

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 22

Taormina  BNL FilmFest



Story Inside
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June 13, 2003

CDC Members earn Fire Warden of the Year

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

NAS Sigonella Fire Department recently named members of the Child Development Center as the Fire Wardens of the Year for 2002.

Kimberly Ponicsan, CDC director, and Melanie Vener, CDC assistant director who recently departed Sigonella, were chosen from 44 tenant commands to which the Fire Station's Fire Warden Program extends.

Ponicsan and Vener teamed up to eliminate fire hazards and to ensure procedures outlined in the program were followed at the CDC and Shady Corner buildings during 2002. They also provided fire education support to DoDDS children.

"Every time we would ask [them] to do something, because of violations and discrepancies, they were on top of it and went out of their way get things done,"

Fire Warden page 10

NJROTC instructor bids unit, Sig farewell

By Maria Greger
Contributing Writer

Capt. Fredrick Wilmot, the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (NJROTC) Instructor, will be leaving Sigonella this summer after starting the unit at Stephen Decatur High School approximately six years ago. Before coming to Sigonella and leading the unit through its first years of development, he had had a distinguished military career.

After graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1961, Wilmot went to flight training to become Naval Aviator before beginning his first tour of duty as a flight instructor in Pensacola, Fla. He then went out into the fleet to work with anti-submarine warfare aircraft including the S-2, before heading off to test pilot school in Patuxent, Md., where he did test work on various planes, mainly the EA-6B Prowler, for three years. Wilmot then became the Department head for a squadron of EA-6Bs and made a couple of cruises during the Vietnam War.

About 13 years ago, he began teaching NJROTC in Las Vegas before coming to jump start a unit for Sigonella.

"Well, basically, I enjoyed time in Navy, enjoyed working with young people, this seemed like the best of both worlds," Wilmot replied when asked why he had decided to become a NJROTC Instructor.

The NJROTC unit in Sigonella is still young and definitely still developing. Wilmot remembers the earlier years of the unit, "I started the program along with Master Chief Abbott. You have some growing pains and you can't do all things at one time."

However, since the unit's birth a few years ago it has been able to develop a drill team that travels to drill competitions in both Italy and Germany. There are also other extracurricular activities that the unit has been able to allow cadets to take part in such as the armed and unarmed exhibition teams, air rifle teams, academic team, color guard, and honor guard among others. The unit, with the support of the base, has also been able to take part in sea cruises and HC-4 Orientation Tours, and even hosted a boot camp for the first year cadets of NJROTC Units in Italy. Because of its multi-faceted NJROTC, page 10

The biggest, littlest, weapons department in Med

JO2 David Hamilton
Staff Writer

You approach the gate of the Naval Air Station Sigonella Weapons Department and you see a young Sailor looking sharp, with his protective gnat mask, ready to stop anything that approaches. The weapons department contains ordnance measured in net explosive weight, which is the explosive impact of the ordnance itself. A bomb weighing five pounds might have a net explosive weight of one pound. During the month of May, the weapons team has moved over 700,000 net explosive pounds of ordnance. Thus far this fiscal year they have moved over 80 million net explosive pounds of ordnance.

The Weapons Department consists of 101 highly devoted Sailors. According to TMC (SW) Kevin Hines, a 21-year veteran to the Navy, "By some commands' standards we are not a large department, but we are the biggest, littlest, department in all of the European theater. We welcome the opportunity to take on much more responsibility than is necessary because we are always up to speed and ready."

One of several divisions that take on this responsibility is the ordnance team. This team is broken up into team leaders, quality assurance safety observers, and team members. Their primary mission is on/off loading of live ordnance and empty containers to aircraft and ships. Ordnances consist of ammunition, torpedoes, missiles, and bombs. The NAS Sigonella weapons department supports NATO, Souda Bay, Augusta Bay, 6th Fleet, Arabian Gulf, Sigonella, and portions of 5th Fleet, along with other branches of service as the need arises.

Hines cannot stress enough the importance of training in his department. "When an individual checks-in to the command, he/she will be assigned to the training division where they will go through a 30-day period, becoming qualified as a team member," said Hines. According to Hines, training consists of classroom, computer based course, and on-the-job training including truck driving and forklift school.

Recently, Team Leader GMI David Martino and a team of 13 people put their training into practice during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Responding in less than 36 hours for a 30-day deployment to the Arabian Gulf, Martino and team on and off loaded 122 assets (missiles) to combatant ships within their first two weeks. "We had a mission to do, worked hard each day, and had fun doing it", said Martino.



Naval Air Station Sigonella Sicily, Weapons Department loads one of 122 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles onto USS Fletcher (DD 992) in Arabian Gulf.

As a team leader and safety observer, Martino carries many responsibilities. "I have to ensure that everyone is on the same page with whatever evolution we are in. I have to make sure that the publications are up to date, and that all team members know their roles."

Hines further emphasized the importance of safety for the weapons department. "Something as simple as stacking containers with missiles must be taken seriously. If one of the containers drops and cracks, fuel may leak causing exposure to high explosives and possible detonation."

Team member GM2 (SW) Johnny Le plays many roles. Le is responsible for Weapons, page 8

Material Division on the Go



Supply personnel off-loads cargo from a semi truck as the LPO monitors and guides the process.

PH1 Janine Deneault
Staff Writer

When you think of Supply, what crosses your mind — pens, pencils, paper, and envelopes? The NAS Sigonella Supply Department's job is to ensure we receive our supplies to accomplish our mission.

Lt. William Clarke, division officer of the Supply Material, Transportation, and Customs Divisions said, "Our mission at the material division is to provide the manpower and infrastructure for the Defense Logistics Agency," he said. "In return we carry more supply stock items to support the fleet. Naval Air Station Sigonella is the main supply depot for the Mediterranean," Clarke continued.

As the material division comes to life at the beginning of every morning they prepare their receiving area for the numerous trucks to be off-loaded. They insure that the GATE

system is up and running to check in all goods received, forklifts are in good working order and the staging area is ready for incoming freight. The freight will be re-distributed here at NAS Sigonella and to all units in the 6th Fleet theater and beyond.

According to SK1(AW) Isidro Ortiz, LPO Material Division, "The material division played a major roll for all units operating in the 6th Fleet theater by transitioning their supplies into Sigonella for distribution to other military assets."

During the high build up period the material division's workload more than doubled from last winter. "A normal day (24 hours) of operation for the material division during Operation Iraqi Freedom would be to unload more than 25 containers of goods and reload more than 20 containers of goods per day for redistribution to military assets in our theater. Each container consists of approximately

40,000 pounds of goods," said SK1(SW/AW) Orlando Garcia, Receiving LPO.

All supplies remaining at NASSIG go into the warehouse as stock items. Everything is arranged on shelves and in bins by serial numbers. The warehouse has everything from toilet paper to repair parts; thousand and thousands of line items of supplies are available. Those items that are going out to different ships or units will be separated in the staging area and placed on shelves marked with the appropriate ship/unit name. Material division also receives a list of all unit names and locations

so they can accurately set up transportation of the supplies quickly.

According to Clarke, less than two years ago the Supply Department was strictly used for parts support for the aviation aspects of the base. Now the idea is to support the fleet. Ships and units traveling in this arena can count on Sigonella for supplies and parts or at least a place where items can be shipped too. "All units in the 6th Fleet theater of operation can screen items from Sigonella's inventory list before placing an order somewhere farther away. This makes the transportation pipeline much shorter, with a faster turn around time for delivery of supplies, thus costing the Navy less money for transportation," said Clarke. The Supply Department is in the planning stages of becoming a Defense Logistic Agency Partnership, which means we support all military assets in the European theater.

Perform to Serve Rightsizing Navy

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

Still in the early stages of its implementation, the Navy's Perform to Serve (PTS) program is "performing" what it was created to do; right size the Navy.

Since being implemented in March, many Sailors have submitted PTS applications for reenlistment in rate or conversion to another rate, and many have been approved for both.

In the first month, 30 percent of eligible Sailors were approved for in-rate reenlistment, with five percent approved for conversion. In the second month, another 30 percent of the applicants were approved for reenlistment in rate, with seven percent approved to convert.

During the early stages of the program, there have been a larger number of applicants because all Sailors, regardless of EAOS, will be given six opportunities for approval.

"Naval Air Station Sigonella's (NASSIG) numbers are right in line with the numbers Navy wide with the amount of conversions being approved," said NCC (SW) Russel Scott, command career counselor, "and the amount of reservations being accepted to stay in the current ratings."

"It is on the right track. The program, for being so new, is having a positive impact, and is

Rightsize, page 10

Today's Hometown Weather

Queens, NY



Queens

High 64° F - Low 58° F
Showers



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

Baseball... America's pastime.

I think everyone around base is talking about the Sammy Sosa corked-bat scandal. Last week, the Cub's powerhouse outfielder hit a ground ball during a 3-2 victory game over Tampa Bay. The base hit shattered the bat in half. The home umpire spotted cork in the middle of the bat and thus ejected Sosa from the game. The ejection was the penalty for using the bat.

