



NFL's Atlanta Falcons Cheerleaders Come to Sigonella

Story and Photos by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin / Jeni James
Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Sigonella / Morale Welfare Recreation

The Sailors and families of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella were treated to a little post-football season cheer February 9.

Cheerleaders from the Atlanta Falcons performed an exhibition at the Naval Air Station Sigonella flight-line fitness center, in addition they held a cheerleading clinic designed to pass on various techniques and ideas in addition to an overall enthusiasm of the sport to Sigonella's fledgling cheerleaders. The exhibition included a display of choreographed dance routines, trivia, and other forms of crowd interaction.

Their second stop on a seven-show tour, the cheerleaders have planned to perform at a variety of venues with stops at military installations in Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Egypt to further their efforts to maintain strong ties with their community, both at home and abroad.

"Not only do our ladies perform at the team's home games, but a large percentage of what they do is attending events at schools, assisting with local charities, and appearing at corporate events," said Chato Waters, a fifth-year veteran for the Falcons cheerleaders.

"These events are very inspirational for us and are a great opportunity to represent our team and our city. I think the city of Atlanta loves the fact that we are able to

leave and represent them overseas and to also come into contact with people that are also from Georgia. It's always nice to be able to see them smile, to see how much they miss home and for them to see the role that we play outside of the traditional football game."

Prior to the adult show, The Atlanta Falcons Cheerleaders led a Cheerleading Expo at Fit District. The MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) Youth Sports Cheerleaders, ranging in ages 5 -13, were able to show off their cheers as well as learn new ones.

"It's amazing watching my squad learn so many cheers in a short time," said Jenni James, MWR Youth Sports Cheer Coach. "Our squad is made up of 5-6 year olds, and we usually focus on one to two cheers a week but today they learned five!"

The two-hour expo was jam-packed as the MWR Cheerleaders got the opportunity to show their cheer talents to the Atlanta Falcons Cheerleaders. Afterward, the Atlanta Falcons Cheerleaders did a show for the audience and ended the expo with the Cupid Shuffle dance with the whole audience participating.

"It was so exciting to see some of my girls break out of their shell and jump right into cheerleading," said Jenni James. "They will remember this day for a long time."



(Left) [redacted] practices a new cheer taught by the Atlanta Falcons Cheerleaders. (Above) The Atlanta Falcons' cheerleaders perform for the Sigonella community at the Naval Air Station Sigonella flight-line fitness center. (Right) The exhibition included a display of choreographed dance routines, trivia, and other forms of crowd interaction.

Africa Partnership Station Visits Equatorial Guinea

Article and photo by MC1 (AW) Brian Goyak
Africa Partnership Station Public Affairs

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea (LSD 43), arrived here, Jan. 31. APS continues a multinational effort aimed at strengthening emergency response capabilities aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry

Story continued on page 12



Lt. j.g. Phillip McCorvey and a member of the local Equatorial Guinea soccer team exchange soccer balls signed by the members of each team. Sporting events are one of the ways Africa Partnership Station (APS) creates partnerships through West and Central Africa. APS is a multi-national effort to bring the latest training and techniques to maritime professionals in nine West and Central African countries and to address the common threats of illegal fishing, smuggling, and human trafficking. In addition to maritime training, APS will perform humanitarian projects in the region.



WEATHER UPDATE

Feb. 15
H:60F
L:51F



Feb. 16
H:59F
L:48F



Feb. 17
H:61F
L:43F



Feb. 18
H:52F
L:45F



Feb. 19
H:53F
L:46F



Feb. 20
H:53F
L:45F



Feb. 21
H:56F
L:46F



TOP STORIES

The American Red Cross, as one of the nation's premier humanitarian organizations, is dedicated to helping people in need throughout the world. Recently nine volunteers in Sigonella partook in the Volunteer Dental Assistant Program which concluded on Feb. 8

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Learning a foreign language just got easier for Sailors and their families currently overseas or preparing to deploy. Self-study materials are now available for download through Navy Knowledge Online by all active-duty, retired, reserve, and dependent members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Page 3

When a family member has been deployed, staying in touch can become difficult. To ensure that service members and their families can keep in contact across the miles the, FFSC this week wants to provide you with some useful information.

Page 5

Of all the Carnival, Mardi Gras, and Lenten celebrations throughout the world, one stands high on a pedestal as being elegant and sophisticated, turbulent and rowdy all at once: this is the Carnival of Venice. Find out more about this festival that's famous the world over.

Page 8

On February 5th, inside the tightly packed Elephant Square, hundreds of thousands of Catanians waited to honor their beloved Saint Agata. This massive festival is dedicated to the patron saint of Catania, who's red veil, it is believed, saved the city more than once, from the approaching lava flow from Mt. Etna.

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TRAFFIC NUMBERS

	Jan. & Feb. '08	Jan. & Feb. '07	Diff.
Accidents	35	22	+3
Injuries	6	3	+3
DUIs	2	1	+1
Traffic Deaths	2	0	+2

PLEASE,
DON'T BECOME
A STATISTIC!

DIRECT LINE

Here are the answers to your Feedback Live questions sent in during the last month. Please keep emailing me or calling in your questions and I will do my best to answer them.

In addition, has someone provided you Great Service on base, in the Exchange, Commissary, or in Housing? Are you thrilled about a service or program offered on base? Feedback Live is a perfect opportunity to tell the community about this good news. Feedback Live is held on the first Thursday of each month, from 6:30pm - 7:00pm. To call in live to the show, please dial 624-4265 or 095-56-4265.

1. Why is it Telecom, who provides our internet service through the

NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN THOMAS J. QUINN

BCO, will not credit for the many days their service is down? We in housing have no alternatives for service providers. The internet is an invaluable method for servicemembers and our families to stay in touch with those back home. I am aware of the fact that the contract says the DOD is not responsible for the "quantity and quality of service to be supplied and is not liable for any discontinuance or failure of service," which is fine, but shouldn't the service provider be?

Answer: If the service interruptions are Telecom Italia Network outside the base and extend for a long period of time (i.e. a week or more) there is always the possibility for a credit, but

not for sporadic service interruptions. This is no different for people residing on the economy. One can ask, but short outages don't get credited.

There are alternatives for service providers; a customer would obtain a telephone line from an Italian public telephone switch, we (NCTS) would provide the connection to their housing unit and they would gain the services at the commercial prices for telephone and ADSL. The customers will have to take care of the request to the desired service provider, deal directly with the commercial company on all issues of billing and other matters. NCTS/BCO would be completely out of the loop.

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Health WATCH

Naval Hospital Sigonella Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant Program

Article by Matthew C. Byars LCDR, DC, USN, Photos by MC2 Joshua Wink
NH Sigonella Exodontist/ General Dentist

The American Red Cross, as one of the nation's premier humanitarian organizations, is



dedicated to helping people in need throughout the world. In the United States, it was founded in Washington D.C. on May 21, 1881. The Red Cross depends on generous contributions of time, blood, tissue and money from the American public in support of its lifesaving services and programs.

NASSIG's Red Cross chapter has always been proactive in our community, not only with lifesaving services and

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Lt. Cmdr Byars grads the final exams of the volunteers of the Red Cross Denal Assistan Program.

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



God Helps Those Who Can't Help Themselves

Article courtesy of Chaplain Paul N. Rumery

There is a tired, trite, and over-used saying that states, "God helps those who help themselves." Listen up people; it's just not true! Why would God help those who are able to help themselves? There is just no need because they have proven they do not need God to lend them any assistance. The reality is, that God, the benevolent Lord of love and grace, reaches down from heaven to help those who genuinely need and acknowledge Him. God helps those who have come to the end of their resources and turn to Him to receive from Him what only He can give-salvation.

God does not need to help the proud of heart because those people do not even realize they have any deficiencies-for they are totally self-sufficient. Our community here at Sigonella has faced some real tragedy lately and our hearts are noticeably heavy. We stand in the need of God's help!

