

REGION STANDARD

APR 2011

NAVY REGION EUROPE, AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA

Issue 4



ODYSSEY DAWN TAKES FLIGHT



Essential Comms: CNR EURAFSWA Retires After 30 Years of Service

Featured Story: Navy Achieves Firsts During Odyssey Dawn

Big Navy News: Navy Seeking STA-21 Applicants

Region Diversity: Celebrating Women In The Navy



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

CNR EURAFSWA COS RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS

From CNR EURAFSWA Public Affairs

NAPLES, Italy – “Have fun, have a sense of humor and be able to laugh at yourself.” Those words are some of the lasting pieces of advice that Capt. Manuel E. Falcon gave to co-workers, friends, and family as his retirement ceremony came to a close March 31. As a light-hearted, family man with a reserved demeanor, these words seemed to epitomize a stellar career filled with genuine smiles and faithful service.

Falcon, Navy Region Europe, Africa Southwest Asia (CNR EURAFSWA) Chief of Staff, retired after 30 years of devoted service to the Navy. “I prepared 30 years for a retirement filled with great sea stories and lies about the greatness of my career as an officer,” joked a smiling Falcon as he spoke during the ceremony.

Throughout his career Falcon has never shied away from what he says is the job of Naval Officers – to be at sea.

After graduating the Naval Academy in 1981, Falcon attended Surface Warfare Officer training in Coronado, Ca, and then reported to USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) as a division officer, serving as the damage control assistant (DCA).

Following that tour, Falcon served consecutive department head tours aboard USS Rentz (FFG 46) and USS Cowpens (CG 63). In 1991, Falcon attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College where he earned a Master’s Degree in Military Arts and Science. He then served on staff of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, followed by orders as executive officer of USS Merrill (DD 976), and later served at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Ca.

Falcon then served as the commanding officer for Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Miami, afterwards further making a name for himself as a member of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) and the Navy Re-

gion Singapore chief of staff. Upon completion of his tour in Singapore, Falcon traveled to Italy to his last command.

“Join the Navy and see the world,” said Read Adm. Anthony Gaiani, Commander Navy Region EURAFSWA. “What an amazing career he [Falcon] has had both ashore and at sea. He is truly leaving our service a little better than he found it. I and so many others look on Ed’s retirement with a bit of sadness.”

Offering advice about wisdom he has learned throughout his 30-year career, Falcon said, “the day your Sailors stop coming to you with their problems is the day you stop leading them,” adding that Sailors should “never look back unless you intend to go that way.”

In the end, Falcon was filled with words of encouragement for his subordinates and his peers alike. “It’s the people I will remember...It’s always been about the people.”

Front Cover: Sailors watch a MH-60C Seahawk land aboard USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) in support of Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn. JTF Odyssey Dawn was established to provide operational and tactical command and control of U.S. forces supporting the international response to the unrest in Libya. Photo by MC2 Daniel Viramontes.

The Region Standard

The Region Standard is a Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (CNREURAFSWA) publication disseminating national, regional and local news and information.

With contributions from public affairs offices throughout the AOR, The Region Standard is staffed by:

Editor: Lt. Cmdr. David Benham

Asst. Editor: Lt. Tim Hawkins

Layout: IC1 Brian Teneyck,

MC2 Marc Rockwell-Pate

www.facebook.com/cnreurafswa

MCPON: HAPPY 118TH BIRTHDAY CPOS

From MCPON West

WASHINGTON -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Chief Petty Officer birthday message to the Fleet March 28.

“My fellow chief petty officers, on April 1st, our entire Mess will pause to celebrate 118 years of the United States Navy Chief Petty Officer, and we’re not just celebrating another year of chiefs serving the Navy, we’re celebrating everything it means to wear the fouled anchors we all cherish.

