

## Family relies on each other during IA deployment

By MC3 Jonathan Idle  
The Signature Staff

Individual augmentee (IA) deployments have become common place for sailors stationed all over the world. Whether it be Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti or any forward deployed location, sailors are stepping away from ships to join their fellow service members on the front lines. These deployments, which take sailors thousands of miles away from their homes, can often test the true strength of a family.

Lt. Jill Skeet and her family found themselves in this very situation during her recent seven month IA deployment to Afghanistan.

They relied heavily on open communication, love, support and the Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella community to get through the deployment and the ensuing readjustment upon her return.

Once Jill learned of the possible deployment in January 2009 she contacted her husband Bret to discuss their options.

"Originally we thought I was going to be gone for 15 to 17 months," Jill said. "That's what we were told first. The opportunity came up and of course I immediately called Bret, and said, 'This is being put to me. What do you think? Can I go? Should I not go?' It was definitely his and my decision together. It wasn't just me saying I'm going. Then we told the kids."

Jill went on a similar deployment in 2003 and Bret was fully aware of what lay ahead.

"I was fully supportive," Bret said. "She's going to be career Navy, and her career is what takes us wherever we're going. So, I was behind her, and when they said it was only going to be for seven months it just made it that much better."

Jill and Bret knew her deployment meant that she would miss out on a lot of important events with their daughters Harley and Bailey.

"Telling Harley was a little more difficult with the fact that in the time that I was going to be gone I was going to be missing her eighteenth birthday, her high school graduation, and her senior prom, all of those big daughter things," said Jill. "I would be missing all of those big

milestones, and then Bailey was finishing up eighth grade and starting her freshman year. So, telling them was important and I needed to know that they understood why I was going."

Now that Harley and Bailey, 14 years-old, are older Jill believes that the whole process is easier on them compared to her previous deployment.

"I think they understand more now of what is going on, and actually Harley said to me, 'It's ok mom they need you more than I do,'" Jill said. "I thought that was very grown up of her to say. They have that realization of that's why I'm in the Navy is to take care of the sailors and soldiers. For her to say something like that made it a lot easier on me thinking they're going to be fine."

Harley was supportive of her mother, but at the same time she was disappointed that Jill would not be there for all of the upcoming milestones in her life.

"I was kind of upset, but at the same time she had to go," Harley said. "It was going to be a huge experience for her and she needed to go."

Bailey said she was blindsided by the news of her mother's deployment.

"At first I thought it was a joke and then she said, 'I'm serious,' and I started to cry," Bailey said. "I didn't like the idea of her going, especially because I keep up on the news and I know there's a lot of fighting and the chances of her getting hurt were higher. I just didn't like the idea of her going."

Having gone through the IA process before, the Skeets already had things like power of attorney and a living will in place which allowed for a much smoother transition the second time. It also left more time for them to spend as a family before Jill departed.

"Bret and I went to London for a few days and then the four of us went to Amsterdam for a few days,"



Photo provided by the Skeet family  
The Skeet family gathers around Lt. Jill Skeet's star on the floor of Naval Hospital Sigonella after her return from a seven month IA deployment to Afghanistan.

Jill said. "So, I took liberal leave beforehand which was nice to just be the family and all of that."

Before Jill left home, one of the main things the family wanted to do was to set a plan for communicating with each other. Jill used prepaid cellular phones, internet messenger services and e-mail before discovering Skype, a voice-over-internet phone service, as a way of consistently communicating with her family.

"I think it made the deployment go much faster, and it made it much easier to deal with having that better connection and being able to stay in touch with family," Jill said.

Bret said the ability to communicate was night and day compared to Jill's first deployment, but there were still times when communication was a problem.

"When there was a casualty they shut down communications, whether it was right in the middle of a conversation or the longest was three days," Bret said. "Then of course the news blurbs say things like, 'This happened in the Hellman Provence and this happened, or there was an explosion at the gate.' I'm

IA, continued on page 12

## Holiday COMREL brings smiles to Italian children



Lt. Stephen Coates teaches a young Italian child the basics of bowling during a wardroom sponsored COMREL that took place Dec. 5 in Midtown on NAS I.

By Lt. Matt Knight  
Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

Members of the NAS Sigonella wardroom hosted 28 Italian children, mothers and nuns from the Casa d'Accoglienza dell' 'Addolorata "Nazareth" community center for single mothers in Giarre at a community relations event at midtown on NAS I, Saturday 5 December.

"We wanted to bring kids that don't have the same opportunities that we do onto base so that they can share in the some of the things that we have that we often take for granted" said Chaplain Hank Wilson, the event coordinator.

The Italian children and nuns were brought to NAS I early Saturday morning where they spent several hours enjoying the bouncy houses alongside many other American families. They then moved to midtown where "Santa Claus" was waiting to present each child with a gift

specifically purchased for them by a wardroom member.

"I was having a good time and I think the kids were obviously very comfortable around all of us because they opened up and were having a blast as well," said Lt. Chad Marshall, a NASSIG wardroom member. "It was definitely a good time for all."

While the children opened their gifts, pizza, soda, cookies and candy canes were enjoyed by all. The event concluded with a couple hours of bowling where the children enthusiastically tested the limits of bumper bowling, keeping the bowling alley staff and the wardroom on their toes and the children full of smiles.

After the event concluded Sister Cassara Pietra, a Nun at Casa d' Accoglienza dell' 'Addolorata conveyed how much the event meant to her, the other Nuns and all the children by saying that Sigonella has a special place in their hearts.

WEATHER UPDATE	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17
	H:63F L:47F	H:60F L:43F	H:59F L:43F	H:58F L:43F	H:61F L:50F	H:62F L:48F	H:63F L:48F

TOP STORIES	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17		
	Our military life has given us so many opportunities to enjoy it. Being on a ship or any other military station can give us 'new' experiences to remember.	With the spray of bubbly from a champagne bottle, PCU Missouri (SSN 780), the Navy's newest Virginia-class attack submarine, was christened during a late morning ceremony at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., Dec. 5.	Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella individually recognized and advanced Sailors to the next paygrade in a frocking ceremony held in Hangar 630 Friday, Dec. 4.	In the states you can shop at a variety of clothing stores. Some of the stores favored among teens are Aeropostale, Hollister, Abercrombie & Fitch, Forever 21, and American Eagle.	As a new transfer to Sigonella, my wife and I couldn't wait to get out and explore. Learning about a new culture is a fascinating and exhilarating experience.	Page 2	Page 3	Page 5	Page 7

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TRAFFIC NUMBERS		
	Jan. 09- Dec. 09	Jan. 08- Dec. 08
Accidents	248	292
Injuries	24	44
DUIs	3	5
Traffic Deaths	1	2

PLEASE, DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!

# DIRECT LINE NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER, THOMAS J. QUINN

The 3 December Feedback Live received so many questions via the web that some of them couldn't be covered in the allotted time, so we are going to devote the Direct Line to answer them. Please keep sending your questions via email but remember that it is a live call in show and you can get your question answered on the spot. Feedback Live is held on the first Thursday of each month, from 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. To call in live on the show, please dial 624-4265 or 095-56-4265.

**Question 1. NAS 2 Parking structure does not have reserved parking to the mini-mart, ATM, or video store drop-off for the quick**

errand stop. Many of those spaces closest to the mini-mart are taken by people using the gym or flight line clinic -tasks that may take 20 minutes or more. Respectfully request to direct with signage parking zones or reserved parking for the ground level parking spaces and push open/general parking to the upper floors to get more usage of those levels while providing more convenience to those people on a short breaks from work to quickly complete their personal errands. Thanks for the consideration.

**Answer 1. Public Works has noted that on most days the ground floor is at most 50% occupied.**

Concur that the two closest lanes of parking are typically filled but the next two lanes are usually 75% empty and the two furthest lanes are usually empty about 50% or more. The bottom-line is that parking on the ground floor is plentiful for all personnel coming and going either for short or long errands.

**Question 2. Will MWR be getting tickets for the new golf course in Agrigento?**

**Answer 2. The discount golf tickets are a great benefit that MWR worked very hard to negotiate and subsidizes to provide affordable golf for the Sigonella community. This new course has just opened up and**

their published fees are very high. MWR will do some research and contact them to see if they are interested in providing a significant discount to us and to determine if it is worth expanding to include them in the program.

**Question 3. Will MWR be continuing their golf outings program?**

**Answer 3. MWR will be doing golf outings in the Spring once the weather heats up.**

**Question 4. Can the galley menu in the paper run Friday or Thursday instead of Friday or Thursday?**

**Answer 4. PAO is investigating the possibility of going Friday -**



Friday on the menu's included in the Signature.