Some fans have forgiven him, while others don't like what he did. Others gave him a standing ovation at the next game. They checked his other 76 bats and they were clean. Was it a simple mistake of grabbing the wrong bat, or does he often use corked bats to hit his homers? I don't know the answer to that one but should he be a responsible player and not use those bats at home?

I would like to talk about personal accountability. We all place our trust in the person working besides us. Whether we are at sea, on shore, or in the air, everyone looks at our behaviors, as well as our actions. We are ambassadors of the Navy and of the United States. Our host nation treats us as their neighbors, friends, allies and partners. But we have had some instances where our Sailors, not conducting themselves properly out in town, gave a bad impression to our Sicilian hosts.

What you do now as a Sailor will shape the person you will be down the road. We all know the Navy's Core Values: honor, courage and commitment. But I would like to include integrity to the list. Integrity is when you do the right thing even though no one is watching.

We will all be held accountable for what we do as Sailors. Just last week, the Naval Academy's superintendent (a three-star) resigned over charges he mistreated a sentry at the school and treated some subordinates in a confrontational and demeaning manner. How we conduct ourselves shows who we are as Sailors. Our actions do speak louder than our words!

By the way, the umpire who ejected Sammy, Tim McClelland, was the same umpire who 20 years ago ejected Royal's Hall of Famer George Brett for having too much pine tar on his bat!

Play ball...but by the rules!

The Pulse

ADA says new studies of low-carb diets

"Confirm What We Already Know — There Is No Magic Bullet to Safe and Healthful Weight Loss"

CHICAGO — Results of two new studies on low-carbohydrate diets support the position of the American Dietetic Association that the most effective method of healthy lifelong weight management includes an eating plan that is based on complex carbohydrates such as whole grains, fruits and vegetables, moderate in protein and relatively low in fat, coupled with daily physical activity.

The studies, in the May 22 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, look at the effectiveness of "carbohydrate-restricted" diets over six months and low-carb, high-protein, high-fat approaches such as the Atkins Diet over three, six and 12 months.

"The findings confirm what we already know," said registered dietitian and American Dietetic Association spokesperson Kathleen Zelman. "There is no magic bullet to safe and healthful weight loss."

Zelman added: "In the short term, these studies show you can achieve weight loss

with low-carb diets. But in the long term, success rates were not different from people who are on a more 'traditional' diet. These results don't change ADA's recommendations for achieving healthful weight that can be sustained over a lifetime."

ADA's advice is based on the National Academy of Sciences' recommendations that adults obtain 45 percent to 65 percent of their calories from carbohydrates, 20 percent to 35 percent from fat and 10 percent to 35 percent from protein.

"These recommendations provide you with a good deal of room to increase your level of protein, which other recent studies have suggested can be effective, without going to the level of the Atkins Diet," Zelman said. "You can move toward the higher end of the protein range, stay at the lower end of the fat range and make sure your carbohydrates are complex, meaning whole grains such as whole wheat pasta."

Registered dietitian and ADA spokesperson Keith Ayoob noted that many people in the studies apparently had trouble staying with the low-carbohydrate diet and there were many dropouts.

"Twelve months is an equalizer," Ayoob said. "You hit a wall. Your lifestyle starts to be affected and you get bored. A high dropout rate is a sign that extreme diets can be difficult to maintain. People start to realize they don't want to avoid their favorite foods, even in small amounts, for a long period."

With nearly 70,000 members, the American Dietetic Association is the nation's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Chicago-based ADA serves the public by promoting optimal nutrition, health and well-being. Visit ADA at www.eatright.org.

It's your credit — Protect it

Cmdr. David R. Daniels,
JAGC, USNR

If you have ever applied for a charge account or a personal loan, whether for a car or some other item, then somewhere you have a credit report on file. This report contains information listing the total amount of your debt, whether or not you pay your bills on time, whether you have ever been sued or have filed for bankruptcy. The companies that gather and sell this information are called "Consumer Reporting Agencies," or "CRAs." Credit Reporting Agencies frequently sell the information they gather in the form of an individual credit report to banks, credit card companies and other financial institutions. The information in the report helps those companies decide whether or not to extend credit to you.

In 1970, Congress passed the Fair Credit Reporting Act to give consumers specific rights in dealing with CRAs. The Act requires CRAs to furnish correct and complete information to businesses to use in evaluating applications for credit, insurance or a job. Despite this requirement, mistakes are often made and the sad fact is that only one out of one hundred consumers each year requests to actually look at their credit report. The vast majority of people remain unaware that their credit report contains errors that in many cases hurt their credit. People rejected for credit are often surprised to learn that their credit report contains negative information. The best strategy for all consumers is to monitor the credit information held by credit reporters and to identify and contest inaccurate information. Recent actions by state and federal regulators and by consumer groups make it clear that in this world of prolific plastic, routinely checking your credit report and requesting that mistakes be corrected from your credit file is advisable. Independent studies have shown that more than two out of five people have some erroneous information in their consumer-credit reports. Errors in the report can range from something as small as

a misplaced letter or digit to entire entries belonging in someone else's report. Either way you may be branded as not creditworthy because of the error.

The first step is to get a free copy of your credit report. Under Federal Law each consumer is entitled to one free copy each year from each CRA. Contact the three CRAs at: www.transunion.com, www.equifax.com, www.experian.com

You should get copies from all three agencies, as they work independently and their records may vary. Records on most Americans are entered into the computers of at least two, and probably all three agencies. Married couples should request individual reports even when accounts are joint.

If the information contained in your report is inaccurate or incomplete, notify the CRA. While you can call the CRA to discuss mistakes, it is better to explain your complaint in writing. When a complaint is lodged, the CRA will ask the creditor to verify the disputed information. The CRA must correct the mistake if the creditor cannot confirm the data or if the data is old. Any proof you can send to the CRA will speed the investigation up. If the new investigation reveals an error, a corrected version will be sent, on your request, to anyone who received your report in the past six months. Sometimes the new investigation will not resolve your dispute with the CRA and the CRA might refuse to modify its report. If this happens, have the CRA include a summary of your version of the disputed information in your file and in future reports. The CRA must include your rebuttal with all future reports if you make sure it is 100 words or less.

How long can CRA's report unfavorable information? Usually seven years. Adverse information cannot be reported after that time, with certain exceptions. Bankruptcy can be reported for 10 years.

If you have applied for and were denied credit, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act requires creditors to tell you the specific reasons for your denial.

Maintaining your credit. It is wise to periodically check your credit report, particularly after a mistake is corrected. The CRA may correct a mistake, but the creditor that sent incorrect data to the agency might not correct its records and that creditor could continue to send the same bad information to the original or to another CRA.

The Fair Credit Billing Act provides procedures for raising and resolving credit account billing errors. When there is a billing error, the consumer can initiate the protections of the Act by sending a written notice to the card or account issuer. The notice must be sent within 60 days after the billing statement with the error was mailed. The notice must contain the consumer's name and account number, a statement of the belief of a billing error and a short explanation of it, and the date, type and estimated amount of the error.

The creditor must acknowledge the consumer's notice or must render a decision within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Within two billing cycles and in no case more than 90 days, the account must be corrected or the consumer must be told why the creditor believes the bill is correct. While waiting for an answer, the consumer need not pay the amount in question nor any minimum payments or finance charges that apply to it. However, all parts of the bill that are not in dispute must be paid. The creditor may not restrict or close an account solely because the consumer alleges a billing error, until after the creditor has complied with the investigation and answering procedures. A creditor can apply the disputed amount against the credit limit while the investigation is pending.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain further information about credit reports or billing errors please call the NLSO at 624-5258.

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)

Church of Jesus Christ of 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.

GONE FISHIN'

By Chaplain
Tim Moore
 Command Chaplain



I am really hoping that about right now as you are reading this article, I am sitting on a quiet lake somewhere down in South Carolina. The sun would just be getting up above those tall pine trees. I probably have my fishing pole in hand getting ready to hook on to the fattest ole large mouth bass you have ever seen. I hope he gives me the biggest fight ever as I reel him in to the boat, take his portrait with me, my son and my father and then let him go free. That's right; I am on vacation and loving every minute.

The most important people in my life are with me as I spend time with my wife, children, parents, brothers and in-laws. Time spent with family is like an investment for your future. In order to have nurturing family relationships, you have to spend time together. My family is close because we take time to be with each other and value our time together.

I hear many people talk about how they wish that they were close with their families, but because of past hurt and failures they no longer have a desire to be with those family members. Our past hurts BELONG to us and WE DECIDE how long those hurts will continue to eat away at us and destroy our relationships. God has given us the ability to take our hurts, wrongs and failures done to us and put them away. God has given us the ability to FORGIVE! I am not suggesting that we can ever really forget the pain of our past. But we do decide how we will allow those pains of the past to be a present part of our relationships.