Those anchors are the symbol of a culture and a way of life, representing character, loyalty, a strong commitment to leadership, our core values, and Navy ethos. Our anchors carry with them a

responsibility to live up to the tradition of selfless service, while remembering our proud heritage that we’ve spent 118 years building as we look toward our future.

Thank you Chiefs! Through your leadership of our Sailors, you continue to keep our heritage alive and our Navy strong — and as you know our Navy is the best it has ever been. Continue to make a positive impact on your command, your Sailors, yourself and our Mess.

Remember those who have gone before us and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation.

Happy birthday Shipmates! I truly appreciate your leadership and the hard

work you do every day.

Anchor Up and Hooyah Navy Chiefs!”



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

NAVY FIRSTS DURING ODYSSEY DAWN

From CNE-CNA/C6F
Public Affairs

NAPLES, Italy – There's a first time for everything, and during Operation Odyssey Dawn the U.S. Navy made several first-time accomplishments as a military service and in partnering with joint forces March 31.

In the beginning of Odyssey Dawn, strikes were made against Libyan military sites by coalition forces with Tomahawk Land to Air Missiles (TLAMs), the evening of March 19.

Amidst the forces were two U.S. Navy ships and three submarines, including the USS Florida (SSGN 728).

This strike against Libyan forces marked the first time that an Ohio-class guided-missile submarine launched a TLAM in conflict.

"What an accomplishment for the submarine force," said Capt. Mark Davis, commodore, Task Force



Above: Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, second from right, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) commander speaks with Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella commanding officer Capt. Scott Butler, second from left, about Joint Task Force (JTF) Odyssey Dawn before transitioning to the USS Mount Whitney (LCC/JCC 20) in support of JTF Odyssey Dawn.

69. "This multi-mission platform can remain undetected, yet provide a full range of capabilities to the commander."

The following day, U.S. Navy EA-18G Growlers were used against hostile forces for the first time, in conjunction with U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers, as electronic warfare support jamming enemy transmissions.

Further in the operation, U.S. Navy and coalition units came to aid of the Libyan people to engage Libyan Coast Guard vessel Vittoria and two smaller craft who were firing indiscriminately at merchant vessels in the port of Misrata, Libya, during the late evening of March 28.

Commander, Task Force (CTF) 65 led by Capt. Dan Shaffer,

analyzed their collected data to move appropriate Joint Force Maritime Component Command (JFMCC) forces into position to observe real time events, making this operation the first time that a Sea Combat Commander has coordinated and executed a combined strike against hostile naval forces.

Vittoria was engaged and fired upon by a U.S. Navy P-3C Maritime Patrol aircraft with AGM-65 Maverick missiles; the first time that these missiles have ever been fired on a hostile vessel by a P-3C.

"P-3s have provided 24/7 ISR maritime domain awareness critical to the protection of U.S. and coalition surface assets in the JOA since the initiation

of Odyssey Dawn," said Capt. Dan Schebler, commodore, Commander Task Force 67. "This engagement demonstrates the ability of the P-3 to complete the sensor-to-shooter kill chain, in parallel providing a key capability to the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander and the Composite Warfare Commander."

While in pursuit of Vittoria, USS Barry (DDG 52), part of the Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike Group, and coalition naval forces from the French, Italian, Spanish and United Kingdom navies contributed to the engagement by keeping merchant and humanitarian assistance vessels away from the engagement area and out of harms way.



Left: The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Stout sits pierside in Augusta Bay, Italy, loading supplies in support of JTF OD. Photo by MC2 Daniel Viramontes.

Above: A Qatar Emiri Air Force Dassault Mirage 2000-5 fighter jet takes off as part of a JTF OD. JTF OD is the U.S. Africa Command task force established to provide operational and tactical command and control of U.S. military forces supporting the enforcement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. Photo by Paul Farley.

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

NAS Sigonella Organizes Reception Center

Sigonella, Italy -- Service members from Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella volunteered to help organize a Joint Reception Center at the NAS II Chapel in support of NATO coalition forces who will be spending time at NAS Sigonella in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn.

