas, but no action has been taken as of yet. Housing area tenants are still at risk of being bitten or scratched by these infectious animals.

If a housing tenant is faced with these risks, what are they supposed to do in order to provide a safe living and play area for their children? Should they comply with military regulations as instructed or break the rules and volunteer to feed the animals on base? Several NASSIG military families do not know how to reduce the risks mentioned above, since security will not accept stray animals from housing areas. The SAWS Program does not include all housing areas. Can military residents in other housing areas or in economy housing bring strays to the base? Much clarification is needed in this respect.

—Concerned Residents & USN Employees



## The Pulse

### TRICARE for reserves deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom

By Rita Arico  
 Contributing Writer

If you are a reservist activated in the U.S. and deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, you will be enrolled at your in-processing point in the U.S. Regardless of your deployment duration, this enrollment will not be transferred to TRICARE Europe. As a reservist, you are entitled to medical care in a military treatment facility (MTF). When activated for more than 30 days, you become eligible for TRICARE Prime. Family members become eligible if members are activated for more than 179 days. No premiums apply for the enrollment. All care should be sought from an MTF, and whenever authorized, by a host nation provider. The TRICARE Europe Preferred Provider network offers quality and consistent medical care. DEERS enrollment is critical, it is the key to benefits and entitlements. Sponsors must reg-

ister their family members in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The contingency operation should be identified on members' orders and coded correctly in DEERS, or the reservist won't be reflected as eligible for the Transitional Assistance Management Program when the member separates from active duty. Enrollment in Prime for the transitional program is required. You may verify and update information by visiting the nearest personnel office. Reservists activated for more than 30 consecutive days are also eligible for pharmacy benefits, which should be filled at the MTF pharmacy whenever the drug is available there, then the mail order pharmacy program or a retail pharmacy. TRICARE Dental is not part of the transitional health care program for family members and it is very limited for active duty personnel. If you are overseas for 30 days or less and need medical care at an MTF overseas, you will need to show your orders to make an appointment. If you receive care from a host nation provider in the TRICARE Europe Network, you will normally not have to worry about filing your claim.

Your family members become eligible for TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra on the first day of the military sponsor's active duty if his or her orders are more than 30 consecutive days (or for an indefinite period). Eligible family members may enroll in TRICARE Prime if their sponsor is called to active duty for 179 days or more. There are no enrollment fees or co-payments for family members. MTF or TRICARE Prime network providers must be used. Many reservists' families may have established relationships with providers who are not in the TRICARE Prime network. In these cases, TRICARE Standard may be the most flexible and economical option. TRICARE benefits end for yourself and your family members when you are no longer on active duty orders. Line-of duty care may still be received at an MTF for injuries or illnesses incurred while you were on active duty. If you require detailed information, please contact your nearest TSC.

## Tobacco products entering the U.S.

You can no longer take U.S. made tobacco products to the United States that you bought tax-free outside the USA. The ban applies to tax-exempt cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, roll-your own tobacco, cigarette papers and tubes made in the United States and bought at military ex-

changes and commissaries outside the USA, in duty free shops, or on board international aircraft and ships. Foreign tobacco products, U.S. brand products made outside the USA and U.S. tobacco products bought tax-paid in the United States are now the only tobacco products that you will be allowed to import

back. Look at the tax brand around cartons of cigarettes to determine the country of origin. Even a half-finished pack of cigarettes will not be allowed back.

If you have them when you go back, declare them to avoid any heavy fines. For any further questions, contact Military Customs at 6187.

## Make people feel at home

By Chaplain Philip B. Creider  
 Command Chaplain



This is a time of big growth for our base. I don't mean buildings and construction. Lots and lots of people are passing through here and many of them are staying. Lots of reservists have been activated and are now arriving and calling Sigonella home.

Reservists have it hard. Sometimes, they are given as little as three or four days notice before having to ship out. They hurriedly, and sometimes frantically, rush to leave behind their spouses, children, homes, and jobs. Sometimes, they just can't get everything done that needs to be done before shoving off for their new duties.

Reservists are coming here to help get the job done. They're coming to help accomplish the mission that our country has given us. They come here with new ideas, vast experience, and top-notch expertise. They have been placed in our midst and are now part of the Sigonella

team.

Sometimes, though, it takes time to adjust, fit in, and feel at home. Sometimes their gear doesn't even make it here the same time that they do. A lot of them are hot racking or sleeping on cots. This lack of regular creature comforts, though, has in no way, diminished their dedication, determination, and energy. They're ready to go.

