

### New home for Security on NAS I

JOSN Steve Weaver  
Staff Writer



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver

A new security building officially opened at Naval Air Station Sigonella with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 13 as part of the NAS I Recapitalization.

The new building, was built to the latest anti-terrorism force-protection specifications and will be a "one stop shop" center for security needs.

The new building will house both NASSIG security and Italian Carabinieri personnel. "[This] is going to make processes of anything that the community needs to do with security a lot more efficient," said Lt. Eddie Brinson, NASSIG Security Officer. "Because in this building we have the security personnel, the Carabinieri, and a translator to file a denuncia (statement) if a servicemember or family member needs to do so. It's a one stop shop."

MACM (SW) R.C. Jones, Security LCPO, said it is a definite benefit having the new building to be able to work in cooperation Security, page 10

### Sigonellans learn about benefits after Navy

AN Michelle Hartgraves  
Staff Writer

A Veteran Affairs (VA) Representative from St. Paul Minnesota Veterans Center visited Sigonella recently to provide information about benefits and advice for Sailors getting out of the Navy.

Floyd Nagler, a Veteran himself, shared information about a variety of topics during a two-hour seminar at the base theatre and during private appointments.

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs is made up of three parts. The Veteran Benefits Administration, which covers benefit claims processed at VA Regional offices, Veterans Health Administration, which covers medical centers and clinics, and the National Cemetery Administration, which covers burial at national cemeteries and headstones or flags.

Veterans, their dependents, a surviving spouse or a child of a deceased veteran, active duty and reserves, or National Guard are all eligible for VA services.

VA benefits and services fall into these major categories: disability benefits, education and training benefits, vocational rehabilitation and employment, home loans, burial benefits, dependents and survivor benefits; life insurance and health care.

Disability benefits fall under two categories, disability compensation and disability pension. According to Nagler, veterans who are considered 10 percent disabled due to service connected injuries can apply for compensation. Wartime veterans with limited in-VA rep., page 10

## Sigonella's silicon Sailors

JOSN Steve Weaver  
Staff Writer

Your pounding on your desk, frustrated with your computer. You wish the evil gremlin inside would release its hold on whatever is making your computer misbehave.

There's no ancient Chinese secrets (like making sure you don't leave it on past midnight), the experts at the Microcomputer Division (MICROS) are the ones who can help with whatever ails your computer.

The MICROS department, which is part of the Information Technology Department (ITD), handles the computer needs of Naval Air Station Sigonella and 43 tenant commands. These tasks include life cycle management (replacement of old computers), software upgrades, maintenance, and hardware repairs. The mainstay of the department is the Naval Aviation Logistics Command Management Information System (NALCOMIS) server, which is a modern, real-time, responsive, computer-based management information system.

"NALCOMIS is why we are all here," said ET1 Michael Brandenburg, senior IT customer support representative. "It provides logistic support for the aviation detachments. We built around NALCOMIS." The server can be found at the Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD), Aviation Support Division (ASD), Operations (OPS), Weapons; basically anywhere on the base. "Everywhere you go there's NALCOMIS."

MICROS handles an average of 25 to 30 trouble calls per day on a variety of problems throughout the base. "Hard drives, basic hardware maintenance, loading software," said IT2 (SW/AW) Joe Lyznick. "Basically when somebody has a problem with their computer, we need to go out and find out why they're having that problem and try to fix it."

These trouble calls can range from easy to difficult. "We have a lot of power outages, especially at AIMD which is one of the largest commands," said Brandenburg. "This causes equipment to fail. Monitors won't power up anymore. Computer hard drives have been shut off improperly so many times that data gets corrupt and we have to re-load all the software."

"Our most frequent trouble



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver

Sailors from MICROS install a network interface card into a desktop computer. The network interface card identifies the computer on a network and allows it to exchange data with

calls are with Microsoft Outlook," said Brandenburg. "They're the easiest problems to fix and yet they're our biggest headache because a lot of times a person cannot send or receive mail anymore because, on their part, they're not deleting their messages or emptying their trash and their mailbox is full."

The department has been

busy lately, but the small number of technicians has been able to keep up. "We are at a-400-to-one ratio of [technician] per customer," said Brandenburg. "And as far as workstations go, we are at ratio of one tech to 250 workstations. We're undermanned, but how we're dealing with it is we're working smarter."

Software being worked on by

Dave Comstock, Unicenter and NALCOMIS representative, will push upgrades to customer's machines so a tech will not have to touch them. Another system that allows MICROS to work smarter is called a Virtual Network Connection (VNC). "We have software that allows us to log onto their machine remotely as we MICROS, page 11

## Man on the street

How are you preparing for the October PRT?

AN Michelle Hartgraves  
Staff Writer



"Besides command pt three times a week, I like to run on my own and go to the gym everyday after work."



"To prepare for the PRT, I work out twice a day. I also drink lots of water to stay hydrated, because of the heat."



"I do a lot of stretching, carb-loading and I stay well hydrated."

"I try to exercise everyday and I drink lots of water so I stay hydrated."



### Today's Hometown Weather

Cleveland, OH



High 79° F - Low 63° F  
Scattered Thunderstorms



# Direct Line

**Capt. Ken Bitar**  
NASSIG  
Executive Officer

One of the kids in my neighborhood recently broke her arm playing on the playground. It was an accident, and she was with a babysitter. Accidents can happen even when someone is watching.

I want to talk about children at home, their safety, and what you (as parents, Sailors and neighbors) can do about it.

The NAS Sigonella Commanding Officer is responsible for all of the people in the Sigonella community. As such, he issues instructions and notices that govern our people here where state laws normally would in the U.S. He (and I) take this responsibility seriously.

NASSIG Instruction 1752.2C outlines the age requirements for children caring for themselves and babysitting other dependent children. This instruction covers all military, civilian, contract personnel and tenant commands. In the United States, state and local laws designate age requirements for children caring for themselves and children performing babysitting services. Although state laws do not govern overseas areas, the NASSIG Commanding Officer is establishing age requirements for dependent children who may be without adult supervision or are acting as babysitters through this instruction.

In the instruction, the following is outlined regarding children caring for themselves:

- (1) Children below the age of eight may not be left alone for any period of time.
- (2) Children eight to nine years of age may be left alone for up no more than one hour, sunup to sundown.
- (3) Children 10 to 11 years of age may be left alone for no more than two hours, sunup to sundown.
- (4) Children 12 to 15 years of age may not be left alone for more than eight hours at a time, on a day and/or evening basis.

Likewise, if you live in a government-housing complex, the housing manual discusses this matter further. It is the responsibility of every parent to supervise the actions of their children and encourage them to use the playground facilities. Children under the age of 10 are not to be left unattended and must be supervised by a responsible adult while at play and at home. Children under the age of five may not play outside without direct supervision.

Now, I am not saying it's okay to leave your children unattended at anytime. That is your parental choice and discretion. I am asking that you (and your designated caregivers) be prudent in your decisions about leaving your children by themselves.

Remember, playgrounds are not substitute parents!

## National Night Out 'Thank you'

National Night Out was a success! Thank you very much to all of you that participated and helped make the 20th annual festivities what they were. We could not have done it without you! In addition to all of those who attended, we would like to add a very special thank you to the following: DECA for providing hamburgers, hotdogs, and buns; FFSC and the Stray Animal Facility for providing great information in their booth; CFR for providing a static display, participating in the parade, and Sparky; NAVHOSP for providing a static display, participating in the parade and any minor medical care needed; EODMU-8 and the Military Working Dogs for providing great demonstrations, static displays and participating in the parade; PAO and AFN for advertising; Ground Electronics for set up and use of sound equipment; CMAA for tables and chairs; Bike Patrol for helping repair and maintain children's bikes in the bike rodeo; The Security Association and the Security First Class Association for each donating a child's bike for the free bike raffle; Roland Gilbert for donating the use of Jumpin' Jungle Fun; NCC Felice Mastropasqua of Housing for use of the facility; MSC Patrick Carter for the cake.

Thank you to the approximate 800 visitors that helped make this year's National Night Celebration a success.

## Ivory import ban still in place

Mannheim, Germany – U.S. personnel should not buy ivory while stationed or vacationing outside the USA, customs officials advise. The reason is that imports into the United States of unprocessed ivory tusks and worked ivory pieces such as carved figures, jewelry or piano keys are prohibited under the Endangered Species Act and the African Elephant Conservation Act. However, exceptions exist for items such as:

- Antiques more than 100 years old which can be imported with a valid permit;
- African elephant ivory items that the owner registered with U.S.

Customs before leaving the U.S.A. that are being re-imported; and

- African elephant ivory items acquired before Feb. 4, 1977, when accompanied by a valid permit.

Ivory that is not in one of the categories above can be confiscated when it arrives in the U.S.A. When customs inspectors seize ivory at borders or airports, the owner can be fined and the purchase price is not refunded. "People who have bought ivory overseas or who did not register their ivory with customs are obviously in a bind," said Michael L. Burkert of the European Command's Customs Executive Agency. He advises people to write to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

and try to get an import permit. The address is:

Office of Management Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700  
Arlington, Virginia 22203  
Tel: 1-800-358-2104

However, there are no restrictions on the import of ivory into the United States that comes from the extinct family of elephant-like mammals known as mastodons. People who own mastodon ivory pieces should have a manufacturer's statement of origin stating that the article is mastodon ivory, not subject to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Title 16 U.S. Code, to prevent delays at customs.

## Firebolt, Shamal to Swap Crews

**By Lt. Garrett Kasper,**  
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces  
Central Command / Commander,  
5th Fleet Public Affairs

Manama, Bahrain (NNS) — It typically takes two months for a vessel setting sail from Norfolk, Va., to reach the Arabian Gulf and vice versa for its forward-deployed counterpart to return. Today, the Navy's coastal patrol community can do it in just ten days.

Instead of sailing their 174-foot Cyclone-class patrol coastals from Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., the 28-person crew of USS Shamal (PC 13) is literally deploying without their ship.

Shamal will remain moored abreast of USS Tornado (PC 14) in Virginia, while its crew flies to Bahrain to take over USS Firebolt (PC 10).

The Shamal-Firebolt ship swap is the second time coastal patrol ships have traded crews in Bahrain. In mid-July, the Tornado crew replaced the crew of USS Chinook (PC 9). The Chinook's crew returned to Norfolk, manned the vacated Tornado, and is now ship-sitting Shamal until the original Firebolt crew returns stateside.

Crew swaps for coastal patrol ships are being completed for operational reasons and because of the inherent need to maintain a constant naval presence in the North Arabian Gulf. The PCs fill a critical role in support of maritime security operations for Commander, Task Force 55. Their small size is their biggest attribute, because they can operate in the shallow waters north of the Khor Abd Allah waterway and in the port of Umm Qasr.

"The two coastal patrol vessels in the Arabian Gulf support a variety of important missions in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility," said Lt. Richard D. Butler, commanding officer of Firebolt. "Both Firebolt and Chinook take part in maritime interception operations, and patrol the Khor Abd Allah waterway to reduce the threat of paramilitary and terrorist activity. We also provide security to the commercial tankers that are now starting to fill up at Iraq's offshore oil terminals."

Firebolt and its crew have been deployed to the Arabian Gulf for the past six months, and will turn their vessel over to Shamal's crew in early August. Once the swap is official, Firebolt's crew will fly from 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain back to Norfolk.



## Sports and activities physical exam day

It's time for the annual sports physical and activities exam day, brought to you by the Naval Hospital Sigonella and DODDS. This year's physicals will be held in the elementary school cafeteria gym on Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon.

### Who needs a physical?

Any high school student who plans on playing a sport anytime during the school year needs a sports physical. Students need a new physical every year.

An organization that requires a physical exam prior to the participation of activities.

Sports teams not affiliated with the Stephen Decatur School such as Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, Swimming, Soccer,

Softball, etc. Individuals needing physicals for Italian schools and College admission.

### Why do I need a physical?

Physical examination is an important screening tool. They help health care providers identify students with health problems that may put them at risk for injuries or illness. They help students gain an awareness of important health issues for athletes. Also, students may not participate in sports (even in practice) or any physical activity without having a physical examination.

### What do I need to do?

Please pick up a form and fill out as completely and honestly as possible before coming to sports physical and activities exam day. It is important that parents assist students with the questions about past medical and family history. This helps us identify students who may need further evaluation before participating in sports or other physical activities.

Forms will be available at the Acute Care (ACC) Front Desk, Pediatric Clinic, Teen Center, and High School Office. Do not forget to bring the completed forms to the cafeteria, on sports physical and activities exam day. Please bring special forms required by the school or organization on this day.

### What should I wear?

All students should wear shorts and comfortable shoes. Females should wear a sports bra. This is to make the exams easier and more comfortable for you!

### Entitlements

Immunizations, Health Promotions, and Sports / Health Nutrition Guidance.

## Instant Grits - yuck!!!

**By Chaplain**  
**Tim Moore**  
Command  
Chaplain

Our world is changing quicker than history can be

written. I read an article the other day that reported that knowledge is exploding at such a rapid proportion that more than 2,000 pages of information is written per minute. It further stated that if you could read all day, every day for 50 years, and retained all that you read, you would be one and a half million years behind when you finished. This 20-year-old article was compiled using data from 1979, long before our age of personal computers in most every home and office space.

We live in a world that pushes us to expect anything and everything that we want to be delivered immediately, no waiting. We have overnight delivery with our mail system (in CONUS). We have fast food restaurants providing a hot meal in just under three minutes - theoretically. Instant potatoes, instant information via the internet, instant cameras, instant messenger services, instant coffee, instant credit approval, instant marriages and divorces, instant oil changes, even instant grits - yuck - (I'm sure a development the South is not fond of...).

This same expectation has trickled over into our relationships with both God and man. We have come to expect and even demand instant gratification. "Wait" is a cruel word for our busy world. We are so impatient. Why write it when you can phone or fax it? We expect instant results and instant action. We can't wait. We want people to understand now! We want people to change now! When we succumb to this attitude we forfeit many benefits that patience affords. Many things in life are worth waiting for and anticipating. This is what makes Christmas such a special time for children - the waiting.

God created the world in seven days - that sounds pretty quick - but just know that He could have done so in less than a second. The great Taj Mahal was completed in 22 years. The Grand Canyon was not formed overnight. Lasting friendships are not produced in a single day. It is important to set goals and work toward their completion. Some things are worth the wait.

It's almost time for advancement exams - study hard, it's worth the effort. Remember, avoid those instant grits, the real thing is worth the wait.

### SECURITY BLOTTER



### CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

Aug. 11 - Aug. 17

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 8
- Traffic accident with injuries - 0
- Car break-ins - 0
- DUI - 0
- DUI's 2003 - 35
- DUI's 2002 - 35

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## 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 41<sup>st</sup>  
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.

# NAVY NEWS

## Navy reaps unusual medical benefits of hyperbaric chamber

Lt. j.g. Amanda Raymond, Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Treating diving related illnesses in the hyperbaric chamber is nothing new for the Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC), or the Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU), but now patients treated include a wounded soldier from *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

While the primary medical use of the hyperbaric chamber is to treat diving related illnesses including decompression sickness or arterial gas emboli, the chamber can also be used when patients have oxygenation and/or circulation problems. Diabetic wounds, non healing bone infections, carbon monoxide poisoning, and severe burns are just a few examples of the non diving related cases that are treated using the hyperbaric chamber. There are at present 13 approved indications for hyperbaric oxygen therapy, but other possibilities are being researched all the time.

"Due to the compression depth of the patient, usually 45 to 60 feet, more oxygen can be dissolved than ever possible at the surface," said NDSTC Training Diving Medical Officer Cmdr. Bobby Lowe. "We may be able to speed [the healing rate] as much as 40 to 60 percent."

When the need arises, the Navy utilizes this unique form of treatment to expedite the healing process, because hyperbaric oxygen delivers concentrated oxygen where there is an inadequate supply being delivered to the tissue.

Lowe was the NDSTC attending physician for a patient shot with an AK47 round in the thigh, leaving a 14 centimeter wound tract. The round pierced a vehicle door causing the bullet to tumble, causing a huge wound cavity upon entering the patient's thigh. The patient received daily two-hour treatments at the Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) for four days and at NDSTC for five.

"After only one treatment, the patient stated his pain and swelling significantly diminished. Drainage decreased over two days and wound size decreased approximately 40 percent," said Lowe. "Utilizing this process, we can get him back in action more expeditiously than with conservative management."

Lowe says ears, lungs, and sinuses can be adversely affected by the increase and decrease of atmospheric pressures, but are not serious and can usually be managed. The Navy routinely treats active duty service members and their families for diving related illnesses. When non-diving illnesses or injuries are seen, they frequently will treat when the hospital is unable to provide hyperbaric services. Civilians are only treated on an emergency basis when no civilian facility is available.

But, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is not a panacea. Many conditions such as routine wounds heal adequately without hyperbaric intervention. In illnesses or injuries responsive to hyperbarics, its use can be life or limb saving.

## American troops set to assist West African force in Liberia

By Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Roughly 200 more American troops could move into the West African nation of Liberia in coming days if rebel forces keep their pledge to move out of the country's capital city.

About 100 American servicemembers are currently in Liberia.

Rebel forces from the group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy have pledged to move out of Monrovia's main port Aug. 14. If that goes as scheduled, military forces from the Economic Community of West African States are expected to request help from American forces working for Joint Task Force Liberia, Pentagon officials said today.

About 2,500 U.S. Marines are standing by aboard USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) Amphibious Ready Group off the coast of Liberia. But officials said relatively few of these forces are likely to be called to assist the West African forces, called ECOMIL for



The amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) cruises through the Arabian Gulf behind USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Nimitz Carrier Strike Force and Carrier Air Wing Eleven (CVW-11) are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"ECOWAS Mission in Liberia."

"Joint Task Force Liberia is in place to assist ECOMIL forces to achieve a stable environment so that humanitarian assistance can be proplained that such assistance is likely to come in the form of a 150-member, ground-based quick reaction force (QRF) and a port

assessment by American military engineers and Navy SEAL divers.

ECOMIL currently has a 746-man-strong battalion of Nigerian soldiers on the ground in Liberia. These forces are mainly staged at Monrovia's airport. A second Nigerian battalion is expected to start arriving in country at the end of

this week, Schwartz said.

When the second Nigerian battalion is in place, the general explained, the American QRF is expected to move from a ground-based staging area to a sea-based posture.

Even during the short period this QRF is expected to be in Liberia, their role will be very limited. The QRF is not there in a security role, Schwartz stressed. They're merely standing by to provide "a reaction capability if something unexpected occurs with regard to an ECOMIL unit, and only ... to stabilize the tactical situation so that (the ECOMIL forces) can restart their mission."

The first order of business for the ECOMIL troops will be to secure the port to facilitate safe transit of humanitarian goods. A U.N. World Food Program ship carrying fuel oil and food aid is in the region, Schwartz said. Any assistance the Americans provide will solely be to ensure the success of ECOMIL's mission, Acting Assistant Defense Secretary Lawrence Di Rita said during the briefing with Schwartz.

"The objective is to let the Nigerian forces continue with stabilizing key areas of the city that are needed for the reinstatement of humanitarian operations," Di Rita said.



## Open house

Today

All day long!

Come see our studios and meet the staff at your AFN.

## Anti-swimmer Dolphins Ready to Defend Gulf

By Lt. j.g. Josh Frey, U.S. Naval Central Forces Central Command/Commander, 5th Fleet Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain (NNS) — With terrorist attacks like that against USS Cole (DDG 67) in October 2000 still a very real possibility, the U.S. Navy has a new ally in the global war on terrorism — the Mk 6 anti-swimmer dolphin system.

Much more than your typical Sea World entertainers, these dolphins are dedicated Navy Sailors, standing watch over Arabian Gulf ports and deterring uninvited guests seeking to harm ships and ports. With swimmer defense experience dating back to Vietnam, the Navy's Mk 6 dolphins are ready to deploy any time, anywhere.

"It is reassuring to know that we can put our anti-swimmer dolphins where we need them rapidly and successfully, in order to protect our Sailors, ships and high value assets," said Lt. Cmdr. Martin Anderson, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command's Special Operations branch officer. "These dolphins and their handlers provide a valuable capability, by guarding U.S. and coalition ships and piers in the waters of not only the Arabian Gulf, but throughout 5th Fleet waters."

Taking over from the Sea Lion Shallow Water Intruder Detection System, the dolphins, operated by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit Three, provide significant operational force protection capabilities to the 5th Fleet theater. The Navy's selection of bottlenose dolphins and California sea lions for its operational systems is based on a variety of factors, one of the most important of which is their ability to work comfortably and effectively in a wide variety of environments.

"They're able to adapt rapidly, and their biological sonar is very effective," said Naval Space and Warfare (SPAWAR) representative, Mark Yates, referring to the mammals' special natural adaptations, such as an efficient hydrodynamic shape, and a very



Mark Six swimmer defense dolphins are deployed to the Arabian Gulf to provide operational force protection capabilities for Navy ships, piers and other high-value assets as part of the global war on terrorism. The dolphins are trained to detect, locate and mark threat swimmers and divers attempting to commit terrorist attacks.

effective natural sonar system that can transmit and receive sound waves.

"The adaptations make the animals valuable partners in detecting threat swimmers," added STS1 Dan Cook of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 3. "Hardware-based systems have limitations that the dolphins make up for naturally, which helps them discriminate between objects and swimmers. This is particularly helpful in high noise environments, such as harbors and bays."

The previous deployment to 5th Fleet by the sea lions gave the EOD team valuable experience and knowledge of marine mammal systems.

"We used the data from the sea lions, as well as data from previous marine mammal deployments to the Texas Gulf Coast, to develop climate controlled facilities for the mammals and enhance warm water operations," explained SPAWAR veterinarian Cynthia Smith. "They have quickly acclimated to operate effectively."

## News Briefs

### Mineo Bicycle Maintenance and Registration

Bring your family's bicycles out for registration and maintenance. The first 25 kids receive a free safety light.

On Aug. 29 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Mineo Security building.

Performed free of charge by Security Bike Patrol.

### Job Opening

Preteens/Teens - want to work for some easy cash? We need help in delivering the Preview MWR newsletter to all of our housing areas. Call 624-6435 to find out more. Also MWR is looking for a Youth Sports coordinator. Call Kim Mosco at 624-3712 or 3715.

### Meal Tickets

School lunch tickets can now be purchased at the Navy exchange customer service or NEX Personalized Services at NAS II. Prices are as follows: high school, \$2.10; elementary, \$1.95; reduced 40 cents.

### Calling All Homeschoolers

Are you a home schooler? Are you considering home schooling? Come to our kick-off meeting for home schoolers in Sigonella Support Group on Sept 19. Call Irene at 634-1294 or Erica at 624-1201.

### School Sports Physical

There will be a Sports Physical Clinic for the upcoming school year on Aug. 28. All middle and high school students planning to play sports during the school year can stop by the school cafeteria from 9 a.m. to noon. You can pick up the physical form at the hospital or SAO office and complete prior to clinic. Parents must be present with student unless he/she is already enrolled in teen clinic. No appointments are needed. First come first serve. Call 624-4281/4284.

### Youth Soccer

Soccer season registration starts Aug. 22 until Sept. 5 at the Youth Activity Center. For interested volunteers there will be a meeting Aug. 21 and 28 from 5 to 6 p.m. There will be skills assessment clinics for five to seven year olds, Sept. 3. Eight to 10-year-old clinic will be Sept. 4 and 11 to 14-year-old, Sept. 5. All clinics are from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the NAS I Soccer Field behind the school. Call 624-7315 or 6435.

## THE ENERGY BLOCK

Why are we paying so much for electrical energy? Let's face it, these days everything we use is a mechanical and technical contraption. Once we get used to them, we can't imagine living without them. Air conditioning, heated water, washing machines, dryers, clean air, and clean water; all these conveniences are costing us money! If we don't know how to save energy, we spend our hard earned money feeding the electric company and hurting the environment. The end result is fewer raw materials for our children.

There are steps you should take to make sure you air conditioner, whether it's central air or a room model, runs at peak efficiency. The compressor of your central air conditioner should be located in a cool, shaded place outside. It is important to have your air conditioner checked twice a year to ensure proper operation and efficient electrical use. Your air ducts should be checked for air tightness, and a clean air filter is a must. Your air conditioner also needs to be thoroughly cleaned and properly charged. If it is overcharged, it will reduce operating efficiency and could damage the unit. If it is undercharged it will use energy less efficiently. For room air conditioners, be sure to clean the air filter every month. Dirt that impedes the airflow will not only make them use more energy, it could cause damage to the units. The condenser needs to be professionally cleaned every two years, with the exception of dusty living conditions, which will require them to be cleaned every year. Close all unnecessary openings when the air conditioning is running—windows, doors, fireplace dampers. It helps to use weather stripping and caulking around the outside of doors and windows to prevent the loss of cool air. Air leakage may account for one-third to one-half of your winter heating and summer cooling costs. Use ceiling fans or small fans to help circulate the air in the summer. Turn off lights that you don't need, it saves energy and cuts down on added heat during the summer. Turn your air conditioner off if you leave the house for several days. If you save money on your electric bill then you have more to spend at the shopping center!

\*DID YOU KNOW: You can reduce 40 percent of your air conditioning energy use by shading windows and walls.

\*DID YOU KNOW: If every household in the United States raised the temperature on their air conditioner by six degrees, we'd save the equivalent of 190,000 barrels of oil every day.

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE



By Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff

# Italiana in News

## Motta celebrates its patron saint

From Aug. 23 to 25, a religious festival honoring Santa Anastasia (Saint Anastasia), the city patron saint will take place in the historic center. The Motta community will show its devotion to the saint with processions and holy masses. Complementing the religious festival, fireworks, folklore and music shows will be held in the city *Rioni* (districts).

### Life of Saint Anastasia

According to tradition, Anastasia was a Roman lady of noble descent. She was the daughter of Praetextatus, a noble pagan. Although she grew up as a pagan, she converted to Christianity later in life together with her mother thanks to the teachings of St. Chrysogonus, her spiritual advisor.

When her mother died, Praetextatus forced her to marry a noble Roman, named Publius, who was also a pagan. As Publius realized she was a Christian, and discovered her acts of piety, he confined her to the house. Later on, cruel Publius, who was appointed as the ambassador to the King of Persia, gave orders to an evil man to murder his wife so that he would find her dead upon his return. But Publius died during his journey. Therefore, Anastasia was freed, inherited all his properties and returned to her charity activities. Meanwhile, Emperor Diocletian began a terrible persecution against Christians that also involved St. Chrysogonus who suffered martyrdom in 303 AD.

During one of her extraordinary missions of charity, Anastasia went to Thessalonica where many Christians were under arrest for their faith. Having found that all the prisoners had been butchered, she started weeping loudly. Hence she was brought before the prefect Florus, to whom she confessed she was a Christian.

After several attempts to convince her to give up Jesus' faith, Anastasia was sent to the terrible Emperor Diocletian who was also unsuccessful in exhorting her to abandon her religion.

Eventually, prefect Florus sent her to prison with the intention of starving her. But as the days passed, Anastasia looked healthier instead of getting sick. Florus then thought that the jailer had trans-

gressed his orders to starve her and ordered her to be put on board a ship with 120 idolaters and thieves. The ship was bored with holes and was supposed to sink. The ship soon filled with water, but instead of sinking it miraculously went ashore thanks to the intervention of Saint Theodota.

This miracle worked the conversion of all the idolaters and thieves.

Anastasia was then sent to the island of Palmarola where she was condemned to death, and burned at the stake in December 304 A.D. Her martyred body was first buried in Zara, in Dalmatia. But around the year 460 A.D., under the Emperor Leo, her relics were transferred Constantinople (Istanbul).

### Festival schedule highlights

On Aug. 23, celebrations open with a magnificent wax offering procession beginning at 11:30 a.m. All civilian, religious and military city officials take part in this procession, which starts from *Chiesa Madre* (cathedral) and proceeds through the town's streets.

In the afternoon, historic parades are held at 4:30 p.m.

Among prayers and chants, the procession with the holy relics of St. Anastasia begins at 9:30 p.m. Leaving from the cathedral, it proceeds throughout historic center.

On the second day of the festival (Aug.24), the procession featuring the life-size statue depicting the Santa Anastasia and her relics is repeated at 6:30 p.m. Local authorities and representatives from the city districts offer candles, gifts and flowers to the saint while youngsters of the local parishes and scouts groups gather to sing religious songs. Fireworks close the celebrations at midnight.

On Aug. 25 starting at 7 a.m., cannon shots, firecrackers and peal of bells open the celebrations.

A solemn High Mass in honor of Santa Anastasia is held in piazza Castello at 10:30 a.m. Local civilian and religious authorities and the city districts representatives attend the mass holding up their banners.

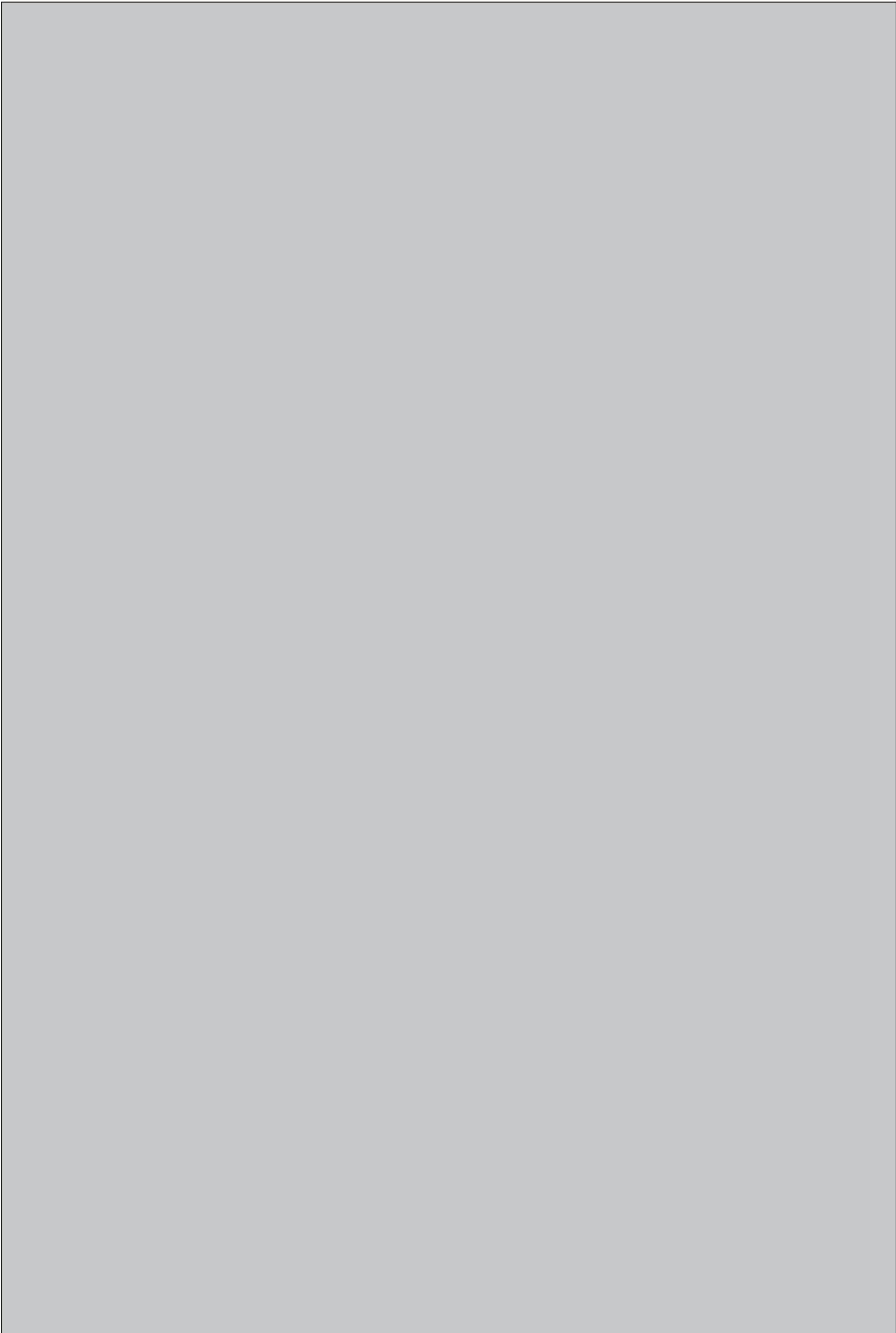
Folklore shows and parades are held in the afternoon starting at 4 and 6:30 p.m.

The festival end with a grand finale of fireworks at midnight.



Picture courtesy of Motta Tourist Office

The three-day religious festival honoring St. Anastasia, the Motta patron saint of Motta, begins on Aug 23. Special masses, celebrations, folklore shows and processions are held in the historic center.

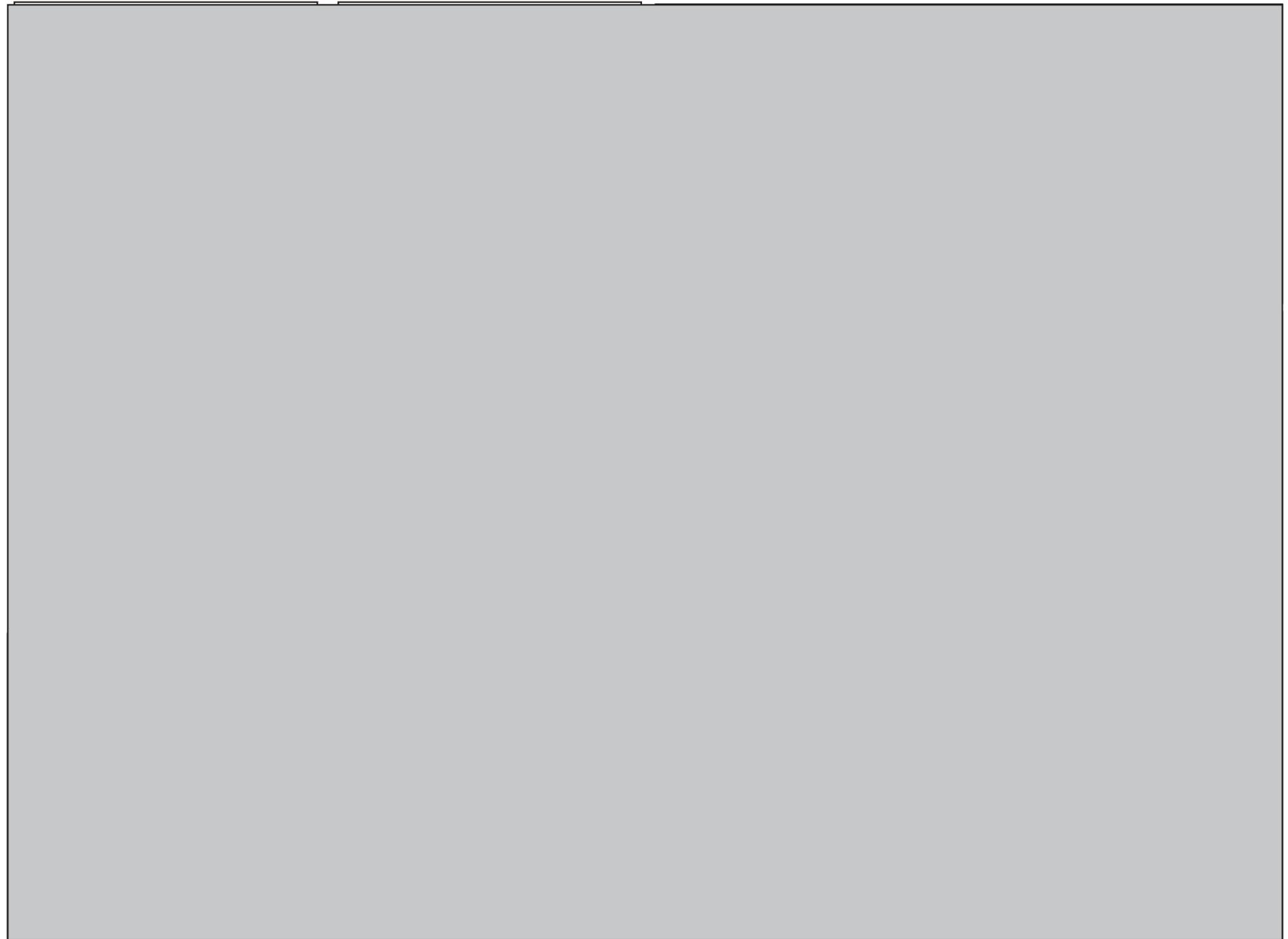


SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August

					22	23
					AFN Open House All day. Everyone is invited.	Eraclea Minoa & Beach ITT Call 624-4396
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Agrigento & the Turkish Steps ITT Call 624-4396	Free Tennis Clinic until Aug. 29 5 to 6:30 p.m. NAS II Courts Call 624-2710		Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing	Youth Sports Physical 9 a.m. to noon Stephen Decatur Cafeteria Call 624-4281	Kindergarten Orientation 10 a.m.	Kayaking Trip to San Vito lo Capo AU Call 624-4271
24	1	2	3	4	5	6
Calascibetta Palio Horseback Riding Festival ITT Call 624-4396	SEPT	Labor Day	First Day of School School dismissed at 11 a.m.	Grandparents' Day Card Making 3:30 to 5 p.m. BLAST	Catania by Night & Wine Tasting ITT Call 624-4396	3rd Annual Open Golf Championships tee off 9 a.m. Il Picciolo Golf Club Individual golf challenge Call 624-2710
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Snorkeling Trip Liberty Call 624-5187	Free Volleyball Clinic until Sept. 12 5 to 6:30 p.m. NAS II Gym Call 624-2710	National Hotdog Day	Intramural Bowling League 6 p.m. TENPINS Call 624-3870	Lentni Market Trip ITT Call 624-4396	Catania History ITT Call 624-4396	Biathlon/Triathlon 7:30 to 8 a.m. NAS II Pool Call 624-4483
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Petralia Soprana & Agrituristic Farm ITT Call 624-4396	Youth Soccer Praticice Begins			Catania Shopping Trip ITT Call 624-4396	Chinese Dine Out Liberty Call 624-5187	Mt. Etna Horse Trek AU Call 624-4271



# Word Find

## State Nicknames

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

GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE  
 HAWKEYE STATE  
 HEART OF DIXIE  
 KEYSTONE STATE  
 LAST FRONTIER  
 LONE STAR STATE  
 MAGNOLIA STATE  
 MOUNTAIN STATE  
 MOUNT RUSHMORE STATE  
 NATURAL STATE  
 NORTHSTAR STATE  
 OLD LINE STATE  
 PALMETTOSTATE  
 PEACE GARDENSTATE  
 PELICAN STATE  
 PINETREE STATE  
 PRAIRIE STATE  
 SUNFLOWER STATE  
 SUNSHINE STATE  
 TARHEEL STATE  
 TREASURE STATE  
 VOLUNTEER STATE  
 WOLVERINE STATE

ALOHA STATE  
 BAY STATE  
 BEEHIVE STATE  
 BLUE GRASS STATE  
 BUCKEYE STATE  
 CENTENNIAL STATE  
 CONSTITUTION STATE  
 CORNHUSKER STATE  
 CROSSROADS OF AMERICA

EMPIRE STATE  
 EMPIRE STATE OF THE SOUTH  
 EQUALITY STATE  
 EVERGREEN STATE  
 FIRST STATE  
 GARDEN STATE  
 GEM STATE  
 GRAND CANYON STATE  
 GRANITE STATE

# Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

## SDS elementary schedule

Class lists will be posted Aug. 29 at school, housing areas and at the NEX.

Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. - Kindergarten Orientation - Multipurpose Room followed by 10:30 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony for the new primary building

Sept. 2 - Orientation Day for Grades 1-5 Parents will accompany students to school School, which dismisses at 11 a.m.

## Join PTO!

The Stephen Decatur Elementary School PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is ready to get the school year off to a great start! Information and membership letters were included in the elementary school packets. Please fill out the membership form and return with your dues as instructed on the form. We are going for 100% participation from parents and teachers, so return your form as soon as you can! Join PTO and be a positive part of your child's Stephen Decatur experience!

## Elementary School T-Shirts for Sale

Look for Stephen Decatur Elementary School T-Shirts! They will be available for sale during the Kindergarten Grand Opening on August 29 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the kindergarten courtyard. Shirts sell for \$10.00 each, and students will be encouraged to wear them every Friday for "School Spirit Day." They will also be available during Orientation Day in the MPR on Tuesday, September 2nd. The sale of school shirts is brought to you by PTO.

Fri. Aug. 22

It's frozen Friday at Take 5. Beat the heat with free popsicles all day while supplies last.

Sat. Aug. 23

Join Adventures Unlimited for a kayaking class on the beach. After the class, enjoy a short paddling experience in the ocean. Kayaking class is required to participate in any AU kayaking trip or to rent a kayak. First come, first served basis. Call AU at x4271/x3718 for more information.

Sun. Aug. 24

Enjoy the beautiful ruins of Eraclea Minoa, and ancient Greek settlement, with ITT. After lunch at a local restaurant, it's time for some fun in the sun at the beach. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Mon. Aug. 25

Celebrate National Toasted Marshmallow Day with a Chubby Bunny Contest. Stuff your mouth with marshmallows for prizes at Take 5 from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.

Join Liberty for some high-paced rounds of Spades at 7 p.m. in the NAS I #170 Barracks. Free to play and win.

BINGO! It's BINGO night at Live Wire at 6:30 p.m. Cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m. Come early for a good seat. Cash prizes every week.

Tues. Aug. 26

It's Italian Dine-Out night with Liberty. Get off base and let Liberty pay for up to 10 euro of your meal. Bring extra euro if you want to eat more. Sign up and pay at Take 5 by 6 p.m. on August 25.

Weds. Aug. 27

Pack up the family and spend a fun-filled day at Ragusa's Water Park. Price includes transportation and park entrance. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Thurs. Aug. 28

Visit Taormina by night (adults only) with ITT. Enjoy the beauty of this wonderful town under the romance of the stars and moonlight. Visit some of the major sites, and then have dinner at one of many wonderful restaurants. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

# TRIVIA

Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier launched the first hot-air balloon in what year?  
 How many moles of neon gas at STP are in a 3.67-L container?  
 What is the most popular breed of dairy cattle in North America?  
 What is the school Harry Potter was about to go to before he knew he was a wizard?  
 How many children did Johann Sebastian Bach have?

(Answers on page 8)

## Movie Connection

AWW's Theater Schedule

### Friday, Aug. 22



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



5:30 p.m.  
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13)



9 p.m.  
American Wedding: American Pie 3 (PG-13) \*\*

### Saturday, Aug. 23



1 p.m.  
Dumb & Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd (PG-13)



3:30 p.m.  
2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)



6:30 p.m.  
Bad Boys 2 (R)

### Sunday, Aug. 24



1 p.m.  
Rugrats Go Wild (G)



3:30 p.m.  
Alex & Emma (PG-13)



6 p.m.  
American Wedding: American Pie 3 (R)

### Monday, Aug. 25



5:30 p.m.  
2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)



8:30 p.m.  
Seabiscuit (PG-13)

Theater Closed Tuesdays  
 Wednesday, Aug. 27



1 p.m.  
Rugrats Go Wild (PG)



5:30 p.m.  
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life (PG-13)



8:30 p.m.  
Bad Boys 2 (R)

### Thursday, Aug. 28



5:30 p.m.  
2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)\*



8:30 p.m.  
American Wedding: American Pie 3 (R)

### Friday, Aug. 29



1 p.m.  
Rugrats Go Wild (PG)



5:30 p.m.  
Hollywood Homicide (PG-13)



8:30 p.m.  
Seabiscuit (PG-13)

# This Week on...

Mon. Aug 25 - 60 Minutes  
 AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Tue. Aug 26 - Movie: Shot In The Heart  
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Wed. Aug 27 - George Lopez  
 AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Thu. Aug 28 - Everybody Loves Raymond  
 AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Fri. Aug 29 - Last Comic Standing  
 AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

**AFN SIGONELLA NEWS NOW AIRS AT 6:50 PM MONDAY - WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY**

**FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S WEBSITE AT [afneurope.net/sigonella/](http://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

## Central Texas College will be opening a branch office at the Sigonella Education Center and offering a variety of classes in October 2003.

Central Texas College has been operating in Europe on a continual basis since 1972. At various times, the college has been conducting academic and Vocational technical degree programs, high school completion programs, remedial education (basic academic skills) programs, non-commissioned officer Development Courses, as well as providing a variety of education support services.

Under the new college contracts, which commenced Aug. 1, Central Texas College offers the following:

### Associate of Applied Science Programs:

- Applied Management and Military Science
- Automotive Technology
- Communications Electronics Technology
- Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement
- Early Childhood Education
- Emergency Medical Technology
- Food Service Management
- Kinesiology
- Paralegal Studies

### High School Completion Program:

This program allows students, to include family members, to earn a high school diploma. Instruction will be provided in all courses necessary to obtain a high school diploma or to pass the High School General Education Development (HS GED) test battery. This program will be delivered via distance learning (on-line) and will be augmented by a local tutor.

Registration: Associate of Applied Science terms are eight weeks in length; there are five terms a year. Registration is completed through the CTC representatives at the Education Center. Central Texas College also offers VOTECH courses through distance education.

The Central Texas College website is [www.ctc.europe.com](http://www.ctc.europe.com)

**Accreditation:** Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

## History-Making Citizenship Ceremony Held Aboard TR

By *JO2(SW) Kathryn Whittenberger, USS  
Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs*

ABOARD USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (NNS)  
—A group of Sailors who had participated in the global war on terrorism became even more patriotic Aug. 8 aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), when they took the oath of citizenship.

A record-breaking 222 Sailors from more than 40 countries and 65 commands, including TR, formed ranks and became naturalized during the ceremony after having their waiting period, usually up to five years, accelerated under an executive order just for military members serving in the global war on terrorism signed last year.

Naturalization is a lengthy process, involving a test on U.S. history, an interview and a background check. The only part of this process these Sailors were exempt from was the waiting period.

The Sailors present were part of the 9,000 requests that have been processed by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) since the order took effect July 3, 2002.

The ceremony began with the presentation of the colors and playing of the National Anthem. Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Rear Adm. David Architzel, a former commanding officer of TR, mentioned how glad he was to be a part of the ceremony.

"All I had to do was be born," he said, referring to his citizenship. He said all of the Sailors standing before him had fought for a country they couldn't even call home yet, and said he was astounded by how much they had to do to prove themselves fit for citizenship.

The Interim District Director, BCIS Phyllis A. Howard, presented the candidates for citizenship, and Director, BCIS Eduardo Aguirre, rose to administer the oath of citizenship.

"Welcoming new citizens is one of the most vital things we do as a nation. It invigorates our national spirit and reinforces the ideals and principles that are the foundation of our nation," he said. Aguirre became a naturalized citizen 33 years ago.

### Trivia Answers

- 1) 1783
- 2) 0.164 moles
- 3) Holstein
- 4) Stonewall High
- 5) 20

C  
M  
Y  
K

## 'Presence With A Purpose' - CNO Explains Fleet Response Plan

By JOC Walter T. Ham IV, Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Va. (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark said the Fleet Response Plan will not only provide the president with a greater range of naval options, but will also change the way ships deploy and ensure a "presence with a purpose."

"Our young men and women serving in uniform need to understand that old Vern Clark is not wed to heel-to-toe six-monthers anymore. By that, I mean the position that I'm pushing is that we should be less interested in presence and more interested in presence with a purpose," the CNO recently told the Navy Times Editorial Board.

Clark added that flexible deployment schedules for more battle groups could provide a more meaningful presence than one battle group on a standard six-month deployment.

"I would rather muster two battle groups for three months and do something really significant internationally, and cooperate with partners in training and so forth, than to just go over and hang out for six months without a purpose and just kind of mark time," Clark said.

According to the CNO, in warfare, where predictability is a liability, a surgable fleet will be a less predictable fleet.

"We've been so predictable," Clark said. "I think we ought to present potential enemies with a lot more uncertainty about where we just might show up."

The CNO added that the Fleet Response Plan will change the way that ships are maintained, keeping them at a higher state of readiness during their surge windows.

"For our people, this will be a different and a better experience for them. It will be better in that living through shipyard is a tough time in the life of a ship," Clark said. "Will it be challenging because it's different? Of course, it will. Change, and figuring out better ways to do things is always challenging, but it also is what our people respond to so well."

The Fleet Response Plan will maximize the Navy's ability to respond and will be the most efficient use of the taxpayer's money, Clark told the editorial board.

"All of our programs, all of our policies, all of our decisions, our approaches to leadership, it has to be good for Sailors, and it's got to be good for the taxpayer."

To read an edited transcript of the CNO's remarks at the Navy Times Editorial Board, go to [www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/speeches/clark-ntedbd.txt](http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/speeches/clark-ntedbd.txt).

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Operations Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cno](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cno).

For more on the CNO, go to [www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/](http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/).

## Reservists help MOMAU 5 with inspection

AN Michelle Hartgraves  
Staff Writer

Although the United States has not laid wartime mines since the Vietnam War, the Navy likes to keep them around just in case the need arises.

To insure the U. S. will be ready in time of war, reservists payed a visit to NAS Sigonella Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five (MOMAU 5), to aid the active duty in their annual Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI).

During their two-week deployment, eight reservists each from MOMAU Four, Albany, N.Y. and MOMAU Three from Earle, New Jersey, came to lend a helping hand in the inspection.

Already qualified earning the explosive handling certificate, the reservists were happy to work side by side with MOMAU Five.

"I liked working with them," MM1 Brian Atchinson said. "They are good people, however it



Photo by JCSN Steve Weaner

A Sailor inspects an MK-82 bomb body during Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five's (MOMAU 5) mine readiness certification inspection. He is a reservist assigned to Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Three (MOMAU 3).



Photo by JCSN Steve Weaner

Sailors assigned to MOMAU 3, move a MK-83 bomb body.

takes practice to be acclimated with working side by side with active duty."

Week one consisted of training, weapon integration and housekeeping to prep for the inspection.

"The weapon system is set up like an assembly line," Atchinson explained. "A variety of components make up a system. Putting together mines is like putting together a car but with less parts."

Inspectors from Commander, Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG), from Corpus Christi, Texas MOMAU's parent command, came the second week

to inspect mine building skills.

"We had to demonstrate that we could safely and accurately build a quality weapon. Safety was the biggest part of the inspection," MM2 Tracey Hays said. COMOMAG then looked for ways to make the process safer and quicker, ensuring MOMAU 5 could keep their mission of maintaining underwater mines at the highest state of readiness to support COMNAVEUR and 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet mine warfare operations.

Besides building mines, MOMAU was also critiqued on storage procedures, upkeep of mines, and the supply logistics and operations department. Sail-

ors also made sure they were medically qualified for the job.

"They could have done it without us," Atchinson said. "Adding two reservist units just makes it easier to spread the work around... training on weapons systems reacquaints many of us with the weapons system some of us haven't seen in six months."

During their two-week stay, the reservists were not all work and no play.

"I look forward to coming back in two years," said Hayes. "This is a good experience. I worked with good people who took care of us and never let us get bored during liberty and made sure we got settled in right away."

Security from page 1



Photo by JCSN Steve Weaver

**Members of NASSIG and the Caraninieri stand ready to cut the police line marking the opening of the new security building on NAS I.**

with the Carabinieri. "They're going to be right next door to us, in the same building but the in next room over," he said. "There's going to be better coordination between those two offices so that when there is an issue that involves both DoD servicemembers and Italians, we'll have both entities right there."

As anyone entering the new building would find out, the doors are very hard to pull open, demonstrating that force protection that has been taken into account. "This facility is built on the DoD's latest anti-terrorism and force protection guidance in building construction," said Brinson.

"You'll find the same specifications here that you would in CONUS," said Jones. "It is a very much hardened structure without being overbearing to the eye. You don't really see the hardened aspects of the building until you actually get onboard the building."

"It has safety built into it with force protection with blast walls and windows," said Capt. Ken Bitar, NASSIG executive officer. "This building is giving our security personnel the tools to do their job safely and efficiently in a safe and healthy working environment."

The building gives personnel on NAS I a new place to call home. "The opening of the new security building is a quality of life improvement for the Sailors at the security department and the community as well," Brinson said. Brinson was stationed at NASSIG 10 years ago as an MA2 and worked out of the old building. "To come back now ten years later as the security officer, and to see that building was still standing, and knew that this was coming online, it makes me feel good, so I'm almost positive it makes them feel good. It's a great improvement to the security department and to NASSIG as a whole."

"It gave us an opportunity to combine a number of our divisions into one building," Jones said. The building houses the command investigators, SAWS clinic, Italian liaison interpreters, and the bike patrol unit. "It wraps a lot of stuff into one."

"Pass and ID is going to be much more user friendly in this building," Jones continued. "When it's completed you'll actually be able to walk from outside the base all the way up to this window and not be on the base. It gave us a much more user friendly Pass and ID walk-up window."

All the divisions in the new building will come under one precinct commander. "We're going to wrap all of these

divisions under one chief petty officer as opposed to having different chiefs for each individual division," said Jones.

The new building marks a beginning and an end. "It's the end of a lot of planning and coordinating for the construction of it," Bitar said. "It is the beginning of many folks working now in a 21<sup>st</sup> century complex that is customer service oriented."

VA rep. from page 1

come who are no longer able to work or who are 65 years or older can apply for Disability Pension. There are no deadlines for applying for disability benefits. All money is tax-free.

If you want to further your education, VA also pays benefits to eligible veterans, dependents, reservists and servicemembers while in approved training programs such as the Montgomery GI Bill, Veterans' Educational Assistance Program and the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance.

Children are eligible for these benefits from the age of 18 to 26 years old. Spouses and Reservists have 10 years from the time they are considered eligible. Veterans have 10 years from the date they were released from active duty.

According to Nagler, veterans with disabilities have help when it comes to preparing for, finding or keeping suitable employment according to Nagler. For veterans with serious disabilities, VA offers services to improve their skills to live as independently as possible. Through their programs, veterans can receive needed educational, or on the job training and non-paid work experience. They can also receive voca-

tional counseling, training and supportive rehabilitation.

Whether or not you want to buy or build a home, you can also look to the VA Department for help. They offer guaranteed and refinancing loans and special grants. There is no time limit for a VA home loan except for eligible reservists. Eligibility for reservists expires September 30, 2009.

Certain benefits and services are offered to honor our nation's deceased veterans such as burial in a national cemetery, partial reimbursement of burial expenses,

Presidential Memorial Certificates, burial flags, headstones and markers.

Other benefits provided through the Veteran Affairs Department include dependents and survivors benefits, death pension, civilian health and medical programs, health care services and life insurance.

Each VA benefit has its own eligibility requirements. For more information on benefits that you can apply for, call 1-800-827-1000 or check out the website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). To apply for compensation, pension or vocational rehabilitation benefits go to <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov>



MICROS from page 1

were sitting in front of it. Again, because we're so undermanned, it's working smarter."

**M**ICROS has dealt with the worm that has been squirming its way around the Internet. "It has not infected our machines because we've got our anti-viruses up to date," Brandenburg said. "We've had several customers at home come to us for assistance." Brandenburg said the worm has made its way into private home computers in the Maranai and Mineo housing complexes. "Mineo apparently got it bad. What it does is makes the machine shut down in 30 seconds making them unable to download the patch. So we give them instructions, and we give them the patch."

There is a good working relationship in the department. "When I stepped foot in here and I had seen how they worked, I realized that these are guys that I wanted to work with be-



Photo by JDSN Steve Weaver

**A member of MICROS speaks with a customer over the phone in the MICROS Department. The MICROS Department works on an average of 25 to 30 trouble calls each day. The tasks MICROS works on include life cycle management (replacement of old computers), software upgrades, maintenance, and hardware repairs. The mainstay of the department is the Naval Aviation Logistics Command Management Information System, or NALCOMIS.**

*"We really do want people to be able to do their job. Computers aren't a science, and we don't have the tools to just plug it into something and find what's wrong like you would a car."*

IT 3 Larry Nielsen

cause they know they're stuff and they have respect in what they do," said Lyznick. "You don't have to tell them twice they just go out and do it. Everyone's willing to help."