"The Joint Reception Center was basically put in place to capture anyone who has anything to do with Operation Odyssey Dawn," NAS Sigonella Administrative Officer, Lt. j.g. Chris McHenry said.

"We wanted to set-up the location on NAS II for obvious reasons. Most personnel will be staying in the Navy Gateway Inns and Suites and will be operating on this side of the base.

As Admin personnel, we have to keep account of everyone coming on base in case there is a natural disaster or other event that requires a full recall of all personnel. We have to know who's here. The main idea is not only to account for them but also to provide them with the services and information they might need."

McHenry has been volunteering extensively since the doors opened Mar. 14 and said he will continue to assist new personnel on the island.

"Our goal is for the Joint Reception Center to be the first place folks come to, once they land," McHenry said. "That way, we can get all their information and assist them with things they may need such as flightline badges, transportation, lodging, NIPERNET/SIPERNET access, office space, etc. by connecting them with the right people. Our goal is to be a one-stop shop."

McHenry said it's been challenging, especially trying to put together something in such a short amount of time, but thinks it will come together the more people hear about the center.

"So far the biggest problem we've been having is that there hasn't been a lot of notice from people who are coming here, so we'll get forces in with no advance warning," McHenry said. "So we've been more proactive in finding these people coming on the base. With the assistance of Emergency Operation Center personnel, we are refining our processes and looking forward to making the Joint Re-

ception Center the best first impression of Sigonella."

-NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

Souda Bay Celebrates 69th Seabee Ball

SOUDA BAY, Crete --The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Seabees attached to Naval Support Activity Souda Bay's Public Works Department hosted their 69th Anniversary Seabee Ball on Friday, March 18, 2011, at the Perle Resort Hotel. After months of planning and fundraising, the night's dinner and various ceremonial events went without a hitch.

"It was a much larger turnout than expected..." said Builder Constructionman Annie Kuhn, "... everyone had a really great time."

Officials attending the event included guest speaker, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Rear Adm. Christopher Mossey, and NSA's commanding officer, Capt. Scott Hogan.

"Happy Birthday Seabees!" said Mossey excitedly, while the Seabees replied with a resounding "HOO-YAH!"

"I am so proud of you Seabees here at Souda Bay. You guys uphold the tradition, and the honor of many generations of Seabees before you... Don't forget those we have lost and remember them as we celebrate those who are the builders of the Navy."

Seabees and Sailors joined in the revelry of the night that included singing the song of the Seabees, music and dancing.

-NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs

CLDJ Grabs Top Three Spots in Fitness Challenge

CAMP LEMONNIER--Three U.S. service members were honored March 12 at the French 5th Overseas Interim Regiment (RIAOM) base for taking the top three spots in the Tin Cat military physical training competition.

U.S. Army Specialist Matthew Barker, U.S. Air Force Senior Airman John Music and U.S. Navy Commander Jim Moonier took first, second and third place, respectively, in the event held February 27. All were presented trophies from the RIAOM's commanding officer, French

Colonel Frédéric Gauthier, during the base's March 12 morning colors ceremony.

Competitors must complete several physical challenges in succession within 35 minutes: 50 pull-ups, six rope climbs without using the legs, 100 push-ups, 100 sit-ups, a 440 meter run with a 66 pound backpack and bench-press 135 pounds ten times.

For Barker, he said the satisfaction of taking first-place was profound as he had broken his hand while practicing Jujitsu earlier in the year. Barker's cast was removed just three weeks before the competition and he qualified for the event during late try-outs. His time was the fourth fastest in Tin Cat history at 17 minutes 2 seconds.

Moonier, also the team's captain, monitored Barker's performance during the try-outs and noticed that the injury had hampered Barker's ability.

"He made the team, but he fell well short of his former speed and strength and was hampered by his injury," said Moonier. "But, when he was selected for the team, something lit up a fire in him and he charged out of the gate at game time and never looked back."

