

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily



Spring break
April 7 -11

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April 4, 2003

Month of the Military Child Proclamation

By Capt. T. L. Davison
NASSIG Commanding Officer

Whereas, the welfare and development of every child is the responsibility of every adult with whom he or she comes in contact; and

Whereas, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, nurtured, and to feel secure; and

Whereas, the children of Sigonella play a vital role in their families and our community; and

Whereas, parents are the most influential individuals in a child's life; and

Whereas, organizations within the Sigonella community that work with the children are dedicated to the goal of strengthening, supporting and enriching families; and

Now, Therefore, I, Captain Timothy L. Davison, Commanding Officer, NAS Sigonella, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as: Month of the Military Child in Sigonella, and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to affirm the spirit and youthfulness of our children as we participate from this day forward.

Celebrating military children

By Tonya Sonnier
FFSC

The Department of Defense has designated April as "Month of the Military Child" since 1983 and many installations schedule special events and programs for military families throughout the month. This year's theme of "Celebrating our Future Heroes" presents an opportunity to highlight the responsibilities of the entire community to focus creative efforts on our children of tomorrow.

"Month of the Military Child" is a time set aside to encourage each service to develop promotional materials and plan events that emphasize the importance of providing children quality services covering all facets of their lives. In celebrating our children, the Fleet and Family Support Center, MWR Youth Center, Security, Child Development Center, and many other groups will co-sponsor events for the military child.

To kick off this special event, the Commanding Officer of Sigonella signed a proclamation to officially proclaim April as the "Month of the Military child." The Fleet and Family Support Center will be offering Children, page 11

VP-8 Fighting Tigers 'Ready to answer all bells'

By Lt. Cmdr. Mike Parker
VP-8 Command Services Officer

It was 6:45 a.m. local time on March 17 in Sigonella, Sicily. It was less than five hours after the expiration President Bush's 48-hour ultimatum given to Saddam Hussein. Cmdr. Jeff McKenzie, Commanding Officer of the VP-8 "Fighting Tigers", homeported in Brunswick, Maine, had scheduled an all-hands quarters for the squadron. He had arranged for several individual awards to be given out to deserving "Tigers" during quarters. But he had also planned to offer words of motivation and encouragement for what he thought to be his last opportunity prior to impending conflict with Iraq. His words were clear, succinct, and well received by the "Fighting Tigers" who stood before him that morning. "VP-8 stands ready to answer all bells."

The "Fighting Tigers" of VP-8 have been deployed to the Mediterranean theater since early February. Like many of our men VP-8, page 11

Hometown Weather

Lincoln, DE



High 71° F - Low 44° F

Isolated Thunderstorms

NASSIG Sailor of the

Year. Do Your Job

NO1 (SW) Eawn M. Brickman, the NAS Sigonella Sailor of the Year, busy her office in the Retention Center on NAS II seems deserted. Neither counselors, with the exception of Brickman, or customers are present. But the lack of people milling in the office is misleading. The other counselors are preparing for the upcoming First Termers' Workshop at the base theater on NAS I and, while there are no Sailors with urgent questions present, the telephone never stops ringing.

By JO1 Craig Coleman
Staff Writer

Brickman paused to talk about her career and what she believes it takes to be successful in today's Navy. "I have a simple motto: Do Your Job," Brickman said, with a smile SOY, page 11

A day in Palermo

Palermo: The sights of the port city.

Story and photos by JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer



Some people's knowledge of Sicily can be limited to the sweet old lady from the television show "The Golden Girls." You might know her as Sophia Spirelli Petrillo-Weinstock, the feisty old lady who told tall stories of living in Sicily. I know that was the extent of my knowledge on Sicilian culture. With the great Sophia aside, getting to know Sicily is relatively easy, you just have to get out there and experience it. ITT recently held a trip to Palermo for those wanting to experience some of the capital cities' architecture and culture.

Palermo, page 10



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterward. More than that no man is entitled to; and less than that no man shall have. —Theodore Roosevelt, in his

speech on July 4, 1903

Secretary of State Colin Powell recently told a MTV audience, "I would say that we are the Great Protector. We have sent men and women from the armed forces of the United States to other parts of the world throughout the past century to put down oppression. We defeated Fascism. We defeated Communism. We saved Europe in World War I and World War II. We were willing to do it, glad to do it. We went to Korea. We went to Vietnam. All in the interest of preserving the rights of people."

He added, "and when all those conflicts were over, what did we do? Did we stay and conquer? Did we say? "Okay, we defeated Germany. Now Germany belongs to us? We defeated Japan, so Japan belongs to us"? No. What did we do? We built them up. We gave them democratic systems, which they have embraced totally to their soul. And did we ask for any land? No, the only land we ever asked for was enough land to bury our dead."

Presently there are 124,917 U.S. War Dead interred at U.S. cemeteries overseas, 30,922 of World War I, 93,245 of World War II and 750 of the Mexican War. Additionally, 6,010 American veterans and others are interred in the Mexico City and Corozal American Cemeteries.

These Sailors, Marines, airmen, and soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our nation while helping defend the rights of oppressed people everywhere and anywhere in the world. That's what we do. We volunteer to serve this great nation and yes, at times, we are called to defend it.

Here is the oath that we all took at one point in our Naval careers... I, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

Our families and friends, both here and in the States, support us in what we do. That support keeps us strong and resilient in our cause. After you read this Direct Line, take a minute and think about our comrades who are risking their lives for the sake of others.

The Pulse

Managing our reactions to media events

Lt. Cmdr. Brice Goodwin
Head of Mental Health Department

Never before in the history of warfare have we had such exposure and access to battlefield events as they unfold before our eyes and ears. These technological advances have provided a proverbial window upon which the viewer and listener can receive up-to-the-minute coverage of movements on the battlefield. However, these advances also carry some disturbing consequences. As many of us have witnessed over recent days, armed conflicts carry the risks of capture and destruction. The media has provided extensive coverage of these events, often replaying the same footage repeatedly throughout their broadcasts. And while this access to real-time events provides us with the latest information, the images repeatedly displayed on our television screens or played on the radio can become emotionally overwhelming. Being overseas adds another dimension in that local television stations have aired much of this footage uncensored to viewers, with many images containing disturbingly graphic images of casualties, wounded personnel, and local populations in the act of violence against others.

While we may absorb this information with little outward awareness of the potential for negative effects on our thoughts, feelings, and actions, it is important to keep some simple tips and strategies in mind to help in managing our reactions to these events.

Often, when witnessing someone in distress or in a situation that has the potential for danger with no escape, our physiological system reacts in much the same way in order to "protect" us from the perceived danger. Thus, a person may respond by removing themselves or "defending" themselves from a situation that causes physiological arousal or a perceived sense of helplessness. This may take the form of isolating themselves from others or by acting out aggressively towards others with little provocation. It is important to increase our internal awareness and how we are responding to these events and to take the necessary steps to reduce these feelings.

One of the most effective ways to reduce the likelihood of these feelings is to limit the amount of exposure to television and radio. While keeping apprised of current events is critically important to maintaining knowledge and understanding of the diverse opinions and positions underlying all issues, spending too many hours absorbing the news and related images can cause negative symptoms that include decreased attention and concentration, as well as patience. With repeated visual exposure, some people report increases in these images intruding on their thoughts throughout the day, which can lead to increased irritation. Limiting your time viewing these events, as well as your children, can serve to reduce the emotional effects associated with prolonged exposure.

Another effective method is to increase your consideration towards others, which serves to show your sense of solidarity. Let someone go before you when entering the base; engage one of the many new faces on base in a brief conversation; wish someone a good day. Each gesture is simple but pays back huge dividends in decreasing stress.