Too often, we wear our scars of the past like medals. We proudly display our wounds for all to see and remind ourselves and others that we have been hurt. We sometimes do this to the point of alienating ourselves from those who love us the most. This summer, during your vacations — take time to spend with family. Nurture those relationships you value the most. Learn to forgive. Stop by and hopefully I will show you my picture with that big fat bass!

SECURITY BLOTTER

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE
624-6389

June 2 - June 8

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 15
- Traffic accident with injuries - 7
- Car break-ins - 0
- DUI - 0
- DUI's 2003 - 25
- DUI's 2002 - 35

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NAVY NEWS

U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent steps down

Special release from the Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy announced June 4 that Vice Adm. Richard J. Naughton has tendered his resignation as Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Naughton's decision comes after an investigation by the Navy's Inspector General (IG) into an allegation that he improperly interfered with a Marine sentry at the Naval Academy, by grabbing the sentry's wrist. This incident occurred Dec. 31, as Naughton was returning from a private dinner in Annapolis.

In addition to the sentry incident, the IG also investigated a number of alleged interactions between Naughton and Academy faculty and staff, which were purportedly overly confrontational or demeaning in nature. The IG substantiated both the allegation of improper contact with the sentry and a general failure to promote good morale.

The IG's report was thoroughly reviewed by Adm. William J. Fallon, Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO), who concurred with the IG's substantiation of improper contact with the Marine sentry. Fallon met with Naughton May 28 and formally counseled him on his lapse in judgment and conduct in the exchange with the Marine sentry.

Additionally, although the VCNO did not concur with the IG's finding that Naughton failed to adequately promote good morale at the academy, Fallon also discussed with Naughton the negative perceptions of his leadership style documented in the IG report.

Naughton requested an opportunity to meet with the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to discuss ramifications of the IG report and the counseling session. At that meeting June 3, Naughton told the CNO that it was clear that his efforts at the Naval Academy had had a disruptive effect on some elements of the faculty, and that his continued service as the Superintendent could adversely impact the academy's primary mission to produce commissioned officers for the Navy and Marine Corps. Accordingly, Naughton asked to step down as the Superintendent and retire from active duty. The CNO and the Acting Secretary of the Navy have approved Naughton's request.

Vice Adm. Charles W. Moore Jr. will be assigned temporary duty as the Acting Superintendent until a successor can be nominated and confirmed.

Task Force History seeks commanders opinions

By Jack A. Green

Naval Historical Center Public Affairs



Cmdr. John J. Costello, commanding officer of the guided missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) keeps a watchful eye on the seas around his ship while conducting missions in support of the Operation Enduring Freedom.

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Avid viewers of the old Star Trek TV show will remember that Capt. James T. Kirk would often open an episode with a voiceover, intoning something like, "Captains Log, Star Date 5943.7, we have landed on the planet . . ."

Under new guidance, present day Navy ship captains and unit commanders will be making similar "Captains Logs" in the Commander's Operational Chronology, a part of the Commander's War

Diary (CWD). The CWD is a new requirement for commanders and commanding officers, designed to ensure that the Navy's record of combat and deployed operations is preserved for posterity. It is one of the Navywide initiatives brought about by the standing up of Task Force History (TFH).

verages the efforts of a coalition of Navy operational commands, as well as organizations from across the Navy, such as the Naval Historical Center, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Naval Special Warfare Command, Naval War College and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Rosenberg's team includes four mobilized senior Selected Reserve officers, who travel the world collecting the Navy's operational history as it occurs. The task force is augmented by Reservists on active duty assignments of various lengths from the Naval Historical Center's Navy Combat Documentation Detachment 206.

These Reservists are trained in the art of taking oral histories, something akin to a journalists' interview, but with a vastly different result. The interviewer is fully cleared for the security level of pertinent information being discussed, seeks the truth for the historical record and is not in a rush to publish the results of his or inquiries for the world to see.

The CWD, announced in NAVADMIN 100/03, requires all Navy units engaged in deployed operations in support of OIF, to assemble their operational history and submit that data to the Naval Historical Center. It is comprised of a Commander's Operational Assessment, the Operational Chronology, and a group of enclosures in the form of electronic record traffic.

Previous command histories contained dry facts and statistics, and lacked the commander's perspective needed by historians to fully understand the command dynamics that drove their actions. With the new CWD, in addition to operational facts and statistics, the commander has the opportunity to put their "two cents" in as to how and why their organization did what it did. By doing so, they will in effect be providing a "first draft" of the unit's history.

The CWD itself is not a new idea. During World War II, many ship captains and unit commanders kept large and detailed "war diaries," with operational chronologies, photographs and after action reports.

These new comprehensive records of future events will play a critical role in the historical analysis of combat operations, and in telling the Navy's story to the American people.

Other Navy units on deployed operations beyond OIF are strongly encouraged to compile and submit a Commander's Operational Diary similar to the CWD.

Robert Duvall to visit NASSIG

Robert Duvall, the Academy award winning actor, producer and director will be visiting NASSIG on Saturday, June 14 from noon until 1530. He will be visiting the squadrons and signing autographs at the Commissary at 1430.

In his 30-year movie career, he has deftly mixed lead roles with character portrayals, and while many of his films have been less than perfect, few would claim that he has given a bad performance in any of them. He started in films by playing the retarded Boo Radley in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962), portrayed Major Frank Burns in *M*A*S*H* (1970) and Tom Hagen in the *Godfather* trilogy.

Please drop by and give him a great big NASSIG CIAO!



THE ENERGY BLOCK

"Illuminating The Future" is from a science article in *Popular Mechanics* by Jim Wilson. The first thing he stated was "Hang on to those burned out light bulbs." It is all about LEDs or light-emitting diodes. We all have seen those neat little red lights that tell you if something is off or in the stand by mode and green for on. In fact, they can actually be any color imaginable with the new technologies that are coming out. Typically a 100-watt bulb will spend 95 of those watts to wasted heat. On the other hand according to the article, LED researchers at Sandia found that they can actually transfer that wasted heat into light. So not only by switching to LEDs reduce our nations electrical consumption by 10 percent but are extremely more durable. Lasting up to 100,000 hours or more producing a much brighter efficient fixture.

Even with all this new technology there is still the problem of price. LEDs are expensive and for yrs to come will cost more than incandescent and florescent bulbs put together, but where safety is a concern like railroads, towers, airports, and traffic lights cost will be a minor concern. The auto industry will also be an early candidate for those little diodes producing, you got it, cleaner more efficient light.

So yes, hang on to those old bulbs, one day they just may be antiques.

*DID YOU KNOW: Replacing a 100 watt incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent will save the energy equivalent of 46 gallons of oil as well as one-half ton of carbon dioxide emissions over the lifetime of the bulb. Replace that with a LED and now you are using 1/3 the energy of a fluorescent.

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE

Recap CORNER

New kindergarten-preschool will be ready for fall

We will open the new Kindergarten-Preschool when the students return for school next year. The 2.8 Million-Euro school will include seven kindergarten and preschool classrooms immediately adjacent to the existing Stephen Decatur School. The school will have three playgrounds; one in front of the school that will start construction in July, a courtyard playground, and separate playground in the rear toward the school athletic fields. Each playground is fully equipped with play equipment tailored to each age group. The classrooms include a children's toilet, teacher's office and a shared kitchen.

The access to the school is completely controlled for the children's protection with surrounding fences, walls and screens. Having the school's main entrance immediately adjacent to the bus loop road is an added bonus.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: The installation of the new natural gas line is in its final phase in Halsey Road at the corner near the Child Development Center on NAS I. Other utilities work 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 sidewalks. The pick up and drop off area for children attending the CDC has been restored but the NAS I-NAS II Bus Stop remains changed to the parking lot at the side of the CDC. The temporary bus stop will last for another few weeks until the gas line is complete. School is still in session until June 12 and the school busses must 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. Thank you for keeping the road around the park clear. As a "heads up" in September we will be closing Sherman Road to install the new electrical line in the center of the road and the enclave for the new MWR Complex site will cut across Forrestal Road near the FFSC.

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



Preventive medicine team protecting Marines

From Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

ADDIWANIYAH, Iraq (NNS) — A Navy preventive medicine team is currently working in central Iraq, supporting Marines and Navy medical personnel during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 12 members of the Preventive Medicine Mobile Medical Augmentation Readiness Team (PM-MMART) 5 spent months preparing for the current situation, and are mounting an offensive against the preventive medicine challenges that are critical to maintaining a robust force health protection (FHP) posture.

The team is made up of five officers and seven enlisted personnel who have expertise in medical entomology, preventive medicine/environmental health, microbiology and industrial hygiene. The team is also capable of analyzing a wide range of chemical, biological and radiological warfare agents.

