

The Signature

Signonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 28

July 18, 2003

There is no defying these children from the lessons of DEFY

JO2 David Hamilton
Staff Writer



DEFY campers learn the value of teamwork as Team 3 attempts to balance all team members of the platform.

DEFY campers, wearing white t-shirts, gray t-shirts, and light-blue-stonewashed ball caps, are gathered in a line. They are looking at something on the table, possibly a platform or a game. The children are of various ages and are all smiling and engaged in the activity.

It is 6:30 AM, the temperatures are already approaching a steamy 87 degrees as five, 10, and 40, eventually 62 sleepy-eyed children mumbling under their breath, "I want to go back to bed," or "summer vacation just started, Mom."

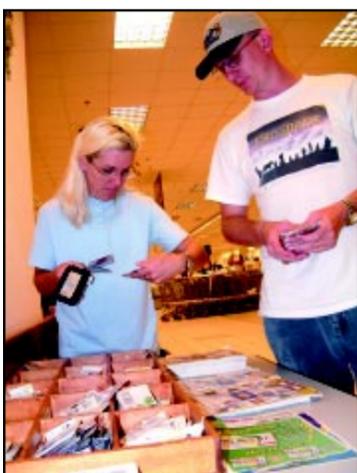
They trickle into the playground behind Stephen Decatur School for the beginning of the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) program at NASSIG. With DEFY proudly highlighted across their blue back-packs, gray t-shirts, and light-blue-stonewashed ball caps, there is much uncertainty among the children as to what is in store for them in the next eight days.

DEFY is a two-phase program that teaches the students about drugs, gangs, alcohol and gives them tools to positively shape their future toward goal-setting, team building, conflict resolution and decision making.

At the beginning of each day, children lined up with their teams in a straight line, or what was supposed to be a straight line, looking more like a snake. The children then proceeded to the gym for the presentation of our nation's flag and the recital of The DEFY, page 10

Commissary still accepts coupons, but rules have changed

JO1 Craig Coleman
Staff Writer



Signonellans check out coupons at the base commissary.

Commissary, page 8

Coupon use saves shoppers money and the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) fully supports clipping and saving. This summer commissaries worldwide changed coupon acceptance policy. According to DeCA Europe Consumer Advocate Kay Blakley, commissaries now limit coupon usage to one coupon per item purchased for the vast majority of customer transac-

Operation Husky Remembered



The Capitaneria di Porto (Italian Coast Guard) color guard stand at the ready while the parade consisting of Gela civic leaders, Italian students, war Italian veterans, Italian servicemembers, members of NASSIG, and others make their way to listen to speeches commemorating the 60th anniversary of Operation Husky, the Allied Invasion of Sicily.

Allied soldiers honored in Catania

JOC Darrell Crandall
Staff Writer

More than 60 people gathered at the pristine Catania Commonwealth War Cemetery Thursday, July 10 to commemorate the soldiers, Sailors and airmen who participated in Operation Husky, the largest amphibious assault of World War II. The somber ceremony included the laying of wreaths by current members of the United States, British, and Canadian militaries, the British and Canadian Ambassadors to Italy, and veterans of what was the first allied offensive on European soil.

Those and others present, including families of World War II veterans, were reminded of the importance of remembering the past.

"We remember the past so we do not commit ourselves to repeating those same troubling mistakes that led innocent men to this place 60 years ago," said the Reverend Ron Rogers of St. George's Church in Taormina who presided over the ceremony. "We are here, to honor those who have gone before us, who have given the ultimate sacrifice."

A crimson pool of wreaths was lain to rest one by one at the base of the cemetery's towering alabaster cross by dignitaries from three countries. As they bent to place the wreaths, the cross itself stood tall, unwavering in the stiff westerly breeze, a stalwart sentinel

Cemetery, page 11

World War II Landings remembered in Gela

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

The night of July 9 and 10, 1943, was a rough one off the coast of Sicily. A fierce 40 mile-per-hour gale-force wind whipped up the seas and howled through the helmets of the American and British Soldiers who were about to take part in one of the most important battles of World War II.

The "Mussolini wind" as the servicemembers called it, did not stop the armada steaming towards the Sicilian coast. Though seasickness and its agonies made the voyage miserable for many, braving the storm was key to the initial stages of the invasion of Sicily, or Operation Husky. The defenders were on less than full alert as they couldn't believe an invasion could take place in such a violent storm at sea.

The Allied troops met little opposition as they landed and took key points such as Licata, Vittoria, Syracuse and Gela. The operation to take Sicily was key because it made it possible to clear the way for Allied shipping in the Mediterranean and helped to undermine the power of Benito Mussolini and Victor Emmanuel III.

The landings by the Allied forces at Gela were commemorated by the city on Saturday, marking the 60th anniversary of this historic event.

Gela, page 12

Ponte Dirillo ceremony commemorates common men

JOC Darrell Crandall
Staff Writer

The chatter of machine gun fire echoed across the expansive swamp, punctuated by an occasional 'whump' of a bazooka round blasting holes into the sun-baked hillsides overlooking the swamp. Excited soldiers - Germans and Italians - huddled in the courtyard coaxing battle plans out of their leaders while from domed concrete machine gun nests their comrades watched the enemy advance. Step-by-step Americans and their allies crossed the bridge that spanned the wetlands, firing machine guns and bazookas. Perhaps all were unsure this July 11, 1943, of their common fate as war raged around them.

The battle at Ponte Dirillo - the Dirillo Bridge - was one of many battles fought in the Sicilian countryside as part of Operation Husky, the first Allied offensive of World War II on what the Axis powers had termed 'Fortress Europe.' But, as one of the first battles on a new front, it set the stage for the invasion of mainland Italy and the eventual conquest of Fascism and Nazism. The battle for the bridge did not come without a cost.

On Friday, July 11, just outside of Gela Ponte Dirillo, page 13

Fleet and Family Support Center: Serving as Sailors one stop shop

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

Stump me. No question is too small or large. That is the theme for this year's Information and Referral (I & R) Month set aside for the month of July by Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) worldwide.

The Information and Referral program positively impacts mission readiness and quality of life according to Tonya Sonnier, FFSC I & R Specialist. I & R gives service members and their families the information they need to answer their own questions and solve their own problems. "The Navy expects every member to fully concentrate on the mission. That can be difficult when a member is troubled by a question or problem. If you have questions, ask us. We are your information station," said Sonnier.

I & R works as an information tool for Sailors and their families. It has been providing Sailors with information since 1979 when the first FFSC opened. It is now the FFSC's most popular program. Before 1979, service members and their family depended on word-of-mouth to access military and civilian support

service.

According to Sonnier, every minute spent with an I & R Specialist saves the service or family members six minutes of their own research time. That is more time spent on the mission of the military.

The program offers general information and points of contact for military and civilian resources such as childcare, employment, travel, housing issues, Legal matters, emergencies, financial planning and much more. FFSC also offers clinical counseling while respecting privacy and confidentiality.

"FFSC is your one stop shop. Think of a question Navy or base-related. Stump me. See if I can answer it. If I don't know I will find out for you," declared Sonnier.

FFSC takes care of their own not only through the month of July, but through an open door policy they offer programs for Signonellans throughout the year. They provide a wealth of information and even have a lending library full of books and movies on topics like pregnancy and birth. For more information stop by the office or call 624-4291.

Today's Hometown Weather

AT3 Jason Yates, AIMD
Fort Collins, CO.

Fort Collins

High 90° F - Low 62° F
Isolated thunderstorms



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

Has anyone told you that change is good?

Well, it is! We are changing a lot of things around NAS Sigonella in order to make our lives better for our families and single Sailors. I would like to share some of our successes with you.

Jesse Jackson said that tears will get you sympathy; sweat will get you change. Well, change is exactly what we have received from the sweat and hard work from our Resident Officer in Charge of Construction and his staff. CDR Steve Bertolaccini and the rest of the ROICC office have stepped up and showed us a sense of community with the new SIG 2.3 Recapitalization construction projects.

The new kindergarten will be ready for new students in the fall. The 2.8 Million-Euro school will include seven kindergarten and preschool classrooms immediately adjacent to the existing Stephen Decatur School. The school will have three playgrounds; one in front of the school (construction began a few weeks ago), a courtyard playground, and a separate playground in the rear toward the school's athletic fields. Each playground is fully equipped with play equipment tailored to each age group. The classrooms include a children's toilet, a teacher's office and a shared kitchen.

