

# REGION STANDARD

JULY 2011

Issue 7



## Supporting the Coalition

### Sigonella Builds Tent City in Days

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# E S S E N T I A L C O M M S

## CLDJ Welcomes New Commanding Officer

Story by MC2 John Mike, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Public Affairs  
 DJIBOUTI, Africa - Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti welcomed a new commanding officer June 7 during a change of command ceremony at the only U.S. military base in Africa.

Capt. Scott Hurst relieved Capt. Darius Banaji, who commanded Camp Lemonnier since April 2010 and is scheduled to transfer to Gulfport, Miss., to lead the 25th Naval Construction Regiment.

"This has been an amazing and fast 14 months and the most challenging and rewarding tour of my career," said Banaji, before welcoming fellow naval engineer Hurst with some humorous advice. "You are the right officer for the next chapter in our history. Just measure twice before calling the boss at 2:45 in the

morning."

"This camp is on a journey of growth from tent camps to an area six times greater than it was in 2003," Hurst said, adding that he is ready to leave his own mark on Camp Lemonnier. "This is a journey ever evolving and I look forward to my place in it."

Camp Lemonnier is part of Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, which delivers effective and efficient readiness from the shore to allies, international partners and U.S. forces across three continents.

Region Commander Rear Adm. Tony Gaiani, spoke of how quality leadership at Camp Lemonnier is paramount because of the base's role as a hub for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) and other tenant commands that work with partner nations everyday

to promote security in the region.

"In my view, this is the most challenging and operationally significant base we have today; that's how important leadership is here. Camp

Lemonnier will remain in the best of hands," said Gaiani before encouraging the camp's new skipper. "Captain Hurst, let's get to work! We've got a lot to do."



Capt. Scott Hurst, right, commanding officer of Camp Lemonnier, prepares to accept the guidon from outgoing commanding officer, Capt. Darius Banaji, during the camp's change of command ceremony, June 7 in Djibouti, Africa. Photo by MC1 Joseph Garza.

## Capt. Gray Assumes Command of NSA Naples



Capt. Scott Gray, right, relieves Capt. Robert Rabuse, left, as commanding officer of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples during a change of command ceremony June 24. Rear Adm. Tony Gaiani, center, commander of Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest, who was the guest speaker at the event, commended Rabuse's efforts and the progress made since his May 2008 arrival in Naples. Gaiani welcomed Gray and challenged him to continue to raise the bar at NSA Naples. Photo by MC1 John Parker.



**Top:** Candy Gray pins the command ashore pin on her husband, Capt. Scott Gray, an aviator who most recently served as plans director at Navy Warfare Development Command in Norfolk, Va. Photo by MC1 John Parker.



**Bottom:** Capt. Scott Gray is piped ashore after the Naval Support Activity Naples change of command ceremony. Photo by MC1 John Parker.

## F E A T U R E D S T O R Y

# Navy, Air Force Deliver Coalition Housing in Joint Effort

Story by Tracie Barnhouse,  
Naval Air Station Sigonella  
Public Affairs

SIGONELLA, Sicily - Faced with barracks at 170 percent capacity and no sign of Operation Unified Protector ending anytime soon, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia and U.S. European Command (EUCOM) leadership recognized that berthing challenges at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella needed to be resolved - and quickly.

At EUCOM's direction, and with Italian government approval, U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) deployed basic expeditionary airfield resources (BEAR) kits to NAS Sigonella along with 57 personnel.

Air Force personnel feverishly worked alongside Seabees from Rota-based Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 of Rota, Seabees from NAS Sigonella as well as public works personnel.

"Tent city" was off the ground in a matter of days by late June.

When a decision was made that something needed to be done about berthing at NAS Sigonella, the gears started turning and plans were set into motion.

In late May, USAFE Capt. Anthony Behney traveled to Sigonella to conduct an initial site survey.

A location on NAS II was determined and work began on the site to grade the land and meet safety specifications.

