

# REGION STANDARD

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Issue 9

## Sigonella Promotes Community Awareness



**Essential Comms:** New G2 Wiki Capability

**Featured Story:** NAS Sigonella National Night Out

**Big Navy News:** Chief Selectees Participate in Heritage Training Aboard USS Constitution

**Region Spotlight:** Naples Dog Handler Earns Combat Meritorious Promotion



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

## Contribute Interesting Facts to G2 Wiki

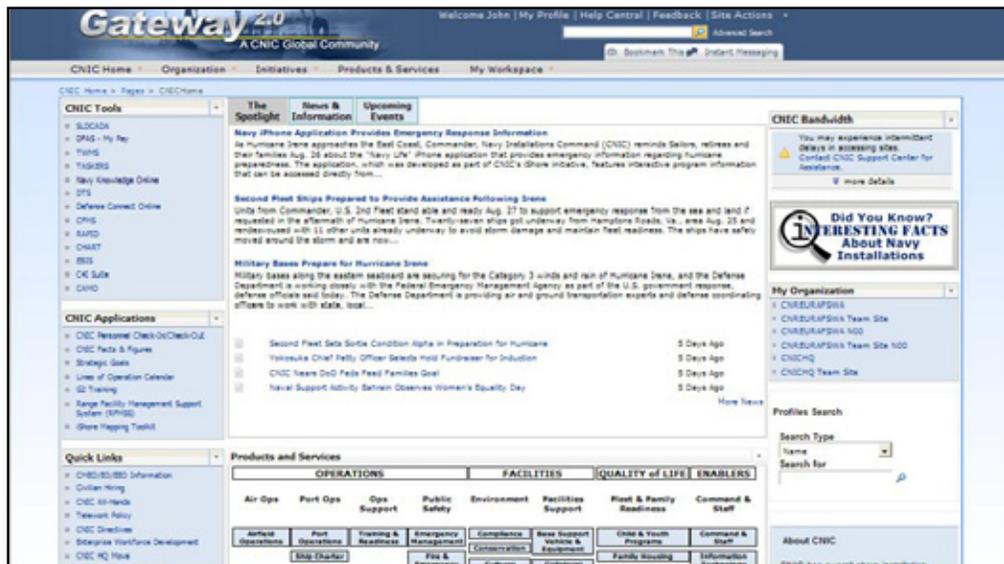
WASHINGTON - Users of the G2 website can now contribute to the new "Did You Know? Interesting Facts About Navy Installations" wiki feature on the website's homepage.

The "Did you know?" wiki is an extension of Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Facts, showcasing intriguing and even unusual aspects of our installations and the significant roles they have played in our Navy's history.

Currently, the wiki contains a "starter set" of interesting facts; however, that's where Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia personnel come in. In addition to learning more about Navy installations, personnel will also have the opportunity to contribute new "interesting" facts to the wiki and play a vital role in showing the importance of the Shore to the Navy over its history.

CNIC Commander Vice Adm. Michael Vitale encourages all 60,000-plus CNIC personnel to participate in the "Did you know?" wiki.

"It's an important part of creating,



Above is a picture of the G2 webpage with the link to the new wiki feature. Click [HERE](#) to visit the page and start contributing today.

building and documenting our history, that you can be a part of, a history that dates from our first Navy base (1799, Washington Navy Yard), to today and beyond," said Vitale.

Rules for contributing to the wiki can be found on the "How to add an Interesting Fact" button on the top left of the wiki page.

-Commander, Navy Installations Command

## Cost of Living Index Change for Italy

NAPLES, Italy - Changes to the cost of living index for Italy were announced by the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) in August, which will impact Cost of Living Allowances (COLA).

DTMO released index changes for U.S. Navy, Air Force and Army concentration areas across Italy following the annual Retail Price Survey (RPS) completed in April and May.

The cost of living index decreased by four points for Aviano Air Base and by two index points each for U.S. Army Garrison Livorno, Camp Darby and Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. Index decreases are scheduled to take effect Sept. 1.

Index points for Ghedi and Vicenza were increased by

two and eight points respectively. Increases took effect July 1.

No changes were made for Naples and Gaeta.

The U.S. dollar value of two index points for an E-6 with 10 years of service and two dependents is approximately \$26.25 per month. Index changes announced by DTMO were based on an exchange rate of 0.6861€ to \$1.00.

A cost of living index is created by comparing prices of goods and services overseas with average prices for equivalent goods and services in the continental U.S.

All U.S. service members stationed in Italy are encouraged to participate in upcoming surveys that help determine COLA, the annual

Overseas Housing Allowance, Utility/Recurring Maintenance Allowance, and Move-In Housing Allowance for Italy scheduled for February 2012.

Click [HERE](#) to calculate your COLA.

- Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia Public Affairs

## Secure Energy a Strategic Imperative

WASHINGTON - The Navy's approach to shore energy focuses on three main concepts: energy efficiency; culture and behavior; and renewable energy and sustainability.