The access to the school is completely controlled for the children's protection with surrounding fences, walls and screens.

The new galley and club on NAS I should be finished on time in September. The 2100 Square Meter facility will include the Galley (The Etna Eatery) with Speed-Line and separate VIP Dining, and 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 and the Special Events Room will have access to an open-air upstairs terrace.

We will begin working on two new parking garages on NAS II late this fall. This will alleviate some of the parking problems we have had over the past several years. But, in order for us to build them, we need to take some spaces away in the meantime. We'll have some growing pains but in the long run, the benefits are worthwhile. And at the Marinai housing area, they are putting up the new playgrounds to accommodate all of the new families that are beginning to move in.

The new Security and Telephone Exchange Building will open at the beginning of August. The \$760,000 Security and Telephone Exchange Building is immediately adjacent to the new main gate and will house the base security forces and base communications equipment tied to a new fiber optic cable between NAS 1 and NAS 2. The Security offices include pass and ID check-in window, storage, staff break area, bike storage, stray animal control offices and a stray animal kennel. The building is supported with batteries and a backup generator to keep the facility operational in the event of a power outage. When the new building is complete the old security, guard shack and telephone buildings will be demolished to make way for more parking, a second inbound lane of traffic at the main gate, and a direct access walkway from a turnout inspection and parking area to the temporary pass and ID card window.

Change offers us opportunities to explore new ways of doing business. So, change is definitely good for all of our NAS Sigonella residents and workers.

The Pulse

Tips for preventing heat-related illnesses

By Lt. A. B. Campbell, Hospital PAO

During the hot summer months in Sicily it is a good idea to exercise safely and prevent dehydration. Water makes up 60 percent of a man's weight and 50 percent of a woman's weight. This balance of water weight must be kept in narrow limits in the cells and body tissues to prevent heat related illnesses.

During a typical day a healthy adult can lose eight to 10 cups of water, not counting water loss during physical activity such as walking, running, or aerobics. At a three percent loss of water, muscular strength begins to decrease. At a four percent loss of water, dizziness can occur and a person's ability to perform physical work can decrease by as much as 30 percent. At six percent water loss, the heart is beating fast and the body's ability to regulate temperature starts to fail and athletes may notice that they stop sweating. At a seven percent water loss there is a strong chance the person may

collapse and pass out. Moderate dehydration is said to have set in at 10 percent loss of body fluid and severe dehydration has set in at 15 percent loss of body fluid. Severe dehydration should be treated as a medical emergency and may even require the person be admitted to the hospital for fluid replacement.

The causes of dehydration include: Too much time in high temperatures and/or the sun. Drinking water only when thirsty, especially in children and the elderly. Persistent vomiting, diarrhea, high fever, diuretic medications, alcohol and caffeine use. Appetite loss with illness, etc. Excessive urination, bacterial or viral infection or inflammation.

The symptoms of dehydration include: Cracked lips, dry or sticky mouth, tiredness and sunken eyes. Crying without shedding tears, and urinating less often. Skin is less elastic and does not return to normal after it is pinched. Confusion, constipation, tiredness, fever and thirst. Pale and cold skin with dry nose and mouth. Pulse may race and breathing becomes more difficult. Blood pressure decreases and significant water loss often leads to shock.

To prevent dehydration: Drink eight glasses of fluid or more per day. Drink four to eight ounces of water for every 15 to 20 minutes of exercise and drink eight ounces of water before exercise.

From the Naval Safety Center

Traffic accidents continue to be the prevailing cause of death for Navy active duty personnel involved in mishaps. . . The roads in southern Sicily are treacherous, driving recklessly just doesn't make sense. Please slow down. . . FY03 Through 1 Jul 2003 Fatality Summary, Navy Worldwide 70 Sailors died in mishaps:

- Private Motor Vehicle: 49 (70%)
- Aviation: 6 (9%)
- Surface Ships/Submarines: 2 (3%)
- Ashore Operational, Excluding MV: 4 (6%)
- Operational MV: 1 (1%)
- Off-duty Shore/Recreation: 8 (11%)

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I have been here 3 years now and have read many Letters to the Editor and have had a few issues that I wished had been addressed, but have usually kept my mouth shut. I can't do it any more. As I get ready to depart Sigonella and continue to journey in my Naval Career, I have a piece of advice for all of you here. **SAVE YOUR UTILITY RECEPITS.** I know you heard this in INDOC, I did too, but I never really thought about it. ENEL claims that I never paid any of my power bills but my service was never interrupted during my 15 months living on the economy. Now that I am getting ready to leave, I get the wonderful news from Housing that I owe ENEL 1,700 Euro. Of course I don't just bow down and pay without a fight. I go to one of the housing supervisors for help however I get the standard answer that I have gotten for my 3 years here. "I am sorry, it is not possible." In other words, our "advocates" or "representatives" at housing are of no help either. Unfortunately many of us come here to a different culture where we get bills every 2 months and you find your mail tossed in your driveway. It seems to me that there could be another way for us to make it here easier. What that way is? I haven't been able to find it in my time here. The only thing I can say is to **SAVE YOUR RECEPITS.**

MA1 Jason Brush

From the PAO - we have had several complaints about residents in the housing areas (Mineo, 205 and Marinai) not picking up after their animals during walks. Remember, dogs should be leashed while out in the neighborhood. Also, you should carry a plastic bag to pick up any deposits your dog creates. The housing areas belong to the all of the residents who live there. Animal owners should be considerate of others by picking up after their animals.

Letter Response

Dear Sigonella,

The importance of good planning and management of your utility bills is extremely important! This is a recurring and emphatic theme of both arrival and departure briefs. If you do not plan and manage your utilities it can be a tremendous cost to you. Good planning and management comes in the form of supplying the housing office utilities team with your ENEL electricity meter readings every sixty days, paying your bills (ENEL & Telecom Italia) at Monte di Paschi, Italian Poste or the NEX cash cage and retaining a copy of your paid receipts in a dedicated utility file until well after you have transited to your next duty station.

Doing so, will eliminate the possibility of unforeseen billing problems or challenges. More importantly, retaining copies of your receipts provides the utility companies necessary proof that all bills have been paid to one of the aforementioned payment locations.

It is important to note, the Housing utilities section serves as a vital communication link between the English speaking Sigonella community and the Italian speaking utility companies. The Housing Authority is the middleman when it comes to paying your utility bills. The utilities section is here to supply the community with necessary information to start and maintain utility accounts as well as communicate necessary and pertinent information that affects customers of each utility company.

Housing expects utility customers to do their part in communicating their meter readings where ENEL is concerned as well as pay and retain copies of their bills. If there is ever a discrepancy that is deemed to be the fault of a utility company, Housing will intervene to ensure complete resolution of the problem.

Peter J. Vietti
 Housing PAO

'Tis the Season...

By Chaplain Timothy Moore
 Command Chaplain

It is always the season to be jolly but that is not what I am referring to here. It is the season of PCS moves and saying goodbye to friends that we have made. The summer seems the most appropriate time to move from one duty station to another. This

summer there seems to be an exceptionally high number of PCS moves at NAS Sigonella.

Military families have the unique ability to move into an area, set up a home and make new friends in an exceptionally short amount of time. Then they do the same again in just a matter of a few years later. This is a true testament to the character of the dependents and service members who serve our great nation. The hard part is saying goodbye.

"Goodbye" is typically a simple farewell remark often used when parting. The word can mean so much more to the military family. Goodbye often brings into mind the concept of never seeing the friend again. This can be a painful time to those that are leaving as well as those that are left behind. Fortunately, in our community, we are closely associated with each other and may eventually find ourselves living in the same area as a close friend.

Here are some helpful hints that may ease the sorrow of saying "goodbye":

1. Keep your address book updated so you can e-mail or phone your friend often.
2. Send cards or gifts on special occasions. Don't forget to include a current photo.
3. Start a scrap book of memories to keep photos and special things from friends.
4. If you find yourself traveling to an area where a friend has moved, stop by for a visit. What a blessing it is to see good friends and reminisce!
5. Pray for them often.

Perhaps "jolly" is not the term that you think of when it comes time for you or a friend to PCS. Take comfort in the fact that new friends are headed your way and look forward to the new memories that are yet to come. My daughter often sings a song she learned in Girl Scouts. It says, "...make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other gold..." Good advice.