Medical staff and Marine operational staffs worked together to deploy three of these public health surveillance teams into theater: one in Ad Diwaniyah in central Iraq, one in southern Iraq, and one in Kuwait, to provide advanced diagnostic and specialty consultation to medical officers and operational commanders. Their presence has been essential, according to Navy Capt. Joel Lees, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force surgeon.

"Team 5 has been a great asset to us!" says Lees. "They've been able to rapidly tackle some potentially important public health issues for us, and get good advice out to the commanders and their medical staffs in time to help keep the problems minimal."

Shortly after arriving here, PM-MMART 5 made the first laboratory diagnoses of malaria, shigella and norovirus in Marines and Sailors in Iraq.

"We concentrate on preventing or mitigating that subset of medical issues that can rapidly degrade the combat power of the Marines," said Cmdr. Scott Sherman, medical team leader and public health physician. "Because of our range of expertise and specialty equipment, we get involved in a very wide variety of medical issues that have the potential to cause acute disease or are of concern for chronic exposures."

The team has been extensively utilized by elements of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force for mosquito control operations, water testing, blood/stool testing for infectious agents, epidemiological consultation, environmental sampling, safety consultations, traditional field sanitation and hygiene issues, and analysis of unusual chemicals or vapors in camp areas and at one of the liberated palace compounds.

"The commanders have done a good job identifying areas of concern," said Lt. Cmdr. Lucy Walker, industrial hygiene specialist for PM-MMART 5 and assistant team leader. "We are able to come in, characterize the nature of the exposure and give them good, practical advice on how to reduce the threats, and then document those exposures for the ongoing Force Health Protection program."

Chief Hospital Corpsman Robert Hunt, leading chief petty officer with the team, added, "The PM technicians out in the field with these units are doing a great job in keeping the disease and non-battle injuries (DNBI) down in their units. This is a tough place for public health and they are keeping DNBI very low."

In addition to the individual expertise of the members, the team deploys highly technical equipment that gives them the ability to do advanced microbiological analysis, and sophisticated water and toxic chemical testing, from colorimetric to gas chromatography, mass spectroscopy and infrared spectroscopy.

News Briefs

NMCRS Thrift Store Merchandise Policy

NMCRS would like to extend a big thanks to all of the community members who have donated items to the Thrift Store. The store would not exist without donations. They receive many items each week and volunteers spend many hours sorting through to make sure community has a great shop, but sometimes more hours are spent discarding items that are unacceptable. According to policy, the following items can not be accepted for donation: used undergarments or bathing suits, breast pumps, nylons or pantyhose, opened cosmetics, used mattresses, religious articles, commercial chemicals, medications, food items, risqué books, games or videos. As always volunteers are needed to continue this service. Call NMCRS at 624-4121.

Volunteers Needed

Red Cross is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions: Station Chair/Volunteer Coordinator and caseworker. Other opportunities are CPR, data entry, first aid and other health services programs. For those already a volunteer there will be a volunteer orientation on June 10 and 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. All red cross volunteers are required to attend. Call 624-5446.

Items for Sale

Stop by the Red Cross and take a look at the Capo-Di-Monte porcelain roses for sale. Bud, open long stem roses and table roses are available in a variety of colors. They make great gifts and are reasonably priced. Proceeds go to support volunteer and general programs and services. Gift certificates to courses provided by the Red Cross are also available.

Gas Prices to Go Down

Effective July 1, gas prices will decrease as follows: Unleaded/Diesel Gas 100 lt. \$39
Unleaded Gas 200 lt. \$78
LPG Bombola 50 kg. \$40.50
LPG Bombola 100 kg. \$81
LPG Bombola 200 kg. \$162
LPG Bulk 400 lt. \$128

There is no change in the price for oil. It is important that NATO Forces POL coupons are completed in all parts (dated, legible signature and vehicles plate number) at the time of refueling operation. Coupons are to be used only at AGIP and ESSO gas stations. NATO Forces coupons may only be used for the product authorized and cannot be traded or exchanged for other products.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Gravina di Catania honors Saint Anthony

When Saint Anthony of Padua, affectionately called *Sant'Antuninu* by Sicilians to differentiate him from *Sant'Antonio Abate* (Saint Anthony the Abbot), spent some time in Sicily after his ship was wrecked by a violent storm and landed on the Messina shores, he remained so fascinated by this ancient island that he resolved to come back a few years later. *Sicilia* reminded him of Portugal, his native land. Tradition holds that the *santo* (saint) performed several miracles and founded several convents here such as Cefalù, Patti, Vizzini, Noto Taormina and Catania.

In Sicily, besides Gravina, Saint Anthony is also the patron saint of Maletto and Nicolosi. On his feast day, June 13, devotees perform a pilgrimage called *viaggio*. On the festival's eve, groups of barefoot devotees (mostly women), who are dressed in a Franciscan monk-like habit enriched with embroideries, walk along via Etnea (the main road) to fulfill a holy vow they'd made or just to show their fervent devotion. Until the 1980s, the festival used to be held once every three years during the last week of July to allow local farmers working in the fields to attend, as they were too busy with the harvest.

The statue depicting St. Anthony and a relic (an actual fragment of his hand placed inside an arm-shaped reliquary) are preserved inside the Gravina *Chiesa Madre* or cathedral, a beautiful Baroque church that is enriched by a majestic spiral bell-tower and several amazing 17th century paintings. Gravina's townspeople, who are called *Gravinesi* or *Placalioti* (from *Plache* the ancient city's name that means: territory located on a large plain), ask St. Anthony to intercede with God for the return of things lost or stolen or to help unmarried women to find a husband. *San Antonio* is depicted with a lily in his right hand and the child Jesus standing on a book the saint holds in his left arm.

Celebrations begin on June 13 at 6 a.m. with ringing of church bells and cannon shots. Later at 7 a.m., the *Svilata* or unveiling of the saint's statue is performed at the cathedral. It is one of the most touching moments of the festival. Devotees and pilgrims from Gravina, the Catania province and from other parts of Sicily wave white handkerchiefs shouting: "*Viva Sant'Antuninu*" (Long live Saint Anthony).

Following the unveiling, the Catania Archbishop celebrates a solemn Holy Mass.

In the afternoon at 5 p.m. local bands walk along via Marconi perform-

ing symphonic marches.

The climax of the celebrations is reached at 7:30 p.m. when the venerated statue of the saint is taken outside the cathedral to be carried in procession among fireworks and bell ringing throughout the city until late at night.

At 8:30 p.m., an opera music show is performed in piazza della Regione.

Life of Saint Anthony

Anthony was born in 1195 near Lisbon, from a noble family and given the name Ferdinand. His parents sent him to the cathedral school in Lisbon where he developed a strong faith that drove him to join the Canons Regular of St. Augustine at the age of 15. Thus, he moved to the Monastery Of the Holy Cross in Coimbra, near Lisbon, where he devoted himself to study theology and Holy Scriptures. During his stay in Coimbra, Ferdinand came into contact with a group of Saint Francis' followers, who visited his monastery begging for alms. As time passed, he became so deeply impressed by the teachings and the lifestyle of the Saint Francis' penitents that he resolved to leave the Augustinians to join the Franciscan Order. Yet in 1220, the bodies of five Franciscans who were barbarically killed by the Muslims in Morocco (because they continued to preach Christ despite repeated warnings by the local sultan) arrived in Coimbra to be buried in Ferdinand's monastery. This episode strengthened Ferdinand's faith and admiration for the Saint Francis penitents still further. Thus, Ferdinand was determined to become a missionary and a martyr. He then took the name "Anthony" and received permission to go to Morocco as a missionary, but was forced by illness (likely malaria) to return home. During the journey, his ship ran into storms and high winds and was drifted east across the Mediterranean and landed on the east coast of Sicily where a community of friars, who lived near Messina, nursed him back to health. After his recovery, he went to Assisi where he attended a meeting in which Saint Francis himself gathered over 3,000 between monks and followers. After that, Anthony was sent to a small hermitage in Italy, where he prayed, studied, and performed menial duties. Since he was very humble, he never showed off his wide theological education. But one day, his brothers discovered how brilliant and well-read Anthony was, as he was invited to preach a sermon at an ordination ceremony since the scheduled speaker failed to appear. Anthony unveiled his "hidden gift" astonishing his audience with his impressive theological knowledge and skill in speaking. Since then he started traveling where he preached and taught theology

throughout Italy and France. According to legend, Anthony performed several prodigies as his sermons could be understood in several languages and tradition also has it that he even preached to the fish. On June 1231, Pope Gregory IX proclaimed Anthony a saint. In 1946, Pope Pius XII officially declared Anthony a "Doctor of the Universal Church."

How to get there

Gravina di Catania is very close to Sigonella. Exit Gravina on the *tangenziale* highway and follow signs for the town's center. For more information call the Gravina tourist office at 095- 7199111.

Antique fair in Caltagirone

A Truvatura, a fun-to-browse antique fair featuring precious furnishings, bric-a-brac, arts and crafts, ceramics, deco objects and more, will be held on June 15 in piazza Municipio, the town's main square. Stalls will open continuously from 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. On display, there will also be vintage cars and bikes.