Working together, Air Force and Seabee teams constructed 50 livable tents, capable of housing up to 550 people, in 72 hours. An additional 15 tents for showers and restrooms were also set up.

"It really just came together," said Lt. Brad Roberts, from NMCB 74. "Sometimes you plan for buffer spaces and count on something to go wrong, and strangely enough, nothing went wrong and we were able to push on our fastest time schedule."

No Seabee team members had worked with Air Force BEAR kits prior to the Sigonella project, but Roberts said



An empty Field on Naval Air Station Sigonella, pictured above, was converted into "Murphy's Ridge," shown on the cover. Photo above by SW2 Ben Nablo. Cover photo by Tracie Barnhouse.

that communication between his team and the Air Force was fantastic. Everyone kept each other fully in the loop.

"The tents are very well designed and my Seabees were easily integrated into the Air Force setup teams. It was just doing what Seabees do," Roberts said.

NAS Sigonella Commanding Officer Capt. Scott Butler was impressed.

"It's a testament to the Air Force guys and the Seabees from both Rota and Sigonella," Butler said.

"It's been great teamwork between Air Force and Navy, Rota and Sigonella. Senior leadership, both militarily and politically, can't believe how fast this has come together to support housing needs of the Coalition personnel deployed to the base," he said.

In accordance with orders, the tents will be stationed at NAS Sigonella for six months.

Seabees are in the process of refurbishing barracks on NAS II, and Capt. Butler expects that as those facilities

become available Coalition forces will move out of the tents and into barrack rooms.

But for now the tents which each holds up to 12 people, are fully air conditioned, lit, and provide the basic necessities - will have to do.

"It has that new tent smell," said Butler. "It's about as nice of a tent you're ever going to get."

Realizing that support from Sigonella for Unified Protector is a 24/7 operation, the tent camp is divided into sections that accommodate day and night shifts.

"The overall objective is that there's a coalition of people doing a job out there, and we want to keep that coalition running," said Lt. Philip Romeo, the appointed camp commandant. "We want to be considerate of the occupants of the camp."

The tent city has been unofficially named "Murphy's Ridge" after Medal of Honor recipient, Navy SEAL Lt. Michael Murphy.



Photo by Tracie Barnhouse.

# A R O U N D T H E R E G I O N

## Practicing Damage Control in Exercise Phoenix Express

SOUDA BAY, Crete - Teams from four ships came together to participate in a damage control training workshop as part of exercise Phoenix Express 2011 at Marathi Pier in Souda Bay, June 2.

USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49), one of the U.S. participants, hosted a team of multinational sailors in a hands-on demonstration and practical application of U.S. damage control techniques and equipment.

"This training is important because we have the opportunity to see the different types of equipment used in other navies," said Royal Morocco navy Lt. j.g. Vasiliki Katsantoni, an engineering assistant for Royal Morocco navy ship Hassan II. "We all have similar equipment but it is nice to see what other navies use."

The goals of this workshop were to increase participating countries' knowledge and experience in damage control, and to help all of the participants gain an understanding of the principles used by partner navies and their firefighting techniques.

"We are just showing our partners at Phoenix Express what kinds of equipment we are using as well as a practical demonstration of hose handling and pipe patching," said U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Christopher Boyad, damage controlman and damage control chief aboard FFG 49. "Pretty much we all use the same concepts, the same basic ensembles and the same firefighting equipment."

-Navy Public Affairs Support Element-  
Det. East

## Vice President Biden Visits Naples (VIDEO)

## Swift Crews Turnover in Preparation for APS

ROTA, Spain - The Gold Crew of High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) exchanged command June 21 with Swift's Blue Crew at Naval Station Rota in preparation for its upcoming Africa Partnership Station (APS) 2011 deployment.

With a rotational manning concept, crew

NAPLES, Italy - Vice President Joe Biden speaks to U.S. and NATO services members and their families at Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, June 4 as his wife, Dr. Jill Biden and Adm. Locklear, commander of Naval Forces Europe-Africa, look on. Photo by MC1 John Parker.



turnovers are a common occurrence aboard Swift, substituting crews every four months, allowing Swift to remain forward deployed nearly the entire year, thus enhancing its operational impact to the fleet.