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.

SECURITY BLOTTER



CRIMESTOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

July 7 - July 13

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 11
- Traffic accident with injuries - 5
- Car break-ins - 3
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 31
- DUI's 2002 - 35

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NAVY NEWS

Rota Marines Deploy to Liberia

By JOC(SW) Dan Smithyman
Naval Station Rota Public Affairs

ROTA, Spain (NNS) — The U.S. European Command (EUCOM) sent a 31-member team to Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia, July 7 to assess the humanitarian needs in the embattled country.

Fifteen Marines from Naval Station Rota's Marine Security Force Company - Europe's fleet anti-terrorism security team (FAST) - is providing protection for a group of subject-matter experts comprising a humanitarian assistance team (HAST). Civil engineers, doctors, logisticians, and civil and public affairs personnel mostly from U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London joined additional personnel from EUCOM in forming the HAST.

The two teams gathered at Naval Station Rota where they left on an Air Force C-130 Hercules cargo plane at about 1 a.m.

The Liberian president, Charles Taylor, has been indicted on war crimes and has accepted temporary asylum from West African-neighbor Nigeria. Taylor is said to be responsible for the desperate state of the country and its people.

The United States is considering deploying a force that would help lead troops from other West African nations in peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. Bush has called on Taylor to step down, saying his ouster is necessary for peace in the region.

It is unknown when the HAST will report back to EUCOM with their findings.

Tactical Tomahawk First Submarine Test Launch

By Sandra Schroeder
Naval Air Systems Command
Public Affairs

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NNS) — The U.S. Navy's new Tomahawk cruise missile, the Block IV, or Tactical Tomahawk, soared through yet another first this week as it was launched from Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) July 9 in the waters of the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) sea test range off the coast of southern California.

The event marked the first launch of the Tactical Tomahawk from an operational submarine launch platform.

The test demonstrated the newly-developed Block IV Tactical Tomahawk Weapons Control System (TTWCS) and the Tomahawk Command and Control System functionality, allowing the launch platform to receive an operational Block IV mission, pass it to the missile and then launch it from a submerged location. The submarine weapons control system (CCS MK2) uses TTWCS to control the Block IV missile prior to and after launch.

After receiving the control signals from the CCS MK4, the missile surged from the capsule launching system, demonstrating its operational submerged launch capability. The missile "broached" the ocean's surface and successfully demonstrated shroud separation, rocket motor firing/separation and deployment of fins, inlet duct and wings as it transitioned to cruise flight for the



A Tactical "Tomahawk" Block IV cruise missile, conducts a controlled flight test over the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) western test range complex in southern California. During the second such test flight, the missile successfully completed a vertical underwater launch, flew a fully guided 780-mile course, and impacted a designated target structure as planned.

814-nautical mile mission to target impact in the NAVAIR China Lake Test Range.

The missile flawlessly navigated the assigned mission through the use of a global positioning system and digital scene matching area correlator updates. The test successfully demonstrated the unique Block IV weapon system communication capability between Tucson, tactical ground controllers and the in-flight missile.

"Our ship's motto, 'Team Tucson, the Tradition Continues', is evermore true as the USS Tucson and our namesake city, Tucson, Ariz., produce a first for the U.S. Navy and our nation," said Cmdr. William Traub, Tucson commanding officer. "The success of the Tactical Tomahawk program is only due to the dedication and teamwork of all of the men and women involved."

This test continues the Navy's formal government testing of the Tactical Tomahawk Weapons System from surface/sub-surface launch platforms, as the program prepares to enter final operational evaluation phase late this fall.

The Tomahawk missile is ship and submarine launched and was first employed operationally during Desert Storm. Since then, the missile has been heralded for its accuracy and lethality in numerous operations. The Tactical Tomahawk boasts several enhancements as demonstrated today, which increase warfighter effectiveness and responsiveness, while significantly reducing acquisition and life cycle costs.

The missile will become operational in the middle of 2004.

NAVAIR provides advanced warfare technology through the efforts of a seamless, integrated, worldwide network of aviation technology experts.

Recap CORNER

Mitscher Road

Mitscher Road, running North-South from the main gate to the park-playground and named for Adm. Marc Mitscher, is the main route to the school and the Commissary-Exchange. The road intersects with the planned main pedestrian path at the flag plaza. The design of the flag plaza requires vehicles, particularly large trucks and busses, to slow down as they negotiate the loop around the flag plaza. The plaza was designed this way to protect pedestrians crossing the street. Before the flag plaza was officially opened, in April, we drove large vehicles around the plaza to make sure they fit. Mitscher Road, however, is not intended to be the main access road for larger busses and trucks. When we complete the western half of the planned perimeter road next summer most of the truck and bus traffic will use the perimeter road instead of Mitscher Road for access to the southern part of NAS I (see the attached sketch). By design, this will enhance the circulation on NAS I by safely separating the largest volumes of pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: Utilities work at the end of Halsey Road near the Stephen Decatur School and the gravel parking area has restarted. School is out until September, so the loop road (Ryder Loop) will be open. We continue to install the sewer line in Forrestal Road in front of the old Library-Live Wire and that work will be complete on July 22. As a heads up, in September we will close Sherman Road to install the new electrical line in the center of the road and this will require restricted one-way traffic.

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

Advancement Opportunity To Chief Remains Steady

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy will soon select as many as 4,323 Sailors to join the chief petty officer (CPO) ranks and assume the responsibilities that come with the wearing of anchors.

The selection board convened July 8 in Millington, Tenn., and will review the records of 17,877 highly-qualified Sailors by the time it concludes Aug. 8. The new chiefs will make up nearly 18 percent of the CPO community.

"We're thrilled to be able to tell our Sailors their hard work and dedication is going to pay off," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. "We need senior enlisted leadership - and the opportunity to get there - as we continue shaping the force for sustained combat readiness. The chief quotas we see this year are good news for the Navy and good news for our Sailors."

Advancement opportunity to chief remains high, with almost one in four eligible 1st class petty officers soon to be selected for CPO for fiscal year 2004. While this is 2.5 percentage points lower than last year's opportunity, the overall opportunity compares favorably with the levels of the mid-1990s.

Some ratings show increased opportunity for advancement to CPO for this year's selection board. The boatswain's mate community will make as many as 177 new chiefs, increasing opportunity by more than 14 percentage points. Navy journalists will make up to 21 new JOCs, up by almost 12 percentage points from fiscal year 2003.

News Briefs

PSD Closure

Personnel Support Detachment will be closed July 23, for customer service to attend a command function. PSD team operations, transportation, ID cards and cash cage services will resume normal business July 24. In the event of an emergency the PSD CDO can be reached at 335-6428274 to handle emergent cases.

Donations needed

The Sigonella Animal Welfare Society (SAWS) is looking for donations of towels, blankets, misc. cat items, litter pans and food bowls. We are in desperate need of these items for our stray facility and foster animals. Donations may be left at the Base Veterinary Clinic. Call Jill Michalski at 624-4258 or 340-5039247.

New University to offer onsite Masters level courses.

The University of Phoenix will be offering onsite graduate degree programs in August. The following programs will be offered on-site: Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Education/Teacher Education (Elementary specialization). Established in 1976, University of Phoenix was designed specifically for working professionals. For more information about our programs, please visit your University of Phoenix field representative starting August 4, 2003 at your local education center. Students currently enrolled in the University of Oklahoma or Cameron University M.B.A. and M.A.Ed. programs considering transfer should contact us immediately to ensure a smooth transition. For more information on specific programs and locations, please visit our website at <http://www.uopxoverseas.com>.

Employment Opportunities:

If you currently have a Masters degree in Business, Education or Management and are interested in teaching, please forward your resume to denny.bates@phoenix.edu.

New Hours of Operation

Effective July 20, operation hours for NAS II Mini Mart will be: Monday-Saturday 6:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Emory S. Land Fights to Keep Ship Safe in Fire Scare

From the Navy News Service

LA MADDALENA, Italy (NNS) — The crew of USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) sprang into action July 8, keeping their ship, the port support installation and the eastern part of Santo Stefano Island - where Land is homeported - safe from an advancing brush fire.

The fire erupted on the western side of the island and

raced toward the ship in the late afternoon, after many crew members had already left for the day.

In response to the threat, an all-hands work force was assembled by the command duty officer to combat the fire, which was then rapidly nearing buildings filled with hazardous material, fuel and berthing facilities.

