

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 21

May 30, 2003

There is no "DEFYING" this program

JO2 David Hamilton
Staff Writer

"Strong children, strong families for a ready future" is their motto. What more could you ask with this summer's Phase I Drug Education for Youth Program (DEFY) beginning on June 23 and running through July 2. "The goal of our program is to produce nine to 12 year olds with character, leadership, and confidence, so they are equipped to engage in positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free citizens and have the necessary skills to be successful in their lives through coordinated community participation, commitment, and leadership," said AMC (AW) Thomas L. Dutrieux, NAS Sigonella DEFY Program Coordinator.

Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) is a self-esteem building program that provides kids with the tools they need to resist drugs, gangs, and alcohol. CE2 Sherri Bergeron, Camp Director, states that the children really gain a lot of knowledge and strategies from the camp. "The children learn how to just say no when it comes to peer pressure. They learn how you can have fun without having to take drugs."

In addition, it stresses interpersonal relations, and emphasizes leadership and teamwork. Bergeron adds, "Children learn the importance of working together as a team. Last year I remember 15 counselors playing a game of kickball against the kids, 60 to be exact. We won of course due to the fact that working together as a team did not come easy for the kids." Her daughter 11-year-old Melanie Bergeron, a former camper, loves the team atmosphere. "It taught me that even though everyone is different, we could be a team and win in the end."

This is one camp the parents/guardians will not have to pay for. It is free! Each child receives a youth workbook, three T-shirts, a ball cap, a backpack, and two snacks and meals per day. "Children should come ready with sneakers to participate in some fun physical exercises," said Dutrieux.

DEFY page 6

Air terminal flies the right way

By AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer



A Douglas pushback tractor nicknamed "the Lobster" lines up on the wheel of a Boeing 737.

contract with the Sigonella air terminal in November 2002. The company comprised of 233 local nationals is actually a joint venture of two handling agents, Alisud and Gescac, that operate at different military air bases. Originally the air terminal was operated by only Alisud, which was established in

Air Terminal, page 10

Dragging luggage through the sliding doors, you stop to go through the metal detectors on your way to check in for your flight. All around you is a flurry of activity. You glance at your watch and hope that you will leave on time, but most importantly arrive at your destination safely.

A company named Algease started its first

VP-8 gets a new skipper

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

Today, Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8) "Fighting Tigers" holds its Change-of-Command ceremony at Naval Air Station Sigonella in Hangar 426. They will bid farewell to Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jeffrey L. McKenzie as Executive Officer Cmdr. Robert B. Dishman becomes the 55th commanding officer.

Although the occasion marks the transferring of command from one person to the other, there is another aspect to the ceremony. "We have a lot of guests coming from out of town, and they're coming not to see Skipper McKenzie or myself," said Dishman, "they're coming to pay tribute to the "Fighting Tigers" and all that we've accomplished during this deployment."

"It's an opportunity for us as a community to get together and celebrate the change-of-command, but also an opportunity for us to say thank you for all the support that the maritime patrol reconnaissance force provided us," said Dishman. He said that during operations such as Iraqi Freedom (OIF), all the VP squadrons worked together. "Everybody was fully integrated in, it was all just one patrol squadron. It was all one team, one fight go-

ing out and doing the missions."

For McKenzie, his greatest accomplishment while in command of the "Fighting Tigers" was being able to lead his warriors into combat and see their satisfaction and sense of accomplishment. Dishman agrees. "Looking back on this deployment and the things he's able to have accomplished in command, I think the pinnacle of his command tour is to be able to lead a squadron into combat," said Dishman. "He's very much mission oriented and a combat leader. He went out and participated in combat operations over Iraq. Leading from the front, we both had the opportunity to do that as the senior mission commanders in certifying crews in initial flights in OIF. So he's very solid and knowledgeable on the airplane as a tactical war fighter, but also has a good feel for the squadron and personnel."

McKenzie leads by getting into the thick of things. "I like to lead from the cockpit. I want to be on station," he said. "I've got a lot of hours and a lot of missions under my belt. That's the best way for me to judge how the squadron is performing because that's the goal everyday, to execute that flight schedule and execute those missions to be successful. We had a tremendous opportunity during this deployment to do that, unlike any I've seen in 20 years."

To complete these missions, McKenzie has a simple three-step formula: expectations, resources, and accountability. "I make sure that the expectations are clear, concise, and that everyone understands them," said McKenzie. "I provide them the resources whether it be time, equipment, tools, or people. Then I add in a big dose of accountability to make sure people are recognized for their accomplishments." He said the result is mission accomplishment.

The best part of his command tour at VP-8 was working with the people. "The Tigers here at VP-8 were as about as motivated and as patriotic as any other shipmates I've ever had the

VP-8, page 6



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver

MOMAU-5 keeping fleet prepared for mine warfare



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver

A member assigned to Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five (MOMAU 5) at NAS Sigonella, performs an upgrade on an inert MK-83 Bomb Body to prepare for an upcoming Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI). The upgrade converts the 1000-pound MK-83 General Purpose Bomb Body to a MK-63 Quick Strike Mine. The MK-63 is an aircraft-laid underwater mine for use against submarines and surface targets

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

Under the surface of the water, mines can be hidden to wreak havoc on ships passing over them. These mines are hard to detect. A tenant command at NAS Sigonella, that builds these mines is also pretty hard to "detect" due to their location.

Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five (MOMAU-5) is nestled in a field behind large gates and barbed wire fences. "A lot of people don't even know that we're over here. They think that we're part of [the Weapons Department]," said CWO2 Baron Tillinghast, executive officer and ordnance officer for MOMAU-5. When he came to NAS Sigonella last year before he was stationed here, he asked where MOMAU-5 was located. Some responses

he received included, 'I think that's in Naples.' "Nobody could even direct me over here. Nobody comes down here unless they have a reason to," he said.

There are big reasons for the Sailors working at MOMAU-5 to come down. "We make the mines, we place the mines," said Tillinghast. MOMAU-5 supports Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR) and SIXTH Fleet Mine Warfare operations. They also provide the renovation, maintenance and assembly of exercise and training mines in support of all bilateral, NATO and U.S. mining exercises in the Mediterranean.

"Our primary mission obviously is to support combat operations, but we do a lot of exercises with NATO and the Partners for Peace Countries," said Tillinghast. "That's what we spend the major-

ity of our time doing, supporting exercise and training mines to all the different exercises that happen in our area of operations." This is because there hasn't been a need for mines recently. "The U.S. Navy hasn't laid an actual wartime mine since Vietnam," he said.

"When most people think of mines, they think of the moored MK-6 mines, the round ball with spikes sticking out of it," said Tillinghast. "That's all I ever thought about when I thought about mines." But the Sailors at MOMAU-5 can use a bit newer technology in mining, such as building general-purpose bombs into mines. "We build MK-82 bomb bodies which are the smaller ones at 500 pounds, and the bigger ones,

MOMAU, page 10

Today's Hometown Weather

McAllen, TX.



High 93° F - Low 74° F
Sunny



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

On Monday, we held our annual Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony on NAS I near the new flagpoles. We had a great crowd and it was indeed a privilege to be there with the Stephen Decatur NJROTC unit and the Boy Scouts from Troop 53. Thank you all for helping us out and participating with the ceremony.

So, why did we hold this wreath laying?

All across America, men and women gathered at cemeteries like Arlington, Gettysburg, Pt. Loma, Rhone American Cemetery in France, Flanders Field in Belgium, and more to pay their respects to the men and women who were killed in war and military operations.

Memorial Day honors our nation's armed services personnel killed in wartime. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, on the order of General John Alexander Logan for the purpose of decorating the graves of the American Civil War dead. It was observed on May 30 until 1971, when most states changed to a newly established federal schedule of holiday observance.