The questions, comments and concerns stated in this column do not constitute the official position of the U.S. Navy and are submitted by members of the community.

## Preventing the flu during your holiday travels

Article provided by Lt. Lynn Skinner Naval Hospital Sigonella

No one wants to get sick while they are on holiday.

Here are a few simple steps to ensure your wellness when away from home.

Carry hand sanitizer with you. It is best to have liquid for hands and wipes for table trays, door handles or surface areas that are notably not clean.

Staying hydrated while traveling is very important.

So make sure you are drinking water and limit caffeine and alcoholic products while in route to your destination.

Packing some healthy snacks such as dried fruit or peanut butter crackers can stave off hunger or low blood sugar if you encounter travel delays or limited meal services.

Avoid jet lag by resting while you are on the plane or train as best you can.

There are many travel products to chose from that allow you, your own pillow/blanket for comfort thus, avoiding contamination from pillow/blanket by previous passengers.

Consider taking one of the antioxidant multivitamin packs/tablets

before travel such as "Airborne" look in the travel section at the NEX for convenient travel sizes.

Also customize your own mini OTC travel pack to include pain medicine such as Tylenol or Motrin, antacids, Pepto-Bismol or other stomach remedies and of course tissues.

Make sure in your carry on case you have your prescription medicine as needed and another set of clothes in case luggage gets lost.

Did you know that when you're on an airplane the best setting for the air vent is to adjust the airflow so that it hits your chest rather than be closed or angled away from you?

Try to plan ahead so that you start your trip rested and not stressed out.

Make a list of the items you will need and check them off as they get packed.

My parent's always packed the night before and had suitcases and clothes for the next day laid out so that all we had to do was get up, change, carry suit case down to the car and get in! We usually fell right back to sleep and would wake up

**FLU, continued on page 10**

## HEALTH WATCH

### NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC		PROTESTANT	
<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Sunday</u>	
0830	Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel)	0900	General Protestant (Mineo Community Center)
1200	Catholic Mass (Mineo Community Center)	1000	Traditional Protestant (NAS I Chapel)
1600	Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)	1130	Contemporary Protestant (NAS I Chapel)
<u>Monday - Thursday</u>		<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST LAY SERVICE</b>	
1130	Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)	<u>Sunday</u>	1530 NAS I Chapel Rooms 3 & 4 (Call 624-5128 or 335-841-8069)

**JEWISH SERVICES:** Please call 095-86-1205

**OTHER SERVICES/ACTIVITIES POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Latter-day Saints:** Please email ldssig@gmail.com or call 624-1314 or 349-1977-116

**AA Meetings:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1900, NAS II Chapel, 346-840-7745

**SEE OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ON PAGE 7**

## CHAPLAIN CORNER



Chaplain Concha

Our military life has given us so many opportunities to enjoy it. Being on a ship or any other military station can give us 'new' experiences to remember. If you never had a ship

## Stories to remember

or an overseas experience, you may find out that you have an opportunity to work hard and receive rewarding experiences in life.

Assigned to serve with USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) was an amazing experience. You learn new things that you would have never expected before. We left San Diego CA late November 2001 and begun our extended 8 months deployment. With over 5,000 people aboard the ship, you find yourself learning to adjust quickly to all demands.

The story I can remember most is the change on working schedule aboard a ship. A day

time of work was switched to a night time: 1900 breakfast, 2300 lunch and 0600 dinner next day. It was a strange schedule and yet we got used to it rapidly. We missed to appreciate the 'day' as a day and 'night' as a night. Sometimes we take them for granted. Thank God day and night belong to Him and he has given us to enjoy them fully.

Going overseas is also a different experience. We become separated from families and friends. We got to learn to deal with new situations that require a quick adjustment in our new way of life. Stories to remember can help us to see ourselves in a different

**STORIES, continued on page 12**

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*Be prepared to be on your own for at least three days. Seven is better! The BASIC FIVE: Water, Food, Heat, Cash, Radio; Family Communications Plan: Phone Numbers & Rally Points; Public Protection Strategies: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place; Web info: Ready.gov; Emergency info: AFN 106.0 FM; Questions? Call the EM Office at 624-2630, 8265 or 2621.*

# NAVY NEWS

## Navy christens newest Virginia-Class Submarine Missouri

By Lt. Patrick Evans  
 Submarine Group 2  
 Public Affairs

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- With the spray of bubbly from a champagne bottle, PCU Missouri (SSN 780), the Navy's newest Virginia-class attack submarine, was christened during a late morning ceremony at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., Dec. 5.

Missouri, the fifth Navy ship to be named in honor of the people of the "Show Me State," is "a link in the honored chain of ships to bear the name; another chapter in the storied history of the Naval service," said Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus.

SECNAV and Secretary of Defense

Robert M. Gates were among the many dignitaries and guests who attended the ceremony.

"We gather for this christening with the knowledge that Missouri's service builds upon a proud lineage of her namesake," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, the principal speaker for the event. "We gather in the belief that her service to our country – silent as it may be – will keep Americans safe by deterring would-be aggressors. We also gather today to confidently set the tone for the character of this submarine, which will sail with one foot in her proud past, but with an eye toward the future and all the potential that it holds."

Becky Gates, wife of the secretary of defense, serves as ship's sponsor. She broke the traditional champagne bottle against the boat's sail. Her initials were welded into a plaque inside the boat during last year's keel laying ceremony.

"I am humbled that in some way, I will go wherever the submarine sails," said Becky Gates. "As this, the latest Missouri, moves on to active duty, my thoughts will always be with the dedicated patriots who sail aboard her, and the loved ones who wait for their safe return."

The christening marks another milestone for the submarine, which is "now 90 percent complete with construction and is on track to finish \$72 million under bud-

et and well ahead of scheduled," according to director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Adm. Kirkland H. Donald.

"This accomplishment is a testament of the leadership on this project. It's a tribute to each individual tradesman and Sailor represented by this crew that did their job right the first time and kept the environment of success and ownership on track and ever stronger," said Donald.

The last Missouri, a legendary battleship, saw action in World War II, the Korean War, the Persian Gulf War, and was also the site where Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and many other U.S. and Allied officers accepted the unconditional surrender of the Japanese at the end of World War II Sept. 2, 1945.

"This new Missouri will continue the proud history of ships before her. We in Missouri are proud of this ship, we are proud of her crew, we are proud of the ship builders who constructed it," said U.S. Representative Ike Skelton of Missouri and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

The seventh Virginia-class submarine, Missouri is built to excel in anti-submarine warfare; anti-ship warfare; strike warfare; special operations; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions. Adept at operating in both the world's shallow littoral regions and deep waters, Missouri will directly enable five of the six

Navy maritime strategy core capabilities – sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security and deterrence.

Cmdr. Timothy Rexrode of Spencer, W.Va., the ship's commanding officer, leads a crew of approximately 134 officers and enlisted personnel.

Missouri is expected to be delivered to the Navy in 2010 and begin her missions.

"She may patrol the waters of the Western Pacific or the North Atlantic. She may work with the Coast Guard and our international partners to stem the flow of illegal narcotics into our country. She may support our strike groups. And she will deploy to answer whatever the unknown challenges of the future, wherever they may be in support of our Maritime Strategy and our national objectives," said Mabus.

The 7,800-ton Missouri is being built under a teaming arrangement between General Dynamics Electric Boat and Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding - Newport News. She is 377-feet long, has a 34-foot beam and will be able to dive to depths of greater than 800 feet and operate at speeds in excess of 25 knots submerged. Missouri is designed with a nuclear reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship – reducing life-cycle costs while increasing underway time.

### PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

Check in weekly to find out what our fellow shipmates are doing around the fleet.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Michelle N. Whitfield

PERSIAN GULF (Dec. 3, 2009) - Sailors work to move a missile during an ordnance swapping evolution aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

## Buongustaio

Calvary Nero di Cenere Muscle

COMMUNITY CALENDAR				FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				11 DECEMBER	12	13
				<b>FFSC</b> Arrivederci Class 0800-1130  <b>Jaguars</b> Basketball Home vs Milan	<b>Jaguars</b> Basketball Home vs Milan	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>FFSC</b> Anger Management 0900-1100  ICR for youth 0800-1130	<b>FFSC</b> Saving and Investing 1000-1100	<b>FFSC</b> Mens Group 1330-1500			Nearly New Shop OPEN	<b>DODDS</b> Begin winter recess
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				<b>No Signature</b> Printer on vacation		

Franzoni

Navy  
Exchange

Waxy

Motta

*Did you know that . . .*

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has a Vision? "We are a private, non-profit, Volunteer, service organization. As a Center of Excellence, we are committed to ensure that all available resources are used to assist personnel of the Naval Service - active, retired, and their eligible family members - to achieve financial self-sufficiency and find solutions to emergency needs."