From there, Land, with the assistance of fire fighting teams

from USS Providence (SSN 719) and Naval Support Activity La Maddalena, worked to keep the fire from reaching the ship and its immediate surroundings.

"There was at least a half-mile of territory that we needed to defend from the flames," said Land Commanding Officer Capt. David Volonino. "One of the initial problems was how to get enough sources of water and a sufficient number of hoses out there to stop the rapidly-spreading fire. Our first order was to establish 10 hoses and teams. We eventually had 13 hoses and teams fighting the fire."

Volonino, along with Executive Officer Cmdr. Jack Gustafson, coordinated the fire response from the brow of the ship using VHF radios and cellular phones. With an overall view of the blaze, they were able to orchestrate, through direct lines of communication with on-scene leaders, the wetting down of a perimeter about 220 yards from the fire.

Then, as the fire drew near, the hose teams attacked the advancing flames directly.

"Many of the fire fighters wanted to charge



The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) sits at anchor in Souda Bay with two Avenger-class minesweepers moored and standing by to receive maintenance conducted and stories unloaded from Emory S. Land personnel

up the hill and attack the flames directly. I had to keep pulling the teams back over the VHF radios," said Gustafson. "My fear was that... there was a possibility of hose teams getting to far ahead of adjacent teams and getting cut off by pockets of flames behind them. Defending against a half mile long wall of flame took the establishment of a half mile long wall of water."

Command Master Chief (SS) Joel Allison reported more than 5,000 feet of ship's hoses were used to combat the fire, including one hose that extended out to 1,300 feet. Even at that

distance, Land's bank of fire pumps put out enough pressure to shoot water 50 feet from the hose nozzle.

In addition, hazardous material was removed from the storage areas near the fence line, and ladders were positioned to allow rooftop access for the firefighters. Also, a medical support team was established on the pier in front of the recreation center to treat any potential victims of smoke inhalation or heat stress, and to monitor hydration levels.

Fortunately, there were no personnel injuries reported.

Land has a crew of about 1,300 Sailors, but some people had already gone home for the day when the fire erupted. Santo Stefano Island has no fire department, but Italian water-carrying helicopters rendered vital assistance. The ship's chief engineer, Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Ledbetter, estimated more than 350 of the ship's personnel were directly involved in combating the casualty. Most worked from start-to-finish with no breaks.

All told, the crew fought the fire for more than four hours.

THE ENERGY BLOCK

Summer is here and it is getting HOT! Since the days are HOT the AC's are running, fans are on, and most likely windows and doors are open as well. It's vital that each facility be involved in reducing its energy consumption. By using our common sense, we can lower the cost of energy usage. We can achieve energy saving by cleaning filters on small window units, keep drapes and shades closed during hot days, clean all dryer filters, clean refrigerator coils, and do laundry during the night when it's cool outside. We can conserve the cost of making water by using sprinklers before 9 a.m. or after 7 p.m. in the evening. Since DOD is the largest energy user there are two major measures used in conserving energy. That is Training and the OFF SWITCH. PWD Energy x2064 or x6062 is here to help you help us build energy effective facilities and projects, monitor and manage consumption, promote command and community energy program participation.

*DID YOU KNOW: If all energy used to power office equipment were cut in half using available technologies, the resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions would be equivalent to removing 6,750,000 automobiles from U.S. streets.

*DID YOU KNOW: If you were to reduce the temperature setting of your water heaters from 140 to 120 degrees, you could be saving over 18 percent of the energy used at the higher setting. You will save 6 percent by reducing it 10 degrees.

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Summer events in Caltagirone

From July through late August, Caltagirone will be hosting a myriad of shows, concerts and festivals from classical music and drama, religious festivals to opera, dance and jazz in some breathtaking settings.

The *Festa di San Giacomo* or Saint James' Feast, the city's patron celebrations, will take place on July 24 and 25.

The origin of the festival dates back to July 25, 1090, when Count Roger the Norman defeated the Muslims, liberating Caltagirone's townspeople from their rule. According to tradition, St. James appeared during the battle riding a white horse to support Roger whose armies eventually defeated the Saracens. Thus, the Norman Count erected a temple to honor the saint. In 1457, Giovanni Burgio, the Bishop of Manfredonia donated a relic of St. James, a part of the arm's bone to the city of Caltagirone. The relic is placed inside a blessing hand shaped reliquary. Fifteen years later, Antonello da Messina, the famous Sicilian painter, portrayed St. James but the painting was destroyed together with the church that hosted it in a terrible earthquake that occurred in 1693. In 1518, Vincenzo Archifel, a sculptor from Catania, made a statue depicting St. James. Since that year, the celebrations for St. James are enriched by an external procession during which his statue tours the streets of Caltagirone. In 1691, the relic of St. James was moved to a magnificent silver box made by the Gagini brothers. The box is among the masterpieces of Italian sacred art.

The festival opens on July 24 with a magnificent parade in period costumes featuring actors that represent the "distinguished members" of the 18th century City's Senate and current city military and civilian officials. The parade leaves from piazza Municipio (where the city hall is located) at 7:30 p.m.

In the evening at 9:30 p.m., over 4,000 *coppi* (colored oil lamps or lanterns) illuminate, forming a glowing shape, the magnificent stairs decorated with mesmerizing majolica tiles consisting of 142 steps. The stairs will stay lit throughout the festival.

A firework show is held at 10 p.m. at the public gardens.

On July 25, a parade in period costumes is held throughout the city center. The religious procession with the Saint James' relics and the statue begins at 8:30 p.m. from the Church of Saint Giacomo.

A *Truvatura*, a fun-to-browse antique fair featuring precious furnishings, bric-a-brac, arts and crafts, ceramics, deco objects and more, will be held on July 20 in piazza Municipio, the town's main square. Stalls will open continuously from 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. On display, there will also be vintage cars and bikes.

Opera music shows will be performed on July 23 (public gardens - 9 p.m.), July 26 and 27 (*Scala* or stairs Maria SS del Monte 9:30 p.m.).

Classical music concerts will be held at the public gardens at 9 p.m. on July 18, 21, 28 and 30.

For more information and detailed schedules regarding summer events call Caltagirone Tourist Office at 0933/ 34191 or 351073.

Fried Fish Festival to be held in Acitrezza

Don't miss this opportunity to taste some local fresh fish. The *Padellone* (big pan) Festival is a mouthwatering event that will take place on July 19 and 20 at the little port of Alaggio that is situated under piazza Giovanni Verga, the city main square. Starting at 8 p.m., tons of fresh sardines, anchovies, squids, spoonbills and shrimps will be floured and deep-fried in olive oil inside a huge ten-foot wide pan by local skilled cooks who have been cooking for the festival since 1985. Fish will be served with a glass of gentle white wine and bread.

Carmen Consoli concert in Catania

One of the best comments by a foreigner I read about Carmen Consoli, a young successful Italian songwriter and talented rock and blues singer, so far, goes like this: "I speak and understand some Italian and her songs make me want to understand every



The Acitrezza Fried Fish Festival gives a visitors chance to taste fresh fish. Tons of sardines, anchovies, squids and crayfish will be deep-fried in olive oil inside a huge ten-foot wide pan.

word she's saying. Her music combined with her lyrics and that beautiful voice will have anyone who hears her wanting to learn Italian." Consoli was born in Catania in 1974. She started her career singing blues and songs by Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Tina Turner and Janis Joplin in Catania clubs and pubs. Encouraged by her father, who is a guitarist, she started playing guitar when she was nine years old. By the age of fourteen she was already performing on stage. She plays a variety of Fender guitars, including her favorite, a custom pink Fender Jaguar. She became popular after participating in important Italian music festivals and composing a sound track for a famous Italian movie.

The concert will be held on July 26 at 9:30 p.m. at the Catania Port. The cost of a ticket is 17,50 € (Euro). For more information and tickets call *Musica e Suoni*, (095/7225111); Box Office (095/7225340); *Primafila* (inside the *La Rinascente* department store 095/7151740); Rock '86 (095/317881); Milleventi (095/431431). If you live in Misterbianco call Frida Travel Agency (095/462050).

