

The Signature

Signonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 24

June 20, 2003

SDS teacher retires after 35 years of service

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

The bell rings letting the students know that class has begun. Sitting at computers they await the teacher's instruction. The teacher stands and walks to the front of the room and begins the lesson for the day. It might seem like any other school day, but on the last day of the school year, this teacher will pack his things and move on.

Ken Waugh has been teaching for about 35 years, 26 of which have been with the DODDS school system.

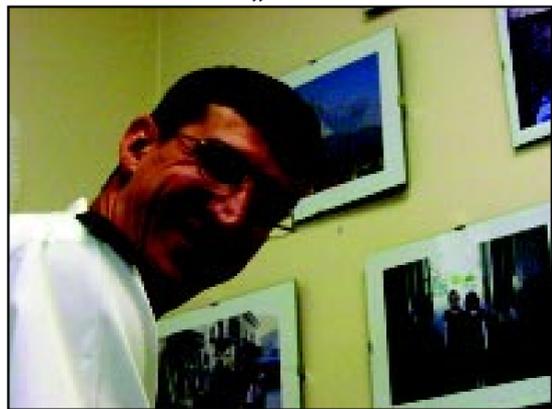
He was recruited as a teacher for DODDS while teaching at Indiana University in Bloomington. They were looking for teachers who had backgrounds, in African American History. Waugh, who has a masters degree in the field, seized the opportunity.

Waugh's teaching experience with DODDS ranged

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Signonella doc chosen for excellence at USUHS

JO2(SW) Brian Johnson
Staff Writer



He was recently awarded the William P. Clements Jr. Award for excellence in medical education from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences 2003 graduating class.

Physician – a word that evokes thoughts of people in white coats with stethoscopes giving shots and telling you to stick out your tongue and say “aahh.” To Lt. Cmdr. Mark Stephens, a physician is a teacher, and that is exactly what he has been doing since 1996.

Recently Stephens was given the William P. Clements Jr. Award for excellence in medical education. The award was chosen by the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences' (USUHS), in Bethesda, Md., 2003 graduating class, the students Stephens has been teaching. The icing on the cake for this award is that Stephens came to NASSIG at the beginning of the students fourth year.

When Stephens found out the class had selected him for the award, the 10 year Navy veteran was a little confused. “I was completely surprised, because there were so many more worthy candidates,” he said. “I felt like they picked the wrong guy, but ultimately I was quite honored that they chose me.”

As an assistant professor at USUHS, Stephens was teaching medical students, conducting research, and seeing patients; all of which gave him the opportunity to interact with students. “I had the opportunity to interact with students on many different levels and share ideas with them,” he said.

Stephens, page 12

'Tango' stars visit NASSIG

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer



Actor/Writer/Director Robert Duvall gives a pat on the back to the tired daughter of a member of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4), "The Black Stallions" in the squadron hangar. Duvall and actress Luciana Pedraza stopped by NAS Sigonella to meet with Sailors and family members after appearing at the Taormina Film Fest in Sicily where their film, "Assassination Tango," was playing. The pair ate at the base galley, visited HC-4, Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8) "Tigers," and signed autographs in the base commissary.

“Hey Robert Duvall just walked by,” exclaimed a Sailor outside the Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8) hangar at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella on a hot Sicilian day.

It's not every day you get to see someone as legendary as Academy Award winning actor/writer/director Robert Duvall just walk past you while you sit on a bench, taking a break from your duties. However on June 14, Sailors, family members, and many others on the base were treated to a visit by the man whose storied career includes roles in “The Godfather” and “Apocalypse Now.”

Duvall's companion, actress Luciana Pedraza, who danced with Duvall in the movie “Assassination Tango”, accompanied him on the visit to the base. Both were in Sicily for the screening of their film at the

Duvall page 11

Healthy teeth: Canines get visit from dentist

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

If your furry friend has bad breath that seems to last all day and it only gets worse as the day goes on, he might need his teeth brushed. As silly as it might seem, good oral hygiene is important for our four legged friends as well. Excess plaque and tartar build-up can eventually lead to a variety of gum diseases. Without healthy teeth it is harder for them to chew hard dog food or even bite trespassers.

Gum disease (gingivitis) and periodontal diseases are very common in dogs, according to a report from PetCareTips.com. If not treated, these diseases can lead to bone loss, loosening of the teeth or loss of teeth.

NAS Sigonella Security Department knows how important it is for their Military Working Dogs (MWD) to have healthy teeth. Like active duty military, the canines get their yearly checkup and surgery if necessary. “They have to be dentally qualified to do their job or they cannot do their bite work,” stated LCDR John Moon.

Dental page 12



Red Cross volunteer Jill Michalski cleans the teeth of a Military Working Dog. Four military dogs recently had their annual dental checkup. Annual checkups are important so that they have healthy teeth and perform their jobs more effectively.

Photo by Dr. Pat McGahey

NAVEUR Career Counselor Conference Explains Sailors' future in advancement, pay

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

Naval Air Station Sigonella held the first Navy Europe Career Counselor Conference from June 10 to 12 for career counselors.

The conference covered issues with programs such as Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP), Task Force Excel, Perform to Serve (PTS), selection boards, and Project Sea Warrior.

“In the European Area of Responsibility, it's the first time we've gotten together and done something like this,” said NCC Kendall

Dobison, NASSIG retention center leading chief petty officer. “We normally have a yearly career counselor symposium that's held state-side.” Dobison said the Atlantic area gets together on a quarterly basis to discuss issues, some new incentives coming online, and new programs. “With us being so far away, bringing them here from the states to catch us up to speed on all the revolutionized training is outstanding,” she said. “We're happy to have it hosted here.”

Personnel came from locations all over the European AOR to the conference, including Gaeta, Italy, Naples, Rota, Spain, Souda Bay, Greece, London, Stuttgart, Germany, Keflavik, Iceland, and a few other places. Presenters

came from such places as Millington, Tenn., and Washington D.C.

One of the presenters, NCCS Thomas Albert, an NC technical advisor from the Center for Career Development in Millington, Tenn., spoke on the PTS program and manning issues. “We talked about how the program is set up, and the application process,” said Albert. “In the first two months, about 30 percent of the applicants have been approved under PTS. It is part of the force-shaping tool, and is here to stay.” Albert said the program is on track. “It's working as designed,” he said. “We'll probably see some increases in percentages in the next month
Counselors page 13

Today's Hometown Weather

Baltimore, MD



High 77° F - Low 60° F
Partly cloudy



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

Have you ever seen the sunset over the Sicilian foothills? What about the Ear of Dionysius in Syracuse? There is so much to see here in Sicily you need to take some time to experience it.

Sicily is a wealth of history. From the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, and more, these nations conquered Sicily and made their own contribution to the heritage of the Sicilian people. You can see it in their architecture, their food, and their passion for living life to the fullest.

Like Sicily, we have had numerous nations rule the United States before becoming the nation we are today. Britain, France, Spain, just to name a few. We are influenced greatly by the nations that left their mark on the formation of the U.S. In the Navy, we took some of the customs, courtesies and traditions that the British naval forces still use today. We use the same rank structure as the British Navy did in 1775.

We have some terms like, "dead horse" that we still use today. The dead horse is the repayment of a debt (overpayment, advance pay, etc.) to the command. We salute, man the rails, pass honors, pipe over the side, and more. I even have some people actually say, "by your leave sir" when they pass

me down the sidewalk. Now, it would take a lot more space in this paper to completely describe all of our Naval traditions, so I won't do that.

We got morning and evening colors from the British too. Each evening at sunset, the Navy normally holds colors on base. Now, since we are in Sicily, we must abide by the customs and traditions of our host nation. We do not render colors here for several reasons. First of all, we are on an Italian Air Force Base. NAS Sigonella is a tenant command of the Italian 41st Stormo. Secondly, since we have an operational base, we are open 24/7. With the base open all day and all night, it is permissible to illuminate the flags with lights for nighttime viewing. Finally, we don't want to back up traffic for Force Protection reasons.

The next time you watch the sunset here in Sicily, think about our Shipmates around the world, stopping their cars and rendering colors on our Naval bases. Think about our Shipmates manning the rails and turning-two. Remember, scuttlebutt is just a rumor!

We must adhere to our Naval customs, traditions, and ceremonies because it is a part of our lives. It shows people who we are and what we hold to be important. For more information on our Naval traditions, customs and ceremonies, check out the www.history.navy.mil. By the way, while you are here in Sicily, go yell in the Ear of Dionysius...you'll be surprised to hear your voice!

New rule regarding damage to rental cars

From the Comptroller/Travel Office

A new government rental car agreement became effective on November 1, 2001.

The new contract now makes the government liable for damage to rental cars caused by a government employee who has an accident while on official business and where the accident is caused by the employee's simple negligence.

(Under the old contract, the rental car company was liable for such damage.) Property damage caused by something other than the Government employee's simple negligence (e.g., hit-and-run, damage while parked), is still the responsibility of the rental car company.

The government employee must charge the rental car to his or her Bank of America Government Travel Visa card.

The employee must waive the Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) insurance offered by the rental car company. Failure to waive the CDW will void the Bank of America Visa coverage.

The employee should obtain copies of all police reports or other documentation regarding the accident and report it to the Travel and Legal Office.

If the rental company determines that the damage may have been caused under circumstances described in the exceptions, then you should inform them that they

should submit the bill directly to the NAS Legal Office. NAS then will determine whether the employee was acting in the scope of his or her employment or duty when the damage happened

"Within the scope of duty" includes, but is not limited to, driving to and from: duty sites, lodgings, dining facilities, barber shops and places of worship.

If the accident occurs while the employee is on a "frolic and de-

tour" it is possible that the employee will be deemed outside the scope of duty and may be individually liable. In that case, the employee will have to file a claim with his or her personal insurance company and be responsible for any deductibles or costs not covered by their personal insurance.

For more information and details pls contact the base Travel Department, Comptroller X 6475

NJP Results



The following are results of Commanding Officer's Nonjudicial Punishment (hereinafter CO's NJP) for 23 May 2003:

An E-4 was found guilty of **drunken or reckless driving** and was awarded 45 days restriction, reduction to the next inferior pay grade, and forfeiture of \$764.00 pay per month for two months.