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Pistone

# Sigonella Sailors mark advancement in frocking ceremony

Orange



Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella Sailors stand at attention at the close of a frocking ceremony held in Hangar 630 that individually recognized and advanced them to the next pay-grade. A total of 128 Sailors advanced in the current exam cycle.

Agip

**By MC3 Whitfield Palmer**  
 NPASE East Det. Sigonella

Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella individually recognized and advanced Sailors to the next pay-grade in a frocking ceremony held in Hangar 630 Friday, Dec. 4.

Each Sailor was presented a certificate and congratulated by Capt. Thomas J. Quinn, NAS Sigonella commanding officer, Capt. Joseph W. Beadles, NAS Sigonella executive officer and NAS Sigonella Command Master Chief Rosa L. Wilson.

Of the 599 Sailors that took the exam throughout the base and tenant commands, 128 Sailors advanced to the next pay grade. A total of 67 Sailors advanced to E4, 35 advanced to E5, and 26 advanced to E6.

For those that did not advance, bibliographies for the next exam cycle are available at [advancement.cnet.navy.mil](http://advancement.cnet.navy.mil) or from command career counselors

Borgo antico



Do you have a passion for writing or looking for a little experience in journalism? The Signature is seeking volunteers to help cover base wide events as well as feature stories. If this sounds like an opportunity for you please call the Public Affairs Office at 624-5440.

Alberto Lunetta  
 The Signature Staff



# Italian NEWS

*Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle*

## Two Guantanamo inmates in Italy: Rome considering more detainees, minister says

Story taken from ANSA

Rome - The Rome Government may accept more ex-Guantanamo detainees, the Italian foreign minister said last week, after US authorities transferred two Tunisian nationals from the military prison in Cuba. Mohamed Ben Riadh Nasri and Adel Ben Mabrouk Hamida were handed over to Italian officials on Monday night and immediately taken into custody on terrorism-related charges.

The transfer was carried out under a bilateral agreement between the US and Italy, part of Washington's efforts to find other countries willing to accept former inmates in order to close the camp. Upon taking office, President Barack Obama announced plans to close the military prison by January 2010 but he recently admitted the deadline would not be met. Italian Foreign Minister Franco

Frattini said Italy was considering whether to accept additional detainees in order to assist the US administration.

"The failure [to meet the deadline] is not because of a lack of political will on the part of Obama but the result of technical problems and delicate procedures," Frattini said. The foreign minister also said the US "needs more support from its allies, particularly those in Europe that have not yet decided whether or not to accept detainees". He said Italian officials were examining a list of inmates the country might be willing to accept. The Rome-Washington agreement, finalized in June, provided for the transfer of three inmates from Guantanamo to Italy.

There has been no confirmation of when the next transfer will take place although media reports at the time suggested all three detainees

were Tunisian nationals wanted in Italy on terrorism charges.

Riadh Nasri, who was taken for questioning after landing on Monday night, faces charges of terrorism and assisting illegal immigration for events that occurred between 1997 and 2001.

The charge-sheet alleges he was "the head of Tunisians in Afghanistan" and provided logistical support to Islamist fighters from Italy "sent to camps [in Afghanistan] where they were trained in the use of weapons and prepared for suicide operations". Italian prosecutors say Riadh Nasri assisted a cell of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, which the US and European Union have both classified as a terrorist organization.

They say he helped raise money in Italy to fund terrorist actions and train recruits for fighting. Nasri, who

already has a 1997 conviction in Italy for handling counterfeit money, was captured by US forces in Afghanistan in 2001.

Milanese prosecutors issued the arrest warrant for Nasri and eight others on similar charges in 2007. The Italian warrant against Abrouk Hamida was issued in May 2005 as part of a separate investigation.

A barber living in Milan, he was charged with international terrorism, manufacturing forged documents, assisting illegal immigration and drugs trafficking.

Prosecutors say he was a member of an Italian-based group that raised funds and recruited militants to send to terrorist training camps in Iraq.

Abrouk Hamida travelled to Afghanistan in 2001, where he was arrested by coalition forces.

The Tunisian nationals were

among four Guantanamo inmates transferred to Europe, the US Justice Department said on Tuesday. An Algerian man was handed over to France, where he has been cleared of all charges and released, while a West Bank detainee has been sent to Hungary. The Hungarian government has asked that his identity be kept confidential. Around 800 inmates have been sent to the Guantanamo military prison since it opened in January 2002. Nearly three quarters of these have either been released or transferred to other countries but over 200 are still in detention. Nearly half of those still in the facility have been cleared for release but the US administration is struggling to find countries willing to accept ex-detainees. Including the four men transferred on Monday, nearly 30 former inmates have now been released to other countries.

## Italian Foreign minister backs US troop deployment

Story taken from ADN Kronos)

Rome - Last week, Italian foreign minister Franco Frattini backed US president Barack Obama's plan to increase troop numbers in Afghanistan and his call for NATO allies to also send reinforcements. In a televised speech broadcast across the US on Tuesday, Obama said 30,000 extra troops would start to be deployed in the first part of next year.

"Now is not the moment to specify how many extra troops should be deployed. But Italy shares

the strategy outlined by Barack Obama in his speech last night," Frattini said.

"We agree with his military but also his political strategy, and for a gradual military withdrawal, so that Afghanistan will be able to ensure its own security, something that needs to happen in a short period of time."

NATO's secretary general said non-US members would contribute at least 5,000 extra troops next year.

Frattini said: "There will be a contribution from Italy."

Italy currently has around 3,500

troops serving in Afghanistan, mainly in the west.

It could contribute an extra 1,500 troops according to unnamed diplomatic sources quoted this week by French daily Le Monde.

There are currently over 100,000 international troops deployed in Afghanistan, of which 68,000 are US soldiers.

"The latest date for the withdrawal of international troops should be 2013," Frattini stated.

He was speaking to journalists on the sidelines of a conference on

dialogue between Italy and Russia organized by the Milan-based ISPI think-tank.

NATO secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen told reporters on Wednesday that 5,000 extra troops would be sent in 2010, and "probably" a few thousand in

addition. "This is our fight together," he said. "We must finish it together."

The Afghan government said it supported the new US strategy, but the Taliban has vowed to put up "stronger resistance" to the new US troop surge.

oxidiana

## Siracusa honors Santa Lucia

On Dec. 13, the community of Siracusa will honor Santa Lucia or Saint Lucy with a spectacular religious festa (feast) featuring religious processions, arts and crafts displays and entertainment. The festival begins at noon with a solemn Holy Mass celebrated at the cathedral. During the Mass, religious chants are also performed. In the afternoon at 3 p.m., the carriage, weighing 14 tons and the holy relics, on top of which a silver statue of Saint Lucia is placed, are carried in procession for seven hours from the cathedral to the church of Santa Lucia al Sepolcro. Three groups of 48 men wearing green berets alternate in carrying it. Many devotees, who also come from the neighboring cities and from all over the world, follow the pro-

cession barefoot holding torches. During the festival, the blessing and the free distribution of the Cuccia (cooked wheat) takes place in several houses and churches. Cuccia is a typical food that is prepared for the Saint Lucia celebrations. Tradition says it was first cooked in Siracusa in the 17th century as Santa Lucia worked a miracle during a terrible famine that had hit the city. One story says that Siracusa's bishop gathered the starving people in the cathedral to pray and implore St. Lucia for a miracle. Suddenly, a dove flew down from the sky and roosted on the bishop's shoulders. Right after, a ship loaded with wheat docked at the port. The wheat was then boiled and eaten by the Siracusa people. Today, the cuccia is served



as a delicious porridge enriched with ricotta cheese, chocolate and candied fruits. Later in the evening, ancient chants are sung in piazza Duomo at 9 p.m. For more information and detailed schedule call the Siracusa Tourist Office at 0931- 464255.