Picture courtesy of Gravina di Catania Tourist Office

On June 13, Gravina di Catania townspeople will celebrate Saint Anthony of Padua. The festival features solemn processions, Holy Masses, fireworks and music shows. Barefoot devotees (mostly women), dressed in a Franciscan monk-like habit enriched with embroideries, perform a pilgrimage to and from the main church walking along via Etnea to fulfill a vow and give honor to their patron saint.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
COMMUNITY CALENDAR						13 JUNE	14 Old School New School All Star Basketball game 5 to 7 p.m. NAS II Gym
15 Phone your Father for Free Starts at 11 a.m. Take 5 Call 624-5602 phone cards while supplies last	16 Intermural Summer Basketball NAS II Gym Call 624-2710	17 Ping Pong Tourney 11:30 a.m. Take 5 Call 624-5602	18 Etna Off Road depart Sig Inn 8 a.m. ITT Call 624-4396	19 Photo Safari Meeting 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Golden Anchor Call 624-3718	20 Marina di Ragusa Camping Trip depart 3 p.m. AU Call 624-4271	21 Teen Dine-Out 7 to 11 p.m. Teen Center Call 624-4018	
22 Visit Palermo ITT Call 624-4396	23 Special Additions 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Community Bldg rm 203	24 Basic Italian Call ITT at 624-4396 for class times	25 Fruit & Veggie Month Free fruits and veggies All day Take 5	26 Etna Land Waterpark depart 8 a.m. AU Call 624-4271	27 Base ICR 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. ICR Class Room Call 624-4291	28 Kayaking Class on the Beach AU Call 624-4271	
29 Bagheria Villas & Seafood Restaurant in Sferracavallo ITT Call 624-4396	30 Play Bingo 5:30 p.m. Live Wire	JULY 1 European Exercise Tour climb, walk and run around Europe without leaving the gym Sign up at either Futness Center	2 Rainbow Playgroup every Wed. 10 to 11 p.m. 205 Housing	3 Anger Management every thur 5 to 6 p.m. NAVHOSP 2A-III Call 624-4291	4 Fourth of July	5 Freedom Fest 5K Fun Run pre-register July 4 by 5 p.m. race day registration is 6:30 to 7:15 race starts at 7:30 a.m. NAS I Fitness Center	
6 Caccamo Castle & Roccapalumba ITT Call 624-4396	7	8	9 Scieli & Avide Winery Trip ITT Call 624-4396	10 Elton John in Concert ITT Call 624-4396	11	12	

Word Find

Baseball Players

V Z Z Z N D G V O C B I L R J N W J Q H B O T P G
 J Q Z N I O D N O I D R E W A O E T U R U G P W L
 J O H N S O N N H R G N E G F R R Z I F H A G T A
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AARON	CAMPANELLA	GEHRIG	LOMBARDI	RIPKEN	SMOLTZ
BENCH	CAREW	GLAVINE	LOPES	ROBINSON	SOSA
BERRA	CARTER	GOSSAGE	MCGWIRE	ROSE	WILLIAMS
BLUE	CLEMENS	GRIFFEY	MORGAN	RUTH	YOUNG
BLYLEVEN	CONCEPCION	HENDERSON	MORRIS	RYAN	
BOGGS	DIMAGGIO	JACKSON	MURRAY	SANDBERG	
BONDS	DRAVECKY	JETER	NIEKRO	SANTIAGO	
BRETT	DRYSDALE	JOHNSON	PAIGE	SCHMIDT	
BUCKNER	FISK	KENNEDY	PEREZ	SEAVER	
	GARVEY	KILLEBREW	QUISENBERRY	SMITH	

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

Stephen Decatur High School Class of 2003



The Stephen Decatur High School Class of 2003 held their graduation ceremony June 7. There were 28 graduating seniors this year.

Stephen Decatur Elementary School

Dr. Fran Austin,
Principal

It's hard to believe that the end of school year 2002-03 is here! We have had a busy year developing as a new school. I want to thank our students who make each day special. A thank you also goes to my staff and parents who are supportive in numerous ways. Our year was also a great one due to the support of Capt. T.L. Davison, Capt. Ken Bitar and our tenant commanders as well. A wonderful addition to our team has been Chief Dave Naab our new school's liaison officer.

If you're back with us next year, we look forward to seeing you soon. Be on the lookout in August for school information in the Signature, on AFN and in the mail. Mr. John Fletcher, who is coming to us from Japan, will be our new assistant principal. He has a fabulous reputation and we are excited about his placement here. The return date for teachers is Aug. 20 and school begins Sept. 2 for our students.

If you're off to a new location, I wish you all the best. And, for students, teachers and parents, may the summer be extra fun and safe. Thanks for a great school year!

Fri. June 13

Latino Night featuring "I Bad Rican" playing Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, and more of the greatest Latino Beats.

Sat. June 14

Get your cameras ready and travel to Morgantina & Aidone Village with Photo Safari.

Morgantina is immersed in silent air of antiquity. Get your cameras ready for some unforgettable shots of the walls of the acropolis, the agora (the town center), the market and other buildings from this town's past. Then we're off to see Aidone's solitary landscape of hills and woods, which are sure to provide incredible backdrops for breathtaking pictures. For more information call Photo Safari at x3718

Visit the Eolian Isle of Lipari with Adventures Unlimited. Spend the day on the beautiful island of Lipari. Bring euro for shopping, food and souvenirs. If you want to take a dip, pack your bathing suit and sunscreen. Call AU at x4271 details

Go to the Donna Fugata Castle and sample wine with ITT. Travel with us to southwest Sicily to see the beautiful Donna Fugata Castle. We'll also visit the Avide Winery where we'll enjoy lunch and wine tasting. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for details.

Go on a Circumetnea Train Tour I with ITT. Enjoy the opportunity to tour Mt. Etna from the unique vantage point of the local train called Circumetnea. The tour starts from Catania and continues west around Mt. Etna, stopping at Randazzo, a small medieval town. You'll have plenty of time to explore and get a bite to eat before we catch the train again. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for details.

Sun. June 8

Travel to Messina and Tindari with ITT.

Start the day with a trip to Messina's museum. From there, travel to Tindari, home of the Roman street network, a Greek theater, and the sanctuary of the Black Madonna. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for details.

TRIVIA

Which of the following words is an eponym: Leotard, Xerox, Clam, or Fluffy?
 What scale is used to measure the damage caused by an earthquake?
 The words to the song Hail to the Chief come from a poem written by who?
 What was the first company to air a television commercial in the U.S.?
 How many tons does the earth weigh?
 (Answers on page 11)

Movie Connection

MWF's Theater Schedule

Friday, June 13



5:30 p.m.
Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) **



8 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Saturday, June 14



2 p.m.
What a Girl Wants (PG)



4:30 p.m.
Phone Booth (R)



7 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Sunday, June 15



1 p.m.
Finding Nemo (G)



3:30 p.m.
Daddy Day Care (PG)



6 p.m.
Bruce Almighty (R)

Monday, June 16



5:30 p.m.
Bruce Almighty (PG-13)



8 p.m.
Phone Booth (R)

Tuesday, June 17



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



8:30 p.m.
Malibu's Most Wanted (R)

Wednesday, June 18



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



8:30 p.m.
Head of State (PG-13)

Thursday, June 19



5:30 p.m.
Anger Management (PG-13)



8 p.m.
Basic (R) *

Friday, June 20



5:30 p.m.
Bullet Proof Monk (PG-13) **



8 p.m.
Bruce Almighty (PG-13)

Farewell from SDS staff

From all of the staff at Stephen Decatur Secondary School, we wish you all a safe, relaxing summer and look forward to a successful new school year for those who will continue to be part of the SDSS family. For some of you students it marks the end of your time here as your families move to new assignments or you "Commence" to the next step in your life with your diploma in hand. Whatever your next move, and wherever you go, you should have a vast supply of fond memories from Stephen Decatur and all the good things that you helped to make happen while you were stationed at NAS Sigonella, Sicily. Best wishes and buon viaggio!

This Week on...

- Sun. Jun 15 - 3 Stooges 75th Anniversary
AFN Atlantic 5:00 PM
- Mon. Jun 16 - West Wing
AFN Sports 8:00 PM
- Tue. Jun 17 - Movie: Chicken Run
AFN Atlantic 8:30 PM
- Thu. Jun 19 - Frasier
AFN Atlantic 8:35 PM
- Fri. Jun 20 - Alias
AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

A "SAILOR'S VIEW" WITH THE NASSIG
CMDM AT 7 AM TUESDAY ON 106.0 ZFM
WATCH SIGONELLA REWIND EVERY THURSDAY AT 8:25 PM AND SUNDAYS AT 11 AM ON YOUR LOCAL AFN CHANNEL

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

Sicily, wind, wave sport paradise

By Capt. Chuck Rhodes
Contributing writer

For centuries the winds have blown across the blue Mediterranean Sea pushing waves upon the shores of Sicily. Yet only in modern times has man endeavored to harness their power purely for fun and excitement. To those seeking to ride the waves and wind the beautiful island of Sicily offers countless opportunities to surf, windsurf, and kitesurf. The unique geography of the island ensures that virtually anytime the wind blows it is possible to find good conditions somewhere for enjoying these fabulous water sports.