A Selected E-6 was found guilty of **drunken or reckless driving** and was awarded 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty, withdrawal of recommendation for advancement, and forfeiture of \$1,018 per month for two months

of which, forfeiture of pay is suspended for a period of six months.

An E-5 was found guilty of **dereliction of duty**, and **presenting a false official document**, and was awarded reduction in rate to E-4, in which was suspended for a period of 6 months, and forfeiture of \$100.00 pay per month for two months.

An E-4 was found guilty of **violating a Page 13, provoking speech or gesture, assault** consummated by a **battery, indecent language and drunk and disorderly conduct**. He was awarded 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty, reduction in rate to E-3, and Forfeiture of \$721.00 pay per month for two months.

An E-3 was found guilty of **violating a Page 13, and wrongful use of marijuana**. She was awarded 60 days restriction, Reduction in Rate to E-2, and forfeiture of \$645.00 pay for two months.

The Pulse

No lap kids please!

By HM2 DaSilva

Yes, yes, most of us are the healthy product of days gone by when car seats and seat belts didn't exist. However, thanks to modern technology and research we now have the means to protect our children more safely.

You've seen it. Your friends and neighbors leisurely driving through Mineo, Maranai and 205 housing with their small children (or infants) on their lap. Often, these children are even on the laps of the driver! Statistics show that most accidents occur less than five miles from your home, at speeds less than 25 miles per hour. Realizing that the speed limit in housing is much below this and that "you're being careful", consider this:

-A small child runs out into the street from behind a parked car and you must brake.

-A stray dog or cat runs into the street in front of you and you must brake

-Your air bag malfunctions and deploys upon quickly braking

Where does your child go in these instances? Into the dashboard, steering wheel or windshield? How far away is the base ambulance? 30-45 minutes.

Many people new to Sigonella quickly learn how to drive like the locals; with increased speed, a lot of luck, and much prayer. Unfortunately, we also become too complacent with our children's safety and do not properly install car seats, booster seats or even use seatbelts. In the words of a former Navy pilot who's son was permanently brain damaged from an airbag, "You can't get those 30 seconds back".

Please buckle up and put your children in their proper place in the car; the car seat. If you have questions or concerns about the proper placement of your car seat, please contact the hospital point of contact, HM2 DaSilva, at 624-4608.

Sin? What's that?

By Chaplain Thom Dansak
Command Chaplain



"It's OK to lie to keep from getting into trouble." "It's OK to cheat on your spouse if you are separated because of deployment." "It's OK to get even with someone who has hurt you." "It's OK as long as I think it's OK!" These are a few statements many clergy have heard. People defend their actions based on their feelings and opinions or on the prevailing view of society. As long as I think something is OK, or as long as "everybody is doing it", it must be OK. This thinking has allowed many people to remove the word "sin" from their vocabulary. Nothing I do is wrong. I don't need to worry about SIN.

If I, as a chaplain, tell someone what he or she has done or are doing is a "sin", they seem surprised. Why? Because the word sin infers that they are responsible for the action and the action they chose is wrong. That does not sit right with some people. How can I be or do wrong? Yet, are we not responsible for our words and deeds? If we are truly honest, we must admit that the "anything-goes" or "nothing-is-immoral", or "everybody-is-doing-it-so-it-must-be-OK" attitude does not really make us more loving, more caring, or better people. These beliefs don't lead to better marriages, families, or friendships.

Years ago, I was stationed in Subic Bay and I met a young sailor who was wearing a T-shirt that announced to the world his great cause. On it was a cartoon style figure of two people engaged in an obvious sexual act. The caption read "Help

Stamp Out Virginity". I stopped him and asked if he bought two of those shirts. "No", he responded. I suggested that he buy a second one. He asked "Why?" I answered, "Someday, Sailor, you will probably marry. And, someday you may have a beautiful daughter. When she goes out on her first date, give her that shirt to wear." He immediately got the point. What he thought was funny or OK now became much less so.

We all need to consider our values, our lifestyle, and our actions. Do our choices hurt others? Do our actions let them down? Are these the values we want to pass on to our children? What if the whole world knew what we were doing?

Many of us believe in God. We believe that God wants us to be our true best. But sometimes what is really best for us is not doing what we feel like doing but doing what we know we should do—what God has asked us to do. The reality of sin is present. Sin hurts people, destroys marriages, causes bitter hatreds. Sin keeps all of us from being our best as human beings. Court-decrees, opinion polls or personal feelings do not erase sin and the damage it does. Offering a good excuse does not do away with our personal sin.

Like the young sailor in my example, taking a second look at things can lead us to a change of heart and an improvement in our life. The ideas of Jesus and other great religious thinkers throughout history are still relevant in our sophisticated twenty-first century: "change your hearts ... reform your lives ... avoid sin." Though we might not be able to achieve perfection, recognizing sin in our lives and repenting of it can make us better people.

Navy Surgeon General visits NASSIG

JO2 David Hamilton
Staff Writer

Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief, Bureau of Medicine Vice Admiral Michael Cowan took time out of his busy schedule to visit Naval Air Station Sigonella's finest medical staff on Tuesday.

Cowan took part in a frocking and awards ceremony at Naval Hospital Sigonella. "Frocking sailors is the best part of my job," said Cowan. "To the Sailors who were frocked today, I say great job. Navy medicine is very proud of you."



One of ten proud Sailors to be frocked was HM2 James Tyler. He stated that having the Admiral present for the ceremony was extra special. "It was more memorable that the Surgeon General was able to do the frocking."

SECURITY BLOTTER

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE
624-6389

June 9 - June 15

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 9
- Traffic accident with injuries - 2
- Car break-ins - 0
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 26
- DUI's 2002 - 35

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 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.

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Carolyn

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NAVY NEWS

Naval Reservists' Boot Camp Aligns with Navy Accessions Training Under NSTC

By Darlene Goodwin, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs



Damage Controlman 2nd Class Shawn Love, an instructor in the gas chamber, adjusts a recruit's gas mask during Chemical, Biological and Radioactive (CBR) Defense training at the Fire Fighting Training Unit (FFTU), Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes. The recruits are exposed to an atmosphere of tear gas while donning their masks.

Navy and the Naval Reserve to align their functions to better serve our Sailors and the Navy," said Hare. "This is a natural part of the improvements that are being made throughout the Navy and the Naval Reserve, by working together more closely and combining our resources for a better product."

NPSAC has historically been administered by the Naval Reserve Force. It will still be managed by Reservists, but will become a division of the NSTC training department.

"We're going to transfer the experts (Naval Reservists) who are conducting the training now to the cognizance of the active-duty component," said Hare. "The Naval Reserve will continue to provide input and support for the training cadre to make sure that the NPSAC process occurs in the most beneficial way."

NSTC Commander, Rear Adm. Ann Rondeau, welcomes the change.

"As part of the Revolution in Training, we are looking at ways to work smarter and build efficiencies," she said. "The Navy has a proven training system in place to transform volunteers into naval service professionals. Aligning the new Naval Reservists under this same system will work very well for the Navy and provide outstanding training for Reserve Sailors."

Capt. Charles Maynard, NETC Reserve unit program manager for the NPSAC realignment, said the course is given in four phases. The 1st, 2nd and 4th phases of the training are administered at local Naval Reserve Centers. The 3rd phase, a 17-day boot camp, will be held at NSTC.

"This is abbreviated from the 67-day boot camp that an active-duty recruit would receive," said Maynard. "The other 50 days of training are delivered to the Reservist in phases one, two and four, conducted during drill weekends and annual active-duty training periods. The course is designed for Reservists who would only have a 2-3 week vacation from their civilian jobs during the year."

"If we're going to adhere to a one-Navy concept, we have to find ways to fold non-prior service Naval Reservists into the same functions, processes and support mechanisms available to active duty Sailors," said Hare.

For more information about NPSAC, visit <https://www.ntcgl.navy.mil/npsac>. To learn more about Navy training, visit the NSTC Web site at <https://www.ntcgl.navy.mil>, or the NETC Web site at <https://www.cnet.navy.mil>.

Navy Hospital 'Hires' Robotic Pharmacists

By OS2 Wendy Kahn, National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — National Naval Medical Center's (NNMC) pharmacy has implemented an automated system for processing prescriptions, doubling productivity and improving patient safety.

This new technology guides the pharmacist or corpsman at each step in the prescription-filling process to minimize human intervention and reduce errors.

"NNMC became the prototype for the robotic system," says Lt. Philip Siebigteroth, staff pharmacist and division officer. "Before acquiring the system, pharmacists and corpsmen were filling between 500 to 600 prescriptions a day. The output has nearly doubled under the new system."

The automated system is more efficient, because all prescriptions have bar code labels, according to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jeannine Aubin, leading petty of-

ficer of the robotic automation refill area. She says the chance of mistakes occurring with the system is significantly reduced.

However, robotic automation is just one element of a new way to prepare prescriptions. According to Cmdr. William Blanche, assistant director for administration, software is the critical element in ensuring patient safety in the pharmacy. It ties together both new and refill prescription processing, utilizing touch screens, digital counting scales and robotics.

The entire system uses bar code technology to check the activity. Unlike most pharmacies, which print the prescription labels first, the system only prints labels after the correct drug and dosage have been verified and is in hand.

The pharmacy has two robots. Each one can fill about 120 prescriptions in an hour. The robots have the **Robot, page 10**

Coordinating care, in time of conflict, from land and sea

By Rod Duren
Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs
and
JOSN Erica Mater
USNS Comfort Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — U.S. Navy medical and surgical teams have taken a tunnel-vision approach to caring for civilians and military members injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), whether by land or sea.

While on station for OIF, Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) in the Arabian Gulf, and Fleet Hospital (FH) 3 in the desert of southern Iraq, shared the "4C" Navy medical message of caring, cooperation and coordination of care.

Comfort was on station for 56 days in the Arabian Gulf. FH-3 — the Navy's first field hospital to establish an expeditionary medical facility (EMF) in a combat zone — had been on call since March 10.