Swifts' Gold Crew recently completed a 122-day deployment, covering more than 15,000 nautical miles, 37 stops in 14 countries during its participation in Southern Partnership Station 2011 and the multinational training exercise African Lion 2011.

"During every crew turnover our goal is to not interrupt the mission," said Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth T. Creameans, officer in charge of Swifts' Gold Crew. "Having two crews allows Swift to always have a presence wherever and whenever it's needed."

-C6F Public Affairs

## International Cooperation Assists Sick Mariner

GULF OF ADEN - Cooperation between four ships of three nations assisted an ill civilian mariner in the Gulf of Aden, June 6.

The Filipino mariner was working on board M/V Baltic Island when he fell ill. The vessel requested assistance from Republic of Korea Ship Chungmogong Yi Sun-shin (DDH 975).

Chungmogong Yi Sun-shin responded and sent their military medical doctor to Baltic Island to evaluate the mariner.

Combined Maritime Forces based in Bahrain, was contacted to coordinate transferring the man by helicopter to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (UK) Argus (A135),

which has additional medical facilities.

He was then transferred by a to the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65), which has a full medical suite, including operating rooms and intensive care capability.

Enterprise's medical department stabilized the man before transferring him to a nearby land-based hospital for continued medical care.

-C5F Public Affairs

## Diving Teams Participate in Eurasian Partnership Dive 2011

CONSTANTA, Romania - Azerbaijani, Bulgarian, Georgian, Romanian, Ukrainian and U.S. diving teams met last week in Constanta, Romania, for the engagement event Eurasian Partnership Dive 2011, co-hosted by the Romanian and U.S. navies.

The exercise was able to determine the progress made by NATO allies and partners towards diving interoperability and training, manning and equipment capabilities.

Master Chief Petty Officer Kelly Polk, Navy diver, was convinced that the international meet with four Black Sea and one Caspian Sea country was an excellent opportunity to extend the international relations and goodwill of the U.S. Navy.

"To see how each country conducts their dives, to see not just their capabilities, but also to observe our differences in each country's style of diving was very educational for us," said Polk.

-C6F Public Affairs

# B I G N A V Y N E W S

## Secretary Gates' Farewell Message

To the men and women of the United States armed forces: tomorrow, 30 June 2011, I will retire as secretary of defense. It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve and to lead you for the past four and a half years.

All of that time we have been engaged in two wars and countless other operations. It has been a difficult time for you and your families, from long and repeated deployments from all four services, and the associated long separations from loved ones, to the anguish of those of you who have lost friends and family in combat or those of you who have suffered visible and invisible wounds of war yourselves. But your dedication, courage and skill have kept America safe even while bringing the war in Iraq to a successful conclusion and, I believe, at last turning the tide in Afghanistan. Your countrymen owe you their freedom and their security. They sleep safely at night and pursue their dreams during the day because you stand the watch and protect them.

For four and a half years, I have signed orders deploying you, all too often into harms way. This has weighed on me every day. I have known about and felt your hardship, your difficulties, your sacrifice more than you can possibly imagine. I have felt personally responsible for each of you, and so I have tried to do all I could to provide whatever was needed so that you could complete your missions successfully and come home safely, and if hurt, get the fastest and best care in the world.

You are the best America has to offer. My admiration and affection for you is without limit, and I will think about you and your families and pray for you everyday for the rest of my life.

God bless you.

### Army Honors Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4

CAMP KRUTKE, Afghanistan - The Secretary of the Army awarded the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) for exceptionally meritorious conduct during the battalion's deployment to Afghanistan, January through August 2010.

"Our Seabees worked extremely hard last deployment, and getting the MUC is essentially a very nice thank you letter," said Cmdr. La Tanya E. Simms, commanding officer, NMCB 4.