Magnolia

## Nutcracker to debut in Sicily

Sigonella ballet buffs will be happy to hear that Yuri Grigorovich's "Nutcracker," with 35 dancers of the Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Republic of Moldova will be staged in Sicily next week. Grigorovich is the legendary artistic director and chief choreographer of the Bolshoi Ballet. The



Moldova Ballet will give two performances in Sicily, the first one at the Teatro Golden in Palermo (Monday, Dec.14) and the second one at the Teatro Metropolitan in Catania (Tuesday, Dec. 15). Tickets may be purchased by calling 091-6910400 (Palermo) or 095-7225340 (Catania) or logging on to [www.ctbox.it](http://www.ctbox.it) / [www.circuitoboxofficesicilia.it](http://www.circuitoboxofficesicilia.it)

# School NEWS

## Students shopping overseas

By Erica Cartwright  
Sigonella High School Student

In the states you can shop at a variety of clothing stores. Some of the stores favored among teens are Aeropostale, Hollister, Abercrombie & Fitch, Forever 21, and American Eagle.

Unfortunately, at the Naval Exchange, shoppers find that while the selection is interesting, everyone ends up wearing the same things.

"Shopping at the Exchange is alright, but we're limited," Kahlil Bowen, sophomore, said. "Plus, we're slow on getting new stuff."

To be different, you have to go online or to a local market or mall.

"Clothes out in town are similar to some stores in the states, but they are usually made to fit certain figures," Haylee Hadaway, sophomore, said.

The exchange has low prices for your convenience, so you can get name-brand products at a good price.

"We don't have a variety at the exchange," Joseph Coleman, freshman, said. Some shoppers find it easier to get what they want from stores online. People are more familiar with these stores. Also, they know the clothes are tailored to fit the American physique. The shoppers are familiar with U.S. sales and seasonal deals. They find these online stores more trust worthy.

"I don't shop at the exchange," Nikia Smith, sophomore, said. "I get my clothes online."

A negative factor to shopping online is that if you are unfamiliar with the store, you don't know if the sizing runs big or small. Another problem is the shipping time. They usually tell you it will take two weeks, but you should expect three-five weeks.

The biggest worry for most people is determining whether the online store is a scam website or not. One way to tell a scam is if they sell expensive name-brand products at extremely low prices.

Another way to tell a scam is when you are at the checkout. If the web address changes from http to https, you know you are protected. If you look at the end of the address bar, there should be a picture of a lock in the corner. To be safe, use the store websites you know, and ask around if you are unsure.

The safest way to shop is at the Naval Exchange. The exchange allows you to return items and they refund your money. You are there in person, so you know how the clothes fit. Wandering from store to store looking for different items is unnecessary.

So if you don't mind limitations, you may find what you need at the Naval Exchange.

## 2009 RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES: HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CATHOLIC MASS			FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION	
Thanksgiving Mass			Festival of Lights is a special candlelight service that will feature music selections by an adult choir, a youth choir, a children's choir, a nativity scene, congregational caroling and a few special surprises.	
26 November 2009	1000	NAS 1 Chapel		
Immaculate Conception Mass				
8 December 2009	1130	NAS 2 Chapel		
OL of Guadalupe Mass				
12 December 2009	1800	NAS 1 Chapel		
Christmas Eve Children's Mass				
24 December 2009	1630	NAS 1 Chapel		
Christmas Day Mass				
25 December 2009	1000	NAS 1 Chapel		
New Years Day Mass				
1 January 2010	1000	NAS 1 Chapel		
PROTESTANT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE			CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CHOIR	
24 December 1830		NAS I Chapel	ALL COMMUNITY ALL CHAPEL ALL AGES December 13, 2009 - 1800	
			JEWISH HANUKKAH	
			For information regarding Jewish community observances, please contact our Jewish Lay Leader, Rebekah Jacobs (x1203).	

## Twilight vs. Harry Potter

By Bailey Skeet & William Shelton  
Sigonella High School Student

Twilight novels are more popular among Sigonella students than the Harry Potter series, according to a recent survey.

Forty students were recently polled about which books they preferred. The Twilight series won by ten percent of the votes.

"It's scary and has a lot of action!" Roman Duenas, freshman, said, referring to the Twilight series.

Burgandy Bott, senior, agreed. "It's the bomb!" she said.

Other students preferred Harry Potter.

"I grew up reading it," Kayla Simmons, junior, said.

Students who had not read either series were given a short description of the books and were asked to vote for the series that sounded the most interesting. Many of these students voted for the Twilight books because they are more recent.

The outcome might have been different if the survey had been taken back in the states, but here the answer is clear: Twilight is the winner at Sigonella MS/HS.



Eno

Dott. Sterla

Alphio's  
Garden

Santo Doca

## Sigonella Swordfish Swim Meet

The Sigonella Swordfish had an impressive performance over Thanksgiving weekend in 2 swim meets in Lignano (Aviano) Italy.

On Friday the Swordfish swam against 20 EFSL teams and placed an impressive 3rd place finish despite being outnumbered 2 to 3 times by the larger teams. The Swordfish swimmers scored more points per swimmer than any other team.

The second meet was the annual Long Distance Championship Meet held Saturday and Sunday for the sport's long events, the 800 meter-freestyle, the 400 meter individual medley and the 1500 meter freestyle.

The Swordfish again placed 3rd and scored more points per swimmer than any other team present.

Highlights of Middle and High School Swimmers:

**Garrett McKeown** - 3 Gold Medals

**Greta Kinsey** - 2 Gold (800 meter freestyle and 1500 meter-freestyle) and 1 Bronze 400 meter IM

**Beatrice Greeson** - 1 Gold (1500 m free) 2 Silver (8000 m free and 400 m IM)

**Brian Burke** - 1 Gold (400 m IM) 1 Silver (800 m free)

**Jacob Bigby** - 3 Silver

**Jack Luna** - 2 Silver (800 m free and 400 m IM)

**Angel Lara** - 2 4th place finishes - 400 m IM and 1500 m free

**Cal Dermody** 6th and 4th place finishes 800 m free and 400 m IM

**Breann Barnes** - 5th 400 m IM

Highlights for Elementary Swimmers -- ages 10 & U only able to swim 1 event -- 800 meter free

**Hallie Kinsey** - 3 new EFSL age group records (long course pool) in Friday's regular meet.

Long Distance Results:

**Hallie Kinsey** - Gold - 800 free new EFSL record

**Jacob King** - Silver 800 m free

**Ariana Lewis** - Bronze 800 m free

**Joe Beadles** - 6th 800 m free

The Swordfish will swim again in 2 weeks in Aviano and Vicenza in another double meet weekend. The Swordfish are preparing for Southern Divisionals in Catania January 24th and EFSL Championships in February in the Netherlands.

# Cin! Cin!

## CELEBRATING THE FOOD & WINE OF SICILY Visit local agriturismo and learn the art of Sicilian cooking

Article and photos by  
MC1 Chris Delano  
Signature Staff

As a new transfer to Sigonella, my wife and I couldn't wait to get out and explore. Learning about a new culture is a fascinating and exhilarating experience. One of the ways to become immersed into a culture is through the food. Sicily is teeming with exotic plates and dishes designed to delight the palate. With a high emphasis placed on freshness, rest assured that the Italian food will leave you wanting more. I learned this during a Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) cooking class held at the Agriturismo dell'Etna.

The FFSC hosts a monthly cooking class designed to highlight different restaurants throughout Sicily.

The cooking class began with a journey down to the outskirts of Giarre, a small town south of Taormina, which is where Agriturismo dell'Etna is located. The head chef and owner, Salvo Strano, took great pleasure in showing us around his farm. At Agriturismo dell'Etna, you can wander through banana trees, artichokes and potato patches. During the walking tour of the farm, Salvo told us about each plant and explained how they are harvested and used in the kitchen. After the tour, we went inside and began prepping a local seasonal dish - Pumpkin Lasagna.

Family Friendly - Five stars.

### What is an agriturismo?

An agriturismo is the combination of the words "agriculture" and "tourism" in Italian. It describes a style of vacationing in farm house resorts, where the food served to guests has been prepared from the raw materials produced on the farm, or at least locally. Some agriturismos allow the guests to participate in the activities around the farm - from harvesting to cooking the meals.

Agriturismo's date back to the 1950s when small scale farming in Italy became less profitable, and farmers abandoned their farms to search for work in larger towns. But since Italians value traditions and the produce of small scale production of food, a law came out in 1985 that defined agriturismo's, and abandoned buildings and estates were restored. The agriturismo allowed for the small farmer to augment the income from the farm and for vacationers to get a sample of rural life in Italy.

Almost everything to see and do is in a small area on the farm. This makes getting around with young children, strollers or wheelchairs relatively easy. While there is not much specifically geared toward children, the process of making the pumpkin lasagna kept kids entertained.