The Good News is that God loves us all and desires to comfort and heal us. However in order for the Lord to pour out His mercy upon us we must be open to it. Allow me to illustrate this point. When I return home from work, the

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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

Weekly Safety Statistics
Larceny of personal property - 5
Damage to government property - 3
Simple Assault - 1

Traffic Court Results
E4 - Improper passing. Member was awarded 3 points and DIP.
E5 - Moving Violation. Member was awarded 1 point.
E5 - Negligent driving. Member was awarded 3 points.
E5 - Driving too fast for conditions. Member was awarded 5 points.

NAVY News

Foreign Language Tools Expand through Audio Books Program

Article by Ensign Jan Shultis
Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Learning a foreign language just got a little easier for the thousands of Sailors and their families currently overseas or preparing to deploy.

From German to Swahili, self-study materials for over 25 languages are available for download through Navy Knowledge Online by all active-duty, retired, reserve, and dependent members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

"The downloadable Audio Book program is made available

through Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) funding," said Nellie Moffitt, the head of the Navy General Library Program in an interview Jan. 3. "Giving Sailors the opportunity to practice their language skills and if they improve, they get money for this new skill; [it] improves their morale. Of the more than 40 languages on the 'Approved Department of Defense Strategic Language List for fiscal year 2007,' nearly all are in the collection."

Although the online library is

an MWR initiative, the implications for mission readiness are also important to active duty personnel.

"The Navy has become more technically sophisticated, as well as more demanding for cultural/linguistic understanding of adversaries and allies," said Capt. Connie Frizzell, commanding officer of the Center for Information Dominance (CID).

CID houses the Center for Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture, and remains at the forefront

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PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy Photo by David A. Brandenburg

Flight deck crewmen aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1) guide an MH-60S Seahawk assigned to the "Blackjacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21. The Tarawa Expeditionary Strike Group is currently deployed to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. Naval Institute Offers Free Membership to all Military Personnel
Complimentary online access to complete issues of Proceedings and Naval History Magazines now available worldwide

The U.S. Naval Institute (USNI), America's premier independent, non-profit, non-partisan forum on national defense and homeland security, has announced a unique online initiative which will provide all active duty and Reserve service members, as well as civilians with a .mil email address, an opportunity for free unlimited membership to the Naval Institute, including online access to publications and other Institute benefits.

"As our military is becoming more joint-force oriented, we felt it imperative to make these two publications in particular, readily available to every member of the military," said Naval Institute CEO, Major General Tom Wilkerson, USMC (Ret.) "These magazines, and other resources available through the Naval Institute, will provoke thought and discussions which are not only relevant to enhancing their military careers but also contribute significantly to our nation's security as a whole."

Other member bonuses include the chance to be a part of www.GetTheGouge.com (a new web-based community of active-duty service members sharing first person, cutting-edge perspectives on combat operations in the War); exclusive member discounts to more than 1,000 Naval Institute Press book titles; and special invitations to national security and military conferences.

Members will also have access to episodes of the award winning Americans at War television series airing nationally on

PBS. Visit www.usni.org to learn more about the Institute.

To sign up go to www.usni.org/membership/active-duty.asp

So You Want to be a Nashville Star

If you want to be a Nashville Star, then you've got to participate in Nashville Star Casting Call Audition on Thursday, February 28 in Sigonella. You could win a free trip to the first ever All-Military Casting Call in Norfolk, Va., Saturday, April 12. Auditions are for ages 16 and up and will be held at Jox Pub on NAS II, Thursday February 28, at 7pm. If you've got what it takes, don't miss out on this opportunity. Register by Tuesday, February 26 by 5pm. To obtain audition forms or for more information call MWR at x3968.

Tax Center

The Sigonella Tax Center is now open. The scheduled hours of operation are Mon, Wed and Fri 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Tues and Thru 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. POs Call 2516 to schedule appointments. Walk-ins are only available for simple returns (i.e. 1040 ez's) all others require an appointment. To ensure the quickest service, please make sure to have all documents in hand (i.e. social security cards, last year's taxes, W2's, and all other necessary documents).

Nassig Women's Varsity Softball Tryouts

Lady Crush women's softball is looking for new and returning talent for the upcoming 2008 year. The tryouts will be held from 5 - 7 p.m. between now and February 21 at the Maranai Housing Softball Field. For more information regarding tryouts call MM2 William Read at ext. 6825 or Louis Genaro ext. 5852.

Tutor Etna
ial

Monika

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA COMMUNITY CALENDAR					15 Credit Management -FFSC Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	16
17 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	18 President's Day <i>American Holiday</i> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	19	20 Survive and Thrive -FFSC Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	21 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	22 Benvenuti -FFSC Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	23 Latin Quarters - Jox Nearly New Shop Open 10a.m. - 1 p.m.
24 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	25 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	26	27 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	28 Cooking Class - FFSC Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	29 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	1 March Last Snowboarding Trip with ITT Nearly New Shop Open
2 Gambino Winery - ITT Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	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 Guitar Hero Turn. - Jox
9 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	10 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	11 New Volunteer Orientation - NMCRS (10-11:30a.m.)	12 Sicilian Easter Cooking - Midtown Budget for Baby (10:00a.m.)	13 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	14 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	15
16 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	17 St. Patrick Day Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	18	19 Early Release - School Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	20 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	21 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	22
23 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	24 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	25	26 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	27 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	28 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	29 Latin Quarters - Jox

Motta

Alphio

Stags

Marchi

Did you know?

A Budget Review could be the key to your financial peace of mind? Are you living from payday to payday, having trouble meeting monthly bills, being harassed by creditors, or hoping your paycheck reaches the bank before those checks you just wrote do? Visit your Sigonella Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office where case-workers can review your financial situation and suggest corrective actions. Are you about to get married, expecting a new baby, or about to make a major purchase? The Society can also provide invaluable budgeting assistance before you make these major decisions.

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

Tips for Communicating During Deployment

Article edited from Military One Source

When a family member has been deployed, staying in touch can become difficult. But the military has worked hard to set up communication channels -- including e-mail and other mail systems -- to make sure that service members and their families can keep in contact across the miles. The following information can help you understand how to communicate well with your service member, whether you're sending packages and letters by ordinary mail or messages and pictures through e-mail.

Here are some ideas for keeping in touch when you and your service member are separated during a deployment:

- Be sure you have the right address. That way your letters and e-mails will arrive on time.
- Answer any questions your service member may have asked in an earlier message. You'll keep the conversation going and keep your family member from wondering or worrying.

- Learn about any guidelines for military mail. You'll find rules, restrictions, and other helpful mailing information at <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/mid.htm>.

- Be creative. Letters and e-mails are great, but try adding variety with audiocassettes, DVDs, or video recordings.

- Express yourself clearly. Remember that you won't be there to explain what you mean when your family member reads your message.

- Send frequent packages. Ask your family member what is most needed, and be sure to include special treats, funny notes, and anything else that might bring a smile. Personal touches are always well received.

- Be honest. You don't have to pretend that you're feeling fine when you're not. It is very important to talk to each other about how you're feeling.

- Use the Internet for more than e-mail. For instance, you can create a Web page with pictures and news, "talk" with your family member in chat rooms, or use a scanner to send newspaper clippings or a child's artwork.

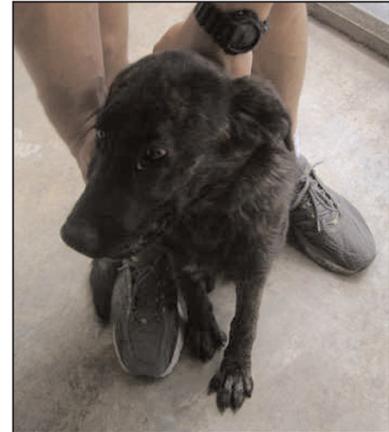
- Try not to worry if you don't get a quick response. Your service member may be in an area with limited mail or e-mail service, or may simply be too busy to respond right away. Remember to be patient and understanding.