135 years since the first Memorial Day, more than 41 million Americans have served in the military and more than one million have died to protect our nation's freedom. Since World War I, we have lost 120,000 sailors in wars or national conflicts.

The Navy and Marine Corps have sustained significant casualties and injuries in terrorist attacks in recent decades. To list a few: the 1983 terrorist bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut... TWA flight 847 In June 1985 ... The terrorist car bombing in Athens, Greece in June 1988 ... The small boat attack on USS Cole in October 2000 ... and hijacked American flight 77 which flew into the Pentagon on September 11.

Since Memorial Day 2002, over 180 American service members have died in support of military operations in combat zones.

"...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God, ...and that government of the people by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth." — **President Abraham Lincoln, Nov 16, 1863**

With everything that's going on in this world, now is the time for us to recognize our heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms, our way of life and our country. They were truly deserving of our small ceremony here at NAS Sigonella, as well as others held Monday throughout the world to honor their actions. Let us not forget our Shipmates who died in years past and even recently as last week in Iraq. Let's honor them all by following their example... duty, honor, and commitment.

The Pulse

Looking Out for One Another

Growing up as a child most of us have been given the responsibility of "watching out" for a younger brother or sister. At times it did not seem so bad, while other times it seemed unbearable, particularly if we wanted to do something with our friends. Yet, in spite of the inconvenience this form of supervision caused, we could sense the seriousness and importance of the duty that was placed on us. So while we may have grumbled and groaned, we still kept an eye out to ensure that nothing happened to the person to whom we were placed in charge.

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

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

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

Every year we receive safety training on a variety of topics, one of which is suicide awareness. Most people are able to list some of the risk factors associated with suicide as a result of the training. Yet, many people wonder why so much emphasis is placed on this topic. The number one reason that we receive training on suicide awareness is that it is usually the second leading cause of death in the Navy and it is the most preventable. In over 20 years of data collection on suicides in the military, there has been a wealth of useful information that has surfaced. One such example is that interviews with people who have made serious suicide attempts, and survived, consistently report that they did not want to die; they just did not know what else to do to end the pain they were experiencing. So, for these people, suicide is seen as a problem solving approach, in that it will stop the pain. Yet, as a result of this pain, they fail to see that their approach is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. Another factor that has been discovered from this research is that many people, (80%), who "successfully" completed suicide, had a diagnosable mental health condition. These conditions included depression, anxiety, and substance use, all of which can influence a person's thinking and decision-making.

One of the most important findings from these 20 years of study found that of all the completed suicides in the Navy, the majority of people did not have any formal contact with a person who could help them in the two weeks prior to their suicide. In looking at only one year of this information it was found that 66% of all completed suicides did not have any formal contact with a provider who could help them, and of the 34% who did have contact, only five had been seen by a mental health professional.

FH-3 Tests Patient Tracking System In Iraq

By Doris Ryan, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

SOUTHERN IRAQ (NNS) — Fleet Hospital (FH) 3 is testing a unique patient tracking system developed by Navy researchers. The Tactical Medical Coordination System (TacMedCS) is a wireless communication network designed for field use that captures and displays real-time casualty data.

The system, originally designed for Fleet Marine Force (FMF) corpsmen to locate injured Marines during urban combat and document medical care, was reconfigured in record time to allow the fleet hospital to track patients moving through its facility.

The original TacMedCS includes three components: a wearable plastic tag with an embedded electronic chip to store individual medical information; a palm-sized scanner to electronically read and write to the chip, and a central server with a database and a digital map display of the operational areas.

With four years of research and multiple field trials during Marine Corps exercises to their credit, the research team from the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Pensacola, Fla., headed by Chief Hospital Corpsman Michael E. Stiney, already had the chips, scanners and server needed by FH-3. Instead of tags, the fleet hospital wanted patient wristbands, an easy task for the team and their civilian partners. The real obstacle was rewriting the software to capture the information the fleet hospital required.

"We were asked to modify the TacMedCS system and we did," said Stiney, a cardiovascular technologist and FMF corpsman. In just one week, the team deployed 800 wristbands, a wireless network complete with relays and antennas, a laptop with the database, five scanners and a server.

The point man for the test is Lt. David Everhart, nursing informatics officer with FH-3. Everhart explained how TacMedCS is being used at the fleet hospital.

The hospital receives patients primarily from forward surgical units and also serves as the "community hospital" for the region of operation. The patient administrative staff assembles charts for each patient, which includes a TacMedCS wristband. The casualty receiving corpsman scans the patient's wristband, injuries and treatments are documented, and the patient is then moved to one of the three wards, the Operating Room, or the Intensive Care Unit. Movement through the fleet hospital is recorded and tracked by scanning the wristband. When the patient leaves the fleet hospital the final disposition is electronically written to the wristband.

FH-3 is a 500-bed level three facility with modular capability. For Operation Iraqi Freedom, the facility was configured to a 116-bed expeditionary medical facility that included a casualty receiving unit, an operating room, three inpatient wards, and an intensive care unit.

Ancillary services included laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy suites.

"From a

beta test standpoint, I feel that this has been very successful. Although we experienced some software problems initially, we have the system in place and working as anticipated. As a real-time patient-tracking device, TacMedCS has proven it's worth. The technology has enormous potential in my opinion. As these data travel with the patient, an entire medical history could be assembled and stored on the wristband," Everhart added.

What is the next step? According to Stiney, "We are going to capitalize on the lessons learned from this experience. This is not a 100 percent completed system yet, so we are going to take the information gathered by all the users over there and fine-tune the system to create a better product. I think we will have a final product ready in a year. TacMedCS will be adaptable to requirements: preventive medicine, trauma treatment, casualty evacuation, and humanitarian assistance. Whatever Navy Medicine's requirements are, we will deliver."



U.S. Navy Chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. John Denton visits with U.S. Marine Corps. Cpl. Marco Chavez while in the casualty receiving area of Fleet Hospital Three (FH-3). Chavez suffered upper and lower back strains as a result of a motor vehicle accident in Southern Iraq.

Dear God ...

By Chaplain Phillip B. Creider
 Command Chaplain
 Dear God,

I just needed to write to You for some answers and for some help, because I've got some problems that I don't understand.

You see, I like being here, I love my job, and I love the people I see around me everyday all over the base.

I like the day-to-day contact with people because I like the "give and take." I like the "Hellos," the "How ya doings," and the "Nice to see you." I like caring for people and helping people. I like being cared for in return. Those kinds of things make me happy and put a smile on my face. I know that I'm doing good.

Sometimes, though, Lord, when I say hello to people, just to be nice, they don't say anything to me in return. Sometimes, they even look the other way. I know that I'm not really good looking, but when that happens to me, I feel bad and I wonder what's wrong.

I feel like saying that I'm not a computer that you can ignore until you need something. I'm not a machine whose buttons you only have to push to get what you want. I'm a pretty nice guy, a human being with thoughts, hopes, and feelings.

I'm pretty weak, too. Sometimes, Lord, when I say, "hello," hold the door open for somebody, or allow a

car to go ahead of me, and no one waves or says "thank you," I think that maybe I ought to just stop being nice, so I won't get ignored or hurt. I feel like saying that the way to get people not to do nice things for you is not to say "please and thank you" the first time around.

So, can you help me, Lord, to understand why some of us act the way we act? Is it because we're too busy? Is it that we're becoming so self-centered that we just don't care about anybody but ourselves? Is it that we think we can treat people just like we treat machines? Are we in our own little game-boy world?

If that's the way it is, Lord, then I think that we're in for heavy seas.

What if someone is always rude? Will we go out of our way to help keep him out of trouble or help him if he gets hurt? Will we go in harm's way if someone gets wounded? Will we be good people, if we've been consistently blown off and hurt?