After a hard week working at Sigonella picture yourself racing across the water at 30 knots on a windsurfing board, jumping waves on the way out. You rip a tight jibe turn on a big swell reversing direction, catching waves and surfing down the line as you head back to shore. Or maybe you just want to leisurely cruise across the emerald blue water on a warm summer afternoon. Catch yourself daydreaming as you gaze down into the incredibly clear water knowing you are sailing the same waters as Ulysses did 2500 years ago. Perhaps it is a beautiful colored sky evening after a storm. The winds have calmed leaving perfect two meter glassy peeling waves begging to be surfed. They beckon you out to ride as the Sicilian sun sets in the west.

Maybe you would prefer to experience the new hot Kite Surfing thrill. Harnessed to the power of a big paraglider shaped inflatable kite you are pulled along at high speed on a wake board. Timing your turn on the crest of a big wave the incredible power and pull of the kite yanks you up high in the air as you glide back down and rocket off to do it again. All these things are possible in Sicily throughout the year.

Many do not think of Sicily as a place to surf or realize that some of the best windsurfing and kitesurfing in Europe is to be found right here all around us. Mediterranean fall, winter, and spring weather systems and hot summer conditions generate winds throughout the year. Winds in turn create power for wind and kite surfing and surfable waves. The key is knowing where and when to go. Actually the best time of the year is between late October and May. That is when the fall, winter, and spring weather systems create stronger and more frequent winds. Even in late spring and summer there are still numerous windy days generated by summer thermal heating. No its not Hawaii, nor are the waves as consistent as California since good conditions here are Mediterranean area weather system dependent. There are times when the Mediterranean can be flat as a pancake too creating great conditions for those other water sports, kayaking, snorkeling and scuba diving. But when the wind blows it can get as good as it gets anywhere.

Most of the best spots for windsurfing, kitesurfing, and surfing are found on the south coast of the island. Isola Della Correnti on the extreme south east corner

and Capo Granitola or "Puzziteddu" near Mazara Del Vallo on the south west corner are typically the windiest and best spots for windsurfing and kitesurfing. Marina di Ragusa and Marina di Modica are also excellent places to go and have some outstanding surfing sites too. Strong north west, west, east, and south east (Scirocco) winds work best in these locations.

Other popular places in the right conditions are South Beach, Catania when northeasterly winds generate waves, and Terrasini west of Palermo in strong south wind conditions. Many freestyle windsurfers and kitesurfers take advantage of the strong winds and flatter water near Messina and Tremisteri. You can find them there blasting around the Strait of Messina throwing all kinds of crazy jumping and trick board riding moves. Numerous other spots exist along the North coast between Messina and Palermo too.

Another great benefit for Americans engaging in these sports here is the opportunity to meet a lot of fellow Sicilian wind and board surfers and enjoy the strong camaraderie that exists among the surfing community regardless of nationality. It's also just a whole lot of fun



An unknown windsurfer at Capo Granitola

and a great way to discover beautiful new Sicilian beaches and plenty of opportunity to practice your Italian as well.

So if you're excited and want to break the routine of just hanging out on the beach at Fontana Bianca and are seeking some real fun and excitement, give one of these sports a try. There are clubs, schools and surf shops right here in Sicily too. Although much of the information is in Italian check out the following websites provide more information, regarding places to go, and how to get involved: www.puzziteddu.it, <http://www.vikinghi.supereva.it/>, <http://www.kitesicilia.it/homeINGL.htm>, <http://www.c-v-scirocco.it>

See you out on the water, Buon vento e' onde (Good wind and waves)

Weapons from page 1

such things as ensuring ordnances are ready for delivery, transferring ordnances; ensuring magazines are cleaned and organized. When asked if there are one or two favorite things he enjoys most in the many roles he plays, Le responded, "I enjoy driving the semis to Augusta Bay.

One division that should not go unnoticed, and is key to the success of all ordnance evolutions, is stock control. Leading Petty Officer GM1 Michael Mcullough states, "stock control is the pivoting point for the department as far as missions are concerned." If an evolution is to take place, stock control will be the first to know. They will determine what the task requirements are for each given evolution. Mcullough is in charge of checking the daily message traffic for weapons movement in, off, and around the base. The amount of ordnance moved on a daily basis is determined by the amount of traffic in and out of base.

"In the weapons department, individuals are always striving to be their best," said Hines. "They are interested in striving for the top position as a quality assurance safety observer/team leader. This is the best command I have been to. There are multiple rates and ranks providing a multitude of experience, all coming together as one to accomplish one mission, to support the fleet. I am especially proud of my junior people. I have more junior people qualified at a senior level than any other command I have been to."

Weapons department personnel are not only striving ahead," said Hines. "NAS Sigonella is adding a new feature to the weapons department called the Capsule Loading System (CLS). This means that NAS Sigonella will not only be supporting airfield and surface operations, but submarine operations as well. Hines is one of two people familiar with the CLS. Hines states that training pertaining to this program will begin soon. "Next month we have a specific team that will come in and conduct training so that everyone is up to speed and certified," said Hines.

SPORTS

Softball scores

OPS vs EOD	16-15
TSC vs DET 4	15-10
COMSTA B vs SEC C	18-9
SUPPLY vs GEMD	8-14

Spring Volleyball standings

VOLLEYBALL SIG	10-0	PWD	5-6
KHAKI	8-3	TSC/VP-8	2-8
COMSTA	6-7	AIMD	2-9

Sigonella 2003 "Night of Champions" Invitational Body Building, Fitness Competition

The 2003 "Night of Champions" Invitational Body Building and Fitness Competition took place last Saturday at the Naval Air Station Sigonella Theater.

Although an invitation was put out to all Navy throughout Europe, Sigonellans were the only one to take the stage and flex what they had during this grueling competition.

The crowd was very energetic as each division flexed their way toward hopes of taking 1st place. They were also treated to guest posers Antonella Feliziani, the 2003 Italian Fitness Champion, and Ignacio Valente, selectee for the Worldwide Championships and winner of two Italian championships.

Judging the event was Mike Tuttobene, Gil Dobison, Wayne Johnson, Ducece Mason, and Roger McGowan.

The event took several weeks of planning by Sigonella's MWR department. Special recognition goes to Sandy Baert for coordinating the event.

Results:

Women's Category:
Josie Marshall 1st

Men's Lightweight Division:

Mike Gibson 1st
Mark Mueller 2nd
Adam McElroy 3rd

Men's Middleweight Division:

Ken Williams 1st
Gordie Meyer 2nd
Brooks Nelson 3rd

Men's Light Heavyweight Division:

Dave Frederick 1st
Anthony Russo 2nd
Greg Jacobs 3rd

Men's Heavyweight Division:

Irvan Higgins 1st
Exzavain Burkes 2nd
Gerald Garner 3rd

Best Poser:

Ken Williams

Best Overall Male:

Dave Frederick



This sailor flexes his triceps during Sigonella's 2003 "Night of Champions" Invitational Body Building and Fitness Competition last Saturday. He won the Men's Light Heavyweight Division and the "Best Overall Male" award.

Softball Standings

A League		B League		Women	
Aimd A	7-0	OPS	6-0	OPS	4-0
PWD	5-2	TSC	6-1	Supply	3-1
VP-8	4-1	COMSTA B	5-2	AIMD	1-3
SEC A	4-1	PSD	4-2	COMSTA	1-3
VP-8 KHAKI	3-1	EOD	4-3	SEC	1-3
AIMD B	3-2	MOMAU5	3-4		
HOSP	2-2	SUPPLY	3-4		
COMSTA A	1-4	GEMD	2-4		
SEC B	1-4	AFN	2-5		
ETD	1-3	DET-4	2-5		
214	0-5	SEC C	1-4		
RED WOLVES	0-6	ADMIN	1-5		

Blockers and hitters in harmony

US, Italian players unite on the volleyball court, resulting in camaraderie, championships

By JO1 Craig Coleman
Staff Writer



AmerItalia hitter attacks a wall of blockers during the recent ACLI National Tournament. He was instrumental in the joint victory by Italian and American volleyballers. In AmerItalia's first season the team won every competition it entered.

Words sometimes fail to get the point across. Eye contact, body language and hand signals will only get you so far. If anything is proved by the inaugural season of the AmerItalia Volleyball Team it is that language barriers are overrated and that communications difficulties can always be overcome. The team played in four tournaments and won them all.