NMCB 4's current deployment is also in Afghanistan. The battalion, supporting Task Force Overlord and the II Marine Expeditionary Force, took over construction operations from NMCB 3 at Camp Leath-

erneck, June 17.

"This also sets the bar pretty high for our current deployment," Simms said. "It shows our folks that working hard, a part of our command philosophy, means something."

-Naval Construction Battalion 4 Public Affairs

Microsoft, Home Depot, Starbucks and the Navy Federal Credit Union are just a few of the nearly 60 corporations and companies that have signed on with the DoD partnership, said Robert L. Gordon III, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy.

When the partnership is launched at the Chamber of Commerce here, Gordon expects 14 more companies will be added to the partnership's roster.

"The design of this program is to bring together those spouses who want to work with a web portal where companies that would like to employ our military spouses can find them," he said.

That web portal is Military OneSource -- located at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> -- which also offers job-seeking resources such as resume building. People can call OneSource consultants at 1-800-342-9647.

- Armed Forces Press Service Public Affairs



VALPARAISO, Chile - Petty Officer 2nd Class Roprigo Fuentes, right, and 2nd Sgt. Bernardo Alcaide, navy divers assigned to the Chilean Buzo Salvatoaja, walk along the ocean floor during diving operations June 29. Photo by MC1 Jayme Pastoric.

### An Inside Look at the Navy's Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School (VIDEO)

### Partnership Links Military Spouses and Employers

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department has launched a new partnership June 29, that's intended to expand job opportunities for military spouses by connecting them with employers actively seeking to hire them.

# C O M M U N I T Y O U T R E A C H

## Rota Personnel Meet Community Need



Story and Photos by Jan Hammond, Naval Station Rota Public Affairs

ROTA, Spain - Naval Station (NS) Rota's First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) knows what it means to lend a helping hand to those in need of assistance.

With the help of the Rota community, 34 service members and civilians descended upon the Cyd Santa Maria Horse Rescue Center, an organization the FCPOA has chosen to assist with much needed manual labor and supplies.

This refuge for injured, abandoned and abused horses relies solely on donations and volunteers to maintain the center.

Extreme cases of neglect and abuse are brought to the refuge which offers medical treatment and a second chance at life. The horses are adopted when possible, but in some cases, stay the remainder of their lives - out of harms way.

Yeoman First Class Earl McFarland, president of the NS Rota FCPOA said they exceeded their goal of doing more than last year and even had to turn people away as they had so many volunteer requests.

"The outstanding response throughout the base makes this my dream that this COMREL will one day be adopted by Naval Base Rota as a whole," said McFarland. "You walk away with that feeling of accomplishment and the satisfaction of giving back to the communities of our host nation."

Rota volunteers arrived at the center ready to work with tools in hand.

By the end of the day volunteers installed 200 fence posts, attached electric fencing, replaced damaged stable walls, and painted wooden stable walls and iron gates.

Service members, families and other personnel also welded and erected a metal horse shelter that will enable the facility to accommodate 10 more horses.

"The work that the Americans do here

is amazing, and I cannot express how much we appreciate all that they do," said Concordia Marquez Garcia, the owner of the rescue center.

"With the work the Americans have done, we will be able to home more horses and continue our work rescuing animals in need," added Garcia.

The FCPOA raised funds throughout the year to help support this community service project.

The chapel, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 FCPOA, U.S. Naval Hospital Rota, Spain's FCPOA, and the Chief Petty Officer Association provided financial support to help NS Rota FCPOA to meet a local need.



**Top:** A volunteer welds together pieces of a metal horse shelter, June 11. The completed horse shelter was large enough to accommodate 10 horses.

**Right:** A volunteer makes repairs to a damaged stable wall. Volunteers also installed 200 fence posts, electric fencing and welded iron gates.

**Bottom:** Members of Naval Station Rota's First Class Petty Officer Association pose for a group photo with fellow volunteers at the Cyd Santa Maria horse rescue center after providing much needed repairs and upgrades during a weekend volunteer event.