A third technique is emotional; view the current situation as a marathon rather than a sprint. We may be in this for an extended period. As a result we need to ensure that we take care of ourselves so that we can be there for others who may require our assistance—be it family, friends, or fellow members in the field. This means making sure you get enough rest when time is available; eating healthy—making sure to have at least one HOT meal daily that is nutritious; maintaining a physical exercise program; and moderating the amount of alcohol consumed. Alcohol has the potential to reduce inhibitions and impair judgment. Combined with increased stress and tension, this can have negative consequences. And most importantly, show our support for those on the front lines. One of the best ways to communicate support and camaraderie is through our actions. Get to work on time; devote your attention and put your best efforts towards your duties.

Accuracy of Customs Form Essential to Mail Packages

By JO1 Cindy Gill
Naval Forces Europe
Public Affairs

LONDON (NNS) — Items contained in packages that enter the U.S. Postal System (USPS) must be accurately and honestly accounted for on the customs label.

According to Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) Fleet Postal Officer, Mark DeDomenic, USPS encountered major problems with non-mailable matter during Operation Desert Storm. He added that some of the prohibited items undeclared and discovered during Desert Storm included alcohol, switchblade knives and meat products to name a few.

"Mailing prohibited items resulted in some major Federal Aviation Administration restrictions for transporting mail," said DeDomenic.

DeDomenic said when customs officials at U.S. gateways like Chicago or New York suspect a package has undeclared or non-mailable items, they will open it. Customers mailing banned material or falsifying customs declarations may be subject to fines.

When items are sent through the postal system, they are subject to any and all types of inspections.

The Customs Service can open any package without notification

Dear Editor,

My job at Public Works is to maintain the minor horizontal construction projects on both NAS I, II. I see a lot of mishaps, damage roads, damage parking lots, and lots of people come and go. My concern on this base is the lack of military bearing around here, I see it everywhere all ratings and commands. In the past couple of months, I notice a certain department that has personnel working all over, whether its in the NEX, Commissary, food court and even at the front gates their military bearing is unsatisfactory (hands in pocket, sun glasses on top the head, covers on in buildings without their battle rattle on.) I have confronted some personnel and they would give me a who the hell are you look, and then remove the sunglasses off the head. I've been here for almost three years and I see personnel from different commands think they could do whatever they want on this base.

Please educate your personnel by reading the Uniform instructions for NAS SIGONELLA 1020.2J. This letter may sound like I'm gung ho, or old school, talking. I know enough to keep my military bearing in check and my platoon's military bearing in check.

Always wear your uniform with pride and with dignity, if your hands are cold, wear gloves, if you have no place to put your sunglasses, then don't wear them at all. You don't have to be the uniform police to say something to your fellow Sailor or Seabee, if you do work for the uniform police you must be busy 24/7 here on this base".

Thank you,

EO1 (SCW) Gary J Reyna
Public Works Department

to the customer. Should a package be found to have a false declaration, the sender could be liable for prosecution if harmful or illegal items were found.

"The consequence of suspicious parcels is that more are likely to be opened, thereby slowing down the mail," said DeDomenic

To get a full list of prohibited items, a quick call or visit to local post offices can save a lot of time and worry.

"Taking the time to properly fill out an accurate customs form can make all the difference to both the customer and the post office," said DeDomenic.



Crewmembers sort through mail staged in the hanger bay aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Lincoln and Carrier Air Wing Fourteen (CVW-14) are deployed conducting combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Do you have "hurry warts"?

By Chaplain
Tim Moore
Command Chaplain

This condition is sweeping our community in epic proportions. Many people are showing symptoms but are tragically in too much of a hurry to notice. If you think you may have contracted this deadly disease — I have good news — there's no waiting at the clinic, no appointment required; simply answer the following ten questions that help to identify this disorder:

1. Does your walk from your vehicle to your workspace resemble PT?
2. Do you wish the security guards at the gate waived checkered flags?
3. Do you talk so fast that people think you are speaking another language?
4. Do you affectionately refer to the Commissary as the "Commissary 500"?
5. Do you make engine noises with your mouth while pushing the shopping carts?
6. Do you time the waitress on how fast she gets your order to your table?
7. Do you feel that mealtime prayers should end with "on you mark, get set, go" - instead of "Amen"?
8. Do you wish your car had numbers on the doors?

9. Do your children ask you to at least slow down when you are "dropping them off" at school?

10. Are you taking this test again to improve your time? So how did you do? If you answered 'yes' to all 10; you are infected with hurry warts. If you answered 'yes' any of them you may want to take a look at your life and evaluate your risk of contracting this deadly disease.

Often we get in too much of a hurry in our lives. We hurry to work, we hurry home from work, we hurry to help the kids with their homework, we hurry to get the shopping done, we hurry get the kids in bed, etc. Then we find ourselves the next day doing it all again in record speed. We live our lives in a blur and never stop to really enjoy life. It is vitally important that you and I take time out for ourselves on occasion. Right now our operational commitments keep us on our toes trying to accomplish the mission at hand. Taking time out is probably the last thing on your mind and may be very difficult, but just as necessary as keeping up with your physical health.

We need to not forget about ourselves and take time out for us. When was the last time you spent quality time with your family or those closest to you? It's often very easy to keep focused on the things in front of us and loose sight of those things that are really important. If you are suffering from those ugly "hurry warts" take time to get rid of them. Take a little time for yourself, relax and enjoy the relationships with those around you with whom God has so richly blessed you.

Penance Rite: Immaculate Conception Catholic Chapel will have its Lenten Parish Penance Rite (Confessions) on Monday, April 7, at 5 p.m. in the NAS I Chapel.

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 41st Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
- Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional 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 24 - March 30

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 19
- Traffic accident with injuries - 2
- Car break-ins - 2
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 17
- DUI's 2002 - 35

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NAVY NEWS

F-14 Tomcat's Glory Days Numbered

By JOSN David Beyea
USS Kitty Hawk Public Affairs

ABOARD USS KITTY HAWK, At Sea (NNS) — As supersonic engines roar to life and iron wings spread to their full extension, a great predator of the sky nears extinction.

As it soars 50,000 feet above, nearing a speed of Mach 2, the F-14 Tomcat approaches its retirement from active duty with style, grace and ferocity.

Originally designed in the early '70s to attack and destroy enemy aircraft, the Tomcat has reached the end of its service life, explained Cmdr. Doug Waters, executive officer of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5's Fighter Squadron (VF) 154, embarked on USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), one of 10 F-14 squadrons in the Navy.

"The F-14's been around for a long time. It's been a great fighter and a strike fighter. It's just getting old," said Waters.

Although the Tomcat has been upgraded and modified since its debut to the world, the 30-year-old design requires too much maintenance, explained Waters. Because of older hydraulic and electrical systems, the F-14 is more difficult to maintain than newer aircraft.

"Our squadron flies F-14As, which is the original model Tomcat," said Waters. "It's a testimony to how good our maintainers are, that they're able to keep those jets full-mission capable and lethal as they are."

According to Waters, in the '90s, naval leadership made the decision to phase out the Tomcat and replace it with the F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet. The F/A-18 E model of the Super Hornet is a single-seat aircraft, while the F/A-18 F's two-person crew resembles the F-14's crew more closely, with a pilot and a radar intercept officer.

"What you get with the Super Hornet is a brand new airplane, with upgraded avionics, with modern ergonomics, plus the fuel capacity and range and endurance you have in a Tomcat. All that, with a digital architecture," said Waters.

The schedule for replacing the Tomcat with the Super Hornet is created by the Transition Squadron Process Action Team (TSPAT). TSPAT looks at the schedules of carriers, squadrons, schools, and any other organization that will be affected by the transition, in order to come up with the best schedule to phase out the Tomcat, Waters said.