AmerItalia, a team composed of players from the Italian Air Force and NAS Sigonella volleyball teams, recently won an Italian national volleyball championship, beating teams from Rome, Sardinia and Calabria in the process. Seven Italian players participated in the tournament along with four Americans. But joining two cultures in one team wasn't always easy.

"Our guys were a bit intimidated in the beginning," said Erico Latham, AmerItalia player and coach of the NASSIG team. "I told them you can get your point across with your passion. Sometimes there's such urgency you don't have time to translate. We're all technically knowledgeable players, so we can communicate and go for it."

Any communication problems were minimized by the time AmerItalia arrived in Rimini to represent Sicily in the ACLI National Tournament. They faced the Roman squad in the finals, a tall, physically imposing team. The first game of the set was a back-and-forth affair, with both teams swapping momentum until AmerItalia blocking and digging helped them break away. The Rome team made adjustment to start the second game, but could not counter AmerItalia's experience. "The maturity of the team took over," said Latham. We started executing better and put them away."

AmerItalia's Francesco "Ciccio" Italia was one of the top players in the tournament, while hitter Michael Roush's spectacular plays made him a crowd favorite. Roush was honored to play for AmerItalia. "The middle hitters/blockers (Carmelo Riscica and Italia) are two of the best I have ever played with," he said. "They, with the ability of the setter (Carlo Ferrigno), really open up the opportunity for the team to run a strong offense. The intensity and zeal of all the players was very motivational. I always look forward to court time with these gentlemen," Roush continued.

Major victories on the court are mirrored by smaller, but no less important victories of a more personal nature. AmerItalia teammates are forging relationships that go beyond sport.

"Just to see these guys (Italian teammates) outside of work, to sit down over a meal and talk about family and what's going on around us – getting to know the man under the uniform – is great," said Latham. American team member Todd Mencke said the trip to the tournament in Rimini developed team unity and friendships. "(The trip) helped enhance the partnership between both our players and the two sides of the base," Mencke said. "We learned more about each other and gained respect and unity."

Team members site training and command support as the pillars of the successful season. "Erico Latham has been the hub that has held the Sig volleyball community together," said Roush. "I've been playing volleyball for 15 years and have more helpful training from Erico than I have had from any other coach that I have ever played for." Mencke added that team camaraderie has been great. "Even with people transferring in and out of Sigonella, the team has evolved while assimilating new players quite well," Mencke said. "We just need more competitions to play in."

Latham is pleased by the departmental and command support the team receives. "We've had good support from both commanding officers," said Latham.

One of the highlights of the season for Lt. Col. Antonio Gibilisco, 41st Stormo Public Affairs Officer and MWR Director, occurred at the ACLI tournament. "One of the best memories I have is when, at the end of the tournament, Mike (Roush) gave everybody on the team a postcard with words of thanks. This is an excellent example of the synergy and friendship and cooperation between the Americans and Italians," Gibilisco said.

Q&A

When was the first night game played in New York?

May 24, 1940 New York vs. Boston.
New York won 8 to 1

Do you want to operate a HOME BUSINESS?

By Ms. Joyce Lantz
Staff Judge Advocate Office

Many people have been able to turn their crafts into money-making ventures. However, every business has to abide by, and operate under, certain rules, regulations and guidelines. This applies whether the business operates as a major corporation or a sole proprietorship; in the United States, or in Italy. Onboard U.S. Naval installations, businesses are governed by the Commanding Officer. Over seas, Host Nation regulations are also added for consideration.

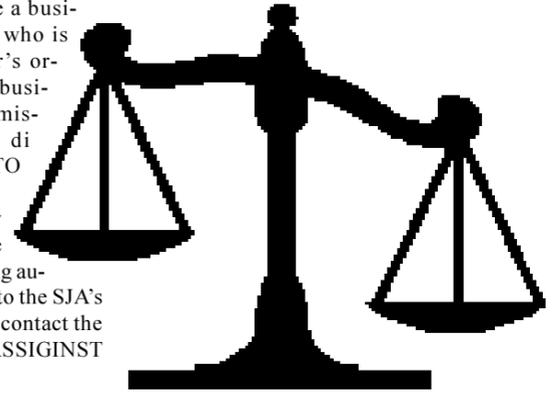
Home enterprises must comply with Host Nation regulations and Naval Air Station,

Sigonella Instruction 1740.1F (NASSIGINST 1740.1F). On base, only the Commanding Officer can approve a home business. For example, the Commanding Officer, NAS Sigonella, may authorize military family members residing in Government housing to conduct limited commercial activities in their assigned quarters. The objective is to recognize such in-home enterprises as the making and selling of handcrafts, babysitting services, tailoring, tax returns, and similar activities. The enterprise or business cannot compete with services already supplied by the Navy, the Navy Exchange, or Morale, Welfare and Recreation department.

Italian law governs businesses off base; and

only Italian authorities can authorize a business. Usually, a civilian dependant, who is here solely because of their sponsor's orders would not qualify to operate a business in Italy. This is because the permission to stay in Italy, or *Permesso di Soggiorno*, is governed by the NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

If you have any questions on how to request permission to operate a home business, bring a memorandum requesting authorization to conduct a home business to the SJA's office. For further information, please contact the SJA's office at 624-5817, or look at NASSIGINST 1740.1F on the InfoSig web site.



Rightsize from page 1

definitely doing what it is supposed to," said NC1 (SW) Fawn Brickman, command career counselor.

The program is all about right-sizing the Navy's manpower. "They're not looking at manpower for tomorrow or next month, they're looking at manpower over the next five to seven years, and where our Navy's going to be down the line," said Brickman.

The program presently extends to first-term Sailors in Career Reenlistment Objectives (CREO) group 3, or those in overmanned ratings. It allows the first-term Sailor to retrain at the optimum timeframe, instead of looking at a Sailor who is already a careerist. "Trying to retrain them at the lower paygrades so they can establish themselves in the new rate and build up their leadership in that rating for the future Navy," said Brickman.

"It's based starting at a 15-month window

from either your Projected Rotation Date (PRD) or End of Active Obligated Service (EAOS), whichever comes first," said Brickman. "It is anticipated by the fall of this year to have all first termers under the program, but presently they're only doing CREO category three personnel."

"At 15 months we take their name, and then they have a career development board with their chain of command discussing the program and their present intentions of staying in the Navy and staying in their rate," said Brickman. Some of the things that are looked at when placing PTS submissions in is the applicant's current paygrade, if he or she has the commanding officer's recommendation for reenlistment and advancement, and if they PNA'd the last advancement exam or not.

"They also look at their last two evals, and that's periodic evals not special evaluation," said Brickman. "They also look at what their inten-

tion are presently; if they plan on staying in the Navy, if they're undecided, or if they plan on separating from the Navy. Then they have the opportunity to annotate in their PTS if they are willing to convert to another rate that is either CREO category one or two."

tion are presently; if they plan on staying in the Navy, if they're undecided, or if they plan on separating from the Navy. Then they have the opportunity to annotate in their PTS if they are willing to convert to another rate that is either CREO category one or two."

If the applicants meet all the basic requirements for conversion (i.e. ASVAB test, hearing, color perception, or whatever's required for the rate that they're looking at), then they can put that rate on their perform to serve application.

"[PTS] streamlines the process of conversion packages without having to do the normal paperwork," said Brickman. This streamlining is saving the Navy, and likewise NASSIG, time and money. "With the streamlining of the conversion process we've saved the base at least 30 man hours doing conversions," said Brickman. "It's saving man-hour time, personnel time, energy, [etc..]"

There are some misconceptions circulating about the program. "The biggest misconceptions out there about the program is that if a Sailor is in an overmanned rate they must convert," said Scott. "The important thing that everybody knows that they have the opportunity to have six looks." It's an opportunity because if they do not put their submission in early, then they are wasting away a whole cycle, or one of those looks.

"To date, nobody has been denied reenlistment, and that won't happen for another three cycles," said Scott. "It's not anticipated that anybody is going to be denied reenlistment. It's our goal to make sure everybody has the opportunity to get into a rate they're going to be able to advance in."

"[We're trying to get] the Sailors to have an open mind to change rates because advancement is better. They're going to have better career opportunities in another rating than by staying

in a current overmanned rate where the competition is going to be very tough because the numbers are so few for advancement," said Scott.

One of the other misconceptions is that due to the immediate implementation of this program, Sailors who are down to the last minute for getting approval before they're able to negotiate orders will get a "slam" set of orders, or a separation if they don't get PTS approval.

"The Sailors that came under this immediate implementation are getting the full look down to the wire, they're not falling under the six month from EAOS rule," said Brickman. "One of thing the detailers and Navy Personnel Command (NPC) has assured us is that although the detailers can not talk to them as far as negotiation of orders right now until the Sailors have their PTS approval, they will give them a fair look once they have their approval, whether it's in their new rate or in their current rate. They will not get the "slam" set of orders once they get approval."

