

REGION STANDARD

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COMMEMORATING SHARED SACRIFICES

DRAGUIGNAN, France - Ceremonial color guards from Naval Support Activities Rota, Spain, and French marines from the 3rd Marine Artillery Regiment, Canjuers, present colors at the Rhone American National Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 29. Photo by MC1 Gary Keen.

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WWII REMEMBRANCE: EUROPEAN THEATER

U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS OF NAVY REGION EURAFSWA HONOR FALLEN HEROES OF WWII IN DRAGUIGNAN, FRANCE AND NETTUNO, ITALY

NS Rota Personnel Participate in Rhone Ceremony

Story by MC2 Travis Alston

DRAGUIGNAN, France - Service members assigned to Naval Station Rota, Spain participated in a Memorial Day ceremony at Rhone American Cemetery in Draguignan, France, May 29 to commemorate the 55th year of remembrance here.

The cemetery is the final resting place for 860 American service members who died in southern France during World War II.

On the face of a wall, north of the burial grounds, are the names of 257 Americans whose remains were never recovered or identified.

U.S. service members from Rota and the Istres, France-based 16th Expeditionary Operations Group served as the honor platoon and honor guard.

During the ceremony, family members, World War II veterans, and active and retired military members had an opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifices that many made.

"Being part of this ceremony was such an honor for me," said Chief Navy Career Counselor John Mack. "Seeing where so many of our fallen comrades rest, really made this experience surreal."

Sitting on the front row of the VIP section were six WWII veterans, including Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, III, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa.

"The soil that we stand upon commemorates those who have fallen while protecting the fundamental universal principles of freedom and democracy, two deeply rooted beliefs shared by France and



DRAGUIGNAN, France - French citizens dressed in World War II uniforms, render honors during a Memorial Day ceremony at Rhone American Cemetery, May 29. Photo by MC2 Travis Alston.

the United States," said Locklear during a speech at the ceremony.

"A ceremony of this magnitude is a success," said Saymond Catti, a Marine WWII

veteran. "It's vital that we let family members and friends of our fallen warriors know that they will never be forgotten."

Photo Slide of Events (VIDEO)

NSA Naples and 6th Fleet Commander Pay Tribute in Nettuno, Italy

Story by MC2 Stephen Oleksiak

NETTUNO, Italy - Roughly 100 service members from Naval Support Activity Naples

and commander, U.S. 6th Fleet, travelled to the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery



NETTUNO, Italy - Sailors from Naval Support Activity Naples prepare to lay a wreath during the Memorial Day commemoration ceremony, May 30. Photo by MC1 John Parker.

and Memorial in the small Italian town of Nettuno to participate in a Memorial Day ceremony, May 30.

Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., partook in the ceremony as the guest speaker held at this 'sepulchered field of illustrious men.'

"President Ronald Reagan once said, 'most of those who died in defense of our country were boys when they died, and they gave up two lives: the ones they were living, and the one they would have lived,'" said Harris. "They gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers, they gave up everything for their country; for us. All we can do is remember."

Harris went on to talk about the vast number of men and

women who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace.

"These were all ordinary men and women who took up arms to defend freedom around the world," said Harris. "Each had their own unique story. Each was someone's son or daughter, brother or sister, or husband or wife. Each gave his, or her, last full measure."

Harris completed his speech with a reminder to the guests. "We should never forget the 7,861 American sons and daughters who lay here before us and the 3,095 missing whose names are inscribed on the Wall of the Missing," said Harris. "We MUST never forget them."

For more on the Nettuno Memorial Day ceremony click [here](#).

WWII REMEMBRANCE: PACIFIC THEATER

MIDWAY: Turning the Tides of War

“Midway was an improbable victory for our Navy. Our force was small, not battle hardened and it faced the might of the Japanese Imperial Navy. It was the determination and courage of our Sailors that turned the tide. As that ‘Greatest Generation’ departs us, they leave behind a priceless archive of lessons learned. We must honor their legacy by passing along to our Sailors today and our fellow citizens their contributions and sacrifices to the Navy and the nation. As our admiration for their deeds continues to grow, we must never forget their hard won lessons and the legacy they pass onto us.”

Admiral Gary Roughead
Chief of Naval Operations
2011 NAVADMIN on the Battle of Midway

Remembering the Legacies of 6 Heroes

From Naval History Command & Heritage Center

LCDR Maxwell F. Leslie:

Leslie, CO of VB-3, had once purportedly told a classmate at the USNA: “We can’t all be heroes but we can all try.” En route to the Japanese carrier force from Yorktown (CV-5) on 4 June 1942, Leslie and three of his pilots lost their 1,000-pound bombs to electrical release malfunctions, leaving 13 of the 17 VB-3 planes with ordnance. Although Leslie had no bomb to drop, he led the squadron into the dive, strafing and drawing fire.

TM2c Orville Mott:

When Japanese planes roared low over Midway’s lagoon on 4 June 1942, TM2c Orville R. Mott, on board motor torpedo boat PT-24, manning one of the two twin-.50-caliber mounts, changed the inboard barrel of the starboard .50-caliber mount, wresting off the old, hot, barrel, and burning his hands while so doing, while firing the outboard gun simultaneously.