Barker said rigorous physical training is a regular part of his life.

"It feels terrific," said Barker after he stepped off of the awards podium. "I train all-year-round and fitness is a big part of my life. I try to take negative energy and turn it in to something positive."

Barker's fellow competitor and teammate, Music, was equally enthusiastic.

"It feels terrific," said Music about his second-place finish. "I want to put [Expeditionary Rescue Squadron] on the map."

The February competition was Moonier's fourth since he began competing in November, 2009 and his first top-three finish in the contest.

"This one I've earned," said Moonier. "Aside from the day I held my son when he was born, holding this little piece of glass with a little brass plate is a pinnacle for me. It means that months of dedication and training yields victories."

The competition is sponsored by the French military and began in 2008. The event is held twice a year, usually in March and November.

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



Above: (L-R) Ricky Brockman, Deputy Director of Navy F&ES programs Washington, D.C.; Tin Ybarra, NS Rota Fire Chief; Christopher Hubner, NS Rota F&ES Battalion Chief 2008-2011; John O'Neal, Fire Chief at Chantilly, Va., and Brian Help, NSA Naples F&ES Chief, pose for a photo after NS Rota earned accreditation by the CFAI. Photo by Rota Fire

Rota F&ES Earns Accreditation

ROTA, Spain -- NAVSTA Rota Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) became the first Department of Defense F&ES department outside the United States to become accredited unanimously by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) March 8.

The CFAI assists F&ES agencies around the world achieve organizational and professional excellence by examining past, current and future service levels and performance, and compare them to industry best practices. This process leads to improved service by helping fire departments determine community risk and safety needs, evaluate the performance of the department and establish a method for achieving continuous organizational improvement.

"We started this long and arduous process to become an accredited agency back in 2005," said NAVSTA Rota F&ES Fire Chief Tim Ybarra. "We had to review standard operating procedures, management instructions, develop fire demand zones and track deficiencies and risk assessments to become an accredited fire service agency for the Department of Defense Navy Fire."

According to the CFAI, the self-assessment process demands the largest portion of time to achieve accreditation. Data indicates that it takes 700 to 1,000 staff hours to complete the entire process. Although this is a substantial commitment of time and resources, departments nationwide have demonstrated the value of the self-assessment process and accreditation model.

Ybarra began the process as the first accreditation manager and during the next five years, managers came and went due to the overseas turnover rates. Ybarra hand-picked Battalion Chief Christopher Hubmer to continue in the footsteps of a long line of distinguished accreditation managers and together they drove the accreditation process to its final destination making it a reality in 2011.

"Chief Hubmer, with his well orchestrated accreditation team lead by Assistant Chief Eugene Corpuz, started from scratch and was able to pull everything together," said Ybarra. "The success of the process stemmed from the talents of all members of the organization and the support from the base commanding officer who was very supportive and embraced the program for its potential."

"I'm extremely proud of Fire Chief Ybarra's team in achieving this accreditation from the CFAI," said NAVSTA Commanding Officer Capt. Bill Mosk. "They've worked extremely hard over the past six years for this accomplishment, their accreditation certainly confirms this hard work, and firmly believe we have the best Fire and Emergency Services

crew in the entire DoD."

"What we achieved at this moment will lay the groundwork for the future successes of this department," said Hubmer. "I feel deep in my heart that Rota is unique and a top-notch organization with top-rate firefighters who inspired me to push ahead full force throughout the accreditation process.

Chief Ybarra said he is extremely proud of our staff and members for their commitment to seek a higher level of excellence.

"This accreditation not only signifies the years and long hours of hard work, but also proves the effectiveness and efficiency of our organization," said Ybarra. "It has been an honor and we feel a great sense of accomplishment, we hope this will help lead the path for other DoD departments inside and outside the United States in their quest for excellence."