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

						18 JULY	19 Wardroom Hail and farewell 1830 Red and Blue Cafe	19 Visit Palermo ITT Call 624-4396
20 Eraclea Minoa & Beach ITT Call 624-4396	21 National Ice Cream Day free ice cream sandwiches while supplies last Take 5	22 Kool & the Gang with Earth, Wind and Fire ITT Call 624-4396	23 Rainbow Playgroup every Wed. 10 to 11 p.m. 205 Housing	24 Etna Land Water Park AU Call 624-4271	25 Caltigirone Candelighting Festa di San Giacomo Liberty Call 624-5187	25 JULY	26 Hike of the Month: Pantallica Gorge & Anapo Valley Liberty Call 624-5187	
27 Noto, Vendicari & La Trota Restaurant ITT Call 624-4396	28 Special Additions 1 to 3 p.m. Comm. Bldg room 203 Call 624-4291	29 National Hotdog Month half price dogs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	30 San Vito lo Capo Camping Trip AU Call 624-4271	31 Anger Management 5 to 6 p.m. Hospital 2A-111 Call 624-4291	1 AUGUST	1 Taormina & Giardini Naxos ITT Call 624-4396	2 Teen Water Day free at the Mineo Comm. Bldg Call 624-0046	
3 Cefalu & Castelbuono Agrituristic Farm ITT Call 624-4396	4 Walleyball Clinic until Aug 8 Nas II Gym 5 to 6:30 p.m. Call 624-2710	5 Pool Tournament 7 p.m. NAS I Barracks #170 Call 624-5187	6 Siracusa and Beach ITT Call 624-4396	7 Troina: Madonna Dei Cerami Festival ITT Call 624-4396	8 Juggling Contest 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. Take 5	8 Juggling Contest 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. Take 5	9 Trinacria Challenge 3-Club Golf Tourney tee time 9 a.m. IL Picciolo Golf Club Call 624-2710	
10 Camp Trip to Southern Mt. Etna Liberty Call 624-5187	11 Amazing All-Star Replay Zone until Aug 15 Youth Center Call 624-3712	12	13 Community Flea Market 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. place TBA Call 624-4171 to sign up a table	14 Piazza Armenia and Medieval Festival ITT Call 624-4396	15 Summer Party in Giardini Naxos ITT Call 624-4396	15 Summer Party in Giardini Naxos ITT Call 624-4396	16	



Word Find

Sicilian Cities

A Z D K M V O K E C R D T C A C W R B F Z A A G V
 E N U U J I F N A S Z J A A I E E D G A J T N I I
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 MISTERBIANCO
 MOTTA
 NECROPOLI
 PALAGONIA
 PALMERO
 PATERNO
 PATTI
 PIAZZA
 ARMERINA
 RADDUSA
 RAGUSA
 ROSOLINI
 SYRACUSA
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| AGIRA | BUSCEMI | CEFALU |
| AGRIGENTO | BUTERA | CERAMI |
| ALIMENA | CALTABELLOTA | CERDA |
| ASSORO | CALTAGIRONE | COMISO |
| AUGUSTA | CALTANISSETTA | ENNA |
| AVOLA | CAMPOREALE | FAVARA |
| BIANCO VILLA | CARONIA | FORTECIANE |
| BRONTE | CASTELMOLA | GANGI |

Pediatrics Playtime Makes Visiting Navy Hospital Fun

By JO1(SW/AW) AnTuan Guerry
 National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — The Pediatrics Clinic at the National Naval Medical Clinic (NNMC) is taking care to another level – eye level for their young and active patients.

Every Monday, the Pediatrics Clinic waiting area is turned into a veritable playground thanks to child life therapist, Lynda Segel. Opening her “big gray box on wheels” filled with games, crafts, coloring books and educational toys, she instantly becomes a hit with the children.

“Child life therapy’s goal is to ease emotional stress and strain,” Segel explains. “We try to keep the development of the child going so he (the patient) can still continue to grow and have a life even though he may be hospitalized or in an outpatient status.”

Although most of her time is spent in the waiting area with the children, Segel says she sometimes assists doctors with a child requiring an IV or a shot. To help, Segel uses special diversion tactics, like putting on a clown nose to distract the child from the procedure.

Segel, whose experience spans more than two decades, has been working at the National Naval Medical Center since 1990. Initially, she worked full-time with inpatients and outpatients in the Pediatrics Clinic and inpatient ward, which have since moved to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Through her dedication to children, Segel built the foundation for programs like human-animal therapy bond, which is like a portable petting zoo. She also established large community outreach programs that have brought in singers, dancers, musicians and entertainers from all over Montgomery County and places like Fort Meade Army Base.

“The holistic approach to health care is very important. It’s not just the child that’s out there, it’s the parents and siblings, too,” she explains.

Segel entered into child life therapy almost by accident. Around 1986, Segel says she was watching a show on public television where a clown was consoling a child with burns.

“The clown was talking to the child and performing tricks to keep the child occupied so the doctor could perform a procedure which was very painful,” said Segel.

With her interest highly piqued, Segel called the station to gather information on the subject which she found out was run through John Hopkins Medical Center and called ‘Child Life.’ It took Segel about one year to meet the necessary requirements she needed to enter the four-month program at John Hopkins.

The program wasn’t easy, but Segel knows it was worth it. The impact she can now have on patients and their families is proof.

Wendy Fuller, who makes a two-hour drive from Dahlgren, Va., to NNMC for her children’s doctor visits, says that what Segel does with the children is “absolutely wonderful.”

“I was really excited when I saw her here again. I didn’t know this (Child Life) was a recurring event,” she explains. “I was here last week when the Friends of the National Zoo exhibit was here ... It was great for the children. After our long drive, it gives the children something nice to look forward to.”

Fuller’s 7-year-old son, Ethan, has his opinion on what’s the best part about having “Ms. Lynda,” around.

“I like coloring the best,” he boasts. “I don’t know why. I just like it.”

What Ethan probably doesn’t realize either is that he’s not only having fun, but he’s also learning. Segel’s program is based around education as well as fun. From developing hand and eye coordination to expanding a child’s creative spirit, the time Segel spends with NNMC’s pediatric outpatients may be short but everlasting.

“I love the fact that I’m able to work helping people out. It’s what my life is,” Segel adds with a smile. “Sometimes you don’t know whether you’ve done a good job until days, or weeks later – sometimes never. But deep in your heart you know if you’ve extended yourself and done everything you can, (then) you can’t help but feel like you’ve done well.”

“If I can make someone smile or laugh, or I know that I’ve occupied them enough to take their mind off of something that could be painful or uncomfortable, then I’ve done a good job.”

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



Fri. July 18

BRRRRRRI It’s hot outside, but it’s cold at Take 5! Come down on “Frozen Friday” for free popsicles all day while supplies last.

Sat. July 19

Join Photo Safari for a tour of the town of Savoca, a hidden gem in the eyes of photographers. Capture impressive views of Sicily’s eastern coastline, an ancient castle, and scene locations from the movie “The Godfather.” For more information, contact Photo Safari at x3718.

Explore Ispica, a small town located on the south-east side of Sicily, home to the Curto winery. Ispica is divided between the modern town, built in the 18th century, and the ancient town, now uninhabited and turned into an archeological park. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Sun. July 20

Join ITT and experience the beautiful view from the ruins of Eraclea Minoa, an ancient Greek settlement near Agrigento. Also dine in a Sicilian restaurant and spend some time at the beach. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Mon. July 21

MMMMM, ice cream. Trek on down to Take 5 for National Ice Cream Day and get free ice cream sandwiches to cool off all day while supplies last.

Tues. July 22

Get out of your room and play some ping-pong with Liberty. Celebrate National Tennis Month...free to play and win! 11:30 a.m. at Take 5. For more information on Take 5 events and services, call x5602.

Weds. July 23

Tired of singing in the shower? DJ Demon can help. Come on down to JOX Sports Bar and sing your heart out of your body with their Karaoke and All Request night at 6:30 p.m.

Thurs. July 24

Join ITT and shop the world famous Caleca ceramic factory, then visit Capo D’Orlando, a nice town located along the Tyrrhenian coast. Founded by Orlando, an officer serving under Charlemagne, the town’s historical origins are ancient and legendary. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

TRIVIA

- What is Los Angeles full legal name?
- Why did the W.E. Caldwell Company build a 170-foot tall ketchup bottle in 1949?
- What is the largest library in the world?
- In New York City 1,600 people are bitten by what each year?
- How many questions does the average four year old ask a day?

