



You're Feeling Very Sleepy

Article and photos by MC1 Brian A. Goyak
Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Sigonella



Jennifer Boone attempts unsuccessfully to perform a card trick, the disappearing Jack, for the audience. Under the state of hypnosis, however, she is left unable to replicate it.

Hypnotist and comedian Ken Dubner entertained members of the Sigonella community at the Midtown Theater Jan 18.

Dubner began his career as a standup comedian and studied hypnosis techniques in order to better himself as a comic and to help him get in the zone for his performances. After realizing hypnosis was something he had a talent for, he attended a yearlong program, at the Hypnosis Motivation Institute. After completing the program his comedy friends encouraged him to take what he learned to the stage. "The funny thing is when I was a comic I couldn't stand stage hypnotist," said Dubner. "Oddly enough now I'm a stage hypnotist."

Dubner started the show by doing a simple experiment with the audience to help choose volunteers for the show. He had them close their

eyes and imagine holding a bowling ball in the left hand and balloons attached to the right. The people whose hands were farthest apart were encouraged to volunteer on stage and be hypnotized.

After selecting volunteers Dubner began the fun part of the show. Once his volunteers were under hypnosis Dubner took them on a trip to the planet Bepo where they met fuzzy little aliens whose saliva smelled and tasted like the best thing anyone has ever smelled or tasted before.

He then placed suggestions in the volunteers' minds that were triggered when he said the words Navy, Sicily, Sigonella, etc. Before long the stage was filled with people believing others were in the wrong seat or wearing their shoes on the wrong feet and trying to correct them or jumping

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Protestant Women of the Chapel Hold Spring Kick-off

Article by Jennifer Boone
Photos by Janelle Reede

The Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) had their Spring Kick-Off Tuesday January 15, 2008. It was an opportunity to reach out to the community and minister to others. The kick-off brought over 50 women in attendance with many experiencing the fellowship for the first time. It allowed time for an introduction to PWOC, review of past studies, and preview of this year's studies.

PWOC's President, Robyn Kelly, opened the event up with a background of the organization. This included a summary of the AIMS of PWOC: To lead, teach, develop, and involve women. The ministry gathers weekly in one location to encourage unity among women whether they live in Mineo, Marinai, or on the economy and regardless of where they may worship weekly.

The theme of this year's kick-off was "Back To School". The NASI Chapel Fellowship Hall was decorated with colorful posters, books, and school related objects. Each lady who attended was given a free mini tote bag filled with candy, pencils, pens, and erasers. It was just the right touch to encourage a learning environment! Anita Robertson, Vice President of Programs, then took over the podium and proceeded with theme related games in order to get to know each other better. All of the ladies enjoyed hearing the various stories shared from fellow sisters from "Who was

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A King and His Dream

Article by ABHAN Belinda Mullen and MC2 Joshua Wink

In 1950's America, the equality of man envisioned by the Declaration of Independence was far from a reality. People of color - blacks, Hispanics, Orientals - were discriminated against in many ways, both overt and covertly. The 1950's were a turbulent time in America, when racial barriers began to come down due to Supreme Court decisions like Brown vs. the Board of Education, and due to an increase in the activism of blacks, fighting for equal rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr., a Baptist minister, was a driving force in the push for racial equality in the 1950's and 60's. In 1963, King and his staff focused on Birmingham, Alabama.

They marched and protested non-violently, raising the ire of local officials who used water cannons and police dogs against the marchers, whose ranks included teenagers and children. The bad publicity and break down of business forced the white leaders of Birmingham to concede to some anti-segregation demands.

Thrust into the national spotlight in Birmingham, where he was arrested and jailed, King organized a massive march on Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he evoked the name of Lincoln in his "I Have a Dream" speech, which is credited

with mobilizing supporters of desegregation and prompted the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The next year, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

We've come a long way in America since the 1960's, but there is always more to accomplish. It is paramount to remember where we came from and what direction we are heading. One day of remembrance out of the year is a tribute to honor Dr. King, but just one day is not enough to honor his vision. Each and every day presents new opportunities to forward his cause.

King's vision has influenced people, not only from around the country, but around the world. His motivation, inspiration and ideas can be found in the personal stories of ordinary individuals and great leaders alike, as a homage to the undying idea of equality.

"Martin Luther King, and what he stood for during that time frame in America, drove me to where I am today. I came into the Navy as an undesignated airman and worked on the line division, at a time when you could be in the Navy as an E3 for three or four years and no one really cared, but because of him and what he stood for, it made me motivated to excel within 14 years to become a Master Chief. At the time, to be a Maintenance Master Chief as an African American female was

unheard of, and to go further than that I became a Command Master Chief and I attribute that to [King] and what he stood for," said Command Master Chief Rosa Wilson.

Full integration in the United States Armed Forces came in 1948 under an executive order from former President Harry S. Truman and now is an essential cornerstone of the military. The diversity and cooperation in the military should set an example of what people can achieve when they come together, from different background but united under the same cause.

"In the military people tend to come together; they learn to live together and work together and their lives depend on each other, through the diversity you learn to throw away prejudices and open your mind. When your life depends on your shipmates next to you, what does it matter what color they are, what race or religion? You are there to depend on each other," said Sandra Basil, Sigonella fire chief and attendant at the Martian Luther King Jr. Commemoration.

This years Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the Duomo Conference Center reminded the community that it wasn't an easy road to where we are today, equality was fought for and should be defended, and we should never forget this.

WEATHER UPDATE	Jan. 25	Jan. 26	Jan. 27	Jan. 28	Jan. 29	Jan. 30	Jan. 31
	H:64F L:45F	H:55F L:38F	H:67F L:49F	H:65F L:35F	H:58F L:35F	H:55F L:37F	H:53F L:35F

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Many people are interested in improving their relationships, but often couples are unsure of how to start the process. In simple terms, it is helpful to make a few basic rules. Let the Fleet and Family Support Center help you build a strong relationship.	Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2 who participated in recovery operations at the I-35 bridge collapse site in Minneapolis were honored during an awards ceremony on Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Jan. 14.	While commissary shoppers have long saved green of the legal tender variety - to the tune of 30 percent or more annually on their grocery bills - they can now conserve green of another very useful kind - trees, with the introduction on reusable grocery bags.	Marinette Marine Corporation, is building the Navy's first littoral combat ship, USS Freedom (LCS 1), which the CNO declared to be "the workhorse of the Navy." The Navy is now-closing in on some of the critical milestones to get the first LCS to sea.	For a young black man growing up in Mississippi during the heat of the civil rights movement, getting involved wasn't a choice. It was just a part of life. Elvernice "Sonny" Davis was that man who, during the 1960's was growing up in between two very different cultures in the midst of turbulence.	

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TRAFFIC NUMBERS		
	Jan. 2008	2007
Accidents	13	276
Without Injuries	12	232
Injuries	1	44
DUIs	0	8
Traffic Deaths	0	0

PLEASE, DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!

DIRECT LINE

NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN THOMAS J. QUINN

Tax Season has once again arrived.

Our Region Legal Service Office has once again created a team of 4 full-time and 17 part-time volunteers to assist you in filing your tax returns for the 2007 tax year. The location of this year's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) center will be in building 410, located across the street from the Auto Hobby Shop. The office anticipates opening their door to all Sigonella community members on February 11, 2008 and will ensure that everyone who needs

assistance will be taken care of. Their working hours will be from 0900-1600 Mon, Wed and Friday and 0800-1500 Tues and Thurs. You do not need to make an appointment for simple tax returns, but will be helped on a walk-in basis. Anyone who itemizes will need to make an appointment.

Last year the VITA Center completed over 1,100 tax returns, which generated \$1,371,768 in refunds. This service assisted over 650 NAS Sigonella personnel

The tax-paying deadline is 15

April of each year for everyone. However, the filing deadline is extended for those of us OUT-CONUS until 15 June. If taxpayers think they may owe the government, they should have their taxes done prior to the 15 April deadline.

Although we may be extended, those that have to pay will be charged interest and penalties on the amount due if they wait until after 15 April.

The Tax Center looks forward to assisting you with all your tax filing needs.



Health WATCH Fluoride Facts

Article by Monserrat Jorden, DMD

Dental decay is the most common and costly oral health problem in all age groups. It is the principal cause of tooth loss from early childhood through middle age. With life expectancy increasing, the myth of decay being only a children's disease is gone. Older adults experience gum recession and these exposed root surfaces are susceptible to decay.

In addition to impacting emotional and social well being, the consequences of dental disease are reflected in the cost of its treatment. Dental services today are focused on prevention to help patients retain their teeth.

Fluoride is a mineral that occurs naturally in different water sources. Extensive research has shown that optimal levels of fluoride reduce and prevent cavities in children and adults.

Fluoride protects teeth in two ways. - Systemically and topically -

Systemic fluorides are ingested into the body. They are available as tablets and drops. Once ingested, fluoride gets into the circulation which allows its deposit into the developing

tooth structures. Regular low dose exposure increases the level of fluoride in our saliva. The saliva continuously bathes the teeth and transfers fluoride into dental plaque. This facilitates a process known as remineralization, which is the repair of early stages of tooth decay, even before it is visible.

Dietary fluoride supplements are available only by prescription and are intended to increase fluoride exposure levels to be equal to levels in optimally fluoridated areas. Fluoride supplements are an effective alternative to water fluoridation to help prevent dental decay.

Topical fluorides strengthen teeth already present in the mouth. They could be self applied in the form of toothpaste or rinses. Children get the most benefit out of toothpaste by placing only a pea-sized amount on the toothbrush. Young children should be supervised and taught to spit out, rather than to swallow the toothpaste. Rinses are not recommended for children below 6 years old due to the risk of swallowing. Professional fluoride prepara-

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NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

DS Chapel in Catania <u>Sunday</u> 1 p.m. Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints	Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 11:30 a.m.
NAS II Chapel <u>Monday</u> 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	NAS I Chapel <u>Sunday</u> 8:45 a.m. Catholic Mass 10:45 a.m. Protestant Worship 5 p.m. Fellowship Meal 6 p.m. Bible Study
<u>Tuesday</u> 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	Mineo Community Center <u>Sunday</u> 9 a.m. Protestant Worship 12 p.m. Catholic Mass
<u>Wednesday</u> 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	Maranai Community Center 11 a.m. Protestant Traditional Service
<u>Friday</u> 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	
<u>Sunday</u> 4 p.m. Catholic Mass	

Call 095-86-3801 for the Chaplains Office
Call 095-86-1225 for weekly Jewish services



Are You an Honest Person?