There were many obstacles to coordinating medical care, but e-mail became the most effective form of communication, said Capt. Bob Hoyt, an internal medicine (IM) specialist with FH-3 and Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla.

FH-3 cared for about 1,100 patients since setting up the first EMF in Navy medicine history. Most patients were referred by Echelon II surgical companies in forward areas.

In dealing with the civilian patients, Hoyt was persistent that FH-3's staff "made every effort to treat all patients of all categories the same."

But, then, there were the children.

At times, Comfort didn't know where the children were coming from and why they were being brought there. That's when Capt. Terry Dwyer, head of medical services, decided to sort through

Care, page 10

Recap CORNER

The new galley, club opens in autumn

We will open the new Galley-Club in late August-early September (see picture). The 2,100 square meter facility will include the Galley (The Etna Eatery) with Speed-Line and separate VIP Dining, as well as the Club (The Crater Pub) with dance floor and upstairs special events room. The Galley and Club will both have outdoor dining areas covered by a trellis. The Special Events Room will have access to an open-air upstairs terrace. You will enter the new building through a tower rotunda with marble design floor, circular stair and clerestory windows. The Club and Galley is located on the east piazza with the MWR Complex at the end of the main east-west pedestrian path that connects the Admin-Chapel-Community Center piazza at the western end of the path.

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 at the end of Halsey Road near the Stephen Decatur School, through the end of June. But the parking area will be available for Freedom Fest. The pick up and drop off area for the NAS I-NAS II bus stop remains changed to the parking lot at the side of the CDC and will continue for another week until the gas line is complete. School is out until September, so the loop road will be open. "Heads Up" (1) on June 23 we will start installing the sewer line in Forrestal Road in front of the old Library, (2) the enclave for the new MWR Complex site will cut across Forrestal Road near the FFSC in September, and (3) also in September we will close Sherman Road to install the new electrical line in the center of the road.

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



Internet Helps Find Lost Navy Art

By Joanna Navarro, Naval Historical Center Public Affairs



Vigil R. G. Smith, 1970.98 Oil on canvasboard, November 1969. In 1968, the U.S. and South Vietnamese navies began operation SEALORDS (Southeast Asia Lake, Ocean, River, and Delta Strategy), to cut enemy supply lines from Cambodia into bases in the Mekong Delta. As part of this effort, river patrol boats (PBRs), usually accompanied by helicopters, maintained a constant watch on inland waterways 197 such as along the Vinh Te Canal, which paralleled the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border.

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Internet has turned into the prime search area to recover "lost" artworks from the Navy's art collection.

Two long-lost Navy paintings, recently offered for sale on the Internet sales site "E-Bay," were recovered by the Naval Historical Center's (NHC) Navy Art Gallery.

Gale Munro, head of the gallery, discovered the two World War II era Albert Murray paintings "Guantanamo Bay (Windward Hill)" and "Bay of Naples," which had been lost for decades, for sale on the site.

Since discovering the combat oil paintings in 2002, Munro conducts bi-weekly and tri-weekly Internet searches through a variety of on-line auction houses, using the names of original combat artists as key words in her search. In the case of "Guantanamo Bay," Munro recognized the artists name, the work's catalog number, and deduced that it was created under the Combat Art Program, a Navy World War II artist program.

Although wartime Navy artists sometimes painted paintings as gifts for individuals they met while in the service, the practice was not common. Internet sellers often believe they have ownership of the piece, but because the item had its catalog number on it, Munro knew that the Navy, in this case, held title.

But the burden of proof was with the Navy, and she now had to produce tangible evidence that it held legal title. First scanning her files, Munro looked **Art, page 10**

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.

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. The illegal use of Tax Free products is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and Italian customs/fiscal law and may result in revocation of privileges by Base Commanders.

Red Cross Babysitter training

There will be a Red Cross babysitter training class on June 27-28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children age 11 and older will be taught the skills needed for safe child care. Call 624-5446 or 624-5921 for more information.

Correction

Our announcement of Capt. Frederick Wilmot's retirement was in error. The NJROTC instructor will be returning to Stephen Decatur for another semester.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Maccheroni Festival in Acicatenà

If you are a pasta lover, you should not miss this mouthwatering food event. The sagra (festival) will run through June 22. Festival stalls featuring fresh home made maccheroni dressed with ragù (meat sauce) will be set up daily from 6 p.m. to midnight at the San Nicolò public gardens. San Nicolò is a small hamlet located about three miles south of Acicatenà. The festival will include live entertainment. Booths with local produce, crafts and arts will also be available for the public. For more information and directions, call the Catania Province Tourist Office at 095-7306279/301.

St. John the Baptist Festival celebrates Acitrezza's traditions

The celebrations in honor of San Giovanni Battista have been part of the Acitrezza community's life for more than 300 years. Yet, trizzoti (Acitrezza townspeople) also celebrate the intimate relationship, which they have developed over the centuries, with the sea through a spectacular pantomime named U pisci a mari (The fish in the sea). The mare (sea) for the fishermen is their primary source of livelihood, but at the same time it can be a negative force. As Monsignor Giovanni Lanzafame, an historian of Sicilian folklore wrote: "Some say that the pantomime that is staged in Acitrezza is actually an ancient propitiatory rite aimed at bringing good luck to the fishermen during the swordfish fishing activity. Despite the jubilation displayed during the festival, I believe the life of the fishermen is somehow imbued with a sense of melancholy. Even though they work hard, they don't always bring fish home."

The festival runs from June 23 through 25. Highlights include religious processions that will be held throughout the historic center and along the seaside. Spectacular performances such as the above mentioned U pisci a mari pantomime and the Calata dell' Angelo (Descent of the Angel) will also be staged. The Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist Parish) is the hub of this religious festival and it preserves the wooden statue depicting San Giovanni Battista and the saint's relics.

Prince Stefano Riggio, the founder of Acitrezza, built the Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista in 1693 to replace another church erected in 1678 and dedicated to San Giuseppe (Saint Joseph) that was destroyed by a violent earthquake. Shortly after that erection of the church, the people of Acitrezza asked for the making of a statue depicting San Giovanni Battista. Historians have conflicting opinions on who carved this beautiful sculpture. Some believe that the sculptor was a trizzoto named Castorina or Lo Faro. Legend says that the artist shut himself up inside the Palazzo del Principe di Acitrezza (Palace of the Prince



Picture courtesy of Acitrezza's Saint John the Baptist. Deamery

From June 23 to 25, Acitrezza will host a religious festival in honor of San Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist) the city's patron saint. During the celebrations, processions will be held throughout the historic center of town and along the seaside. Spectacular performances such as the U pisci a mari (The fish in the sea) pantomime (in the picture) and the Calata dell' Angelo (Descent of the Angel) will also be staged.

of Acitrezza) for three months and carved the statue using as a model a member of the Giletta family from Acitrezza. Yet stories say that the eccentric sculptor would accept food only if it was lowered from the palace's roof whose tiles were temporary removed. Therefore, nobody saw the statua (statue) until it was completed. When the sculpture was finished, it was placed in small niche above the main altar named Cammaredda, where it is still preserved up to today.

Festival Schedule

On June 23, the eve of the main festival day, Holy Mass is celebrated at 7 p.m. In the evening, the saint relics are brought in procession (around 8 p.m.) escorted by the city band through the following roads: Marina, Provinciale, up to the Casa Cantoniera, Spagnola, Muscarà, Ferretti, Provinciale, Capparelli, Grasso, Tunisi, Capparelli, piazza (square) delle Scuole, Dietro Chiesa, Leopolda and back to the Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista. June 24 is the highlight of the celebrations. The Festival starts at 10 a.m. with the moving unveiling of the statue. Later at 10:30, the archbishop of Catania celebrates a solemn Holy Mass

at the St. John the Baptist Parish. In the afternoon, U pisci a mari is staged in the Barriera district on the northern side of Acitrezza at 5 p.m. The pantomime starts with a group of fishermen in castoff clothing (a straw hat, a red shirt, tattered shorts, and a yellow sash; yellow and red are the colors of the saint) tied together by a rope walking towards the pier while dancing and singing among a large crowd. Three performers jump into a boat that is decorated with flowers, and yellow and red ribbons. The fourth actor, a skilled swimmer who plays the swordfish, jumps into the water. The fifth performer plays the Raisi, or crew leader. He places himself on the highest point of the pier giving directions to capture the fish. Once the swordfish is sighted, the Raisi shouts phrases in ancient Sicilian inciting the fishermen to catch it. They chase the fish, and after several attempts, the fish is eventually caught. The fishermen hoist it aboard and try to butcher it, but the swordfish manages to escape twice. The fishing goes on and the fishermen capture the swordfish again (this time it is a real one, usually a dead shark or tuna fish). But once again, while the fishermen praise the tastiness of the fish, the fish escapes disappearing into the sea. The fishermen give up in despair, argue and overturn the boat. The pantomime is over. Later at 7 p.m., a solemn procession starts from piazza Giovanni Verga. Devotees screaming: Viva San Giovanni (Long live St. John) escort the statue depicting the saint through the following roads: Provinciale, Leopolda, Calamenzana, Dietro Chiesa, Cappello, Fontana Vecchia, Lungomare Ciclopi, Porto Nuovo (a stop at the pier, where the Stele of S. Giovanni Battista is placed, is performed; flowers are offered to the saint), Magri, Gibuti, Gondar, Guamaccia, Grasso, Tunisi, Capparelli, Piazza delle Scuole, Largo Medusa and back to the Parrocchia di San Giovanni.

At 10:30 p.m., the Calata dell' Angelo (Descent of the Angel) is staged in piazza delle Scuole. This performance features the descent of an angel that pays homage to the touring statue of the saint on behalf of the city districts. At the end of the tour (around 11:30 p.m.), devotees perform the cussa (the run) that consists of covering the last route of the procession (via Provinciale) running while carrying the statue.