For us locally grown Sigonellans, this is the time to open our hearts and homes for these newcomers. This is the time for us to bend over backward to make people feel at home. They raised their right hands just as we old timers did, and they are already part of the Navy family.

We don't know what lies in the future for us. That is for others to decide. What we do know is that in our new arrivals and reservists, we have a new injection of energy, expertise, and devotion. The base, and all of us on it, are pretty blessed by their presence. Together, we are going to serve our country.

We are going to do and serve what is right, honorable, and just. America is blessed to have all of us, and we are blessed to have each other.

### 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.

**SECURITY BLOTTER**

**CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE**  
 624-6389  
**March 10 - March 16**

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 13
- Traffic accident with injuries - 2
- Car break-ins - 2
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 15
- DUI's 2002 - 35

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<b>Public Affairs Officer</b> Lt. Steve Curry	<b>Asst. Public Affairs Officer</b> JO1 Craig Coleman	<b>Staff Writer</b> AN Michelle Watkins
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# NAVY NEWS

## Reply to editorial from SAF coordinator

Concerned Housing Resident,

Where to start in response to your letter is a bit of a conundrum to me. First off, let me introduce myself, I coordinate the Stray Animal Facility (SAF) and am a board member of the Sigonella Animal Welfare Society (SAWS). I work in close relation with the Veterinary clinic, under Capt. Lawler, and with SAWS, under President Jill Miichalski. Together the three independent entities are working feverishly to help with the stray animal problem. Rest assured that action has and is currently being taken.

The February 14 Signature article was not an invitation to feed the animals, what it was, and was worded to accomplish, was a request for volunteers to help with the program being run by the SAF and SAWS. There is no opposing information being presented. The request was for volunteers to help us with the problems you are mentioning, "through the SAWS Program." This program is an official NASSIG program, and does not "break the rules." If this is in fact an active concern of yours and "several NASSIG military families," we openly invite you to volunteer through us. There is a volunteer meeting the first Monday of every month at the Veterinary clinic, anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

As for the safety issue you brought up, you are correct. Stray animals do pose a health risk for personnel who interact with them. To our knowledge, and we have references dating back three years, there has been only one bite incident in the past three years involving stray cats. It was as a result of a child trying to "catch" the cat and the cat nipped his hand, the bite did not even require treatment. However, just as the poster you pointed out states, "Unvaccinated strays poses a serious health hazard" If an effort had been made to inquire into the program which you claim "no action has been taken" you would have easily found out quite the opposite. The cat colony program and the catch and release program work in tandem to combat this issue. **Saws volunteers and SAF personnel are the only people who should ever attempt interaction with stray animals of any breed,** and then only under strict guidelines. I do thank you for the opportunity to get the word out and explain what we are doing.

The SAF and SAWS have spent more than a year organizing and implementing this program. The program was originally conceived under my predecessor, STG2 Teets, and has blossomed in the past six months to a scale that would astonish him. To give you a general idea of the workings of this program, SAF personnel trap the stray animals, and are the only people authorized to do so. The Veterinary Clinic then sterilize them (spay or neuter),

vaccinate, mark, and record them. SAF personnel then release them into established areas. This alone solves the issue of "unvaccinated strays" as the poster pointed out. The cat colony program is relatively a new one, (1 year) and as with any new program it is hitting pot holes along the road to success. Incidentally, for clarification it is phased to include NAS I, NAS II, 205 housing, Mineo, and Marinali. The problem with the few remaining areas is simply the location. There is no way to effectively control the strays in those small areas within large cities. We can not trap and sterilize all the cats in Sicily, and this would be the only definite solution. The two biggest problems we face are, lack of man power, and lack of funding. Ironically these are the most easily remedied. All it requires is for those people within the community who have concerns such as yours and are willing to step up with monetary donations, or volunteer their time, to do so. The SAF and SAWS are both actively seeking volunteers, and are in need of equipment and material for this program. We are currently running this program on three traps and a skeleton crew of people. **WE NEED ASSISTANCE.** I know from first hand experience that off all those people concerned, less than a dozen are stepping up to combat this problem.

Just a few more clarification points:

- In Sicily, euthanasia is illegal and taking it into your own hands will result in legal proceedings.

- Cats will be in the area no matter what we do because Sicily is an animal refuge, the key is to control the population through sterilization and vaccination.

- DO NOT FEED THE CATS, this is what causes them to be around, if there is no food in the area, cats will not hang around.

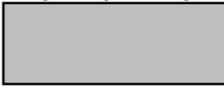
- Keep trash cans closed and lids on, not doing this is the same as feeding them.

- It is illegal to "bring strays to the base." Any attempt to do so is a violation of NASSIG regulations and Italian Law.