Article courtesy of Chaplain Ken Amador

We've all seen the signs: "SHOPLIFTERS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW." "SHOPLIFTING IS STEALING. STOP IT!" and "SHOPLIFTERS... DON'T!" Why all the signs? One word, dishonesty. One estimate says that one out of every fifty-two customers every day carries away at least one unpaid item. The loss has now reached, according to some studies, an astronomical \$3 billion annually, and rising.

There are other ways of being dishonest such as: cheating on exams, taking a towel from the hotel, not working a full day, bold face lies

and half truths, exaggerated statements, hedging on reports and losses covered by insurance companies, broken financial promises, and domestic deceit.

The answer, simplistic though it may seem, is a return to honesty. Integrity may be an even better word. It boils down to an internal decision. Nothing less will counteract dishonesty. External punishment may hurt, but it doesn't solve the problem. It's an internal problem. It also reveals a serious character flaw.

Ideally, we plant the seeds and cultivate the roots of honesty in the home. It occurs under the watchful eyes of consistent, diligent, and persistent parents. It is in this environment

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Commanding Officer
Capt. Thomas J. Quinn

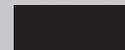
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC/ SAFETY UPDATE

Traffic Court Results

- Family Member** - Improper backing. Member was awarded 5 points.
- Family Member** - Inattentive driving. Member was awarded 3 points.
- E5** - Inattentive driving. Member was awarded 3 points.
- E5** - Inattentive driving resulting in accident. Member was awarded 3 points and DIP.
- E5** - Driving too fast fro conditions. Member was awarded 7 points and 15 day suspension of driver's license.

NAVY News

Africa Partnership Station Sailor Helps in Saving Life



Captain Paul Biving Nziengu, left, chief of the Gabonese National Navy, thanks Storekeeper 2nd Class Ronald Saucedo, right, for saving the life of a Gabonese civilian on Sogara Beach, Gabon. The basic life saving skills Saucedo learned aboard USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) is the same training that Africa Partnership Station (APS) is teaching to maritime professionals in nine West and Central African countries.

Article and photo by MC2 (AW/SW) RJ Stratchko
Africa Partnership Station Public Affairs

PORT GENTILE, Gabon (NNS) -- A Sailor stationed on board the amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), was recognized Jan. 17 by the Gabonese Chief of Naval Forces, Captain Paul Biving Nziengu, and Capt. John Nowell, commander, Africa Partnership Station (APS), for helping save the life of a local Gabonese woman.

Storekeeper 2nd Class Ronald Saucedo received the award during an APS graduation ceremony for Gabonese maritime professionals who completed a week-long training program. Saucedo also received a letter of commendation.

Saucedo was on liberty at Sogara Beach, Jan. 14, with three other APS Sailors when they witnessed four men carrying a body

from the water.

"As we walked up to the crowd of people on the beach they saw my dog tags and said 'U.S. Marines, U.S. Marines,'" he said.

Saucedo assisted the victim by administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. "I checked her pulse and airway. Then I tilted her head back and somebody volunteered to do mouth-to-mouth while I did chest compressions," he said. "Shortly after, the water gushed out of her nose and she came to. As soon as she started regaining consciousness, we made sure she was ok, and then tried to get additional medical help."

Saucedo described the whole experience as scary but credited his reaction to the training he received in the U.S. Navy.

"I was afraid when I began

chest compressions, but my training just kicked in," he said.

The basic life saving training that Saucedo received is the same training that APS is teaching maritime professionals from West and Central African countries.

"Always try to do your best even if you are not the one giving CPR. Do something to help don't just walk by," said Saucedo.

Sailors like Saucedo are at the core of the Navy's new Cooperative Maritime Strategy. Whether volunteering to participate in community relations projects or military-to-military training.

"Petty Officer Saucedo's actions exemplify what APS is all about," said Nowell, "building trust with the African people so that we can strengthen collaborative partnerships."

PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Ricardo J. Reyes

Sailors assigned the Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) work on the flight deck during a replenishment-at-sea with the Fast Combat Support Ship USNS Arctic (T-AOE 8). Truman and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3 are underway on a scheduled deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and maritime security operations, in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

NEWS BRIEFS

Marriage Enrichment Workshop

-- Sponsored and Conducted by: Spiritual Fitness (CREDO) and the Sigonella Chapel --

This workshop is for married couples and is a great investment in your marital relationship! The workshop is designed to help good marriages become great marriages! While attending, couples will have an opportunity to focus on their relationship - where it is ... where it has come from ... and where it is heading. Couples will have an opportunity to develop deeper intimacy, learn more about their mate's emotional, physical, and spiritual needs, and practice new communication techniques.

The workshop will be held Saturday, 2 February, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Applebee's Upper Conference Room. For get more information, please contact Chaplain Amador by email or by phone at 624-3805, or SIGN UP at the NAS 1 Chapel.

(There is a limit of forty couples for this workshop)

IA Discussion Group

The Fleet & Family Support Center is offering an IA Discussion Group for all personnel and their families that have recently experienced a deployment or IA assignment. The group will provide an opportunity to meet recently returned IAs and their spouses, as well as provide information about resources and support services available to help manage the challenges that can occur during a deployment phase. This group is open to all IAs, service members who have deployed or will deploy, as well as spouses and family members. The next group meeting will be held on Monday, January 28, from 1100-1230.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the FFSC at 624-4291 to sign up and to receive more information.

Tutor Etna
ial

Monika

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA COMMUNITY CALENDAR					25 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel No School - DoDDS	26
27	28 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	29	30 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	31 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	1 Febuary Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	2
3	4 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	5	6 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	7 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	8 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	9
10	11 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	12	13 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	14 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	15 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	16
17	18 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	19	20 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	21 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	22 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	23
24	25 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	26	27 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	28 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	29 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	1 March
2	3 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	4	5 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	6 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	7 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	8

Sushi

Perla d'orientale

Grande Marchi
Albergo

Did you know?

Living beyond your means is a prescription for disaster? Does more than 25% of your take-home pay go to paying bills? Are you making only minimum payments on bills due? Are you taking out new loans to pay off old ones? Are you missing payments? Are you stalling one creditor to pay another? Are you having frequent family arguments over money? The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can help you improve your financial picture. NMCRS Volunteers and employees work hard to help Sailors, Marines, and their families pull themselves out of deficit budgets and into savings plans. Call today to schedule an appointment.

NMCRS: Service with a Smile!
 Contact your Sigonella NMCRS Office today! Call 624-4212 for more information. Office Hours: Monday - Friday 0900 - 1600.
 NMCRS: Seeking New Volunteers!
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society



Bldg. 319 (NAS 1)
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
DSN 624-4291
Commercial 095-56-4291

Building Relationships That Work

Article courtesy of the Fleet and Family Support Center

Many people are interested in improving their relationships, but often couples are unsure of how to start the process. In simple terms, it is helpful to make a few basic rules. The first is to accept differences between each other respectfully; the second is to listen more than you speak; and the third is to always remember what brought the two of you together in the first place. If these three rules seem easy to live by, then we suggest you try following these three steps:

Step 1: Make a commitment. Decide whether or not you are willing to put separation, conflict, criticism, and rejection out of your behaviors and thoughts for a minimum of 3 months. Are you willing to dedicate everything you say, do, and behave towards a happier, more loving relationship? If yes, go to step 2.

Step 2: Establish a plan: Attend couples counseling on a weekly basis. Spend a minimum

of 30 minutes reading and discussing information given in counseling sessions. Do something for your partner every day without expectation that you will get something in return.

Step 3: Identify one activity per week to participate in as a couple where the focus is on the activity, not your relationship. Go bowling, take a class together, complete a project together. The only requirement is that the activity has to be something you both have fun doing.

And while you are doing these things . . . remember:

Relationship Builders Are:
Laughter
Acceptance of Differences
Mutual Respect
Support

Relationship Killers Are:
Controlling
Rejection
Criticism
Contempt

Motta

Pentagon

Cold Noses

WARM HEARTS

A reminder to the community that feeding feral or wild animals on the installation is prohibited.



Benny (Left) is a great dog who loves to run and play. He would make a great addition to any family.

Paxton (Right) is a loveable dog who loves to fetch and run, please help him find a home.

Sigonella's Stray Animal Facility (SAWS) has many cats and dogs just looking for a warm home and someone to love. Each week the Signature will feature animals in need of adoption.

For more information contact the Stray Animal Facility at 624-3936 or Rose Cummings at 334-383-8786.



SEXUAL ASSAULT / VICTIMS 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.



Protestant Women of the Chapel

Bible study every Tuesday: 9:15 a.m. at NAS 1 Chapel (With free child care and Home school study/gym class) 6 p.m. at NAS 2 Chapel, and 7 p.m. at the Mineo Community Center
Find us at www.pwocsig.com or pwocsig@yahoo.com

Italian NEWS

Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle

Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff



Sciacca, a beautiful village in the Agrigento province, has a lively and colorful Carnival tradition featuring huge papier-mâché satirical floats that are famous all over the world. From Feb. 3 through 5, the streets of the town will come alive with joy and fun. Don't miss it!

Carnival's Merrymaking Time Kicks off in Acireale and Sciacca

"Cannalivari tutti li festi fa turnari!" (Carnival brings back all holidays), "A Carnevale ogni scherzo vale!" (At Carnival time, every prank is fair). These old Italian and Sicilian proverbs tell us that carnival is a big deal in Italy! Sicily boasts two ancient "Carnevale" traditions that draw annually crowds of visitors and tourists, who know they will enjoy exciting free entertainment for the entire family.

The Sciacca Carnival Tradition

Carnival is pretty much celebrated everywhere in Sicily, attending the Sciacca one is definitely worth a drive to Agrigento.

According to historians, the word Carnevale means *Carne Levare*, Latin for Cessation of Meat. It refers to a 40-day period of fasting preceding the beginning of Lent, during which Roman Catholics abstained from eating meat, which was celebrated with masquerades, bonfires and all kinds of excesses in food and fun.

Other history researchers believe that Carnival was also well-rooted in Pagan revelry i.e. the ancient Saturnalia festivities, which were celebrated by Romans to honor the God Saturn in hopes of procuring plentiful harvests.