A spectacular firework show ends the festivities while the statue is placed back into the Parrocchia di San Giovanni. On the last day of the festival, June 25, holy mass is celebrated at 11:30 a.m. at the St John Parish. In the evening at 7 p.m., a procession leaves from piazza Giovanni Verga. The saint is paraded through the following roads: Provinciale, Ricca, Muscarà, Ferretti, Spagnola, Livorno, Scalazza (stopping at the Church of S. Maria la Nova), Dusmet, Calabretta, Marina, Vico Musumeci until late at night. During the procession at 8 p.m., the Calata dell' Angelo show is replicated in via Provinciale. At midnight an amazing fireworks show ends the festival.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE						20	21
						Marina di Ragusa Camping Trip depart 3 p.m. AU Call 624-4271	Teen Dine-Out 7 to 11 p.m. Teen Center Call 624-4018
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Visit Palermo ITT Call 624-4396	Special Additions 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Community Bldg rm 203	Basic Italian Call ITT at 624-4396 for class times	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	Kayaking Class on the Beach AU Call 624-4271	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
Bagheria Villas & Seafood Restaurant in Sferracavallo ITT Call 624-4396	Play Bingo 5:30 p.m. Live Wire	JULY European Exercise Tour climb, walk and run around Europe without leaving the gym Sign up at either Fitness Center		Anger Management every thur 5 to 6 p.m. NAVHOSP 2A-III Call 624-4291	Fourth of July	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	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Caccamo Castle & Roccapalumba ITT Call 624-4396			Scioli & Avide Winery Trip ITT Call 624-4396	Elton John in Concert ITT Call 624-4396			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
			Rainbow Playgroup every Wed. 10 to 11 p.m. 205 Housing				

Remember safe diving rules

Carmelo La Rocca
Sigonella Dive Club

With the start of the diving season, the Sigonella Dive Club would like to share some advice on diving in safety, and announce that since the starting of the club in 1996, we have had no accidents among the more than 1,000 dives logged in.

Usually people who have obtained a scuba certification have gone through a rigid course in which they learn how to become a safe diver. But sometimes after a long period of time they need a refresher.

Safety is the main reason why we have a diving club on base. We are the point of contact for divers who want suggestions about where to go or what to do to dive safely in Sicily.

Let me take the opportunity to give a few suggestions about safety for recreational divers.

1. Never dive alone.
2. Never hold your breath when diving.
3. Make sure that your buddy is a certified and careful diver.

4. Always plan your dive within your limits
5. Have your equipment serviced; check it before any dive.
6. Do not dive if your physical condition is poor or you have had little sleep or too much to drink the night before.
7. Always use a surface float with a dive flag.
8. Respect the environment.
9. Be a S.A.F.E diver: Slowly ascend from every dive. A rate that does not exceed 60 feet per minute.
10. Have a routine medical check-up
11. Continue your diving education only with qualified resort or instructors.
12. Make safety stops every 15 feet for three minutes after all your dives.

It is important to know your depth limitation and not exceed it. Diving certification should qualify a diver at a certain depth. As a general rule, if a diver is a novice, 60 feet should not be exceeded, there is plenty to see and to do at this depth.

Knowing and learning what to do in an emergency situation is also important. Here are the action guides for scuba diving emergencies:

1. Quickly bring the diver to the surface and check for breathing.
2. Establish positive buoyancy.
3. Get assistance as needed in providing resuscitation.
4. Help remove the diver from the water.
5. Call for professional help.
6. Keep airways open and if necessary start and continue mouth resuscitation.
7. Observe the diver constantly.
8. Administer oxygen if possible.
9. Never recompress the diver underwater.
10. Make sure medical staff is aware that the victim is a diver and needs to breathe pure oxygen as soon as possible to enter a decompression chamber. There are several numbers that are very important to every one who scuba dives in this area. These numbers are for hospitals and clinics, which have decom-

pression chambers. Those numbers are: 118 for emergency service on the economy and they will coordinate the emergency. Other numbers are: Cannizzaro Hospital (Catania) 095-72611111. Augusta 093/199-0111 Lipari Aeolian Number 090/988-5242

There is also an organization called Diver Alert Network, DAN is a group of divers that will rescue other divers in an efficient and professional manner anywhere in the world. They do speak English, but a membership is required to use this service.

The club has existed now for a while, it is a non profit organization, that believe that as a group, people tend to socialize more, and behave more cautiously. Safety is our top priority. We use e-mail addresses as point of contact to look for buddies and organize diving trip. We have about 100 e-mail address in our club. The club is also recognized by Padi America and Padi Europe to be very active toward the environment, we get together twice a year with divers from the economy and organize underwater and beach clean ups.

An American in Sicily

What's happening on the local roads? An experienced American explains

AMCS Robin Wallace
Contributing Writer

To many Americans, driving in Italy is a big challenge, so big they never adapt and never appreciate the experience. What looks like total chaos is actually predictable events deeply rooted in their culture. When we see accidents close to NAS Sigonella, it usually involves Americans who try to apply our norms to their norms resulting in a crash.

One of the best examples of Italian driving is passing a car on a two-lane road. You turn on your left blinker indicating you intend to pass, immediately the car in front of you pulls over to the right as far as he can go. You begin to cross the center line and the car in the oncoming lane will see your intentions so he pulls to his right. Now this opens up a new lane in the middle for you to safely pass.

Another thing you will never see in the states is the three-way pass. The best way to describe this maneuver on a two-lane road is awesome... but don't panic, it's common here. This is how it works: you are going down this two-lane road and you want to pass this little Fiat so you turn on your left blinker and as you are overtaking the Fiat, you check your mirror again, just in time to see this city bus overtaking you. Now there are two cars and a bus abreast going the same direction down this very narrow country road. Remember that these two maneuvers are illegal. There are traffic regulations here in Sicily. If you are caught breaking them, you'll pay.

It is not uncommon in town to see what looks like a gaggle of cars at almost every intersection. Actually that's not gridlock, they are moving along with a lot of hollering, horn blowing and fist shaking. To say they are impatient is an understatement, but road rage is very rare. Additionally, don't be shocked when you are sitting at a red light and when it turns yellow for the other way you immediately hear four to five cars behind you start honking. They believe you should begin rolling on the other guy's yellow light.

Who has the right of way?

At four way intersections, officially, the guy on your right has the right of way, just like at home. But don't count on it, defensive driving is a must here. They look out for each other and they expect the same from you.

Americans feel the most intimidated while driving in the congested cities where everyone appears to

be fighting for the same spot. Those white lines painted on the road are for driving conditions between midnight and six in the morning. I have found it's like a game of chicken—no one wants to get their car scratched, so at some point someone will yield to you or you to them. You learn to accept driving in very close proximity to other cars—so close you must fold in your side view mirrors. You see a lot of smashed side view mirrors here, that's a result of driving too fast. To gently bump someone's mirror is ok, that's why the mounting is spring loaded. When approaching side streets where there is a car waiting to ease into your lane, don't make eye contact! Because if you do... that means you just gave him permission to come on out — ready- or-not .

Motor scooters and mopeds are prolific beyond description. You would think they were invented here and this is home to the famous Vespa. I believe every family has at least one whether they have a car or not. Gasoline hovers around \$4.00 per gallon so the scooter makes a lot of sense for short trips. Don't think of scooters in the same light as the American stereotype teenager or college student trying to make ends meet. People of all ages ride scooters here, from nine to ninety. I have seen a family of four with their dog on a Vespa weaving their way through heavy city traffic. These people can find a 20" corridor between several lanes of stalled traffic and speed off at full throttle. By the way "Vespa" means "wasp" in Italian and that is what it sounds like at full throttle negotiating its way through the streets of Rome. There is no intimidation from cars, buses or the largest tractor trailer rig. Last year in Naples a guy pulled his Vespa next to my Navy van and put his left foot on my fender to help him pull off from a stop. In the states we would have called this a collision. Parking is never a problem with your scooter; you see them parked on sidewalks, under stairways and in home entry halls. You don't just see the scooters used for people transport either, I have seen them stacked high on the back and front with crates of live chickens and wonder how the driver can see the road. There are special three wheeled scooters for heavier items and farm work called "Lizards" and even four wheeled scooters used at airports and city deliveries. The motor scooter culture has not caught on in the United States but if gas gets any higher, it may be the fun solution we are looking for.

The best way to adapt to driving in Italy is to go out and participate, you can't learn it from books, lectures or videos and you won't be initiated until you experience the three-way pass.

Note from the PAO:

This is an example of one Sailor's experience on the road. There are traffic laws and regulations that must be adhered to both on and off base. Traffic laws must be obeyed for everyone's safety.

Word Find

Hockey Players

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

ALLISON	CAIRNS	GUERIN	MCALLISTER	PETROV
AMONTE	CAMPBELL	JACKMAN	NABOKOV	ULANOV
AULD	CARNEY	JAGR	NASH	WALKER
EVERY	CHOUINARD	JOHNSON	NICHOL	WALLIN
BANHAM	COMRIE	MACDONALD	NIEMINEN	WARD
BARNES	CONNOLLY	MADDEN	OATES	WEBB
BARON	GOREN	MALAKHOV	ODJICK	WEEKES
BELFOUR	GRATTON	MATVICHUK	PARRISH	WEIGHT
BERG	GRETSKY	MAY	PERRINEN	

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

Scholarships awarded to SDS graduates

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

School is out. For some this is just time to kick back until the next school year begins, for those graduated, it is a step closer to college and a new life. Many students apply for scholarships to help alleviate costs that accumulate after books, tuitions and room and board.

One particular organization offering scholarships is the Scholarships for Military Children Program. The program is funded by manufactures and suppliers who provide support to commissaries worldwide and is administered ran by the Fisher House Foundation. The foundation is a nonprofit organization in charge of building 31 comfort homes close to military medical centers, that carries all costs of the program of which every dollar goes to fund scholarships.

Daniel Rhodes and Shawn Macintosh were two out of 6,500 who applied. Both received a \$1,500 scholarship. Rhodes will be enrolled at Mary Washington College where he will major in political science. Shawn Macintosh will be attending Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia. He will be majoring in social sciences and education.