(Answers on page 8)

Movie Connection

AMC's Theater Schedule

Friday, July 18

1 p.m.
 Sinbad (PG)

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

8 p.m.
 T3: Rise of the Machines (R) **

Saturday, July 19

3:30 p.m.
 Bruce Almighty (PG-13)

6 p.m.
 Legally Blonde 2: Red, White, and Blonde (PG-13) **

9 p.m.
 Wrong Turn (R) **

Sunday, July 20

1 p.m.
 Sinbad (PG)

3:30 p.m.
 Down With Love (PG-13)

6 p.m.
 T3: Rise of the Machines (R)

Monday, July 21

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

8 p.m.
 The Hulk (PG-13)

Tuesday, July 22

5:30 p.m.
 It Runs in the Family (PG-13)

8:30 p.m.
 Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (PG-13)

Wednesday, July 23

5:30 p.m.
 Holes (PG)

8 p.m.
 Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13)

Thursday, July 24

5:30 p.m.
 Identity (R)

8 p.m.
 The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Friday, July 25

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

8:30 p.m.
 Confidence (R)

This Week on...

- Mon. Jul 21 - C.S.I. Miami**
 AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM
- Tue. Jul 22 - Movie: Miss Congeniality**
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM
- Wed. Jul 23 - The Bernie Mac Show**
 AFN Atlantic 7:30 PM
- Thu. Jul 24 - Whose Line Is It Anyway?**
 AFN Atlantic 9:30 PM
- Fri. Jul 25 - The Simpsons**
 AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

THE ROCK SHOW ON 106.0 ZFM WEEKDAYS FROM 3 PM - 6 PM

FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S WEBSITE AT afneurope.net/sigonella/

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

Chaplain rides high



A NASSIG chaplain, lays on the loading ramp of a MH-53E "Sea Dragon" assigned to the "Black Stallions" of Helicopter Support Squadron Four (HC-4) to get a good view of the terrain below. The chaplain and three religious program specialists were taking part in an orientation flight to familiarize themselves with helicopter flight.

Commissary from page 1



tions.

There are, however, two exceptions. First, if there is specific language on the coupon that states it may be used in conjunction with other coupons, multiple coupons will be honored. Second, during time-limited special promotions that specifically allow multiple coupons per item, extras will be accepted.

Discount coupons are very popular at Sigonella's commissary, according to DeCA Sigonella Store Administrator Tracy Pierce, who says the coupon count is increasing each month. "We encourage it," he explained.

The commissary has a table near the entrance where shoppers can shop for bargains or leave coupons they have clipped for others to use. "We have dedicated coupon people," said Pierce. "We get a lot of coupons in the mail. Many of them are sent by companies and feature their products."

Pierce reminds customers that expiration dates on coupons are honored, but Sigonella customers, like all overseas DeCA shoppers, have an additional six months to use them.

Trivia Answers

- 1) *El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula*
- 2) *It was built as a water tower.*
- 3) *The Library of Congress in Washington D.C.*
- 4) *Other humans*
- 5) *over 400*

SPORTS

Team Sigonella takes 3rd at festa

By IT1(SW) Luis Genaro
contributing writer

After several months of preparation, the day had finally come. Team Sigonella headed toward Naples to attend the annual Festa Americana held at Carney Park in Naples.

This year's Varsity coaches, IT1(SW) "Gee" Genaro and MM2 Ryan "Jake" Jacobsen prepared the members of the base softball team stationed at Sigonella to face different teams from the European theatre including La Maddelena, Vicenza, Gaeta, Aviano, Naples and Ramstein.

Team Sigonella departed on July 3, toward Napoli with the quest of bringing home some hardware. NASSIG'S first game was against Gaeta; Sigonella open the flood gates and beat Gaeta, 22-6. Sigonella played teams: La Maddelena, Latinos Brewnidos and Team Naples in the round robin.

Team Sigonella started their tournament playing against Vicenza, and the team had their eyes in the top of the ladder. Sigonella beating Vicenza 29-17. Sigonella's next quest came by way of facing Los Brewnidos, a local team from Naples, which was one of the favorites to place high in the tournament. Team Sigonella, held its ground and gave a run for the money. Sigonella was going in the top of the 5th chasing five runs. Team SIG regrouped between inning and opened the bats on the "Brewnidos" by scoring seven runs in the inning. SIG

defense solidified and held their opponents to 3 runs.

Time had expired on this game giving SIG a 17-10 win and moving up to the next game.

After a game break, Team Sigonella awaited to see whom their next competitors would be. They wanted to either play Team Naples or D e f e n d i n g C h a m p s R a m s t e i n . Ramstein defeated Naples, sending Team Naples to face Team SIGONELLA. This has been a rivalry on the field for many years. Both teams had played all day and the battle had begun. Team SIG started off with a bang putting up 5 runs in the first, Team Naples answered back with 4 runs. Both teams would answer the call of keeping a game on the wire; going into the 3rd inning both Teams where tied at 10 runs apiece. Both



NASSIG's varsity softball team takes a moment to remember their stellar performance at the annual Naples tournament.

teams playing fatigue keep the battle going, as if it would be the last game of their playing days. The crowd had thickened during this match up and double plays were made as smooth as ice. Team SIG went ahead of Naples 21 - 15. Team Naples had the "Hammer" and placed seven runs in the final at bats.

Team Sigonella was defeated 22-21.

Team Sigonella received Third place and received their trophy, which is displayed at NAS II Gym.

During a break in the games, Naples held its Home Run Derby. This year the home run king lives in Sigonella. Congratulations to MM2 Ryan "JAKE" Jacobsen.

Team Sigonella was led by the following members in the tournaments:

Rob Clem	Bat Avg: .811	15HRS
MM2 Ryan Jacobsen	Bat Avg: .778	13HRS
YN1 Sean Ozolins	Bat Avg: .694	5HRS
AG1 Mel Hall	Bat AVG: .692	1HR
IT1(SW) Genaro	Bat AVG: .644	1HR

The Lane

Obstacle course challenge

Come out to the NAS II ballfield and test your speed, agility and strength as you navigate through the challenging obstacle course. Sign up ahead of time at the fitness centers. Event takes place Saturday August 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Captain's Cup Swim Meet

Get out your suits and get ready for the Captain's Cup Swim Meet Saturday August 16 at the NAS II pool. Small fee to enter the event. Meet starts at 10 a.m. T-shirts, awards and barbecue available during the event. Call 624-4334 or 624-5335.

Mural Contest

Contest lasts through July. Winner announced in August. All drawings should be dropped off at the NAS II gym. The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate for an ITT trip. Drawings must include Spin cycles.

Q

Who is Ulrike Meyfahrt?

&A

A German athlete who won the high jump at the Olympics in 1972 and 1984?



DEFY from page 1



DEFY campers use their senses, other than sight, to identify objects in a bag of rice. The activity centered around working as a team.

Pledge of Allegiance.

To stress the importance of a healthy body and healthy mind, the children participated in an hour of physical readiness training (PRT). Sit-ups, curl-ups, push-ups, jumping jacks, running in place, and stretching were dreaded on a daily basis, but when it was time for a friendly game of dodge ball, kickball, or a trek around the obstacle course, the children arose to the challenge, especially when taking on DEFY team leaders.

Team leaders were able to out dodge the flurry of balls flung by what seemed like an endless sea of children. However, youth held up during the obstacle course. The children out ran, out climbed, and out jumped the team leaders. After PRT, DEFY campers marched to the cafeteria wondering what the breakfast of the day entailed, hoping in their minds it was not a tasteless bowl of cornflakes again, but a mouthwatering bowl of cinnamon toast crunch. Breakfast wasn't the only enjoyable meal as the children made daily trips for lunch to the NAS I and NAS II galley.

"I feel like I am back in school again." "Do I have to go to class?" Those DEFY campers changed their opinions quick as Team leader Shiloh Cooper brought learning to life in a fun way, teaching children about positive and negative peer pressure. "I had a great time working with the children and teaching the various lessons," said Cooper. "I try to make learning fun for the kids." A DEFY camper withstood the yelling and screaming of his peers, encouraging him to go the wrong way through a maze as team leader CE2(SW) Charlene Daniels, from Public Works explained to him the right direction.

Camp Director, AMC Thomas Dutrieux couldn't have been happier with the success of the overall camp. "We had 62 of the greatest kids enrolled in DEFY this year and the staff did an outstanding job working with them," said Dutrieux. "The way in which lessons were delivered to the kids made it fun and conducive to learning. The kids themselves were a real pleasure to work with."