"Generally, an air wing will come off of a deployment, and the squadrons will have to transition then," explained Waters. "The Tomcat will eventually be retired completely by 2007. Our transition will probably



occur this fall."

During their scheduled transition time CVW-5's Tomcat pilots will join Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) VFA-122. FRS are post-training commands, where pilots learn to fly specific aircraft. Pilots already trained to fly the Super Hornet will also be brought into the existing squadrons, to provide their valuable experience, explained Waters. Tomcat maintenance crews will spend their transition time in maintenance training school, learning about the Super Hornet.

The 10 squadrons that fly Tomcats will remain squadrons, however, they will be adding an "A" to their squadron identification. The Black Knights of VF-154 will become VFA-154, explained Waters. "The Tomcat squadrons that transition will maintain their lineage, their heritage and their name," he said.

As for the fate of the Tomcats, that decision will be made by Commander Fighter Wing Atlantic. After a squadron's transition period, the Tomcats will be evaluated. Based on that evaluation, they will either be sent back to the fleet until the full phasing out period is completed, or the Tomcats will be preserved in a desert environment. By preserving the Tomcats, the Navy will be able to pull them out of retirement should the need ever be required, explained Waters.

"I have mixed emotions. I've flown the Tomcat my entire career. I have over 2,500 hours in it," said Waters. "It's a great airplane. I love flying it. You get an emotional attachment to aircraft that you fly, especially that much. But I realize the future of naval aviation lies in the Super Hornet. It's time for the Tomcat to move on."

America's oldest active warship, Kitty Hawk with embarked CVW-5 currently operates with coalition forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the multinational coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

X-31 Completes ESTOL Up-and-Away

By James Darcy
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NNS) — The Vectoring Extremely Short Takeoff and Landing Control Tailless Operation Research (VECTOR) X-31 flight test program completed the final flight of its lengthy "up-and-away" test phase March 22, clearing the way for the final phase of flight test to begin in early April. By the end of April, the team hopes to have flown the world's first thrust-vectoring, automated landings on the runway.

The X-31 uses thrust vectoring — controlling the direction of its engine exhaust with paddle-like vanes — to maintain control at high angles of attack and reduced speeds, even well below the typical landing speed for an aircraft of its type.

The Navy is using the X-31 to explore applications of thrust vectoring technology for extremely short takeoff and landing (ESTOL), with a particular eye toward the carrier landing environment. Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) has partnered on the VECTOR program with Germany's Federal Office of Defense Technology and Procurement, European Aeronautic Defence and Space (EADS) Company and Boeing Aerospace.

In May, the test team began flying the "ESTOL up-and-



The X-31 Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability (EFM) aircraft returns from a test flight for the VECTOR program.

away" test phase, which centered around flying ESTOL approaches to a "virtual runway" at 5,000 feet, successfully validating the technique. During the 51 flights for "up-and-away" testing, X-31 test pilots flew ESTOL approaches at altitude to a maximum of 28 degrees angle of attack, said Doug Wilkin, lead flight test engineer for VECTOR.

The X-31 is also being used as a test bed for EADS' Flush Air Data System (FADS), a nose-mounted sensor that measures local pressures used to calculate airspeed, angle of attack, sideslip and altitude information, Wilkin said. The FADS has been hailed as a more accurate, more stealthy alternative to the pitot static probes and ports commonly used on aircraft today, he added.

German Naval Reserve Cmdr. Rüdiger Knöpfel closed out ESTOL up-and-away March 22 with two supersonic flights focused on assessing FADS performance. He reached speeds of Mach 1.06 and 1.18, in full afterburner at 39,000 feet, he said. While supersonic, he induced combinations of angle of attack and side slip to tax the FADS. By that night, Wilkin added, engineers had processed the data and were able to confirm that the FADS was performing as desired throughout the flight regime.

Another highlight of the up-and-away flight test phase was flying the X-31 at 70 degrees angle of attack to gather FADS performance data, Wilkin said. At 70 degrees angle of attack, the X-31 can fly parallel to the horizon while its nose is pointed almost straight up at the sky.

The X-31 is now being prepared for the final "ESTOL-to-ground" test phase, in which Knöpfel and his American counterpart, Marine Corps Maj. Cody Allee, will guide the aircraft through its complex ESTOL landing maneuver at increasing angles of attack and associated reductions in speed.

Recap CORNER

New MVRO, FP division office

Have you ever felt a little cramped at MVRO while waiting for your turn or while you were registering your car? Good news! Relief is in sight.

The Motor Vehicle Registration Office (MVRO) and the Force Protection Division of the Security Department will soon be moving into a new building. The building will have two stories with the MVRO offices on the ground floor and the Security Force Protection Division on the second. The new MVRO customer service area will have three client assistance desks, a waiting area, and several cubicles for customer service representatives where vehicle registration and title transfers are performed. The second floor will have both office spaces and a large training classroom for Security. The building is located on the west side of NAS II adjacent to building 452 (Med Mall). Parking will be the same road which leads past the current MVRO building until this summer when a new parking area will be opened.

After the opening of the new building their current building will be torn down to make way for a new covered storage area for the Supply Department. Exact dates for the move will be publicized via email.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: You will not be able to park in the loop road that surrounds the park-playground because that area is reserved for school busses, the contractor, and other official vehicles only. Utilities work will continue on Halsey Road in front of the Stephen Decatur School through the end of June. Please be careful in the area of the school, stay on the sidewalk, and do not try to pick up or drop off your children during the Bus Periods. (7:15 to 8 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m.)

If you have any questions about the SIG 2.3 construction, contact Lt. Darren Hale at haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil



A message from DoD's top health official on SARS

From Department of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The following is a special message from Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS.

"You have probably read or heard of the outbreaks of a respiratory disease rapidly spreading in the Asian continent.

"The Department of Defense (DoD), through the Military Health System, is actively involved in monitoring this outbreak, along with supporting both international and U.S. health authorities as needed. I want to provide you with some important facts as we know them today:

- What is this outbreak? "The outbreak, known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), is a severe form of pneumonia that appears to have originated in China. Thus far, these outbreaks have spread primarily to close family contacts of the suspect cases and healthcare workers involved in care of the pneumonia cases. It appears that direct, close contact with infected persons is necessary for transmission.

- Where has the outbreak occurred? "In mid-February, the People's Republic of China reported more than 300 cases of atypical pneumonia, with five deaths in Guangdong Province. Since then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports of outbreaks in a number of other countries, including Hong Kong, (a special administrative region of China), Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore (not confirmed), Thailand and Canada.

"There have not been any confirmed cases in the United States at this time. However, there are at least 14 people who meet some of the World Health Organization's (WHO) criteria for a diagnosis. These individuals are in active investigation by state and local health agencies. The CDC will make notification for any persons found to have SARS.

"Because cases have reached North America, with eight cases and two deaths confirmed in Canada, the CDC has issued an alert for physicians and travelers in the United States to be cognizant of flu-like symptoms, consider recent travel and contacts, seek medical attention if ill and report possible cases.

"This alert offers information to the health community and the traveling population making decisions regarding patient care and personal travel plans. These alerts and more detailed information are available on the CDC Web site, www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars.

- Is this a virus or bacteria? "The cause of this outbreak is unconfirmed. WHO and CDC are still in the early stages of their investigation. The pattern of transmission is what would typically be seen from a contagious respiratory illness or a flu-like illness. There is no evidence to suggest that this is a purposeful act of bioterrorism; at this stage, however, investigators are not ruling out any possibility.

- How can I reduce my risks of acquiring the disease? "As always, good hygiene involving frequent hand-washing, covering one's mouth while sneezing or coughing, and avoiding aerosol droplets from others who are experiencing flu-like symptoms all help to prevent disease transmission.