The number of students receiving scholarships hit a record high this year. "We're excited to announce a record high of awards for 2003," said Defense Commissary Agency Director Maj. Michael Wiedemer. He also added "This represents a 28 percent increase over 2002."

Around 550 out of 6,500 receipts will be awarded worldwide. "We're pleased with the response here at the Sigonella and Mineo commissaries," stated Store Director, Phil Ruiz.

When Macintosh submitted his application he was hopeful, but not confident that it would pay off. "I wasn't expecting to be picked. My four years of hard work and extracurricular activities were what led to my success," stated Macintosh.

Scholarship, page 10



Fri. June 20

Beat the heat with free popsicles at Take 5. All day while supplies last!

Come on down to JOX and sing till your heart's content with their Karaoke night at 8 p.m. Also, partake in some free pizza at 7 p.m. Mangia!

Sat. June 21

Visit Fafferana and the studio of an artist that makes volcanic rock sculptures inspired by the famous figures on Easter Island. Have lunch at the Gambino Winery and Argrituristic farm in Linguaglossa. Call ITT for more information at x4396/x4777.

Learn to cook Sicilian cuisine in the traditional setting of the Trinita Agrituristic Farm in Mascalucia. The Bonajuto family will welcome you into their home and garden, giving you an extensive tour of the property. The lesson will be held in a large professional kitchen where you'll have a chance to lend a hand in the preparation of all dishes. Call ITT for more information at x4396/x4777.

Mon. June 9

Play BINGO at Live Wire. cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m., and games start at 6:30 p.m. Large Jackpot every week. Come early for a good seat!

Weds. June 25

Add healthy snacks to your day with free fruit and veggies at Take 5. All day while supplies last!

Come and compete in Liberty tournaments for BIG prizes at 7pm at NAS 1 #170 barracks. We will be playing Monopoly. FREE to play!

Explore Mt. Etna on horseback! Experienced riding instructors will guide a 3-hour horse trek up the volcano. Discover beautiful trails and incredible views. Don't forget your camera! For more information contact Adventures Unlimited at X4271/ X3718.

Thurs. June 26

Visit Catania and learn the fascinating history of this resilient town. We will explore the Ursino Castle, Greek Amphitheater, Crociferi Street, Bellini Museum, and Elephant square. Contact ITT for further information at X4396/X477.

TRIVIA

- What is formed when lightning strikes sand?
 - What Australian intelligence organization was formed in 1919 and was a vital source of information during World War II?
 - What was the name of the secretary in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"?
 - How old is the Sun?
 - What is the world's highest active volcano?
- (Answers on page 11)

Movie Connection

MWIE's Theater Schedule

Friday, June 20

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

8 p.m.
Bruce Almighty(R)

Saturday, June 21

2 p.m.
Head of State (PG-13)

4:30 p.m.
Anger Management (PG-13)

7 p.m.
Phone Booth (R)

Sunday, June 22

1 p.m.
Holes (PG) **

3:30 p.m.
Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)

6 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Monday, June 23

5:30 p.m.
What a Girl Wants (PG)

8:30 p.m.
Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)

Tuesday, June 24

5:30 p.m.
A Man Apart (R) *

8:30 p.m.
Anger Management (PG-13)

Wednesday, June 25

5:30 p.m.
Phone Booth (R)

8:30 p.m.
Bruce Almighty (PG-13)

Thursday, June 26

5:30 p.m.
Head of State (PG-13)

8 p.m.
The Matrix Reloaded (R)*

Friday, June 27

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

8 p.m.
Identity(R)

A big thank you from Coach Diana Goodman

Dear Parents and Community Volunteers,

Thank you just isn't enough!

Your participation in our annual three field days insured socialization, cooperation and fun for 650 children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

As you supervised and ran a game station for two and a half hours, played with and cheered for all students and supervised the pool for an additional two hours, I know you were rewarded by the children's smiles and laughter.

When folks like you give your precious time to our children you may never see the far-reaching results of your kindness, but know your generosity of spirit will always be remembered!

The children of Stephen Decatur Elementary School and I thank you very, very, much!

School summer office hours

Both Stephen Decatur Secondary and Elementary Schools have summer office hours. Registration for next year for new parents is 8 to 11 a.m. The school offices are also open for other business 12 to 3 p.m. To ensure that someone is there to serve you, call ahead of visiting at 624-4281 for Secondary office and 624 4406 for Elementary office.

Kindergarten registration

If your child turns five by October 31, 2003 please come by the Stephen Decatur Elementary School office from 8 to 11 a.m. to register for next school year. We look forward to seeing your little one in September.

This week on...

- Sat. Jun 21 - Navy/Marine Corps News
AFN Atlantic 5:30 PM
 - Mon. Jun 23 - Wimbledon Early Round
AFN Sports 7:00 PM
 - Tue. Jun 24 - Movie: Crouching Tiger...
AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM
 - Thu. Jun 26 - Sigonella Rewind
AFN Atlantic 8:25 PM
 - Thu. Jun 26 - NBA Draft
AFN Sports 1:00 AM
- THE VOID MORNING SHOW ON 106.0 ZFM
WEEKDAYS FROM 6 AM - 9 AM**
- 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



Robot from page 2

ability to fill in two hours what a busy pharmacist in a community drug store can fill in one day. With the system, the pharmacy can process nearly 3,000 prescriptions each day. In a conventional pharmacy with no automation, errors are likely to occur.

The prescription process begins when patients call or e-mail the pharmacy. The prescriptions are put into the Combined Healthcare Computer System (CHCS), and a printout is generated listing the medications and their side effects.

Afterward, using the bar code of each medication, the robot will then fill the prescription. If the prescription is not located in the robotic system, the pharmacist or corpsman will manually fill it. Once completed, the bottle is scanned as it comes out of the robot and put into a packing basket. Each basket holds medications for one patient.

The pharmacist then matches the medication bottle with the screen's picture and reads the label on the vial to verify the doctor's written prescription. If the medication is located in an automated counting device, the software automatically counts the medication. For those medications not in counting devices, the technician or pharmacist scans the manufacturer's drug bar code to confirm that the correct medication has been selected.

If correct, a blue screen appears and a prescription label is printed. A red screen indicates the wrong medication was selected and warns the technician of a possible error. When the correct medication is identified by the system, a prescription label is printed.

To further ensure patients receive their proper medication, the pharmacist scans the bar code printed on the prescription label for final verification. The software then retrieves all information necessary for that prescription. A picture of the prescription is included in the check if written by a civilian physician, and a picture of what the capsule or tablet should look like.

Finally, the pharmacist will scan his or her personal bar code to determine that the prescription has been checked. Once filled, the prescriptions are placed in a bag and stapled. A bag tag is printed with the patient's name, social security number and destination (drive-through pharmacy, clinic, etc.).

Although the robotic system is more efficient and eliminates the potential for human error, Blanche emphasizes that robots do not replace the thinking ability, judgment or experience of the physician, pharmacist or technician. The system guarantees the patient will receive the proper medication, as ordered by the physician.

"It's all about patient safety," says Blanche. "Errors are easier to recognize with the system, because a red warning message flashes on the screen. The pharmacy serves nearly 900 patients each day, with medical errors being reduced by 80 percent."

Of his robotic system, Siebigteroth says he is proud to use such state-of-the-art equipment. He believes it will reduce patient waiting time in the future through better utilization of human resources.

For related news, visit the National Naval Medical Center Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/nmmc.

SPORTS

U.S. Soccer Sigonella season ends, forecast optimistic for 2004

JO1 Craig Coleman
Staff Writer

U.S. Soccer Sigonella put the "international" in the ACLI international football tournament earlier this month.

The Americans ended the 2003 season by finishing fourth in the ACLI tournament playoffs. The team's standing at the end of the event was lower than the players hoped for, but, according to player-coach Ray Delpesche, losing matches can serve an important purpose. "We lost, but the experience gained is what we were looking for," he said. "Guys who never played together before blended. We lost, but our play and our discipline in the tournament showed the officials that we'd advanced enough to earn a place in the international tournament in Rimini.

Facing teams from Palermo, Naples, Latina, Catania, Piveno and two Roman squads, U.S. Soccer Sigonella finished the international tournament without a win, but results steadily improved as the competition continued. The first two losses were blowouts: 5-1 and 6-2. By the next round the scores were closer: 2-0 and 1-0. "We played outstanding, professional soccer," said Delpesche. "We became more cohesive in our game plan and more technical in our play. The effort was there, but in the end, we couldn't do anything to change the results."

The season started more positively for Sigonella soccer. A joint U.S./Italian team

won the Tourneo D'Cuore (Tournament of the Heart) at the end of the 2002 season. Then several talented players joined U.S. Soccer Sigonella. The Americans had difficulty finding success early on without their Italian allies. "We were losing very badly," said Delpesche. "Guys were being kicked out of games because of our aggressiveness. Italian players weren't accustomed to our style. They expected us to play a softer style of soccer, but we didn't."

With time, practice and patience a group of skilled

individual players became a team. "When you know each other you know who can play which positions, you learn what to expect from your teammates," said Delpesche.

The coach is optimistic about the team's prospects for the 2004 season. "If we continue to practice and we attract more quality players in addition to the ones we already have, we'll be a force to recon with," he said. "The players' skills and knowledge of the game is getting better and better."

The improvements made by the team during the past season are traced by Delpesche to two individuals: assistant coach/forward/midfielder Bernard Bencarew, who according to Delpesche, "brought more technical understanding of the game and instilled more discipline in the players," and assistant manager/fullback Vince Williams, who Delpesche said "brought so much to the team through his determination."



Freddy Koenig (left) and ray Delpesche close down a Palermo player during the ACLI 2003 championship.

photo courtesy SKI Ray Delpesche

The team looks forward to the completion of its new home – the under construction sports fields at NAS I. In the meantime, they play their matches as guests of their opponents and practice on the small field behind USNH Sigonella.

The Lane

X-Treme Triathlon

Don't miss this Captain's Cup event Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., which includes a 500 m. ocean swim, A 2 km. Kayak, and a 2 km. beach run. There is a small fee to enter. T-shirts, awards and barbeque included. Vans leave the NAS I Gym at 9 a.m.

