



# The Signature

## Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 21 No.7

Feb. 27, 2004

### TOP STORIES

**L**eave and Earning Statements (LES) for all service members and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees will soon have more protection against identity theft.

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**T**he DoD partnered with the FAA to give enlisted mechanics in the military the same credentials as their civilian counterparts. For Sailors and Marines, the Navy and Marine Corps Airframes and Powerplant Program (NMCAPP) has been established at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT), to ensure all aviation technicians are given the opportunity to earn the federal agency's industry standard certification.

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**T**wenty Two Sigonella Swordfish Swim Team swimmers made the trip to Munich over President's day weekend to compete in European Forces Swim League (EFSL) Championships.

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**A**fter only a two-hour drive along a rolling Sicilian countryside and Mediterranean coast, we arrived to find small shops along the main street in Santo Stefano closing for riposo.

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## Dogfish 2004 brings NATO to Sicily



The Commander of the Turkish Submarine TCG Sacarya, Lt. Cmdr. Haldun Ermin, leaves his ship to be interviewed by journalists. The submarine lays alongside Augusta Bay prior to NATO Exercise Dogfish 2004, which takes place from Feb. 19 to March 3.

By JO1(AW) Russ Tafuri  
FSD

**NAS SIGONELLA, SICILY, ITALY** — From Feb. 19 to March 3, NATO nations will provide submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, surface ships and 2000 personnel to take part in NATO's largest anti-submarine warfare exercise, "Dogfish 04". NATO's Exercise Dogfish takes place in the Ionian Sea off the eastern coast of Sicily and demonstrates NATO's determination to maintain proficiency in coordinated anti-submarine, anti-surface, and coastal surveillance operations using a multinational force of ships, submarines and aircraft.

Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the United States will provide the submarines participating in the exercise. Each submarine will have the opportunity of being a hunter as well as the hunted.

Five NATO surface ships from standing Naval Force Mediterranean will take part, as well as two French frigates and two Italian Corvettes. The maritime patrol aircraft will operate from Sigonella, Sicily, and are from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. Italian shore-based anti-submarine warfare helicopters from Fontanarossa, Sicily will also participate.

Dogfish 04 is an opportunity for NATO nations to operate together in a very specialized type of warfare and emulate real-life operations taking place in the eastern Mediterranean today with operation Active Endeavor, NATO's anti-terrorism operation.

130 day and night air missions are planned and will be coordinated from multinational NATO headquarters, Allied Naval Forces South in Naples, Italy.



PH2 Logan Mook peers through the periscope of the Italian submarine, Pelosi (IS 522) in Augusta Bay, Sicily, during a media tour and press conference for NATO Exercise Dogfish.

## VITA Tax Center goes on air live with 'Feedback'

By JO1 Craig Coleman  
Staff Writer

Taxpayers can look forward to increased deductions, including higher single and joint standard deductions, according to Lt. Giovanna Mosca, NAS Sigonella tax officer and Officer-in-Charge of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax center.

Mosca answered several questions posed by military taxpayers on "Feedback," a live television call-in show broadcast by American Forces Network (AFN) Sigonella Feb. 18. Viewers learned about tax filing in general and specific information pertinent to military overseas tax filing.

"Standard deductions for single filers have been increased to \$4,750 and for those filing with their spouses to \$9,000, Mosca said. "In addition, the child tax credit has in-

crease from \$600 to \$1,000."

The Tax Center offers free electronic federal income tax filing (e-filing) services and state tax preparation to military members, their family members, retirees and DoD civilian employees.

A common misconception is that there is no drawback to waiting beyond April 15 to file taxes if stationed overseas. Mosca said that is true — as long as you don't owe the government money. "Starting April 16 the I.R.S. (Internal Revenue Service) is going to start charging interest on what you owe," Mosca said. "You're not waived for that penalty through the two month extension."

However the rules are different for those deployed in a combat, page 11



AT1 Joseph Gallimore helps ADAN Keith McDonald file his 2003 taxes at the Sigonella Tax Center.



# Direct Line

**Capt. T.L. Davison**  
**MASSIG**  
**Commanding Officer**

This is a short message about an important topic - ethics. So let me get right to the point. It is essential that all Department of the Navy personnel adhere to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. The American people put their trust in us and none of us can betray that trust.

It is critically important that we all put ethics above personal gain. Most ethical problems can be avoided by being forthright, honest and direct with everybody in every situation, every time. Everyone should understand that actions that may be permissible for some non-government employees are prohibited for us in order to preserve our trust with the American people.

Here are some examples:

A. Government resources. Use of "company" (government) resources such as personnel, equipment, and property is restricted to official use only (with limited exceptions). We pay for our people, vehicles, and equipment with taxpayers' money, and so we must use them to only accomplish our mission, never for personal convenience or other unauthorized purposes.

B. Acceptance of gifts. Although there are some exceptions, we cannot accept gifts that are offered by individuals seeking to do business with DoD or because of the official positions we hold. Similarly, superiors must neither expect nor allow subordinates to give them gifts under circumstances not allowed by regulations.

C. Financial interests. We need to ensure that our financial interests do not conflict with conscientious performance of duties. This is important for everyone, but especially important for flag. And general officers, personnel in the senior executive service, procurement officials, and other personnel who exercise fiduciary responsibilities. Waivers may be available in limited circumstances if it is determined that the financial interest will not affect the integrity with which government duties will be performed. The important point is that taxpayers must be confident that we make decisions for the benefit of the entire nation rather than just for ourselves, or a few companies or individuals.

D. Future employment. Anyone negotiating or seeking employment with a prospective employer must disqualify himself or herself from participating in official decisions, recommendations, and other actions that would affect the financial interests of the prospective employer. This restriction is especially important for procurement officials and other senior decision-makers.

Adherence to high ethical standards means not only that we treat taxpayers and the Department of the Navy with respect, but also that we treat all people with dignity and respect. When treating people with dignity and respect, there is obviously no room for behavior such as sexual harassment or sexual assault. Adherence to high standards of ethical conduct and personal behavior will ensure that we treat others with the dignity and respect that every person deserves and deserves.

I expect all department heads, chiefs and supervisors to set a personal example of integrity and ethical conduct. Doing so will create an environment that encourages subordinates to develop these same traits. In addition, reminding our people of their responsibilities in this regard is a useful exercise.

If you really want a good check to ensure that a service, practice or gift is ethical, please call the Staff Judge Advocate Office at 624-5817 or 5816.

# NJP Results

**E-3 Violation of UCMJ article 86 (Unauthorized absence).**

**Awarded restriction to the limits of Naval Air Station Sigonella (NAS II) for 60 days.**

# Sailors warned to watch their hearts

**By JOSH ERICA MATA**  
**National Naval Medical Center**  
**Public Affairs**

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — February is American Heart Month, and organizations like the American Heart Association and cardiology experts at Bethesda are raising awareness of cardiovascular disease.

It's a known fact that exercise is important to staying in shape and being healthy. Now, experts are warning that "preventive maintenance" for your heart, in the form of exercise, is not only smart but also life-saving.

"Doing aerobic exercise for 30 minutes a day, three times a week saves more lives than bypass surgery," said Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Yamamoto, a cardiologist at the Na-

Exercise, page 16

# Off Base Gatherings

Are you planning on hosting an off base event? If so, this article is for you! There is a procedure you must follow if there will be more than 25 attendees. This prevents command authorized (sponsored) events, private organizations/clubs, Information Tours & Travel (ITT), and youth organizations from inadvertently planning trips to areas where the security threat poses substantial risks to American citizens.

The Commanding Officer is responsible for establishing policies and procedures to ensure the security of personnel within his area of responsibility. The Security/Antiterrorism Officer conducts an operational risk assessment, if the anticipated number of DoD attendees is expected to exceed 25. This number includes service members, DoD civilians, and family members. Advertisement for these events should be kept to the minimum necessary to advise the intended audience.

The submitting command/department's information for the operational risk assessment must be forwarded to the Antiterrorism Management Office (ATMO) no later than 15 days prior to the event and 90 days prior if there will be more than 200 attendees.

For more information on requirements for off base gatherings, see NASSIGINST 5330.1A on the InfoSig website or call 624-2251.

# Internet delivers facts for car shippers

**By Robert Szostek**  
**USEUCOM Customs PAO**

Mannheim, Germany - U.S. personnel overseas can discover how to ship vehicles to the United States on the Internet. You can find the listed links on the Military Customs Web site at [www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/cars.htm](http://www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/cars.htm).

The U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection offers tips on converting foreign vehicles to U.S. emission and safety standards, washing requirements to prevent spreading bugs and diseases state-side and tells you how to import a vehicle without paying duty.

For people with foreign vehicles not built to U.S. safety specifications, the site has links to the latest list of registered im-

porters that can convert foreign-specification vehicles to U.S. standards, the list of foreign vehicles that can be converted, details on importing Canadian standard vehicles, and the HS-7 Declaration Form required for vehicle imports.

The Environmental Protection Agency also has a link listing the Automotive Imports Facts Manual, Independent Commercial Importer List, a "What's New?" section, Approved Canadian Vehicles and the EPA 3520-1 Declaration Form.

The Department of Agriculture link explains why high standards of cleanliness are necessary for vehicles shipped stateside.

More customs information is available at the Military Customs Online page at [www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm](http://www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm) or call any military customs office for more information.

# HEALTHWATCH

## Physical readiness test requirements

**By Lt. Cmdr. J. A. Rhodrick**  
**Naval Hospital Sigonella Command**  
**Fitness Leader**

**Have you completed (Part I & II) of the Physical Fitness Assessment (PHA)?**

Part I - In accordance with the OPNAVINST 6110.1G, all active duty members are annually (during their birth month) required to complete a (PHA). To complete, members must sign onto the PRIMS web site, fill out the PARFQ, print the PARFQ, and an SF600. The member will then take the PARFQ and SF600 to medical. They will be screened and have the SF600 filled out by medical showing they are either cleared to participate in the PFA or waived from some or all events. The member or medical will return the PARFQ and SF600 to the CFL. If there are any waivers, they will need to be en-

tered in PRIMS.  
 \*Part II - In accordance with the OPNAV Instruction 6120.3, an individual review of medical status is also required. This review includes items such as, blood pressure measurement, cancer and blood screening. Medical will document this visit on Form DD2766 in your medical record and at the bottom of the PARFQ.

**How do I gain access to PRIMS to complete and print the required paperwork for my appointment?** Individuals may view their personal PFA records on PRIMS. The PRIMS web site is <https://prims.persnet.navy.mil/>. Once you are on the PRIMS log on screen you would enter your SSN as your log in identification, the password is your BUPERS online (BOL) password. If you do not have a BOL password you may acquire one at this site. <http://www.bol.navy.mil/default.asp>.

**How do I schedule a PHA appointment?** PHAs are done at the Flight Line Clinic or PCM. If you'd like to schedule an appointment at the Flight Line Clinic, call 624-5455. Remember, you must bring your medical record, PARFQ, and SF600 to this appointment.

**What if I get injured before the PRT?** If you have already completed your annual PHA, you'll schedule an appointment with your PCM for an injury/illness evaluation. Please don't forget to bring your PRT paperwork with the injury/illness box checked. This is not considered a PHA update, but an injury evaluation. If you receive a medical waiver for some or all events, please provide a copy to your Command Fitness Leader.

In closing, it is highly recommended that you start preparing well a head of time for the PRT. The better shape you're in, the less susceptible you'll be to injury.

For questions regarding the PHA process contact your Command Fitness Leader.

# "Real or an Illusion"



**By Chaplain Joseph Carlos Command**  
**Chaplain**

There is a story about a battleship that had been completely refurbished and was the pride of the fleet. The skipper and the crew took the ship out for exercises. One night the skipper noticed the battleship heading directly for another light, so he had his signalman communicate: "Steer three degrees to port." The message came back: "You steer three degrees to port." The Navy captain couldn't believe the response. He had the message sent: "I am a captain in the United States Navy." The response came back: "I am a seaman in the United States Navy." Now the skipper got very excited and ordered the message sent: "I am a battleship, steer three degrees to port." The message was signaled back: "I am a lighthouse; you steer three degrees to port."