-NS Rota Public Affairs



Above: With the help of the American Red Cross Naples, Japanese spouses hosted a two-day bake sale at NSA Naples, Italy to support the disaster relief efforts in Japan. Thanks to the generous donations made by the community in the forms of both money and delicious sweets, the bake sale raised over \$5,600. Pictured from left to right: Yukiko Woodbury, Jacquie Mack, Akiko Stone, Jasmyn Garvey, Masae Parker, Yuko Garvey and Camilla Dobraniecki. Photo by MC1 (NAO) John Parker.

B I G N A V Y N E W S

Navy Accepting STA-21 Applications

From Naval Service Training
Command Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES -- The Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) commissioning program, which provides an opportunity for qualified Sailors to receive college educations and Navy commissions, is soliciting applications for fiscal year 2012, as announced in NAVADMIN 114/11 April 1.

The deadline for submitting application packages is July 1.

"STA-21 is a full-time, undergraduate education and commissioning program open to enlisted personnel of all pay grades and ratings to receive a top-notch college education and become commissioned officers," said Cathy Kempf, head of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program selection and placement, and STA-21, at Naval Service Training Command's (NSTC) Officer Development

directorates in Pensacola, Fla.

According to NROTC Program Director Dr. C. Jill Stein, the STA-21 program is one of the best officer commissioning programs the Navy has to offer.

"STA-21 pays up to \$10,000 per year for college costs such as tuition, books and fees," said Stein. "All the while, Sailors draw their full pay and allowances for their current pay grade. Under the STA-21 program, Sailors have 36 months, including summer semesters, to complete their Bachelor's degree requirements."

All STA-21 officer candidates attend the Naval Science Institute (NSI) course at Officer Training Command (OTC), Naval Station Newport, R.I., prior to beginning college studies at an NROTC affiliated college or university.

NSI is an eight-week course of intense officer preparation and indoctrination. Course en-

rollment is timed to allow college entrance during summer or fall semesters/quarters after selection.

The STA-21 program benefits Sailors as well as the Navy. The average candidate has at least two years and in most cases more than four years of observed performance which assists in the process of selecting the most qualified Sailors to receive a commission.

Additionally, STA-21 candidates are on average older than most midshipmen, bringing a maturity directly reflected in the more than 90 percent completion rate STA-21 program candidates boast.

Additionally, many Sailors involved in the STA-21 program already have some college credit and some candidates finish ahead of the three years allotted to earn a degree.

All of these factors - proven performance for better selection, maturity for higher com-

pletion rates, and previous college credit - save the Navy money while producing top-quality naval officers.

"With so many great Sailors to choose from, selection boards often look for the tie breakers or the indicators of extra effort, potential and desire; in this regard the STA-21 program is no exception," Stein said. "As always, performance is the number one criteria. When given the chance to lead, take it. No matter how small the opportunity, step up and lead people, and lead them well. Also attend to your physical, as well as your professional, preparedness."

Application packages must be postmarked on or before the July 1 deadline date. The deadline for submission of additional documentation is August 1.

Questions concerning this program should be directed to command career counselors or to the NSTC Officer Development directorate at (850) 452-9563.

Navy Announcements

Sailors Must Verify Their Death Gratuity Beneficiary

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Due to a change in the law regarding death gratuity and recent upgrades to the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS), officials are urging Sailors to verify their designated death gratuity beneficiaries beginning March 17.

Sailors Offered Early Out; Reserve Affiliation

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Active duty and Full Time Support (FTS) Sailors who want to pursue Reserve options have a new opportunity to do so with the Early Career Transition Program (ECTP) announced March 17.

NAVADMIN 088/11 - ENLISTED EARLY CAREER TRANSITION PROGRAM

NAVADMIN 095/11 - FY-11 ADVANCED EDUCATION VOUCHER PROGRAM

NAVADMIN 104/11 - 2011 NAVY AND FLEET RIFLE AND PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIPS



PASCAGOULA, Miss. (March 26, 2011) Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, christens the amphibious transport dock ship Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Arlington (LPD 24) at Northrop Grumman shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss. Arlington is the third San Antonio-class ship that will be named in remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Photo by MC2 Dale Patrick Frost.