Capt Herbert Merrill:

His Brewster F2A-3 Buffalo afire, Capt. Herbert T. Merrill, USMC, bailed out and landed in the water. Although suffering from second degree burns, he reached the reef off Sand

Island after two hours swimming. Motor torpedo boat PT-20 found Merrill, nearly blinded and clinging to the sharp coral; seeing the Marine obviously suffering from shock and burns, SM3c Edward J. Stewart dove into the water with a life ring at the end of a line, and, braving the surf breaking over the jagged coral, helped Merrill to safety.

GM3c Theodore Metcalf:

One high explosive bomb, dropped by an carrier bomber from Japanese carrier Hiryu, struck home just abaft of Yorktown’s number two elevator, blowing a 12-foot hole in the flight deck and sending flying shards of metal that inflicted heavy casualties on the crews of nearby anti-aircraft guns. Among the men at the four .50-caliber machine guns in battery number nine, GM3c Theodore B. Metcalf, although painfully wounded and unable to use one arm, repaired or replaced the damaged guns, and helped to remove the dead and wounded. He then stationed and instructed new men in the operation of the guns. For his meritorious service, GM3c Metcalf would receive the Silver Star.

LCDR Claren Duke:

The new Gato-class boat Grouper, under LCDR Claren E. “Duke” Duke, dove to avoid an aerial attack on the afternoon of 5 June, Grouper plunged to an estimated 600 foot



Scene on board USS Yorktown (CV-5), shortly after she was hit by three Japanese bombs on 4 June 1942. Dense smoke is from fires in her uptakes, caused by a bomb that punctured them and knocked out her boilers. Photo by Photographer 2nd Class William G. Roy

depth. The investigation for damage showed several electrical cables “pushed in a couple inches,” while cast iron plugs in the water manifolds for the generator coolers flew around the engine room “like machine gun bullets,” while water poured in through the stern tubes. The Mare Island Navy Yard product, however, proved tough, and survived the mishap, while “everyone had a few more gray hairs

LTJG Cleo Dobson: Dobson flew one of the two SBDs dispatched from the carrier on 6 June on a photographic flight. He overflew the doomed Japanese heavy cruiser Mikuma, pounded earlier that day by dive bomb-

ers, later wrote in his diary: “Boy I sure would hate to be in the shoes of those fellows in the water. I shouldn’t feel so sorry for them because I might be in their shoes some day. I pray to God I’m not...”

The Japanese Attack (VIDEO)

The American Counterattack (VIDEO)

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

Naples Red Cross Conducts Disaster Relief Training

NAPLES, Italy - The American Red Cross aboard Naval Support Activity Naples conducted a three-day, "Disaster Training" course at its Capodichino facility, May 10-12.

Overviewing the mission of the Red Cross, dealing with a mass casualty disaster and successfully setting up a shelter, were the focal points of the training.

"With this course, we wanted to inform the community of the types of emergencies out there and how they can help themselves and others in time when an emergency occurs," said Jacqueline Mack, the course instructor and director of operations for the Red Cross station here. "The class went well, and we had a lot of enthusiastic people show up eager to learn."

-Naval Public Affairs Support
Element-East Det. Europe

Celebrity Chefs Thank Sailors and Families in Naples (VIDEO)



Phoenix Express Provides Multi-National Training

SOUДА BAY, Crete - Phoenix Express 2011 (PE-11), a multi-national maritime exercise that began May 23rd in Souda Bay, Crete, is helping Sailors from U.S., North African and European naval forces to understand better how to perform Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), used to deter illicit trafficking at sea.

"The training is giving us a broader understanding of MIO operations as well as greater flexibility," said Royal Moroccan Navy Lt. Amine Khalik, a member of the Royal Moroccan Special Forces.

PE-11, a three-week evolution divided into in-port and underway training phases, is designed to enhance regional maritime partnerships.

"This is really helping to bring our different countries together," said Chief Master-at-Arms (SW) Dale Naaktgeboren, instructor for Tactical MIO planning. "We are finding out that we are dealing with the same problems and that we can overcome them by working together."

-Naval Public Affairs Support
Element-East Det. Europe

Bold Monarch 2011 Kicks Off in Spain

CARTAGENA, Spain - Participants and observers from more than 25 countries departed May 30, for the NATO exercise Bold Monarch 2011, the world's largest submarine rescue exercise.

"In Bold Monarch 2008, NATO and our partner nations demonstrated dramatic improvements in international cooperation and interoperability in this challenging field," said Capt. David Dittmer, deputy commander, Submarines North. "Our achievements included the first ever rescues between the Russian Federation Navy and NATO submarines, and the first transfer of personnel with the new U.S. and NATO rescue systems. In 2011's exercise, we will move even further in demonstrating our technical capabilities and coordination processes. We will include a Russian submarine in this exercise for the first time and practice complex, international command and control procedures in a realistic scenario.