Cold Noses



WARM HEARTS

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



- Think about making a "flat daddy" or "flat mommy" for your child. Go to www.imalreadyhome.com/flatdaddy.htm to learn more about making a large-size, cutout, mounted photo of a deployed parent. This will help your child/children feel closer to the deployed parent.

For more information and tips for dealing with a deployment or separation, please contact the Fleet & Family Support Center at 624-4291, or stop by the office anytime. You can also visit the FFSP website at <https://www.nffsp.org> for more information.

Signonella'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.

Diva (Left) - If you want a dog with personality and a lot of love to give Diva is your girl. She would make a great addition to any family.

Oscar (Right) - Oscar is a wonderful dog with a low key personality. He loves to walk and play fetch if you think you might want to give him a home come and visit him, he would love to meet you.

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

Perla d'orientale

Pentagon

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



Noto honors St. Conrad

On Feb. 19, the enchanting Baroque town of Noto will host a spectacular religious festival honoring San Corrado (St. Conrad), its beloved patron saint.

Noto, one of Europe's masterpieces of 17th century architecture, is on the UNESCO's World Heritage List, just as other seven towns in southeastern Sicily (Caltagirone, Militello Val di Catania, Catania, Modica, Palazzolo, Ragusa and Scicli). The town that one can admire today is the successful result of the reconstruction, which followed the terrible earthquake that struck the area in 1693.

Every year, since 16th century, local townspeople have been holding four festivals to show respect to their venerated santo. In 1515, Pope Leo X authorized town of Noto to officially celebrate an annual San Corrado festival on the anniversary of his death. Over one century later, Pope Urban VIII added Conrad to the catalogue of saints.

According to tradition, throughout the centuries, St Conrad has reportedly performed at least two big miracles that benefited the community of Noto. The first one occurred in 1855 when Noto Conrad was invoked to help against cholera. Legend has it that San Corrado interceded and the town was eventually not affected by the illness.



Photo by Michele Castobello

In Noto, February 19th is the feast day of San Corrado (Saint Conrad). Every year, thousands of people from the local area and surrounding towns, gather to pay tribute to their beloved patron saint. This long-standing religious festival features a vivid religious procession of the holy relics of the saint that are preserved inside a precious silver urn.

Another tradition holds that another miracle occurred in 1943, when Noto was spared the Allied aerial bombing during World War II through the intercession of San Corrado.

Life of San Corrado

Corrado or Conrad Confalonieri, a wealthy nobleman, was born in Piacenza in 1290. Corrado loved hunting. One day, in 1313, he ordered his attendants to set fire to bushes to flush out game. But prevailing winds caused the flames to spread rapidly burning out nearby fields, forests and villages. Conrad fled in panic, so an innocent peasant was accused of arson, tortured and sentenced to death. Stricken by remorse, Conrad confessed his guilt and saved the poor man's life in the nick of time.

Because of his noble origins, Corrado was spared the death penalty, but he had to sell all his possessions to pay off the damaged property.

After that, Corrado became poor and retired as a Franciscan monk to a lonely hermitage in Acre near Piacenza, while his wife entered the Order of Poor Clares. Later, he went to Rome to meet with Pope and eventually to Sicily. There, he settled in the ancient Noto Valley where he led a penitential life for thirty years living in the "Pizzoni Cave." According to tradition, Corrado worked several miracles during his long hermitage. A legend tells that the most famous miracle occurred when the Siracusa Bishop visited Corrado in his humble home. When the Bishop asked Corrado if he had anything to offer to his guests, the hermit replied he would check in his cell. Right after, he came back bringing some fresh bread out of the oven. The bishop was reportedly so impressed that he became convinced that Corrado was already on the track to sainthood.

The first procession honoring him was held in August

1521. About a century later, Conrad was officially proclaimed the Noto patron saint by the town council in 1643.

A small church was built in 1749 near the cave where the saint lived until his death.

Festival Schedule

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, the Noto Bishop will celebrate Holy Masses at the following times: 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the recently restored cathedral, and at 4 p.m. at the Church of Saint Carlo (located near via Nicolaci).

Later in the afternoon, the "Arca," a silver urn containing the saint remains, is carried shoulder high along the streets of Noto historic heart. The procession begins at 5 p.m. from the Cathedral and proceeds throughout the upper part of the town (historic center).

Later on the night, the holy reliquary is brought back around 10 p.m., when the most spectacular moment of the festival takes place, as the exhausted "Arca" bearers show their faith through a display of physical strength. They run up fast to the cathedral stairs while holding the heavy relics' container (it weighs about 900 pounds)! Before that, Cili holders perform

spectacular circular dances inside the cathedral to "welcome back" the saint's human remains.

Cili are decorated iron bowls, which are placed on top of a tall wooden stick containing a candle. Members of five local Confraternite (Confraternities), dressed in traditional costumes, carry them while accompanying the procession. Cili have been presented to the saint as fulfillment of a vow or pledge for a long time.

On Sunday, March 2, the St. Conrad procession is repeated at 5 p.m. in the lower part of the

town.

The magnificent Arca is a priceless piece of art by Giovanni Manuella, a Sicilian architect who designed it in 1525. Throughout the centuries, several generations of Sicilian goldsmiths and silversmiths added fine decorations to the original model. The urn was eventually completed in 1848. The Arca is 6,2 feet tall and 24 inches wide. It contains the saint's body and it is usually kept inside the Noto cathedral. After the 1990 earthquake, the Arca was temporarily moved to the nearby Church of San Carlo al Corso as the cathedral was damaged by the tremors until June 2007, when the cathedral restoration works were completed.

Some zealous devotees still perform the traditional "Viaggi Scasu" or "Barefoot Itinerary." A passionate proof of devotion and physical resistance, it consists of following the procession barefoot. Some residents of the surrounding cities even walk up to 15 miles to reach Noto during the festival.

For more information and detailed schedules, call the Noto Tourist Office at 0931-836744/ 573779 (opening hours: Mon.-Fri - 8:30 a.m./ 2 p.m. and 3:30 -6:30 p.m.).

Italian President Giorgio Napolitano Dissolves Parliament



Italy's president, Giorgio Napolitano dissolved parliament and announced that new legislative elections would be held on April 13-14. The decision was taken after Senate president Franco Marini failed to form an interim government that should have rewritten the current electoral law, which is pointed to as the culprit for the political instability. Napolitano regretted he had no choice but to lead the country towards early elections because of the stark opposition of center-right leader Silvio Berlusconi who has put together a fresh coalition to defeat the outgoing government's centre-left parties in the new upcoming general's elections.

Rigattiere

Teacher Spotlight: Evelyn Chisari

Article by [REDACTED]
Signature Intern

Evelyn Chisari teaches Career Practicum at Sigonella Middle/High school, and she is the middle school guidance counselor. She has been an educator for over twenty-five years. Ms. Chisari moved to Sigonella from Washington, D.C. five years ago, where she worked as an educator, Community Engagement Specialist, and as a trainer of Community Policing.

What prompted your decision to become a teacher?

I come from a long line of educators! Since education has always been part of my life, I fell right in line with the rest of my family.

Overall, in your years as an educator, what have you enjoyed most about your profession?

Meeting people, connecting with students, and forming lasting friendships.

As a DoDDS employee, describe what has been the most rewarding aspect of working overseas.

I've come to understand the military family better, and I feel I can speak from a broader perspective. I've come to appreciate the hardships and adjustments our military families endure and the resilience our students develop.

If you could change one thing about your experience as an educator, what would that be and why?

I would balance excellence in academic achievement with the development of emotional intelligence. I would include diplomacy and social development across our curriculum.

What is your best advice for students?

Seek balance in relationships, establish a circle of friends, and don't expect the same from each one. Learn about yourself and approach your days with kindness.

Describe the person who has been the most influential in your life and why?