- If a stray is in the area, notify NASSIG Security, SAF will respond accordingly.

- Over 150 feral cats have been sterilized and vaccinated, from base and the housing areas, this is far from no action!

Very Respectfully,



## MCPON Visits Hub of Naval Leadership

By BMC(SW) Tim Tessier  
Center for Naval Leadership

LITTLE CREEK, Va. (NNS) — Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott visited the Center for Naval Leadership (CNL) recently to meet with the center's commanding officer, Capt. Chad Sain, to discuss the future of senior enlisted naval leadership.

Currently, senior enlisted leadership training is undergoing a transformation based on the precepts of the Revolution in Training. CNL has been working with Scott and the Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, R.I., to test several industry-developed leadership training tools. These tools, when integrated into current leadership courses, will create a blended learning environment.

"Our Navy today is the Navy I would join all over again, and it's only going to get better," said Scott. "Quality of service relies on quality leadership at every level. Give your Sailors the opportunity to exceed your expectations, and they will."

While visiting, Scott also took time to speak with students attending the two-week leadership course at Naval Leader Training Unit (NLTU) Little Creek. His discussion was framed by the expectations and responsibilities of deck plate leadership.

"Sailors will do anything you ask them, but you must define your expectations," he said. "Make sure they understand your expected results. That is one of the basic responsibilities of leadership."

For more information about the CNL, log onto Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) at [www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil)

For related news, visit the Naval Personnel Development Command/Task Force EXCEL Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/tfe](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/tfe).



### CNL Hosts Establishment Ceremony

By JO1 Jd Walter, Naval Personnel Development Command

LITTLE CREEK, Va. (NNS) — Leadership training took an extraordinary step forward March 14, as the Navy officially established the Center for Naval Leadership (CNL), in a ceremony conducted at their headquarters at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek,

Va.

CNL is tasked with developing a dynamic leadership continuum that will provide Sailors the right leadership training at the most appropriate points in their careers. Because leadership training is essential to the success of the Navy's mission and imperative to operational readiness, the Center has been working with indus-

try to develop and test the most innovative blended learning solutions.

For Sailors, this endeavor means an environment of growth and development that grooms them to be leaders throughout their careers, not simply at fixed points associated with pay grade.

"The successful military leader is an individual who not only possesses the

knowledge and skills required to accomplish the mission, but also fully understands his or her strengths and limitations," said CNL Commanding Officer Capt. Chad Sain. "Our goal is to maximize a Sailor's leadership potential throughout his career."

The Learning Center, one of 13 to be established throughout the fleet in the

## Recap CORNER

### Hoping for a Better Route to the School?

The North-South road that will cut across NAS 1 from the Main Gate we opened in November, to the Park we opened last week, will open on April 21. The road provides a direct route to the Stephen Decatur School, the Exchange and Commissary. The added bonus is that you won't have to negotiate the 90-degree turn at the corner near Guadalcanal Hall (Barracks 170). When this road opens everyone can drive straight ahead to Halsey Road to the corner at the park-playground. We will have the electronic marquee sign, currently located next to the Housing Office, moved to the park at the same time to keep everyone informed on events and day-to-day issues on the Base. The road includes a circular flag plaza in front of the new Administration Build-

ing that will open next year. This will be a new route for everyone, so please drive with extra caution while you get used to the look of the new road, and don't forget to watch for children in the area of the park.

**How SIG 2.3 Affects You:** Utilities work will continue on Halsey Road in front of the Stephen Decatur School through the end of June. Please be careful in this area, stay on the sidewalk, and do not try to pick up or drop off your children during the Bus Periods. You will not be able to park in the loop road that surrounds the park-playground because that area is reserved for school busses, contractor and official vehicles.

If you have any questions about SIG 2.3 construction, contact Lt. Darren Hale at [haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil](mailto:haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil).

## Improving quality of service at top of BUPERS "To-Do" list, CNP tells congress

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — "The Navy's fiscal year 2004 (FY-04) personnel budget proposal supports combat readiness, while promising exciting new programs and incentives for Sailors and their families," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing in testimony before Congress this week.

"Everything we do in the manpower and personnel business is centered on accomplishing the mission," Hoewing told Personnel Subcommittee members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Total Force Subcommittee members of the House Armed Services Committee. "At the same time, we want to properly take care of our Sailors and their families. Our strategic principle is 'Mission First, Sailors Always,' and we really mean it."

Hoewing noted that better than half of the Navy's ships and some 76,000 Sailors are forward-deployed right now, "doing the nation's work," and that battle groups and amphibious ready groups are fully manned and ready for combat.