Will we care about our shipmates, if they don't care about us?

And another thing, Lord: Can You give me the strength to keep doing good and being nice when I feel like quitting? I don't want to be a quitter, but sometimes I feel like it would be easier if I just didn't care as much.

Everything I read says that You're good and that You love me. Can you help me to figure this out so it will be easier for me to continue to be kind... and maybe help other people to want to be kind, too.

Can You?

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
May 19 - May 26

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 13
- Traffic accident with injuries - 1
- Car break-ins - 1
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 23
- DUI's 2002 - 35

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NAVY NEWS

U.S. Navy Supports South African Parallel Testing at Combined Endeavor 2003

By Capt. Christine M. Miller, Navy Information Bureau 1118, Fort Carson, Colo

LAGER AULENBACH, Germany (NNS) — Over the years, U.S. European Command (EUCOM), who sponsors exercise Combined Endeavor, has encouraged participating nations to test and evaluate different communications information systems and equipment to ascertain interoperability and capability.

This year, the nation traveling the furthest to Lager Aulenbach, Germany in an observer capacity is a small delegation from South Africa.

Parallel testing is at the top of the list for Lt. Col Hendrik Van Jaarsveld, South African delegation chief. At the invitation of EUCOM, South Africa's small team is situated near the test site and working in tandem with the U.S. Navy to complete testing.

Parallel testing consists of long haul communications from Lager Aulenbach to South Africa or from several countries, including Latvia and Greece, who have volunteered to test high frequency communications from their home location to South Africa.

In its ninth year, the mission of Combined Endeavor is to design, plan, test and document the capability and interoperability of NATO and Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations' communications information systems. This year, 37 nations including United Kingdom, Croatia, Belgium, Romania, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Spain, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Russia, Moldova, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Albania and Armenia are testing for interoperability. Many of the nations are testing data and some are experimenting with video teleconferencing. But for South Africa, the testing of choice is high frequency (HF) compatibility between countries.

"Never think of HF as passé," Gen. Chuck Wald, deputy commander, EUCOM told the delegation chiefs and distinguished visitors May 21.

"If you really want to talk to everyone, HF is the only mode that is out there for everyone to use. Satellite time isn't cheap" said Lt. Cmdr. Dan Druckenmiller of Mobile Mine Assembly Unit — 7.

While South Africa is situated at the tip of the southern hemisphere, it serves in humanitarian and crisis re-

sponse operations with many NATO and PfP countries.

"This is what Combined Endeavor is all about," said Army Lt. Col. Jim Hogle, EUCOM's exercise director. "More than 35 nations coming together speaking the language of communication information in a command, control, communication and computer environment."

Chief Electronic Technician Mike Kendall, leading chief from The Technical Communications Support Unit, Sigonella, Sicily, and his small team are working past normal working hours to assist in South Africa's parallel testing. According to frequency predictions, the ideal time to communicate between Lager Aulenbach and Pretoria is 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and in the wee hours of the morning.

Frequency prediction was just one of the challenges of the testing.

"We found lack of capability between our modems," said Van Jaarsveld. "Harris Corporation has been working with us to determine where the incapability lies — whether it is the software or the technical and engineering site in South Africa."

The testing has taken several stages. There are tests between Luger Aulenbach and Pretoria while other tests originate in Lager Aulenbach to Sigonella, Sicily, and then down to Pretoria. Latvia was able to communicate to Sigonella and then onto South Africa via automatic link establishment/single message system (ALE(SMS)); however, early in the testing stage they were not able to reach South Africa directly. NATO's Allied Forces South, Naples, Italy was able to communicate voice clearly into Pretoria. Kendall and his team were successful several evenings communicating voice via ALE(SMS).

In addition to the parallel testing, South Africa has been studying the Combined Endeavor model with future plans to conduct a similar exercise with other African nations.

Both EUCOM and Brig. Gen. Ian Fordred and Col. Lloyd DeJager of the South African Army consider the work done at Lager Aulenbach an important step in determining and documenting interoperability among South Africa and several NATO and PfP nations.

"With the support of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps as well as EUCOM and NATO, we feel more like participants rather than observers," Van Jaarsveld commented.

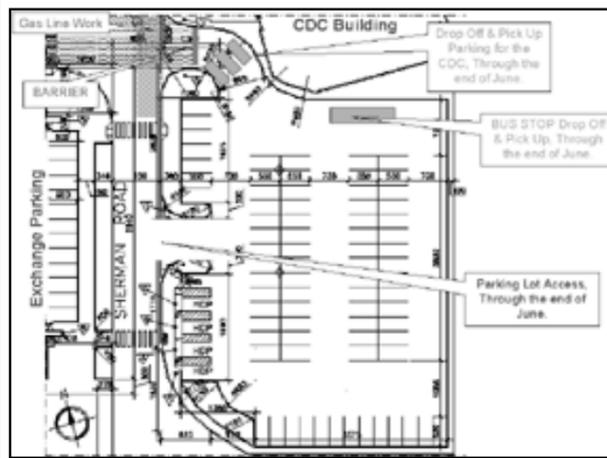
Recap GARDNER

Trash cans, plant signs and benches at NAS I Community Park

We officially opened the Park-Playground between the Stephen Decatur School and the Exchange-Commissary area during the Shake Your Shamrock festival in March and have been working on enhancements since then. By the end of this week we will complete those enhancements with the installation of the trash cans. These trash cans were special ordered to match the light poles and park benches. The trash cans are the same kind that are currently used in Piazza San Marco in Venice. The park benches surrounding the play area were completed last month and the signs that identify the different plants used to landscape the park were installed at the same time the benches were completed. Although it has taken a little longer than we had originally hoped, the new trash cans will be the final touch on the park and playground.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: The installation of the new gas line along Forrestal and Sherman Roads has now reached the area in front of the Child Development Center on NAS I. As with the utilities work that is continuing on Halsey Road in front of the Stephen Decatur School, through the end of June, please be careful in these areas and stay on the sidewalk. The pick up and drop off area for children attending the CDC and the NAS I-NAS II Bus Stop has been changed to the areas at the side of the CDC near the bus shelter, as shown on the attached map. This area will last until the end of June when the gas line is complete. Similarly, until June 12, the school busses will use the loop road around the NAS I Park to pickup and deliver students from 7:15 to 8 a.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. each school day. We ask for your cooperation to keep the road around the park clear. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE LOOP ROAD.

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



News Briefs

DEFY Camp

Children's applications should be turned in to BLAST no later than June 9. More counselor's are needed for DEFY program. Those interested or already counselors need to attend the training from June 9 to 13. The Defy Camps runs from June 23 to July 2. For more questions call the program coordinator, AMC (AW/NAC) Dutrieux at x5315 or 335-7864250. Applications can be found by visiting the DEFY website at www.hq.navy.mil/defy/curriculum.htm.

Camp Registration

Camp Adventure 2003 registration is going on down until May 30. Camp begins June 16. There are limited spaces available, so don't miss out. Bring a passport and LES/pay stub to MWR to sign up. Open to military kids age's six to 12. A waiting list will be kept after initial spots are reserved.

Softball Tourney

The Navy Ball Committee is sponsoring a Softball Tournament to help raise funds for the Navy Ball. The event will take place on May 31 to June 1. The registration fee is \$100 per team. Call AC1 Dean Ryan at 624-5513 or 339-339-9901.