My father. He was a strong, determined person. After his death, I was asked to provide some background information on him. I learned that from a very early age, he was a leader, sociable, and very well liked. All this spilled over onto me and my family.

What is your favorite high school memory?

Laughing with my friends, being very active in school activities and having fun! I remember enjoying my free time. Still today, I am friends with many who I attended school with.

NPDC Knowledge Management and NIACT Support Teams Win DON Information Technology/Information Management Excellence Award

Article by MC1(SW/AW) John Osborne
Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

The Department of the Navy Chief Information Office (DON CIO) announced the Knowledge Management (KM) Team of Naval Personnel Development Command (NPDC) and the Support Team from the Navy Individual Augmentee Combat Training Center (NIACT) have been named as recipients of the Department of the Navy Information Technology/Information Management Excellence Award for their collaborative work in constructing the Individual Augmentee Community of Practice (IA CoP) on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO). The two teams accepted their award at the Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association United States Naval Institute West Conference in San Diego on Feb. 5.

"The real winners here are the

Sailors who have benefited from the information we have been able to put out," said Tony Martin, a retired chief petty officer and NPDC KM Team member who has been at the tip of the spear in developing the IA CoP. "The CoP was created to address the inconsistencies with the flow of information. Sailors are being asked to take on completely unfamiliar duties in dangerous places and the last thing we want is for them to go in unprepared and uninformed or worrying about their records being accurate."

The IA CoP, which has assisted thousands of IA Sailors in getting the necessary information to make their tour as successful as possible, was created in response to the Chief of Naval Operations' 2005 agreement to assist the Army due to a shortage of Soldiers supporting the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). It was decid-

ed the Army would train the Sailors at McGrady Training Center near Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C., with an initial goal of putting through 10,000 Sailors (to date more than 9,300 have graduated NIACT). From the beginning, the key challenge was disseminating the information to the prospective IA Sailors. It didn't take long for Martin and his team to determine that Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) would be the optimal medium for delivery.

"The CoP had to address the challenge of communication to a geographically disbursed group of people where timeliness, accuracy and accessibility were critical issues," Martin said. "NKO provided the means for one-stop shopping."

Finding the hosting site, however, was only the beginning. Martin and team members Jon Harris,

Leonard Coley, Ken Decker, and Theresia Reistad immediately hit the road to begin gathering information and collaborating with the myriad of others who would eventually turn the IA CoP into a living community. The first visit was to PERS 463/464 in Millington, Tenn., which worked to make a connection between the Pentagon and the Bureau of Navy Personnel. Next came three separate site visits to McGrady to meet with the NIACT team.

The NIACT Team, consisting of Master Chief Yeoman (SW) Larkin Whetstone, Chief Hospital Corpsman (AW/SW) Alex Garza, Chief Master-At-Arms Charline Mayo, Yeoman First Class Rosalyn Reeder, Hospital Corpsman First Class Angela Martin, Storekeeper First Class Lexington Harris, Personnel Specialist Second Class Katrina Mackey, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Duval Raines and Storekeeper Second Class Byron Moore, were responsible for the readiness, outfitting, training and transfer of the augmentees to various locations supporting the GWOT.

According to Whetstone, the former senior enlisted advisor at NIACT, the site visits proved to be invaluable in getting the right information to Sailors and their families and easing the tension about what they could expect during their training.

"In the beginning of the NIACT training process there were a lot of 'messdeck rumors' about what specifically was being trained at NIACT and what the training was like," he said. "No one knew what to bring with them to NIACT, what military documentation was required, what type of equipment they would receive, what type of medical/dental screening was required, if they would they receive a weapon, and the list just goes on and on."

Martin, Larkin and their teams set out to answer these questions through personal observation of the training and several meetings and one-on-one interviews with Sailors who had been through the process, paying close attention to their frustrations and suggestions on improvement.

In between the second and third visit to NIACT, Martin made a connection with Capt. Rhett Bailey, who was already in Baghdad, and she became a vital source of information through feedback from Sailors who had just completed the training.

"Capt. Bailey is really the one who catapulted the IA CoP," Martin said. "She sent updates every week-end that I could input into CoP. It was helpful in keeping information current and making sure we were aware of what our Sailors needed."

Using that knowledge, the CoP was designed to include pages for the countries where Sailors would deploy, key points of contact, maps, checklists for medical and dental requirements and a list of required e-Learning courses. The CoP also includes a discussion forum for deploying and deployed Sailors to share unclassified information.

Whetstone cited the discussion forum element of the CoP as one of its most useful components. "The message board the team created was extremely helpful to the Sailors. Not only could they post questions to the NIACT staff, but they could also get information from Sailors who had been through the training or that had previously been on an IA assignment," he said. "In the beginning we were just looking for a place to post our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Once we posted the SOP, someone would suggest adding something else, then someone else would make a recommendation and it became a landslide of recommendations. The biggest challenge was that we had so much information to put out to the IA Sailors, and we did not want to make it so busy that they would not read it. We wanted to limit it to the most important and relevant information."

The IA CoP went live on Feb. 10, 2006, and has since had more than 1.3 million visitors. Although it is now managed by the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC), the mission remains the same, and it remains a vital tool for a smooth and successful IA tour.

"We accomplished our goal of addressing inconsistencies and making sure the information on the CoP was accurate and up to date because we knew from the beginning that this training could save Sailors' lives," Martin said. "We set out to answer the question of what information the Sailor needs to deploy, and we have done that."

The IA CoP can be accessed by logging on to NKO at www.nko.navy.mil and then clicking the Individual Augmentee icon on the Homepage.

Sushi



(Above) Photo by MA3 Ashley Hickerson

A Stone's

THE HUB OF THE MED IS ALSO

The Carnival of

Story and photos by MC2 Joshua W
Signature Staff

Of all the Carnival, Mardi Gras, and Lenten celebrations throughout the world, one stands high on a pedestal as being elegant and sophisticated, turbulent and rowdy all at once: this is the Carnival of Venice. While it's not the largest, as found in Brazil, or the most boorish, like New Orleans, it could be considered the epoch of all the Carnivals. Its traditions and history are as winding and abrupt as the city streets and canals that host the festival.

Most symbolic of Carnival is the elaborate costumes and masks worn by the locals and tourists alike during the two week festival. These masks range from simple white pieces just large enough to cover the top

half of the face to full head pieces sometimes larger than three feet.

But not all the masks sold have a traditional history behind them; some are simply fun, while others carry with them a deep heritage. One of the most iconic masks of Venice is that of the plague-doctor. Prior to being worn as a costume, doctors would travel the city during the time of the plague to diagnose and quarantine the sick with a large mask with a long white beak nose filled with rags drenched in vinegar as a barrier between them and the diseased.

The first recorded use of masks during Carnival was in 1268, following that many more varieties began

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

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At Rock



one's Throw

THE MED IS ALSO THE HUB FOR TRAVEL

Carnival of Venice



Story and photos by MC2 Joshua Wink
Signature Staff

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moral, endeavors.
From the late 1100's to the late 1700's many peri-
ods existed when mask wearing during Carnival and
throughout the year was banned due from the fear it
brought to the ruling family, the Doges, sometimes
to religious creed that came from the Catholic Church,
and even creditors had reasons to dislike them as peo-
ple would go to the casino wearing masks to avoid pay-
ing their debts. It was in 1797, however, that the
Carnival of Venice would officially retire as Venice
was now under Austrian rule, and a lot of their laws
and traditions were forbidden.