European Exercise Tour

Starting July 1 you can climb run and walk your way around Europe without leaving the Fitness Center. Find out more by stopping by either center.

Spin Class Mural Contest



Spin contest to start on the June 23 and runs until end July. Winner announced on the Aug. 2. All drawings should be dropped off at the NAS II gym. The drawings will be voted on and the winner will received a \$100 gift certificate for an ITT trip. Drawings must include Spin cycles. The drawing pick will be commision for the Spin class room at the gym.

Q & A

When was the first night game played in New York?

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

Teacher page 10

from third grade through 12th grade.

He grew up in Africa and went to an international school. After completing school he attended University of Chicago then on to the Indiana University.

His passion for teaching was sparked while he was a Peace Corp volunteer in Liberia. He was trained to work with the Liberian State Department. However due to the sensitivity of the work, he was placed in a small village school teaching third graders. "It was in the middle of no man's land, but I loved it," declared Waugh. That was just the beginning of his new career as a teacher.

Working with DODDS had its privileges. Not only did he mold young minds, but his job also allowed him to travel. He taught at bases in Belgium, Germany, Panama and now Sicily. After his fourth year here his time as a teacher is coming to a close.

He recalls some of his most memorable times. "I have several students who have done very well...I still correspond with 200 to 300 students."

Waugh got involved with many projects during his time with Stephen Decatur. He was the Senior Class Sponsor for four years, the high school tennis coach, led the National Honor Society and Knowledge Bowl team that competed against Italian schools countrywide. "The team was very successful.... Two years ago, they won the title of Champion of the Knowledge

Bowl of Italy. I was very proud of them," boasted Waugh.

During his time teaching there have been good times and bad times. According to Waugh, one of the most difficult times with DODDS was in Panama during the Invasion of Panama in 1989. Still, it is mostly the good times that he will remember. One example was in Panama, where he had helped students study for the SAT. After they finally took the exam, results came back showing that several students scored a perfect score, a result of hard work and many hours of studying.

"What I will miss the most is the students, working with young students makes you feel young," Waugh added. "I will also miss traveling, but I can say I have seen the world. It is time to move on."

Scholarship from page 7

Capt Charles Rhodes was also excited that his son was picked. "It feels wonderful to know that Daniel was selected as one of this years recipients...When I first heard the good news I was thrilled because the cost of a good college education today is so expensive. The scholarship will really go far in helping Daniel fund his first year of college," said Capt Rhodes.

"I was overjoyed to know that my application had been accepted out of all the applications and that the community makes it possible for students to afford college," exclaimed Daniel Rhodes.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program was initiated in 2000 by DeCa for graduates and college-enrolled students. The program is open to qualified children of active duty, retirees, guard/reserves and those of deceased personnel.

Applicants were required to maintain a 3.0 grade point average, be involved in extracurricular activities, demonstrate leadership qualities and write an essay "How being a child of a military service member has influenced their educational goals."

"The scholarship program exemplifies just one way DeCa, industry and the military community partner to create a win-win situation for everyone," boasted Ruiz.



Trivia Answers

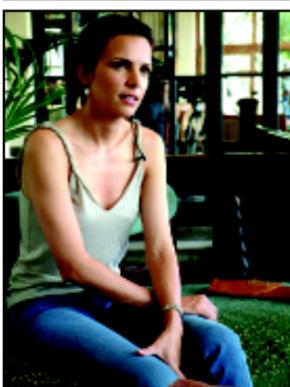
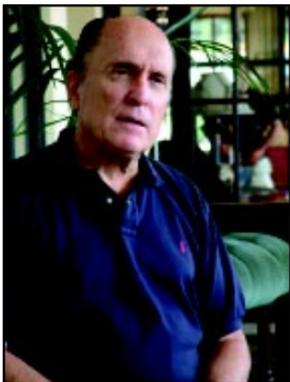
- 1) fulgurite
- 2) Coastwatchers
- 3) Grace
- 4) 4.5 billion years old
- 5) Nevados Ojos del Salado Volcano in Chile

Spotlight on Taormina BNL FilmFest

Stories and photos by JOSN Steve Weaver

Staff Writer

Robert Duvall, Luciana Pedraza



Another Taormina Film Fest has come and gone. The actors, directors, writers, and everyone else involved with the festival have gone. But the ceremonies, movies, and peeks at the stars strolling right down the Taormina streets will live on in attendee's minds.

One such pair of stars who strolled right down the street was Actor/Writer/Director Robert Duvall and Actor Luciana Pedraza. They were in town to screen their thriller "Assassination Tango" in which Duvall played a hired hit man, and Pedraza made her screen debut as the dancer who captures his imagination.

I had the chance to sit down with Duvall and Pedraza to talk about the movie, which is Duvall's fourth attempt at directing. This one comes after the immensely popular drama "The Apostle" in which Duvall plays a preacher from Texas.

"I like to direct," said Duvall. "You always say directing is very tiring, especially if your in it. I find it less tiring than if I'm just acting...waiting around to come out of the trailer. So I like that aspect of it."

"It was a big responsibility to be acting next to Bobby," said Pedraza. "Bobby is a great director, very relaxed, and listens to you. He's a very honest straightforward man to work with."

Acting in her first film, Pedraza had some things to prove. "First off I'm his girlfriend, so I needed to prove that if I'm here it was because I was able to come up with something, I needed to prove that to myself also," she said.

She also needed to learn the delicate art of the 'tango'. "It's one thing to be a social tennis player, and another to be a professional tennis player," she said. "[A professional is] what I needed to become for the film. I never was a dancer before, whatever experience I had at the time was in a very casual way. I worked very hard for a year."

Working with such a veteran actor as Duvall gave her a little bit of apprehension, but their chemistry worked well. "We felt that there was something there, and then all that tension and insecurity started to fade away when they saw me working and when I saw myself working," said Pedraza. "I'm more relaxed now, I think I pulled it off."

Working with Duvall as he directs a film, and being part of the creative process, was something special for Pedraza. "I'm someone who always said to myself, 'just try whatever you want to try.' I think this was one of those experiences that you have to try if you're lucky enough to do it."

"When I saw him direct 'The Apostle,' it was just amazing," said Pedraza. "Not only when he was filming, but behind the scenes watching. I was with him for the post-production before and after...it was just brilliant."

Duvall was happy to come to Taormina to show his film. "I've done four projects in a year and a half, and now I'm on vacation," he said. "So we came here, which is great. I was here years ago and it's great to come back."

He has been a busy man recently, and has more movies coming out soon. "I did a western with Kevin Costner, 'Open Range,' in which he gave me a great part," said Duvall. "Right after that I had to go right down and do a nice family film with Michael Caine in Texas called 'Secondhand Lions.' So I've been busy. [Those movies will] come out and we'll see what's next, but I'm not rushing."

Pedraza and Duvall, who visited Naval Air Station Sigonella on June 14 (See [article name]), had kind words for servicemembers. "I met some [servicemembers] in Washington and they're really pretty impressive people," said Pedraza. "I wish them the best." Duvall added, "You guys are the best."

So if you are around for the next Taormina Film Fest, stroll on down and watch some films in a wonderful city. Who knows who you'll see strolling down those same streets.

Duvall page 11

Taormina Film Fest and found time to give their support to the base.

Duvall and Pedraza's first stop was to the NAS II Galley, where they dined on fine Navy chow with Capt. Tim Davison, NAS Sigonella commanding officer, CMDCM Anthony Evangelista, NAS Sigonella command master chief, and others.

"It's great to see entertainers come and support the U.S. Navy," said MS3 Marquita McLean, who works at the galley and is a fan of Duvall's movie "The Godfather." MSSA Lisa Foster, whose favorite Duvall movie is "Gone in 60 Seconds," said it was a pleasure meeting him.

The pair were then whisked away to visit with Sailors in the Helicopter Support Squadron Four (HC-4) hangar. The looks in some of the Sailor's eyes were of sheer awe as Duvall and Pedraza stepped out of his car and into the hangar. Duvall was asked to sign everything from a boy's cast, a squadron patch, and an "Apocalypse Now" DVD. "It's great that he took time out of his schedule to visit," said AT3 Ryan McGurk, a Sailor with HC-

4. "It's really great for morale."

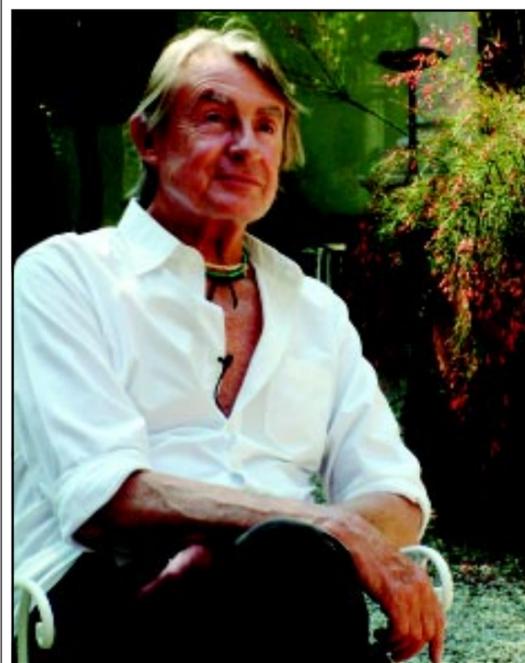
They then spent time with the Sailor's of VP-8, who sat down with Duvall for a group picture. Although on a tight schedule, Duvall and Pedraza did all they could to pose for pictures and sign autographs.

And sign many autographs they did at the base Commissary. Many people lined up to get autographs on their copies of "The Godfather," "Lonesome Dove," "Apocalypse Now," and several other Duvall movies. Many posed with the pair and expressed their appreciation for their visit.

"It's my privilege to be here, because they're defending us," said Duvall. "I as a patriot appreciate them."

Duvall is no stranger to the Navy. His father attended the Naval Academy at the tender age of sixteen years old, and served about 30 years. "You've got to be on the ball to go to the Naval Academy, I could have never made it," said Duvall. "I was terrible at math."