Registration Day

May 31, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be Scout early registration day. If you haven't joined up yet, now would be a good time. The Sigonella Cub/Boy/Girl Scouting communities will be hosting the registration at the Scout Hut behind the Hospital/Nex. Come explore the opportunities that Scouting can bring into your life. Cub, Boy or Girl Scouting is for boys and girls in Kindergarten through 12 grade. There is a large transfer this Summer and there will be great opportunities for those interested in volunteering for Pack, Den, Council or Troop positions. So stop by, have a hot dog and learn what great adventures your sons, and daughters can experience with the Scouts.

Motorcycle Super Rally

Napoli Break Away Motorcycle Club is sponsoring a seven day camping trip of five major cities to participate in the Prague HOG chapter sponsored Super Rally in Budejovice Czech Republic (Non-HOG members welcomed). Departing NSA Naples Support Site June 4, first visiting Vicenza IT followed by Bud Czech Rep, Venice, Bologna, then finally Florence returning to Support Site on June 10. RSVP no later than June 2. Passport required. For more information call 081-568-3151/081-811-5728.

Land Battles Long Hours, Supports Fleet During Operation Iraqi Freedom

By JO1 Linda Pepka, USS Emory S. Land Public Affairs

LA MADDELENA, Italy (NNS) — Sailors aboard USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) live up to the submarine tender's motto - The LAND of Opportunity.

They continually devote their time and energy into keeping the ship mission ready, more so during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The nation didn't stand still while waiting for war, nor did the crew of Land. Training, drilling and becoming watch standing qualified was the primary 24/7 lifestyle, as the ship's crew prepared to deploy for an undetermined amount of time.

The forward-deployed unit left its homeport in La Maddalena, Italy, in mid-February to provide vital services to submarines and surface ships in the Mediterranean during the global war on terrorism.

It wasn't an easy task for any one division, but with an engineering plant built to support a small town and more than 50 different specialized shops aboard the Land, day-to-day challenges were met with determination and teamwork.

The crew of more than 1,250 arrived in Souda Bay, Crete, moored and tended over a dozen ships that were going to and returning from the war in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Land relinquished its pier-side location for carriers, mine sweeps and other ships, and repeatedly anchored in the Souda Bay harbor.

While in port Crete, the crew welcomed the ship's 14th Commanding Officer, Capt. D. M. Volonino.

Land's underway was the longest in its history at La Maddalena, Italy. One big challenge on the ship was getting the crew pier-side to use laundry facilities, during a demanding period of limited water usage.

Deck Department came into the spotlight by operating the ship's small boats and braved bitter waters to almost exhausting limits, so the crew could have brief periods of liberty.

The threat of demonstrators was real, and a Personnel Recall Drill was carried out while docked at the pier. The purpose was to practice getting personnel back to the ship within a timely manner, lift the brow, post armed personnel at critical positions and have hose teams standing by to deter protesters.

Visits from Rear Adm. Kirkland H. Donald, commander of Submarine Group 8 were welcomed, as he came aboard to recognize some of the ship's high achievers.

According to Volonino, his observations have seen a crew of devoted professionals, who continuously go above and beyond what is required of them. His crew hears his words regularly over the shipboard announcing system; "Go big Land!"



Los Angeles class submarine USS San Juan (SSN 751) arrives for a port visit and prepares to be berthed next to submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39). San Juan is home-based in Groton, Conn. and the tender is home-based in La Maddalena, Italy.

Father and Daughter Advance Together

By JO3 Jason Tross, Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center Public Affairs

NAVAL STRIKE AND AIR WARFARE CENTER, NAS FALLON, Nev. (NNS) — Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Alberto Arce-Rodriguez, stationed at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nev., received a very long-awaited call early last month.

Mess Specialist 3rd Class Mercy Schoch stationed aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), excitedly called to tell him she was home after completing her first deployment, one of the longest in history.

"Dad we're home," said Schoch. "And I made 3rd, too."

"So did I," replied Arce.

Arce and his daughter were both selected as petty officers 3rd class from the latest advancement cycle. They reunited for the first time since last summer in Fallon, as Arce was frocked by NSAWC Commander Rear Adm. Dave Nichols.

Arce admitted there was some healthy competition before the results when Schoch challenged him, saying she would make advancement before Dad.

"I had to make third," Arce said jokingly. "I couldn't imagine my daughter out-ranking me after 10 years of service."

Arce chose to trade his Army green for Navy blue in June 2001. Because he switched services, he was reduced in rank from E-5 to E-3, but felt the change was worthwhile.

"I was ok with the reduction in rank because of the Navy's way of practicing medicine," said Arce. "The Navy hospital corpsman program seemed to have more areas of medicine to learn about."

In February 2002, his daughter chose a similar path.

"I grew up as a military brat with my father and I hated it," said Schoch. "We moved at least once every two years."

After graduating high school, Schoch, like many young graduates, didn't have stable income or a means to afford the high cost of college tuition. The armed services provided an opportunity for her.

"I did it for the money," said Schoch. The military just seemed like the way to go."

She admits her father's change in services influenced her decision to pick the Navy over the other services. After talking with Arce, she decided she was ready.

"He definitely coached me and helped persuade me towards the Navy," said Schoch.

Shortly after joining the Navy, Schoch found herself departing for a record-breaking deployment, which left her at sea for nearly 10 months aboard one of the largest ships in the world. Separated by thousands of miles and a war, she still got support from Dad.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Casteltermini Tataratà Festival a truly unique folklore show

When the Sicilian ethnographer, Giuseppe Pitrè, who spent his entire life studying the Sicilian culture, attended the *Tataratà* Festival in Casteltermini, in the province of Agrigento, more than a 100 years ago, he was so impressed that he wrote that he found it a "very peculiar festival." Yet Pitrè vividly describes the *Tataratà* folk dance, the climax of the *fiesta* (festival), as he had a mystical vision of it that he then transcribed: "The clanging sound of clashing swords and ringing bells, amongst the crackling torches and the throng of screaming people, tames even the most restless animals that behave as if they are driven by some supernatural force."

The name *Tataratà* is a descriptive onomatopoeia symbolic of the rhythmic sound of beating drums and clashing swords featuring during this spectacular dance.

This lively folklore show, which is performed in traditional Arabic costumes, represents a fertility rite and stems from the traditions of the Berber peasants and shepherds who lived in the area, cohabiting peacefully with the Christian settlements. According to local historians, in the 17th century these Arabic populations, who converted to Christianity, enriched the local traditions with their picturesque costumes and North African culture.

But one should notice that the *Tataratà* is not only a pagan festival. Indeed, this folk dance has been complementing the *Santa Croce* or Holy Cross Feast for hundreds of years. The Holy Cross Festival is a religious festival that is held yearly in town on the fourth Sunday of May. This year the festival was postponed because of the local elections. Yet, the *Santa Croce* Festival celebrates the accidental discovery of a wooden cross that, according to tradition, occurred sometime before the foundation of Casteltermini in 1629 by Baron Gian Vincenzo Maria Termini. According to legend, an unusual event happened on the grazing land situated in the territory that would later become the town of Casteltermini. A cow often used to leave the herd to go to a site where it knelt down for hours.

Becoming curious about this odd behavior, the shepherds decided to dig right where the cow kept kneeling down. And to their great surprise, they discovered an ancient 12-foot-tall wooden cross. Based on the results of the Carbon 14 test, the analysis showed that the cross dates back to 12 A.D. Consequently, it is one of the most ancient crosses of the Christianity. Ever

since this miraculous event occurred, the devotion for this Holy Cross spread among the Casteltermini community. So it was decided to celebrate a *fiesta* to honor the cross. According to historic chronicles, the first festival was held in 1667. Tradition also holds that during these celebrations, the devotees carved some Latin inscriptions on the cross.

Festival goers can only see the original cross, which was recently restored, by visiting the local sanctuary located outside the city and named *Eremo di Santa Croce* (Hermitage of the Holy Cross). A copy of the cross will be taken in procession throughout the historic center of the town during the festival.