How many readers would like to have seen the expression on the skipper's face when he received the message? But that same look of shock and surprise is also on our faces at times when we choose to confront and deal with reality rather than our perception of that reality. It is easier and more comfortable for us to live in our own world of what we think is real. Actually, however, much of the time we live in a world of illusion. No matter how much the skipper thought that beacon of

light was coming from another ship, the real source was a lighthouse.

People can say things to us. Or perhaps they don't say things, and we think they should. We put interpretations on this experience and make some conclusions. And we think these conclusions reflect reality. "Chief said this or that," and maybe it's not clear what the Chief meant. So we interpret it. We put meaning into the statement. The better way is to communicate; ask the Chief what she meant. It's only in the communication of signals that the battleship's skipper learned the truth.

Husbands and wives can live in an illusion - thinking this or expecting that of each other. It's only when the spouses communicate with each other and learn what the other really means or intends that reality appears. Sailors can make judgments about other Sailors or Marines based only on their own perception, but it's only in gathering information, communication with the other sailors, that one learns the truth. It really is a lighthouse and not another ship!

The ultimate illusion is for us to think or perceive that there is no God. We could really believe that what we have is our own doing rather than the blessings of the Living God. Perception makes a big difference. Attendance at religious services increases astronomically the day before the war starts or after a traumatic event like 9-11. Why? In significant moments of our lives we see more clearly the reality that the saving God is with us.

# 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  
 Stormo Chapel (NAS II)  
 Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

**Protestant Traditional Service**  
 Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

**Protestant Worship**  
 Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)  
 Sunday 10:45 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

**United Pentecostal Church, International**  
 Sunday Noon Chapel, (NAS II)

**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 624-9049.



**CRIMESTOPPER'S HOTLINE**  
 624-6389

**Feb. 16 - Feb. 22**  
 The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 8
- Traffic accident with injuries - 2
- Car break-ins - 3
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2004 - 2
- DUI's 2003 - 38

<b>Commanding Officer</b> Capt. Timothy L. Davison	<b>Deputy Public Affairs Officer</b> Alberto Lunetta	<b>Staff</b> PH3(SW) Betel Currance
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# NAVY NEWS

## Changes made to LES to reduce identity theft

From Defense Finance and Accounting Service Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) — Leave and Earning Statements (LES) for all service members and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees will soon have more protection against identity theft.

Over the next several weeks, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will drop the first five digits of a person's social security number from all hard copy pay statements and checks to guard against identity theft.

"The changes apply to everyone," said Patrick T. Shine, acting director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service. The proposal "originated internally and will be phased in over the next couple of pay periods."

This change is to be for all hard copy leave and earning statements. This does not apply to electronic copies of statements found on myPay, the online system for access and control of customers' personal pay information (<https://mypy.dfas.mil>).

Reports of identity theft have substantially increased in recent years, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which monitors the issue.

Five years ago, the number of complaints to the FTC was roughly 23,400. By 2001, the rate had more than tripled to about 86,200. Based on figures released in January 2004, the number of complaints of identity theft nearly topped 215,000 for 2003. The Social Security Administration also has taken the same step of eliminating the first five social security numbers on the millions of checks it issues.



Master-At-Arms Seaman Apprentice Anthony Fierro from Las Vegas, Nev., and Master-At-Arms Seaman Jason Montgomery check a Sailor's military identification at one of many security posts aboard the station.

## Sailors, Marines now eligible for FAA A&P license

By Lt. Jg. Doug Johnson  
Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training  
Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — The Department of Defense (DoD) partnered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to give enlisted mechanics in the military the same credentials as their civilian counterparts. For Sailors and Marines, the Navy and Marine Corps Airframes and Powerplant Program (NMCAPP) has been established at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT), to ensure all aviation technicians are given the opportunity to earn the federal agency's industry standard certification.

In the past, military experience was not widely recognized by the FAA, significantly decreasing Sailor and Marine marketability in the civilian sector.

"Trying to get a civilian job without an A&P License is similar to trying to gain access to a military base without the proper credentials—almost impossible," said CNATT NMCAPP Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Gabe Castro. "Well, that time is gone. There are now certifications in place for Sailors and Marines which allow our mechanics to enroll

in the A&P [airframes and power plants] licensing program." In order to enroll, participants must meet basic eligibility requirements, being 18 years of age, an E-4, and having 36 months or more in service. It will take about 30 months to complete the entire program, which includes completing a Qualification Training Package and passing a series of written and oral exams, as well as passing a practical test. After successful completion of the program and required exams, each participant will receive the airframes and powerplants certification from the FAA.

The benefits to Sailors and Marines include no out-of-pocket expenses, as well as the ability to use their military experience and on-the-job training toward certification. Many non-military units and vocational technical schools offer FAA-approved classes, but the cost associated with these courses can be overwhelming, even with tuition assistance and assistance from the GI Bill.

"It's one of the great new ways we are taking care of our Sailors and Marines," said CNATT Gunnery Sergeant, Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Sosa. "It shows young Sailors and Marines that we are interested in their future as they continue their careers in the Navy and Marine Corps, but also after they leave their service and embark upon a civilian career."

## USS Yorktown deploys as part of Expeditionary Strike Group

By Stacey Byington  
Naval Station Pascagoula Public Affairs

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (NNS) — The guided-missile cruiser USS Yorktown (CG 48) and its crew of approximately 400 deployed Feb. 17 from its homeport at Naval Station Pascagoula to be part of the USS Wasp (LHD 1) Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG), which is making its maiden deployment as an ESG in support of the global war on terrorism.

The ESG concept is centered on the proven flexibility and combat power of a combined Amphibious Readiness Group and Marine Expeditionary Unit. The ESG adds the robust strike, anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-subsurface capabilities of two cruisers, a destroyer and an attack submarine. These com-

bined capabilities give the combat commander a wider variety of options and enables independent operations in more dynamic environments.

"The significance of this deployment," said Yorktown commanding officer, Cmdr. Steven Sloan, "is that this is the first time in several years that a Pascagoula-based ship has deployed to Europe and the Middle East. This is the first time any Pascagoula ship has been part of an Expeditionary Strike Group."

Yorktown is slated to be the surface warfare commander for the strike group, meaning that the ship and its crew will lead the defense of the group against any surface threat.

"No boats will get close to the Wasp," said Sloan. Yorktown, page 16

## The Energy Block

With all the emphasis being placed on hybrid cars it was not difficult to decide on what to write about this week. According to CNN, if you purchased an alternate fuel vehicle last year you are entitled to a \$2,000 deduction on your federal income taxes. Each year more and more hybrids are being introduced on the market with some nice looking SUV's being introduced later in the year getting 30mpg.

In 1994, for the first time in history, the United States imported more than 50 percent of its petroleum, a level of dependence that aggravates the trade deficit and leaves the American economy vulnerable to oil price shocks. From a generated electrical energy standpoint, this is of little significance. Folks, petroleum generated electricity accounted for only 2.2 percent of U.S. electrical consumption in 1996. Which means the lion's share of this petroleum goes to the massive transportation needs of the country. Whether it is the needs of national defense, trains, planes, or automobiles, our great country is actually being held hostage by large oil producing countries that dictate the amounts available and the prices of this oil. Coal, nuclear power, and natural gas will remain the key players of our electric generation but the development of alternative fuels will play a significant role in the transportation arena.

Hybrid vehicles, with endless possibilities; use a combination of electric motors and internal combustion engines. The time has passed when these vehicles are just used for short haul purposes. For decades diesel-electric locomotives have been in use that incorporate an internal combustion or compression ignition engine - generator system for providing electricity to a vehicle's electric drive motors. This technology is now being applied to small coupes and sedans and is going to become readily available starting this year for pick-ups, minivans, and sport utility vehicles.

Soon, hopefully, the United States of America will be free of its dependency on foreign oil.  
Let's use, not abuse

## 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.

## Boxer Sailors help Marines prepare for OIF

By JO1 Karen M. Golembieski  
USS Boxer Public Affairs

ABOARD USS BOXER, At Sea (NNS) — The spirit of cooperation between services is alive and well aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4). During the month-long transit to the Persian Gulf in support of the Operation Iraqi Freedom II force rotation, embarked Marines have been preparing their helicopters for use in Iraq. Whenever these Marines have needed aircraft parts or engines repaired or replaced, Boxer Sailors were on the front lines to assist Marines in making required repairs.

"The Marines were short-handed with aircraft maintainers," said Staff Sgt. Toby Ortiz, a dynamic components helicopter mechanic from Sandia, Texas. "When it came down to replacing engines, the Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Department's (AIMD) IM2 division helped out and did a lot of the work. They did a good job."

Not only did Boxer Sailors assist with the repairs, but workspace, parts and tools were also provided to the Marines.

"We have been fixing broken parts on their aircraft," said Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (AW) John Smith, of Wakefield, Mich. "They are troubleshooting and finding broken components. We have been ordering new components and supplies and sending out the bad components to be repaired. We've also been doing metal work on the aircraft. Basically, we're helping them keep the aircraft up so they can fly longer."

"We've given them engines and have provided them with assistance with operators for the bridge crane to change motors on the CH-53s," added Chief Aviation Electrician's Mate (AW) Bo D. Tubbs, 32, of Quinlan, Texas, who works in IM3 division. "Our mission at AIMD is nothing more than support for embarked aircraft—whether it be two aircraft or 200—we keep the same level of dedication towards that as we would making sure they have berthing or work stations. That is our sole purpose."

Boxer left San Diego Jan. 14, carrying more than 200 Marines and 900 Sailors, as well as 16 CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 466, two CH-46D Sea Knight helicopters from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron (HCS) 11, and various land vehicles and equipment.



Airman Holly Wagoner walks cautiously beside a U.S. Marine CH-53 Sea Stallion while the aircraft is being towed to its designated spot on the flight deck aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4).

## 2004 SEABEE Ball March 13

Tickets on sale now  
PRICES: E5 AND BELOW \$10;  
E6: \$15;  
E7 - O4: \$20;  
O5 - O6: \$25;  
Government Employees: \$20  
UA3 - UA1: \$15;  
UA4 and all UC: \$10



For more information call 624-5771

## News Briefs

### Signonella Idol 2

Attention all singers, dancers, musicians, and otherwise talented people: The talent search is on for Signonella Idol 2 coming to you May 15 at Jox! Auditions will be held on Friday, Feb. 27 in the NAS 1 Chapel from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturday the 28th in room 202 of the NAS 1 Community Building from 10:00-12:00 and 2 to 4 p.m. For more information or to set up an audition at another time please contact Karen Iverson @ 955 307 067 or 347 959 9429. No pets or children please.

### Employment Opportunities

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise (CMSE) is responsible for implementing the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Overseas Program to U.S. military beneficiaries at U.S. installations throughout Europe and the Pacific. We have the following full time position available in Signonella, Italy:

**Nutritionists/Dietitians/Nurses.** Requires a BS in Nutrition, Dietetics, Nursing or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required. Registered Dietitian preferred. Experience with WIC desirable. Must have current driver's license.

For consideration, please e-mail your resume, cover letter and a copy of applicable licenses to: [edibiasc@cmse.net](mailto:edibiasc@cmse.net) or [wicjobs@cmse.net](mailto:wicjobs@cmse.net) or fax to: 0039-0434-66-4640 or (210) 341-3455 or you may mail your information to the address below.