Celebrations included feasting, gift giving, drunkenness, big meals and pranks. Masked parades of merrymaking young men and girls on board allegorical floats were also held through the streets of the cities. It was a time when masters and slaves exchanged roles. According to tradition, on the last night of the festival, Romans used to burn the effigy of the "King of the Saturnalia." It was a grotesque puppet that embodied the feast and after a time of glory was publicly burnt. Today, this practice is still performed in many countries. In Sciacca, a puppet named "Peppi 'Nnappa" is burnt on the night of Shrove Tuesday.

Sicilian clergyman Mario Ciaccio was the first historian to describe the Carnival of Sciacca in 1890. However, historic sources tell us that the carnival has been actually celebrated since the 17th century.

At the beginning, Sciacca's Carnival was mainly a celebration of country life with food and wine. Peasants, fishermen and herdsmen with painted faces and funny hats, played pranks and exchanged insults, played role reversals and made political satire. This was called "lu gabbu" (the mockery). Nobody was offended because that was what carnival was all about.

The grand finale for the celebrations was the burning of "lu Nannu," (which today is called "Peppi 'Nnappa") a straw puppet embodying the spirit of carnival. In doing so, bad luck and sins were burned away, leaving the town pure and filled with hope for good things to come.

Today, the allegorical carri or floats are the highlights of the celebrations. Associations including amateur musicians, ceramists, costume designers, poets, craftsmen and decorators begin creating these majestic parading papier-mâché floats after the summer. At the end of every working day around midnight, everyone who is involved in building a float gathers for the "schitichio" (dinner among friends). The carri allegorici (allegorical floats)

depict political and social satire. Ballets and performances are held during the parades. This year, Carnival festivities, which will follow the town patroness (Maria Santissima del Soccorso), will take place in the modern part of the town (Contrada Perriera) from Sunday, Feb. 3 through Tuesday Feb. 5. On the first day, float parades will be held both in the morning (11 a.m.) and afternoon (4 p.m.). On Feb. 4 and 5, carri will.

The chief event of the carnival is the traditional burning of the "Peppi 'Nnappa" puppet that is performed around 4 a.m. on Feb. 6. It's pretty late, but it's worth it!

Sciacca is fairly easy to reach and is about two hours and half from Catania. Exit Caltanissetta on the Catania-Palermo highway. Take the Agrigento-Caltanissetta national road. Once you get to Agrigento, take the Agrigento-Sciacca national road and

follow directions for Sciacca. For more information call Sciacca Tourist office at 0925-20111.

Carnival in Acireale

Acireale claims to host the "Carnevale più bello di Sicilia!" (The most beautiful Carnival in Sicily!). I definitely agree, but as I wrote earlier in the article it's not the only one! The first written record of Carnival celebrations held in Sicily date back to the 17th century. Sicilians used to celebrate "Carnalivari" through dance festivals named "Slave Dances." Dancers, who were disguised as slaves, performed shows throughout the streets. Drums and trumpets accompanied performers.

Masked revelers from different social classes used Carnival as an excuse to mingle. The "Jardinara," (Gardeners), "Briganti"(Bandits), "Baruni"(Barons) and "Abbatì" (Abbots) were among the most popular masks. During the festivals, aristocrats and politicians were publicly mocked. Revelers also staged "battles" throwing rotten eggs, citrus and vegetables at one another. This practice was popular in 17th century Acireale. In 1612, local authorities forbade it because it caused damages to property and injured people.

By the 18th century, celebrations became less "violent" and turned into comedy plays that were performed by comedians named "Abbatuzzi." Under the authorization of the Bishop, they made fun of nobles or priests pretending to read jokes from a big book and taking part in prank competitions.

In 19th century, celebrations included the "Cassariata," a parade of flower-decorated carriages, named "landò," that toured the historic center. Local nobles, paraded on the carriages wearing masks and threw colored sugar coated almonds and coins at the crowd.

Today, people throw the "lighter" confetti. Spraying shaving foam and "gently" hitting people on the head with toy hammers is also pretty popular during carnival. So don't get mad if you get hit, it's just a prank!

In the 1930s, Acireale craftsmen started to create majestic allegorical floats with papier-mâché depicting animated figures of politicians, animals and other fantastic subjects that are mounted on a mobile platform and driven in parades. Since then, Carnival carri have become much more elaborate and spectacular.

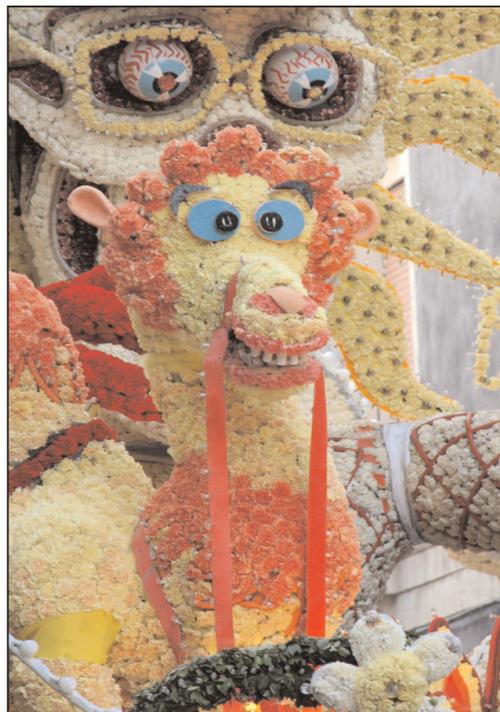
Acireale's Carnival celebrations will run from Saturday, Jan. 26 through Feb. 5. Highlights will include magnificent papier-mâché allegorical and flower-decorated floats' parades that will be held in piazza Duomo (main square) on the following days: Jan. 27 (noon, 4 p.m.), Jan. 31 (4 p.m.), Feb. 2 (4 p.m.), Feb. 3 (11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.), Feb. 4 (4 p.m.) and Feb. 5 (noon, 4 p.m. grand finale).

On the same day, fireworks and the traditional "King of Carnival" puppet's bonfire will end the celebrations at 11:30 p.m. in piazza Duomo. Live music will be performed almost every night at 9 p.m. For more information call Acireale Tourist office at 095-895111

Don't forget that, according to tradition, you can indulge in eating before Lent begins! Traditional foods and dolci (sweets) associated with Carnevale include *cucchitelle* (a Sciacca specialty: cookies made with pumpkin and covered with frosting), *cannoli*, *chiacchere*, (irregularly shaped pieces of dough, fried and dusted with powdered sugar) etc. As for pasta, *maccaruna di zitu* (maccheroni with pork ragu sauce) and *pasta con le sarde* (pasta with sardines) are also very popular.



(Above) Delicious deep-fried sweets "Chiacchere," are among the traditional Carnival sweets that will keep your sweet tooth satisfied! You can buy them at local bakeries (panifici) and pastry shops (pasticcerie).



(Above) Dress up in your favorite costume and get ready to enjoy spectacular Carnival parades featuring decorated allegorical papier-mâché and flower decorated floats, and masked dancers! Acireale's Carnival is a must-see event. It will be held in the historic center from Jan. 26 through Feb. 5.

Magnolia



GranBallo2008
Il Bellini in maschera.

The enchanting Catania's Bellini Opera House will be staging "Gran Ballo 2008, Il Bellini in Maschera," a masked ball on Tuesday, January 29, when the theatre's seats will be removed to create a fabled ballroom for just one night. This black tie event will begin at 9:30 p.m. The Ball will raise money to benefit A.I.L. (Italian Association Against Leukemia). "This is an unprecedented event. In the 1950s, a masked ball used to be staged every year. We decided to start this tradition again, because we are committed to developing special cultural initiatives revolving around the Opera House to encourage people's participation in the city's cultural life. Venice's La Fenice Opera House is the only theater in Italy, besides ours, which holds such a special event. But they charge € 500 and € 2,000 for a dinner! We are offering it for a more reasonable price, giving all proceeds to charity," Antonio Fiumefreddo the opera's superintendent, said during the press conference. The cost is € 40 per person. Opera House officials said tickets are selling very fast for this unique event, since space is limited, so if you are interested in attending, hurry and book yours. You'll be given a mask to wear!
For more information check out the Opera web site at <http://www.teatromassimobellini.it/>

Marine Bike Roars into New Orleans

Article by MC1 (AW/SW) Shawn D. Graham,
Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans Public Affairs

Jet noise gave way to the roar of a motorcycle engine Jan. 15 during a visit by the Marine Bike Tribute-Memorial held on board Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans.

Larry Tremblay, the father of fallen Marine Cpl. Joseph Tremblay not only built the bike as a tribute to his son, but to all those service members lost during the ongoing global war on terrorism.

The Marine Bike has images of Tremblay and three other Marines that were killed in action with his son. It also features numerous Marine Corps paraphernalia, most noticeably the sword issued to all Marine non-commissioned officers.

Tremblay was saddened by the loss of his son but has tried to turn this event into something positive by building this bike.

"I want everyone to be reminded that these soldiers are fighting for a reason and doing great things in Iraq," said Tremblay. "When people see this bike, Joey and all of the other fallen soldiers will be remembered."

Tremblay remembered watching people build motorcycles throughout his childhood. This inspired him to build the bike to his son as a tribute. He now owns Crossroads Custom Rides, the second largest bike shop in Orange County, New Jersey.

"This is awesome," said Mass Communication



Photo by Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Sundae A. Lewis
Lawrence Tremblay, center, stands with Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty.

Specialist 1st Class (AW) William Townsend. "It's always saddening for a fellow service member to die, but to know how he lived is special. I give him respect by visiting this memorial."

Tremblay, gives advice to all who visit: "Be proud and never give up on yourself, just keep moving forward."

Tremblay funds the tours himself, selling merchandise at rallies. All proceeds from the merchandise he sells goes to a scholarship named after his son.

Navy Divers Honored for Minneapolis Bridge Recovery

Article from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs



Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2 who participated in recovery operations at the I-35 bridge collapse site in Minneapolis were honored during an awards ceremony on Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Jan. 14.

Seventeen MDSU-2 divers worked with Minneapolis local, federal and state authorities to recover victims from the I-35 bridge collapse.

At the request of the Department of Transportation, MDSU-2 divers arrived in Minneapolis Aug. 6 as part of an overall Department of Defense effort to support the Hennepin County, Minnesota Sheriff's Office in recovery efforts. Within nine hours of arriving on scene, divers were in the water conducting recovery dives. Hennepin County Sheriff, Richard W. Stanek, attended the ceremony and praised MDSU-2's heroic efforts.

"I could not have done it, the people of Minnesota could not have done it, without

the divers of MDSU-2," said Stanek. "[My department] would serve with you any day."