Accessibility - Five stars. Hosted by Fleet and Family Support Center transportation and interpretation services were provided. By car: Follow A18 down to the Giarre exit, then follow SS114 toward S. Leonardello until you see signs for Carruba. Then head toward Archi di Riposto.

Travel Time - Five stars. The trip was scenic with quick travel time of about thirty to forty minutes.

For more information, go to [agrietna.com](http://agrietna.com) or contact the Fleet and Family Support Center at 624-4291 and ask about their monthly cooking classes.



Agriturismo dell'Etna boasts gorgeous views of Mt. Etna from their vegetable fields. The agriturismo was a lemon orchard until 2000. It has now been transformed into a horticultural farm.



At Agriturismo dell'Etna, the family is constantly harvesting seasonal fruits and vegetables from their farm, including potatoes.



Throughout the day at Agriturismo dell'Etna, farmers can be seen gathering various vegetables ready to be eaten.



--AGIP

Medusa



Do you have a passion for writing or are you looking for a little experience in journalism? The Signature is seeking volunteers to help cover base wide events as well as feature stories. If this sounds like an opportunity for you please call the Public Affairs Office at 624-5440.

# Pumpkin Lasagna - Preparation time: 1.5 hours Baking time: 35



What you'll need: pumpkin, olive oil, onion, besciamella (can be in the local market), lasagna sheets, pepato fresco cheese.

### Step One:



Start by chopping an onion and place in to a bowl.

### Step Two:

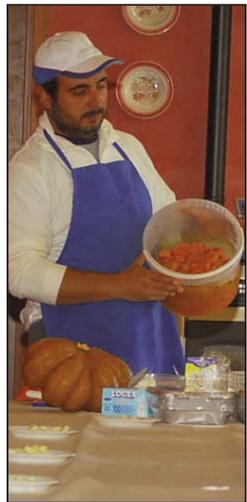


Halve and chop a pumpkin and place in bowl with onions.



After chopping, cook the pumpkin and onion with some olive oil, until it is a thick consistency.

### Step Four:



Puree pumpkin onion mixture. Add besciamella and mix together.



Place a layer of the pumpkin mix on the bottom of a casserole dish and then place a sheet of lasagna over top of it. On top of that, add another layer of pumpkin mix plus some cubed pepato fresco cheese.

### Step Six:



Cover with another sheet of lasagna and repeat layers until there is no more room in the baking dish; approximately four to five layers of lasagna.

Bake for approximately 35 minutes at 350 degrees Fahrenheit. When finished, a fork should penetrate the lasagna easily. Buon appetito!

\*Because of the length of prep time required for this recipe, it rates as moderate to difficult. If you have never worked with pumpkin before, the process can be fairly tedious, but the end result is worth the time spent!

# Palermo

# Moroboshi

# Cafe do brasil

# Kartodromo

### REVIEW SUMMARY

#### Family Friendly:



#### Accessibility:



#### Travel Time:



These ratings are out of five stars, and are the opinion of the Signature staff and in no way constitute a professional review. If you have comments or questions on this review contact:

thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil



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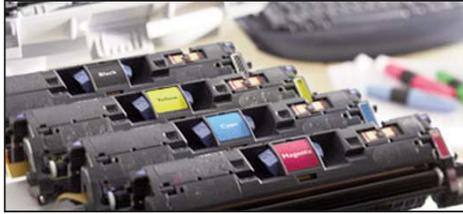
## Go Green Sigonella!

Have an idea to improve efficiencies in your workspace, department, base, or region?

Submit your idea to:

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/europe/suggestion-box/index.htm>

Recycle your toner cartridges - you can reduce waste, save money



Did you know that you can turn in your old toner cartridges for recycling? Just place the old toner cartridge in the new box and ensure that they are placed in your office or shop toner recycling bin.

If you do not have a bin, call Filippo Rosolia at the Haz Min Center at 624-2625, or Wayne Hagwood at 624-2463.

They will bring you a toner cartridge recycling bin and take the old toner cartridges.

Or, if you have a shop's

Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point (HWAP) nearby, your designated HWAP Coordinator will take it from you.

The Haz Min Center is currently placing toner cartridge bins at or near HWAP collection points. HWAP Coordinators will periodically remove the used toner cartridges and deliver them to the Haz Min Center. Periodically, a local recycler comes and picks up the toner cartridges for recycling, and you save the government money

**FLU, continued from page 2**

hours later for a rest stop or picnic style breakfast.

Make it a family adventure and the kids will not notice any change of plans.

Pack a new toy or book for them to hold interest if delay or unplanned events occur.

Be creative with interactive, thinking and imaginary games- the time will pass by before you know it.

Plan in rest stops if in a car and get out of seat if on a plane, bus or train. It is important to move your joints and extremities around to avoid strain or stiffness. This can also decrease risk of blood clots for extended travel with confined spaces.

Happy Holidays Sigonella; may your travel be easy and spirit light!

If you would like more information about holiday and traveling safety tips check out CDC website or try Oprah or Dr. Oz.

# ENO

## Ristorante Bella Etna

**11** Lunch: Cream of Mushroom Soup, Beef Stir Fry, Tempura Fish, Baked Fish, Steamed Rice, Calico Cabbage, Herbed Broccoli, Strawberry Cake, Lemon Meringue Pie, Fruit Gelatin.  
Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes, RIKPAK.  
Dinner: Egg Drop Soup, Chicken Cacciatore, Beef Cordon Bleu, Rice Pilaf, Southern Green Beans, Savory Squash, Strawberry Cake, Lemon Meringue Pie, Fruit Gelatin, RIKPAK.

**12** Breakfast: Farina, Grilled Ham Slices, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Buttermilk Pancakes, Asstd Doughnuts, Crumb Cake.  
Brunch: Breakfast Items, Chicken Gumbo Soup, Texas Hash, Roast Pork, Cottage Fried Potatoes, Tossed Green Rice, Peas w/ Carrots, Cauliflower Au Gratin, Brown Gravy, Velvet Pound Cake, Vanilla Cream Pie.  
Dinner: Zesty Bean Soup, Baked Italian Sausage, Veal Steak, Steamed Rice, Home Fried Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Savory Style Beans, Chicken Gravy, Velvet Pound Cake, Vanilla Cream Pie.

**13** Breakfast: Rolled Oats, Grilled Minute Steak, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, French Toast Puff, Asstd Doughnuts, Italian Croissant.  
Brunch: Breakfast Items, Knickerbockers Soup, Creole Pork Chops, Macaroni and Cheese, Islander Rice, Corn O'Brien, Green Beans, Marble Cake, Sugar Cookies.  
Dinner: Nutty Split Pea Soup, Roast Beef, Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Steamed Asparagus, Natural Pan Gravy, Marble Cake, Sugar Cookies.

**14** Breakfast: Rolled Oats, Grilled Sausage Links, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Waffles, Asstd Doughnuts, Cinnamon Rolls.  
Lunch: Chicken Gumbo Soup, Beef Yakisoba, Veal Parmesan, Steamed Rice, Oven Browned Potatoes, Green Peas, Seasoned Summer Squash, Spice Cake w/ Frosting, Vanilla Cookies, Fruit Gelatin.  
Speed line: Assorted Pizza, RIKPAK.  
Dinner: Minestrone Soup, Cantonese Spareribs, Cranberry Glazed Chicken, Pork Fried Rice, Lima Beans, Broccoli Parmesan, Spice Sake w/ Frosting, Vanilla Cookies, Fruit Gelatin, RIKPAK.

**15** Breakfast: Farina, Oven Fried Bacon, Baked Sausage Patties, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Waffles, Biscuits and Gravy, Asstd Doughnuts, Blueberry Muffins.  
Lunch: Egg Drop Soup, Sweet & Sour Pork, Chicken Chopsuey, Egg Foo Young, Chinese Fried Rice, Chow Mein Noodles, Oriental Fried Cabbage, Corn Kernel, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Blueberry Pie.  
Speed line: Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, Onion Rings, Macaroni & Cheese, RIKPAK.  
Dinner: Cream of Broccoli Soup, Braised Beef Cubes, Shrimp Scampi, Seasoned Boiled Pasta, Spanish Style Beans, Carrots Slices, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Blueberry Pie, RIKPAK.