"That kind of readiness," he said, "is a direct result of the Chief of Naval Operations's (CNO) commitment to make manpower his number one priority, but it also reflects a sincere commitment to service by the Navy's Sailors."

"Our retention is the highest it's ever been," said Hoewing. "And attrition in the ranks is at the lowest point in at least a decade."

The FY-04 personnel budget proposal will help continue these trends by funding important quality of service programs.

It includes \$192 million for new Selective Reenlistment Bonus payments, enough money to cover approximately 18,000 reenlistments, and fully funds Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP). AIP is an initiative to attract career-minded Sailors to tough duty assignments by offering them up to \$750 per month for certain overseas and recruiting billets.

Perhaps the most important and exciting program supported by the proposal is "Sea Warrior," a single integrated and Web-based human resource management system that will revolutionize the way Sailors are accessed, trained, developed and assigned in the 21st century.

Hoewing said Sea Warrior was fundamental to enabling the CNO's Sea Power 21 vision and that the Navy was well on the way to making it a reality.

"We are extremely proud of the work we've done on Sea Warrior," said Hoewing. "It's an incredibly important program that will invest in the growth, development and assignments of our Sailors."

The bottom line for this and every other initiative, noted Hoewing, was improving quality of service, which in turn boosts retention and sharpens readiness. He thanked committee members for their support in that regard.

"Your commitment to enhancing military compensation, improving housing and reducing out-of-pocket expenses; ensuring quality medical care for life and implementing retirement reforms, continue to contribute significantly to retention of our great young Sailors, many of whom will form the core of tomorrow's leadership," he said.

This was Hoewing's first opportunity to testify before Congress. He became the 53rd Chief of Naval Personnel in October of last year.

coming months, is the product of Revolution in Training, the Chief of Naval Operations' vision to enhance operational readiness and increase successful mission accomplishment by creating an environment of learning to support the growth and development of Sailors.

"We are taking leadership development to a new and un-

precedented level," said Rear Adm. Kevin Moran, commander, Naval Personnel Development Command. "We must show our Sailors that leadership is a commitment; a way of life that embraces excellence and breeds success. I am confident this new approach will develop the leadership potential of all Sailors."

## News Briefs

### New Web Site

AFN Sigonella has launched a new web site. The site has local, European and Navy news, as well as handy links to AFN programming and schedules. Visitors to the site can find out more information about AFN personalities, download the AFN publication request, or just check the community's top music requests.

Log on to: <http://afneurope.net/Sigonella/>

### Bank Closure

The NFCU will be closed March 24, at 1 p.m. for mechanical upgrades. The outage includes the branch and the NAS II ATM attached to the branch. The NAS I ATMs will be completely operational.

### Gift Certificate Available

Give the gift of life with an American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Gift Certificate. What greater gift can you give than to help someone be prepared to save a life? Gift certificates are available for CPR/First Aid courses, First Aid Kits and much more. Call 624-5446/5921.

### School Reminder

Parents - Just a reminder. Students (your children) are not allowed to smoke on campus! Here are the consequences from the school:

1st Offense - After school detention - 2 hours

2nd Offense - 2 After school detentions - 2 hrs each

3rd Offense - 1 Saturday detention - 4 hours

4th Offense - day of suspension

5th Offense - 3 days of suspension

Please help us keep our school campus SMOKEFREE!

### In-House Group Exercise Certification

Interested in becoming a Group Exercise Instructor? Sign up at the NAS I or NAS II Fitness Center. Classes will be held April 3 to 28. This is a local certification which will able you to teach group exercise classes through your tour here in Sigonella. All U.S. I.D. cardholders and their dependants are eligible. For more information call 624-4301/3873 or X5238. There is 10 spaces available.



By Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff

# Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

## Artichoke Festival kicks off in Ramacca

To celebrate the artichoke, the community of Ramacca, a town nestled among the hills overlooking the Plain of Catania, will hold the annual *Sagra del Carciofo* (Artichoke Festival) from March 28 through 30. This three-day fun event aims to promote the local artichoke by highlighting its nutritional and therapeutic properties.

Ramacca's economy depends on agriculture and the artichoke is one of the most important sources of employment. Two main varieties: *Violetto Ramacchese* and the larger sized *Teramo* are widely cultivated in the area. This city is also known for its wheat fields, olive groves, citrus orchards and vineyards. Yet, Ramacca has also been named the "Bread Capital" because bakeries in town still bake *pane* (bread) the old way using stone ovens fueled by wood.