The Sailors helped locate eight victims which had been missing since the bridge's collapse. They also moved an estimated 50 tons of debris and wreckage during salvage and rescue efforts.

"You executed extremely professionally and never gave up," said Col. Mike Chesney, the defense coordinating officer who led Department of Defense efforts in Minneapolis. "You represent what's best about our military."

MDSU-2's response exemplified Navy Expeditionary Combat Command's adaptive force packaging concept, by providing the right mix of expeditionary skills that are adaptable, responsive and ready to accomplish any mission.

In addition, the response to a disaster situation exemplified one of the core capabilities of the "Cooperative Strategy for 21st

Century Seapower."

MDSU-2 members each received a Joint Service Commendation or Joint Service Achievement Medal, along with a Minnesota Commendation Ribbon with Pendant from the state for their search, rescue and salvage efforts to locate victims.

Capt. Frank Morneau, commander of Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 2, also presented the divers with the meritorious unit commendation.

One member of the team describes how it felt to help in Minnesota's time of need.

"It was fulfilling to do work for a city in the United States where it mattered, and we were appreciated," said Navy Diver 2nd Class (DSW/SW) Noah Gottesman. MDSU-2 provides expeditionary combat salvage capabilities that include mobile ship salvage, towing, battle-damage repair, deep-ocean recovery, harbor-clearance demolition and emergent underwater ship repair.

Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2 conduct dives into the Mississippi River to tie up concrete that fell in during the I-35 Bridge collapse. Navy divers from MDSU-2 stationed at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek work has been in Minneapolis supporting local, state and federal officials in the wake of the collapse of the I-35 Bridge.

Rigattiere

PWOC continued from page 1
your favorite teacher?" down to "What was your most embarrassing experience in school?"

Geibah Guevarra led a wonderful Praise and Worship session that brought the women to their feet as they sang together in harmony. The program then shifted to reflection on last year's fall session. We were able to review the lessons learned from the Bible studies that were offered last year. Gwendolyn Amador's group even performed a skit that brought laughter to everyone. It was inspirational to hear how the Lord had worked in so many women's lives.

The Vice-President of Spiritual Life, Janelle Reed, introduced the Bible studies that will be offered this year along with their leaders and co-leaders. Each leader was then given the opportunity to provide the group with a brief description of their study.

The studies being offered this session on Tuesday mornings at 9:15am are Growing in Christ: Assurance & Christian Living, The Jesus I Never Knew, Wives of the Warriors: Living Confidently in Christ, and A Woman After God's Own Heart.

The studies being offered on Tuesday evenings at 7pm are Luke: Living with Passion & Purpose at the Marinai Community Center and Lord, Teach Us to Pray: Finding Delight in the Practice of Prayer at the Mineo Community Center.

Chaplain Kenneth Amador closed the program with an inspirational message from Judges. He told the story of the only female judge in the Old Testament, Deborah. He explained how God spoke through her to others, which included men, women, and children and used her to lead the Israelites. Chaplain Amador then encouraged the women of PWOC to listen and respond to God's calling.

The program ended with a potluck and plenty of fellowship. It was a great opportunity to look at



the Bible studies that will be offered, catch up with old friends, and make some new friends. All the while, babies through preschoolers were happily playing upstairs with caregivers and homeschoolers were enjoying their own gym class at Midtown led by instructor Rebecca Hauelsen.

Bible studies begin Tuesday January 22nd at 9:15 at the NASI Chapel, 7pm in the Marinai Community Center, and 6:30pm at the Mineo Community Center. All women are welcome to attend regardless of religious background or denomination. PWOC is a ministry to active duty, dependant, civilian and local national women within our military community. If you would like more information about PWOC you can email questions to pwocsig@yahoo.com, search the website at www.pwocsig.com, or call 624-0387.



CNO Speaks About Shipbuilding at 20th SNA National Symposium

Article from Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs



Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead answers questions during the 20th annual Surface Navy Association symposium. Roughead spoke on the important role that ships, submarines and aircraft play in the maritime strategy.

CRYSTAL CITY, Va. (NNS) -- Delivering the keynote address at the Surface Navy Association's 20th National Symposium Jan. 15, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead spoke on the importance of providing the fleet with the right number of ships, submarines and aircraft to achieve the objectives of the Maritime Strategy.

"Our job, as the nation's leaders, is to ensure Sailors have the ships, the aircraft and the submarines that will enable them to accomplish the mission," said Roughead.

Roughead discussed the need to increase the number of ships in the Navy. Although 313 is commonly referred to as the "floor" of what the Navy needs, he emphasized that more ships are needed and that we require a combination of balance and quantity to build the Navy for the future.

"Three hundred thirteen is the numerical floor because it gives us global capabilities," he said. "At some point, quantity becomes a capability. As the commander in the Pacific and the commander in the Atlantic, I can tell you that I never had enough ships, even before we developed the Maritime Strategy," said Roughead.

Recognizing the need for new ships, Roughead nevertheless stressed the importance of the Navy working with the shipbuilding industry to con-

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead talks with midshipmen during the 20th annual Surface Navy Association symposium.

rol costs. He stressed the need for restraint and appetite suppression, explaining that it will take the combined effort from both the Navy and the industry to realize efficiencies in shipbuilding.

"I expect Navy leaders to take a disciplined approach in determining our needs," he said. "An approach based in the Maritime Strategy that strives to balance among the six core capabilities, linking each purchase to a capability or capabilities will be the test I will apply. To do this, hard decisions must be made in the short term to ensure a long term shipbuilding plan is viable."

The Surface Navy Association, founded in 1985 to "promote great coordination and communication among those in the military, business and academic communities who share a common interest in naval surface warfare," is holding the three-day symposium at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City.



Hi Tech

Stags

DeCA's Got Recycling in the Bag

Article by Lynda Valentine and Caroline Williams, DeCA Marketing

Reusable cloth bags are fast replacing "paper or plastic" as the choice for commissary customers. The reusable bags, which cost 70 cents each, were introduced into commissaries in October and since then customers have purchased nearly 270,000 at stores worldwide.

While commissary shoppers have long saved green of the legal tender variety - to the tune of 30 percent or more annually on their grocery bills - they can now conserve green of another very useful kind - trees.

"Commissaries have long been good stewards of taxpayer funds," said Rick Page, DeCA's acting director, "and with reusable shopping bags, we're applying the same sort of thrifty approach to how we use the earth's natural resources."

DeCA's reusable bag is made of sturdy mesh, sewn together from 100 percent polypropylene. They are strong enough to hold 30 pounds of groceries and approximately three-quarters of the bulk amount of a paper bag. The reusable bags are machine washable and can be recycled when no longer usable. Customers can find these bags on racks near the checkout at their local commissary.

Reusing bags saves the commissary money, which helps preserve the benefit by keeping operating costs down - costs that are paid with taxpayer dollars. In fiscal 2007, commissaries spent a total of \$20,635,800 on plastic and paper bags combined. If just one-tenth of all commissary shoppers switched to reusable cloth bags, the agency would save more than \$2 million annually.

Customers always have the option of using their own reusable cloth bags. In addition, all commissaries allow customers to bring clean, sturdy paper or plastic bags to the commissary for reuse in bagging their groceries; however, all recycled bags must be clean and in good repair or the bagger cannot accept them. Whether you provide your own bags or return to your commissary

with your DeCA cloth bags, just present them to the bagger immediately before bagging begins.

Product availability and program guidelines may differ at overseas commissaries. For more information about your commissary benefit, visit DeCA's Web site at <http://www.commissaries.com>.



Destroyed by Hurricane Ivan, Army Reserve Center Stands Tall

Article by Gary Nichols

Center for Information Dominance Corry Station Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Corry Station welcomed its newest resident - 350th Civil Affairs Command (CACOM) Headquarters - at a ribbon cutting and welcome aboard ceremony Jan. 12.

Built in the 1950s the Army Reserve building located near Pensacola Junior College and Pensacola Regional Airport had become a familiar landmark to area residents. Sadly, the building was yet another victim left in the wake of Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

In a cooperative effort between the 81st Regional Readiness Command from Birmingham, Ala., the 350th CACOM, Center for Information Dominance (CID) Corry Station and Naval Air Station Pensacola, construction began two years ago at Corry Station.

"DOD has realized there is some advantage to combining facilities," Commanding General U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Maj. Gen. David A. Morris said. "It's a little unique having an Army Reserve unit onboard a naval base, but if you look at how we work in the field, we conduct joint operations all the time."

The new 38,500-square foot, \$8.7 million facility, located at the west end of Chiefs' Way on board Corry Station and within sight of the new Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense's Joint Ambulatory Care

Clinic, is designed to service a robust and growing 200-member Army Reserve Civil Affairs command to meet the changing demands of a nation at war.

"It's a great day for the Army Reserve to have the headquarters building completed," Lonnie Hawkins, district representative for Rep. Jeff Miller, said. "Were also looking forward to being back soon (at Corry Station) for the grand opening of the VA Super Clinic."

Featured speaker and 350th Civil Affairs Command Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs noted that 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Army Reserve and that completion of the new facility is particularly meaningful as the Army is transforming and adapting to overcome a new enemy for a new century.

"Our 50-year-old former reserve center on College Boulevard, home though it was for all those years, represented the Cold War, Strategic Army Reserve that no longer exists," Jacobs said. "I can't think of a more appropriate way for us to mark the beginning of the Army Reserve's second century, or a more fitting way to symbolize the transformation of the Army Reserve, or a more apt recognition of our great Army Reserve Soldiers, than to open this new center."

Since the majority of the Civil Affairs (CA) forces are in the Reserves, these civilian/Soldiers have

unique skills and education not typically associated with regular warfighters.

CA units include Soldiers with training and experience in public administration, public safety, public health, legal systems, labor management, public welfare, public finance, public education, civil defense, public works and utilities, public communications, public transportation, logistics, food and agricultural services, economics, property control, cultural affairs, civil information and managing dislocated persons.

The overall mission of these CA Soldiers is far reaching.

Civil affairs units like the 350th help military commanders attain their mission objectives during peace, contingency operations and declared war. They support activities of both conventional and special operations forces.

CA Soldiers also help to reduce civilian interference with Coalition operations, minimize military disruption of civilian activities and assist in the restoration of public services and peaceful activities to affected areas as quickly as possible.

CA Soldiers have been trained

to identify critical requirements needed by local citizens in war or natural disaster situations, such as Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina.