**16** Breakfast: Rolled Oats, Creamed Ground Beef, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Blueberry Pancakes, Biscuits, Asstd Doughnuts, Bear Claw.  
Lunch: Beef Noodle Soup, Pepper Steak, Chipper Fish, Bruschetta, Steamed Rice, Franconia Potatoes, Cream Style Corn, Eggplant Parmesan, Almond Cookies, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Pudding.  
Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes, RIKPAK.  
Dinner: French Onion Soup, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Steamed Rice, Potatoes Au Gratin, Club Spinach, Steamed Peas & Carrots, Almond Cookies, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Pudding, RIKPAK.

**17** Breakfast: Hominy Grits, Corned Beef Hash, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, French Toast, Asstd Doughnuts, Raisin Muffin.  
Lunch: Vegetable Supreme Soup, Roast Porkloin, Honey Glazed Chicken, Steamed Rice, Roasted Garlic Potatoes, Seasoned Mix Vegetables, Club Spinach, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Cherry Cobbler.  
Speedline: Assorted Pizza, RIKPAK.  
Dinner: Tomato Bouillon Soup, Roast Turkey, Swedish Meatballs, Red Beans w/ Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Natural Pan Gravy, Creole Green Beans, Corn Kernel, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Cherry Cobbler, RIKPAK.

# AT&T

# ON THE GO WITH MWR

## MWR December Fitness Schedule

### Fit District

### DECEMBER FITNESS SCHEDULE



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 - 7 am		Spin w/ Sarah		Spin w/ Sarah	
8:30 - 9:30 am	Kickboxing w/ Jill B	ABC w/ Lisa	Kickboxing w/ Jill B	ABC w/ Lisa	Yoga w/ Danielle
9:30 - 10:30 am	Pilates w/ Danielle	Spin w/ Jill	Pilates w/ Danielle	Spin w/ Jill	
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Cardio Jam w/ Danielle	Pilates w/ Danielle		Pilates w/ Danielle	
5:15 - 6:15 pm		Spin w/ Lisa		Spin w/ Lisa	
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Yoga w/ Luisa	20/20/20 w/ Angelica	Yoga w/ Luisa	Zumba w/ Angelica	

### Flight Line Fitness Center

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
4:15 - 5:15 pm			Spin w/ Sarah	
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Pump It Up w/ Angelica		Pump It Up w/ Angelica	
5 - 6 pm		Yoga w/ Luisa		Yoga w/ Luisa

### Mineo Community Center

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:30 am - 9:30 am		Step w/ Michelle		Step w/ Michelle
5:30 - 6:30		Triple Shot w/ Melinda		Triple Shot w/ Melinda

## MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATERS

### SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS



#### Friday, December 11

- 3:00pm Where the Wild Things Are PG
- 5:00pm Planet 51 PG
- 5:30pm Amelia PG PREMIERE
- 7:00pm Cirque Du Freak: Vampire's Assistant PG-13
- 7:30pm Law Abiding Citizen R

#### Saturday, December 12

- FREE WINTER WONDERLAND MOVIES
- 2:00pm The Muppet Christmas Carol G
- 2:30pm The Santa Clause PG
- 4:00pm The Grinch PG
- 4:30pm It's A Wonderful Life
- 6:00pm Christmas with the Kranks PG
- 7:00pm Scrooged PG-13

#### Sunday, December 13

- 2:00pm Astro Boy PG PREMIERE
- 2:30pm Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs PG
- 5:00pm Whip It PG-13
- 5:30pm Cirque Du Freak: Vampire's Assistant PG-13
- 7:00pm The Blind Side PG-13

#### Monday, December 14

- 5:00pm Astro Boy PG
- 5:30pm The Vampire's Assistant PG-13
- 7:30pm Law Abiding Citizen R
- 8:00pm Zombieland R

#### Tuesday, December 15

- 5:00pm Amelia PG
- 5:30pm Twilight New Moon PG-13
- 7:30pm The Vampire's Assistant PG-13
- 8:00pm Law Abiding Citizen R

#### Wednesday, December 16

- 5:00pm Astro Boy PG
- 5:30pm Planet 51 PG
- 7:00pm The Invention of Lying PG-13
- 7:30pm The Blind Side PG-13

#### Thursday, December 17

- 5:00pm 2012 PG-13
- 5:30pm Surrogates PG-13
- 7:30pm Couples Retreat PG-13
- 8:00pm Zombieland R

2012- John Cusack, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Amanda Peet, Oliver Platt, Thandie Newton  
Never has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientist, and governments. A global cataclysm brings an end to the world, and tells of the heroic struggle of the survivors. (158 min.)

AMELIA- Hilary Swank, Richard Gere, Ewan McGregor, Christopher Eccleston, Joe Anderson  
After becoming the first woman to fly across the Atlantic, Amelia was thrust into a new role as America's sweetheart - the legendary "goddess of light," known for her bold, larger-than-life charisma. Yet, even with her global fame solidified, her belief in flirting with danger and standing up as her own, outspoken woman never changed. She was an inspiration to people everywhere, from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the men closest to her heart: her husband, promoter and publishing magnate George P. Putnam, and her long time friend and lover, pilot Gene Vidal. In the summer of 1937, Amelia set off on her most daunting mission yet: a solo flight around the world that, whatever the outcome, was to become one of the most talked-about journeys in history. (111 min.)

ASTRO BOY- Freddie Highmore, Kristen Bell, Nicolas Cage, Samuel L. Jackson, Nathan Lane  
Set in futuristic Metro City, Astro Boy is a young robot with incredible powers created by a brilliant scientist named Dr. Tenma. Powered by positive "blue" energy, Astro Boy is endowed with super strength, x-ray vision, unbelievable speed and the ability to fly. Through his adventures, he learns the joys and emotions of being human, and gains the strength to embrace his destiny. Ultimately learning his friends and family are in danger, Astro Boy marshals his awesome super powers and returns to Metro City in a valiant effort to save everything he cares about and to understand what it means to be a hero. (94 min.)

CIRQUE DU FREAK: VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT- John C. Riley, Ken Watanabe, Josh Hutcherson, Chris Massoglia, Ray Stevenson  
A boy unknowingly breaks a 200-year-old truce between two warring factions of vampires. Pulled into a fantastic life of misunderstood sideshow freaks and grotesque creatures of the night, one teen will vanish from the safety of a boring existence and fulfill his destiny in a place drawn from nightmares. 14-year-old Darren was like most kids in his suburban neighborhood. He hung out with his best friend, got decent grades and usually stayed out of trouble. But when he and his buddy stumble upon a traveling freak show, things begin to change inside Darren. That's the exact moment when a vampire named Larten Crepsley turns him into something, well, bloodthirsty. (109 min.)

### Movie dates and times are subject to change

SHOWING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 5:00pm Amelia PG
- 5:30pm Old Dogs PG
- 7:30pm The Box PG-13
- 8:00pm Paranormal Activity R

For more information on MWR's programs and services, call 624-3968.

## Experience a Sicilian Christmas



This month, ITT Gear-n-Go brings Sigonella the spirit of the season, Sicilian style.

Travel across Sicily, from Acireale to Ragusa, visiting distinctive Nativity Scenes and Cathedrals while witnessing various holiday traditions. Head to Siracusa to experience the Festival of St. Lucia on Sunday, Dec. 13, which marks the beginning of the Christmas season.

Enjoy shopping for unique items at the various markets and stores. Travel to Giarre to purchase iron, bronze, copper hand-crafts, or to Caltagirone for intricate hand-painted pottery. Sicily offers a wealth of handmade items and antiques that make perfect holiday gifts.

Indulge in seasonal treats such as roasted chestnuts, panettone cake or Novello wine (the first wine of the year).

No matter how it is enjoyed, Christmas comes alive in Sicily. For more information on holiday festivities call ITT at 624-4777.

## Healthy competition for the holidays



Get a command or organization team together for the biggest challenge of the holiday season; the 2009 Reindeer Games Monday, Dec. 21, to Wednesday, Dec. 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Flight Line Fitness Center. Compete in events such as basketball hotshot, tricycle races, inflatable jousting, and more for great prizes. There's no need to register; just drop in and play. Open to active duty and active duty spouses. For more info, call 624-0504.

## Putting the roll back in rock



Get ready to rock and bowl all night during Rock-o-Bowl at SpareTime Bowling Center Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. We'll be blasting the sound of Nine Inch Nails, Metallica, Static X, and more as adults ages 18 or older bowl the night away. Bowl one game and get one free plus great giveaways and prizes all night long. For more info call 624-4302.

MOVIE HOTLINE:  
624-4248

**STORIES, continued from  
page 2**

ent way of life. We learn to 'come out-of-the-box' in order to see and appreciate peoples' lives. Fortunately, we live in a place where we can learn and adjust easily to new ways of life.