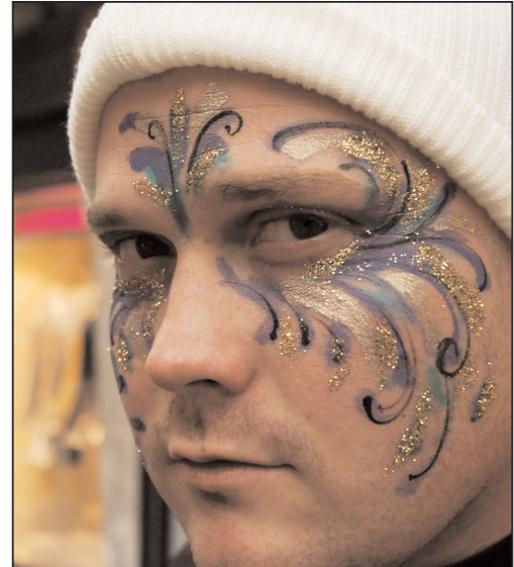
The people of Venice did not succumb lightly to
the disestablishment of their festival. Parties further-
more would still held in palaces out of the public eye.
In 1979, the Carnival of Venice was officially
reintroduced. The lost art of mask-making and mas-
querading throughout the city was now back with all
the glamour of the 16 and 1700's.

Today, street per-
formers fill the squares
that open from the narrow
corridors with mimes and
clowns. Shows are staged
every evening in clubs

and in San Marco Square. Masked revelers can tra-
verse the streets freely or take a gondola ride down the
Grand Canal, and the entire city works up to the great-
est day of the Carnival Shrove Tuesday, also known as
Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras.

People from all walks of life can be seen togeth-
er, indistinguishable and equal in their elaborate cos-
tumes, as it was originally. During Carnival, it is cus-
tomary to pay the same respect to everyone who choos-
es to wear a full traditional costume, and in doing so
commoners and the elite will nod their approval to
each other never knowing who is who.

The most elaborate masqueraders can usually be
found posing for pictures in San Marco Square, but
they can be found throughout the entire city. It is gen-
erally accepted and courteous that they stop for a photo
if they are asked, but traditionally they will not speak
as to lend to their mystique and the enigma that is the
Carnival of Venice.



Feudo S.
Vitoo
Magnolia



(Above) Photo by IT3 Brandie Dalton



Tradition and Devotion

Article by Rebekah Jacobs, Photos by Signature Volunteers



(Above) The Vara makes its appearance in Elephant Square as devotees burst into applause. (Below) Traditional cassatine are filled with ricotta cheese and a sugar glaze. (Right) Thousands of Catanians fill the square in honor of their patron saint.



On February 5th, inside the tightly packed Elephant Square, hundreds of thousands of Catanians waited to honor their beloved Saint Agata. Devotees wore white tunics and carried heavy wax candles to offer a physical sacrifice to the saint. When the Vara, a 16-foot silver carriage holding the saint's relics, made its appearance, the crowd burst into raucous applause. Elaborate fireworks exploded over the crowd as the Vara started its slow procession over Via Etna up to Piazza Cavour. Several hours later, the saint was returned to the Cathedral.

All of these traditional celebrations—from the procession to the food—recall St. Agata's martyrdom. Often shown holding her breasts on a platter, we remember her resistance to a Roman Consul who wanted her to renounce her faith. To fully understand the Saint's impact on Sicilian

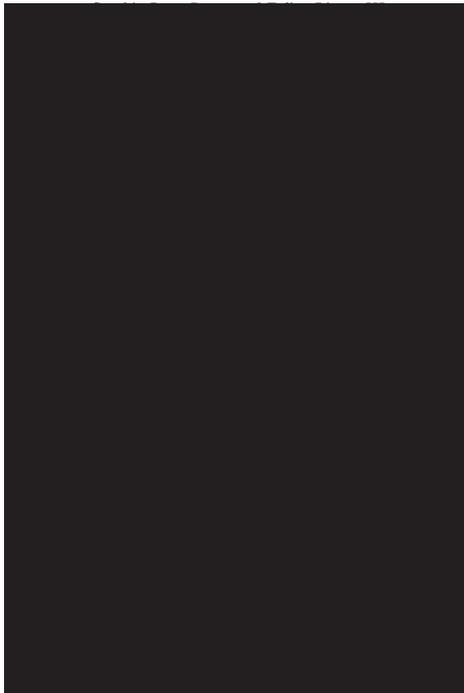
culture, it is essential to visit the exhibit called "Saint Agata, History, Art, and Devotion." Presented by The Archdioceses of Catania, this 250-piece exhibit has collected St. Agata paintings, prints, and sculptures from all over the world—including the Louvre Museum in Paris. Salamone Santino, the Diocesan Museum director, noted that this celebration is one of the three largest celebrations in the world including Spain and Mexico. "Whether you believe or not, Catania has been greatly influenced by this story," he added.

Although the celebration is over, one can still visit a pastry shop to try some of the delicious desserts made during this festival. There, taste the green olivette di Sant'Agata that are made with marzipan. These treats remind us of the legend that said olive trees sprouted where St.

Agata had stepped on her way to her trial. Some are also available with chocolate. In addition, try the cassatine, small breast-shaped pastries that remind us of the torture she underwent. These are filled with ricotta cheese, covered by a sugar glaze, and decorated with a candied cherry. The exhibit, which runs through May 4, will be hosted at three main locations: Diocesan Museum/#8 Via Etna 8, Elephant Square, Church of San Francesco Borgia #17 via dei Crociferi 17/A, and Church of San Placido/Piazza San Placido). Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday-Sunday; Closed on Mondays, except for guided tours; March 20 through 23—open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tickets cost 10 Euro. For further information about the exhibit the directions to the venues call 199-307050.



NEW Arrivals



Armed Forces

MWR CORNER

Special Events:

Intercultural Latino Night at Jox Pub

February 23; 9:30 p.m. - Over 90 people from a local salsa dancing organization will be our guests. Share some new moves and learn a few!

Do you want to be a Nashville Star?

Auditions held at Jox Pub on February 28 at 7 p.m.
Registration deadline: February 26 at 5pm
You've got to participate! You could win a free trip to the first ever All-Military casting call in Norfolk, VA on April 12. Auditions open to ages 16 and up. Additional prizes for Sigonella contestants: 1st place: \$300 gift certificate, 2nd place: \$200 gift certificate and 3rd place: \$100 gift certificate. For audition forms please call x3968 or stop by MWR Administration Office.

Teen Ping Pong Community Challenge

February 25; 3 - 4:30 p.m. in the Midtown Lobby - Sign up at the Teen Center! - Teens, this is your golden opportunity to challenge the community in the Teen Ping Pong Challenge. Teens who plan to challenge must sign up and those who are being challenged simply show up in the Midtown Lobby!

Fitness 624-4483

NEW Saturday Aerobic and Spin Classes
Indoor Spin: 9 - 10 a.m. at Flight Line Fitness Center
Step Blast: 9 - 10 a.m. at Fit District
AFAA Group Exercise Aerobic Instructor and Personal Trainer Certification Course
March 5: Primary Group Exercise Certification, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., \$254
Indoor Cycling, March 6, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$110

Personal Fitness Training Certification, March 7 - 9:

8 a.m. - 6 p.m., \$390

ITT Gear-n-Go Day Trips 624-4777

Mandatory Snow Adventure Safety Class: Fridays from 5 - 5:30 p.m. - Plan on joining Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) for any snow sport this year? Please make the time to attend this mandatory class on safety and survival. Make this year a fun and injury-free year. Snowboarding on Mt. Etna (Snow and weather permitting) Saturdays through March 1; Depart: NAS I 8 a.m. Return: 4 p.m. - \$15 without rental package or \$25 with rental package plus bring euro for lift ticket and food
Palermo II
February 23; Depart: NAS II 6:30 a.m., NAS I 7 a.m. Return: 7 p.m. - \$32 + euro for fees and lunch
Noto & Colle Acre Winery
February 24; Depart: NAS II 8 a.m., NAS I 8:30 a.m. Return: 5 p.m. - \$30, includes wine tasting + bring euro for food, fees and wine
Ice skating and Lunch at McDonald's
February 24; Depart: Mineo 8:30 a.m., NAS II 9 a.m., NAS I 9:30 a.m., Return: 2 p.m. - \$10 adults, \$5 children 2 - 11 + euro for entrance fee and food
Forza D'Agro & Taormina
March 1; Depart: NAS II 7:30 a.m., NAS I 8 a.m. Return: 6 p.m. - \$24 + bring euro for lunch and entrance fees (€26)
Gambino Winery and Zafferana
March 2; Depart: NAS II 9:30 a.m., NAS I 10 a.m. Return: 6:30 p.m. - \$48, includes lunch and wine tasting

Scuba Shop
February 28 the Dive Shop will be closed.