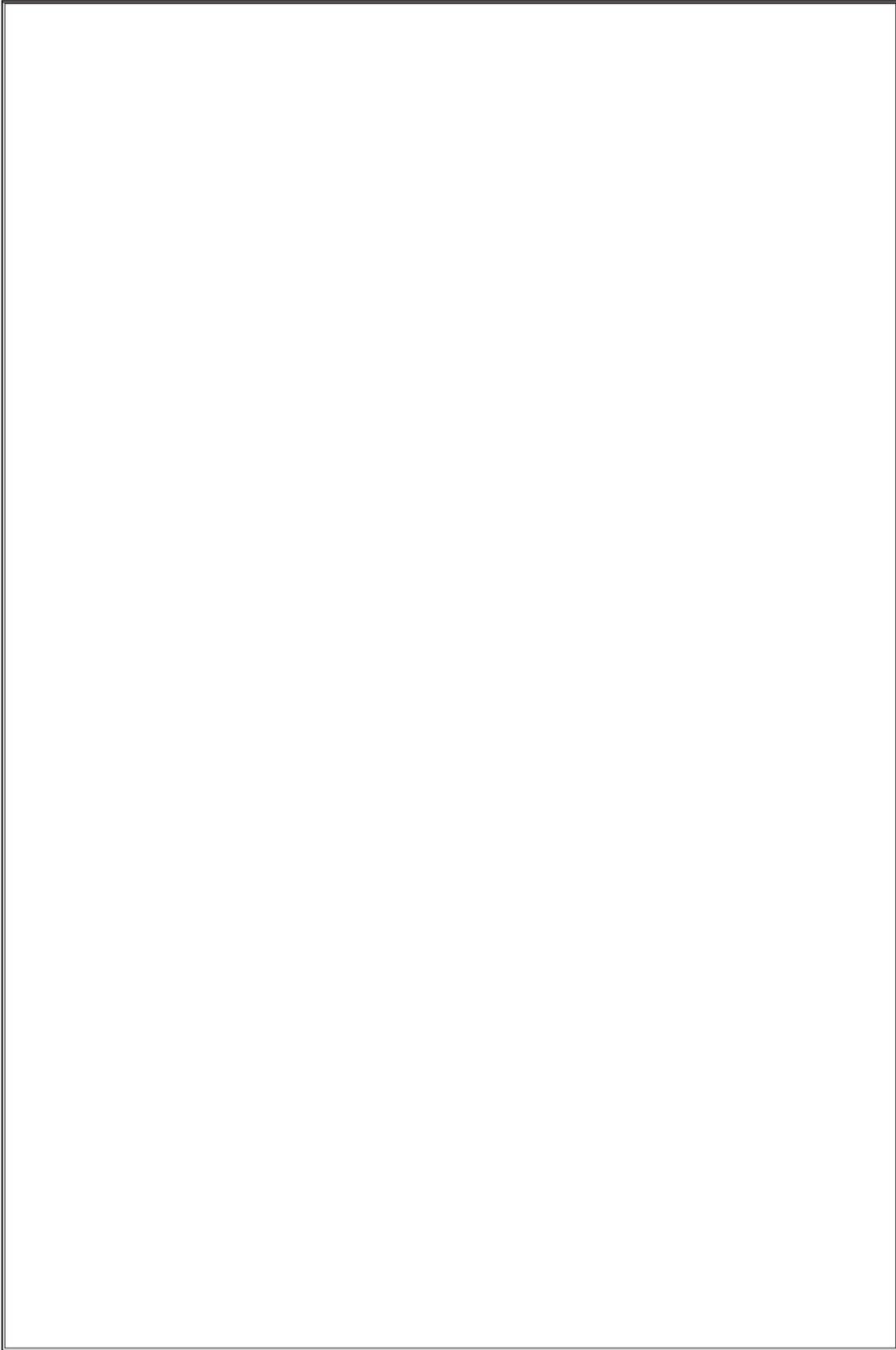
Choctaw Management Services Enterprise  
Attn: WIC Overseas  
2161 NW Military Hwy, Suite 308  
San Antonio, TX 78213  
Ph: (210) 341 - 3336

### Congrats

HC 4 would like to congratulate the following outstanding sailors. Even in the company of hundreds of other highly skilled and professional sailors at HC 4, their superior performance and professionalism singles them out as the most highly motivated and revered personnel in the squadron. They serve as excellent role models to their subordinates, peers and superiors alike."

2003 Senior Sea SOY AM1(AW/NAC) James Hale  
2003 Senior Shore SOY ABH1 (AW) Jorge Escobar  
2003 Junior Sea SOY AT2 (AW/NAC) Albert Snipes  
2003 Junior Shore SOY YN2 Nicholas Wilson  
4th qtr 2003 Senior SOQ AM1 (AW/NAC) James Hale  
4th qtr 2003 Junior SOQ AM2 Steven Oldham







By Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff

# Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

## Ancient Greek vases showcased in Gela

Are you fascinated with Ancient Greece and the legends around it? If so, be sure you visit an amazing exhibition presenting a collection of over 300 Greek black-figure and red-figure vases documenting almost two centuries of vase-painting, from the early sixth to the late fifth centuries B.C. The vases, which are currently on display in Gela through Apr. 7, come from several museums around the world such as Harvard, Tampa, New Haven, New York, Copenhagen, Basel, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Vienna, Kassel and Oxford. The exhibition is hosted in the magnificent *Palazzo* (palace) *Pignatelli Roviano* recently restored to its former glory that is located near the city's public gardens in corso Salvatore Aldisio n. 67. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 to 6 p.m. The cost of a ticket is € 3. For more information call Gela Tourist Office at 0933-913788.

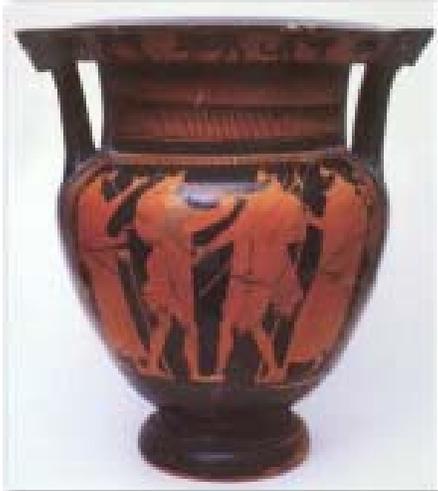
## America's concert in Acireale

If you are looking forward to hearing live the legendary song "A Horse With No Name," make sure you attend the concert that *America*, one of the greatest rock and roll bands of all time that has been thrilling audiences since the 1970s, will give at the Acireale Palasport on March 13 at 9:30 p.m.

For more information and tickets call 095-7225340 or check the following website: <http://www.ticketsonline.it/concerti.htm>

## Jazz concerts in Sicily

Signonella's jazz buffs will be more than pleased to hear



An outstanding selection of over 300 painted Greek vases revealing the exciting history of this ancient culture is currently on view in Gela through Apr. 7.

that they have a chance to enjoy some good Latin jazz. Plan to attend the concerts of Brazilian jazz singer Marcia Maria who will be performing in Sicily from March 4 through 6.

The concerts, which will begin at 9:30 p.m., will take place in the following venues throughout Sicily: Catania- March 4 at the ABC Theatre in via Pietro Mascagni n. 92, Lentini- March. 5 at the Odeon Theatre located in via Cristoforo Colombo n.12 and Messina - March 6 at the Annibale Maria di Francia Theatre in piazza Spirito Santo n. 2.

Internationally known Brazilian-horn singer Marcia Maria has been recording jazzy classics spanning from samba to Bossa Nova and Funk since the mid 1980s. She has performed in some of Europe's most prestigious music jazz festivals. She will be appearing on stage with the "Latin Masters," her band that features Weber Ingo (piano), Natallino Neto (electric bass) Pablo Silva (drums) and Chico Chagas (keyboards and accordion).

For more information and tickets call *The Brass Group* at 095-7465174 or 347-6372592. To purchase tickets you can call Ticket Box Office at 095-

## Classic music concert in Catania

Treat yourself to a good classical concert. Don't miss to attend this concert featuring the *Europa Philharmonie Orchestra* conducted by Reinhard Seehafer with Maurizio Moretti as guest pianist.

The concert will take place on March 10 at *San Francesco all'Immacolata* church located in piazza S. Francesco d'Assisi (near Elephant Square) commencing at 9:15 p.m. Music to be performed will include Johannes Brahms: Concert for Piano and Orchestra no. 1 in D minor, op. 15 and Fourth Symphony in E minor for orchestra, op.98.

The *Europa Philharmonie* is considered one of the finest orchestras featuring talented young musicians in Germany and the main source of cultural life in the city of Magdeburg. It is the resident orchestra of the Georg Philipp Telemann Concert Hall in Magdeburg and is regularly invited to perform at the Philharmonic Halls of Berlin, Vienna, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, Bonn as well as in prestigious music festivals throughout Europe and the U.S.

Maestro Seehafer has acquired a reputation throughout Europe and the USA as a leading authority in the Austro/German repertoire. He studied under such legendary conductors as Leonard Bernstein and Kurt Masur.

Maurizio Moretti is a talented Italian pianist from Cagliari who has performed with numerous European orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout Europe. He is currently artistic director of the International Chamber Music festival of the Roman theater of Nora (Cagliari), artistic director of the *Ensemble Musicale di Nuoro* and Principal Guest soloists in the *Orchestra Sinfonica di L'Aquila*. Moretti also recorded for RAI, France Musique, Radio Montecarlo, TVE Espana, Baltic Radio Television and ZDF Germany.

For more information and tickets call AME at 095-321252.

72225340 for the Catania and Lentini concerts.

## Word Find

Rivers, Lakes and Deserts

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

MISSISSIPPI  
 MOHAWE  
 NAMIB  
 NIGER  
 NILE  
 OBR TYSH  
 ONTARIO  
 PATAGONIAN  
 RED RIVER  
 RUBAL KHALI  
 SAHARA  
 SONORAN  
 SUPERIOR  
 SYRIAN  
 TANGANYIKA  
 THAR  
 VICTORIA  
 WINNIPEG  
 YENISE YANGARA

AMAZON	COLORADO	HUANG
AMUR	CONGO	HURON
ARABIAN	ERIE	IRANIAN
ARALSEA	GIBSON	ISSYKKUL
ATACAMA	GOBI	KARAKUM
BAIKAL	GREAT BEAR	LENA
BALKHASH	GREAT SALT	MACKENZIE PEACE
CASPIAN SEA	GREAT SANDY	MALAWI
CHANG JIANG	GREAT SLAVE	MEKONG
CHIHUAHUAN	GREAT VICTORIA	MICHIGAN

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Sig takes third in Med. Championships



Signonella girls take a time out during tournament play at Aviano's Flightline Gym. From I-Diane Abcede, April Coutino, Crystal Sampson, Laura Baltodano, Coach Vera Morgan, Alissa Field, Rachel Smith, and Christian Crowe.

By Junior Paul Nicholson

Both Sigonella High School Basketball teams placed third at the Mediterranean Championships held in Aviano, Italy, Feb. 12 to 14. The Jaguar Cheerleaders also competed during the weekend.

Sigonella basketball stars Rachel Smith, Lauren Johnson, Jose Peralta, Mike Simpkins and Josh Mendoza received All-Conference plaques at the tournament and conference awards ceremony. Cheerleader captain Courtney Wrinkles also received all-tournament recognition. Bryan Ortiz and Rachel Smith received All-tournament plaques for outstanding play throughout the tournament. Reggie Cherry and Cherrelle Johnson received all conference honorable mention.

The girls began the tournament on Thursday playing Incirlik, and Livorno. The first game surprised the girls because they had never played the team before and did not expect such a challenge but they managed to snatch a victory 52 - 48. The girls breezed past Livorno winning by a landslide 35 - 10. Winning Friday's games was important in order to make it to the semi finals. The girls played Milan first on Friday and emerged victorious 31 - 17. Their next game was against Aviano. "We weren't there mentally," says April Coutino about their loss 67 - 32. This loss placed them second in their bracket, which ensured them a position in the final four.

The boys started Thursday playing Aviano, whom they had just played and lost to the previous weekend. This game they lost again by four 72-68. Their next game was against a team they never played before during the regular season, Ankara. The Jaguars showed up late three minutes before the game because of a late bus and received a technical foul.

This forced them to lose the jump ball and put them two points down before a millisecond could even run off the clock in the first quarter. This, however, did not stop the boys from developing a comfortable lead and maintaining it throughout the game to win 73 - 60 and finish their day 1-1 in tournament play. On Friday the boys played Livorno and Milan. The boys easily defeated these teams (71 - 53 and 50 - 8) and progressed to the semis along with girls to play Naples in a fight for a spot in the championships.

The Cheerleading squad competed Thursday and Friday during the Aviano games. Saturday, they participated in the dance competition.

On Saturday the girls and boys basketball teams were defeated by Naples and forced to the consolation bracket for third. The boys lost 60 - 20 and the girls went down 69 - 42. The girls were to play Vicenza and the boys were to play AOSR (American Overseas Schools in Rome) at the city gym.