The Holiday season is upon us. This is an excellent opportunity to look for the Creator of all, and to enrich your life with his blessings. Also, it is a great time to meet new friends.

George Carlin gives us some

thoughts for reflection. "The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways but narrower viewpoints. We spend more but have less. We buy more and enjoy less". He continues saying "We have multiplied possessions but reduced values. We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often. We've learn to make a living, but not a life. We have added years to life but no life to years".

Remember to spend time with love ones, friends and shipmates

because they are not going to be around forever. Remember to say kind words to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person will grow up and leave your side. Remember to pay attention to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Join the Holiday spirit. There are several events on base or in town. Attend a free Festival of Lights Community Christmas Concert, Sun 13 Dec, NAS I Chapel, 1800. These are stories to remember.

**IA, continued from  
page 1**

just thinking, 'Oh yeah they better turn it back on so that I know she's ok.' I know she can take care of herself, there's no doubt. There was just concern for her safety when there wasn't communication, but then she would get on and write me an e-mail saying, 'Hey, I will try to get a hold of you at this time.'

Even though the communication was better than her first deployment Jill still felt the stress of not being physically present for things like Harley's high school graduation.

"Being away during the big events is what really bothered me," Jill said. "Bret's parents came out for her graduation, and then my mom came out. We planned this whole thing and I was missing that, missing her graduation, missing the end of school and her eighteenth birthday. I think it was missing those big events that caused the most stress on me."

Bret also found himself dealing with stressful situations like trying to sleep without his wife of 21 years by his side.

"You roll over and reach, you reach a little further and you reach a little further," Bret said. "Then you wake up and realize they're not there."

It wasn't just an adjustment for the Bret and Jill. Harley was also dealing new emotions and situations she hadn't faced before.

"It wasn't her missing things that were the biggest stresses," Harley said. "It was thinking, 'Am I doing enough? Am I helping out enough?'"

Harley credits extracurricular activities and other sources of support for helping her deal her mother's absence.

Bailey echoed Harley sentiments about the school and said her friends were a huge support system for her, but she said she often found herself missing her mother.

"Whenever I was talking to her on Skype I would have to turn away for a couple minutes because I would start crying. Of course, then she would see me crying and it would make her feel bad, then I felt worse.

"To help stay connected the Skeets thought of several creative ways to show their love and support for each other.

Bret, Harley and Bailey decided that even though Jill might be all the way in Afghanistan it didn't she couldn't be with the family on a regular basis.

"They took a paper plate and they drew a face on it, and that was me for six months," Jill said. "So, they would take me places and take pictures."

The family would post the pictures with Jill's plate on Facebook for her to see. They took Jill's plate to Harley's Senior Day, the Fourth of July and family trips around Sicily.

"We go bowling frequently and they took my plate bowling," Jill said. "So, they put my plate on boots with a bowling ball and a beer next to it. They put my plate in the ball

return, they took a group picture of everyone with my plate and they took a picture of the guy that works at the bowling alley with my plate. It just made me feel like I was included and it was wonderful."

Bailey explained how Jill took advantage of a free service provided in Afghanistan to give her family a memorable message.

"They videotaped her reading a story book and sent it back to us," Bailey said. "It's one that our family loves, 'Where the Wild Things Are.' They videotaped her reading it, it showed a little message and everything, and they sent it to us on a CD."

The family believes that unique ways of staying connected, like the video or the photos, helped tremendously to make the deployment go by faster.

Once Jill returned home from Afghanistan, the Skeets began the process of readjusting to family life.

Jill said that it was definitely a huge adjustment for her coming back home and stepping into the mom role in the family again.

"I had only had to worry about myself for the past seven months," Jill said. "I had other people doing my laundry. I had other people cooking and doing the dishes. I just went to work and took care of myself. Coming home and coming back into their dynamic was difficult. I'm not even sure I'm quite fully there yet. They'll occasionally have this unresolved issue from something that happened in the past six months that they're still trying to deal with, and I just step back and let them deal with it. Yet, I'm mom and I've got to come back and try to re-establish myself as mom and have people listen to me. So, that's been interesting. "Jill took lessons she had learned from her first deployment to prepare her family on what to expect from her when she returned.

"I'm used to my time and I'm going to need space," said Jill. "I remember when I came back the first time I had a very difficult time being around a lot of people. I just had to have this little bubble around me. I couldn't stand big crowds. I couldn't stand a lot of people around me, or anything like that. I tried to prepare by saying, 'You can't choke me. There's going to be times I just need to be alone for a few minutes.'"

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## Stampa

Bret acknowledged that there has been a period of readjustment, but he feels it's nothing they can't work through.

"There have been some adjustments. The stove and the sink are mine and suddenly she's standing next to me saying, 'What can I do to help?' I throw everything in the dishwasher and she wants to hand wash all of the stuff. It's just everybody learning to work together again."

Harley said she was able to readjust quickly to having her mother back in the mix.

"Within the first three or four days it was more or less back to where we left off," Harley said. "I mean she's been making up for the past seven months of not being able to be my mom. Sometimes she forgets I'm 18. She's back and we're back into the swing of things. Like she said, we're still getting used to it, but for me it's more or less back to the way it was before."

Bailey readjustment hasn't been as smooth as Harley's.

"Sometimes I have to reach over and pat her and say, 'Ok, she's still here,'" Bailey said. "Sometimes it feels like she's not here because I can't see her and I start freaking out."

While the family has had its ups and downs during the readjustment process they continue to stick together and support each other unconditionally. Jill gives a lot of the credit for her family's successful deployment and readjustment to family members in the U.S. and Sigonella community members who have supported them throughout the entire process. Jill believes every family facing an IA deployment in the future should use that same support circle.

"When people offer things take them up on it," Jill said. "Don't seclude yourself from your friends to help you through it. If one of my friends were deploying I would want to be there to help their spouse and their kids as much as I could. If that means someone cooking a meal or babysitting your kids, take them up on those offers. Don't seclude yourself and feel like you have to do it alone. Sigonella is such a small community we should all be out there to help each other."

# THE SPORTS LINE

## PIGSKIN PICKS

	Army at Navy	New Orleans at Atlanta	Green Bay at Chicago	Denver at Indianapolis	Miami at Jacksonville	Carolina at New England	Philadelphia at NY Giants	San Diego at Dallas
 <p><b>Overall Record: 80-45</b> NFL: 36-24 NCAA: 44-24 SN Kaminski, PSD</p>	Navy	Saints	Packers	Colts	Dolphins	Patriots	Eagles	Chargers
 <p><b>Overall Record: 78-47</b> NFL: 33-24 NCAA: 45-23 MC3 Idle, Exec Admin</p>	Navy	Saints	Packers	Colts	Jaguars	Patriots	Giants	Chargers
 <p><b>Overall Record: 77-48</b> NFL: 33-18 NCAA: 44-24 D Day</p>	Navy	Saints	Bears	Colts	Dolphins	Patriots	Eagles	Chargers
 <p><b>Overall Record: 77-48</b> NFL: 39-18 NCAA: 38-30 Capt. Jaeger, USNH Sigonella</p>	Navy	Saints	Packers	Colts	Dolphins	Patriots	Eagles	Chargers
 <p><b>Overall Record: 76-49</b> NFL: 34-23 NCAA: 42-26 Joe Cunningham, NCTS</p>	Army	Saints	Packers	Colts	Jaguars	Patriots	Eagles	Chargers
 <p><b>Overall Record: 66-59</b> NFL: 29-27 NCAA: 37-32 Chief Payne, Weapons</p>	Navy	Saints	Packers	Colts	Dolphins	Patriots	Eagles	Cowboys

## Game of the Week: Cincinnati Bengals at Minnesota Vikings

**MC3 Idle: Vikings**  
I have to take the Vikings in this one. I really do like the Bengals. It's nice to see a perennial joke finally coming around, and they have several players from USC which brings them up a couple notches in my book. Even though they were able to replace Cedric Benson with Larry Johnson and keep their running game steaming along I just think they're outclassed on both side of the ball here. Favre is playing out of his mind this year, and the Vikings defense is strong as usual.

**PSSN Kaminski: Vikings**  
Minnesota over Cincinnati at home in Minnesota. Even though Cincy has been playing some good football, they've also let some games slip away. Against the Vikings they're going to have to shut down Favre and that offense, and if the purple people eater defense plays like it has all year they should have no problem with a victory.

**Capt. Jaeger: Vikings**

Minnesota AT HOME! Go Favre!