ITT Gear-n-Go Extended Trips 624-4777

Dracula's Transylvania, Romania: April 4-9
Camping in Tropea: May 23-26
Legoland in Germany: June 13 - 16

Jox Pub 624-5603

LIVE BAND: Hot 4 Blues
February 29 at 10:30 p.m.

Liberty 624-5602

Dinner in Taormina: February 22
Ice Skating in Nicolosi: February 23
Agrigento Day Trip: February 24
Dinner in Siracusa: February 29
Weekend in Florence: March 14-17 \$375/pp
Weekend in Dublin: April 16-20 \$550/pp

Take 5 624-5602

Cure the Monday Blues: February 25
Battleship Tournay: February 26
Godfather Movie Marathon: February 27

Youth Sports 624-3785

Family 10k Bike Ride: March 1
Flight Line Fitness Center Sign ups begin: 10 a.m.
Bicycle safety checks: 10:30 a.m. Bicycle ride begins: 10:45 a.m.
Bring out the entire family and your bicycles for a fun 10k bike ride around the perimeter of NAS II. Fleet & Family Support Center will be on-site for Military Saves Week. Proper footwear and helmets required. For bicycle pick up, please sign up at Fit District.

FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 21

MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE HOTLINE: 624-4248

SCHEDULE

MOVIE DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, February 15

12:00pm Charlie Wilson's War R 130 min.
3:00pm The Water Horse PG 112 min.
5:00pm National Treasure: Book of Secrets PG 130 min.
5:30pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.
7:30pm Cloverfield PG-13 84 min.
8:00pm P.S. I Love You PG-13 126 min
9:30pm No Country For Old Men R 123 min.

Saturday, February 16

2:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
2:30pm P.S. I Love You PG-13 126 min
4:30pm The Water Horse PG 112 min.
5:00pm Golden Compass PG-13 113 min.
7:30pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.
8:00pm Batman Begins PG-13 141 min. FREE
9:30pm I Am Legend PG-13 114 min.

Sunday, February 17

2:00pm The Water Horse PG 112 min.
2:30pm Cloverfield PG-13 84 min.
4:30pm National Treasure: Book of Secrets PG 130 min.
5:00pm Charlie Wilson's War R 130 min.
7:00pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.

Monday, February 18

2:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
3:00pm No Country For Old Men R 123 min.
4:30pm P.S. I Love You PG-13 126 min.
6:00pm Cloverfield PG-13 84 min.

Tuesday, February 19

5:00pm The Water Horse PG 112 min.
5:30pm National Treasure: Book of Secrets PG 130 min.
7:30pm Charlie Wilson's War R 130 min.
8:00pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.

Wednesday, February 20

12:00pm No Country For Old Men R 123 min.
3:00pm Alvin & The Chipmunks PG 88 min.
5:00pm P.S. I Love You PG-13 126 min.
5:30pm Cloverfield PG-13 84 min.
7:30pm I Am Legend PG-13 114 min.
8:00pm Golden Compass PG-13 113 min.

Thursday, February 21

3:00pm The Water Horse PG 112 min.
5:00pm Charlie Wilson's War R 130 min.
5:30pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.
7:30pm THROBACK THURSDAY - FREE
Alien VS. Predator PG-13 101 min.
8:00pm National Treasure: Book of Secrets PG 130 min.

Cloverfield (PG-13)

Five young New Yorkers throw their friend a going-away party the night that a monster the size of a skyscraper descends upon the city. Told from the point of view of their video camera, the film is a document of their attempt to survive the most surreal, horrifying event of their lives.

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.

I Am Legend (PG-13)

Robert Neville (Will Smith) is a brilliant scientist, but even he could not contain the terrible virus that was unstoppable, incurable...and manmade. Somehow immune, Neville is now the last human survivor in what is left of New York City...and maybe the world. But he is not alone. He is surrounded by "the Infected"--victims of the plague who have mutated into carnivorous beings who can only exist in the dark and who will devour or infect anyone or anything in their path. For three years, Neville has spent his days scavenging for food and supplies and faithfully sending out radio messages, desperate to find any other survivors who might be out there. All the while, the Infected lurk in the shadows, watching Neville's every move, waiting for him to make a fatal mistake. Perhaps mankind's last, best hope, Neville is driven by only one remaining mission: to find a way to reverse the effects of the virus using his own immune blood. But his blood is also what The Infected hunt, and Neville knows he is outnumbered and quickly running out of time.

National Treasure: Book Of Secrets (PG)

Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin gates looks to discover the truth behind the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, by uncovering the mystery within the 18 pages missing from assassin John Wilkes Booth's diary.

No Country For Old Men (R)

Set in West Texas, a man on the run with a suitcase full of money is pursued by a number of individuals.

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.

P.S. I Love You (PG-13)

A grieving young widow discovers that her late husband has left her a list of tasks revealed in 10 messages, delivered anonymously, intended to ease her out of grief and transition her to a new life.

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)

America loves larger-than-life musician and songwriter Dewey Cox! But behind the music is the up-and-down-and-up-again story of a musician whose songs would change a nation. On his rock 'n roll spiral, Cox sleeps with 411 women, marries three times, has 22 kids and 14 stepkids, stars in his own 70s TV show, collects friends ranging from Elvis to the Beatles to a chimp, and gets addicted to - and then kicks - every drug known to man... but despite it all, Cox grows into a national icon and eventually earns the love of a good woman - longtime backup singer Darlene.

The Water Horse: Legend Of The Deep (PG)

Angus, a young Scottish boy, finds an enchanted egg. Taking it home, he soon finds himself face-to-face with an amazing creature: the mythical "water horse" of Scottish lore. Angus begins a journey of discovery, facing his greatest fears and risking his life to protect a secret that would give birth to a legend.

Batman Begins

In the wake of his parents' murder, disillusioned industrial heir Bruce Wayne travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful. He returns to Gotham and unveils his alter-ego: Batman, a masked crusader who uses his strength, intellect and an array of high tech deceptions to fight the sinister forces that threaten the city.

PREMIERS FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22

Alien Vs. Predator- Requiem
Spiderwick Chronicles
One Missed Call
Jumper

COMING SOON

The Kite Runner

Couples Communication Class

6 Sessions of 2 hour each, one class per week



Feb 28, Mar 4-11-18-25, Apr 1

from 18:00 to 20:00

must attend all 6 sessions

Location:
Mineo Community Center

To sign up please call 624-4291
POC: Patsy Troxell

Chiechio

Tatoo

Sigonella Postal Clerks Named COMFISCS 2007 Sailors of the Year

Article by PCCS(SW/AW) Victor L. Gonzalez
FISC Sigonella's Senior Enlisted Leader

Two of Sigonella's local Sailors, PC2(SW) Shannon Dean and PC3 Thomas Golden were recently named Sailor of the Year (SOY) and Junior Sailor of the Year (JSOY) respectively for Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (COMFISCS). They are both assigned to FISC Sigonella's Fleet Mail Center. The announcement came via message released on January 30, 2008 by RDML Berube, COMFISCS's Commander.

In order to compete at this level they first had to win against many outstanding Sailors attached to FISC Sigonella (FISCSI) detachments throughout Europe, Southwest Asia and Africa to become FISCS's SOY and JSOY.

Both Sailors then faced tough competition from Sailors attached to COMFISCS' other commands throughout the world, including

Yokuska, Japan, Pearl Harbor, Norfolk, San Diego, Puget Sound and Jacksonville.