When not in the classroom children were out and about enjoying the sights and activities as a reminder to the children the fun things you can do when not doing drugs. "Drug free is the way to be," shouted out a DEFY camper. Day trips included traveling to the Sigonella Inn pool, bowling alley, AFN, Alcantara Gorge, and the Fontana Beach.

Team leader, UT2 Josh (Cletus) McMahon, from Public Works was a hit with many of the children, leading the biggest splash competition off the diving boards at the Sigonella Inn pool and carefully throwing children up into the air and watching them plunge into the water.

"I really enjoyed being with the kids, said Cletus. "Working with the DEFY children has helped me make my mind up that I would like to pursue a career as an elementary teacher after proudly serving my time in the Navy."

As the DEFY camp came to a close many of the children expressed their feelings about the program since arriving on the first day, not knowing what to expect. Nine-year-old Stephanie Prusa really enjoyed the program. "I am so glad I participated in this program because it was fun and will help me in the future being able to just say

'no' in different ways," said Prusa.

After the many classes the DEFY program had to offer 11-year-old Nick Tafuri is ready to face any situation. "I learned how marijuana is extremely harmful to your health, and that it has many chemicals in it," said Tafuri. "Now that I know many ways to say no to drugs, I feel much more comfortable if I ever end up in a situation like this."

Some children may have chosen to hang out with their friends instead of going to the DEFY camp, but not 12-year-old Paul Giacchetto. "I could have been hanging out with my friends, but I know in my mind that participating in this program will help me in the future," said Giacchetto. "I learned how to have fun without taking drugs and how they can affect your everyday life."

The DEFY program was a hit with parents as well. Rosa Artilles loves what the program stands for. "I love

the fact that the kids have something to do, it keeps them out of trouble, and the program is educational," said Artilles.

Thea Burke was impressed with the organization of the DEFY program. "The way in which the components of this program were delivered were very professional and key to its success," said Burke. My son Patrick learned some valuable leadership strategies."

So, did these 62 DEFY campers walk away with some-

thing valuable? In 2001, an independent study of the DEFY program was completed. The study reported that youth have more skills to face difficult life issues such as peer pressure. In addition, the DEFY program effects positive changes in youths' knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes regarding drugs and alcohol, as well as in general life skills. According to research, these children have bright futures ahead of them.



The DEFY campers enjoy the sights of Alcantara gorge showing them that it is possible to have fun without doing drugs. This was one of many trips the campers took.



Cemetery from page 1

watching over the ivory gravestones marking the final resting spots of so many young men who had fought so bravely.

The significance of Operation Husky was twofold said the British Ambassador to Italy, Sir Ivor Roberts, KCMG. As the first moment that Allies had set foot on European soil in three and half years, it was the start of a long and daunting process to liberate Europe from Fascism and Naziism. "So, that was a huge moment not just for Sicily or Italy, but for the whole of Europe, signaling the light at the end of the tunnel was there," explained Ambassador Roberts, whose father parachuted into

southeastern Sicily with a British paratroopers unit and fought his way north along Sicily's east coast until being wounded five days into Operation Husky.

"I think, too, that it was the beginning of what we now see as the European Union," he added. "Without the efforts of the allied forces to liberate the whole of Europe from the scourge of Nazism and Fascism, the European Union could never have come into existence," said Ambassador Roberts. "It's particularly significant, of course, now under the Italian presidency of the European Union; we're just about to welcome 10 countries of eastern Europe who, having been under the threat of

Nazism and Fascism, then fall under the scourge of Communism for 50 years. So, they too are emerging into the light. And, it all actually started here 60 years ago," said the Ambassador.

The magnitude of the heroics performed by those buried at the Catania Commonwealth War Cemetery was evident in the men and women who gathered for the ceremony, in those who later stood stolid around the massive cross watching the wind ripple across the red petals of the wreaths, and in those who slipped silently away to touch one of the hundreds of polished gravestones lined up like soldiers in formation.

“ Without the efforts of the allied forces to liberate the whole of Europe from the scourge of Nazism and Fascism, the European Union could never have come into existence.

*Sir Ivor Roberts, KCMG
UK Ambassador to Italy*



British soldiers fight and run their way through a Sicilian town shortly after the landings of Operation Husky in July 1943.



A British bugler solemnly looks at the graves of fallen British soldiers.

Gela from page 1



American troops storming the beach at Gela on July 10, 1943 as part of Operation Husky.

A huge parade through the city held the attention of the residents of Gela as it wended its way through the streets. Local Italian school children held American and Italian flags and sung songs. Italian World War II veterans marched proudly in the Sicilian heat. And an Italian band played Italian and American patriotic tunes.

The mayor of Gela, Rosario Crocetta, along with Capt. Thomas Dansak, Naval Air Station Sigonella command chaplain, and many Italian servicemembers also took part in the celebration. Members of Explosive Ordnance Mobile Unit Eight (EODMU 8) also joined the event and bravely piloted a HUMVEE through the streets to show their support.

Crocetta was proud to be part of the event. "We want to remember what happened 60 years ago," said Crocetta. "We need to understand and reflect on what happened so it doesn't happen again."

Dansak saw the importance of being in Gela on this special day. "I think that what is absolutely certain is the fact that the events at Gela 60 years

ago have created a bond of friendship between the Italians and the Americans that is obviously going to last a long time," said Dansak. "To be part of their celebration, and remembering what this means to them, is very important."

Crocetta was happy to stand along side Americans in commemoration of the day. "It's a sign of friendship with our nations, and it's proof that we are allies and friends together," said Crocetta. "We are celebrating the heroes [who] gave their lives on those days. Today is a day of joy, but at the same time it's a day of sorrow because we remember all the people who were victims of the Nazis and fascists."

Dansak addressed the crowd at the end of the parade near the shores of Gela. "I'm happy to be here with you on this very historic day," said Dansak. "Gela is famous in the world for what began here. What began here ended in peace and liberty and democracy for much of the world." He thanked the people of Gela and those in uniform for their love of peace and democracy. "May we always remember those who died here," he added.



School children from Gela sing songs and carry Italian and American flags while participating in the parade to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Operation Husky. Operation Husky was the Allied invasion plan to liberate Sicily.

An American vacationing in Gela came to witness the event. "It's beautiful...the memory that the Americans did something good in the world," said Vincent

Roveccio from New Jersey. "[It's great] having people remember it, especially the younger crowd, to let them know the history about it."

ian, American, British, and German, the price of being a free people, a democracy, and enjoying a little stability and peace did not come cheap. People should never forget that."

The beaches of Gela on Saturday were much different from that cold, stormy night 60 years ago. People lay out in the sun, listening to the latest music and enjoying a leisurely day. Due to the efforts of the servicemembers of the past, freedom was brought to Sicily and Europe, allowing days

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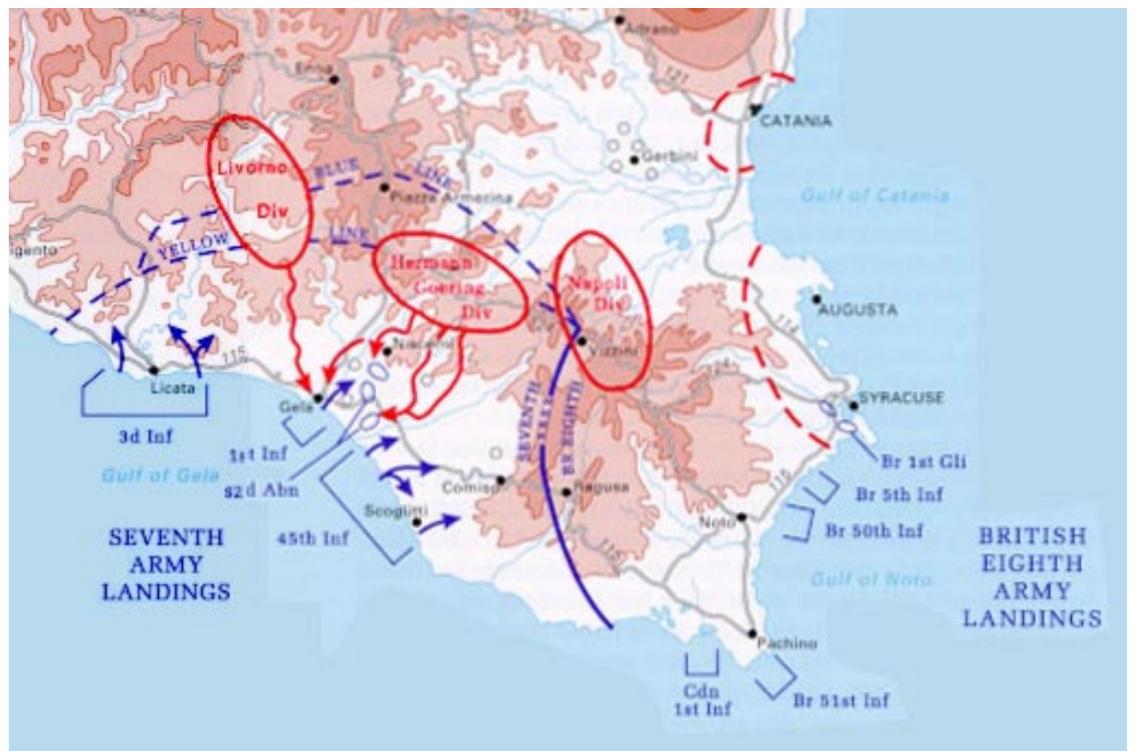
Rosario Crocetta, Mayor of Gela