**Joe Cunningham: Bengals**  
The Bengals are setting the precedent of playing down to their opponents - losing to Oakland and Houston, and struggling against the Browns. This after sweeping the Steelers and Ravens..... However, they will raise their game here enough to beat Brett Favre and the Vikes. Bengals all the way baby!

**D-Day: Vikings**  
I'd like to pick the Bengals here, but then I'd be drinking my coffee on Sunday wondering what I was thinking. The Bengals might make a game of it, but the Vikings are playing at another level right now and they're at home. Vikings.

**GMC Payne: Vikings**  
Seriously????? All the nagging injuries that the Bengals are dealing with??? Favre is on an MVP pace, next to Drew Brees???? Vikings..

Uni Maryland

days inn

Fun Island

# Il Mercato

All classified ads are free to the community. Their intent is for advertising personal property for sale, trade or giveaway. No commercial ads will be accepted. Ads run for two weeks. Classified ads are due no later than 5 p.m. of the Friday before the week of publication. For more information, call 624-5440 or 095-86-5440. Requests for commercial classifieds must be made to Stampa Generale at 081-568-7884. Send Il Mercato advertisements to [thesig@eu.navy.mil](mailto:thesig@eu.navy.mil)

**AUTOMOBILES**

**2001 Lancia Y**, Automatic transmission with 40,078 miles, CD player with IPOD hook-up, power windows, and A/C. This car will be available on December 20th, reserve it today with a down payment. Price \$4,000. Call Mike at 3400638929 or 624-1342.

**1994 BMW 320i** with M3 sport package. 6 cylinder engine, manual transmission with 137,000 miles. 2-door with leather interior and sunroof. Fun car to drive but some maintenance issues. \$3000 OBO. Please call 349-664-9700.

**Tan 1994 Ford Ranger**, AC, CD AM/FM, Toolbox, comes with 5 Extra tires, \$1500.00 OBO. For more information please call 346-518-2988 or 340-452-4397.

**Audi 80 SW 1.9 TDI**(turbo diesel inter-cooler) year 1994. Air condition, ABS, power doors, windows and back mirrors.Excellent condition ready for any test."40 miles with one gallon". Asking \$2,500.00 Call Salvo 338-3225071

**2007 VRSCD NIGHTROD HARLEY DAVIDSON** MUST SELL, PCS Move

1133cc 1600 miles, ex condition. Comes with 2 Harley reflective vests, 2 black full face helmets, Sissy bar, rear seat + backrest, removable windshield, and cover. KBB value \$13,125.00 only asking \$10,500 or B.O

**2000 Fiat 600** red , two doors, 5 spd manual. Small roomy car. Good on gas. Great for the towns or back and forth to work. Asking \$2200.00 . Please contact Cliff or Giovanna @ 6240613 or 3466789575

**FOR SALE**

Are you a CrossFitter or want to get started? I have all the equipment you need! All stuff is top of the line and brand new. Two Olympic bars (15 lb training bar for instruction and a 1000# test York power bar), bumper plates (10, 25, and 45#), small plates (2.5, 5, and 10#), collars, 10# and 20# medicine balls, Hi-Tech training plates for instruction, Elite rings, and YES a complete set of Kettlebells (8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, and 32 kg)! Original cost is more than \$3000, but will take \$2000 for everything. Call 335-578-8543 or pazzoragazzo@hotmail.com.

Bunk bed is multi-functional, containing a trundle bed, computer desk, storage area,

closet and seven drawers all in one unit. My son has grown out of it. Call Janell Sanders cell 348-886-7204 home 095861650/ 624-1650.

Blackberry Curve 8900 Titanium Smartphone, unlocked. Wi-fi, Bluetooth and much more! Brand new, only used for 1 week, no problems, scratches or other blemishes. Just wasn't the phone for us. Comes in original box with carrying case, charger, headset, 1GB micro SD card. Retail for \$400, asking \$350 obo. Contact anglouise@gmail.com or x0681

Cigars. Variety of well cared for cigars in a well-maintained and spacious humidor. For more information, please call 624-1231.

Outdoor table w/ 4 chairs & bench (\$50), 27" Sharp TV (\$25), AFN Decoder (\$50), 2 - 110 floor fans(\$10/each), multi-position folding extension ladder(\$50), ironing board, Craftsman Work table(\$20), pink women's bike (\$100), black men's bike (\$100), Pre-lit 6' palm tree(\$10), cell phone (\$30), Wireless router(\$20), modem (\$20). Call Matt at 624-6261 or 335-747-5013.

Black Gucci purse (bought \$600; sell \$350); black small-rimmed Gucci sunglasses (bought \$120; sell \$50), Clear Aviator Chanel sunglasses (bought \$425; sell \$200), Gucci heels size 37 1/2 (bought \$500; sell \$100), Gucci silver "G" watch (bought \$500; sell \$200). Call 624-1205.

Wooden Entertainment Center: Fits 28"TV; 54x42 \$30.00. Armoire from NEX, 5'x6'; three drawers and cabinet with full closet to hang clothes, just like new \$130.00. Call 3402918935

Call Gary 335-706-5400 for more info on the following items:

- Craftsman 6.5 HP mower, paid \$450, sell \$150
- New Blk Glass TV or Stereo stand, paid \$350, \$150
- DVD JVC player, \$20 Sony CD player, 5 disc player
- \$25 New Seiko Diver's watch, Paid \$250 sell \$125
- New U.S. 110v Washer & Dryer \$600
- New JVC HD 42" TV, 110v in box paid \$1100, sell \$600
- Mountain Bike, men's loaded, new cond. Paid \$1,000, sell \$450.

- China set, 200 piece, new still boxed \$100
- New TV/stereo stand, \$75
- Leather Recliner \$250
- Craftsman batt. 110v drill
- \$10 Sony \$700 digital camera
- \$75 Craftsman Lawn mower \$75

Call Jay 624-0611 for more info on the following items:

- Patio Furniture from NEX, 2 years old pretty descent condition, Table and 4 chairs. Paid \$250.00 Must sell \$50.00
- Coffee Table and end 2 end tables. Descent condition. Pine color with black designs. Must sell \$50 for all 3 pieces.
- Lot of baby cloths. Boys and Girls call for details.
- NAVIGON 3310 max Europe GPSPaid 169.EUR , bought to travel to Paris and never went. Like brand new \$150.00 or BO.
- Electronic real tip dartboard. One of a kind. Comes with 6 darts, power cord, and loads of fun.\$50.00 or BO
- HITACHI 19" flatscreen TV, like new. Europe and USA channels \$50 or BO
- Baby bassinette from the NEX white. Very well taken care of. Still have box. \$50.00
- JVC 50" Plasma HDTV, paid \$2999 from

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at [thesig@eu.navy.mil](mailto:thesig@eu.navy.mil). Ads run for two weeks on a space available basis and must be sponsored by active duty military members, family members or Italian/American base employees. Ad must be 40 words or less and typed in regular upper case, lower case format. *The Signature* does not accept ads that bring profit to a business or individual, such as maid, babysitting services or home rentals. AFRTS/AFN decoders must be sold only to another authorized individual: active duty or retired U.S. military, DoD direct-hire employees, and their spouse. If someone would like these types of services in *The Signature*, call Stampa Generale @ 081-568-7884.

New Volcano Carlitos  
 Hope  
 Delivery Tatoo Volcano

NexWorks great, movers put small scratch on screen but cant see when watching TV Must sell \$800 or BO  
-Kitchen Island solid wood top, and real wood doors and cabinets. Super nice, Paid \$600.00 Selling for \$200 call for pictures or stop by to look.

**WANTED**

Full time or Part time Nanny needed for 3 month old infant in April. The house is in vicinity of NAS 1. Please call Erin at 624-6144 during the day or 345-484-6844 in the evening.

Child care needed for 4 month old baby. Some evenings and weekends required, non-smoker preferred. Please contact Kristie or John at 624-1631 or 3409914639.

**PETS**

Free to good home 3 yr old PittBull, Female, White and brown. Loves kids, walks, and watching TV. Please take her, going to C-school in January. She comes with a huge cage, bowls, leashes, food, and \$100.00 Call Jay at 624-0611.

Free to a good home: 1 year old male golden retriever, yellow lab mix. He is current on all of his shots, chipped and spayed. Toys, kennel, and food bowls, etc. will come with him, all you need provide is a loving home and a yard for him to play in. If interested call Alicia at 346-963-1152

# Ceramiche

# Volcano

# Tech

# Tattoo

# Stampa

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# Armed Forces