- What organizations are in charge? "The WHO, based in Geneva, Switzerland, has taken a leading international role in investigating and confirming the outbreaks. CDC is the lead U.S. agency, providing significant assistance to the WHO. CDC is also thoroughly investigating the outbreak and taking aggressive steps to reach those who have traveled to the affected areas.

News Briefs

Job Opening

Looking for a job? Then have a look at DeCA — a military and DoD family member friendly employer. Permanent, temporary and a variety of work schedules available. Applications are currently being accepted at your local commissary for:

- Sales Store Checker, GS-03, \$8.94 per hour.

- Store Worker, WG-04, \$12.41 per hour

Working for DeCA can be more than just a job, it can be a career.

Contact your local commissary admin office for further details on joining our team.

Volunteer Orientation

New Red Cross volunteers are required to attend the orientation on April 8 and 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The orientation is to get volunteers familiar with the organization, volunteer opportunities and procedures. Call 624-5446/5921.

Gift Certificates Available

Give the gift of life with an American Red Cross 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 First Aid Kits/books, CPR/First Aid courses, Childbirth preparation and more.

Volunteers Needed

Red Cross is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

- Station Chair/Volunteer Coordinator
- Case worker
- Health and Safety Services Program Instructor. Call 624-5446/5921.

Registered Nurse Needed

The U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella is soliciting for one full-time personalized service contract for an ambulatory care registered nurse. Closing date is April 18.

Sources must be eligible for U.S. employment and U.S. board certified.

Solicitation packages are available at the Supply Department purchasing office, NAS II. Call Mrs. Slaladino at 624-5723 or Mrs. Randazzo at 624-3792.

THE ENERGY BLOCK

Since Sept. 11, we have as a whole put energy conservation toward the backlist of our priorities. Around base many exterior lights remain on 24/7. At this rate one 250w light will cost \$160 a year vs. \$71 at 11 hours a day. Multiply that by 60, between 2 bases and you have over \$5 thousand a year. Take that number and add it to every monitor that we leave on at the end of the day and we are well over \$10,000.

1. Turn off all equip. when not in use (computer screens)
2. Turn off all lights when not in use.
3. Turn off all computers, printers, and copying machines at the end of day when possible

These simple things can generate thousands of dollars back into the base. Let's do our part.

***DID YOU KNOW...** Fluorescent lights convert electricity to visible light up to 5 times more efficiently than incandescent lights and last up to 20 times longer?

***DID YOU KNOW...** Every year in the U.S. we throw away 1.741 billion incandescent bulbs — enough to fill 2 large stadiums

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Catania law enforcement forces add more police patrols downtown

As reported in *La Sicilia*, the new street crime crackdown project launched last January by the Italian government has been recently implemented in Catania. Last week, *Carabinieri* and *Polizia di Stato* (Police) formed a new downtown patrol task force to put more police patrols on the street. This project wants to create a stronger sense of safety for downtown shoppers, workers, tourists and residents. Joint *Carabinieri* and *Polizia di Stato* patrol shifts will be strategically overlapped to create a stronger police presence, in the areas including Corso Italia, piazza Europa, piazza Giovanni Verga, piazza Iolanda, via Umberto and piazza Vittorio Emanuele. Basically, the patrols will start at 8 a.m. and run until 2 p.m. In the afternoon they'll be around from 2 to 8 p.m. However, these shifts might be extended in the future if necessary to ensure an efficient use of police resources in the Catania community. These new *Poliziotti di quartiere* or neighborhood policemen wear a different uniform to differentiate themselves from the general police. *Polizia di Stato* officers can be easily identified by their Kepi hats and *Carabinieri* foot patrols by a red-white stripe on their wind jackets. Both carry firearms and handheld palmtop computers.

Antique fair to be held in Giardini Naxos

Nasso Antica, a well-established Antique fair with local dealers selling a wide selection of antiques & collectables will be set up from Apr. 4 through 6 in Giardini Naxos. The fair will be held at the Ramada Hotel that is located in via Jannuzzo n. 47 in a historically and picturesque area of Giardini Naxos, the first Greek colony in Sicily. Open from 3 to 9 p.m. (Apr. 4) and from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Apr. 5-6). Admission is free. For more info call 0942-50050.

Concerts in Sicily

So Far, a three-day festival featuring electronic music will kick off on Apr. 4 at the ZO concert hall (located in piazzale Asia n. 6, next to the *Ciminiere* Convention center and near the Train Station) with the concert of *Retina.it* an Italian band from Naples that is produced by the Hefty Records. Located in Chicago and a performance of *Carlo Natoli*, a Sicilian artist and composer.

On Apr. 5, *Marco Passarani*, a young but skilled dj/electronic composer will perform with *Jolly Music*.

The festival will end on Apr. 6 with the spectacular concert of *Blixa Bargeld*. He is a versatile artist, endowed with many unique qualities as composer, author, actor, singer, musician, performer and lecturer in almost any field of interpretative art.

Bargeld was born in Berlin in 1959. In 1980, he was the lead vocalist of the German band *Einstürzende Neubauten*. Since 1984, he's been the guitarist of *Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds*. During his career he performed concert-tours throughout Europe, North- and South America, Australia and Japan. All concerts will begin around 9:30 p.m. For more information and tickets call ZO concert hall at 095-533871.

Jesse van Ruller, a brilliant Dutch Jazz guitarist will perform in Messina (Apr. 4 at 9:30 p.m. at the Auditorium Gazzetta del Sud located in via Umberto Bonino) and Siracusa (Apr. 5 at 9:30 p.m. at the Auditorium San Pietro located in via san Pietro in Ortigia, the historic center of Siracusa).

A faculty member of the Conservatory of Amsterdam, Van Ruller was the first European musician to win the prestigious *Thelonious Monk Competition* in Washington in 1995. He graduated summa cum laude from the Hilversum Conservatory, where he studied with Wim Overgaauw, in 1995. Since then he has performed with numerous renowned musicians and ensembles amongst which are Christian McBride, Ralph Moore, George Duke, Mike Stern, Kenny Washington, Tom Harrell, Philip Catherine, Toots Thielemans, John Clayton, the Roy Hargrove Quintet, the Metropole Orchestra, the Asko Ensemble and the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The third album, entitled "CATCH!" also featuring trumpeter Roy Hargrove was released in Japan in December 2000 and in Europe early



Photo by Gianni D'Agata

During a recent press conference, Catania *Carabinieri* presented a new joint task force of *poliziotti di quartiere* or neighborhood policemen. These high-qualified policemen, also including *Polizia di Stato* personnel, underwent intensive training in communication skills and foreign languages. They will be responsible for responding to criminal violations, being involved in crime prevention, filling gaps in the delivery of human and health care services and answering other calls for assistance. Foot patrols, which will operate in some areas downtown Catania, wear a different uniform to differentiate themselves from the general police. *Polizia* officers can be easily identified by their Kepi hats and *Carabinieri* foot patrols by a red-white stripe on their wind jackets. Both carry firearms and handheld palmtop computers.

2001. The album was nominated for the *Edison Music Award* (Dutch Grammy) 2000 in the category "Best Dutch Artist of the Year." Van Ruller was also nominated for the *Edison Jazz Award* and the *Bird Award 2001*. For more information and tickets call Ticket box office (located Via Giacomo Leopardi, Catania) at 095-

7225340.