PC2 Dean was recognized for his outstanding achievement as the LPO and Custodian of Postal Effects for Sigonella's NAS 2 Post Office. PC2 Dean meticulously handled over half a million dollars in US Postal Service revenue with zero discrepancies while also serving as the command's MWR Treasurer and Command Financial Specialist. During the year he also voluntarily deployed to Camp Lemonier in Djibouti, Africa, where he assisted with validation and inventory of over 500 containers of supply stock items. He also completed numerous college courses aggressively pursuing a Masters Degree, which he expects to complete this year.

Petty Officer Golden currently serves in a senior E-5 billet as the

Night Shift Section Leader where he was instrumental in timely and accurate processing of over three million pounds of mail for our local customers as well as mobile units operating in the Fifth and Sixth Fleet AORs. Throughout the year he also served as a Post Office Finance Clerk and FISCSI Headquarters Admin Clerk in the absence of a command Yeoman, showing his flexibility and commitment to the command.

Both Sailors were key players in FISC Sigonella receiving an Outstanding grade during their 2007 annual Postal Inspection and continue to provide outstanding service to our fleet customers and the Sigonella community, showing why they were selected as the "best of the best". In recognition as Sailors of the Year, they will receive Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals from COMFISCS.

DIRECT LINE

continued from page 2

Additionally, having a telephone from a public telephone switch would mean that every call to any on-base number would result in a toll charge whereas there are no toll charges for calls from a base telephone number to any number within the 624-XXXX calling area.

2. At the checkout line, the baggers always take away my shopping cart. The baggers never ask if I need the cart, and I always point out that they should ask a customer if the cart will be needed. This prevents me from loading my groceries in the shopping cart and forces me to carry everything out to my car. They have also stopped asking people if they need help out, especially if a tip is given inside. They just say "oh, you

can just take the cart yourself, as long as you bring it back." Just last week I purchased 5 bottles of formula, paper towels, flour, and other items and was left to fend for my baby, diaper bag, and grocery items myself because the baggers did not want to give me the shopping cart. Seeing I had to shuttle all of this outside, they did not ask if I needed assistance. So this has become two different problems in one.

Answer: Baggers are not commissary employees and work for tips only. However, there is a head bagger who is elected by the baggers annually. The head bagger is responsible for ensuring that all baggers follow the rules and policies of the base and commissary and is reportable to the Commissary Store Director.

Baggers should always ask the customer if assistance is needed. In regards to the shopping carts, there was a policy as to where shopping carts were not allowed to leave the commissary due to many shopping carts coming up missing and or being left in the middle of the parking lot. The policy changed approximately two months ago to provide better customer service. If a customer would like to take their groceries out in a shopping cart, please inform the bagger immediately prior to check out, and it should not be a problem. Please remember to return all carts to the commissary or to the shopping cart holding areas located in the parking lot. Shopping carts left in the parking lot can roll and damage someone's car if not properly secured.

FORGEIN LANGUAGES

continued from page 5

of language training throughout the service.

Currently, the online library houses over 8,000 audio books, 400 e-Books, 600 videos and 1,400 albums.

Over 400 titles were selected specifically for children. New titles are added to the library regularly, in categories ranging from "classic literature" and "juvenile fiction" to "business and finance" or "comic and

graphic books."

To access the Audio Books program, log into www.nko.navy.mil, then click on the link to "Navy Library E-content" on the right side of the page under the "reference" section. Next, click on the banner that reads "Download e-Books, Audio Books, Music, and Video," to access the myriad of titles available. A user account must be established within E-content to check out materials.

There are several guidelines for use of the library. Titles are served

through the Overdrive Media Console, and so they cannot be downloaded to Navy computers, or used on iPods, Macs or Zunes. Items may be downloaded to personal computers, non-iPod listening devices or even CDs.

Five items may be downloaded at a time. Due to high customer demand, all Audio Book and music titles are available to the user for 10 days, and video titles may be checked out for five days; after that period, the title must be checked out again.

AFRICA PARTENERSHIP

continued from page 2

ing partnerships in West and Central Africa in order to increase regional and maritime safety and security.

The visit by McHenry is the first by a U.S. Navy ship in more than 15 years. The primary reason for the port visit is to establish a dialogue between Equatorial Guinea and APS.

"I believe this visit will be a good experience for me," said Capt. Samuel Morales, of the Spanish Marine Corps. "I look forward to doing work that is not part of normal military operations and getting to know people from this part of the world."

APS includes Sailors from Africa, Europe and the United States who are working towards a common goal: partnership in maritime safety and security. APS brings an international team of expert trainers in a variety of military capacities.

"I am part of the crew of an Equatorial Guinea ship, but this is my first experience on a large U.S. Navy ship," said Lt. Cmdr. Tiburciu Ngomo, of the Equatorial Guinea Navy. "I have learned a lot from my time onboard observing the many orders carried out by the crew."

Although the Navy has conducted training during routine deployments in West Africa, the focus of APS is new and different.

"I am very proud to arrive in Equatorial Guinea onboard Fort McHenry as part of APS," said Ngomo. "The presence of the ship in Equatorial Guinea is a new opportunity to increase our maritime security. I hope that Equatorial Guinea continues to be included in the normal program of APS."

APS is one in a series of activities designed to build maritime safety and security in Africa in a comprehensive and collaborative manner, focusing first on the Gulf of Guinea.

It responds to specific African requests for assistance, is aligned with broad international community and U.S. objectives, and is reflective of the mission of the U.S. Africa Command.

It seeks to take partnerships into action in a concerted interagency and multinational effort to promote maritime governance around Africa. APS is inspired by the belief that effective maritime safety and security will contribute to development, economic prosperity, and security ashore.

RED CROSS continued from page 2

programs but also helping to educate our military and family members. The Dental Assistants Program is an example of how the Red Cross in coordination with tenant Commands can reach into the community to raise support while giving back an education or skill set to the individual volunteer.

Naval Hospital Sigonella Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant Program requires applicants to be truly dedicated due to its intensive nature. Volunteers must complete 80 hours of classroom instruction followed by 300 hours of clinical "hands-on" training. The prospective candidate must be a registered Red Cross Volunteer, complete multiple hospital administrative requirements, submit a personal resume and be current in CPR and first aid. If selected, our training offers the volunteer a career path into dentistry/ medicine that can be taken further if desired. Upon completion of the program the volunteer receives a certificate and can request a letter of recommendation at any time from the

course director.

NH Sigonella began its first Dental Assistants class on January 28, 2008. Nine people were selected from the applicant pool by the Dental Assistant Program director. The 80 hour didactic portion of the course along with the final exam has been completed. Volunteers are now set to begin their hands on clinical training with two week rotations in all areas of the dental clinic: General Dentistry, Radiology, Oral Surgery and Operating Room, Periodontology, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Central Sterilization Techniques and Administrative Front Desk. The volunteers also get the opportunity to work not only at Naval Hospital Sigonella but NAS It's Flight Line clinic as well. Upon completion of the program, we are confident the individuals selected will be ready to apply for any basic Dental Assisting position, either military or private sector, if desired. On behalf of the Commanding Officer, NH Sigonella, we would like to congratulate the first class of Red Cross Dental Assistant Volunteers of 2008.



(Above) The class of volunteers for the Red Cross Dental Assistant Program.

Stampa

U.S. Navy Demonstrates World's Most Powerful EMRG at 10 Megajoules

Article from Office of Naval Research Public Affairs

The Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) successfully conducted a record-setting firing of an electromagnetic rail gun at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren.

An invited audience, including the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, who witnessed this revolutionary technology in action.

Roughead noted, "We should never lose sight of always looking for the next big thing, always looking to make our capability better, more effective than what anyone else can put on the battlefield."

He emphasized, "I never ever want to see a Sailor or Marine in a fair fight. I always want them to have the advantage."