### Origin of artichoke

The word artichoke comes from the Arabic *Al "quarshuf"*. The artichoke is a thistle-like plant that originated in the Mediterranean region about 2000 years ago. Ancient Greeks and Romans considered artichokes a delicacy. The famous Roman writer Pliny tells in one of his writings that the artichoke

was expensive and therefore unaffordable to the lower classes. During the Middle Ages, Saracens cultivated artichokes in Sicily, Southern Spain and North Africa.

In 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the noble woman Catherine de Medici left Florence to marry King Henry II of France, she took her own cooks and artichokes to the French court. In 1806, French immigrants brought artichokes to the United States when they settled in Louisiana.

In regards to health benefits, scientists proved that artichokes lower blood cholesterol, aids in bile secretion, acts as a diuretic, and liver tonic. It protects the liver against toxins and infections, and it stimulates regeneration of liver cells.

### Festival Schedule

On March 28, the festival kicks off at 6 p.m. with food stands. Later at 8 p.m., special artichoke-based dishes will be prepared. In the evening, a music show will be performed at 9 p.m.

The second day of the festival (March 29) begins with a tasty *ricotta* cheese at 8 a.m. Later at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., festival goers can participate in guided trips to the local archeological areas. Food stands open at 10 a.m. and artichoke-based dishes are prepared at noon.

In the afternoon, a dance show is performed at the Wagner Park, one of the biggest playgrounds in Sicily that is located in via Circonvallazione, in the suburbs of Ramacca, at 4 p.m.

A music show is performed that same night at 9 p.m.

On March 30, sports events including motorbike and mountain bike rallies kick off

at 9 a.m. You are welcome to join, just show up in piazza Tenente di Fazio.

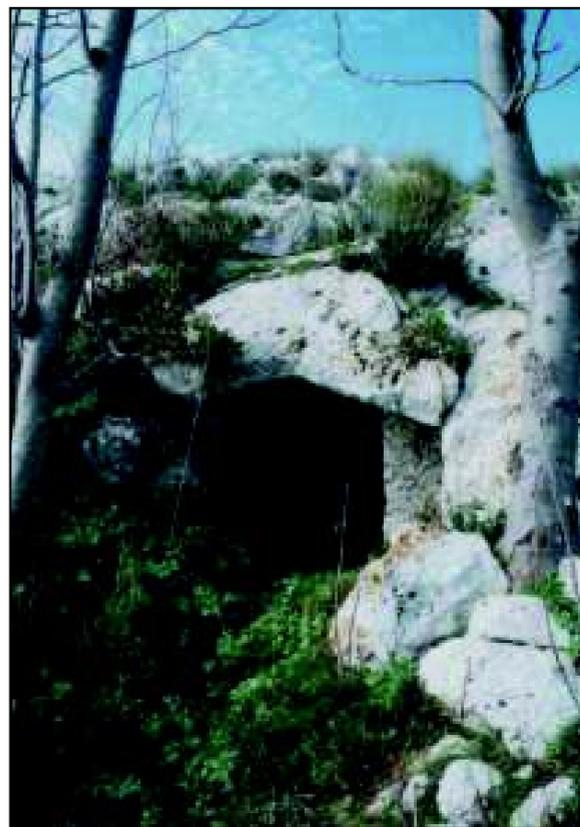
Two guided tours are offered during this day: city historic center (9:30 a.m.) and local archeological areas (3 p.m.) Food stands open at 10 a.m. One hour later, cheerleaders begin parading throughout the historic center. Festival goers can sample artichoke-based dishes at noon and 8 p.m.

In the afternoon, visitors can participate in fun activities and entertainment at 4 p.m. at the Wagner Park. A variety of musical performances end the festival at 9 p.m.

All shows and food stands will be held at piazza Tenente di Fazio. This square is also the meeting point for the tours to the archeological areas and the city center.

Food stands will sell artichoke-based dishes like pasta and rice. Artichokes will also be grilled, stuffed with Pecorino cheese or mixed in omelets. Cakes and ice cream made with *Violetto Ramacchese* artichoke will be also available. The *Teramo*, the other variety present in the Ramacca area is typically prepared only as salad. Artichokes will be on sale in boxes instead of the traditional bundles. Visitors will also have the chance to buy other local products like cheeses, citrus, and ceramics as well.

Ramacca features several archeological sites that date back to the Paleolithic. They were first excavated in the 1950s when archeologists found an extraordinary large number of flint tools, animal bones and human burials. The main one, which is called La Montagna (the mountain), is located at the top of Mount Ramacca (559 meters) and houses a necropolis of caves and the remains of an ancient Greek town (8<sup>th</sup> Century BC) named *Erjke*. Some of the fragments of pottery and ceramics found in this site are currently on display at the local Archeological Museum.