On Apr. 5 at 9 p.m., piano player Raffaella Lisi will play Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, and Martucci music at the *Museo Diocesano* (Cathedral Museum) located in Piazza Duomo. The cost of a ticket is Euro 8. For more information call 095-281635.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
COMMUNITY CALENDAR						4 APRIL	5 CPOA Car Wash and Barbecue 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. retention center parking lot	5 Mirabella Imbaccari Lace Village ITT Call 624-4396
6 Ficuzza and Corleone Winery ITT Call 624-4396	7 Spring break begins ends on April 11	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 Month of the Military Child Barbecue noon to 4 p.m. BLAST	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.	17 Parents pick up report cards & schedule parent teacher conferences	18 Story Hour for Tots 10 a.m. Library	19 Sailing Trip The Brucoli Canal AU Call 624-4271		
20 Happy Easter	21	22 National Jelly Bean Day free jelly beans all day Take 5	23 Science Club 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. 205 Teen Center	24 Patti Shopping ITT Call 624-4396	25 Hypnotist Chuck Mulligan 9 p.m. LIVE WIRE	26 PJ's & Pancakes 10 a.m. to noon for kids under five BLAST		
27	28 Movie, Volleyball, & barbecue 7:30 p.m. NAS I Pavilion	29 Italian Dine-out depart 7:30 p.m. Liberty Call 624-4331	30 National Oatmeal Cookie Day free cookies while supplies last Take 5	1 MAY Cruise the Aeolian Islands ITT Call 624-4396	2 Wine Tasting & Chinese Restaurant ITT Call 624-4396	3 Lentini Shopping depart 8 a.m. ITT Call 624-4396		

Word Find

American Inventors

G B T L B B P W A D O W G R U B S N I G F J A A O
 Q O E R S B F K R L E S I N G E R H N Q I U X I A
 L F O A A Q R I G S H T R O W S N R A F M L G K N
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| ACHESON | BURTON | DEERE | GOODYEAR | OTIS | WESTINGHOUSE |
| BABCOCK | CARVER | DEFOREST | GREENWOOD | PULLMAN | WHITNEY |
| BEACH | COLT | EASTMAN | HALL | RILLIEUX | WRIGHT |
| BECKMAN | CONOVER | EDISON | JARVIK | SALK | |
| BELL | COOLIDGE | EGELBART | JULIAN | SEIWALD | |
| BENNETT | COTTRELL | FARNSWORTH | LEARNER | SEMON | |
| BIRD | DAVEN- | FLETCHER | MAXIM | SINGER | |
| BRADHAM | PORT | FORRESTER | MAZOR | SPENDER | |
| BROWNING | DEAN | GINSBURG | MORSE | STANLEY | |

Palma di Montechiaro

La Modonna del Castello Festival
 Why did the creators of 7 Up give that name?
 How many different muscles does it take to produce human speech?
 Who invented scissors?
 How many known species of ladybugs are there in the world?
 At what age does the human brain stop growing?
 (Answers on page 9)

TRIVIA

Why did the creators of 7 Up give that name?
 How many different muscles does it take to produce human speech?
 Who invented scissors?
 How many known species of ladybugs are there in the world?
 At what age does the human brain stop growing?
 (Answers on page 9)

Movie Connection

MWF's Theater Schedule

Friday, April 4

5:30 p.m.
About Schmidt (R)

8 p.m.
*Biker Boyz (PG-13) ***

10 p.m.
*Final Destination 2 (R)***

Saturday, April 5

2 p.m.
National Security (PG-13)

4:30 p.m.
Darkness Falls (PG-13)

7 p.m.
*Dream Catcher (R) ***

9:30 p.m.
Cradle 2 The Grave (R)

Sunday, April 6

1 p.m.
Biker Boyz (PG-13)

3:30 p.m.
The Recruit (PG-13)

6 p.m.
Bringing Down the House (PG-13)

Monday, April 7

5:30 p.m.
Cradle 2 the Grave (R)

8 p.m.
Final Destination 2 (R)

Tuesday, April 8

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

8 p.m.
Darkness Falls (PG-13)

Wednesday, April 9

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

8 p.m.
About Schmidt (R)

Thursday, April 10

5:30 p.m.
Narc (R)

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

Friday, April 11

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

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

8 p.m.
Dream Catcher (R)

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

Report cards and Parent teacher conferences

April 17th Parents are invited to stop by the school and pick up their son/daughter's report cards and schedule conferences with teachers as desired on April 18th.

There will be no school for middle/high school students on the 18th, so that parents can confer with teachers, preferably on a scheduled basis, but also on a walk-in basis (if they were previously unable to set up a time.) Teachers will schedule conferences with parents whose sons/daughters are having academic or behavioral problems. Parents may request conferences if they have issues they would like to discuss. The intended outcome in all cases is to identify ways by which the student's performance can be improved.

Fri. April 4

Go to Catania by night with ITT and eat at an Indian restaurant. Sample some international food at this hidden jewel. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Sat. April 5

Signonella Track and Field Meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-register at the fitness center.

Visit Mirabella Imbaccari, the Village of Lace with ITT. Tour the south-central region of Italy where lace (tombolo) is still made by hand. Afterwards, relax at an agrituristic farm. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Sun. April 6

Travel with ITT to Ficuzza and the winery of Principe di Corleone. The small village of Ficuzza is home to the Royal Hunting Palace of Ferdinand III of Bourbon, once the ruler of Sicily. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Mon. April 7

Intramural Softball season begins.

Spring Break at the Mineo Rec. Center. The Mineo Community Center will be open today through April 11, from 12 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend hours are as scheduled.

Tues. April 8

Thirty and Over "Lunch Pail" Basketball league begins.

Weds. April 9

It's game night! Play Monopoly at Take 5 at 4:30 p.m. Join Liberty every other Wednesday for some exciting games. Free to play and win.

Visit Piazza Armerina Roman Villa and Enna with ITT. The trip begins in Enna, home to a Norman Castle and a wonderful museum. Have lunch at an agriturismo and then visit the Imperial Villa del Casale. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Thurs. April 10

Come with ITT to see an authentic Sicilian puppet show performed at the Grasso Family Theater in Acireale. Later on, shop at a Sicilian candy store and have lunch in Acireale. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Bring your chopsticks and eat some yummy Chinese food. Liberty will pay up to 10 Euro of your meal. Sign up and pay by Wed., April 9 before 6 p.m. at Take 5.

JOB OPENING:

Signonella High School has a job opening for a School Program Assistant, Full-Time, GS-06. The application deadline is 11 April 2003. Please stop by Building 220, Signonella High School, for a copy of the vacancy announcement and application packet. POC is Tracy Cooperrider, 634-8989

AOSC Talent Show

The All Officers Spouses Club (AOSC) is hosting an all base Talent Show fundraiser for the purpose of raising money for the Stephen Decatur Scholarship fund. "Signonella Idol" will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Live Wire. Currently, there are 18 vocal/instrumental acts of a wide variety. Preticket sales will be available in front of the Commissary. Tickets will also be sold at the door. The ticket price per person is \$10 for E6 and below and \$15 for E7 and above. The evening will include entertainment, wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the show while supporting the Stephen Decatur scholarship fund.

This Week on...

Sat. Apr 5 - NCAA Final Four

AFN Atlantic 1:00 AM

Mon. Apr 7 - JAG (Season Finale)

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Mon. Apr 7 - Houston Medical (Season Finale)

AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

Tue. Apr 8 - Movie: "X-Men"

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Fri. Apr 11 - Survivor VI

AFN Atlantic 8:00 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

*** 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

Palermo from page 1

Palermo is about a scenic two-hour drive from the base. The bus ride along the A19 provides some nice views of the Sicilian countryside, with its rolling hills and jutting mountains.

The city is rich in history, as can be said of many places in Sicily. It was founded by the Phoenicians, and was settled in the 8th century B.C. as a port town named Ziz. The Greeks called the city Panormos meaning "all port." It is situated by the Mediterranean, hugged by an array of mountains and hills. Today, Palermo is Sicily's largest and most cosmopolitan city, and definitely deserves the title, "Jewel of the Mediterranean", as some call it.