R E G I O N D I V E R S I T Y

We Can Do The Job Just As Good As Men...

Story and Photos by MC2 Travis Alston, NS Rota Public Affairs

With a delicate but proud face, and what co-workers often describe as motherly characteristics, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Markeeta Hardin is a prime example that a female, single parent service member can be successful in the military.

Working extra hours to ensure her Sailors are taken care of is a daily routine for this Springfield, TN native. She has a pleasant smile, but when it's needed, she can be one of the most challenging and respected women you will ever meet. Her demeanor expresses her ambition and expertise when it comes to dealing with service members and their careers.

Hardin attributes success in the Navy and as a woman to growing from the experiences that got her here.

She grew up in a average middle-class home with her mom, step-father and two siblings. Both parents worked

full-time in factories and also worked in tobacco fields, cleaned houses and ironed clothes to support the family.

Even as a child, Hardin always wanted to wear a military uniform.

"I loved the look and was infatuated with the discipline that service members displayed while in uniform. My uncle would always tell me that I was going to join the military, because of how mature and disciplined I was."

In September 2000, she decided to patrol the seas with her fellow Sailors and enlisted in the U.S. Navy and after completing basic training, received orders to the coastal mine hunter USS CORMORANT (MSC 57). She would start her Navy career in the ship's deck department.

"I strived to not only equal but to exceed my male coworkers, by getting officer of the deck qualified as a seaman, the only qualified master helmsman for the ship and various other designations helped me achieve that goal during my first 12 months aboard the ship," said Hardin.

She said, she knew there was something bigger in store for her. Even though she was having great success in deck, she admired the authority and mannerism of the master-at-arms she saw on base and knew she would get her chance to wear the MA shield.

After being in deck for about two years, she applied for master at arms A school and was accepted.

"MA1 Hardin was an outstanding worker and Sailor," said Hardin's first Security Officer MACM A.J. Stillwell. "Her



job always came first, her personal life never got in the way of her work. While there she mentored other single parents that were having problems dealing with their work and personal lives, which made my job much easier."

Hardin took the helm as Security Leading Petty Officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

"It was one of the most difficult situations I've ever had to endure. To go from shore duty to an aircraft carrier was a real eye opener for me," said Hardin. "I had three times the personnel to supervise. There were numerous times when my leadership ability and authority was tested. I had to have the ability to hold my own, no matter what the task was I was willing to pick up the slack of others, and that's something that I constantly remind my female Sailors of."

After arriving to Naval Station Rota, she decided to take a break away from the prestigious MA shield and gun belt for some slacks and a pair of comfortable heels as a contracting office representative for the NAVSTA Rota Vehicle Processing Center.

"When I first got here, I figured that this would be a nice vacation for me and my son,

said Hardin. This would give me a chance to unwind and relax a little from the long and demanding hours I put in on the IKE"

But being the selfless and dedicated person she is, Hardin couldn't settle with just doing the minimum and began her reign as Supply Department/FISC leading petty officer and career counselor.

"When I decided to take these orders I asked [my son] would it be okay with him if we went to Spain for a few years. He was so excited about the new adventure ahead of us," said Hardin.

"I always think to myself, is this the best thing for my career, but I also think is this the best thing for my son. He is my number one supporter and always pushes me to do better."

Though Hardin says she feels successful so far, in her 11-year military career, she strives to exceed the expectations and goals she has set for herself as a Sailor, mom and friend.

"Honestly, I just want to make a positive impact on anyone that I meet. I'm always pushing myself to do better," said Hardin. "Not only do I want to succeed in the Navy, but I want to be the best mother that I can be."