The main part of the program is, as the title suggests, performing to serve. If the Sailor has a significant problem on their evals, or has not been recommended for advancement or retention, they cannot be submitted for PTS approval. "The Sailor has had to perform at Navy standards in order to have the opportunity to stay in the Navy," said Brickman.

"The term 'perform to serve' is exactly what the program is," said Brickman. "You do your job, and you do it right. We may not be able to keep you in your rating field, but there's another rate out there for you to right size the Navy, and right size your career."

FireWardens from page 1

said Angelo Pavone, deputy fire inspector. "They went above and beyond what the normal function required. So they definitely deserve it."

"Each facility has two fire wardens," said Pavone. "At the end of the year we examine those that reduced the violations and discrepancies to zero." From among these, they chose the Fire Warden of the Year.

Their responsibilities include checking fire extinguishers once a month, making sure exits are clear, and conducting evacuation drills. The fire warden program was started due to the large amount of buildings and structures on NAS Sigonella. "It's virtually impossible for us to be at every building once a month," said Steve Vitek, chief fire inspector, "because we only have a staff of four people at the fire prevention office."

Ponicsan considers her duties as just part of her daily routine. "I walk throughout the facility on a daily basis constantly looking for clear evacuation routes, visible fire and safety hazards, working exit lights, and properly serviced fire extinguishers," she said.

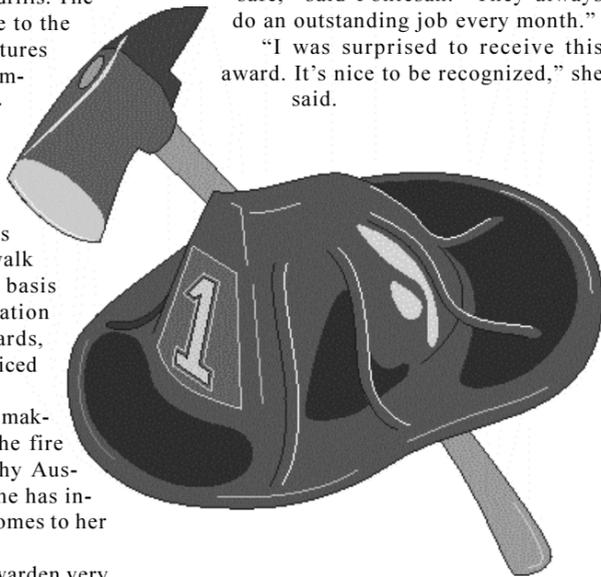
"She has done an excellent job of making sure our building meets all of the fire and safety requirements," said Cathy Austin, CDC program administrator. "She has incredible attention to detail when it comes to her fire warden responsibilities."

Ponicsan takes her duties as fire warden very

seriously. "This facility is full of children, that's why I take it so serious," said Ponicsan. "It's the love for the children and making sure that they're in a safe environment and protected. They're all about why we're here."

She cannot complete her duties without the help of her staff. "Every month when the fire department comes and does their drills, they're the ones that have to evacuate the facility and the children and make sure that they have every child, and make sure they're all kept safe," said Ponicsan. "They always do an outstanding job every month."

"I was surprised to receive this award. It's nice to be recognized," she said.



NJROTC from page 1

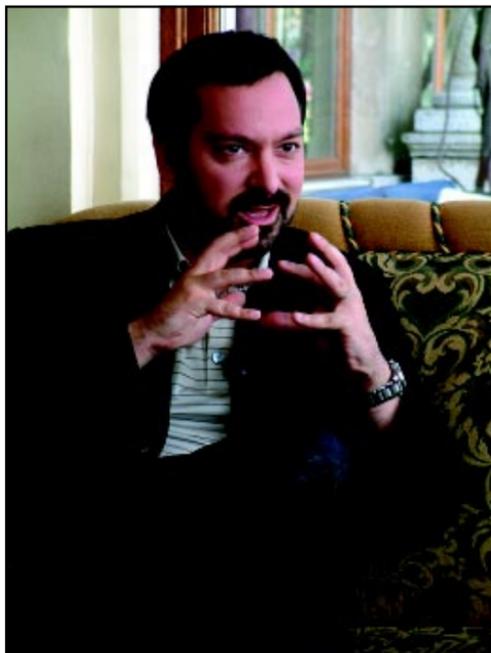
events and talented young cadets, the Unit was rewarded by earning the Distinguished Unit Award for the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years.

Wilmot, after bringing his own distinguished experiences while having led Stephen Decatur's Unit to ever growing success, will be retiring in Oak Harbor, Wash., with his wife. He will bring with him and leave behind many memories that will remain imprinted in our hearts forever.

Trivia Answers

1) Leotard 2) Mercalli Intesity
Scale 3) Sir Walter Scott
4) Bulova Company
5)
6,588,000,000,000,000,000,000
tons

Toarmina Film Fest features films, big American directors



Writer director, James Mangold directed the new movie "Identity" now showing at the Taormina film fest.

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

The sight, the sounds, the big screen. The Taormina BNL Film Festival kicked off last Saturday and continues until this Saturday, featuring films from around the world.

Well known and not so well known directors from Germany, Belgium, Finland, Spain, United Kingdom, Argentina, Ireland, and France entered their films into the festival to showcase their prowess at making films. Some of these great films have been playing in the wonderful Greek theater, which provides a great setting to watch films.

Some well-known American directors are also in town for the Film Fest. Actor/writer/director Robert Duvall is in town to screen his new movie "Assassination Tango," which he wrote, directed and stars as a hired hitman who gets sidetracked by a woman and the 'tango' dance.

Writer/director Joel Shumacher is also in town screening the film "Phone Booth," which is about a man held hostage in a phone booth by an extreme moralist. Stephen Spielberg's "Taken" TV series has been playing throughout the festival as well.

Yet another writer/director showing off a new movie at the festival is James Mangold, writer and director of such films as the romantic comedy "Kate and Leopald," the drama "Girl, Interrupted," and the thriller "Copland." I recently got to sit down with Mangold and talk about his new movie.

His new movie breaks genre lines yet again as his film now playing at the festival, "Identity," delves into the delicate art of horror movie making. "My very first movie when I was about 12 years old was a horror flick," said Mangold. "And actually, I made more scary movies in my teens until I was about 16 or 17."

In this movie, Mangold wanted to make a more grown-up horror movie. "There was a day when horror movies, thrillers and mystery films featured ac-

tors who were great. [I wanted to bring] the caliber of cast that I've been blessed to have on other movies into a form that's almost been solely for the teenager lately," he said. "There's real people, real actors, grown-ups in this movie."

Mangold did research on a real-life murderer for the film. "One of the things I found was a story of the Hillside Strangler, who was a serial murderer in Los Angeles," said Mangold. All the evidence of a group of murders pointed to the killer, but he was oddly assured in telling detectives that he didn't commit these crimes, and it spooked them. It all came down to a hypnotist, who figured out that the killer's split personality had committed the crimes. "I was reading the transcripts of this, and it was incredible because what it meant is inside a mind, you can have all these different personalities existing, each aware of each other, but each having their own discrete lives," said Mangold. "It's something that really makes the imagination run wild thinking about it."

The movie features the acting talents of John Cusack, Ray Liotta, and Rebecca De Mornay. "It's the actors that make the movie great. At its core, it's ten people trapped in a house with a monster," he continued, "and part of what makes the film so transcendent is that you believe these people. The character and power of these actors take the film to another level, and that's part of what I hope to bring to this film."

Working with great actors is nothing new to Mangold. He's worked such actors as Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro, Harvey Keitel, Angelina Jolie, Winona Ryder, Meg Ryan, and Hugh Jackman. "What does hold true all the way through Copland to the very beginning for me is I love large casts filled with many wonderful characters," he said. "There's a lot of attention we put to making these films to make sure that not only is there a wonderful actor to play the hero, but that all the satellite characters in the film are brought to life in a way that they almost could have their own movie themselves."

His next project is about a legend in music, Johnny Cash. "It's a script I've been working on for several years now. Ever since I made Copland, I knew I wanted to make a film about him," said Mangold. "It's one of the great love stories. It takes place at a time when rock and roll was born. The more I've gotten to know John and [his wife] June, who just recently passed, the more I feel like it's incredibly important to make this film because these people are in a way the very most vibrant thing about our country," he continued. "They sing about the land and the struggle of this century from first hand knowledge, not from learning in a book, not from watching a movie." Look for Joaquin Phoenix to play Johnny Cash, and Reese Witherspoon as June.

Mangold also had one last message for the troops overseas. "I wish all you guys overseas the best. Thank you for supporting us, and making our nation great."

You still have time to catch some of the films playing at the film fest. "Assassination Tango" plays tonight at 9 p.m. and tomorrow at 7 and 10:30 p.m. in the Grande Cinema al Teatro Antico (Greek Theater). Also check out "Mystics" playing today at 10:15 p.m. in the Grande Cinema.