- Expeditionary Combat Camera

MCPON Visits Naval Station Rota

ROTA, Spain - The master chief petty officer of the Navy (MCPON) visited service members aboard Naval Station (NS) Rota, Spain, May 10-14.



NAPLES, Italy - Medal of Honor recipients (left to right) Sgt. (Ret.) James Allen Lynch, Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Don Jenkins and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Bruce Crandall enjoy a brief meeting with Adm. Samuel Locklear, CNE-CNA, Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples during a visit to Naples, May 13. Photo by MC1 Terry Vick.

MCPON (SS/SW) Rick D. West visited NS Rota to show his appreciation to Sailors for their service and dedication to the military.

"It is my honor to be part of this organization," said West. "Having the chance to lead and work with young but proficient Sailors is something that I cherish."

MCPON held an all-hands call where he answered questions regarding policy, manning and the direction and future of the Navy.

On the day before departure West acknowledged 30 years of honorable service by NS Rota Command Master Chief Charles Scavo, by participating in Scavo's retirement ceremony. "Junior Sailors need to look at Master Chief Scavo's career and recognize how much time and effort he put into the Navy," said West. "Sailors should strive to do the same. Whether you do four years or 30, you need to look at your time in the military as a very special time of your life."

- NS Rota Public Affairs

Swedish Contribution to Unified Protector (VIDEO)

Visit Region's Facebook page for more news and info!

B I G N A V Y N E W S

Navy Surgeon General Marks Nurse Corps' 103rd Birthday

WASHINGTON - The Navy Surgeon General sent a message to the Navy Nurse Corps commemorating the corps' 103rd birthday celebrated May 13.

"Today, Navy nurses serve at sea, pier side, on deployments and humanitarian missions, and at clinics and inpatient facilities around the world," said Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson, Jr., Navy surgeon general and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. "Their work in times of peace and conflict, have earned the Nurse Corps a prominent place in the proud history of the U.S. Navy."

The Nurse Corps was founded May 13, 1908. By October of that year, the first nurses, later called "The Sacred Twenty," reported for duty at the Naval Medical School Hospital, Washington, D.C., now the home of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Today, active duty and Reserve Navy nurses representing more than 15 specialties

serve with both the Navy and the Marine Corps throughout the world, providing exemplary care to Sailors, Marines and their families, from the garrison to the deck plates and to the battlefield.

- Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Public Affairs

Earthquake Relief in Japan(VIDEO)

Seabees Complete Peruvian School Renovation

LA HUACA, Peru - Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28 (NMCB 28) and Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion held a ribbon-cutting ceremony May 8, to mark the end of a nine-day renovation project at Cruz Maria Miñan Quezada School in La Huaca, Peru.

The 13-member team, embarked aboard USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), contributed more than 860 man-hours to the renovation project, which was conducted as part of Continu-

ing Promise 2011 (CP '11).

In addition to many other tasks, the team reconstructed an existing classroom, added new light fixtures and ceiling fans to all the classrooms, and returned running water to restrooms via plumbing repairs.

"We are very pleased that the kids are going to be able to study in better conditions with an improved environment," said school administrator Teddy Guzmán.

"This deployment for us is one of humanitarian assistance, but one of the big things we do is build relationships," said Commodore Brian Nickerson, CP '11 mission commander. "It's the relationships that we build on a personal level that are truly important. There has been a great relationship between our two countries over the years and I look to the boys and girls here to continue that relationship."

- NMCB 28 Public Affairs

NCIS Agents Track Down Spice Users in the Navy(VIDEO)

Groundbreaking Marks Beginning of Haiti Construction Program

LES CAYES, Haiti - U.S. Southern Command broke ground, May 9, in Les Cayes, Haiti to mark the beginning of construction of 58 projects that are part of the SOUTHCOM Humanitarian Assistance Program. The projects are located throughout Haiti to assist the country in preparing for any future natural disas-

ters.

The ceremony took place at the site of two contracts. The first consists of a 4,000-square foot Emergency Operations Center and a 4,800-square foot Disaster Relief Warehouse that will provide the Regional Department of Civil Protection the ability to coordinate and effectively respond to emergencies and provide necessary relief to the Haitian people. The lead contractor is GDG Benton & Construction from Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The second contract is a community cluster which consists of an eight-classroom school, community center, medical clinic and water well. The community cluster provides much needed facilities to the local population but will also function as evacuation centers in the case of hurricanes or other natural disaster. The lead contractor is Palgag Building Technologies from Kibutz Gaash, Israel.

"Through the construction of these emergency operations centers and disaster relief warehouses, the U.S. Government seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian Government to protect its people, and in doing so, reduce Haiti's vulnerability to natural disasters," said the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Kenneth H. Merten.

- SOUTHCOM Public Affairs

Sailors of the Year Promoted to Chief Petty Officer(VIDEO)



PAITA, Peru - A dental patient waits his turn for Lt. Cmdr. Michael Rudman during a Continuing Promise 2011 dental community service project, May 3. Continuing Promise is a five-month humanitarian assistance mission to the Caribbean, Central and South America. Photo by MC2 Eric C. Tretter.