Over the past four centuries, the four city guilds (the *Maestranza*, the *Pastori*, the *Borgesi* and the *Celibi*) named *Ceti*, have been involved in organizing and parading on horseback at this amazing three-day festival that combines religious and pagan elements.

If you want to taste some of the local specialties, try the delicious *Cubbaita torrone* (nougat made with sesame seeds, honey and toasted almonds) or ricotta cheese, lamb and pasta with fresh broad beans.

Yet, don't forget to visit the beautiful Baroque churches (Cathedral, Saint Joseph and Saint Anthony) located in the historic heart of the town.

For more info call the Casteltermini Tourist Office at 0922-929001.

Festival Schedule

Today the *fiesta* kicks off with the procession, leaving at 6 p.m. from via Verdi and heading toward the main square, featuring the city guilds and bands.

Saturday, the festival opens at 9 a.m. with the city bands playing music throughout the city. In the afternoon at 5 p.m., a spectacular parade in period costumes is held.

At 6 p.m. flag waivers perform in piazza del Carmelo. Thirty minutes later, the *Tataratà* amazing folk dance show begins in piazza Duomo (main square). Another flag waivers show ends the second day of the festival at 7:30 p.m. in



From May 30 through June 1, a spectacular festival takes place in Casteltermini. This is a celebration that combines the elements of religious devotion and folklore. The highlight of the festival is a breathtaking sword folk dance in traditional Arabic costumes named *Tataratà* that is staged in the main square on May 31 and June 1.

piazza Duomo.

The last day of the *fiesta* (June 1) opens with an historic parade at 10:30 a.m. Later, a flag waiver show is performed at 12:45 p.m. The spectacular *Tataratà* amazing folk dance is held twice at 1 and 6:15 p.m. in piazza Duomo. The festival ends with a Moresca dance at 9:30 p.m. in the main square.

How to get there

Casteltermini is about two hours from Sigonella. It can be easily reached by exiting Caltanissetta on the Catania-Palermo highway. Follow directions for Agrigento and exit at the junction for Palermo/Aragona and drive until you see the signs for Casteltermini.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		
COMMUNITY CALENDAR												30	31	
												MAY	VP-8 Change of Command 11 a.m. Hangar 407	Out n About to Vulcano Island depart 6 a.m. AU Call 624-4271
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
JUNE	Patti Shopping & Parco Jalari ITT Call 624-4396	Family Art 4 to 5 p.m. BLAST Call 624-3736	Mineo Playgroup 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mineo Community Center	Horse Trekking AU Call 624-4271	Anger Management 3 to 4 p.m. NAS I Hospital 2A-III Call 624-4291	Agrigento Camping Trip until June 8 depart 3 p.m. AU Call 624-4271	Night of Champions Theatre time TBA Call 624-2710	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Castelmola Falcon Show & Giardini Naxos ITT Call 624-4396	Special Additions 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Community Bldg rm 203	Boys & Girls of America Torch Club ages 10 -12 3 to 4 p.m. 205 Youth Center	Scavenger Hunts 4 to 5 p.m. 205 Youth Center	National Peanut Butter Cookie Day all day while supplies last Take 5	Old School New School All Star Basketball Game 5 to 7 p.m. NAS II Gym	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Phone your Father for Free 11 a.m. Take 5	Intermural Summer Basketball NAS II Gym Call 624-2710	Ping Pong Tourney 11:30 a.m. Take 5 Call 624-5602	Etna Off Road depart Sig Inn 8 a.m. ITT Call 624-4396	Photo Safari Meeting 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Golden Anchor Call 624-3718	Marina di Ragusa Camping Trip depart 3 p.m. Liberty Call 624-4331	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Visit Palermo ITT Call 624-4396	4-on-4 Sand Volleyball League Call 624-2710	Basic Italian 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Red Cross Call 624-4446	Fruit & Veggie Month Free fruits and veggies All day Take 5	Etna Land Waterpark depart 8 a.m. AU Call 624-4271	Base ICR 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. ICR Class Room Call 624-4291	28							Crazy Hats in Cool Hats BLAST Call 624-3736

AIMD painters make a statement

By AK1 Mitchell Henry and AN Michelle Hartgraves

The Navy hosts a variety of ratings. In those ratings are groups of Sailors who perform a variety of tasks on a daily basis. Each Sailor is just part of the many who somewhere, somehow have a vital role in mission readiness.

Walking through the halls, those who work in AIMD, might get a sense of how important their job is to the Navy, everytime they glance at the large mural painted proudly by two Sailors.

The image of America's greatest symbol of strength surrounded by Old Glory captures each passer-by's attention. As an expression of their willingness to help foster AIMD's commitment to improve morale and esprit de corps, AM2 William Sheerer from AIMD's 500 division and SK3 Michael Starchok from Material Control volunteered their time and talent to work on the mural. The mural features the head of a Bald Eagle submerged through a cloud of smoke, poised in front of the Star spangled banner as if to defend it. Represented to the left of the flag are the deep blue waters of the Mediterranean, partially covered by a map of Europe. Finally, strategically stenciled are the words which anchor AIMD's mission in the European theater, AIMD, Sigonella securing freedom.

Around 90 to 95 percent of the mural was free handed as the two went away from the original design after painting the eagle. Sheerer and Starchok went in to work on the painting at night, during the quietest time of the day. Finally after a week, the mural was finished.



ished. "It is great working with proud shipmates. I am proud to be part of AIMD... [the mural] shows that they recognized our role in Sigonella," boosted Lt. j.g. Jose Peralta.

then. "[Painting] is relaxing. I let my feelings dictate how I paint," he said.

Starchok is planning to paint another mural in the next week by himself to help boost morale. The murals show that we do a little more than what we get recognized for.

SDS 4th and 5th grade Field day



A SDS elementary student uses a cardboard box as a sled during the recent 4th and 5th grade field day.

By Alex Rendon and Luke Sutton

On May 23, 2003, the fourth and fifth grades of Stephen Decatur Elementary School had their field day. Coach Goodman, the P.E. teacher, supervised and organized the activities. She had many volunteers to help. Some volunteers had Super Soakers, and got all the kids wet. The activities were located behind the school at the track.

There were eight activities: water balloon toss, water ration relay, an obstacle course, tug o' war, head drip aim shoot, bronco busters, trav-

eling hoops, and fire bucket brigade. Most of these activities were with water.

It was a great day, though dark clouds loomed overhead. Kids were wet and cold. Even so, most kids had a great time, like Luke Sutton. "I was soaking wet and extra cold," says Sutton. The volunteers kept squirting me. Another enthusiastic student, Alex Rendon, says his favorite event was Tug O' War. We won most of the tugs, he says, but what was most embarrassing was when we had a boys vs. girls match and the girls won! Oh well, there's always next year!

DEFY from page 1

Dutrieux and Bergeron attended a DEFY conference in Reno, Nevada meeting with colleagues from all over the United States. Dutrieux and Bergeron stated that they gathered many new ideas and activities to add to their "bag of tricks" for the program.

The DEFY staff are all affiliated with the military in some respect. They are primarily active duty personnel, but also include reservists, DoD civilians, DoD spouses, and retired persons. All are screened carefully and go through a background check. If you are interested in becoming part of the staff it is not too late. Volunteers are still needed in order to make this a successful program for our participants.

Unlike most programs, DEFY combines elements from many different youth programs, including physical fitness, educational trips, self-esteem and peer leadership development, decision-making, drug resistance, and a formal graduation. "The DEFY Program taught me how dangerous drugs can be and how I can teach other kids about the danger of drugs," said 12 year old Quennell Crutcher. Phase I approach is the most effective way



to instill positive attitudes in youth. In addition, DEFY offers a year-long follow-up Phase II Program which emphasizes small group mentoring/role modeling and special events and workshops which continue to build on the lessons of Phase I.