"He never bragged about his war experiences, he never talked much about it," he continued. "He was switched from the Atlantic to the Pacific right



Writer/Director Joel Schumacher's film "Phone Booth" played in the ancient Greek theater at the Taormina Film Fest. Schumacher also won the "Taormina Arte Awards for Cinematic Excellence" while at the festival.

12 days of shooting. "There are several reasons we shot the film in 12 days. One is that's all the money we had, we could only afford 12 days," said Schumacher. "With all the movies I made, I didn't know if we could really pull off. It was really that the schedule was insane. Also it was winter so we had to stop filming by four o'clock."

"There was probably every limitation that you could probably have in the world. I think it worked for us for this type of film because so much is made of the adrenaline, the paranoia, the energy, and speed of the film," he said. "I think the actors and the crew were feeling that. We were trying to beat the clock every day. And I also think the actors had no time to think, or have any privileges or luxuries, which also served the movie. I think if we had a large budget and a very luxurious schedule, I don't think we would have made a better film," said Schumacher.

"The pressure was really on the cast, Colin especially," he continued. "But with the character he's playing and the situation he's in, he can use that pressure. He did beautifully, think he surprised himself in this film."

Although Sutherland played a large part in the movie, you do not see him until his character wants to be seen. He is a favorite of Schumacher. "I met Keifer when he was turning 18, and I gave him the role as head vampire in 'The Lost Boys'" said Schumacher. "Keifer is a born character actor. What I mean by that is he can do anything. Some people are really best at the hero, the boy next door, or the villain. Keifer can be good guy, bad guy, crazy guy, or sweet guy."

"I've always used him in very complex roles where he's definitely on the dark side," Schumacher continued. "He can do anything. I wish he was in every movie, and when I have part for him, he will be."

Schumacher has some new films on the horizon. "We finished shooting a film in Ireland with Cate Blanchett that will open in the States in October," he said. "It's a true story about a very bold journalist named Veronica Guerin who was a crime reporter for the Dublin Sunday Independent." The movie "Veronica Guerin" shows the story of Guerin, who exposed some of Dublin's most powerful crime barons and drug lords in 1996, but was gunned down by assassins hired by the same criminal drug lords she exposed. "So we made that story with Cate and an all Irish cast. It was a very intense experience."

Schumacher enjoyed coming to the festival for the first time. "It doesn't feel like a circus, it really feels like a film lovers festival, and that's always a nice feeling," he said. "Sometimes you feel you're at a festival just for press."

As for the servicemembers serving overseas and down the road, Schumacher has nothing but respect. "I know that there have been protests against the war, and I know that maybe the troops from time to time hear some ugly things in the press, but I think they really have to know that even people in Hollywood that may be ultra-liberal and were against the war are never against the troops," he said. "I think it's important they know that every American is on their side. I have such deep and profound respect for anybody who does service to the country."

So if you'll be around in Sicily next year, and like movies, check out next year's Taormina Film Fest. Maybe some movie images will play on in your mind.

Joel Schumacher

The Taormina Film Fest came to a close on June 14, but the images of the films played on the various screens will play on in the viewer's minds for some time.

One such movie was "Phone Booth," directed by veteran Joel Schumacher, which played on June 11. It played in the ancient Greek Theater after the director was presented with the "Taormina Arte Awards for Cinematic Excellence," which is a daily prize ceremony honoring a great personality of world cinema.

The setting for his film provided a stark contrast of old versus new. After he left the stage after receiving the award to sit down and watch the movie, Schumacher couldn't help but notice this. "The beginning of the film is sort of technopop, it's so now," said Schumacher. "To see that in the most ancient of settings was really thrilling. It beats a Cineplex anytime."

The movie centers on Colin Farrell's character Stu, who gets pinned in a phone booth by a rifle-toting extortionist, played by Keifer Sutherland. Farrell, who plays a dishonest publicist, is forced over the phone, and through the sniper's rifle scope, to admit all of his lies and sins through mental games.

"One of the things that was very interesting to me when studying a phone booth was there was a period of time not so long ago when obviously human beings valued privacy so much that they went into an enclosed booth to make a phone call and would have been offended if anyone tried to listen outside the booth," said Schumacher. "And now we seem to participate and observe everyone living out their personal and professional lives right in front of us on a cell phone."

There were many challenges to making a movie centering around one phone booth, on one New York street, all in only



Actor/Writer/Director Robert Duvall and Actress Luciana Pedraza shake hands with Sailors and family members of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4), "The Black Stallions" in the squadron hangar. Duvall and Pedraza stopped by NAS Sigonella to meet with Sailors and family members after appearing at the Taormina Film Fest in Sicily where their film "Assassination Tango" was playing.

Stephens from page 1

Stephens finds himself searching for an answer as to why the graduating class chose him for such a distinguished award. "This award means that you in some way impacted the medical students in a positive way," he said. And for Stephens, it's the moments when he impacted the students that stand out from the rest of his time teaching. "The most satisfying moments teaching are when you look at a student and realize that they get a concept; they understand how to take an idea from concept to reality."

Now that Stephens is here in Sigonella, he has kept the teaching alive. "We created a medical student rotation here, so the students can learn what it's like to practice medicine at a small overseas facility," he said. "Teaching is essential. The Flight Line Clinic is the epicenter of healthcare here and the key to our success is our corpsmen. I Love teaching; physician means teacher so the two naturally go hand in hand."

When graduation time came in May for the class that chose Stephens, he made one last appearance to accept his award and say goodbye to some of his former students. "I have to thank the students for choosing me, and I have to thank my chain of command for supporting my trip back to the States for graduation," he said.

Art from page 3

for a photograph (which would have been taken in the 1950s or 60s) of the painting, but one was not found.

Fortunately, Murray had provided the Navy detailed captions for his paintings. One caption, written in 1943, described the image flawlessly. Upon examining Murray's letters, Munro also found that the artist had requested 16 x 20 inch canvases from the Navy for his paintings. The detailed caption and request letter proved that the content and size of the art offered for sale were consistent with the artwork in gallery's information files.

With the above proof in hand, and aid of the Navy Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), she went online to end E Bay's auction of the painting. Then after many negotiations with the seller, Munro and the NCIS were able to return the painting to the Navy.

Munro explained that the discoveries of these pieces were invaluable to the federal government and to the Navy Historical Center.

"This is original World War II art from the battlefield. What original art that exists now will be all there is. It cannot be produced again," Munro said.

So the Internet has proved to be a valuable resource in the discovery of lost Navy art and historical artifacts, such as the Albert Murray paintings. The NHC will continue to utilize this modern-day tool in order to protect and defend from loss the Navy's priceless historic collections.

For related news, visit the Naval Historical Center Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/navhist.

Care from page 3



An unidentified Iraqi woman (foreground) who arrived in Fleet Hospital Three's (FH-3) Casualty Receiving room with an ankle injury, waits to be seen by FH-3 staff providing care to another Iraqi citizen with more immediate needs. FH-3 staff have seen more than 500 patients and conducted more than 280 surgical procedures since constructing the Navy's first Expeditionary Medical Facility in a combat zone and seeing their first patient April 1.

the confusion.

"I couldn't stand seeing the children here without knowing where their parents were or what had happened to them," he said.

Through e-mail, Dwyer was able to stay in contact with FH-3 to help link children with their parents or family members ashore.

"Four children ... were lost in the (tracking) system," said Hoyt. "In each case, they were (medically evacuated) to Kuwait, but based on the complicated system, we never knew exactly where in Kuwait they went.

"In three of the four cases, the children went without their parents," continued Hoyt. The fathers stayed at FH-3, because they were not permitted to go to Kuwait for diplomatic and/or bureaucratic reasons.

"When I tried to find them, I was told to go through channels," said Hoyt, "but after 10 days and no word, I instead decided to e-mail the International Committee of the Red Cross who ... found (the fourth case's) father and daughter in Kuwait.

"But we weren't aware the other children (had been) sent on to the Comfort."

"The fleet hospital told us they had the father of a boy who had head trauma," said Dwyer. "But, we didn't have a boy with head trauma. We had a boy who had been diagnosed with seizures."

The process then became a matter of matching records, looking at digital pictures that had been sent, and sometimes even going out on a limb and guessing, he said.

Slowly, pieces of the puzzle would fall into place, and in the end, several matches were made and parents were eventually reunited with their children.

"We did the best we could do to reunite families," said Dwyer.

"I can't imagine how the parents felt not knowing where their child was."

Three of the four children, along with several other patients, returned to FH-3 after Comfort departed for Baltimore.

"We were very glad to see all of the patients coming back from Comfort," concluded Hoyt, (because) "most everyone had improved."

Comfort's patient administration department was also instrumental in helping identify the children. Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Timothy Alburg, the leading petty officer for patient administration, felt that putting families together helped him see that his job really meant something.

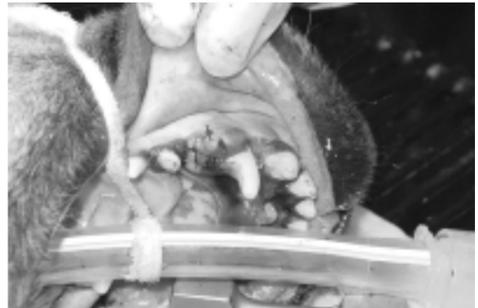
"When we heard that we had helped reunite a family, it made me feel like I had a purpose for being out here," said Alburg.

Comfort arrived in Baltimore June 11. FH-3 arrived home in Pensacola June 9 – three months to the day they departed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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

U.S. Navy Photo

Dental page 12



One of four military working dogs that recently had dental work done. This dog needed to have oral surgery.

Four MWD dogs recently had their teeth cleaned at the Vet Clinic by Red Cross Volunteer Jill Michalski. After a biopsy, one dog-named Andora had to have surgery done on a bulge that had formed near the teeth. "We didn't know what it was. We couldn't figure out what it was by x-ray, so we decided to open the bulge up and do a biopsy," said Moon. Upon opening it up, they found hard tissue and loose bone. With help from Dr. Pat McGroarty, Moon was able to remove the tissue and bone and recontour the soft tissue. Andora was sore after surgery but now can bite down on objects.