Picture courtesy of Ramacca Tourist Office

The archeological areas of Ramacca are one of the main attractions of the annual *Sagra del Carciofo* or Artichoke Festival that will run from March 28 through 30. The city is going to celebrate the locally grown and tasty artichoke in a big way with an amazing three-day family event including food tasting, music shows, entertainment, free trips to the local historic sites, and a lot more.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

						21 March	Mardi Gras Day 4 to 5 p.m. BLAST Call 624-3712	22 Catania Market Trip 9 a.m. Liberty Call 624-5187
23 Wine Tasting and Studio Tour ITT Call 624-4396	24 Kindergarten Registration until April 7	25 Boys and Girls of America Torch Club every Tuesday 4 to 5 p.m. 205 Housing	26 Treasure Hunt 4 to 5 p.m. BLAST Call 624-3712	27 Taormina City and Shopping ITT Call 624-4396	28 Women's Heritage Month Luncheon 1 to 3 p.m. NAS II Galley	29 Agrigento Valley of the Temples ITT Call 624-4396		
30 Randazzo Market and Valle Galfina Wine Tasting ITT Call 624-4396	31 Free Tennis Clinic until April 5 5 to 6:30 p.m. NAS II tennis courts Call 624-2710	1 April Veteran Affairs GMT 8 to 10 a.m. NAS I theatre	2 Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing	3 Consumer Awareness Meeting 1:30 p.m. Retention Center training room Call 624-2363	4 Catania Shopping ITT Call 624-4396	5 Mirabella Imbaccari Lace Village ITT Call 624-4396		
6 Ficuzza and Corleone Winery ITT Call 624-4396	7 Intermural Softball Starts Call 624-4483/5243	8 Movie Day at Blast Call 624-3712	9 Piazza Armerina Roman Village and Enna ITT Call 624-4396	10 Chinese Dineout depart 7:30 p.m. Liberty Call 624-5187	11 Castle Tour ITT Call 624-4396	12 Fishing Trip Aci Trezza Bay Area AU Call 634-4271		
13 Gangi Palm Sunday Pcession & Lunch ITT Call 624-4396	14 Cappuccino Classic Tennis Tournament Time TBA NAS II Courts Call 624-4483/5243	15 Travel Club 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Take 5	16 Benvenuti Teens 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ICR Classroom	17 Anger Management 5 to 6 p.m. NAVHOSP2A-111	18 Easter Egg Coloring Contest All day Take 5	19 Sailing Trip The Brucoli Canal AU Call 624-4271		

# Word Find

## Actors

Y P L G D S I R G S R N E D L O H N H A N K S N A  
 E P E F R P S E E F Y E R U S H M O M M L G E B O  
 N K W V E C A E D P Y N G A W R A S Q Z W V R Z N  
 R D I J Y C C C N H O P K I N S J L C P I A M O T  
 A J S D F S A R I N K O H T E H J O F N H T S G R  
 C Z Z O U Q R G X N I K C Q F T P H I A Y T H O A  
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 H J A G F E Q G N F V H L I R A U O I K Y L J H B  
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 V I E T U L M R E O B A A G I T E V G F N L D L U  
 C L O E G K E R M P V Q R R T B T D I Z M U A L E  
 D N D S H O R Y E U S Y R O I N J O B N V A O Z N  
 U Z Q I Y E W C W U H E E B O R P U T A T P N L Y  
 S L T O F A K O J U N Z A O P U N G L T M K N C A  
 L A N C A S T E R N A M K C A H E L H X O O Q D W  
 H C N I F J H F Y B R A N D O S W A H S M C Z U F  
 A F X H P G O R R R O F P Q T S M S B M P X S M I  
 G O Y P Q N B D K C M O I Y R C A R E E G U U W F  
 I L O Q D B W O B Q S P I W E Y N L C E U H J A O  
 G R Y A A N J L D I K Y C R E R H K F L Q D O R R  
 H K O K T K H H W A Y Z W B Z Z U A H E T T E R C  
 O Q Y N P K J G O E F F B M A W R H Q J O B Y Z O  
 S D B P S P A C E Y O R I N E D T E H A S I T J N

ABRAHAM	DOUGLAS	HESTON	MARVIN	SCOFIELD
BENIGNI	DREYFUSS	HOFFMAN	NEWMAN	SCOTT
BOGART	DUVALL	HOLDEN	NICHOLSON	SPACEY
BORGNINE	FERRER	HOPKINS	NIVEN	STEIGER
BRANDO	FINCH	HURT	PACINO	VOIGHT
BRYNNER	FONDA	IRONS	PECK	WAYNE
CAGE	GUINNESS	KINGSLEY	POITIER	
CARNEY	HACKMAN	LANCASTER	ROBERTSON	
COOPER	HANKS	LEMMON	RUSH	
DENIRO	HARRISON	LEWIS	SHELL	