A fascinating stop on the tour was to the Royal Palace, containing the Cappella Palatine, or the Palatine Chapel, which was constructed around 1130 by Roger II. The outside of the Royal Palace is not too impressive due to modifications. Some the outside walls look like a hodgepodge of different eras, but it's what's inside that counts. The chapel is rather small, mostly due to the fact that it was intended for the personal use of the ruling party at the time. The mosaics directly outside the chapel feature various pictures from the 1800's, such as one featuring the King of Palermo. The inside is full of beautiful 12th Century Byzantine mosaics, Roman columns recycled by the Normans, and sculptures. The walls seem to glow gold and exude a sense of history, including scenes from the old and new testaments, various Byzantine saints, and other biblical scenes. The Royal Palace is now the place where the Sicilian Regional Assembly, the parliament of Italy's large-

est semi-autonomous "regional" government, calls home.

Another stop was to the Quattro Canti, or the Four Corners, which is considered the heart of Palermo. It's where the people of Palermo go to meet, take a stroll, chat, or discuss business and make business deals. It was created in 1609 at the intersection of Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Via Maqueda, and creates an octagonal arrangement at the corners of four buildings. There are three levels to the Quattro Canti. The lowest levels have fountains with a statue of the four seasons starting with the vivacious spring and ending with the old lady winter. The second levels feature statues of the Spanish kings Phillip II, Phillip III, Phillip IV, and emperor Charles V. The third levels feature statues of Agatha, Nymph, Christina, and Olivia, the four guardian saints of Palermo. The Quattro Canti is also a study in architecture. The first level has Doric columns, the second Ionic, and the third Corinthian. The four corners are also called the Teatro del Sole, or Theater of the Sun, due to the presence of the sun all day in the square because of the north, south, east, and west arrangement of the streets.

For those who fancy the shopping experience, Palermo has a wide range of shops and marketplaces to spend some hard earned Euro. Outside one such shop, wicker chairs, baskets, and tables line the walkway. One only has to peer inside the shop and see these items being crafted to know that they are handmade. The open-air market is full of sights and smells, with people selling all sorts of fish, fruit, and assorted items. The restaurants offer some great dining choices. I stopped



The Palatine Chapel contains various 12th Century Byzantine mosaics. This one features the open hand of Jesus with the book that reads in Greek, "I am the light of the world."

into one such restaurant which features a great quattro formaggio (four cheese) pizza.

Another stop while in Palermo was the Teatro Massimo, which was one of the world's largest opera houses when construction began in 1895. It remains one of the largest and most prestigious in Europe. The most striking aspect of Teatro Massimo are the two bronze lions with statues symbolizing tragedy and opera that flank the theater's stairway. This stairway was featured in the last scene of the movie "The Godfather part III," filmed in 1990. The theater is also said to be haunted by a nun whose convent once stood on the same location. I can't say that I felt her presence while in the theater.

Speaking of hauntings, the last stop on the tour was to the Capuchin Catacombs. This burial site was initially established for the Capuchin monks themselves, but in later years included some of the monk's benefac-



The Capucini Catacombs is a burial place for Capuchin monks. The monks later opened the burial site to their benefactors.

tors. The walls deep inside this burial site are lined with whispers of the past. The bodies are arranged in sections including monks, men, women, professionals, and priests. It is an interesting way to be buried, to say the least.

Many people come to the catacombs to see the body of Rosalia Lombardo, a child who has been remarkably preserved since 1920. It is not known what was used to preserve the child because Dr. Solafia, a doctor

from Palermo, took the secret of how it was done with him when he died. If you're seeking something out of the ordinary, pay the Capuchin Catacombs a visit.

I could go on forever about Palermo's history, architecture, culture, and the ever-abundant array of sites to see, but the best thing to do is experience the city for yourself. If you feel the urge to visit Palermo, or any other of the wonderful sites Sicily has to offer, contact the ITT office for information.



The open air market in Palermo is a good place to find fresh fish, fruits and vegetables, as well as just about anything else you might desire.



SOY from page 1

that suggests a person who likes her work and is good at it. "Every job is important. It doesn't matter if you're cleaning commodes or on the war line. Every job has a purpose and is there for a reason."

Brickman believes that no matter what the job, it should be done to the best of your ability and should be done right the first time because, "Re-work stinks!" she said. "So I'd rather take the extra 10 minutes and make sure a package is completely correct, or research to be sure I'm putting out the right info. Thirty minutes or five days later I don't want someone coming back saying, 'This isn't right, I've gotta redo it.'"

NCC(AW/SW) Kendall Dobison, the Retention Center LCPO, describes working with Brickman as "a breath of fresh air." According to Dobison, Brickman's dependability is impressive. "You don't have to worry about basic tasks because she covers all the bases."

On a normal day Brickman and her fellow career counselors see more than 20 Sailors who walk in with questions regarding career options, answer between 30 and 50 telephone calls and do a lot of paperwork. "To me, an NC is just the rating of an LPO," she said. "NCs just learn the paperwork, with a little extra training within the rating."

For Brickman, individual counseling is the best part. "For instance, I've got a guy who is supposed to be going to Keflavik, but because of the loss of funding and all of the problems with message traffic right now, some corrections to his orders didn't happen, so now he's supposed to go without his wife," she said. "Being able to work with him, contact his detailer and MEPS, call Iceland and work out the problem — that's what I like," she continued, a smile spreading across her face. "To have that Sailor come back (to the Retention Center) and say, 'Thank you. I can't believe you went through all of that and put in that much time to get this done,' that's the best because you know you've got another happy Sailor."

"She can directly relate to a lot of Sailor's experience," said Dobison. "She's very caring — willing to go the extra mile."

Brickman joined the Navy nearly 14 years ago because of a family friend. "He was a pilot in the Navy and used to tell us all those flyboy stories," remembered Brickman, who, because of the aviator height restrictions in effect at the time, was too tall to be a pilot. She chose Aviation Machinist Mate instead because, "if I can't fly 'em, I'll fix 'em." At MEPS she ended up as a non-rate fireman.

Her first duty station was USS Emory S. Land, where her work in the Engineering Department with "A-

Gang" convinced her that what she really wanted to do was become a Hull Technician. From there she went to USS Simon Lake, where, as a third class, she ran the carpenters' shop. After Simon Lake she joined the Security Department at NAS Keflavik. One thread that runs through her early career is the aggressive pursuit of qualifications "It's important to get as qualified as you can as soon as possible," Brickman said. "When I was at Simon Lake I got (qualified) as the only third class duty division officer on the whole ship. At Keflavik I got my investigator qual right away."

Brickman also has a tour aboard the USS Constitution, where she was "Old Ironsides'" Damage Control Assistant, in her biography. "I got to do some really cool things," Brickman said. "I was the first female mainmast captain in history." She was also Constitution's Sailor of the Year.

Her career changed the day she got some good advice from a source who knew a thing or two about advancing in the Navy. "The MCPON (former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jim Herdt) told me that I needed to cross-rate if I ever wanted to make rank, so now I'm an NC."

Dobison praised Brickman as a quick learner. "When I arrived I was amazed at her abilities," she said. "She'd only been an NC for a year."

As a Navy Counselor, Brickman is dealing with several obstacles, including budgetary shortfalls that are delaying transfers and overmanned ratings. "Over half of my first termers who are up for orders can't negotiate orders right now until they have Perform to Serve approval, so they're losing time," she said. "A lot of people are being pushed into different career directions because of our manning situation."

But Brickman sees brighter days ahead. "People who are supposed to leave in April but don't have orders in hand can at least say they know they're going, they know their orders aren't being canceled. Navy Personnel Command will get its money. You've got to take a breath and try to understand the big picture." And she thinks Perform to Serve problems will also sort themselves out. "After the first three months it will be just like any other program. Time will fix everything as long as people are patient and believe in the system."