They can also locate civil resources to support military operations, help minimize civilian interference with operations, support national assistance activities and establish and maintain liaison or dialogue with civilian aid agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

The 350th's new home on Corry Station is the long-time home of the Center for Information Dominance, which has recently opened the Navy's Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture. Focused primarily on developing training solutions to help Sailors develop language and culture expertise.

"Having the Army's Civil Affairs professionals on board Corry Station located with the Navy's language and culture professionals is phenomenal," CID Corry Station Commanding Officer, Capt. Connie Frizzell said. "We have already begun a joint dialogue to leverage each other's expertise and capabilities."

The Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations (PSYOP)

Command (Airborne), stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., is the headquarters of the 350th CACOM. USACAPOC(A) is a multi-component command comprised of nearly 10,000 Soldiers in 67 units across 27 states. USACAPOC(A) is home to 94 percent of the Department of Defense's CA capability and 71 percent of Department of Defense's PSYOP capability.

CID Corry Station oversees career management and training for officer and enlisted students of the United States military and allied forces in the fields of Information Warfare, Information Professional, Cryptologic and Information Technology.

CID's mission is to deliver the right training, at the right time, in the right place, utilizing technology, innovation and science of learning, to provide the fleet with optimally trained information professionals who will create a tactical advantage for mission success in the information domain. CID oversees training for approximately 16,000 students annually at 17 detachments and learning sites throughout the United States and in Japan.

Seabees to Receive New Convoy Simulator

Article by Daryl C. Smith

1st Naval Construction Division Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- The Naval Construction Force will soon have a new, 21st century convoy training simulator to augment current training for Seabees.

Lockheed Martin was recently awarded a contract that includes a state-of-the-art \$5 million combat convoy simulator (CCS) expected to be delivered to Construction Battalion Center (CBC), Gulfport, Miss., in September 2008. The trainer is part of a \$52.5 million contract providing convoy simulators to the Marine Corps.

The system consists of six vehicle simulators, four high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles and two medium tactical vehicle replacements, that will be programmed with a variety of training scenarios and scenery projected onto a 360-degree screen.

"These are the actual vehicle cabs, not mock-ups," said Rich Morrison, training systems manager for the training department at the 1st Naval Construction Division in Norfolk. Wireless weapons systems and communications gear are also included.

Each vehicle may accommodate a crew of up to five personnel, allowing 30 students to be trained at a time. Each vehicle is positioned in its own simulation space surrounded by a projection screen which displays the other vehicles within the convoy as it progresses through the simulation. Drivers will navigate their vehicles through hostile, life-like scenarios while passengers take appropriate actions.

The facility uses the Firearms Training System, providing realistic weapons firing simulation that registers "hits" on the screen. Since the weapons are wireless, the students have the freedom to move outside and around the vehicles. Although the vehicle cabs are stationary, the

sense of movement is maintained by the video projection and sound feedback. As the vehicles move over hills and around corners, the scenery also moves, providing the real sense of riding in the vehicle.

Upon completion of the scenario events, an after action review will be conducted using portions of the recorded mission. This recording will be played back providing instant feedback, allowing students to better understand if their actions were done correctly. The system allows for each scenario to be set up differently with on-the-fly changes.

"The potential of this technology is unparalleled," said Jim Craig, vice president of ground, maritime and civil solutions, Lockheed Martin Simulation. "We are able to adjust scenarios presented on the convoy trainers, allowing our customers to prepare for an ever-growing range of simulations."

Due to limited opportunities for Seabees to train with real vehicles in the field, the CCS is intended to augment live convoy security element training, but will not replace it. "The simulators allow our Seabees to hone and further develop their convoy operations skills learned during live training events helping to prevent skill degradation," Morrison said.

The first system will initially be housed in a temporary building set up by Lockheed Martin at CBC Gulfport. It will eventually be moved into a permanent training technology building that will house additional training equipment and systems.

Plans are under way to purchase another convoy simulator for the Seabee base at Port Hueneme, Calif., when funding becomes available.

Oxidiana

Allphio

FLUORIDE FACTS continued from page 2

tions are available as gels, foams or rinses. These products are more concentrated than the self applied type, and are therefore not needed as frequently. Dentists and hygienists use these agents during regular cleaning appointments.

Fluoride is documented to be safe. The American

Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry endorse its use based on over 60 years of continued research.

Parents and caregivers should consult with their pediatrician, family physician or dentist on the most appropriate water to use in their area.

CNO: 'LCS Will be the Workhorse of the Navy'

Article by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Rhonda Burke
Navy Region Midwest Public Affairs

MARINETTE, Wis. (NNS) -- Marinette Marine Corporation, which is building the Navy's first littoral combat ship, USS Freedom (LCS 1), was the final stop, Jan. 14, for Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead on his eight-day tour of private and public shipyards throughout the U.S.

Roughead received a progress report on the ship, designed to provide the U.S. Navy with greater flexibility and capability in operating in the littoral or "green water" coastal areas.

"The Navy has a gap we need to fill in the littoral and that is what LCS is going to do for us," Roughead said. "This ship is perfectly suited to operate near the shore and to engage in Maritime Security Operations that will ensure the free-flow of commerce and resources around the world. I predict that the LCS is going to be a workhorse in the United States Navy."

CNO said the Navy is closing in on some of the critical milestones to get the first LCS to sea. He was pleased with the progress he saw during his visit.

"Bringing a ship into the final stage and getting it to sea is not an easy thing," Roughead said. "The

critical thing is to get it to sea, get it tested and get it to work doing the Navy's mission."

As the crew prepares for the final months before bringing the ship to life at its commissioning this fall, the CNO reiterated to them the importance of their mission to the future of the Navy.

"They are fulfilling a very important role in this program and in our Navy. They are the ones who will be responsible for making sure this ship goes to sea and realizes its full potential at sea. They are the ones, the only ones, that will set this class of ship up for success," Roughead said. "It is a significant responsibility. But it is a responsibility well suited to a United States Sailor. They are ready and they are eager and I look forward to them taking this ship to sea."

The 377-foot Freedom is capable of speeds in excess of 40 knots and can operate in water less than 20 feet deep. The ship will act as a platform for launch and recovery of manned and unmanned vehicles. Its modular design will support interchangeable mission packages, allowing the ship to be reconfigured for antisubmarine warfare, mine warfare, or surface warfare missions on an as-needed basis.

Freedom will be manned by one of two rotational crews, blue and gold, similar to the rotational crews assigned to Trident submarines. The crews will be augmented by one of three mission package crews during focused mission assignments.

Freedom was christened Sept. 24, 2006. She is slated for commissioning the fall of 2008 in Milwaukee, Wis., and will be homeported in San Diego.

As detailed in the 2007-2008 CNO Guidance, building the Navy's future fleet is a top priority for Roughead. The trip served to deepen Roughead's understanding of the shipbuilding industry and help inform shipbuilding decisions.

"It is vitally important that I have up-to-date, first-hand knowledge of the latest developments, technological advances, and infrastructure improvements in the shipyards," Roughead explained.

He said that a stable shipbuilding plan relates directly to the quality and quantity of ships the Navy acquires.

"Shipbuilding is complex, and the decisions I'll make regarding it are critically important to the future of the Navy," Roughead added.

The eight-day trip also included visits to Portsmouth Shipyard (Portsmouth, N.H.); Bath Iron Works (Brunswick, Maine); three Northrop Grumman Ship Systems sites to include: Ingalls (Pascagoula, Miss.), Avondale (New Orleans, La.) and Gulfport (Gulfport, Miss.); Austal USA Shipbuilding (Mobile, Ala.), and National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (San Diego).

This visit will also play a larger role as CNO emphasizes his commitment to making the Navy a "Top 50" workplace. On this trip and in those of the future, Roughead will meet with Sailors, Navy civilians and family members, as well as business leaders and educators to help define the Navy's way ahead and integrate change, as needed.

"I'm a firm believer that if you don't walk the ground, you will not have a good sense of what's going on," Roughead said.



(Above) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead tours the pre-commissioning unit littoral combat ship (LCS) Freedom while visiting Marinette Marine Shipyard. Roughead told the crew he was ready to see them take the first LCS to sea.



(Left) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead talks with crewmembers of the pre-commissioned Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) unit Freedom while visiting Marinette Marine Shipyard. Roughead told the crew he was ready to see them take the first LCS to sea.



(Above) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead takes a tour of Marinette Marine Shipyard. The eight-day trip also included a tour of the pre-commissioning unit littoral combat ship (LCS) Freedom.

HYPNOTIZED continued from page 1

out of their seats. Others thought they were in charge of everything happening on stage and one tried to keep the rest quiet for Dubner.

After allowing the chaos and confusion to take its course Dubner showed the volunteers two simple card tricks. Before the card tricks he suggested that every other person would believe the ticks were the most incredible thing they had ever seen and others would see them for the simple flipping of cards that they were. After every card trick half the people tried to convince the others how great the magic was and the others couldn't believe any one would fall for the tricks Dubner was doing.

At the end of the show Dubner suggested that each of the volunteers make a fist with their left hand say the word bam and they would get a little boost of energy and fell good for a little while. This was a gift for their participation in his show.

HONESTY continued from page 2

where character is forged. Maybe you're thinking, I did not get that kind of training in my home. Is there any hope? I believe that there is hope for everyone. One of the reasons why our faith in God is so appealing is the hope it provides each and every one of us.

The Lord offers much hope in rebuilding our life. He offers us His life, His honesty, and His integrity. Because the focus is on a relationship and not a religion, there are not a lot of rules and threats; but sufficient power to counteract our dishonest bent.

I understand that in some foreign countries when a person is caught stealing, they cut off a hand. One would think that that would be sufficient in curbing national dishonesty. But according to the statistics, people are still



Hypnotherapist Ken Dubner prepares to place his volunteer into a state of unconsciousness prior to performing his comedy routine.

stealing!

Cutting off a hand to stop stealing misses the heart of the problem by about eighteen inches. Dishonesty doesn't start in the hand any more than greed starts in the eye.

We don't need to cut off our hand in order to become an honest person. We need to allow the Lord to make a real difference in our lives. We start the process by allowing God to be an honored Presence throughout our inner home.

What about you today? Would you consider yourself an honest person? It really comes down to a choice. Are you willing to choose a life of integrity? I want to encourage you to seek help from the Lord in your quest for honor, courage, and commitment!

Stampa

Military Media

MWR CORNER

Shows

Armed Forces Entertainment and Navy Entertainment present: KIER

February 2: 9 p.m. at Jox Pub

One-man show, KIER, will show his musical and comedic talents to the Sigonella community. Come out for some laughs!