Children will not be allowed to attend Phase I DEFY more than once. With the high demand for this type of program and the limited resources, unfortunately, we must limit children to one pass through the Phase I camp and Phase II mentoring process. Please note

that every effort will be made to accommodate all participants including those with special needs.

For further information and application visit the DEFY website at <http://www.hq.navy.mil/defy/curriculum.htm>. Applications must be turned in to Bridging Leisure and After School Time (BLAST) at 205 housing no later than June 9. You may contact AMC (AW/NAC) Thomas L. Dutrieux, Program Coordinator at 095-86 5315 or 3357864250 for any other questions.

Summer fire safety

From the NASSIG Fire Department

Station personnel are reminded that due to a break in contractor services with respect to the grounds maintenance around the Base, that there are numerous areas that have high dry grass exceeding 48 inches. This poses a potential brush fire hazard that the current contractor is trying to eliminate. You can help the situation by being extremely cautious and heeding the following preventive practices.

- For smokers, use your automobile ash-tray when touring or exiting the station. Don't flip lit cigarettes out the window.
- Suspend charcoal barbecuing if the wind is extremely gusty. Dispose of your charcoal to a metal receptacle with a lid after the coals have cooled.
- Be careful when parking in fields or lots that have high dry grass, your catalytic converter or muffler are hot enough to ignite high dry grass.

Other summer fire safety tips are as follows.

- Be extremely careful when using aerosol insect repellents or bug sprays around lit candles, campfires, patio torches or gas grills.
- Never attempt "hot" lawn mower or weed-eater with gasoline. Fill the gas appliance before starting the job.
- Soak your charcoal well with starter fluid and wait 30 seconds before igniting.
- Avoid spraying hot coals with fluid to increase the flame. If charcoal fluid gets in your eyes, flush with water for 15 minutes and seek medical attention.

Disconnect your bombola bottles from your space heaters, and move them to the shade outdoors.



pleasure of working with," said McKenzie. "They come to work everyday without complaint and without a stumble and they get it done. That's probably been the best part of being in command, just the caliber of people out there. I've been blessed with being with this command, and to watch what they're capable of doing."

"He's got the respect and admiration of the entire command," said Dishman. "He's done a tremendous job as a commanding officer and has been a great mentor for me. He has no bigger fan than myself, I'm very proud and honored to have worked with him."

Dishman is also proud to share the title of undefeated horseshoe champions with McKenzie. At a command family picnic at VP-8's home base New Brunswick, Maine, they took the title of 2002 Family Picnic Horseshoe Champions, surprising the chiefs. "The chiefs were frustrated that we were able to beat them in horseshoes," said Dishman. "The [executive officer] and I teamed up and took on all challengers, and we were the

last men standing at the end," McKenzie added.

When first stepping in to take the reigns of VP-8, McKenzie made safety a priority. "My number one goal when I took over the "Fighting Tigers" was to make sure that we did everything as effectively and as safely as we possibly could. I always used to talk about fingers and toes when I talked to the troops. I'd say that my one goal at the end of my tour here is to make sure you all go home with as many fingers and toes as you showed up with." He paused to rap his fist on a wood table. "I've been able to do that, so I've realized my number one goal to date. It has not come without any degree of effort, it's taken quite a bit of effort from everybody to make us perform at the op tempo that we have, and do it as safely as we've done. So I'm very proud of the squadron."

He's also proud to have been, and always be, a "Fighting Tiger." "Tiger Pride is the essence of what it is that we do day in and day out. It's loyalty up and down the chain of command, integrity in always

telling the truth, teamwork in always watching each others back, and excellence through professionalism," said McKenzie. He has been able to foster this pride as commanding officer. "It's something we live and breathe every single day. It's one of those intangibles that you can't test or measure, except by the result," he said. "It's genuine concern each of the members of the command have for each other, and their genuine desire to go out and accomplish the mission day in and day out regardless of the obstacles."

McKenzie will take the Tiger Pride with him to his next duty at the staff of Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, as the force training officer. "I actually get to stay and work in the community," said McKenzie. "I've always had a love for training so this is really good, I get to stay in the community and do something I really enjoy. Our community has challenges ahead with an aging airframe, an expanding mission and a proposal with a follow on aircraft. The training issues surrounding that are go-

ing to be considerable." McKenzie said he will be able to get in on the ground floor of training through a transitional phase from the P-3 to whatever it will replace. "That's going to be a great opportunity to have an impact on the community for years to come."

Dishman will change very little during his command. "It's been great working with the current commanding officer. He and I have seen pretty much eye-to-eye on everything," said Dishman. "There's not a whole lot I'm looking to change, we both have very same leadership styles, goals, and aspirations for the command. A lot of things I would have liked to achieve as a CO have already been put in place." He said the squadron is riding a pretty big high right now, due to the phenomenal job they've done during their recent deployment and involvement in OIF. "I'm very excited to be taking command of this squadron at this time," he said. "I couldn't be prouder or more excited."

McKenzie has confidence in

the next CO. "He's going to be a fabulous commanding officer," said McKenzie. "There's no reason in the world that he won't be extremely successful as an aviator, a lot of experience as a leader, and is more than ready to take the reigns of this squadron."

"One of the things I would like to leave the squadron is letting them understand that this squadron has a very long proud heritage of over 60 years of service in patrol aviation," said McKenzie. "They are part of that heritage. No



A member assigned to Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8), paints the squadron's patch in the VP-8 hangar. The squadron's patch will join the other patrol squadron patches already in the hangar.

matter what they do in the future, they will always be a Fighting Tiger."

Word Find

Famous Couples

NAPOLEON & JOSEPHINE
 OZZIE & HARRIETT
 NELSON PAUL NEWMAN & JOANN WOOD
 WARD
 PHIL DONAHUE & MARLO THOMAS
 PRINCE RANIER & GRACE KELLY
 RHETT & SCARLET BUTLER
 ROBIN HOOD & MAID MARION
 ROY ROGERS & DALE EVANS
 SEAN PENN & ROBIN WRIGHT
 THURSTON & LOVEY HOWELL
 WARREN BEATTY & ANNETE BENNING
 WILL SMITH & JADA PINKETT

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

ADAM & EVE
 CHARLES & CAROLINE INGALLS
 CINDERELLA & PRINCE CHARMING
 CLIFF & CLAIRE HUCKSTABLE
 COURTNEY COX & DAVID ARQUETTE
 DARIN & SAMANTHA STEVENS
 DONALD & DAISY DUCK
 EDWARD & WALLACE SIMPSON
 ETHAN HAWK & UMA THURMAN

FRANKLIN & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
 FRED & WILMA FLINSTONE
 GEORGE BURNS & GRACIE ALLEN
 GEORGE & MARTHA WASHINGTON
 HAN SOLO & PRINCESS LEIA
 HUME CRONIN & JESSICA TANDY
 IKE & MAMIE EISENHOWER
 JENNIFER ANISTON & BRAD PITT
 JOHN SMITH & POCAHONTAS
 MICKEY & MINNIE MOUSE

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

"Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Filipino – Who cares? They are all the same"

By Diane Abcede

"You wouldn't believe how many people I've heard say these words! Sure, the people I heard may have been joking; but being a young girl – highly influenced by anything and everything – I easily believed that this statement was true. I accepted the falsehood that I was just a mere Asian – nothing special about it. Thank God for my family and friends that helped prove me wrong.

Unlike other things in life, being Asian is one thing I can count on. I'm appreciative of the rich heritage that my parents have bestowed upon me, and I am glad to be a part of the Asian society.