# TRIVIA

What actor was the first to make five consecutive \$100-million-plus films?  
 What European country established health insurance for its workers first?  
 What comic book character appeared in every episode of Seinfeld?  
 What's the best time of day to spray household insects? (ie. The time they are most vulnerable)  
 Which actress was a bricklayer and a mortuary cosmetologist before becoming famous?  
 (Answers on page 6)

# Movie Connection

MWF's Theater Schedule

### Friday, March 21

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

8 p.m.  
 Final Destination 2 (R) \*\*

10 p.m.  
 Cradle 2 the Grave (R)

### Saturday, March 22

11 a.m.  
 Kangaroo Jack (PG)

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

4:30 p.m.  
 Daredevil (PG-13)

7 p.m.  
 Bringing Down the House (PG-13) \*\*

9:30 p.m.  
 Narc (R)

### Sunday, March 23

1 p.m.  
 Pinocchio (G)

3:30 p.m.  
 National Security (PG-13) \*\*

6 p.m.  
 Final Destination 2 (R)

### Monday, March 24

5:30 p.m.  
 Daredevil (PG-13)

8 p.m.  
 Final Destination 2 (R)

### Tuesday, March 25

5:30 p.m.  
 Antwone Fisher (PG-13)

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

### Wednesday, March 26

5:30 p.m.  
 A Guy Thing (PG-13)

8 p.m.  
 Narc (R)

### Thursday, March 27

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

9 p.m.  
 Cradle 2 the Grave (PG-13)

### Friday, March 28

5:30 p.m.  
 National Security (PG-13)

8:30 p.m.  
 Bringing Down the House (PG-13)

10 p.m.  
 Darkness Falls (PG-13)\*\*

# Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

## Kindergarten Registration at Stephen Decatur Elementary

Parents of children, who will be five by October 31, should register at Stephen Decatur Elementary March 24 to April 7. Please drop by the elementary office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to pick up your registration packet. You will need to bring a copy of sponsor's orders along with your child's social security number, birth certificate or passport and shot records in order to register. It is essential for you to register during this time in order for us to properly staff for next school year. If you have any questions, please call us at 624-4406 or 3001. We are looking forward to having your little one with us next school year!

## And your little dog too.



The Wicked Witch of the West strikes fear into the heart of Dorothy by threatening Toto in the Stephen Decatur School production of the Wizard of Oz. The cast and crew for the play put on seven productions over the weekend. Students, faculty and parents worked several months and many long hours building sets and making costumes for the production.

# This week on...

- Sat. Mar 22- Yes, Dear (Season Premiere) AFN Atlantic 2:30 PM
- Mon. Mar 24- 75th Annual Academy Awards AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM
- Tue. Mar 25- Movie: "Erin Brockovich" AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM
- Thu. Mar 27- Sweet 16 Regional Semifinals AFN Atlantic 1:00 AM
- Fri. Mar 28- Profiles From the Front Line AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

CHECK OUT AFN'S NEW INTERACTIVE WEBSITE AT AFNEUROPE.NET/SIGONELLA

AFN LOCAL PRIMETIME NEWS ON THE ATLANTIC CHANNEL AT 6:54 & 10:24 PM

afneurope.net/sigonella

# ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

### Fri. March 21

Come celebrate Mardi Gras with the BLAST kids. Don't forget your mask! Call x3712 for info.

### Sat. March 22

4X4 off road trip with AU to Fiumefreddo, the castle of Calatbiano, old-time train tracks and tunnels, Castiglione di Sicilia castle, and Linguaglossa. Vehicles and drivers provided.

Visit the World War II Museum in Catania with ITT. Also see the market and have lunch in town.

Put your pool skills to the test with an 8-ball tournament at Live Wire at 8 p.m.

### Sun. March 23

Go on a wine tasting and artists' studio tour with ITT. Discover workshops where beautiful Sicilian pottery and traditional iron furniture are made. Relax afterwards at the Murgo winery in Zafferana.

### Mon. March 24

Free volleyball clinic Monday, March 24 through Friday, March 28 at the NAS II gym. Improve your skills and get ready for our indoor league. Call x2710 for information.

Expand your language skills with a Basic Italian Course March 24 through April 8. Two time slots available, 9 to 11 a.m., or 5 to 7 p.m. Call ITT at x4396 for more information.