Fitness 624-4483

Base 2 Base and BACK! Fun Run

January 26: 9 a.m. at Flight Line Fitness Center

Pre-registration: \$12, Same Day Registration: \$20

Sigonella's favorite 7-mile base-to-base is back with new half marathon option! Achieve glory this year and sign up at either fitness center.

Extreme Spin Challenge II

February 2: 9am - noon at Fit District \$10

Challenge yourself with this heart pumping three hour spin-a-thon. Burn at least 1800 calories during this extreme event. Register today, bikes are limited.

ITT Gear-n-Go Extended Trips 624-4777

St. Patrick's Day in Dublin

March 15-19

Dracula's Transylvania, Romania

April 4-9

ITT Gear-n-Go Day Trips 624-4777

Catania Shopping

Fridays: Depart: NAS II 8 a.m., NAS I 8:30 a.m. Return: 1 p.m. - \$12 + bring euro for food and shopping

Mandatory Snow Adventure Safety Class

Fridays from 5 - 5:30 p.m.

Plan on joining Adventures Unlimited (AU) for any snow

sport this year? Please make the time to attend this mandatory class on safety and survival. AU wants to make this year a fun and injury-free year.

Snowboarding on Mt. Etna

(Snow and weather permitting)

Saturdays: Depart: NAS I 8 a.m. Return: 4 p.m.

Participants must attend the Snow Adventure Safety Class. Minimum age is 12 years old and must be accompanied by an adult. \$15 without rental package or \$25 with rental package + bring euro for lift

Palermo I

January 26: Depart: NAS II 6:30 a.m., NAS I 7 a.m.

Return: 7 p.m. - \$32 + bring euro for fees and food

Acireale Carnevale

January 27 & January 31, Depart: NAS II 4 p.m., NAS I

4:30 p.m. Return: 11:30 p.m. - \$20 + bring euro for food

Carnevale & Mardi Gras in Sciacca

February 2: Depart: NAS II Noon, NAS I 12:30pm Return:

Midnight. \$30 + euro for fees and food

Jox Pub 624-5603

Texas Hold'em Poker Club

Mondays; dealing starts at 7 p.m.

Play every week to earn points!

This is an eight-week competition.

The person with the most points by February 25 wins the grand prize of a \$500 gift certificate to Angie's Travel! Free entry each week.

Latin Quarters:

January 26 9pm - 3am

Superbowl Super Party:

February 3 starts at 9 p.m.

Open until 4 a.m.! Super giveaways, super music, super fun!

Liberty 624-5602

Mexican Dinner: January 25

Taormina: January 26

Applebee's & a Movie: January 28

Catania Market & More: January 30

Ski Weekend: Dolomites Italian Alps:

February 15-18 \$600/pp

Weekend in Florence: March 14-17 \$375/pp

Weekend in Dublin: April: 16-20 \$550/pp

Take 5 624-5602

Madden Tournament: January 29

Youth Sports 624-3785

F.Y.I. Trip of the Month: Ice Skating in Catania and Dinner

February 1: Depart NAS II 5 p.m., NAS I 5:30 p.m., Return: 10 p.m. Transportation is free. Bring 7 euro for entrance fee and extra dinner for euro. Sign up at ITT Gear-n-Go.

Basketball and Cheerleading

New to the island? Make friends and have fun. Ages 5-13 enroll in basketball or cheerleading today!

Youth Sports Clinic of the Month:

Sports Nutrition Class Tuesdays: 3 - 4pm in the Midtown classroom on NAS I Calling all youth ages 5-13! Let's get together and learn some healthy eating habits. We will go shopping at the commissary and get busy making healthy snacks. Sign up for this class at Fit District.

JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 1

MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE HOTLINE: 624-4248

SCHEDULE

MOVIE DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, January 25

12:00pm Enchanted PG 107 min.
3:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
5:00pm FREE ADMISSION
The Ant Bully PG 88 min.
5:30pm Golden Compass PG-13 113 min.
7:30pm The Bucket List PG-13 98 min.
8:00pm This Christmas PG-13 119 min.
9:30pm The Mist R 127 min.

Saturday, January 26

2:00pm August Rush PG 113 min.
2:30pm FREE ADMISSION
Armageddon PG-13 144 min.
4:30pm Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium G 95 min.
5:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
7:30pm Beowulf PG-13 114 min.
8:00pm Charlie Wilson's War R 97 min.
10:00pm Hitman R 93 min.

Sunday, January 27

2:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
2:30pm Golden Compass PG-13 113 min.
4:30pm Enchanted PG 107 min.
5:00pm This Christmas PG-13 119 min.
7:00pm The Bucket List PG-13 98 min.

Monday, January 28

12:00pm Charlie Wilson's War R 97 min.
3:00pm Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium G 95 min.
5:00pm August Rush PG 113 min.
5:30pm Enchanted PG 107 min.
7:30pm Beowulf PG-13 114 min.
8:00pm Hitman R 93 min.

Tuesday, January 29

5:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
5:30pm The Bucket List PG-13 98 min.
7:30pm The Mist R 127 min.
8:00pm Golden Compass PG-13 113 min.

Wednesday, January 30

12:00pm August Rush PG 113 min.
3:00pm Enchanted PG 107 min.
5:00pm Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium G 95 min.
5:30pm Beowulf PG-13 114 min.
7:30pm Hitman R 93 min.
8:00pm This Christmas PG-13 119 min.

Thursday, January 31

3:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
5:00pm Golden Compass PG-13 113 min.
5:30pm The Mist R 127 min.
7:30pm THROWBACK THURSDAY
FREE ADMISSION
Stealth PG-13 121 min.
8:00pm Charlie Wilson's War R 97 min.

Ant Bully (PG)

Ten-year-old Lucas is the new kid on the block--and the local bullies make sure he knows it. Tired of being a punching bag, Lucas takes out his frustration on the ants living in his lawn. But when the ants strike back--shrinking Lucas down to their size with a magic potion and forcing him to live like an ant within the colony--an astonishing new world opens up to him. Lucas learns, first-hand, the value of friendship and teamwork, ultimately leading the ants in an effort to save their colony from annihilation. And in the process, Lucas obtains the things he wants most: friends, companionship, acceptance and the courage to stand up for himself.

Enchanted (PG)

The tale follows the beautiful princess Giselle as she is banished by an evil queen from her magical, musical animated land--and finds herself in the gritty reality of the streets of modern-day Manhattan. Shocked by this strange new environment that doesn't operate on a "happily ever after" basis, Giselle is now adrift in a chaotic world badly in need of enchantment. But when Giselle begins to fall in love with a charmingly flawed divorce lawyer who has come to her aid--even though she is already promised to a perfect fairy tale prince back home--she has to wonder: can a storybook view of romance survive in the real world?

The Golden Compass (PG-13)

A 12-year-old girl tries to rescue a kidnapped friend and winds up on an epic quest to save her world.

Hitman (R)

The "Hitman" is a genetically-engineered, elite assassin known only as Agent 47. His hallmarks are lethal grace, unwavering precision, and resolute pride in his work. But even 47 couldn't anticipate a "random equation" in his life exactitude: the unexpected stirrings of his conscience and the unfamiliar emotions aroused in him by a mysterious Russian woman.

The Mist (R)

Following a violent thunderstorm, artist David Drayton and a small town community come under vicious attack from creatures prowling in a thick and unnatural mist. Local rumors point to an experiment called the "The Arrowhead Project" conducted at a nearby top-secret military base, but questions as to the origins of the deadly vapor are secondary to the group's overall chances for survival. Retreating to a local supermarket, Drayton and the survivors must face-off against each other before taking a united stand against an enemy they cannot even see.

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium is the strangest, most fantastic, most wonderful toy store in the world. In fact, it's a magic toy store and everything in it comes to life--including the store itself. The emporium asks only one thing of its customers--you must believe it to see it.

This Christmas (PG-13)

This year, Christmas with the Whitfield's promises to be one they will never forget. All the siblings have come home for the first time in years and they've brought plenty of baggage with them. As the Christmas tree is trimmed and the lights are hung, secrets are revealed and family bonds are tested. As their lives converge, they join together and help each other discover the true meaning of family.

Charlie Wilson's War (R)

Based on the true story of how Charlie Wilson, an alcoholic womanizer and Texas congressman, persuaded the CIA to train and arm resistance fighters in Afghanistan to fend off the Soviet Union. With the help of rogue CIA agent, Gust Avrakotos, the two men supplied money, training and a team of military experts that turned the ill-equipped Afghan freedom-fighters into a force that brought the Red Army to a stalemate and set the stage for conflicts in the Middle East that still rage to this day.

Armageddon (PG-13)

When a meteor shower devastates Manhattan, it draws the attention of astronomers who discover that an asteroid the size of Texas will hit the Earth in 19 days, destroying all life. With no chance of deflecting it with missiles, they plan, instead, to land on the asteroid, drill inside and blow it up using an oddball team of maverick oilmen.

Beowulf (PG-13)

In a legendary time of heroes, the mighty warrior Beowulf battles the demon Grendel and incurs the hellish wrath of the beast's ruthlessly seductive mother.

PREMIERS FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1

**No Country For Old Men
Cloverfield**

RETURNING

**National Treasure
Charlie Wilson's War**

A Lifetime of Civil Rights

Article by MC3 Melissa Russell
Naval Support Activity Mid-South Public Affairs

For a young black man growing up in Mississippi during the heat of the civil rights movement, getting involved wasn't a choice. It was just a part of life.

As Elvernice "Sonny" Davis approaches, he looks sleek and strong in an unassuming black leather coat and black slacks, but I'm a little anxious about our meeting. We've got a lot to cover, but Davis puts me at ease within seconds because he exudes a quiet tranquility you can't help but pick up on.

As soon as we begin to chat, I'm enthralled. Little did I know I was about to receive an education that no book could ever teach me and that money could never buy.

Our classroom is the National Civil Rights Museum in downtown Memphis. The museum was built on the site of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The exhibits of the museum tell the story of the struggle for black civil rights from the arrival of the first Africans in the British colonies in 1619 to the assassination of King in 1968. The museum is especially noteworthy for the preserved portion of the Lorraine Motel where King was shot.

My teacher today is especially qualified to talk about the civil rights movement because he was there. He lived it.