Each Asian country has its own unique culture – along with traditions, foods, and festivities – that distinguishes it from all other countries. I'm from the Philippines, so I enjoy foods like pancit, lumpia, and chicken adobo. Also, instead of celebrating Halloween on October 31st, traditional Filipinos visit their deceased, loved ones at the Cemetery. Just think; this is only just a sample of my ethnic makeup! Of course, there are other countries like Japan with its sushi and bonodori, and Korea with its kimchi.

There may be many similarities between two countries, but that doesn't mean they're the same. All countries – whether they are Asian or not – have their own distinct flavors.

What I like best about being Asian is that I can share my way of life with others who have different backgrounds. The chance to spread my culture and stamp out any stereotypes people had about Asians is a chance that I'll gladly take. Not only will I give others a better understanding of my ethnicity – I, too, can learn about theirs. Cultural exchanges like these are what opens people's eyes to customs and beliefs that are different from their own; thus causing them to become more open-minded.

A is for Asian. S is for Sensitivity. I is for Ideal. A is for Ambitious. N is for New.

A. S. I. A. N. is for what I am and what I'm proud to be.

Daisy Troop 72 helps out Animal Shelter



A daisy troop member gives some affection to a cat at the animal shelter.

Daisy Troop 72 recently did community service for the NAS 1 Animal Shelter. They chose the animal shelter because all of the girls expressed a compassion for these animals. They collected dog food, cat food, cat litter and treats to donate. The girls enjoyed holding the kittens and giving the dogs bones. When asked Daisy member Daniella Gutierrez, why she enjoyed her time at the animal shelter, she said "she liked giving the dogs bacon treats because it made them happy." If leader Tracey Johnson would have let them, each girl would have brought home a new pet that day. The girls are asking the community, if you are looking for an animal, please check the pound first. They have a lot of kittens that need a home. In the end, the day proved a good way for the girls to benefit from some of the values they have learned from Girl Scouts.

Fri. May 30

Prepare to be chilled at Take 5. Stop by for some free popsicles to get ready for summer while supplies last. Call x5602 for more information on Take 5 events.

Sat. May 31

Spend your day with ITT admiring the Capo Bianco, known as the Turkish Steps because of its unique limestone rock formation. Also, take a dip in the sky-blue waters nearby. After the swim, go to the ancient valley of Agrigento, home to more than 10 temples. Afterwards, have pizza at a typical Sicilian restaurant. Call ITT at x4369/x4777 for more information.

Sun. June 1

Hit the beach and have some fun in the sun with Liberty. Bring a towel, bathing suit, and some euro for lunch! Sign up and pay by 6 p.m. on Sat., May 31 at Take 5.

Spend time shopping at the world famous Caleca Ceramic factory outlet in Patti before visiting Parco Jalari in the afternoon. This park is full of unique rock sculptures and fountains placed along tree-shaded paths. The park is also home to an agrituristic farm where you'll have lunch. Call ITT at x4369/x4777 for more information.

Mon. June 2

Come out and play some BINGO at Live Wire. Cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Come early for a good seat.

Tues. June 3

Get your free ice cream sandwiches all day while supplies last at Take 5 to celebrate National Dairy Month. Call x5602 for more information on Take 5 events.

Compete in the free Liberty pool tournament at NAS I #170 barracks at 7 p.m.

Weds. June 4

Can't wait until the weekend, hit the beach early and have some fun in the sun with Liberty. Bring a towel, bathing suit, and some euro for lunch! Sign up and pay by 6 p.m. on Tues., June 3 at Take 5.

TRIVIA

According to the Bible what is the moral of the prodigal son parable?
 In what arithmetic process would you find a minuend and a subtraend?
 The name of which state originates from the indian word meaning at the long tidal river?
 Howard University was named after what member of the Freedman's Bureau?
 Hannibal, Mo. erected the first statue of what two literary characters on May 27, 1926?
 (Answers on page 11)

Movie Connection

AWIE's Theater Schedule

Friday, May 30

5:30 p.m.
 The Matrix Reloaded (R)
 9 p.m.
 The Hunted (R)

Monday, June 2

5:30 p.m.
 The matrix Reloaded (R)
 9 p.m.
 Basic (R)

Saturday, May 31

2 p.m.
 X2: X-Men United (PG-13)
 5 p.m.
 Head of State (PG-13) **
 7:30 p.m.
 A Man Apart (R) **

Tuesday, June 3

5:30 p.m.
 The Core (PG-13)
 9 p.m.
 The Hunted (R)

Wednesday, June 4

5:30 p.m.
 Daddy Day Care (PG)
 8 p.m.
 Head of State (PG-13)

Thursday, June 5

5:30 p.m.
 Chicago (PG-13) *
 8 p.m.
 A Man Apart (R)

Sunday, June 1

1 p.m.
 Daddy Day Care (PG)
 3:30 p.m.
 Chicago (PG-13)
 6 p.m.
 The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Friday, June 6

5:30 p.m.
 Bruce Almighty (PG-13) **
 8 p.m.
 Phone Booth (R) **

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

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

This week on...

Mon. Jun 2 - West Wing
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Tue. Jun 3 - Movie: Notting Hill
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Wed. Jun 4 - Joe Millionaire
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Thu. Jun 5 - Friends
 AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Fri. Jun 6 - The Bachelor
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

A "SALIOR'S VIEW" WITH THE NASSIG CMDCM AT 7 AM TUESDAY ON 106.0 ZFM

TUNE IN TO FEEDBACK WEDNESDAY WITH CAPT TIM DAVISON AT 6:30 PM ON YOUR LOCAL AFN CHANNEL

afneurope.net/signonella

Air terminal from page 1



Photo by PHT Matthew Thomas

Two passenger service people help a passenger with flight information and directions.

1956 specializing in the movement of passengers and cargo to and from different locations.

The air terminal is equipped with well-trained personnel according to Frank Alfieri, Station Manager. Personnel who work with and move the planes must be well-trained and certified on equipment and cargo handling. Those who work behind the scenes as well as passenger service are friendly individuals who must put 100 percent in what they are doing according to Alternate Station Manager, Gennaro Carcassa. "We try to take care of the problems they bring to us so that they can perform correctly and more effectively on the job," added Alfieri.

The air terminal, which is manned 24-hours, sees roughly 90,000 customers a year. With so many customers and a new contract Algeese has purchased new aircraft and equipment to improve the quality of service.

The common problem faced on a daily basis is space availability for Space "A" travel. According to Alfieri there are no guaranteed seats, but the staff does their best to help passengers out.

When passengers enter the air terminal, Passenger Services people trained to help answer a wide variety of questions await behind the white counter. Other staff members are checking luggage and personnel for unauthorized items or booking flight while out side cargo is being unloaded and loaded and airplanes are being prepared for the next flight. The air terminal is alive with activity so that passengers can be assured they are getting good quality service. "We are very dedicated to our customer, which is the United States government," declared Alfieri.

MOMAU from page 1

the MK-83 bomb bodies, are 1000 pounds," said MN1 (SW) Steven Pierce, quality assurance department head. "They're just general purpose bombs that we build into Quick Strike underwater mines." When they are finished, the MK-82 Bomb Bodies become MK-62 Quick Strike Mines, and the MK-83 Bomb Bodies become MK-63 Quick Strike Mines. "Some Air Force Officers were here on a tour," said Pierce, "and basically they said we're taking a dumb weapon and making it into a smart weapon."

To keep at the ready, training is a big part of what MOMAU 5 does. They will be performing mine upgrades, which is simulated assembly of mines such as the Quick Strike Mines, every month until their Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) in August.