Outside of work, Brickman, the mother of two, is a Girl Scouts Junior Troop leader and handles public affairs for the Sigonella chapter. She enjoys "taking the Girl Scouts and helping them form into good adults, strengthening moral foundations built by the girls' parents. We want to help them learn to make the right choices in life and have fun while doing it."

Her chief is impressed at how the family copes with the hours Brickman keeps. "She works extra hours, the Girls Scouts and teaches Sunday School."

Brickman hopes to be selected for chief petty officer soon, and plans to use her NC skills to submit a Limited Duty Officer package. She is also looking forward to sea duty after completing her tour here. When she retires, the first thing she plans to do is "Take a cruise where I can sit on the deck and enjoy the sunshine. Although my husband (Ed Brickman) says I'll have to go down below and ask what kind of propulsion they have," she laughed.

"She says she's getting out after 20 (years)" said Dobison. "But I tell her, 'You're going to be a master chief — you'll do the whole 30.'"

Her real post-military career will be in education. "I like to talk to groups and to broaden understanding."

“Every job is important. It doesn't matter if you're cleaning commodes or on the war line. Every job has a purpose and is there for a reason.”

NC1(SW) Fawn Brickman

VP-8 from page 1 that's probably what I'll do when I retire."

Until then, Brickman intends to go on "Doing my job" and women serving aboard, they arrive in theater highly trained in their warfare discipline and have been eagerly awaiting direction on the impending conflict with Iraq. The morning of March 17 proved an opportune time for McKenzie to take all of the "Tigers" that stood before him through the history of what it means to serve in the United States armed services, and to solidify his confidence in the squadron's capability to answer any tasking with perfection.

As part of this opportunity, VP-8 "Fighting Tiger" Command Master Chief, CMDCM Rusty Blackston, read a version of "Old Glory". "I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice." Blackston's delivery was clear and passionate. young "Tigers" at quarters, were all listening in awe. In a few minutes, they would get a history lesson on the major battles fought by our armed services since our country's independence. "I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in the streets of my country. And when it's done by those whom I've served in battle — it hurts. But I shall overcome — for I am strong." At this point during Blackston's reading, all "Tigers" were eagerly awaiting the next line from "Old Glory." "When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, when I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier, or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter, I am proud." Blackston's remarks were followed by the unfurling of the United States ensign from the inside ceiling of the squadron hangar. The national anthem was immediately played while all "Tigers" saluted proudly, many still somewhat emotionally shaken by the strong words from Blackston.

McKenzie took the podium next. Wearing desert flight gear, his remarks were to the point. "Tigers, I don't need to tell you how well that you've been performing this deployment. Many much senior to me have commended our stellar performance day in and day out. I ask that you continue to perform like you have been thus far. The "Fighting Tigers" of VP-8 are now ready and will continue to be ready. Just as the ship's engineer would report to the Captain prior to getting underway, I make my report to our combatant commanders, 'VP-8 stands ready to answer all bells.' And rest assured, VP-8 will answer all bells.

Children from page 1

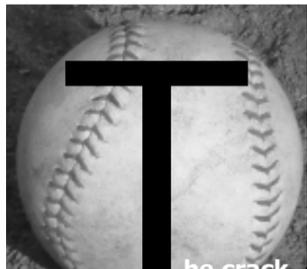
a number of events: Ice Cream Social/Identi-Kid/Mc Gruff/NASSIG PD, Month of the Military Child Fun with FFSC, and Balloon Magic. The MWR Youth Center has several other special events planned for this month: Month of the Military Child Family Day, Spring EGGstravaganza, and the Family Walk of Heroes. Other activities provided by Sigonella ITT are: Sicilian Puppet Show with a visit to the Acireale Candy Store and a Castle Tour. Also, EDIS will be hosting a story hour at the library. And much more...

For more information on Month of the Military Child events, contact Fleet and Family Support Center at 624-4291.

SPORTS

Captain's Cup

Photos and preview By JOSH Steve Weaver
Signature Staff



The crack of the bat. The dust in the air. The screaming of the umpire. It must be softball time again here at Naval Air Station Sigonella.

NASSIG tenant commands and departments will vie for bragging rights and the top spot in this year's Captain's Cup Intramural Softball season.

The season will begin on Monday with a pre-season round-robin seeding tournament. The top performing teams will be placed in the A League, the bottom half will be placed in the B League.

The regular season starts May 5th and will be played on the NAS II field, with all games being played in a round-robin format. Game times are 5 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The season will come to a close with a single-elimination tournament to be conducted for both leagues.

Included is a preview of some of the teams that will be competing in this year's intramural softball season with information including coaches views, star players, and other information.

So lace up those spikes, put on those mitts, and cheer on your team, because it's time to play ball.

Armed Forces Network Sigonella

NICKNAME: AFNers.

TEAM OVERVIEW: The AFN team needs support from more players for this year's team. The turnouts for the practice have not been too good, so they're hoping they'll get more support when the season begins. This is the first year AFN has been able to have a team, so Coach Michelle Kurak is excited about just having a team. "We're not worrying about coming in first, we just want to have fun," said Kurak.

STAR PLAYERS: The combined efforts of team AFN will make them all stars, if they are not ones already.

COACHING EMPHASIS: Coach Kurak is in the stages of finding out what her players are capable of. She will focus on a little of everything, hitting, pitching, and fielding.

LEAGUE: AFN will compete in the "B" league, no doubt about it. RIVALRY: Everyone.

TEAM: Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five

NICKNAME: MOMAU 5

TEAM OVERVIEW: The philosophy of MOMAU 5 is to "Hit 'em hard, and plant 'em deep." This pretty much explains what the team will try to accomplish during the course of the season. The running slogan for the past three years has been, "MOMAU softball rules!"

STAR PLAYERS: Jeramie Lane and Matthew McDonald look to be the key players for the MOMAU 5 team.

COACHING EMPHASIS: As with a number of teams this season, MOMAU 5 are just concerned with the basics. The player's abilities are not known as the team has yet to practice. The main objective of the team is to have fun playing this year. The teams hopes they do not go on deployment so they can play out the season.

PROJECTED LEAGUE: MOMAU 5 will most likely participate in the "B" league.

RIVAL TEAM: Weapons, if they had a team.



Softball Team Preview

TEAM: COMSTA

NICKNAME: COMSTA B

TEAM OVERVIEW: Coach Rigel Rountree said the team will stay positive and try to be undefeated this year. "If you start thinking about losing, then it will happen," said Rountree. He also said he doesn't want to hear any trash talk. "If anyone talks trash, we'll just tell them to bring it."

STAR PLAYERS: outfielder Jon Cox is the go to player for his versatility.

COACHING EMPHASIS: Rountree says the team will try to capitalize on their strengths this year. About a third of the players are returning from last year.

LEAGUE: They will be in the "B" league.

RIVALRY: OPS, and the COMSTA "A" team.



Ground Electronics Maintenance Division (OPS)

NICKNAME: Ground Electronics

TEAM OVERVIEW: The Ground Electronics team, which used to be part of the Operations Team, is competing in their first year as a team. They have many new people on the team, so it is tough to gauge how the team will perform during the season. "We're trying to be

competitive anyway we can," said coach Bryan Rountree.

STAR PLAYERS: As this is their first year competing, there are mostly new faces for the team.

COACHING EMPHASIS: The main focus is basic fundamentals. They will try to do what they can physically and try to make good mental decisions.

PROJECTED LEAGUE: Ground Electronics expects to compete in the "B" League.

RIVAL TEAM: Operations team. "Definetely they are the team I want to beat," said Rountree.

TEAM: Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment

NICKNAME: AIMD B

TEAM OVERVIEW: The team expects to do well this year. Last year, the team made third place in the post-season tournament. Coach Anthony Munoz said the team organized earlier this year and expects to build upon last year.