The girls game began quickly as both teams exchanged baskets until the middle of the second quarter when the team played good defense and Cherrelle Johnson's jump shot began to heat up. The girls began the third quarter a little shaky but managed to hold their small lead until the final buzzer. They won by just two points, 41 - 39.

The Sigonella boys defeated AOSR 75 - 48 and took the third place title just as their girls did. Naples' girls played Aviano following the Sigonella versus AOSR game and Naples won. The Naples' boys also defeated Aviano, setting the results at Naples, Aviano, Sigonella, for the top three teams, boys and girls, out of ten teams in the tournament.

In the Cheerleading competition, of the seven teams participating, Ankara came top in cheering and Aviano won the dance competition.

## TRIVIA

- Which of these star colors is the hottest: red, blue, green, yellow?
- What does the word "male" mean in Italian?
- In the comic book Spiderman, who did Peter Parker date from the Daily Bugle?
- From what Shakespearean play does this quote come? "Let me have men about me that are fat."
- What is light as a feather, yet man can only hold it for less than three minutes?

(Answers on page 11)

## Movie Connection

2004's Theater Schedule

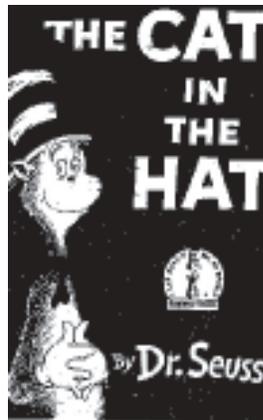
<p><b>Friday, Feb. 27</b></p> <p>6 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13)**</p> <p>8:30 p.m. The Last Samurai (R)</p>	<p><b>Monday, March 1</b></p> <p>6 p.m. The Human Stain (R)*</p> <p>8 p.m. The Last Samurai (R)*</p>
<b>Theater Closed Tuesdays</b>	
<p><b>Saturday, Feb. 28</b></p> <p>1 p.m. Cheaper by the Dozen (PG)</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Paycheck (PG-13)</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 3</b></p> <p>6 p.m. Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13) 15-minute intermission at approximately 7:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, Feb. 29</b></p> <p>1 p.m. Peter Pan (PG)</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Love Don't Cost a Thing (PG)</p> <p>6 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13)</p>	<p><b>Thursday, March 4</b></p> <p>6 p.m. Love Don't Cost a Thing (PG-13)*</p> <p>8 p.m. Paycheck (PG-13)</p>
<p><b>Friday, Feb. 27</b></p> <p>6 p.m. 50 First Dates (PG-13)**</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Miracle (PG)**</p>	

\*\* 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)

## PTSA needs board members

The Stephen Decatur School PTSA nominating committee has formed and are looking for people interested in filling various board positions for the 2004-05 school year, if interested or for more information contact Kori Meyer at 3408216587 or 624-1529 or check PTSA website at sdspta@yahoo.com by Friday March 5.

## Celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday



The elementary school is celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday next week with many reading activities. We are asking for military personnel to come to the school to read to children (we would like the service member to be in uniform if possible). We are requesting that personnel who aren't parents of students especially try to sign up to read. Please call the elementary school office at 624-3002 to sign up.

If you are a parent of an elementary student, please come to the kick off parade at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 2 at the track. We would also welcome parents to come read during the week, so call the school office to sign up.

Thanks for supporting this celebration of reading!



# SPORTS

## Basketball "A" League standings

	W	L		W	L		W	L
Admin	10	1	Security	6	3	COMSTA 1	5	
VP-450	6	4	AIMD b	2	7	VP-45E	0	3
Ops	6	3	AIMD a	2	1	HC-4	0	5

## Swordfish take third place in Munich

**CWO3 Craig Comstock  
HC-4**

Twenty Two Sigonella Swordfish Swim Team swimmers made the trip to Munich over President's Day weekend to compete in European Forces Swim League (EFSL) Championships. The Swordfish, who were the 12<sup>th</sup> largest team of 18, surged forward to capture third place.

The championship weekend started with a Saturday morning practice at the Olympic Pool, which was the location of the 1972 Olympics and Mark Spitz's seven gold medals in swimming. At the 11:00 a.m. Saturday practice, Head Coach Rich McKeown was still stressing stroke, turn, and finish fundamentals with many of the young swimmers, hoping to give them a one or two second advantage. Following the practice was a team meeting where Coach McKeown stressed nutrition, hydration, and rest for the remainder of the day. He also complimented the swimmers on their accomplishments in qualifying for "Champs," explaining to them, "you're part of a group of the best swimmers in Europe...just being here you are already winners, always be proud of this accomplishment."

Following the team's warm-up on Sunday, the meet began with the opening ceremony's "Parade of Swimmers" during which the Swordfish swimmers were awarded with the Southern European Division Championship trophy.

Overall, Sigonella finished with 11 gold, nine silver, and six bronze for a total of 26 medals, finishing third behind the favorite Kaiserlautern Kingfish and a strong SHAPE Seals team. The Swordfish were led by Lauren Blount and Garrett McKeown who won high point trophies for their respective age groups by bringing home three gold medals each totaling 60 points per swimmer. Lauren, 17 years old, finished first in the 200-meter individual medley (IM), 100-meter breast stroke, and 100-meter butterfly while 9-year-old Garrett finished first in 100-meter IM, 50-meter backstroke, and 50-meter fly.

Other Swordfish swimmers racking up the points were Sunny Blount with 57, Brooke Ostrom with 54 points, Diane Comstock 50 points, Jessica LaFave 49 points and Kari Fortner with 48 points. Brooke Ostrom, 10, took home a gold medal in the 50 fly and two silver medals in 50-meter freestyle and 100 IM. Diane Comstock, 12, finished second in 50 backstroke and 50 fly, and third in 50 freestyle for two silvers and a bronze. Jessica LaFave was awarded the bronze for her first event swim and finished the day with a silver in the 100-meter freestyle, and one more bronze in the 200 IM. Kari Fortner, 12, finished second in the 100 IM, third in the 50 fly, and fourth in the 50 freestyle.

In addition to the awards given for events swam at the Championships, the 2003-2004 season Pentathlon Awards were presented during the Championships. Pentathlon Awards are presented for each age group swimmer with the best total combined times from the entire season of the five strokes in competitive swimming: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and individual medley. The Swordfish had four awardees: Lauren Blount, Sunny Blount,



Above: Sunny Blount and Jessica LaFave, starting the 100 Free



At left: Garrett McKeown awarded the 10 year old Boy's Pentathlon Award by Steve Genter (1972 U.S. Swimming Gold Medalist)

Below: The team in the bleachers after warmup, before the start of the meet



about the Swordfish, please call x5335 or email the team at Sigonella\_Swordfish@yahoo.com. You can also go to the EFSL Web Site at <http://swimefslritannet.net> and select Sigonella and view the team's web site.

Jacquelyn LaFave and Garrett McKeown. That is four of the possible 17 pentathlon awards, quite a feat by such a small team.

The Swordfish swimmers will be taking a short break before starting the training for the summer (fun) league. To join the team or for more information

## Navy men's track and field team wins Patriot League title

*From Navysports.com*

Navy won the meet-ending 4x400m relay in a time of 3:17.11 to give the men's track and field team a first-place showing at the Patriot League Indoor Championship, which concluded Sunday in Lewisburg, Pa. Individually, Navy's Eric Porter shared the Athlete of the Meet award, while Navy's Steve Cooksey was tabbed as the Coach of the Meet.

Navy defeated Army in the final relay of the championship by just over three seconds, which was enough to give Navy a two-point win over the Black Knights in the final standings. Navy totaled 177.75 points, with Army ending the meet in second place with 175.75 points.

The Mids won a number of individual titles on the final day of the championship. Porter (Sr., Brookeville, Md.) set a league meet record in winning the 400m run in a 48.48 clocking, while also winning the 200m dash in a time of 21.91. Adesina Ekundayo (Sr., Randallstown, Md.) joined Porter as an individual champion by taking the 60m hurdles in a time of 8.09.

The Mids also won several distance races, with Eric Brye (Jr., Winona, Ohio) claiming the 500m title in a time of 1:05.71, Erik Schmidt (Sr., Spokane, Wash.) winning the 1000m (2:30.03) and Navy's distance medley relay team winning with a 9:55.86.

Trey Hines (Fr., Douglasville, Ga.) placed second in the 60m dash (6.95) for Navy, Eric Mikowski (Jr., Elburn, Ill.) was the runner up in the 3000m run (8:45.32) and Ralph Lufkin (Jr., Basking Ridge, N.J.) recorded a second-place showing in the shot put (15.20).

# Admin defeats AIMD by scoring more baskets

By J03 Steve Weaver  
Staff Writer

Admin defeated the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD) "B" team 40-21 in Intramural Captain's Cup Basketball action on Feb. 18. The game started off with a 0-0 tie, but the fans watched as Admin took the opening tip-off and set the tone for the rest of the game as Terry Spain hit a three pointer.

Admin took a 7-1 lead early in the first half as Anthony Vega buried a jumper and Danetrius Williams grabbed an offensive rebound and put the ball back in the hoop.

Both teams played good defense midway through the first half as the low scoring led to an Admin lead of 13-7 with 8:00 left on the first half clock. Both teams got in each other's faces, forcing many turnovers and intercepted passes.

Admin took advantage of their speed and shooting ability as Williams buried a three pointer bringing the score to 21-9. Admin's Vega stole the ball and drove to the hoop for a lay in, and Michael Pickens added another to boost Admin's lead to 25-9 at the end of the first half.

Both teams couldn't find the hoop early in the second half. When the scoring did pick up, Jason Natale, Phillip Linkenback, and Kyle Rogers of AIMD each scored hoops in the second half as they tried to cut into Admin's lead of 29-17 with nine minutes left in the game.

Admin's defense would not break. The frustration set in for AIMD with three minutes left in the second half as Admin took the game by scoring more baskets, to its final of 40-21.

The win brought Admin's record to 11-1 and their team closer to a championship. The team is riding high right now. "We have no weaknesses," said coach Anthony Wall. "Our strength is our ability to play as a team to overcome adversity."

The team doesn't have one key player. "We're all star players," Wall said. "We don't have one star player. We have ten solid players." They're also maintaining their winning ways despite being down a player.

"I feel very confident that we're going to win the league and the tournament," Wall said.

League play continues through March.



Above: Kieth Barrow attempts to block a shot of Kyle Rogers during the Admin win.  
At left: Miller blocks his opponent's path to the hoop.



## The Lane

### Goofy Golf Tournament: Four-person scramble

Round up your team for this wacky game of golf at the Il Picciolo Golf Club on March 6. Tee time is 9 a.m. Lunch and awards included. There will be a pre-game meeting at Jox on March 4 at 4 p.m. Small entry fee plus greens fees needed. Call 624-2710 for more information.

### Aerobics instructor training

Every Friday and Saturday in March you can get certified to teach spin, step, kickboxing, yoga and circuit training. Classes are limited to 15 participants so sign up today. Registration is ongoing. Call the NAS I or NAS II fitness Centers at 624-4483 or 624-5243 for more information.

### 3-on-3 basketball tournament

Start gathering your friends for your team so you can show off your best moves and beat the competition. The tournament will be March 29, at the NAS I Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign up by March 25 at the NAS I Fitness Center. Men's and women's divisions and the top three teams win T-shirts. Double elimination tournament.



# Navy-Italy Volleyball Inaugural Showcase in USAF-Europe Event



Courtesy Navy-Italy Volleyball Team

Spangdahlem AB (Germany) hosted the President's Day USAFE Volleyball Tournament Feb. 14-16. The competitors in the Men's Division were AF-Spangdahlem, AF-United Kingdom, AF-Ramstein, AF-Aviano and Navy-Italy. The Navy-Italy squad was an honorable selection made from NAS Sigonella, NSA Naples and NSA La Maddalena.

The selected Navy-Italy volleyball players were invited to train at NSA Naples prior to the tournament. Then the entire squad was to jump on the plane to Germany for the last training session prior to the opening whistle.

"The Navy-Italy team was a successful venture on and off the court," said Erico Latham, Navy-Italy coordinator. "In the wake of the NASSIG October tournament, Navy volleyball players united to show medal in the Air Force community. Our team excelled in a very competitive environment on the court and established comradery off the court."