ONR's Electromagnetic Rail Gun (EMRG) program is part of the Department of the Navy's Science and Technology investments, focused on developing new technologies to support Navy and Marine Corps war fighting needs.

ONR has facilitated a key partnership between leading scientists and engineers from Boeing, Charles Stark Draper Lab, Inc., General Atomics, Department of Energy (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory), U.S. Naval Academy, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval Sea Systems Command (PMS 500), Naval Surface

Warfare Center - Carderock and Dahlgren Divisions, the U.S. Army and United Kingdom.

"We are seeing the culmination of years of research coming together to bring focus to exciting new technology," said Chief of Naval Research, Rear Adm. Bill Landay. "Here at ONR we are striving to move S&T from vision to results."

The technology uses high power electromagnetic energy instead of explosive chemical propellants (energetics) to propel a projectile farther and faster than any preceding gun. At full capability, the rail gun will be able to fire a projectile more than 200 nautical miles at a muzzle velocity of mach seven and impacting its target at mach five. In contrast, the current Navy gun, MK 45 five-inch gun, has a range of nearly 20 miles. The high velocity projectile will destroy its targets due to its kinetic energy rather than with conventional explosives.

The safety aspect of the rail gun is one of its greatest potential advantages, according to Dr. Elizabeth D'Andrea, ONR's Electromagnetic Railgun Program Manager. Safety on board ship is increased because no explosives are required to fire the projectile and no explosive rounds are stored in the ship's magazine.

Science and technology challenges met by ONR in the development of the rail gun include development of the launcher, pulse power generation and the guided projectile design. The program's goal is to demonstrate a full capability, integrated railgun prototype by 2016-2018.



Photograph taken from a high-speed video camera during a record-setting firing of an electromagnetic railgun (EMRG) at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren, Va., on January 31, 2008, firing at 10.64MJ (megajoules) with a muzzle velocity of 2520 meters per second.

**GOD'S HELP
continued from page 2**

two most beautiful children in the world (and yes I sincerely believe that) run up to me with open arms expecting me to pick them up and love on them. Can you imagine what would happen if I rejected their love and responded with closed arms and merely walked away? There would be great disappointment and no intimate interaction, or joy experienced. That's the way it is with God and us. He desires to love us unconditionally and to allow His Holy Spirit to fill us with power, all we have to do is respond to God's love and amazing grace. I pray that our wonderful com-

munity, both military and civilian, would be open and receptive to the healing compassion that only God can provide in times like this. The Heavenly Father may even use you to be part of the healing process while you are out and about in His world. We could be used by the Almighty to help those who are in our midst often by simple gestures of kindness and sensitivity. Be open to the leading of the Lord, and let's strive to be a blessing to one another at all times. Let us seek to pray for one another, to help each other, and to allow God to help us through this difficult time. Amen!

IL Mercato

All classified ads are free to the community. Their intent is for advertising personal property for sale trade or giveaway. No commercial ads will be accepted. Ads run for two weeks. Classified ads are due no later than 2 p.m. of the Friday of the week before publication. For more information call 624-5440 or 624-2798 or 095-86-last four digits. Requests for commercial classifieds must be made to Stampa Generale at 081-568-7884 .

SEND IL MERCATO ADVERTISEMENTS TO THESIG@NASSIG.SICILY.NAVY.MIL

AUTOMOTIVE

2001 Yamaha YZF, R1 Champions Edition (only 1,000 made) 7,000 miles, perfect condition both mechanically and cosmetically. Brand new tires and a Scott's steering dampner. Never been down or raced. Oil Change and serviced at all mi \$7,200.00 624-1592 Gary

1997 BMW 528i Automatic Metallic Blue, Beige leather interior, Power everything, command control, Maintained by BMW Dealership, New tires, brakes, oil, belts and etc... Excellent conditions, Asking for \$6500 OBO Call 3356428237 WK 624-4520 HM 624-1371

2002 Toyota Celica GTS 1.8 VVTI, Metallic Silver 6 speed manual, Blk leather interior, Power everything, ABS, front/side air bags, 17" Chrome rims and new tires, brakes. Excellent conditions, Asking for \$6500 OBO Call 3356428237 WK 624-4520 HM 624-1371

2002 Hunter Green Fiat Panda. Road tax paid though March 2008, tow bar, luggage rack, power win-

dows, CD Player, heater, 2-door/ hatchback, fold down back seat for added storage, very reliable, excellent gas mileage. \$3,500 USD. Call 340-360-1981 between 7:00am and 5:00pm.

1996 Mercedes E class 250, diesel,automatic, silver metallic, power windows, alarm,radio/cd,ac/heat, asking \$5,000. Call working hours 624 3859.

November 96 Fiat Brava color blue,km 133.000, 5 doors, A/C, powered window and locks, new silencer, new tyres, good condition. For more info. call 320-554-7471 after 16:00

2001 Opel Agila comfort, red, 4-dr, 1200cc, 5-sp, AC, Radio/CD, alloy wheels, low milage, orig owner, AFI Tags, exec cond. \$5,000 - OBO, tom hm 095 727-5442, cell 334-599-5623

1983 Buick Regal, 2 dr, Blue, AC, Automatic for \$500. Contact info Deede hX-0671, wk X-5244

2003 Infiniti G35 4-door, Fully Loaded; Bose Sound System, 55000 miles. Great Car Great Condition,

\$19,000 - Please call 3468246865 095306221

1994 Fiat Cinquecento, Cover Plated and Safety Inspected. Great Fuel Efficiency 15.5km/liter avg. Recent Alignment and interior Detail. Newer tires, recent oil change and Fluids. Great little island car priced at \$850 Mario 624-5318/work or 340-765-7978/cell. Vehicle is Located on NAS 2 Used Car lot!

Harley-Davidson FatBoy, 1999. Great condition. 36K miles. Extras. \$11,500. Call for details. 624-0187.

1991 Black BMW 318 4dr-2400 o.b.o. Cell: 340-709-2608, or Home: 624-0257

FOR SALE

HP laptop, DV6570US. Windows Vista, 15" screen, CD/DVD rewriter, Intel Core2 Duo, 2.00GHz, built-in webcam. Only used for approximately 6 months. Asking \$850 OBO. Call 348-971-5720.

Couch and Loveseat \$400.00 light tan in color and about 1 year old light usage. And 29 inch Sony TV \$100. Please contact Chris or Zsuzsa at

Oak Dinning table w/ 6 chairs, like new. \$650 obo. Couch, excellent cond, \$200 obo. Futon, like new \$100. 624-0187.

We are selling an armchair and bar stools. The natural-toned armchair has small Leonardo cherubs. Thick and comfy, it's perfect for a living room or children's room. Asking. \$100. The 2 hand-woven bar stools were crafted with great attention to detail with a distinctive herringbone design. Selling both for \$120. Contact Rebekah 624-1205

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.

Are your headlights all hazed over and ugly? Bring them to me, on or off the car and I will refinish them for a tenth of the cost of new headlights \$25. Mineo, 0629

MOMS Club of Sigonella, Mineo Chapter. Do you finding yourself doing the same

thing everyday and need a change of pace? We have many activities for both you and your child to enjoy! Call Sam at 624-0653.

PETS

Energetic, loving pet named Rudy needs a good home, He is a 1 1/2 year old Sicilian Mix. Rudy is potty trained and loves other pets. He comes with a crate, food, and 50 dollars! Contact Stephanie at 624-0687.

JOBS

Are you looking for a fun, P/T job with good pay & flexible hours? The Sigonella Athletic Officials Association has openings for referees, umpires, scorekeepers and fitness instructors. If you are, we'd like to meet with you: The SAOA is holding it's 1st Quarterly Meeting on Wed. Feb. 20th at 12:30 at Da Michele's on NAS II. All current members pls attend. See you there! For more info: 348.274.8397, X5852 (ask for Gee) 338.273.5683 or saoaesecr@yaho.com

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.

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Joes

Assomondo
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Volcano

Craivan

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