STAR PLAYERS: short stop Chris Jackiw and left fielder Raphael Morales are the go-to players for the AIMD squad.

COACHING EMPHASIS: The emphasis this year was to get organized earlier. The team has good pitching this year thanks to Jeff Hoopingarner, something that was lacking last year. They also have good fielding, which will help on the defensive end.

LEAGUE: Will compete in the "B" League.

RIVALRY: None this year. OPS was rival last year.



U.S. Naval Hospital

NICKNAME: "Scrubs"

TEAM OVERVIEW: The Hospital team is expecting to do pretty well this season. Coach Andrew Archila said the team is more organized this year, and they have brought in a younger talent pool. "I expect it will improve on last years effort," said Archila.

STAR PLAYERS: short stop Scott Curtice and third baseman Craig Johnson are the heart of the order for the Scrubs. Archila expects big things from these two players.

COACHING EMPHASIS: The team will focus on their fundamentals and attitude. Archila said the team has the talent to win.

PROJECTED LEAGUE: The "Scrubs" will shoot to be in the "A" league.

RIVALRY: None.



Security Department

NICKNAME: Security

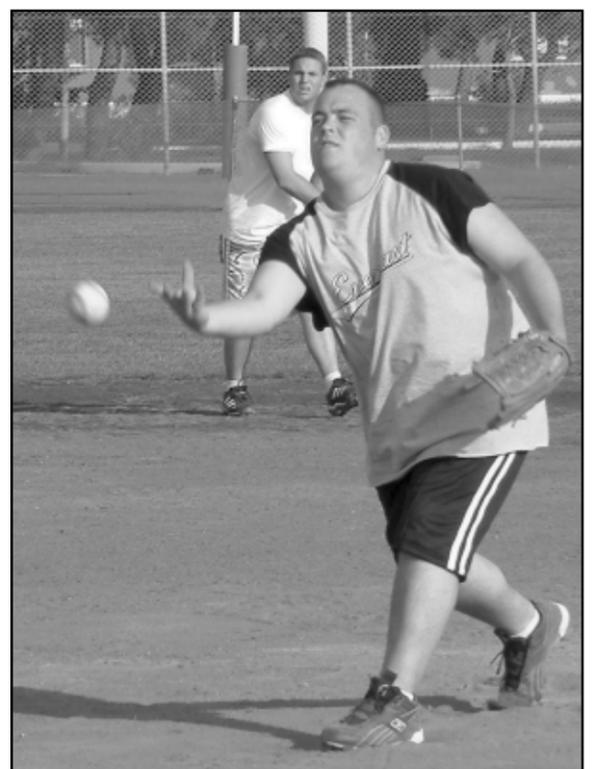
TEAM OVERVIEW: Coach Sean "Oz" Ozolins said the team should end up somewhere in the middle of the table. The team lost one person from last year, yet gained two. They expect to compete with the good teams though, such as the teams from COMSTA.

STAR PLAYERS: outfielder Tom Link, outfielder Finas Hughes, Lance Boss, and Sean Ozolins expect to be the key players. Brian Neal is another standout player for security. He played All-Navy the last two years and All-Service last year.

COACHING EMPHASIS: Coach Ozolins believes it's a hitters game, so the Security team will be all about hitting. "You have to swing the bat to win," said Ozolins.

PROJECTED LEAGUE: Security will most likely compete in the "A" league.

RIVALRY: COMSTA



Jeremy Knippa of the COMSTA B team sends a pitch hurling toward home plate during a practice session in preparation for the upcoming intramural softball season.

LEAGUE RULES:

The league will be run under ASA and MWR Captain's Cup rules.

1. All games have a seven inning or 65-minute limit, whichever comes first.
2. There is a 20 run mercy rule after three innings, and 12 runs after five innings.
3. The home team will be determined by the schedule. First team listed is the home team.
4. Game rosters must be in the scorebook 10 minutes prior to game time.
5. Shorthanded teams will be allowed to start with 9 players with no penalty. At no time will a team be allowed to go below 9 players.
6. Team uniforms are not required, but teams are encouraged to wear the same color jerseys.
7. All players must have their I.D. cards with them at all games in case roster verification is needed.
8. The batter's count will start with one ball and one strike. Each batter gets one extra foul before striking out.

Patrol Squadron Eight, VP-8 "Fighting Tigers"

NICKNAME: "Tigers"

TEAM OVERVIEW: Coach Michael Burton expects the team to do really well. The team has merged together from all the separate teams VP-8 used to have, and is now one powerhouse team including the chiefs and officers.

STAR PLAYERS: The team will turn to short stop Leron Robinson and third / first basemen MacMillan as their key players.

COACHING EMPHASIS: The team will focus on the fundamentals in their practices. Coach Burton said defense will be the main thing to focus on, while the hitting will take care of itself.

PROJECTED LEAGUE: The "Tigers" will compete in both "A" and "B" leagues.

RIVAL TEAM: Nobody.



Personnel Support Detachment.

NICKNAME: PSD

TEAM OVERVIEW: The team has yet to practice, and Coach Ron Zimmerman said he hasn't seen his players play yet so there is no gauge on how they will do. He is hopeful the team will win a fair amount of games.

STAR PLAYERS: infielder Felix Maldonado and infielder / outfielder David Berry are the players to watch for PSD.

COACHING EMPHASIS: For Zimmerman, the key to softball is hitting the ball. "Hitting is what will move you base to base," said Zimmerman.

PROJECTED LEAGUE: PSD expects to crank it up in the "B" league.



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Eight

NICKNAME: "Thunderstealers."

TEAM OVERVIEW:

The EODMU 8 team expects to beat the good teams from last year. Coach Marcus Threats expects the team to finish somewhere in the middle, about third or fourth place. But they will be a contender for the title. "We will put ourselves in a good position to win," said Threats.

STAR PLAYERS: short stop Beikel Verdecia, center fielder / first basemen Marcus Threats, and William Proctor. Verdecia has played ball in Cuba and Florida, and as Threats said, "Knows his softball in and out."

COACHING EMPHASIS: The main focus to improve the team is to work on the hitting. The team's fielding is reportedly outstanding.

PROJECTED LEAGUE: If they compete in the "B" League, they will be a top contender. An "A" league birth will garner a finish in the middle of the standings.

RIVAL TEAM: Nobody.



The Lane

Signonella Track & Field Meet

Come out and compete in this Captain's Cup event tomorrow at the NAS I track. You can pre-register at either the Fitness Center. Events include sprints, hurdles, shot put, discus, long jump, relays and distance runs. Call 624-2710 for more information.

Cappuccino Classic Tennis Tournament

Play starts on Monday, April 14. All matches will be held at the NAS II courts weekday evenings only. Men's and Women's Singles divisions, Open doubles with A, B and C leagues in this double elimination tournament. Sign up at NAS II gym. Small entry fee to play, t-shirts and awards given.

Four Person Best Ball Golf Tournament

Saturday April 19, at Il Picciolo Golf Club. Tee off is 9 a.m. Small entry fee plus greens fees to play. Lunch and Awards included.

First Signonella Half marathon

Race time will be 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 26. Registration is from 7:30 to 8 a.m. at the NAS I Fitness Center. Small fee to participate. T-shirts and awards for this Captain's Cup Event.

5-on-5 Beach Soccer Tournament

Saturday May 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign up at the NAS II gym by Monday April 28. Tournament limited to first eight teams to sign up. Free barbecue and awards for top teams. Transportation provided from NAS I. Call 624-2710 for more information.

Scicilian Summer Shape Up

Starts Tuesday April 22 and goes until Friday June 6. Get ready for the warm weather on the cardio equipment at the fitness centers and win some cool stuff.