After the ceremony, Dansak spoke on the importance of remembering the past. "Sometimes we in the present forget that we got where we are because of what people did in the past," he said. "I think one of the greater flaws in history is to forget the past and think that it was always this way. When you recall that there were thousands of people who died here in Sicily on all sides; Ital-

such as this.

"Remembering the anniversary of the Allied landing is a very significant event because of what it did to Europe and the World," said Dansak. "I think it's very important for people to always remember that what we have in the present is a direct result of some of the things that happened here."

Ponte Dirillo from page 1



along the coast of southern Sicily, Americans and Italians met again, this time as friends, to recount the battle of Ponte Dirillo, a battle that left 38 American soldiers and one American Sailor dead.

"This memorial service is to remember and honor the 39 American servicemen who gave their lives on or near this site, during the landings of U.S. and allied forces in Sicily, fighting against a strong and determined enemy 60 years ago," said Cmdr. Nancy King-Williams, commanding officer of the U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station in Sigonella.

During the ceremony, Cmdr. King-Williams told the story of Lt. Col. Arthur "Hard Nose" Gorham, a common man who commanded common men whose names are now inscribed on a large memorial affixed to the wall of the once German-occupied home. He was a man who cared for his soldiers and in return gained the respect and trust of those men.

"He had interests, he had a family, in fact he and the others here were in a way, just like you and me..." explained Cmdr. King-Williams.

With, of course, but one major difference.

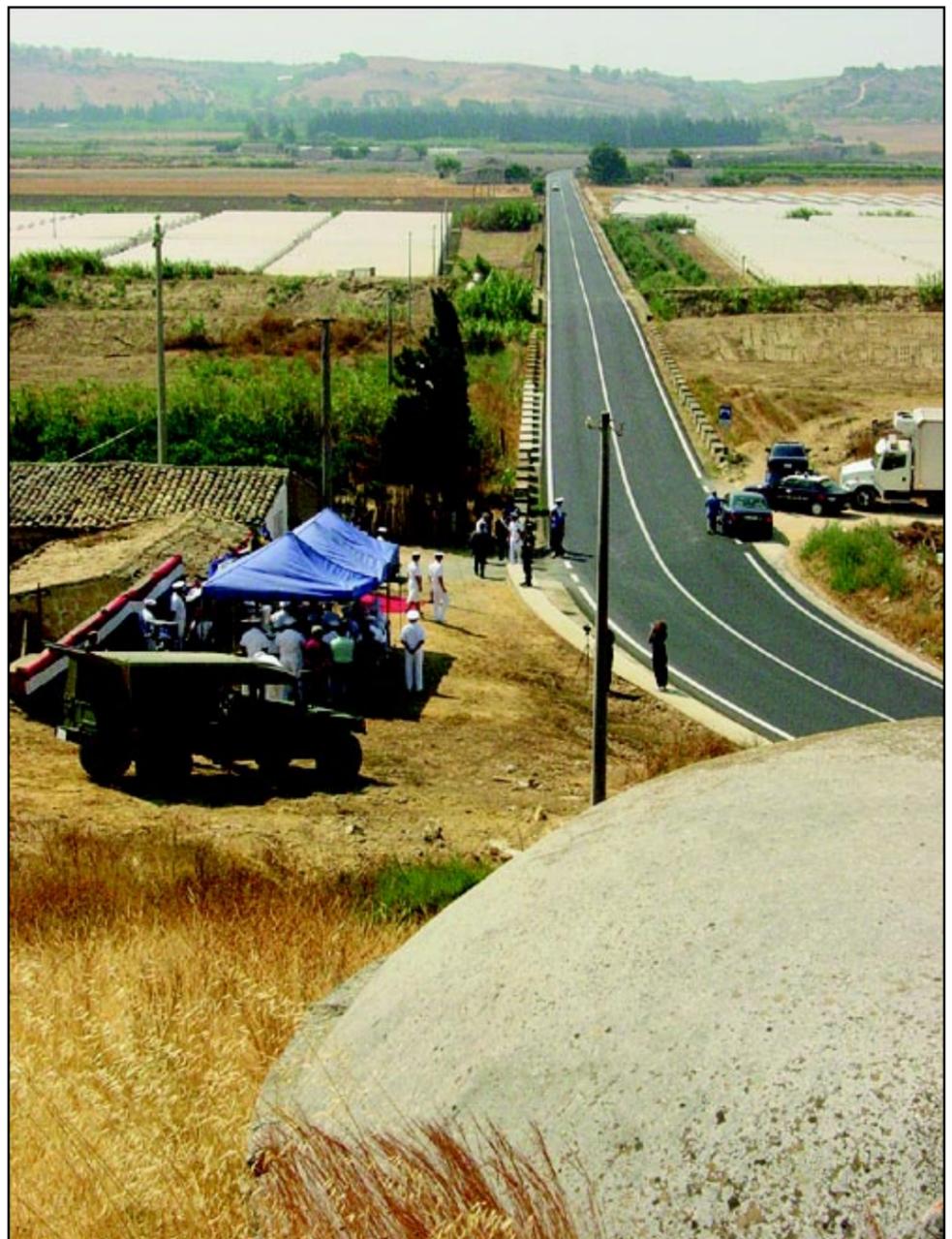
"They died here so that our future would be secure," she added.

The Honorable Rosario Crocetta, Sindaco (Mayor) of Gela, upon hearing the story of Lt. Col. Gorham was moved by how ordinary the men were who so gallantly fought and died to liberate Italy from the grip of oppression.

"On my own behalf and on behalf of (the) whole Gela community, I would personally like to thank and remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our peace and democracy," said the Gela mayor.

Reflecting on the past and thinking about the future, the Mayor of Niscemi, Mario Parrimuto, said that the Americans who died at Ponte Dirillo did so defending freedom and democracy. "Today," he added, "other men are still dying to protect democracy and bring peace."

"Surely, it's sad to admit that our plan to export, over the years, democracy all over the world has failed. It's even sadder that we need wars to guarantee peace. We thought the collapse of the Nazism and the Fascism had solved the problem," said Parrimuto. "We were wrong... We must encourage and promote international cooperation between the people and cultures trying to find ways to collaborate for the good of everyone. We must achieve peace through war. We should rediscover the values of humanity."



A view of the place that was a battle ground back in 1943. In the foreground is a German bunker that the troops of the 82nd Airborne Division fought against during the battle.

Although the battle for Ponte Dirillo determined the fate of those 39 Americans and scores of others, the future of Sicily, Italy, and all of Europe changed that day 60 years ago. Last Friday, the clatter heard was not that of war machines, but that of a rickety produce truck hauling crates of bright red tomatoes to market across a long and low bridge that had long ago cradled the blood of common men. The low chatter heard outside the dusty courtyard came not from Nazis or Fascists, but emanated from an assortment of U.S. Sailors, an airman, and a half-dozen Italians loosely gathered around the old dwelling of weathered concrete and stones. The massive pillboxes on the hillside above absorbed the mid-morning sun, doing nothing more than providing shelter to an assortment of insects not quite accustomed to the sweltering Sicilian sun. Common men would be happy to know that peace reigns over Ponte Dirillo.