"It was a great privilege to work on the dogs, I have never worked on dogs before. Professional curiosity got the better of me."

In order to properly do their job, military dogs must first have healthy teeth to perform their bite exercises. Healthy teeth ensures they can bite and latch onto criminals. Yearly dental examinations help the canines work with Security as a team to complete their mission.

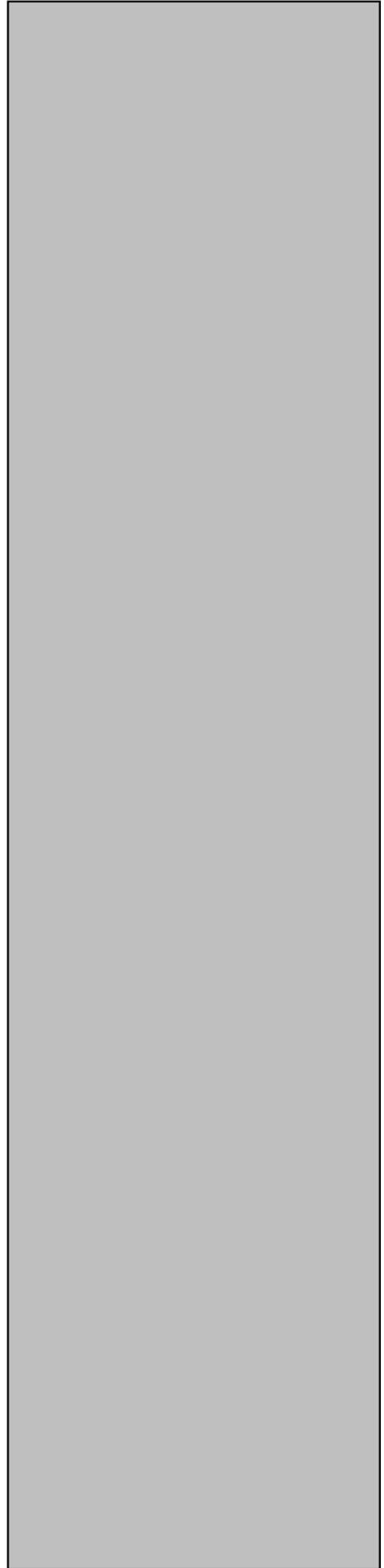
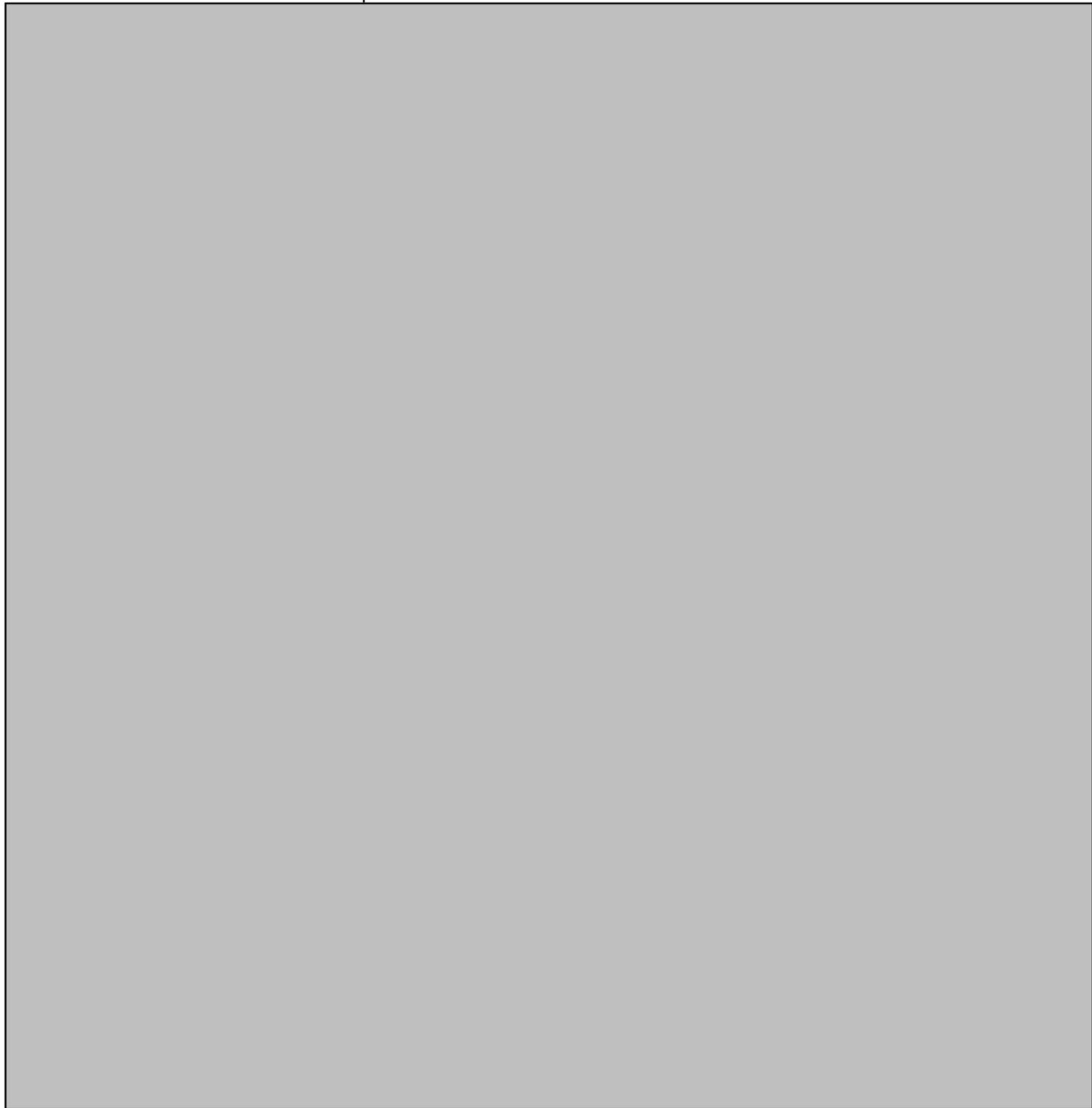




photo by JCSN Steven Weaver

The NAVEUR Career Counselor Conference featured many presenters who gave vital information to the attendees. The presenters covered topics such as Task Force EXCEL, Assignment Incentive Pay, Perform to Serve, and many other programs and initiatives.

or two.”

He also spoke to the counselors in attendance on the current retention picture of the Navy. “Actually the retention right now is higher than it has been at this time period for the previous two fiscal years,” said Albert. He said this is due to job satisfaction, reenlistment bonuses, commands involved in off-duty education, and quality of life improvements that have been made over the last couple of years.

“We have a variety of different initiatives that we’re working on for career counselors, and we wanted to give them an update on that,” said Lt. Cmdr. Lyn Hammer, also an NC technical advisor from Millington. “I gave a brief on some of the NC specific issues we’re working on like the Career Counselor Handbook, which is the OPNAV instruction governing career counselor procedures. It’s just another resource for them. It’s going to be like the career counselor bible. We’ve been working on updating it and putting in some useful information that wasn’t there before.”

“I just think it’s really important that the [career counselors] know what resources are available to them, because they’re really on isolated duty out here,” said Hammer. “So we’re just letting them know what their resources are.”

“You can tell that they’re really just soaking everything in,” continued Hammer. “This is their first chance to hear a lot of information, not only from us, but from the other speakers. You can tell this is vital information for them. I’m guessing just by listening to them talk that their going to be

“When I was in Iceland I would have loved to have to opportunity to go and participate in something like this It’s a good way to get the information out to these outlying areas It’s a great idea.”



NCCS Thomas Albert

very excited to go back to their commands and share their first hand knowledge.”

Some essential knowledge they can share includes the Assignment Incentive Pay program. Tony Cunningham, research analyst for Navy Personnel Research, Studies, and Technology in Washington, D.C., gave a brief on the program to interested career counselors. AIP is a market based monetary incentive for Sailors. “It’s intended to attract people to what we have considered traditionally hard to fill jobs,” said Cunningham.

“We started with Naples and Sigonella because they’re type three duty, which is sea duty credit for rotation,” said Cunningham. “What we’d like to do is eliminate those locations and jobs that are considered sea duty, but don’t really get underway, and bring those folks who have been in that rotation back into a normal sea/shore rotation,” he said. “In order to do that, we realized that we had to replace that sea duty credit with something. Last year, congress gave us the authority to pay AIP, so that’s what we’re doing.”

The AIP program will give more incentive for Sailors to come to Sigonella due to the conversion from type three to type six duty that is coming soon. “We expect the program to start with the requisition that the fleet will see on June 23,” said Cunningham.

The program will run something like the following. Sailors will submit AIP bids through the JASS system on Bupers Online (www.bupers.navy.mil). They will be shown a maximum bid amount for the job they want

for that area. The maximum bid is adjusted due to the urgency and the difficulty to fill that certain job. The bids are then collected and sealed while the detailee assesses the Sailor-to-job matches, and then makes the final decision based on the most qualified individual who submits the lowest bid. If no acceptable bids are received, the process will continue for another cycle. If no suitable volunteer is found, it may require assignment of a non-volunteer.

The program was received positively said Cunningham. “It’s a fairly significant change to eliminate sea duty credit over here,” he said, “but at the same time it gives a market based approach to add incentive to the job.”

Those in attendance were glad to have to conference. “When I was in Iceland I would have loved to have to opportunity to go and participate in something like this,” said Albert. “It’s a good way to get the information out to these outlying areas It’s a great idea.”

“This is going to set the stage for the future,” said Dobison. “We’re going to have this every year.” She added it would probably be in a different place in the European AOR.

“The way the Navy’s going now technology wise, this is critical and important to have,” she continued. “Everything’s going to be online, advancement, bidding for jobs. We felt that this was very important to get the training out to all the folks who are helping the junior and senior folks to stay up to speed.”