"The biggest thing is that we are all in the Theater to support the world peace efforts for our country," said Latham. "We diligently go about our job daily. There is personal side of life which needs to be exercised. Volleyball is an excellent way to keep the body, mind and soul healthy. These athletes appreciate the support of the commands for their individual wellness."

The volleyball tournament produced some fierce competition. Navy-Italy entered the mix and improved with each match to retain third place to enter the play-offs. In the semi-final match versus AF-United Kingdom, Navy-Italy darted out of the blocks to an insurmountable and first game victory. In the second game, AF-UK knotted the match at one game a piece. In the tie-breaker, AF-UK surged forward to capture the match win and eventually stormed through the final match versus AF-Ramstein to seize the tournament title.

"This athletic level far exceeded all of my expectations," ABE1 Jim Sheppard. "The intense competition tested every ounce of my varsity training. I have a renewed focus and purpose in preparation for the next round. This invaluable experience bettered each varsity athlete. Call me anytime."

Navy-Italy finished in third place. Erico Latham was voted to the All-Tournament team.

The players selected from NASSIG were Lt. David Burns, ABE1 James Sheppard, AT2 Wilson, ASAA Gustavo Baptista and Mr. Erico Latham



Above: AF-Aviano take on AF-UK in the President's Day USAFE Volleyball Tournament. The Tournament featured a new team Navy-Italy, which had five players from Naval Air Station Sigonella.

At left: The Navy-Italy volleyball team that competed at the President's Day USAFE Volleyball tournament in Spangdahlem Germany.



## COMSTA Officer Wins Prestigious Copernicus Award

By Lt. Pat Sutton  
NTSC Sigonella



**CWO3 Alex Pena receives his Copernicus Award for command, control, computers, communications and intelligence (C4I) in San Diego Feb. 4.**

Chief Warrant Officer Alex Pena of NCTS Sicily received the 2003 Copernicus Award in San Diego on Feb. 4. The annual award, established in 1997, considers contributions of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel in the areas of command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) and was awarded to only 29 personnel in 2003. The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute sponsor this coveted award.

Pena's leadership and innovative approach to tackling problems as NCTS Sicily's Operations Officer prompted this national recognition. He has used his more than 20 years of experience as a communicator in improving C4I services for the warfighter.

His consolidation of regional communication security elements into a single CMS super account resulted in a "one-

stop" asset for operational units from throughout the European Theater. Additionally, he initiated the first ever C4I Service Center, to support the great number of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines transiting through Naval Air Station Sigonella. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, the service center was manned 24 hours a day seven days a week and provided voice, e-mail, Internet and messaging services to 2,500 customers enroute to the Arabian Gulf.

The Copernicus award is named for Nicholas Copernicus, the 16th century astronomer who disputed the common belief that the Earth was the center of the universe. NCTS Sicily Sailors are fortunate to have their own pioneer in Pena. He continues to have a tremendous, positive influence on mission readiness in all aspects of C4I support.

benefits. "Many spouses here accompanying their military spouses are working for the commissary, the exchange or MWR and think they are entitled to the foreign earned income exclusion," Mosca said. "They are working overseas, but not for the military - they think that qualifies and they don't have to pay the I.R.S. for those wages. Unfortunately, the income does not fall within the prevue of the exclusion."

The VITA Tax Center opened Feb. 9 and will remain open throughout the tax season. The hours of operation are Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Taxes are processed by appointment only except 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., when walk-in clients are accepted for 1040 filing.

All filers should bring a W-2 form to the appointment, as well as the VITA tax client intake sheet. Couples filing jointly must, unless a power of attorney has been obtained, attend the appointment together. "We need both signatures on the 8453 form," Mosca said. "It's your authorization for us to file your taxes electronically."

Filers may obtain electronic copies of their W-2 form at MyPay at dfas.mil. For more information call the VITA Tax Center at 624-5884.

The next episode of "Feedback" airs March 3 at 6:30 p.m. The guest will be Capt. Tim Davison, NAS Sigonella Commanding Officer.



**Lt. Giovanna Mosca**

tion detailing those expenses.

Mosca provided tips to avoid trouble with your return. She said that taxpayers and spouses using their married or maiden names without notifying the Social Security Administration will have problems. "Social Security maintains the old name while the I.R.S. is using the new name," Mosca said. "If the names don't match your return will be rejected." In the event of a name change Mosca advises tax payers to file form SS-5, available at the Social Security Website, at least two weeks before filing.

Another problem occurs when military spouses believe working on base earns extra tax

### Tax from page 1

bat area. "In addition to that automatic two months they are granted an additional 180-day extension," Mosca said. "Unlike most of us, their interest and penalties are waived until their absolute deadline for paying."

Deployment to a combat zone, with the non-taxable pay status that goes with it, can have some unforeseen benefits due to the earned income credit section of the tax code, according to Mosca. "The way the law is written, those whose taxable income falls below a certain amount are eligible for the earned income credit," she said. "If three-fourths of their income was non-taxable they still get this huge credit which was intended to benefit those with very modest incomes."

Mosca explained that two more important tax laws were passed in 2003 that greatly affect military tax payers. First, the military death benefit was increased from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Secondly, tax payers who sell a primary home can now exclude up to \$250,000 on the sale of a principal residence. However, the property owner must list the home as a primary residence for at least two years.

When asked if daycare costs are reimbursable when filing with the 1040A form Mosca answered yes, if the filer provides documenta-

## NCTS Sicily Sailors at the Tip of the Spear

By Lt. Pat Sutton  
NTSC Sigonella

Sailors from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS) Sicily answered the call to support the Global War on Terrorism. Lt. j.g. Robert Moore, ITC Sean Turley and IT2 Kiran Datt, top performers filling demanding billets at NCTS Sicily, volunteered for potentially dangerous assignments to support the Navy's requirement to augment forces in hot spots around the world.

Moore departed recently for training and fitting out at Fort Bliss, Texas. From there, he will put his extensive knowledge of network and communications infrastructure to good use as he deploys to Baghdad, Iraq. Upon arrival, he will contribute to reconstruction efforts in Iraq as project manager of a major network installation. As NCTS Sicily Sailors applauded his courage at the most recent Command Hail and Farewell, Moore gave his best rendition of the Army's "hoorah!" in anticipation of joint service in the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility.

Turley applied his network support and security manager skills in support of Coalition Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in Djibouti, Africa. There, he supported multiple networks for U.S. and Coalition Forces, ensuring this isolated location remained connected as part of the Global War on Terrorism. While the duty assignment was arduous, Chief Turley pointed out that "the base possessed some of the basic quality of life facilities you would find on most military establishments" and that he knew he was safe "knowing that the Marines had the watch."

Datt is another rising star at NCTS Sicily who chose service over comfort and volunteered to put her boots on the ground in Qatar. An expert in Sicily's Technical Control Facility, she is the only Second Class Petty Officer in the command qualified as Communications Watch Officer. She is filling a challenging E-6 billet in Camp Al Sayliyah, Qatar. Her technical and leadership skills will be highly valued in this critical billet.

The words "Naval support" usually invoke images of an FA-18 Hornet being launched from the deck of an aircraft carrier or an Aegis Destroyer putting ordnance on target. NCTS Sicily personnel remember these three Sailors when they think of the Navy's role in the Global War on Terrorism.

### Trivia Answers

- 1) Blue
- 2) Evil
- 3) Betty Brant
- 4) Julius Caesar
- 5) Air or Breath



# The Choice we have to make

By Rachel Morken  
Staff Writer

It is believed that once you join the military all your choices are made for you. Last week's military indoctrination (INDOC) class was informed that there was at least one choice that Uncle Sam still left up to them. Sex.

To do it, or not to do it, that is the question every Sailor has to answer. The Choices class was added to INDOC to help Sailors make an informed decision. The class reviewed sexually transmitted diseases, conception, contraception, budgeting for babies, legal issues, and all night babysitting.

The class was added to INDOC five years ago. In 1999, Sigonella had an unplanned pregnancy rate of 62 percent, versus the Navy's overall rate of 38 percent. Sigonella had to do something to change these statistics.

The students in the Choices class got a taste of the end result of having sex. They were given infant simulators at the end of the first day of class. According to Kathryn Morton, the class instructor, "They are fairly realistic. It gives them a good inclination of how much babies cry, how often you have to feed and change them. They also demonstrate how frequently babies need to be taken care of and the demands of an infant."

You could see the fear on the students' faces as



**MASR Stephanie Holland receives the infant simulator during indoc Choices class. Choices teaches young Sailors about the responsibilities of having a child.**



PHOTO BY PHOTOTECH/Steve Curran

**Kathryn Morton, Choices instructor, shows students how to feed their baby simulator. Each Choices student must care for a simulator overnight, feeding, burping and changing diapers as required.**

the babies were being passed out. Some students were even afraid to take it out of the box. The babies seemed to be able to sense their "parents'" fear, and began screaming. That was just the beginning...

The next morning the once vibrant and wide-eyed class came in tired and weary, with dreary eyes. Stephani Holland explained, "The baby was crying every hour. It made me think I didn't want a baby." Brad Tom shared his sad experience. "It took me over an hour to make Ramen Noodles because the baby kept crying." After only one night of being "parents" the class learned the importance of the consequences unprotected sex.

After hearing about their horrific night, I knew I had a choice to make. I am just now allowing my husband back into our bed - that is if he can stay on his side.

## Imminent Danger Pay, Combat Zone Tax Relief now offered to select units

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs



**Aviation Ordnancemen assemble bombs aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) before they are sent to the aircraft carrier's flight deck for uploading on various aircraft. Roosevelt is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the multi-national coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.**

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Navy personnel who deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea in the opening weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom are now entitled to Imminent Danger Pay (IDP) and Combat Zone Tax Relief (CZTR) benefits.

Through special legislation, the Department of Defense retroactively authorized IDP and CZTR benefits from March 19 through Aug. 1, 2003.

"We are absolutely delighted to be able to get this pay into the hands of all those hard-working Sailors who were there during the opening phase of the war," said Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, Chief of Naval Personnel. "They were among the first to sail in harm's way, and they certainly deserve this."

The original authorization for IDP and CZTR began April 11, 2003, and did not cover Sailors who deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March.

This change in authorization date affects nearly 18,000 Sailors, most of whom were attached to USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) carrier strike groups, as well as Commander, Task Force (CTF) 61 units.

Sailors deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea, east of 30 degrees east longitude, in connection with Operation Iraqi Freedom between March 19 and April 11, 2003, and not already entitled to IDP and CZTR benefits for March and/or April, should contact their local disbursing office for more information or see NAVADMIN 036/04.



# A lovely sojourn to the city of red ceramics



**Above Left: Worker in a factory in Santo Stefano painting intricate designs on a vase.**

**Bottom left: Pietro Zaffero and Lt. Cmdr. T. Moesinger negotiating the price of an exquisite "carretto Siciliano," or decorative horse cart.**

**Below: Rows of ceramic planters waiting to be painted after the clay has been baked in a large kiln at about 1000 degrees celsius for twelve hours.**



Photo: Rachel Morken



Photo: Rachel Morken

*Rachel Morken & Lt. Cmdr. T. Moesinger*  
**Staff writers**

After only a two-hour drive along a rolling Sicilian countryside and Mediterranean coast, we arrived to find small shops along the main street in Santo Stefano closing for riposo. As seen from the street, each of these stores is packed to the gills with pots, plates, pitchers, planters and vases; however, to our despair nearly all the stores were closed.

Fortunately for our shopping endeavors, Pietro Zaffero lingered in his store arranging and dusting his wares and welcomed us in. Our friendly host was eager to learn more about us and asked where we were from as well as what we thought about Santo Stefano. Having only been there for three minutes, it was clear to us that if all the proprietors were as kind and accommodating as Pietro, Santo Stefano was a wonderful and charming city.