"I grew up at the edge of the black community and the beginning of the white community," Davis said as he begins his story. There, in Winona, Miss., Davis had the opportunity to grow up in an integrated setting. A place where black children and white children intermingled in an era bent on segregation.

Yet, he said, "Even though we went segregated black churches, segregated black schools - my surroundings were integrated."

It was in those surroundings that Davis' father taught him to accept people for their value as people, rather than by the color of their skin.

"My father taught us that there was no difference between white and black people. That a black person could be your worst enemy sometimes and a white person could be your best friend," said Davis.

Davis, born in 1940, has lived the civil rights movement in its entirety, and as we begin to stroll along the museum corridor, he explained that, "With living in Mississippi, it's not a question of when you got involved. You just kind of 'lived' involved all of your life."

And so with expressive hands and reflective eyes, he began to tell me about his life during the civil rights movement.

"When I went to Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss., I became formally a part of the civil rights movement as a pastor."

Davis was only 20 years old. He became an officer in his college's chapter of the NAACP, marched in one of the attempts demonstrators made to go from Selma to Montgomery, took part in various meetings and conferences, and, above all tactics, and believed that nonviolence and interracial communication were key.

He explained, "If people can sit down and talk, like a husband and wife, it prevents a whole lot of problems. If communities get together and churches talk to each other, it creates a harmony that you cannot have when

there's disjointedness and disagreement passing in the night with ideas."

As we chatted, Davis runs through a list of highlights in his life. He recalled episodes that involved learning to resist aggressors in non-violent ways, attending freedom marches, desegregating public places and transport, learning how to register people to vote, being part of voter registration drives and even later registering for his vote to be heard. It isn't long before Davis smiled slightly, and recalled the white teacher who would invite white sociology students from the University of Mississippi to come to Rust College under the cover of darkness and discuss ways to make Mississippi a better state and a better place to live.

Nevertheless, his smile is short lived as we come to an exhibit commemorating a February 1960 sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C. This turned our conversation to the time when he and a friend desegregated a Greyhound bus station.

It was the morning of Oct. 1, 1961. Davis and Nathaniel Green were on their way to a desegregated Methodist Student Movement Conference in Atlanta via a Greyhound bus. At 5:30 in the morning, the bus pulled into the station in Birmingham for a routine stop.

Davis said that because they were in college, the two young men knew that the Interstate Commerce Commission's ruling to desegregate the buses had gone into effect at one minute after midnight that morning.

"So when we got to Birmingham, all the signs were still there. The Negroes went to where the Negroes were supposed to go. We followed the whites," Davis said.

It wasn't long before trouble found them. A police officer began harassing them. He followed them, asking questions, and instructed them not to leave the station, saying they were being investigated as burglars the police were looking for. Davis and Green told the officer that investigating them was fine, but that they were going to eat breakfast in the cafeteria.

Davis slowed his story. "Boy he really got angry. His face flushed."

However, the young men went to eat anyway. The officer followed them, asking more questions and again warning them not to leave until he had cleared them. As the young men entered the cafeteria, a white patron called out to them and said, "Hey fellas, what's Wyatt Earp trying to prove out there?"

This helped put them at ease. As they tried to look for seats two white young soldiers in uniform called out to them, "Hey fellas, come over, sit down and eat with us."

They did but Davis was starting to get nervous.

"To my imagination and feeling, it looked like every policeman from all over the world descended upon the Greyhound bus station. They were walking to and from all over the place by our table, but not saying anything to us. Obviously, I lost my appetite."

The young men thanked the soldiers and excused themselves. Soon the announcement to board their bus came and they told the police officer they were leaving. He didn't reply, so Davis and Green went ahead and got onto the bus.

Then they heard a ruckus and

saw police officers carrying the soldiers from the cafeteria over their heads and throwing them out.

"The cops had these two soldiers - uniformed soldiers - up over their heads hauling them out of the cafeteria and they just dumped them like garbage on the pavement," Davis said.

The soldiers shook themselves off and boarded the bus to Atlanta.

What happened next scared Davis. "The cop then came out to the bus and started asking the bus driver, 'Hey, do you know those two niggers on the bus?' The bus driver was trying to stay out of it, but the cop said, 'Well those are two smart niggers, but they won't get away with it. I guarantee you that.'"

He continued slowly, "Nat and I then were afraid. We were afraid that, as was customary in the South, that after the bus got out on the road, they'd stop the bus and take us off."

However, that didn't happen and for the third time that morning, they were relaxed by the words of a stranger.

"One of the white passengers, who was talking loud, he said, 'You know, I did my dissertation on the stupidity of the South in continuing these battles against trying to keep racial segregation in place because we lost that battle years ago.'"

And what he was doing, according to Davis, without trying to say anything was to say, "Hey fellas, we're with you."

To the relief of Davis and Green, the bus never stopped they made it safely to the conference, where they received a hero's welcome. Davis said, "It made the national news as two students desegregated the Greyhound bus station this morning without incident."

I can't imagine what that must have been like to live in those times, and I can't help but ask how that experience impacted Davis. "It confirmed my convictions all along that not all white people are in this thing, that not all white people are like that. There are good white people, there are good black people; there are bad black people and there are bad white people. And others, all over the world. That was my conviction then, and all of those confirmations make it my conviction today."

We continue to descend into the museum where displays showed photographs with faces familiar to Davis. He pointed them out easily. James Meredith, Medgar (Mega) Evers, A. D. Williams King, Andy Young, James Bevel, Jesse Jackson and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Faces and acquaintances from decades past line the walls. Davis has stories that involve most of them. He continued with his accounts, gently sweeping his hands through the air every now and then as if dusting cobwebs or hurt away from some memories, and shining others until they glow.

"And so these were my times," he said.

Davis explained there were two divergent philosophies of the civil rights movements. One theory, which was endorsed by a leader of Rust College's Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, said students should leave school and join the marches.

However, "Mega Evers was coming to Rust College telling us, 'Stay in school. We need somebody who's qualified to walk through the

doors when the doors open.' And so you had those diverging opinions of students who were encouraged to leave school and you had others who were saying stay in school so you can help us when the war is over."

In his quiet steady voice he looked at me and said, "They both made sense. It took all of them."

We approach a troubling video display. Policemen with fire hoses blast water at demonstrators.

"I wasn't there but this is always emotional for me to see," Davis said as we move along. He explained that to him the civil rights movement was a mixture of feelings because he knew that not all white people hated black people, but that it was often presented that way.

"For me the white people who got picked up by the media doing (criminal) things did not represent all white people. They represented a criminal element of white people. That not all white people were members of the Klan. All white people were not members of the White Citizens Council," he said.

My teacher smoothly points to a picture of blacks and whites with interlinked arms.

"And this is what I really was inspired by, the integration. The integrated effort, black and white together. Even in Mississippi, there was black and white together, so how could you say that all white folks were against black folks when white people were dying in the movement just like black folk were dying?" said Davis.

Davis talked about the impor-

tance of having an open communication. He recalled when he was appointed in Aberdeen, Miss., when another pastor recognized him from a conference they'd both attended while in seminary. The pastor asked Davis to help desegregate the strict ministerial association. To do so, they had to hold meetings with prominent political leaders, members of churches, pastors that were political leaders, and members of the chamber of commerce. All of the groups had to work together to figure out how to keep Aberdeen from becoming socially explosive.

"So just like that, we desegregated the police force. We hired two policemen for the first time in history, black policemen. Then merchants started hiring students in their stores and retail, and we began interracial dialog. Those things today don't seem significant, but that was pivotal," explained Davis.

Yet, he makes it seem so simple. We continue to stroll and chat. Peering at displays and exhibits. I can't help but think I'm seeing the world through a different set of eyes, and that I can hardly believe my vision. I've never really experienced racism before.

Not like this. Not while growing up in a post-civil rights movement America with my mixed neighborhood and my mixed schools in my little middle-class Southern California household. Mom, dad, 2.4 kids.

I can't hold back any longer. I want to know about his involvement with Martin Luther King.

Chiechio

S Vito

Days inn

"His first speech that I heard was recorded by my brother. In 1961, he came to Clarksdale, Miss. I couldn't go there, so my brother taped his sermon and I've almost memorized it. Because it was so powerful, so moving," recalled Davis.

"I'm astounded he can remember King's words all these years later. 'Will anyone remember mine next month?' But not only that, Davis still remembers the first time he ever heard King in person.

"The first time I personally heard King was at the University of Nebraska. I was at a World Student Christian Federation conference when he spoke," Davis said. "You could not, not be moved when you heard Dr. King speak."

The conversation rolled as we moved along. We approached the preserved portion of the Lorraine Motel where King was assassinated so many years ago, and we

began to discuss that fateful day. Firstly, as a former guest of the Lorraine Motel, Davis can attest to the authenticity of the rooms' preservation. He explained, "This is identical. I remember this set-up."

Davis motioned around pointing through glass and gently gestured toward the outside of the museum.

"This is where Dr. King was. He was just like any other normal person. He was 39 years of age and he'd come here for a noble cause. Then just decided to go out and get some air on the balcony. It was here that he was shot down in cold blood," recalled Davis.

But weren't you worried how his loss would affect the movement? Davis replied, "I knew that the movement would not die. I knew that the civil rights movement was not embodied in one person."

Nevertheless, Davis was sad.

"I regretted it for Dr. King and I was angry, very angry, at whoever did it. And none of us ever believed that (assassin James Earl) Ray was the only perpetrator who killed Dr. King. We knew it was an organized effort, or we believed it was an organized effort. It was a very, very terrible time when Dr. King was killed," said Davis.

In fact, that was the most challenging time for Davis in the movement. He was stationed at Fort Bliss for training when he heard the news. He and his comrades were told to get their gear and get ready to leave. He rushed home, got his gear and said goodbye to his wife, who was about six months pregnant at the time. Davis didn't know where he was going and he didn't know when he was coming back. It turned out they sat on the tarmac for somewhere between six and 12 hours; the group never deployed.

Davis simply said, "That was an emotionally wracking experience."

Davis wondered if I've ever heard the song "Abraham, Martin and John" by Mahalia Jackson, a very popular civil rights movement song. I hadn't. So right there, in the alcove of the museum near the place where King was killed, Davis sang it to me, soft and low as other museum-goers

look around.

"Has anybody here seen my old friend Martin? Can you tell me where he's gone? He freed a lotta people, but it seems the good, they die young. You know, I just looked around, and he's gone."

When he is finished, I find myself deeply and surprisingly moved. I can see why it was popular.