"We have to constantly practice, just like if you had an assembly line for a car, but you aren't building cars everyday," said Tillinghast. "You have to practice. So what we do is take these mine shapes, which have all the same components that go into a regular mine, and we do it just like we'd do it if we were building a real mine. We practice and build it from start to finish," he said. They look at how much times it takes to build the mines, every little process and procedure, and look for something that they can do to make it safer. "It's simulated because we are not using live ordinance, that's the only thing that's not real."

"Basically what we're showing our Commodore, Commander Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG) in Corpus Christi, Texas, is we know how to build mines," said MNCS (SW) Dave Ostrom, Mine Assembly Officer. "They'll build up the mines just the way they would if they were at sea in support of operations."

MOMAU 5 also has what is known as Versatile Exercise Mines (VEM). These mines help train the Mine Countermeasure (MCM) forces by providing a system that simulates the physical characteristics of various other mine warfare systems. They record the signatures that ships put out and record the data, such as when a ship minesweeper finds it, or when it was detonated. "NATO forces love training with these," said Ostrom. "We're keeping up with the cutting edge technology," said MN3 Jim Batman, who works in the MOMAU 5 VEMS shop. "We keep our skills trained up so the guys at sea can find these mines," said Batman.

The sailors at MOMAU 5 give it their all every day. "The crew works with what they have," said Ostrom. "They come in here and give it 110 percent every day. These guys participate in a lot of major exercises. We've got teams that deploy constantly all throughout Europe and even over to the Persian Gulf." Teams from MOMAU 5 deploy for training exercises



Photo by JCSN Steve Weaver

A member assigned to Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five (MOMAU 5) at NAS Sigonella, inspects the inside of an MK-75 Versatile Exercise Mine (VEM). The VEM simulates different types of mine warfare systems for use during training exercises. The system gathers data such as the types of vessels passing over it, when it is found, or when it is detonated.

in Italy, Spain, France, Germany, UK, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Israel.

"They do a lot of hard work down there," said Tillinghast. The majority of MOMAU 5's work comes from exercises, putting the mine "shapes" in to the water for ships to train. "We put them in the water and then our allies, and sometimes our ships, will go over the top of those mines and do the things that minesweepers do to identify them and then practice neutralizing them," said Tillinghast. "Then we retrieve those shapes and they get back to us rusty and dirty, and sometimes full of mud. What we have to do then is clean them up sand them down, prime and paint them to get them ready for the next exercise. It's a continuous process."

In case their services are needed, MOMAU 5 is ready to go. "We're always

training to keep the edge because at any time one of our three carrier (CV) contingency teams can deploy to go to carriers afloat and build up [mines] with the weapons people on board the ship."

These teams use the bombs on board carriers. "That's why we can send teams to a carrier, we can just use their bombs," said Tillinghast. "They have mine packages and our guys will help the guys that normally build bombs," he said. "Our guys will integrate with them and instead of building a bomb, we use the same bomb to make a mine." These mines can be dropped in the water by the same aircraft used to drop the bombs. These include F-18's, F-14's, and P-3's.

Tillinghast said MOMAU 5 is 100 percent ready for any task. "We can put a whole lot of mines on station really quickly from here, all the way out to Bahrain," he said. "If you think about the possibilities of mining, it's an awesome thing. In my opinion, the Navy would never want to be without mines."

Dancing the day away



Photo by JCSN Steve Weaver

Capt. T.L. Davison, NASSIG commanding officer, takes part in the "Tinkling" dance during the Asian Pacific American Month Heritage Celebration. Honored as the Philippine native dance, it imitates the movement of the "tikling" birds as they walk between grass stems.

Combat, stress by any other name still smell as sour

By Rod Duren, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla. Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." — William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet.

In the case of more than 140,000 former military members receiving disability, by any other name, the aftermaths of diagnosed "combat stress" is an acrid smell that may linger long after the physical repercussions of war.

In the days, and closing months, of Operation Iraqi Freedom and any follow-ups to rebuild nations, the U.S. military has aggressively planned for and implemented counseling and psychological interventions of a wide array of deployed personnel.

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Jones, a Navy psychiatrist attached to Fleet Hospital (FH) 3, a medical and surgical field hospital in Southern Iraq primarily made up of personnel from Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola, indicated recently in a telephone interview, that he personally saw very few cases of "combat stress."

"Some service members, throughout this (war), have done very well," he said.

Upon arriving at FH-3 with a preliminary diagnosis of "combat stress," a condition describing war-related emotional symptoms that may lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), there's generally two options for the psychiatrist on duty. It's either return the service member back to duty or send them home.

The majority of the service members returned to their unit, but some went home, said the Springfield, Ohio, native.

"Only time will tell," he said. "After about a month, family and friends may need to keep a vigil on those Sailors and Marines who were preliminarily diagnosed with combat stress." The psychiatrist also said he diagnosed no service members with PTSD.

Symptoms to watch for include: intrusive memory loss, reliving trauma and flashbacks, and becoming hyper-vigilant or fearful.

In theater, Navy doctors used the "BICEPS" model to treat those suspected of combat stress. In general terms, "BICEPS" is an acronym for the way physicians may want to treat potential mental health patients. Treat them with Brevity, Immediacy, at a Central location, with Expediency, Proximity to where their company is located and as Simply as possible.

PTSD or combat stress, again by any other name, is not new. In virtually every wartime scenario in which American forces have been involved - in various decades and centuries - a term was developed for which, in essence, is combat stress.

During the "War Between the States" in the early 1860s, war-time physicians referred to it as a "soldier's heart." During the "war to end all wars," World War I, in the early 20th century, the repercussions of an epidemic of trench warfare became known as "shell shock."

So, what's in a name when symptoms transcend two centuries?

The names may be different, but the signs are generally rigid: nightmares, difficulty sleeping, reliving traumatic events, fearful, jumpy and irritable.

"We try using relaxation techniques," said Jones, "and they're generally worried about their families, who some of them hadn't had heard from for months. You would be surprised how things change (with their psyche) when we were able to offer them e-mail capability."

"It's been difficult hearing the stories," said Jones, speaking about the daily wear-and-tear on his mental state. "It was also difficult for the psychiatry tech (corpsman), too, and the surgical staff that saw the injuries. There's nothing pretty about war."

The NH Pensacola-based psychiatrist said the key to what got him through the daily grind was his wife and three sons back home, and his faith.

"Some service members have done very well," he continued. "The morale-enhancing activities for fleet hospital personnel - sporting events, movies "and good food" - have been real life savers ... much like the Navy medical/surgical teams that virtually saved lives every day."

For related news, visit the Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla. Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/nh_pensacola.

Mediterranean Championships in Aviano

Tennis

Boy's Doubles 3rd Place
Terrance Young
Ryan Peralta

Boy's Singles 4th Place
Jose Peralta

Girl's Singles 4th Place
Crystal Shipley

Girl's Doubles 4th Place

Track

Team Placed 3rd Overall

Shot Put and Discus 1st Place
Jade Garth

Boy's Relay Team Placed 5th in all of Europe
Division 3

Roderick Perkins
Dustin Sampson
Anthony Turner
Randy Waggoner

Rod Perkins qualified with a time 52:84 in the 400m dash and also the 200m dash with a time of 23:73

Anthony Turner qualified for the 400m dash with a time of 53:12

BOY'S SOCCER

Danny Elliott and Paul Nicholson were selected to the All-Conference Team
Shawn McIntosh, Michael Park, and Daniel Rhodes were selected as
Honorable Mention, All Conference Team.

GIRL'S SOCCER

Karina Matti, Whitney Morrell and Kristina Schumacher were selected to the All-Conference Team.

Kristina Schumacher was selected to the All-Tournament Team.

Trivia Answers

- 1) Forgiveness
- 2) Subtraction
- 3) Connecticut
- 4) General Oliver Howard
- 5) Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer