

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 50

Dec. 19, 2003

2003 Year in Review



photo by JO3 Steve Weaver



photo by JO3 Steve Weaver



photo by JO3 Steve Weaver

(Top) The motorcade of hearses carrying our fallen friends of HC-4 enroute to the flightline. Cmdr. Kevin Biachi, Lt. Peter Ober, AM1(AW/NAC) Brian Gibson and AE3 Samuel Cox were killed when their MH-53E Sea Dragon crashed on July 16. (Above) NAS Sigonella's Stephen Decatur School NJROTC color guard consisting of Kristin Nagy, Laura Corey, Bobby Canipe, Natalie Felia, and Larkin Lader come to a halt beside the monument marking the spot where the armistice was signed between Italy and the Allies in Cassibile, Sicily, on Sept. 8, 1943. (Right) NAS Sigonella's color guard stand at attention at a Patriot's Day ceremony remembering the events of Sept. 11, 2001.



Direct Line

Capt. T.L. Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

Happy Holidays!

It has been a fantastic, productive year for us at NASSIG. The recapitalization program is in full swing making our base a better place to live and work. We are taking pride in our community appearance with our frequent Sigonella Pride Days. We are also more involved with the local public through numerous projects and special events. What a great way to show our Italian hosts that we want to be a part of the culture.

To my fellow Shipmates and their families, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season. I know that some of us will be taking leave back to the States while others are staying back to man the shop. Enjoy your leave! You deserve it. You have worked hard this year and I appreciate your devotion to duty and commitment to excellence. To the crew that will be spending the holidays in Sicily, Buon Natale! What a wonderful place to be during the holiday season. Please take advantage of the traditions and festive spirit of our local Sicilian hosts, and if you can return the favor by inviting our Italian friends to enjoy our American customs, I can guarantee they'd love to celebrate the season with you.

To our local national employees and friends, ai nostri dipendentati amici italiani. Vorrei porgervi un augurio personale di Buone Feste ed un ringraziamento per il vostro lavoro. Voi costituite una grande risorsa per la Marina americana, per la Base di Sigonella e per il vostro reparto. Fornendo preziosi consigli al personale della Marina statunitense su come gestire al meglio le situazioni lavorative, garantite la continuità del funzionamento del dipartimento al quale siete assegnati.

When 2004 rolls around, we will be looking forward to the challenges and tasks ahead of us, which includes further transformation in Europe, ongoing budget requirements and commitments and base reconstruction. This spring we will see a new chapel, community building and administration building on NAS I. With that, we'll also see more parking! Thanks for all of your patience over this year with all of the construction.

As you know, we are the "Hub of the Med." As such, we have a vital job keeping our forces afloat and on the ground equipped to do their jobs. We have a responsibility to keep ourselves ready and able to do the job that we may be called to do.

Be safe and Happy Holidays!

The Pulse

Don't Let Spirits Sour Your Holiday

Lt. Cmdr. Bryn Reina, MC, USN

The Holidays can be a time of celebration, a time of stress, and a time of recalling good and bad memories, all of which can lead to excess drinking. Spirits (alcoholic beverages) are often a part of the Holidays for various reasons, but, if one is not careful, alcohol can lead to depression, accidents, domestic violence, suicide, and homicide.

Many of you have heard statistics on alcohol related problems before. Instead of reviewing those, I'm going to share with you some myths about alcohol from patients treated for depression, anxiety, and sexual dysfunction.

1. Drinking alcohol before bed will help me sleep - FALSE. Alcohol may initially make you tired and fall asleep, but it interferes with your stage 4 (deep sleep). This causes you to wake up in the middle of the night or early morning. In fact, if you are a regular or heavy drinker of alcohol and quit drinking, this interruption in sleep can last for months after you quit. It will eventually improve, but it can be

an annoyance for quite some time.

2. Alcohol helps me feel happy and improves my mood - FALSE. One may feel a "buzz" initially from alcohol, but it is a depressant and can cause depression that cannot be fully treated until a person stops drinking entirely. It also makes depression and anxiety worse.

3. I can wait 1-2 hours after drinking and be fine to drive - FALSE. If you drink ANY amount of alcohol, you should NOT be driving. Alcohol in any amount decreases attention, affects judgment, and reaction time. As you begin to sober up, you may not feel drunk, but research has shown that people still have significant cognitive deficits, including problems with spatial reasoning, planning, and ability to control behavior.

Contrary to folklore, if you're drunk and in an accident, you do NOT escape injury. In fact, you are more likely to be severely injured in an automobile accident and you double your risk of dying. \$51 billion are spent a year in treating people in alcohol-related car accidents.

4. Alcohol isn't fattening/I vomit after drinking, so it is not causing weight gain - FALSE. Alcohol has significant fat. In fact, one study showed that infrequent, but heavy drinkers (binge drinkers) had more abdominal fat than nondrinkers or light drinkers and also had a higher risk of heart disease. Drinking a glass of red wine 3 nights a week may be beneficial in preventing heart disease, but heavier drinking, even infrequently is not. Want to lose weight this Holiday season? Try decreasing or cutting out alcohol.

5. I'm having trouble with my memory, but alcohol can't be the cause - FALSE. A recent study of 736 people found that a person's daily, short-term memory (where did I put those car keys?) is affected in heavy drinkers as opposed to light drinkers. Even those who drank 10 drinks a week showed ongoing problems with short-term memory. There is evidence these effects may be lasting. (Hard to pass that advancement exam when you can't remember so well.) Besides effects on memory, alcohol af-

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CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

Dec. 8 - Dec. 14

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 24
- Traffic accident with injuries - 3
- Car break-ins - 0
- DUI - 2
- DUI's 2003 - 54
- DUI's 2002 - 35

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From the PAO...

Buon Natale Sigonella!

The Signature staff and I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We appreciate your readership, comments and suggestions. Next year we will be continuing to provide you with YOUR community newspaper. Please send us your special events to be included in the Community Calendar. As always, feel free to send us a note, email or phone call so we can improve the way we give you the base news, information and events.

The staff will be taking a break so the next edition of The Signature will be on Jan. 9th. If you have any item (organization meeting, bake sale, etc.) you wish to include, please send it to us by Jan. 2.

Again, thank you for your readership and Happy Holidays!

Drinking...it's your call!

By Lt. Steve Curry, PAO
Its About Choice

It's your choice; in today's Navy it's OK to drink if you drink responsibly and its OK not to drink. If you choose to drink remember, you are responsible for the effect alcohol has on you. Get the Right Spirit. It's your responsibility. It's your Navy.

The Facts about Alcohol

Not only does alcohol use impair memory, reflexes and the ability to make sound decisions; it destroys careers, relationships, families, and lives. Alcohol is a substance of abuse and a future killer. Don't you be a victim.

Where do you fit in?

Serving proudly in the United States Navy or serving time for an alcohol related crime. A significant percentage of crimes such as motor vehicle crashes, rapes, murder, child abuse, child sexual abuse, robbery, burglary and larceny are alcohol related. How do you want to serve? Serve with the winning side by choosing a healthy lifestyle with a future.

Right Spirit

Right Spirit is not prohibition. If you choose to drink, it requires you do it in a responsible manner.

Home for the Holidays

While home on leave you may encounter old friends who offer you alcohol or the opportunity to go out drinking. Don't jeopardize your future by making the wrong choice. Drink responsibly. Remember! Your success in life and your success in the Navy depend on you making the right choice.

Leave and Liberty during the holidays!

If you find yourself in a situation where you have to make a conscious decision about drinking remember this: In 2002, 4,454 Sailors were in involved in an alcohol related incident, 1,124

were involved in a DUI/DWI and 20 were alcohol related motor vehicle fatalities. These Sailors found themselves in situations where they made the wrong choice. Don't make the wrong choice. It is simply not worth it!

Use your refusal skills and good judgement!

Making the right decisions now will have positive impact on the rest of your life. When you go home for the holidays you may encounter old friends who are uncomfortable with the new and confident person you are. You may feel pressured to drink in order to be cool, fit in and to show off your new found independence. Make the right choice. Drink responsibly or don't drink at all.

The more you drink the more trouble you have!

One of the best ways to ruin the Holidays is with alcohol. The more heavily you drink the greater the potential for problems at home, at work, with friends, and even with strangers.

Alcohol, the great anti-health!

Too much alcohol may cause social and psychological problems, cirrhosis of the liver, inflammation of the pancreas, and damage to the brain and heart. Heavy drinkers also are a risk of malnutrition because alcohol contains calories that may substitute calories found in nutritious foods. If you choose to drink do it responsibly and in moderation. Be sure to eat!

To drink or not to drink!

According to research scientists, the following people should NEVER drink:

- Athletes striving for peak performance;

- Pregnant women;
- Anyone with a family history of alcoholism;
- Workers in jobs affecting public safety;
- Workers in jobs requiring thought;
- Anyone who drives.

All drinks are created equal!

A standard serving of beer, wine and liquor each contains the same amount of alcohol and each has the same amount of risk. Some people think there is no difference between a wine cooler or a beer and a soft drink. Others think there is less alcohol in a wine cooler or a beer than in other alcoholic beverages.

There is alcohol in those drinks!

A lot of people think there is less risk in drinking beer or wine than in drinking liquor. They may have heard that the percentage of alcohol is lower in beer (around 5 percent) and wine (12 percent) than in liquor (usually 40 to 50 percent).

They may not know that beer, wine and liquor are also usually served in difference sizes (12 ounces for beer; 5 ounces for wine; and 1 1/2 ounces of 80 proof liquor). So it works out that each one has the same amount of alcohol. It's just more diluted in beer and wine than in liquor. Beer, wine, and liquor have the same effect if a person drinks them in a standard size serving and at the same rate.

Happy Holidays Sigonella ... have fun but be safe!

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)

United Pentecostal Church, International
Sunday 12 p.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.

Seasons greetings

By Chaplain Thom Dansak Command Chaplain

There is no holiday season quite like the Christmas Season. Almost everywhere you look, there are reminders of this special time of the year. Back home, some stores began to bombard us with Santas, Christmas lights and trees, and other reminders of this holiday soon after Halloween! Radio and TV are filling with reminders of the holiday—the music, the advertisements—much of it deals with Christmas!

There is no holiday season quite like the Christmas Season. I can think of no other time when the thoughts of most of us turn so deeply towards our families and friends. Cards, letters, phone calls, gift giving, visits, reunions—they seem to make the season a season of true love and friendship!

There is no holiday season quite like the Christmas Season. People are so very generous! The religious meaning to the holiday

season inspires us to go beyond our usual level of involvement. Many Sailors and family members visited and brought gifts to senior citizens. Many took gifts and had parties for underprivileged kids. Yes, so many of our Sailors and families got involved. What generosity!

There is no holiday season quite like the Christmas Season. So many will attend church services. They might not attend frequently, but they know the truth: Christmas has something to do with religion and our faith in a great and loving God. That God now asks us and enables us to love each other.

All of the Chaplains assigned to Sigonella pray that God would bless each and every one of you with warm feelings of friendship and with family love and unity during this very sacred season. To all of you—Merry Christmas! May the spirit of Christmas joy touch each of you, your families and your friends in a special way. May the message of love and peace that gives this time of the year its deepest meaning be felt in your lives! God bless you all! Happy Holidays!

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NAVY NEWS

2003 Holiday Message from the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England



During this joyful season, all members of the Navy/Marine Corps team are a beacon of hope and freedom for people around the world. Your service is the gift of liberty that is now being shared in parts of the world that have never seen such a promising future.

Each of us is blessed to live in a land where people of all faiths, ethnic backgrounds and cultures can celebrate holidays of their choosing whenever they may occur throughout the year. With this blessing, however, comes a responsibility. Our commander-in-chief clearly understands that our nation plays a unique role in the world. With great clarity of vision and unwavering resolve, president bush has expressed our responsibility this way, "the advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country...we believe that liberty is the design of nature; we believe that liberty is the direction of history.

We believe that freedom is the direction of history. We believe that human fulfillment and excellence come in the responsible exercise of liberty.

And we believe that freedom - the freedom we prize - is not for us alone, it is the right and the capacity of all mankind."

To per serve and to give the gift of liberty is why brave men and women wear the cloth of our nation. The greatest gift if not given in a box and wrapped with a bow. Rather, it is service to others. Our citizens, our national leaders and people across the globe cherish this gift from you.

Hopefully, many of you will be home with family and friends for the holidays. Enjoy your time together and be safe. If you can't be home, please know that you are foremost in our thoughts and prayers, and we are thankful for your service in distant places.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays! Our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your magnificent gift of liberty and hope. May god bless you, your families, and loved ones during this special season and in the year to come, and may god continue to bless America.

PTS Expands, Includes First Term CREO Group 2 Sailors

From Navy Personnel Command Communications

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Starting January 2004, all first-term, Career Reenlistment Objectives (CREO) Group 2 sailors must request reenlistment authorization from the Navy Personnel Command under the Perform to Serve (PTS) Program.

PTS was implemented in February 2003 for all first-term CREO Group 3 Sailors. Next month, PTS will be implemented for all first-term CREO Group 2, as well, so that CREO Group 2 and 3 Sailors with End of Active Obligated Service (EAOS) contracts in February 2004 or beyond, regardless of reenlistment intentions, will be required to submit PTS applications.

"The addition of the CREO Group 2 ratings is the latest piece in the Navy's phased approach to shape the force, and will provide more flexibility and quality distribution by moving Sailors from overmanned ratings to undermanned ratings," said Capt. Jim Gigliotti, director of Navy Personnel Command's Center for Career Development.

The following first-term CREO Group 2 Sailors are not affected by this new requirement:

- Sailors who are already under orders.
- Sailors with an approved conversion package

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Rushlow here tonight!



Tonight Dec. 19
8 p.m. near Jox.

Autograph session after
the show in Jox.

New Per Diem Benefits Help Families Visit Injured Sailors, Marines

By Doris Ryan, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — New benefits added to the per diem regulations in October 2003 allow the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) to provide financial assistance for up to two non-military family members who are traveling to be with a hospitalized Sailor or Marine. Per diem covers the daily allowance for travel, lodging and meals.

"Recent additions to the joint federal travel regulation (JFTR) allow BUMED to reimburse parents or other family members traveling to a hospital to visit a sick or injured Sailor or Marine," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Douglas N. Elsesser, program manager for Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator at BUMED. "The specific criteria is outlined in the JFTR."

When the JFTR was established, it provided per diem to active-duty military health care beneficiaries traveling greater than 100 miles each way from home for special medical care not available locally. JFTR currently covers costs up to the established per diem level to the non-active duty beneficiary and one other person, explained Elsesser.

Two new benefits were added to the JFTR in October. The first covers parents or other close family members, who are not normally eligible for the military health care program, to receive per diem.

The Energy Block

Are you leaving the area? Going home on leave? Please turn off all gas lines and ask a neighbor to ck on your house from time to time. Coming home to a spoiled refrigerator or freezer is not a good welcome home. Lets try to plan ahead and avoid the accidents that can be avoided. Ever think about how bright the lights are on the track field at the school, the field at NAS1, Mineo, or Marini. Well the poles have 4 to 6 bulbs at 2000watts each. The Ball field on NAS1 has 50 lights. That's 100,000 watts or 100-kilo watts. In monetary terms that is \$9.00 an hr. If left on all day that is \$216.00. If these same 50 lights were left on 24 hrs a day all year round it would cost us \$78,840. With a life expectancy of 5000hrs or a little over 6 months these bulbs are in the price range of \$200.00 a pop.

Christmas is here. I did not believe the pilots who swore to me that they saw Santa in Mineo flying in to the air terminal the other day. I loaded the kids into the car and sure enough there on the roof was a 10-foot Santa approx. 8 foot in circumference being pulled by 2 enormous reindeers. The house a washed in reds and greens, blues and oranges was an absolute winter land without the snow. Still I felt good about the lights that I had put up and the new 1.5-watt per 100 LED bulbs that we purchased. Not saying that at a certain times we should forget the holiday cheers but folks at 2:30 in the morning if someone is driving around looking at your house lights he is probably casing the place.

There was once a guy who bought a tree and back in the days that silver tensil was aluminum. So after he got the tree put up and the lights on and the tensil hung he realized some of his bulbs were bad. During his replacement, apparently some of the tensil had become lodged between the bulb and the socket. So you can only imagine his surprise when he plugged in the lights and his tree started to literally snap crackle and pop causing serious smoke and fire damage to his home.

It is Christmas. So please take a moment, be safe, and "If not in use, Turn it off".

*DID YOU KNOW? The amount of solar radiation that reaches the earth's surface in approximately 3 days equals roughly the energy content of all known supplies of fossil fuels.

Sexual Assault Victim Intervention

SAVI offers a Sexual Assault Hotline staffed with trained Advocates who man the SAVI Hotlines 24/7. The number is 335-642-8312 or 335-606-6146.

COMSTA wins SATCOM facility of the year

by IT1(SW) Osvaldo Meledez

NCTS Sicily was awarded the 2003 Outstanding European Global Information Grid (GIG) Facility Award, DCSC Facility category during the recent Defense Information Systems Agency - Europe Satellite Communications Conference in Garmisch Germany. ETC (SW/AW) Neerhof and ETC (SW) Rogers were on hand to receive this prestigious award; the first-time NCTS Sicily won the category.

According to ETC Neerhof, "this award is the culmination of hard work of the entire SATCOM team. Without teamwork, this award would not have been possible. CWO2 Campbell, IT1 Clem, and the entire SATCOM team put in long hours and hard work to prepare for the DISA Europe Performance Evaluation (PE). Additionally, NCTS Sicily was named 'Best Seen' in the European Theater. The results of this intensive inspection played a major part in our selection."

As a whole, the Navy dominated this year's award selection. In addition to NCTS Sicily's recognition, NCTAMS EURCENT Det Rota Spain placed runner up. In the STEP facility category, NCTAMS EURCENT placed runner up.

NCTS Sicily SATCOM division plays a critical role in NASSIG's communication infrastructure. Using satellite communications services, NCTS provide long-haul data and phone line connectivity within Europe and to the United States.

The NCTS Sicily SATCOM team includes IT3 Broussard, ET3 Corbin, ET3 Forrest, ET3 Howard, ET3 McClure, ET3 Mellor, IT3 O'Neil, ET3 Wood, ET2 Gibson, IT2 Iwaniec, ET2 Koelsler, IT2 Mason, ET2 Niespodziany, ET2 Wheat, IT1 Clem, ET1 Dubas, IT1 Smith, IT1 Sweeney, ETC Neerhof, ETC Rogers, CWO2 Campbell, and CWO2 Pena.

NCTS FCPOA delivers

by IT1(SW) Osvaldo Meledez

Like meals on wheels, the NCTS Sicily First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) delivered Thanksgiving meals to kick off the holiday season in style. They did it by taking care of their own, providing Thanksgiving dinner to over 25 duty personnel at three different sites, two on NAS II and the remote transmitter site at NISCEMI.

Spearheaded by active members of the association and with help from a few of the station's wardrobe members, they provided four turkeys, 30 dishes, desserts, and bread rolls. "I thought it was a great gesture for them to provide us with this wonderful meal. I was not aware that they were doing anything like this. They even fried the turkey here so it wouldn't be cold when it got here," said ET3 Valerie King, who was on duty at NISCEMI.

ITSA Celeste Hudson, one of the many watch standers that benefited from the FCPOA's support added, "Personally, it has made me feel appreciated, it has not only boosted my morale, but that of my watch section." Hudson, a native of Detroit, Michigan and spending her first Thanksgiving away from home went on to add, "It's great to know there are people in today's Navy that are willing look out for others."

Holiday Religious Services At NAS Sigonella

Jewish

FRIDAY, 19 DECEMBER AT NAS 1 CHAPEL: CHANUKAH, 1700 SERVICE FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF CHANUKAH

Catholic

MONDAY, 22 DECEMBER AT NAS 1 CHAPEL: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION, 1600 TO 1700

TUESDAY, 23 DECEMBER AT NAS 1 CHAPEL: 1600 TO 1700 SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION,

WEDNESDAY, 24 DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT MINEO COMMUNITY CENTER: 1645 CATHOLIC CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

AT NAS 1 CHAPEL: 1700 CATHOLIC CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

AT NAS 1 CHAPEL: 2359 CATHOLIC MIDNIGHT MASS

THURSDAY, 25 DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, AT NAS 2 CHAPEL: 0900 CATHOLIC CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

WEDNESDAY, 31 DECEMBER, NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES AT MINEO COMMUNITY CENTER: 1700 CATHOLIC NEW YEAR'S MASS

AT NAS 2 CHAPEL: 1700 CATHOLIC NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

THURSDAY, 1 JANUARY, NEW YEAR'S DAY AT NAS 1 CHAPEL: 0900 CATHOLIC NEW YEAR'S MASS

Protestant

WEDNESDAY, 24 DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT NAS 1 CHAPEL: 1500 PROTESTANT CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

AT MINEO COMMUNITY CENTER: 1800 PROTESTANT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

News Briefs

In-line Hockey

The Sigonella In-line Hockey Club plays every Tue. and Thurs. from 5:30 to 8 p.m. They play pick-up games or against local Italian teams. Anyone interested in playing should join us at the Marini in-line hockey rink. All skill levels are welcome.

Gym Holiday Hours

The holiday hours for both fitness centers are as follows: Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 25 from noon to 6 p.m.; Dec. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Jan. 1 from noon to 6 p.m. and Jan. 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New Year's Bash

Ring in the new year at the Crater Pub and Jox. Doors open at 6 p.m. Free hor d'oeuvres and party favors. The Midnight ball will come down filled with prizes, gift certificates and cash.

Holiday Gift Certificates

Give a friend a DeCa certificate this holiday. Go to the website www.commissaries.com and click on the grocery bag. Anyone can buy them but only authorized shoppers may spend them. Numerous denominations are available

Babysitter Training

The American Red Cross will be conducting two babysitter-training courses during the Christmas break. The first course will be held on Dec. 29 and the second course on Dec 30. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Red Cross.

This course will give participants 11 years and older the safety skills and confidence to be a great babysitter. Call 624-5446 for more information.

Safety Instructors Needed

Safety Department is looking for Motorcycle Safety Instructors. The requirements are as follows, must be a motorcycle rider, have a motorcycle endorsement on your U.S. Driver's License, at least 18 months left at this command and you should have a clean driving record. Call April Stater for more information at 624-5630.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Catania markets opening hours during Christmas season

Make sure you take advantage of extended Catania markets' opening hours during the forthcoming Christmas and New Year period. As in previous years, the vivid *Fera 'o luni* outdoor-market (located in piazza Carlo Alberto) and the *Pescheria* (Fish Market) will also be open on Sundays and will extend their opening hours during weekdays.

Stalls selling food will open continuously from 8 a.m. through 8:30 p.m. on Sundays and the following weekdays: Dec. 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30 and 31. These stalls will then restrict their opening hours (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.) on Dec. 26, Jan. 4 and 6.

As for stalls selling household items, clothes, shoes and a wide variety of things, they will open continuously from 8 a.m. through 8:30 p.m. on Sundays and the following weekdays: Dec. 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30 and 31. Yet, these markets merchants will close all day for the Christmas holidays (Dec. 25 and 26), New Years Day, Jan. 4 and 6 (Epiphany).

Christmas concerts in Taormina

Set the tone for a joyous holiday with the wide variety of Christmas concerts that are traditionally offered in Taormina during the Christmas holidays. These prestigious concerts, unless otherwise indicated, will take place at the *Palazzo dei Congressi*, the Taormina Conference Center that is located in the heart of the town. Here are some of the schedule highlights:

Harlem Gospel Choir: Dec. 20-9 p.m. This world-renowned gospel choir has been performing around the globe since 1986, when Allen Bailey, the

director, was inspired to create the group during a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the famous Cotton Club in Harlem. In 2001, the choir celebrated its 15th birthday with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and, inspired by the Sept. 11 tragedy, began its successful *God Bless America Tour* of Europe and South America. This year, the Choir participated in the "Hope After HIV Tour" with Earvin "Magic" Johnson. It was a featured guest artist at the 57th Eisteddfod International Music Festival in Llangollen, Wales, a featured guest artist at Lyle Lovett's concert at Carnegie Hall and at a private function with Whoopi Goldberg. The choir's "Give Peace A Chance" world tour has been touring the Netherlands, Italy, South America, Ireland, the UK, Canada, Australia and Japan. The group also performed for Nelson Mandela at the Yankee Stadium, for the Pope in Central Park, with the Chieftains in their U.S. tour and appeared with U2 in their video *Rattle And Hum*.

The choir is also strongly committed in raising funds for children's charities throughout the world. Yet, the choir, which is dedicated to enhance a better understanding of the African-American culture and the inspirational music called gospel as it relates to the African-American Christian worship, includes some of the finest singers and musicians from the many black churches in Harlem.

Christmas Concert: Dec. 21 - Aldo Filstad (tenor) 6 p.m. and Anna Moleti (soprano) 9 p.m.

Gospel Times: Dec. 26- 6 p.m.

Hevia: Dec. 27- 9 p.m. Spanish bagpiper and flautist Jose Angel Hevia combines Celtic and traditional Asturian elements in his music. Hevia performs on his own-patented invention, the multi-timbre electronic bagpipe. The peculiarity of this "new" instrument is that it sometimes sounds Spanish while other times like Uilleann pipes. Hevia's band includes bouzouki, *bodhran*, violin, electric guitar, and electronic programming. Hevia's music style is a dizzying blend of Spanish, New Age, Celtic, Middle Eastern, Indian as well as European gypsy rhythms.



Don't miss to enjoy a foot-stomping, hand-clapping show featuring blues, jazz and gospel spirituals in Taormina. The Harlem Gospel Choir will perform at the Palazzo dei Congressi on Saturday Dec. 20 at 9 p.m. This world-renowned Gospel choir, which has been performing around the globe since 1986, is dedicated to enhance a better understanding of the African-American culture and the inspirational music called gospel.

Leipzig Bach Gewandhaus Orchestra: Dec. 28- 9 p.m. A prestigious German orchestra, it continues the great tradition of academic instrumental music. Its predecessors reach back to the time of J.S. Bach. It is named after the concert hall in which it is based, the Gewandhaus (Cloth House).

Nazareth Orchestra: Dec. 29- 9 p.m.

Ensemble Barocco "La Stravaganza" - Dec. 30- 5 p.m. This amazing Baroque music concert will be

held at the Chiesa di Santa Caterina, a mesmerizing 17th century church located in piazza Santa Caterina, a square abutting the highest point of the town's main street, Corso Umberto I. Admission is free.

Glen Miller Orchestra- Jan. 1-9 p.m. The present Glenn Miller Orchestra, which was created in 1956, still continues to play many of the original Miller arrangements. Yet, the band performs more modern day selections in the big-band style boasting a repertoire that currently exceeds 1,700 compositions.

World Youth Orchestra- Jan. 2-9 p.m. and Jan. 3, 2004 - 11:30 a.m. This talented international orchestra is comprised of young musicians coming from conservatories and academies of all five continents. The concert will take place at the Greek Theatre. Admission is free on Jan. 3.

Uri Caine Ensemble - Jan. 3-9 p.m. The concert features renditions of Robert Schumann's Piano Quartet (op. 47) by *La Gata Scienza*, an Italian ensemble using authentic period instruments to recreate the sound and feel of this music at the time it was written (1842).

Mihail Jora Philharmonic Orchestra- Jan 4-9 p.m. This Romanian was founded in 1956 in Bacau and is comprised of 75 musicians.

For more information call *Taormina Arte* at 0942-21142.

Tickets range from €15 to 10 and can be purchased on line at www.ticketone.it or at the following ticket agencies in Catania: *Ticket's* (via G. Leopardi 95) - 095-7225340 and *La Duca Viaggi* (viale Africa 14) - 095-7222295- e-mail ldvpe@nti.it.

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photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo by PRCS (w) Brian Smith

During 2003, Sigonella was visited by many well known and high ranking people these are just a few. (Top left) Actor Gary Sinise greets two young Sigonellans in the base exchange. The United Services Organization (USO) sponsored the visit to Naval Air Station Sigonella where Sinise met with Sailors and family members in the base exchange, the "Take 5" MWR facility, and the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD). Sinise signed autographs, posed for pictures, and thanked the Sailors for their service. (Top right) Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, representative of the 47th Congressional District of California, poses for pictures and talks with Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Harold Little and Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Eduardo Acosta, both assigned to Patrol Squadron Four Five (VP-45), during her visit to Naval Air Station Sigonella. (bottom left) Actor/Writer/Director Robert Duvall gives a pat on the back to the tired daughter of a member of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4), "The Black Stallions" in the squadron hangar. Duvall and actress Luciana Pedraza stopped by NAS Sigonella to meet with Sailors and family members after appearing at the Taormina Film Fest in Sicily where their film "Assassination Tango" was playing. (Bottom right) The Honorable Hansford T. Johnson, Acting Secretary of the Navy, greets shopper Janet Stanick in the base commissary during a recent visit to NAS Sigonella. Mr. Johnson and Raymond F. DuBois, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, visited bases to assess the quality of life of members of the U.S. Navy.





photo by PH2 Damon J. Morz



photo by PH2 Damon J. Morz

(Above) QM1 Brian Proctor examines an inert mortar round in an attempt to identify it during an exercise scenario resembling a terrorist attack on a military camp. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Eight Detachment Four (EOD MOBDET 8, Det. 4) was undergoing their final evaluation problem, a week-long series of scenarios to certify their qualification for performing EOD procedures. (Top right) An MH-53E Sea Dragon assigned to the "Blackhawks" of Helicopter Mine Counter Measures Squadron One Five (HM-15) is offloaded from a U.S. Air Force C-5 Galaxy. (Right) The picturesque Sicilian town of Cessaro with Mt. Etna as the backdrop for a photo safari trip.



photo by JCS Steve Warner





photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo by JCS Steve Weaver

(Above) Members of Naval Air Station Sigonella's Crash, Fire and Rescue tend to a volunteer posing as a victim of a simulated Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) terrorist incident in the NEX parking lot on NAS I of NAS Sigonella. (Left) Mariella Ferrara walks past her subjects during the parade at the start of the annual medieval festival in Motta Sant'Anastasia. (Below) Cmdr. Daizo Kobayashi, assigned to Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit seven (NEPMU 7), uses a microscope to identify an insect in the entomology department at NEPMU 7. Certain species of insects carry different diseases, which NEPMU 7 works to assess and prevent.



photo by JCS Steve Weaver

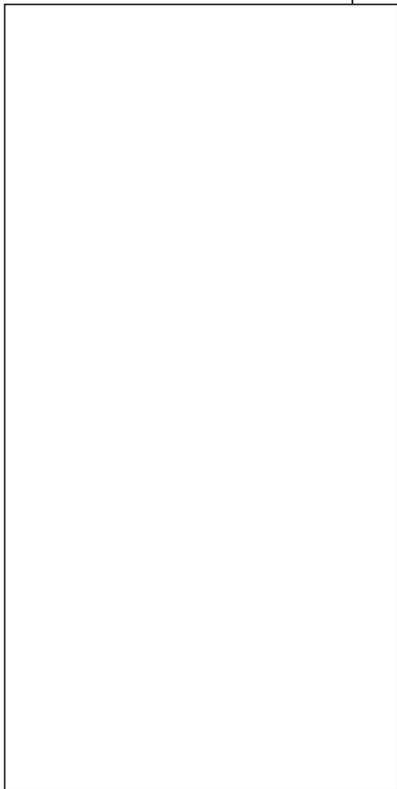




photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo by JCS Steve Weaver

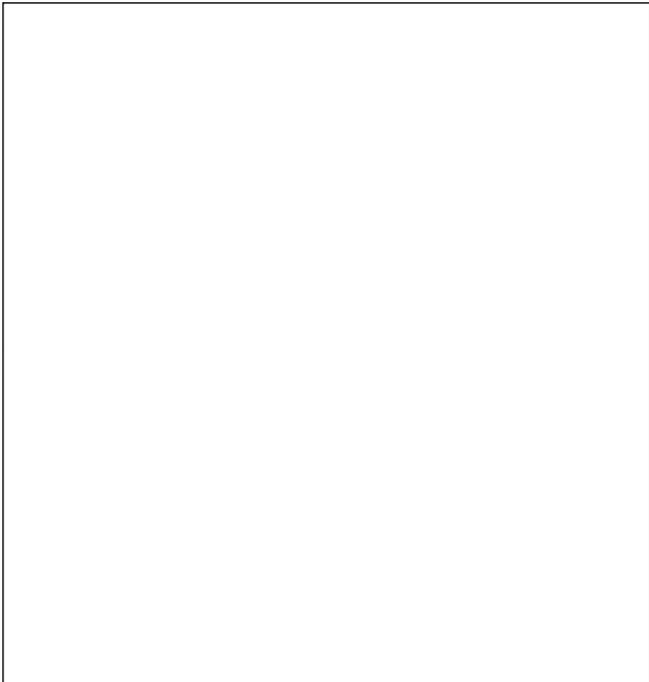


photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo by JCS Steve Weaver

(Top left) UTCN Gary Pearson of Public Works mans a phone during the AFN Navy Ball Radiothon. The radiothon raised over \$1,000 for the Navy Ball. (Top Right) The 2004 chief selectees woke up early to PT through the streets of Sigonella. (Above) PR1 Ryan Fitzgerald lets a first-grade student from Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's Stephen Decatur Elementary School try on a helmet in the Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) hangar. (Above Left) Second City performers Tom Flanigan, Dina Facklis, Allison Bills, and John Lutz point towards their sound board operator during their show at the base theater on Oct. 4.



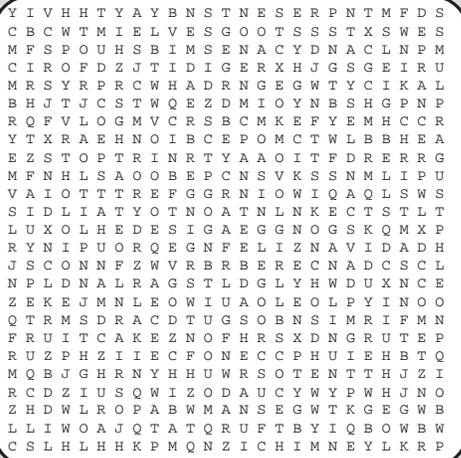


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMMUNITY CALENDAR						December
					19 Ornament Making Day 4 p.m. BLAST	20 Arm Wrestling Competition 12:30 p.m. Take 5
21 Catania Shopping by Night ITT Call 624-4396	22 Deck Your Doors Contest noon decorate your barracks doors for prizes Liberty	23 Teen Holiday Cooking Class 3 to 5 p.m. Teen Center	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas	26 Base ICR 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ICR class room Call 624-4291	27 Taormina Shopping & Savoca Catacombs ITT Call 624-4369
28 Agrigento Valley of the Temples & S. Leone Beach ITT Call 624-4396	29 Babysitter Training 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Red Cross Call 624-5446	30	31 New Years Eve Special TENPINS	1 Jan. Polar Bear Dip time TBD NAS I Pool Call 624-2710	2 Piazza Armenrina Roman Villa & Enna ITT Call 624-43996	3 Corleone & Wine Tasting ITT Call 624-4396
4 Nicosia & Sperlinga ITT Call 624-4396	5 Dental Assistant Trainig Program Red Cross now accepting applications	6	7	8	9	10 Second Annual Aerobathon NAS I Activity Zone Call 624-4483
11	12	13 Intensive Italian Class 2 to 5 p.m. ITT Call 624-4777	14	15	16 Sale Season Shopping in Milan Extended Trip ITT Call 624-4396	17



Word Find

Christmas



- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| BING CROSBY | DECORATIONS | MISTLETOE | STOCKINGS |
| BLITZEN | DONNER | NATIVITY SCENES | SUGARPLUMS |
| CANDLES | EGGNOG | NOEL | TINSEL |
| CANDY CANES | ELVES | NORTHPOLE | TIS THE SEASON |
| CARDS | FELIZ NAVIDAD | ORNAMENTS | TREE |
| CHIMNEY | FROSTY | PRANCER | VIXIN |
| CHRISTMAS | FRUITCAKE | PRESENTS | WREATHS |
| COMET | GARLAND | RUDOLPH | |
| COOKIES | GINGERBREAD MEN | SANTA | |
| CUPID | GRINCH | SCROOGE | |
| DANCER | ITS AWONDERFUL LIFE | SLEIGH BELLS | |
| DASHER | LIGHTS | SNOW | |



Photo by JCS/Steve Mawson

Italian students from the Istituto Comprensivo Statale in Giardini Naxos got to meet Security's military working dog WMD Tara up close and personal after a demonstration. The students visited the base to find out about how the American military on NASSIG interact with the local community. It was the first time these students were exposed to things like the huge MH-53E helicopters at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4).

Fri. Dec. 19

Join in the fun with liberty and sign up for the lunchtime egg races at 12:30 p.m. at Take 5. Participants will be entered to win the Liberty Grand Prize. Call x5607 to find out more.

Visit Caltagirone, known worldwide for its ceramics and some of the largest nativity scenes in Italy. View the outdoor nativity scenes then do a little Christmas shopping. Call ITT at x4396.

Win a jar of candy by guessing the amount in the jar at Take 5.

Sat. Dec. 20

How strong are you? Enter in the arm wrestling competition at 12:30 p.m. in Take 5. All participants will be entered for a chance to win the 12th Day of Christmas grand prize.

Learn to cook traditional Sicilian Christmas cuisine in the traditional setting of the Trinita Agrituristic Farm in Mascalucia where you will get hands on experience. Then gather around the fireplace to enjoy the feast. Call ITT at x4396.

Sun. Dec. 21

Visit the quaint town of Castelbouno with a meal at an agrituristic farm. Then head to Cefalu for a tour of the town and some souvenir shopping. Call ITT at x4396.

Watch Christmas movies and answer some holiday trivia for a chance to win the 12th Day of Christmas grand prize at Take 5.

Mon. Dec. 22

Get in the holiday spirit and decorate your barracks door for some fun prizes. The event kicks off at noon. See Take 5 for more information.

Tues. Dec. 23

Enter in the jump-roping contest with Take 5 and get entered to win the 12th Day grand prize.

Wed. Dec. 24

Spend Christmas Eve with Liberty. Watch Christmas movies all day long then stick around for the holiday feast and for the drawing of the 12th Day of Christmas grand prize. The festivities start at 6 p.m.

Free bowling and shoe rental at Tenpins from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New Year's eve

Ring in the New Year with Jox and the Crater Pub. Free food and party favors. The Midnight ball will come down filled with prizes, gift certificates and cash. Doors open at 6 p.m.

TRIVIA

- 1) What bowl game did Ohio State play in for the 2002 national title?
- 2) How many works did Gilbert and Sullivan collaborate on?
- 3) How many stars are on the logo for Paramount studios?
- 4) In the film 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade,' what was the name of the group entrusted to protect the grail?
- 5) What is Krusty the Clown's real name?

(Answers on page 13)

Movie Connection

AWT's Theater Schedule

Friday, Dec. 19



6 p.m.
*Kill Bill Vol. 1 (R)***

8:30 p.m.
*The Last Samurai (R)***

Saturday, Dec. 20



3:30 p.m.
Elf (PG)



6 p.m.
Love Actually (R)



8:30 p.m.
*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (R)***

Sunday, Dec. 21



3:30 p.m.
School Rock (PG-13)



6 p.m.
Kill Bill Vol. 1 (R)

Monday, Dec. 22



6 p.m.
*Under the Tuscan Sun (PG-13)**



8 p.m.
Master and Commander (PG-13)

Wednesday, Dec. 24



3:30 p.m.
*Cold Creek Manor (R)**



6 p.m.
Beyond Borders (R)

Thursday, Dec. 25



6 p.m.
Elf (PG)



8 p.m.
The Last Samurai (R)

Friday, Dec. 26



1 p.m.
Brother Bear (PG)



3:30 p.m.
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (R)



6 p.m.
*Somethings Gotta Give (PG-13)***

Saturday, Dec. 27



3:30 p.m.
Out of Time (PG-13)



6 p.m.
Lost in Translation (R)



8 p.m.
Kill Bill Vol. 1 (R)

Sunday, Dec. 28



3:30 p.m.
Love Actually (R)



6:30 p.m.
Mystic River (R)

Monday, Dec. 29



6 p.m.
Out of Time (PG-13)



8 p.m.
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (R)

Wednesday, Dec. 31



3:30 p.m.
Love Actually (R)



6:30 p.m.
The Last Samurai (R)

Thursday, Jan. 1



3:30 p.m.
Kill Bill Vol. 1 (R)



6 p.m.
*Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13)***

Friday, Jan. 2



6 p.m.
The Matrix Revolutions (R)



8:30 p.m.
Mystic River (R)

Saturday, Jan. 3



3:30 p.m.
Somethings Gotta Give (PG-13)



6 p.m.
Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13)

Sunday, Jan. 4



3:30 p.m.
Elf (PG)



6 p.m.
Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13)

Monday, Jan. 5



6 p.m.
Lost in Translation (R)



8 p.m.
The Last Samurai (R)

Wednesday, Jan. 7



6 p.m.
Kill Bill Vol. 1 (R)



8 p.m.
The Matrix Revolutions (R)

Thursday, Jan. 8



6 p.m.
Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13)

*** 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 x4248)

Pulse from page 2

fects other parts of your body and can cause heartburn, ulcers, liver damage, pancreatitis, and vitamin deficiencies among others.

6. Drinking makes me one of the guys – FALSE. Drinking lowers testosterone and can decrease libido and cause problems with sexual functioning. In chronic heavy drinkers, it can even lead to testicular atrophy (not so manly.) Also, alcohol is very disinhibiting and can cause you to do things you wouldn't normally do. Many unplanned pregnancies, sexual assaults, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV) and even suicides in otherwise happy people occur under the influence of alcohol.

Alcohol itself isn't bad, but it needs to be consumed in moderation with preparation. If you suffer from depression, anxiety, or another mental illness, have a history of alcohol dependence, or are pregnant, then you shouldn't be drinking alcohol. For others, plan ahead. Choose a designated driver BEFORE you ever go to a party/out to drink. Eat some food. Don't drink more than one drink every 1 ½ hours. (1 drink = 1 can beer or 6 ounces of wine or 1 ounce of hard liquor). Be conscious about how much you are consuming. If you think you may have a problem with alcohol or are using it to sleep or change your mood, please contact your command DAPA, primary doctor, or mental health and ask for help. Don't let Spirits sour your Holiday.

PTS from page 3

- Sailors with an approved SRB pre-certification at the time of the release of NAVADMIN 316/03.

"PTS provides those Sailors previously locked into their ratings the added flexibility to convert to another rating at the end of their first enlistment. This may provide them additional career opportunities if advancement in their current rating is limited," said Gigliotti

In response to fleet input, two changes to the program were made that will affect all new applications, regardless of the CREO Group. The first is a "Conversion Only" option, which will allow Sailors to bypass the "Reenlist in Rate" option. The second change is the requirement to include the latest ASVAB [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery] Line Scores on all applications to facilitate the conversion process for those considering the "conversion" or "conversion only" options.

"Sailors should consider the possible outcomes of the choices they request in their applications. For instance, if they request the 'Conversion Only' option, they forego any consideration for In-Rate reenlistment approval. On the other hand if they do not indicate 'Willing to Convert' in their application and are subsequently not selected to reenlist in rate, they have effectively reduced their own opportunity to remain in the Navy. This could result in a notice to separate and consider affiliation with the Naval Reserve, if an in-rate reservation never presents itself," added Gigliotti.

There are four options for submitting PTS requests:

-Submit PTS application via direct Web input (preferred method)

-Send a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet (downloadable from StayNavy Web site) via the PTS Homepage at www.staynavy.navy.mil

-Email

-Message request

The PTS application submission requirements, which are published in NAVADMINs 050/03, 131/03 and 316/03 are available on the PTS Homepage. For more information on application procedures, visit www.staynavy.navy.mil and click on the PTS Homepage or contact the Navy Personnel Command Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

Trivia Answers

- 1) *Tostitos Fiesta Bowl*
- 2) *14*
- 3) *22*
- 4) *Brotherhood of the Cruciform Sword*
- 5) *Herschel Kronski*

SPORTS



Photo by PH3 Sally Mendez



photo by PH3(AW) Brian Shaw

(Above right) The U.S. sailing team jockeys for position and tries to find the best wind in the sixth race of the 3rd Military World Games sailing competition. (Above) Chief Petty Officer John Blondin of San Diego, Ca. represents the U.S. by holding the American Flag at the closing ceremonies at the 3rd Military World Games.

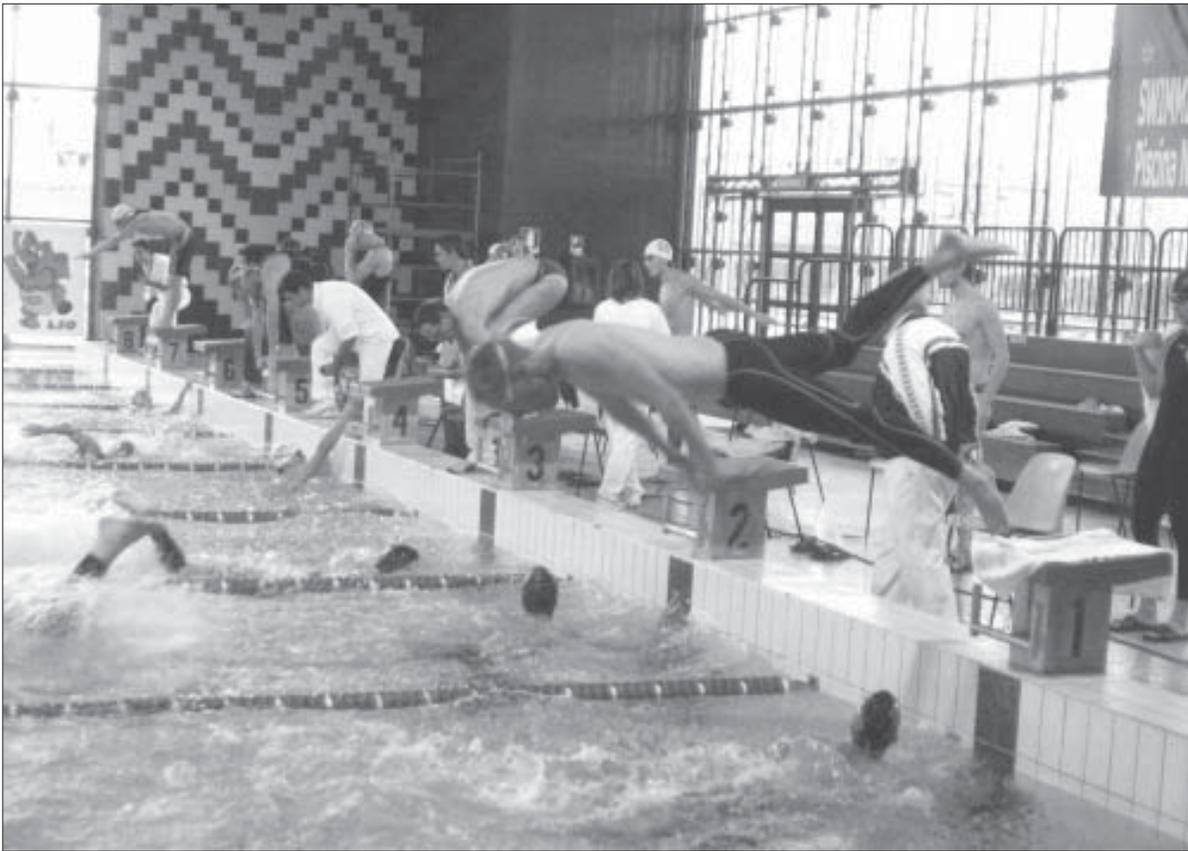


photo by PHJ/AW Brian Smar



photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo courtesy NCTS



photo by PHJ/SAH Steiner



photo by JCS Steve Weaver

(Top) Army 1st Lt. Niul Manske launches himself from the starting podium after a third place finish in the men's pentathlon relay swimming portion at the Military World Games in Catania. (Middle left) Stephen Decatur High School Jaguars QB Keenan Jones leaps over one defender while being pursued by DB Christopher Trezise of Rota's David Glasgow Farragut High School Admirals. (Middle right) COMSTA squeaked by and finished ahead of VP-45B and Security "A", making them regular season champs and the number one seed going into the post

season. In the playoffs COMSTA defeated both PWD "B" and AIMD before beating Public Works Department "Do Dirty." (Bottom left) 1st Lt Tyron Wright stationed at Whiteman AFB, MO baits his opponent as he gives him the old "razel dazel" move. He is a native of West Columbia, SC. U.S. military athletes from all branches of the armed forces came together to promote "Friendship through Sports" with 85 other countries. (Bottom right) The Jaguar's Whitney Lynch stretches her arm out to block a return from a member of the Aviano Saints.



photo by JCS Steve Weaver

(Above) Rodney Browning (guitar), Jim Wood (keyboards), Jim Wood (vocals), J.R. Richards (guitar), Scot Alexander (bass), and Pete Maloney (drums) of the rock band "Dishwalla" play to the crowd in attendance at the "Live Wire" club at NAS Sigonella. The band played 15 of their songs including their 1996 hit "Counting Blue Cars." The band toured Navy installations and played aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and at Naval bases such as Naples, Italy. (Left) Sparky the firedog gets a mouth inspection during the 2003 "National Night Out" held at the Maranai housing complex. (Right) IT3 Larry Nielsen of ITD collects trash near the Supply Building on NAS II on the third Sig Pride Day Feb. 6. Sig Pride is a voluntary base beautification project during which Sailors, their families and the community make their base a better place to live and work by picking up litter.



photo by JCS Steve Weaver



photo by JCS Craig Coleman





photo by JCS Steve Warner



photo by JCS Steve Warner

(Top left) The Capitaneria di Porto (Italian Coast Guard) color guard stand at the ready while the parade consisting of Gela civic leaders, Italian students, Italian war 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 on July 12. (Top right) A Sailor presents the U.S. flag at the memorial for the American Soldiers killed at Ponte Dirillo, the battle was one of many fought in the Sicilian countryside during Operation Husky. A ceremony marked the event on July 11. (Right) The men and women of NASSIG's AIMD stand at attention during the change-of-charge ceremony, which saw Cmdr. Michael Rivenbark relieved by Cmdr. Donald Patterson as OIC.



photo by PH2 Damon J. Moritz





Photo by PH2 Damon J. Moritz



photo by PH2 Connie Cole

(Above) AM1 Charles Weeks gets an autograph from NASCAR driver Rick Crawford, during a NASCAR Rally held on board Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. NASCAR drivers and crewmembers came out in January to support the active and reserve forces in the European theater as part of a joint DOD-ESGR Goodwill Tour. The ESGR is the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, located in Arlington, Virginia. (Above right) Capt. T. L. Davison, NASSIG commanding officer, and hundreds of other Sigonellans pick up trash along front Motta road for the 9th Annual Motta Road Cleanup for an Earth Day celebration.

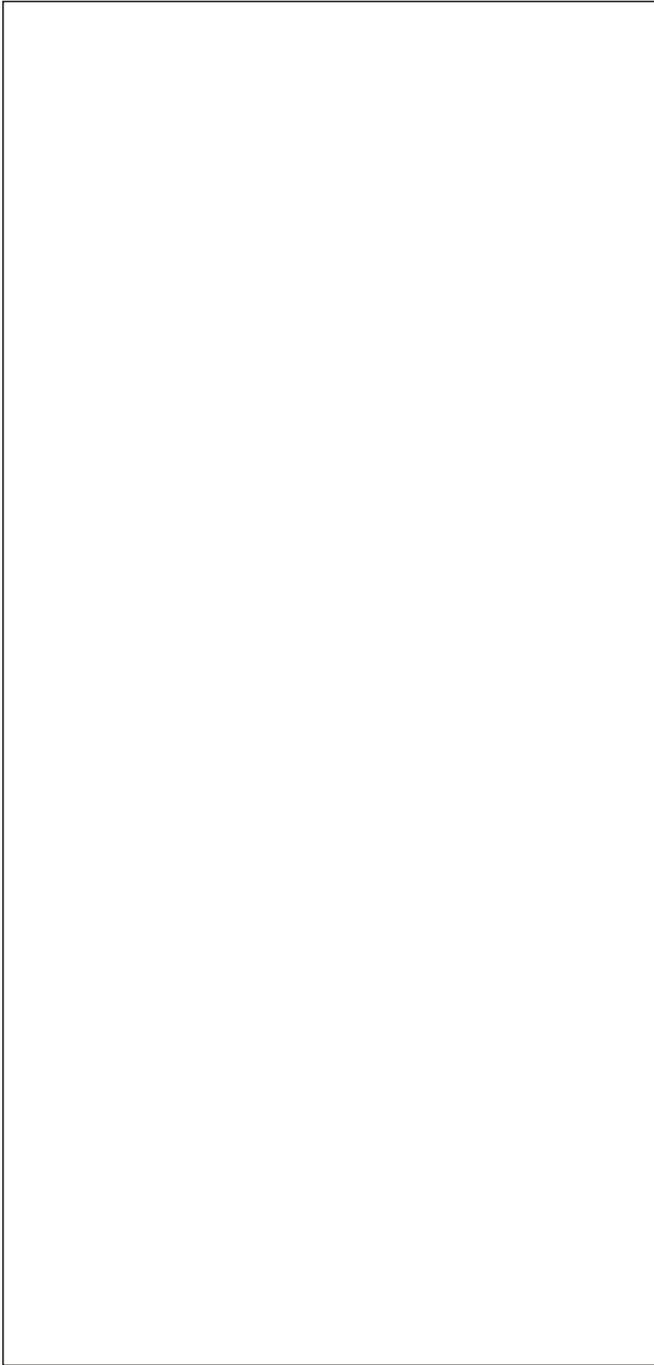




photo by PHAN Sharon Smith



photo by JAN Michele Hargrave



photo by PH2 Tom Spain



photo by JCS Steve Weaver

(Above) A P-3C Orion aircraft assigned to the "Tigers" of Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8) flies along the coastline of Taormina, Sicily. VP-8 is home-based in Brunswick, Maine, and was deployed to Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella to provide logistical support for Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet and NATO forces in the Mediterranean Sea. (Right, clockwise from top) This year NASSIG opened many new facilities as part of the Sig 2.1 recapitalization project. The new kindergarten, stray animal facility (part of the new security building), and the new galley on NAS I.