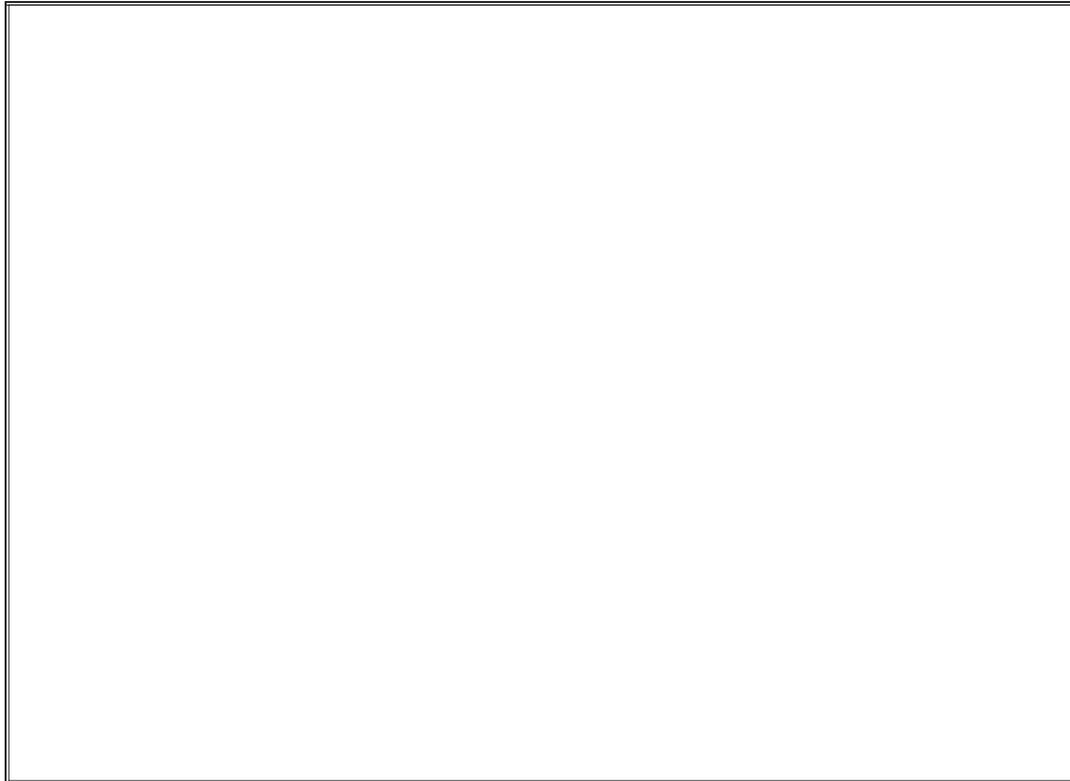
After a short discussion, Pietro determined our styles and led us to different sections of his store as we made numerous selections. Our purchase decisions actually took more than an hour, but time flies when you're in ceramic heaven. We made our choices, emptied our pocket books, expressed our appreciation for his hospitality, and asked Pietro to suggest a local restaurant.

After loading our newly acquired treasures, we had worked up an appetite! Pietro asked us to follow him and directed us to a small, off the beaten path family restaurant. We actually entered the joint through the kitchen! The owner's son greeted us, told us the daily special, which we decided to try. The doors to the restaurant were promptly locked

after we were served, and then everyone working in the restaurant sat down for a nice dinner.

While taking pictures and sight seeing, we noticed a ceramic factory just outside of town.

Wondering how these gorgeous works of art are created, we stopped at the large factory and wandered in. To our surprise, one of the workers was nice enough to show us through the plant and explain the numerous steps of the process.







## Black Stallions Transport Vice President Cheney

*Courtesy of HC-4*

In the latter part of January, Vice President Dick Cheney made his first official visit to Italy, marking only the second time the vice president has left the country during his tenure. The VP's agenda had him slated for a three-day stay in Rome followed by one day in Aviano. He would be having an audience with Pope John Paul II and then presiding over a dedication ceremony at the cemetery in Anzio, the final resting place of many Americans from a devastating battle with the Germans in WWII. After Rome, the VP boarded Air Force Two and flew to Aviano where he was scheduled to give numerous speeches to Air Force and Army personnel, commending them for their participation and success in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

On Jan. 22, HC-4 Det Team Alpha departed Sigonella in a two-plane formation flight to Rome. The next day, Det Team Delta geared up and another two-plane formation left for Aviano. Alpha flew directly to Rome while Delta made an intermediary stop in Brindisi, donned dry suits for the transit across the Northern Adriatic and pressed on to Aviano.

Offset by one day, each team mirrored the other's actions. Concise planning between the White House staff and representatives as well as United States Secret Service agents guaranteed a flawless mission with no surprises. Each team spent the better part of three days coordinating and planning with local nationals and regional military officials. Timelines were established and adhered to, often with transition windows of no more than two to three minutes. The mission routes were flown and evaluated by the aircrews to determine any hazards to the flight and all viable options in the event of inclement weather or unforeseen hindrances to mission completion. Two days prior to each respective mission, both detachment teams flew rehearsal missions to evaluate the landing zones (LZs) and any obstacles or hazards.

On Jan. 26, the Rome detachment arrived at Ciampino airport at 8 a.m. for their weather brief and mission planning. After completing their preflight checks and mission planning, the aircrews manned up their aircraft and awaited the VP's arrival. Vice President Cheney's motorcade arrived at 1:40 p.m. and the flight of two launched at 2 p.m. With Admiral Gregory Johnson (NAVEUR), Italian President Casini, Ambassador Sembler and Vice President Cheney, with his wife and daughter, the aircraft launched and began the 1.2 hour flight to Nettuno. Once on the deck, the Vice President debarked the aircraft and his motorcade drove him to Anzio cemetery where he presided over a dedication ceremony.

On Jan. 27, the Rome detachment manned up in the morning for their transit back to Sigonella. Meanwhile, the Aviano detachment arrived at Aviano AFB at 6 a.m. to receive their mission and weather briefings, perform preflight checks and turn up both aircraft to ensure mission readiness for the afternoon.

At 2 p.m. Air Force Two arrived in Aviano and the VP's motorcade drove him across the airfield to the hangar in which he would deliver one of the three speeches scheduled for the day to the assembled Air Force personnel. At 3 p.m. the Vice President walked from the Hangar accompanied by General B. B. Bell (USAEUR) and boarded the MH 53E awaiting his arrival on the ramp. At 3:10 p.m. the aircraft launched and navigated the valleys of Northern Italy. At 3:40 p.m. the aircraft landed in a soccer field at the Army base in Vincenza, Italy and Vice President Cheney again debarked and delivered two more speeches to the awaiting



A MH-53E "Seadragon" of HC-4 sits on the ball field at Vincenza in northern Italy during a recent detail to assist with transporting Vice President Dick Cheney between bases in northern Italy.

Army personnel. The monumental roar of a room full of Army Infantry soldiers announced his arrival. After completing the last of his speeches, Vice President Cheney's motorcade brought him back to the soccer field and the flight of two departed to take him back to Aviano and his awaiting Air Force 757 to depart Italy and head back home.

Due to the precise planning and coordination between The Black Stallions and the Air Force personnel in Aviano, White House staff and representatives, Secret Service agents and the local nationals, the mission was a huge success.

## Proliferation Security Initiative exercise, AIR BRAKE 04, concludes

*By Sixth Fleet Public Affairs*

GAETA, Italy (February 20, 2004) - A U.S. P-3 surveillance aircraft from Patrol Squadron 26, operating out of Sigonella, Sicily, recently participated in the Italian-led AIR BRAKE 04, a multilateral aviation interdiction training exercise in the Mediterranean sea area.

The Feb. 18-19 exercise, led by Italy, was part of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), a collaborative effort to take active measures against trafficking in weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, and related materials to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern around the world. AIR BRAKE 04 was the first aviation exercise in the PSI series and demonstrated that PSI is about in-

terdiction of proliferation-related trafficking via various modes of transportation.

In addition to Italy and the United States, Portugal, Spain and France contributed to the exercise by providing radar and air defense data to assist in tracking the target aircraft and make possible its interception.

Although PSI participants are capable and ready to execute interdiction operations against trafficking today, the 16 partner nations have agreed to a series of interdiction training exercises to improve capabilities and interoperability.

The 16 PSI participants are Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

At right: An Italian Air Force F-16 intercepts a US Navy P-3C from Patrol Squadron Twenty-Six (VP-26), on February 18, 2004, during Exercise Air Brake 04, a multi-lateral aviation interdiction training exercise in the Mediterranean Sea area. The exercise, led by Italy, is part of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) a collaborative effort to take active measures against trafficking in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).



PHOTO: J. J. JOHNSON



## Sexual Assault: Consequences & Prevention

By JOC(SCH) Lisa M. Novak  
Naval Forces Europe SAVI  
Advocate

It's one of the least reported crimes, yet one that can result in a life sentence or even the death penalty upon conviction. Sexual assault carries with it not only physical, judicial and economic consequences, but social consequences as well. The stigma of a sexual assault conviction is often impossible to overcome — long after a sentence is served. Even without a conviction, the implications of sexual assault are devastating for all involved, victim and perpetrator alike. Avoiding the situations that might place one in the position of victim or perpetrator, is universally the best defense against sexual assault.

The Navy's policy toward sexual assault is zero tolerance. But in the event of a crime of this nature, the Navy is well equipped to deal with the situation. The Navy provides Sexual Assault Victims Intervention (SAVI) programs funded at both headquarters and base levels. Commands have one or several advocates that assist victims, as well as command information programs.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice offers several definitions of sexual assault — all of which include the element of force. But beyond legal terms and definitions, it is important to evaluate our own behavior in the context of how it is viewed by others. In making a conscious effort to do this, one must consider the common factors that link most incidents. Not surprisingly, one of those factors is the abuse of alcohol. For some, the effects of alcohol can lead to a breakdown of inhibitions, enabling one to act more aggressively than normal. For others, alcohol can disable the ability to avoid a physical altercation.

According to SKCS

Michael Clark, a SAVI advocate with Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, the main reason alcohol plays such a common role in these crimes is because of the effect it has on our decision making process.

"Alcohol is such a huge factor because it impairs our judgment. And the more we drink, the greater the impairment. When alcohol is consumed, it must be done so responsibly. That means not drinking to the point where it incapacitates or alters normal behavior, or the normal thought process."

One of the more sobering statistics regarding sexual assault, is that 60 to 80 percent of these crimes are classified as date or acquaintance rape. And although more women are victims than men, sexual assault is about power, not gender. According to the Uniform Crime Report's National Crime Survey, one of every 12 rape victims is male.

But the good news is that the potential to prevent this from happening may be greater than you think. In fact, about one in three attempted rapes is prevented. But in order to minimize the chances of becoming a victim, we all must first recognize some of the situations that can lead to a sexual assault, and learn to avoid them.

"There are numerous resources available to Sailors and family members. The Web site www.lifelines2000.org offers a great deal of information about self protection along with some tips for prevention," added Clark.

Some of the tips offered on the website are as follows:

- **Protecting Yourself**
- Trust your intuition. If you feel uncomfortable or pressured into a situation, you probably are in danger.
- Know your own desires and set your own limits. Communicate them clearly to others. If you are not sure, stop

and talk about it. Say "NO" when you mean "NO."

• Stay with a group. There is safety in numbers.

**In Your Car**

• Always lock your car doors, whether parked or driving.

• Check the interior of your car before entering.

• Do not stop for a stranded motorist. Note location. Go to the nearest phone booth and call the police for assistance.

**Inside at Work or at Home**

• Lock your door every time you go out, even if it is only for a short period of time.

• Be aware of places near your home or workplace that provide a hiding place for attackers.

• When entering your home or workplace, have your keys ready before you get out of your car. When you arrive at the door, if it is open, or you see signs of forced entry, go to a neighbor's house and call the police.

• Never allow strangers into your home when you're alone no matter how dire their emergency may be. Offer to make an emergency phone call for them while they wait outside.

• Use initials only on your nameplate for your door or mailbox. Even add a name so it won't appear that you live alone.

As leaders, supervisors, or just friends, we all must be willing to take that extra step to help our shipmates avoid these pitfalls. That means a willingness to tell our friends things they might not want to hear. And in turn, we should be able to expect that same level of support and listen when others try to help us. That doesn't begin and end with merely using the buddy system when going out. Because for victim or perpetrator, the cost of a sexual assault is far higher than any short-lived satisfaction of a night on the town.

for everyone.

"Heart disease is preventable in most cases," said Yamamoto. "From a doctor's standpoint, it is a lot easier to help prevent heart disease than to manage it."