He explained, "We went through three murders at the same time that were of people who were very, very important to the black community and the American community. John Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King."

Yet, with the lyrics still resonating, we move on. As if perhaps to distance ourselves from old hurt, we move on.

As we continue about the museum, Davis told me about the first time he ever felt American. "How does one remember the first time they ever felt like an American?" But Davis recalled it vividly.

Davis said it was September of 1957. He was 17 years old, sitting on a stool in Walgreen's Drug Store in Chicago.

"I looked up at the TV and saw on the news Eisenhower had ordered the desegregation of the high school in Little Rock and ordered federal marshals in to protect the students, black students," recalled Davis.

Right then Davis felt his government had finally taken a step to do something for him. He felt recognized. Although he had formerly made a conscious decision to dodge

the draft if he was ever called, that single event made him change his mind.

"I said that I would never fight for our country because my rights were not respected. After that event I said, 'Ok, I'll answer the draft now, if I'm called,'" said Davis.

It's hard for me to imagine not wanting to serve our great nation, but I realize that things were

different then and I don't blame him for his feelings.

I was a little surprised at what he told me next. Although he was a pastor and therefore exempt from the draft, Davis later ended up joining the Army as a chaplain.

"The primary reason I went into the military was to be a pastor to soldiers. That's just simple," said Davis. Yet, he told me how going to Vietnam and joining the Army only served to reinforce his convictions.

"As a chaplain, I had an opportunity to sit and talk with guys who said back in the states, they had been members of the Ku Klux Klan all of their lives, and said they'd just never had time, never had an opportunity to just sit down and talk to folks of another race and see that they want the same things that you want. They're just like you are," said Davis.

Davis' military experience also gave him the chance to see what life could be like when anti-discrimination rules were both laid down and enforced.

"There were people who attempted to discriminate because of race, but since 1948 - the desegregation of the armed forces by Truman - there were laws to protect, and so it was easier to force justice than in communities where the laws were not rigid and courts were not in their favor," said Davis.

We strolled on and he began another story. When he was in Vietnam, he received a letter from his mother asking for guidance. She was upset because she'd received a letter saying she'd won some land in Mississippi. However, at the bottom of the letter were two requirements she had to fill in order to be able to claim her prize. One, she had to be white, and two, she had to have blue eyes. The letter sounded as outrageous to me as I'm sure it did to Davis and his mother all those years ago.

"You're there fighting for democracy, and you're looking at what's going on at home to keep you from being a full citizen. You're fighting for people to have freedom and then you're seeing that your freedoms in your own home country are being squashed. That doesn't feel very good," Davis said.

I can't imagine that it would. I find myself thinking about how strong people had to be just to survive in those days. Let alone to be so far away without modern forms of instant gratification communication systems like the Internet, cell phones and web cams.

We've circled back through the museum by this time and are heading outside to get a better look at the balcony King stood on when he was shot. I can't help but mention that it's been almost exactly 30 years since King's assassination.

"It's hard to believe, but life goes on, it really does."

Perhaps the most trying times have come and gone. Davis said he is happy with the changes that have been made but that he feels there are still those people who would like to hold others down. From there we head next door to see where Earl fired from and get an idea of the scene from his perspective. As we cross the empty street, I ask why nonviolence was such an important standard during the movement.

"As Dr. King said, the white

community had all the power. The southern law enforcements, the National Guard armories. If we had tried to fight, we'd have been fighting with sticks. We could not have prevailed against the powers that be," Davis said.

We enter the second building of the museum and see a photo gallery. Here Davis takes the chance to impress upon me that although blacks started the civil rights movement, it was not just their movement.

"In just about every one of these portraits, you will see some whites scattered among all of the blacks. It was an American movement and not a racial movement," said Davis.

I can't recall ever hearing this idea before today, but I like it. I like to think that I'd have been in some of those photographs if I'd been born into that time. That I'd have had the strength and the bravery to stand with others and make a difference.

We move upstairs to get an idea of the view Ray would have had the day he shot King, but along the way, we stop to watch a video about that day.

King is speaking: "A long life, longevity has its place, but I'm not concerned about that now. I'm just gonna do God's will. And he's allowed me to go up the mountain. And I have looked over and I have seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I am happy tonight. I am not worried about anything. I am not fearing anything. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Davis and I just sort of look at one another. "What is there to say?" After a second he said, "That's what I was saying. You can't hear Dr. Martin Luther King and not be motivated. Very powerful."

Very powerful indeed. As we approach the little jetty and the end of our conversation, we look down and see something similar to what was there the day Ray shot King. I think we're both feeling pretty amazed by the gravity of the situation, past and present. From here, we can look down and see the side of the Lorraine Motel. It looks the same now as it did in photos we saw in the museum. We are transported back in time, and yet we are not, because as the mid-afternoon sun pours through the glass, we stand united; a young white woman and an old black man, looking out over space and time observing lessons in patience, strength, acceptance and success.

As we depart, Davis sums things up in the simple silver-lining sort of way I've come to appreciate from him in the short time we've spent together.

"I think the bottom line really is ... George Wallace used to say there's not a dime's worth of difference between a Republican and a Democrat because he was running on an independent ticket. I say there's not a dime's worth of difference between white and black folks. Or red and blue and brown. People are just people. I learned that in Vietnam, I learned that in Germany, I learned that in Korea. People are just people," Davis said.

And so even though there is no test at the end of our session and no big graduation party or presents, I leave my lesson at the museum with a new sense of understanding. And trust me, the civil rights movement I was taught about in school did my knowledge base no justice in comparison to the living history that was shared with me that day. My hat's off to you, Sonny Davis, for playing your part in teaching the world lessons we will surely never forget.

Stampa

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1979 BMW 323i; mechanically sound; under 32,000 original miles; factory a/c; factory AM/FM/cassette; clean inside and out; few scratches - no dents; manual transmission; European specs; solid local car, or ready to take back to the states. \$6800 obo. Call 095-791-3464 or 349-616-9179.

1997 BMW 528i Automatic, blue, leather beige, command control,

auto everything. Pirelli 7 tires with extra 17" Rims. KBB Blue book \$12,500. Asking for \$7800 OBO call 3356428237 HM 624-1371 WK 624-4520

1973 Lancia Fulvia coupe' e 3500 call 335 72 54 745

1999 Skoda Felicia Station Wagon one owner, white. This car has been well maintained and has only 37,000 miles on it. If you have kids or go on trips this is the perfect car for you. It is easy to park and gets 40+ miles to the gallon. Has a very reliable 1.9 VW diesel engine. A steal at 3500 euro. Please call Anthony at 624-1343 or email me at atettl111@yahoo.com

1960 Fiat 600, white with suicide doors, in excellent condition. Contact Luigi at 2338-745-3793

2001 Opel Agile Comfort \$5,000.00 OBO red 4 door, 4 cylinder, 1200 CC, radio/cd, A/C, alarm, and alloy wheels. Low mileage, AFI tags, and original owner. Tom 095-727-5442

2002 BMW 330Ci Coupe Titanium Silver, European

Spec, Sports package w/ 5spd paddle shifters, SMG semi auto transmission, 18" staggered M-Tech Rims, Goodyear Eagle F1 tires, Sports Suspension, Dynamic Stability Control, Carbon Fiber front strut brace, 8-way power Sport Seats w/memory, Xenon headlights, fog lights, power Moon roof, Harmon/Kardon premium sound system, iPod ready, on-board trip computer, automatic air conditioning, cruise control, rain sensing windshield wipers, auto dimming rear view mirror, split fold-down rear seats. 14,000 euros negotiable, view by appointment only due to remote location. Contact Antonio 340 964 3773

1994 jeep Cherokee, 4 dr, 5 spd, runs great, pulls 300 liters, new rear brakes, good island SUV asking 2,500 obo for more information call Dustin at (c)3472599267 (h) 8530.

1991 BMW 520i - 2500 o.b.o. Cell: 340-709-2608

1994 Saab 9000 CSE Turbo. \$3000.00 O.B.O. Looks good and runs

GREAT. Combines good gas mileage with power. Dark Green 4-door hatchback. New Tires and a 10-disc CD changer 624-5156, 095-86-5156

1992 Fiat Croma: Sedan, White exterior, Pwr windows, pwr locks, 5spd. 4cyl. AM/FM Cassette, great for iPod. Very roomy interior. Large Trunk. \$1600.00 obo. Contact Christopher @ x1514.

Laverda 750s for sale in great condition. Mechanics need apply, some battery/electrical problems. Asking \$1500. e-mail joseph.licausi@naissig.sicily.navy.mil

WANTED

Looking for an evening siter to sit with 6 & 7 year olds 2 nights a week while I attend class. Prefer someone in Mineo who can start immediately. Pay is negotiable. If interested, please contact Salley @ (h) 624-0316 or (w) 624-5123.

Wanted, Portugese learning materials; books, tapes & CDs. Pls. call: 338.273.5683 or 095.308.019

FOR SALE

FREE! Older Hitachi big screen TV. I think the CRT is broken. Want it out of my house. Use it for parts or fix it and sell it. 346-616-0954.

Samsung World Wide Video Converter, perfect condition. Converts PAL (European TV) to NTSC (American TV) or NTSC to PAL. This is useful if you have an American TV and want to watch Sky Satellite. It also doubles as a VCR so you can record your favorite shows. Retail \$500.00, will sell for \$100.00. Call Steve @ 624-0185

ZOOM Streetboxx Drum machine SB-246. This is a drum machine for rappers but can be used for any music. Plug in a mic create loops and full songs with ease with the 500 different drum sounds, basses and synths. Use MIDI with a PC and other MIDI devices. Steve 624-0185

Japanese, glass, fishing floats - all sizes, all colors - collector's items from \$10-\$100 (negotiable) Call Jane at 095-755-3058 or 3343735018.

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at thesig@nassig.sicily.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 National/ American base employees. Ads must be 40 words or less and typed in regular upper case, lower case format.

The Signature no longer accepts 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 they can call Stampa Generale @ 081-568-7884.

Centro
traslochi

Joes

Associazione
Stella

MISC.

AA meetings will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday, each week, at 7 p.m. in the NAS II Chapel. For further information call the AA hot line at 346-693-6935.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost set of car and house keys, with a small black gate remote control. Lost on Monday night, Jan 14th at the Exchange, maybe at the wine section, handbag section or the parking lot right in front of the commissary. If found please call 346 965 4129.

Battle

Grande Cina

Volcano

Craivan

Calva
ry

Classified

Stampa