"We've lost so many people and everyone has just really put forth this effort," said IT1 Lisa Averil, MICROS leading petty officer. "Everyone's really just working hard. They're working long hours. If something needs to be done, everybody will do it. It's not like it was before where everyone had a specific job, now everyone is taking care of everything."

The department urges those waiting on computer problems to be patient. "We have your well-being in our hands, but we can't be everywhere at one time so we ask them to be patient and we'll get to them as soon as possible," said IT3 Larry Nielsen. "We really do want people to be able to do their job. Computers aren't a science, and we don't have the tools to just plug it into something and find what's wrong like you would a car. Everything that we do is troubleshooting and trying to figure out what's wrong. We do appreciate those people that have put up with us and had a lot of patience."

Most of their customers appreciate them. "There are times that customers will pick up the phone and call our commanding officer at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (COMSTA)," said Brandenburg. "It happened on a couple of occasions at AIMD. They were so impressed with our ability to fix the problem or upgrade their machine. If your computers are running smoothly at work, we're doing our job well."

So if you think your computer at work is plagued by a gremlin, count on the experts at MICROS to find the gremlin and turn it back to a fluffy mogwai.

# New people on base can benefit from gift tips

## Shopping sprees bring treasures to those far away

Cmdr. Lissa Wohltmann  
Staff Writer

Sending gifts to more than a half-dozen time zones away is not allocated just for Christmas and birthdays anymore. Instead, people on base send a bit of their temporary home back to America; their permanent home.

YN3 Syretta Varice is one Sailor who bought authentic Italian leather heels as a present for her mother who lives near Oklahoma City. Of course her mother loved the exquisitely stylish shoes and was anxious to wear them, Varice said. Unfortunately for this mom, the shoes didn't fit, therefore, she was forced to mail them back to her daughter. As it so happened, though, they fit Varice perfectly, so she just "had to keep them," Varice acknowledged.

It wasn't a big sacrifice, though.

"I am the shoe fanatic," she admitted about her fervor for footwear.

Another shopping enthusiast on base also wanted to send something uniquely Italian for her cousin's upcoming marriage. Tara Campanella didn't want to give the typical toaster for a wedding gift, but wanted something her cousin would always cherish. So, Campanella voyaged on a shopping extravaganza to Caltagirone to purchase some of its highly renowned ceramics. She had a slight dilemma, though. Due to an inordinate amount of choices in this city of ceramic specialties,

Campanella couldn't decide which hand-made keepsake to buy. After passing by a plethora of stores selling colorful tiles, replicas of Moor heads, beautifully hand-painted spoon rests, bowls, pitchers and plates, as well as the symbol of Sicily, known as Trinacria, she settled on a hand-crafted oil and vinegar arrangement. Painted on it was a vibrant, multicolored replica of the sun. Since Sicily is known as the island of the sun, her gift was quite apropos.

"It's dangerous for me to live here, because I love shopping," she conceded about living on this island of caprice. "It's my addiction (but) it's a safe addiction" as opposed to drugs or alcohol. Fortunately for her, she no longer lives only on her husband's salary.

"Now I can afford my trips," she laughed.

One couple visited Sicily under one pretense yet found themselves on an extemporaneous super-shopping splurge.

"I think I died and went to heaven," Barbara O'Neil said about actually getting to the island as well as all the great bargains she found.

Although she and her husband, Barry O'Neil, planned for weeks on a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Rota, Spain, their space A flight was altered only days before the big trip. The O'Neils could have simply cancelled. Instead, they took a chance on a new adventure. The O'Neils were overjoyed things worked out as they did.

"Everything fell into place," she said about the room reservation, automobile availability and this particular precious medal shopping escapade. The O'Neils heard the scuttlebutt about Lentini, the town known for its unbelievably excellent bargains on jewelry. Instead of buying high quality white and yellow gold to send back to friends and family in the States, Barbara O'Neil decided to buy some anniversary gifts for herself.

One item that people can't buy in America is something that Linda Creel collects for herself as well as for friends and family. These are called kinder

eggs, or *kinder sorpresa*, which literally means, kinder surprise.

"Kinder eggs are sold in every country but Africa and U.S.," she said. "People buy them every chance they get."

These hollow chocolate eggs are wrapped in foil.

"You break the egg open and inside is a capsule," she explained. Inside the capsule is a little toy to be assembled. The directions are included, however, one might have a bit of difficulty reading them since they are not written in English. "It's a very big thing," Creel explained about these eggs. "Adults love them" as much as children.

Since they are relatively inexpensive, people will buy dozens of eggs to give as small gifts or just to collect, she asserted.

There are so many other uniquely Sicilian gifts to buy on this island that one needn't spend an overabundance of time combing the area for something with a Sicilian flair.

When you finally find that perfect gift, take caution upon sending it through the mail. Use plenty of bubble-wrap or other types of cushioning material. Just placing a "fragile" sticker on the outside of a box hoping mail personnel will treat it as a delicate item, won't work. If you have any doubt your item will break, just keep wrapping it until those doubts disappear. Of course if you end up wrapping a small cup in 72 inches of newspaper, you may want to talk to the post office people for advice; they will be glad to help.



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver

A plethora of shopping destinations can be seen in the wonderful city of Catania.

C M Y K

# The Endearing Dog Culture of Italy

**AMCS Robin Wallace**  
Contributing Writer

In my job as Assistant Reserve Liaison, I travel to the local airport several times a week to pick up incoming reservists and I always enjoy the dogs at the airport.

At first I thought the Italians just liked to take their dogs along but it wasn't long before I realized the dogs belonged to the people they were picking up at the airport. It's a thrill to watch as the people file out of the baggage area, and then the dogs spot their master. They just lose it. . . . . from absolute uncontrolled tail wagging that gyrates all the way to the nose to nervous rapid barking as to say "look over here!" "Can't you see me?"

Who knows what goes on in a dog's mind when their master goes on a trip, "Did he die?" How else can you explain the pure euphoria they go through during this reunion?

Some folks carry their dogs on the plane and release them on the concourse after they have picked up their bags. This time the people lose it. The only thing better than a dog is grandchildren. The dogs at the airport are a real treat, a showstopper. Everyone has to stop, pet the



Illustration by AMCS Robin Wallace

dog and ask, "what's her name?" Then you must hear all about their dog.

As I stated before, they like to take their dogs along wherever they go. I have seen big dogs on little motor scooters and little dogs on Harleys. I have seen tiny cars with a family of four in the front seat and two huge dogs in the back.

Up in Naples, it's nothing to see a dog with its master at a nice restaurant. No, these are not leader dogs for the Blind, these are your simple family pets. There's no problem here, these dogs are very well behaved and they don't beg at the table and they don't have "accidents" either. Obviously the Italians spend hours and hours training these dogs, which explains the discipline and dedication you see every day.

Several months ago we had a two star Admiral and a Rear Admiral (Sel.) visit NAS Sigonella, so we took these high ranking folks to dinner at this plush five star Sicilian restaurant. There we were, a couple of flag officers, two captains, several commanders and a hand full of chiefs at this huge immaculate table set with fancy linens, the best china and I felt something brush against my leg under the table. I could tell it was warm, furry and moving slowly. Yep, there he was, the family dog, a very old Shih-Tzu under the table. After all we were in his home and he always sat under the table. I had to point him out to Cmdr. Harry DeLoach who was sitting next to me and he was not surprised. About a month later I was talking to the rear admiral(Sel.) and I told him about the dog, and he said he wished I had said something at the time, because he felt something against his leg too, but he was afraid to look. He said if he had known it was a dog he would like to have had the opportunity to pet him, after all he had just met the other family members out in the kitchen.

I have seen a few restaurants and department stores with a sticker on the front door that shows a dog with the international "no" symbol superimposed over the silhouette, but I think they are fighting a losing battle.

The dog culture we are experiencing now is new and it's expanding. I think it all started with an Italian version of "take your dog to work day" a few years ago and it ballooned from there. You talk to senior Italians and they will tell you it wasn't this way 25 years ago and they don't want it to go back the way it was; It seems all the Italians love their dogs and their neighbor's dog too!

Remember, dogs are just like children that never grow up and just like children, they will embarrass you and make you proud at the same time.