There are certain risk factors for heart disease. Smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, sedentary lifestyle, family history of heart disease, and bad eating habits are all risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

## New Relief Act Provisions Protect Service Members

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American  
Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) of 1940 will provide military personnel — especially those deployed or called to active duty — greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said here.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) into law Dec. 19.

"The focus of the SCRA is the same as under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"The SCRA is a significant law, because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," he said.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment."

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that service members are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he added.

What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative

hearings. In the past, according to Lindemann, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The SCRA also makes it clear that the 6 percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and that any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, service members and their dependents who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. The SCRA increased that maximum lease amount to \$2,400 and added an annual adjustment for inflation. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465. Lindemann said this will significantly increase the number of service members entitled to this protection.

The SCRA also gives the service member who has received permanent change of station (PCS) orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Prior to the SCRA, service members could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant provisions in the SCRA that did not exist in the SSCRA, Lindemann said, was an added protection for service members who have motor vehicle leases. Any active-duty service member who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for not less than 180 days, may terminate a motor vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges. "Now, service members won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," said Lindemann.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

### Yorktown from page 3

"We have a very formidable striking power and are able to back up the Marines in a low or medium threat condition. I believe we will be a very credible asset to the theater commander."

Yorktown is capable of carrying an extensive array of weapons and electronic equipment at high speeds over vast distances. The ship's Aegis combat system can detect, track and destroy enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines and surface ships to ensure victory in battle. The system, comprised of radars, computers and weapons, is designed to function effectively in all weather conditions and hostile environments.

Yorktown will be deployed for six months, and although the crew is looking forward to making their mark in the war of terrorism, there is some anxiety.

"This will be the first deployment for a number of the crew," said Sloan. "They are a little bit anxious but are looking forward to the deployment. The ship is well trained, and we are ready to go. We are ready!"

Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 3rd Class Daniel Harton, of Glade Springs, Va., is making his first deployment.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "The ship has trained hard, and we are ready to go. The question is, 'Are they ready for us?'"

Operations Specialist 2nd Class Paul Francois, of New Roads, La., added, "The ship is ready to go, but it's hard leaving the family."

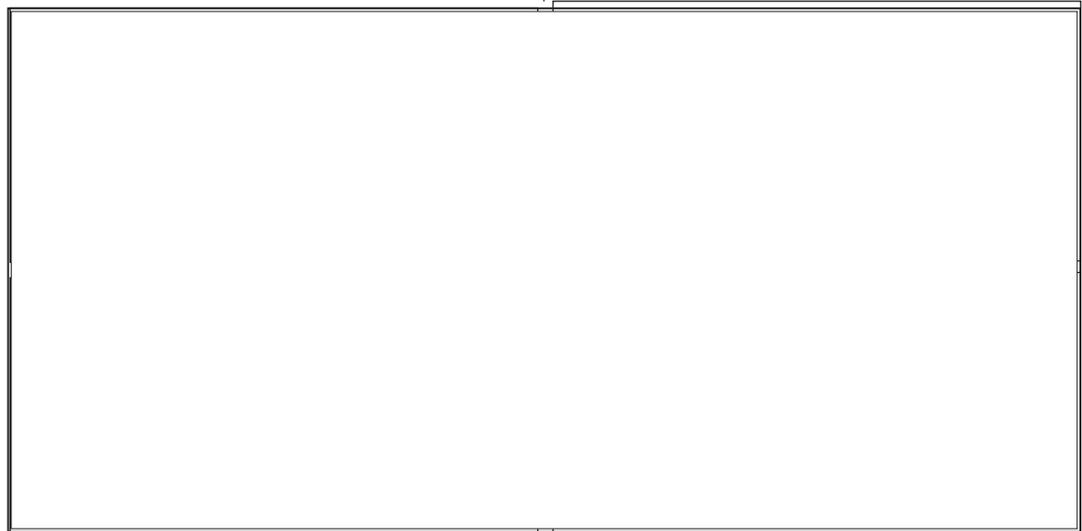
The Wasp Strike Group is commanded by Capt. Steven C. Joachim, and the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is commanded by Marine Col. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. In addition to Yorktown, the strike group consists of the amphibious assault ship Wasp, the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), homeported in Norfolk, Va.; the amphibious transport ship USS Shreveport (LPD 12), homeported in Norfolk, Va.; the dock landing ship USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41), homeported at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.; the guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul (DDG 74), homeported in Norfolk, Va.; and the fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN 22), homeported in Groton, Conn. The MEU is composed of the Marine aviation squadron, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 266, the battalion landing team, BLT 1/6, and the MEU Service and Support Group (MSSG) 22.

### Exercise from page 2

tional Naval Medical Center. "It is the most important thing you can do to keep your heart pumping."

"Coronary artery disease is the number one killer in women," said Cardiologist Helen Barold. "It is more likely that you will die from heart disease than breast cancer."

However, heart disease doesn't have to be an issue





## Oak Hill takes the Polar Bear Plunge ... again

By **JOSN Daniel K. Gay**  
**USS Oak Hill Public Affairs**

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS) — Sailors from USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) participated in a fundraising event for the Virginia Special Olympics Feb. 7.

The day was cold and windy—a good day to just stay indoors and relax. But not for the 37 Oak Hill Sailors and many other volunteers. The day of the “Polar Plunge” was the day they had been waiting for.

The Polar Plunge is a popular fundraising event for the Special Olympics, where people from all over Virginia—and sometimes from other states—raise money by agreeing to jump into sub-40-degree water for donations.

This was the second year participating in the plunge for the Nation’s Protectors. The Sailors participating—nicknamed The Nation’s Frosted Protectors—were out in force this year, raising nearly \$6,800 among the 37 plungers. This was enough to win, for the second year in a row, the Polar Plunge military challenge for most money and most plungers. The Frosted Protectors’ donation contributed to the grand total of \$300,000 for the Special Olympics.

Master Chief Hull Technician (SW) Dwayne P. Bruns coordinated the Polar Plunge event for Oak Hill and has seven years of bone-chilling plunging experience.

“This year was great. We had more people partici-

pate, and we raised more money,” said Bruns. “We also had more chiefs and officers participate this year.”

As for the event itself, it wasn’t just jumping into cold water that made this year great. On the beach, there were games for kids, a large tent housing a stage, various food vendors and even an Army National Guard Humvee blasting music. There was also a costume competition, an ice sculpting challenge and a flyover by military jets that kicked off the dash for the chilly water of the Atlantic.

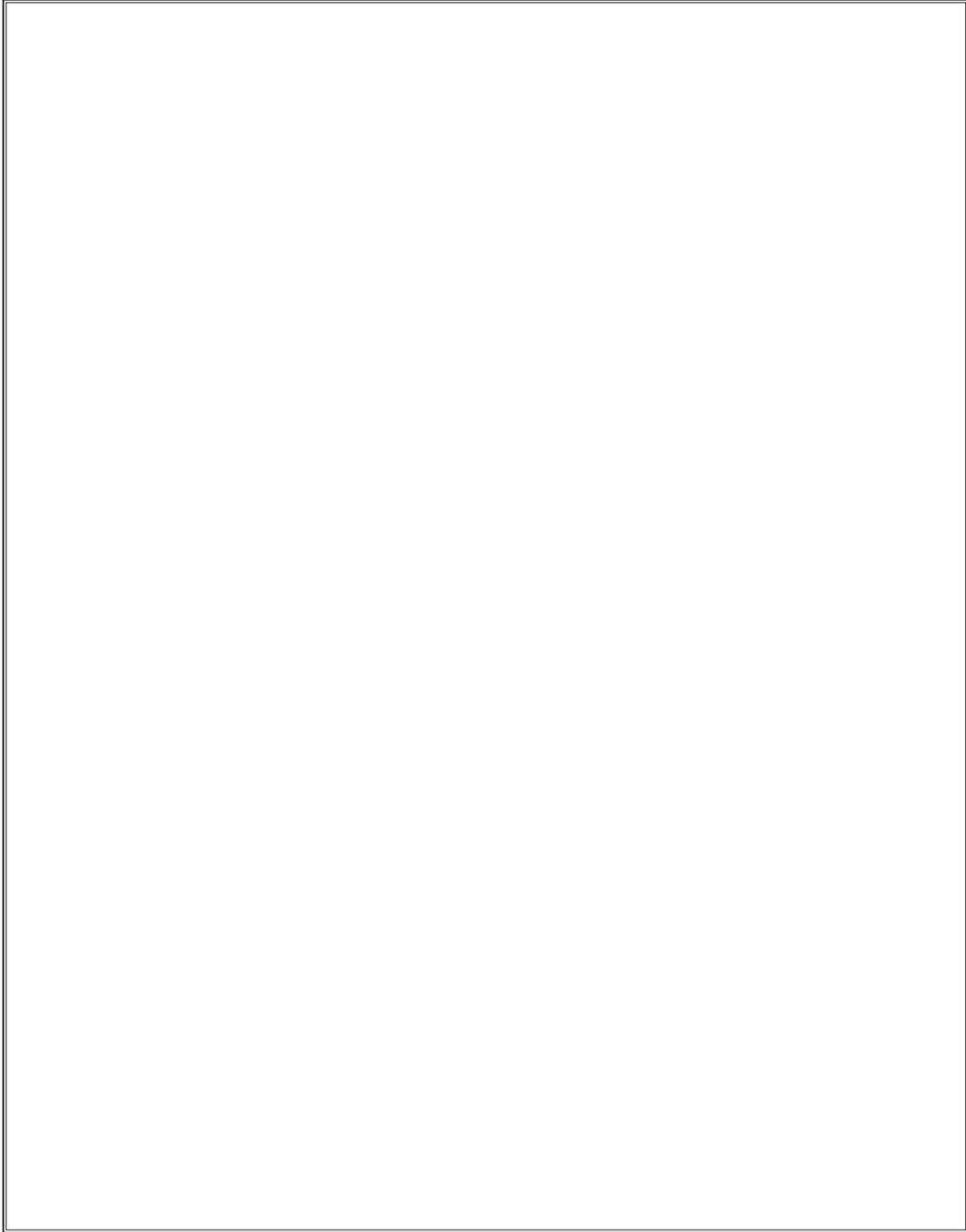
Waiting in the water throughout the event were rescue divers in wet suits to ensure the safety of all the participants. As the jets flew overhead, the divers readied themselves, as thousands of people ran straight for

the water.

When the plungers reached the water, some went in up to their knees while others dove headfirst. A few of the more tolerant people even swam out to give a high five to the rescue divers. Some people, like Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class William H. Tucker, even took the plunge twice.

“The second time we jumped in was the worst idea—it hurt,” said the Camden, N.J., native.

After all was said and done, some of the plungers retired to a nearby hotel that allowed Polar Plunge participants to use their heated pool for free. Most of the volunteers seemed satisfied at how this year’s event turned out. Among them was Oak Hill’s Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Franklin E. Mallo.





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**1994 BMW 520i.** 24V CAT. Manual full optional one

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**Opel Station Wagon.** White. 1.7 Fuel. Excellent condition. Pioneer radio, PW, A/C, gas implant, one owner, vehicle in excellent condition. 1,000 Euro. Call Alfio at x6894.

**2000 Volvo S40 T (160 hp).** European specs, manual transmission, mi 48900, automatic, A/C, leather, check control panel, dual front side air bags, ASD (Anti Sliding Device), ABS (4 wheel), AM/FM Stereo, oil & filters just changed. Full optional and great condition. \$10,700 O.B.O. Call Rick at x4690 (from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or 338-5326171 after 4:30 p.m.

**1993 Alfa Romeo 155.** Bordeaux, P/W, ABS, excellent condition. \$2,000. Call 339-2776399 or 333-2733562.

**1989 Honda Legend Coupe.** Like new, 2.7/6 cyl, almost never used, 12,000km, 5-speed, met-blue-petrol, leather/lumbar seats, A/C, CD player, sunroof, alloy rims, not smoking. 6,000 Euro. Call x6886 or 347-5859182.

**1999 Jeep Gran Cherokee.** Silver, V8, 4.7ltr, fully loaded. 23,000 Euro. Call 348-3234784.

**2002 Honda motorcycle.** 650cc, 5 speed, shaft drive, hard bags, fairing. Best offer. Call x2725 during working hours or 335-8010257 after working hours.