### Wed. March 26

Four-leaf Clover treasure hunt with BLAST. After the hunt, continue the fun with leaf rubbing activities.

Free performance by songwriter-storyteller Courtney Campbell at 5 p.m. at the Stephen Decatur School multipurpose room. Four to eight-year-old children and their families will enjoy songs like "Mustard pancakes" and "The camel with the runny nose."

### Thurs. March 27

Photo safari meeting from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Golden Anchor.

Travel to Taormina with ITT and discover its spectacular views and lush vegetation

\*\*\* 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

**Bluejacket from page 1**

Guagliano, who used to work at Engine Management Unit, (EMU), found herself working as the division yeoman just two months ago. Her new duties include taking care of and updating division records for more than 75 people, routing correspondence, organizing the paper flow and making purchases. Guagliano also handles paperwork seen by the supply officer or the Admin. Office.

Guagliano, at her first duty station, already stands out in her job due to her drive and incentive. "You tell her to go do something and she goes out and gets it done," stated Patti.

"She takes care of all of her shipmates. She takes care of the whole division..." explained SKC Matthew Brannon.

According to Guagliano, assisting so many people has taught her to be more responsible and organized. "When I do the paperwork for people in the division I make sure that they don't have to worry about the paperwork going through. If they don't have to worry about that they can get the Supply mission accomplished which in turn helps the Fleet," stated Guagliano.

Sitting at her computer with portraits of her sisters taped to the side of her monitor and a double stack of filing trays on the corner of her desk, Guagliano reflected, "It is an honor to be Blue Jacket of the Year, "My chain of command has helped support me and they are the reason why I won... and I am going to keep on working hard."

Recently she conducted a complete inventory of Work Center 650 in AIMD, which contains the largest Maintenance Assistance Module (MAM) inventory of avionics. Many of those pieces of gear are so sensitive they must be handled carefully in an electrostatic controlled environment to avoid damage.

For Guagliano, educational benefits were an important reason for joining the Navy. She is currently working toward a Bachelors Degree at the University of Maryland during her off duty time, with the goal of becoming an English teacher in the future.

**School from page 1**

"JAG Newsletter" via MPS. This questionnaire represents the opportunity for parents to make their views known on the subject of school hours. All parents with children in the secondary school are asked to take a few minutes to read the questionnaire, mark a single vote and return their ballot to the Student Affairs Office promptly. Polling will end in early April, so please don't "put this off" only to be forgotten during Spring Break.

Both the elementary and secondary schools are expected to use the same school hours due to transportation constraints, so the elementary SAC will consider and provide recommendations on any proposals made by the secondary school's SAC regarding changes to school hours.

Are you interested in helping to provide advice to your school's administration on topics that directly impact your child's educational experience? The School Advisory Committees of both schools will be conducting elections this Spring to select parent and teacher members of next year's SAC. The secondary school is now forming an election planning committee. If you'd be willing to help screen candidates, or if you are interested in serving as a voting member of the School Advisory Committee, please contact Mike Fitzpatrick (624-6676 or fitzpatrickm@hc4.sicily.navy.mil) for more information.

**Enel from page 1**

to remind the members that the ENEL bills are still estimated and issued every two months. Members are still strongly encouraged to consult the Housing Office utilities section with their actual meter readings to ensure accuracy as well as keeping their bills up to date."

In order to participate in the program members will need to be administratively processed at the Housing Welcome Center and Monte dei Paschi bank on NASI. Members will be required to set up a checking account with Monte dei Paschi because it is an automatic debit program. Although there is no minimum amount necessary to set up the account, the Housing Welcome Center is recommending that personnel deposit \$200 and then make monthly incremental deposits of \$100. Outstanding balances will not be paid unless there are sufficient funds in the account to cover each two-month billing.

The Housing Welcome Center will be open for scheduling appointments starting April 15, for those interested in transitioning into the tax-free program. You may call in advance to schedule a time at 624-4311 ext. 118/114/112/105. Each member will be required to complete the following steps with the appropriate documentation to begin realizing savings.

First make an appointment at the Housing Welcome Center to provide the following:

- A copy of the member I.D. front/back
- Physical mailing address (Italian) of residence & PSC address
- Copy of member's Codice Fiscale
- Current electricity meter reading

Second create a checking account with Monte Dei Paschi di Siena and provide the following:

- A copy of the member I.D. front/back
- PSC mailing address
- Copy of member's Codice Fiscale
- Telephone number
- Money to create a balance in the account (no minimum necessary, housing is advising \$200)

Check out  
[www.sicily.navy.mil](http://www.sicily.navy.mil)  
for  
information  
on  
U.S. Naval Air Station,  
Sigonella