**1992 Fiat Tempra 1.6.** Green, A/C good tires, PW, PL. Asking \$2,000. Call 334-3429129.

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**1994 Mitsubishi 3000 GT.** New tires, A/C, heating, automatic, AFI plated, security alarm, AM/FM radio, CD player, motor and body in good condition. Mitsubishi no longer making this model, a steal for any

car enthusiast. Asking \$6,500. Call 340-0643226 or 095-529433.

**1968 Fiat 500 Giardinetta.** Beautifully preserved, totally original vintage Fiat 500 Station Wagon. Suicide doors and convertible top. Runs and drives great. Must see to believe condition for this rare example of an unusual and fun car. \$4,000 O.B.O. Call x4599 or 093-1985084.

**2001 black Volkswagen Golf.** TDI 130 Hp. 6 speed, excellent conditions, new tires, loaded, 20,000 miles. \$18,500. Call Andrea at x3289 or 347-8444786.

**2000 GMC Sonoma SLS.** V6, 15K miles, step side, 3rd door. Garaged, very clean. All options. Ready for cruising. Sport package, chip, headers, 10 spkr+sub, CD/remote. Digital pix available. Located in VA. \$16,000. Call x2524 or 335-452570.

**1996 Toyota Celica Sports Car.** Manual transmission, new tires, A/C, dual front airbag, ABS, AM/FM stereo with CD changer AIWA, great conditions. Asking 7,000 Euro O.B.O. Call David at 338-8431642.

**1994 Ducati Monster 600.** New tires, powerful and elegant, road inspected, garage kept, 3,000 Euro O.B.O. Call Frank at 347-4825239.

**1983 Mercedes.** Automatic, 125K km. AFI plated, Sunroof, Good island car. New tires, PW. Runs good. Asking \$1,500 O.B.O. Call x5967 or 348-2736024.

**1997 Citroen Saxo.** 2-dr. A/C. Cover Plates, 44,000 miles. Asking \$3,500. Call Capt Yund, 624-9225.

**Opel Frontera Sport SUV 2.0ltr 4X4 2dr.**—Burgundy 127,000km. Sun Roof, Removable Hard Top, New Tires, Alloy Wheels, New Battery, Perfect Condition. 6900.00 euro. Call 624-5360 mon thru fri 0800-1600hrs.

**1997 Honda CRV.** One of a kind. Full time AWD, Full power, Automatic trans, U.S. specs, cover plates, new

tires. PCS Sale \$12,000 Won't Last. Call 624-0268 Evenings 3476870667.

**1990 Lancia Thema 2000cc,** 16 valve. Color blue, general good conditions; new tires, A.C., Asking 1,900,00 Euro. Call Maria at x5781 or 338/1083531.

**1998 Ford F150 XLT.** Black, tinted windows, flareside with bed liner V6 runs awesome, only has 52,000 miles with new tires. Asking 12,000 O.B.O. Call Rommel Cortezano at wk: x5177 or cell 3333648723, home: 095306442.

**2002 Harley Davidson Superglide Sport** like new with extras. Purple in color with blacked-out engine. Have all original parts. 3,700 original miles on it. \$14,500 OBO. Call AEI Morse @ 624-5441/5442 or 095-89-6932 or 3402777245.

**1998 Toyota Tacoma.** Xtra Cab, 4X4, SR5, AC, CD, 5 speed trans., int. wipers, tilt, sliding rear window, 54 K miles, \$11,000. Work phone 624-2725, after work hours 335-801-0257

**1992 Alfa 155 2.0ltr.** 84,000km Black, 4dr, Alloy Wheels, A/C Perfect Shape. 3500.00 euros Call 340-600-3960

**1981 Fiat 131.** Blue, four door, PW, AFI plates. Oil just changed. Runs good. Asking \$800. Call Backer at x6157

**2003 Harley Davidson Road King Classic** ( FLHRCL ) 100th Year Anniversary Edition, Black & Silver, 800 miles. Asking price \$2500.00 OBO. Contact Lowell Karcher at 624-5087 W, 624-1339 H, 338 735 2831 Cell

**1995 Kawasaki 500** EN custom Red and black \ twin cyl., 5 speed. Asking \$2300 fmi call 340-980-8927

**1992 VW PASSAT** - Dark Grey. Good condition. New tires and brakes. Power windows, locks, steering, A.C. Paid \$3,000 Asking \$2,600. Call Jeremy 3475081962,



## Send II Mercato advertisements to sigosignature@yahoo.com

095309176, or X5143, Email  
kridjerj@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

### Pets

Free to a good home. Two male tiger cats, five and one-years-old. Fixed, chipped, and all shots up to date. Indoors only. Prefer to give away together. Free accessories with cats. Call Joe at x 0122.

Free to good home: 1 and a half year old pure breed male rottweiler. Emergency PCSing and can not bring him. Call Valerie or Brooks at 624-0321 any time.

Five two-month old puppies, free to loving families. Mixed breed (Mixture German Shepard). Call Marisa at 624-5707 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pls call only if interested.

### For Sale

Pair 12" 3-way Pioneer floor speakers, \$30; Siemens and Ericson cellphone, \$25ea; Toshiba 13" TV, \$30; Pioneer stereo receiver, \$30; Sony five disc changer, \$25; Pair MTX4000 12" Subs w/box, \$100. Call Zack Sionakides at x6512 or 340-5930607.

Sony DCR-TRV22 Digital Video Camera Recorder bought four months ago from NEX for \$650, will sell for \$550 O.B.O. Call Gabe or Heather at x0337.

PS2 with controller; \$100; N64 with controller and Mario Kart game, \$50; 19" color TV, \$30. Call Diana at x8520 or 333-9860473.

Meade telescope, several lenses, with case. Great for watching the volcano, birds, or even Saturn. \$150. Call 095-309902.

Old Manual camera. Minolta, with case and 35mm wide-angle lens. 35mm film. Works perfectly. This is the type of camera that you learn with, you have to set the speed, the aperture, and even focus it yourself. Takes great pictures. \$100. Call 095-309902.

Four tires and rims that fit both an old Mini or an old Fiat. Four 10" tires with rims and hubcaps. Two of the hub caps are dented and one two are clean. Tires have good treads. Also a low restriction air cleaner for old Mini. \$75 for all of it. Call 095-309902 after 4:30 p.m.

AFN Decoder, \$450. Large dehumidifier, \$150. Call Christie at x1475.

Retiring Stampin' Up! demonstrator selling all of her stamp sets, pads and stamping supplies. E-mail quezadac@yahoo.com for the list.

Computer color monitor 17 inches - \$60. Willing to swap king-size bed with queen-size bed. Call Felix 335-569-8006 or 624-3692.

65 gallon aquarium with oak stand for sale. Includes light fixture and fresh water pump. Only 2 years old and in good condition. Asking \$250. Call Josh or Kelly at 624-0695

American Girl Bitty Baby things for sale. All brand new still in box. Crib \$30; Changing table \$30; Girls 6x cream dress w/ snowflakes \$25; matching baby dress \$15; Girls small nightgown \$20. James 095-520-983.

Complete living room sale...Tables (3) Sofa and loveseat, all including lamps and carpet. PCS sale. Call 624-0268 Evenings 3476870667.

Jamet Jamic Camper. Sleeps up to eight people. New Tires, all Italian camping electrical wires, lights and plugs, double foam bed. Perfect for the family. Call 3476870667 or 624-0628.

Furniture and accessories on sale, all various prices. Please contact Pat at 3334717661 or after 5 p.m. 095308510

Furniture for sale. Kitchen including fridge, oven wooden table and chairs. Complete master bedroom including carpets. Entrance. Sofa. Two carpets all in Italian style. For more information call 624-4577 or 340-9234432

Electric guitar IBANEZ RG470FM model, blue transparent flamed maple top, 24 fret rosewood neck, Floyd rose tremolo, DiMarzio bridge pickup...sounds great, perfect condition. Contact Salvo at 095-306674 after 5:00 pm.

PALM Portable keyboard with software. NEW in unopened box. Ordered one and got two. Works with any palm PDA or IBM Workpad c3 Companion. Asking \$65.00. For more details call Ray at x0296 or 3487648379.

Bofflex Power Pro \$1,500, Ab Rocker \$25, have all papers for both. Women's leather jacket XS(petite)worn couple of times, bought for \$200

will sell for \$150, more info contact Neil or Amanda x0254

Sanyo 27 inch television for \$100. Panasonic multi-system VCR for \$40. Buy both for \$120. Call Danny at x7444 or 3394208954

New looking lazy-boy green couch and loveseat. All the way recliner. Asking \$450 firm. Call @ 339-624-3428 or 335-841-1826.

Infant Graco car seat with base (up to twenty pounds), never used (\$40). Jenny Lind brown wood changing table with pad (\$20). Two adult mountain bikes, one is four years old but barely used (\$50), second one is two years old and used once, comes with tire pump (\$75). Call 624-3263 daytime, 095 30 6092 evening.

Extra large, comfortable, tan couch and Love seat. Two years old no rips, no stains, no tears. Smoke free home. Very little wear. Includes denim slip covers. Asking \$400.00 OBO. Call Melissa @ 624-1575 after 9:30 a.m. and before 8 p.m.

Natuzzi leather sleeper sofa, blue, brand new condition. \$1200; TV/VCR 13"-Assortment of CD Rom games- \$5-10, email or call for individual prices; Brown medicine cabinet w/mirror, shelves, lights - \$15; Computer desk - \$100; White chest of drawers - \$20; Italian 3 shelf baker's rack w/21 bottle holder, goblet holder - \$500. 095-472-199 or 3357625467 or dguarno23@hotmail.com."

COMPUTER for home use. Microsoft eTower 733i with CDrom and 56k modem. Packard Bell full color monitor. Hewlett Packard DeskJet 694C color printer. Keyboard, mouse, standard speakers. Perfect condition. Asking \$400 OBO. Call Jon or Pam at 095-998570.

Baby Walker, Safety First Safari model. \$15. Call Sylvia at 624-1237

Bombolas - \$5; Brand new large bulletin board - \$30; Italian towel rack - \$15; 220v fan, iron, waffle iron - \$10 each; 220v light fixtures; Cat litter box, travel carrier and food - all for \$15; Tall brown shelf - \$50. 095-472-199 or 3357625467.

### Wanted

HC-4 in search of a bagpipe player for squadron

dining out - 2000 Mar. 13, 2004. Please contact LT Dulin or LTJG Leclerc at x6668

TYCO HO Scale Slot Car Track & Sets, or any slot car track you may have laying around or stuffed way up in that closet. Call Johnathan 095-46-3002.

### Lost

M130 series Palm pilot. It is in a black case and the top of the instrument is broken and is in the case also. It was lost in the vicinity of PSD and the parking lot across the street from PSD on NAS II. I will reward whoever returns it to me with all the info still intact. Call x6086 or 348-0399293, 320-2145256 or email allisond@psd.sicily.navy.mil.

Lost brown leather wallet with LEVIS emblem. Last seen at the Navy Exchange. Important documents and identifications inside. If found please contact ASI Jimenez @ ext. 6457 or 6454.

Reward for recovery of red backpack "lost." Has gym locker keys attached and items of no value to anyone except me inside; contact lenses, luggage keys, etc... Keep the bag, I just want my stuff. Pls call - Cell 335-578-9322 or Hm. x1283.

### Yard Sale

Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1000D in Mineo Housing. Italian home accessories, home decor, Precious Moments items, clothing, silk flowers, craft supplies and more.

Multi-family yard sale: Feb.21 at 8:30 a.m. 2225D Verona Marinal Housing. Toys, baby and toddler clothes, computer desk, Italian appliances and fans, futon mattress plus lots more.

### Jobs

Signonella Animal Welfare Society looking for volunteers! Many opportunities available. Call Noella-volunteer coordinator at x1536 or email s\_a\_w\_s2004@yahoo.com.

### Free

1) Sentence skills 5<sup>th</sup> edition from a from John Langan  
2) Elementary Statistics 7th edition from Mario F. Triola 3) Essential Algebra with Problem Solving from Bittinger/Keedy Call Pat 333-4717661 or after 5 p.m. 095-308510