This approach increases national energy security, enables the Navy to comply with federal mandates and meet the Secretary of the Navy's energy goals.

All new construction and

major renovation projects will improve energy efficiency and meet national green building standards and demonstrate energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, resource stewardship and minimal environmental impact.

The Navy is increasing awareness and accountability at the individual, command and functional levels. The Navy is also investing in facility management experts and enabling technologies to provide leaders greater visibility of energy consumption.

Finally, the Navy is using a "Watch-Partner-Lead" approach: "Watch" maturing technologies and investing in new technologies; "Partner" with other government organizations and industries; "Lead" the development of mission-critical technologies.

- Navy Office of Information

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

# Sigonella National Night Out Heightens Community Awareness

Story by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Cameron Bramham, Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Affairs

SIGONELLA, Sicily - Service members, family and friends of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella came together at Marinai Base Housing Aug. 2 for the 28th annual National Night Out (NNO) sponsored by the base Security Department.

"National Night Out is a program that was started to raise community awareness and involve communities with crime prevention," said NAS Sigonella security officer in charge Lt. Cmdr. Don Crumpacker. "Police can only be in so many places that we need to rely on communities and education for communities to help us fight crime. At Sigonella, we've taken it a step further to include all aspects of public and community safety and that's what we had here."

National Association of Town Watch (NATW) Executive Director Matt A.

Peskin started NNO in 1984 to heighten awareness, strengthen participation in local anti-crime efforts, and build neighborhood camaraderie. Peskin felt that a high-profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed nationally to bring more awareness.

More than 500 people participated in Sigonella's NNO event, while another estimated 500 watched the event. There were informational booths, games, and emergency service personnel demonstrating use of their equipment. Other demonstrations included NAS Sigonella's security military working dogs showing off their skills of obedience and strength, as well as a karate performance given by an Italian for Sigonellans.

"The National Night Out is for people around the world," said Chief Master-at-Arms Dale Gilbert, NAS Sigonella armory and range leading chief petty officer. "However, being part of a smaller base

like Sigonella, it gives our community families a chance to come out and see first-hand what we do and how we keep the base safe."

The event began with a parade of emergency vehicles, Italian law enforcement vehicles, and horses along the streets of Marinai and led all the way to the soccer fields in the back of Marinai. Once at the soccer fields, NAS Sigonella Commanding Officer Capt. Scott Butler gave opening statements before NAS Sigonella's Security Association began serving freshly made burgers and hotdogs.

Wrapping up the NNO was the annual "Pie in the Eye" event which saw Crumpacker, Senior Chief Master-at-Arms James Bethea and Chief Select Master-at-Arms Allen Trojanowski get pied in the face by members of NAS Sigonella who bought the right to do so through donations. All proceeds from NNO were donated to the NAS Sigonella Security Association.

"I wanted to thank everyone for coming out and a big Bravo Zulu to everyone at Security who helped put this together," Butler said. "I've been here a little over a year now, and I have nothing but the utmost respect for the professionalism and dedication of all the forces that were here today."

**Cover photo:** Sigonella dog handler Master-at-Arms Seaman Apprentice Duane Jones leads his military working dog through an obstacle course as part of a demonstration at NAS Sigonella during National Night Out August 2, 2011. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Cameron Bramham.



Italian Polizia parade through NAS Sigonella at the start of National Night Out festivities. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Gary A. Prill.



Italian Polizia allowed family members of service members attached to Naval Air Station Sigonella to pet and ride police horses during National Night Out. U.S. Navy photo MC2 by Gary A. Prill.

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

## Dog Handler Meritoriously Advanced

NAPLES, Italy - Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Warren Brown, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., was advanced to the rank of Master-at-Arms 2nd Class during a pinning ceremony held Aug. 16, at the Capodichino base theater.

Brown, who is assigned to the military working dog (MWD) division at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, was nominated for advancement under the Navy's Combat Meritorious Advancement Program.

Brown earned his nomination in May during a nine-month deployment to Kuwait and Afghanistan, where he was attached to an Army unit and worked as a

dog handler searching for explosives.

"I was originally assigned to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait," said Brown. "About three months through, I was re-assigned to Afghanistan. I feel like my performance made a difference and that the Army appreciated my work," said Brown.

"As a handler, we are on a constant rotation for deployment and it was my turn to go," said Brown. "I have learned a lot and have grown in both my personal life and career."

NSA Naples Kennel's leading petty officer, MA1 (FMF) Michelle D. Mruk, spoke highly of Brown and his dog.

"I am extremely proud of what he ac-

complished while he was deployed," said Mruk. "MA2 and his dog, MWD Block, have grown as a team during their deployment and it makes the program here proud of what they have done."

Mruk also offered words of praise to all dog handlers who deploy.

"Our dog teams are making an impact on the war and not often enough are they recognized for their actions," said Mruk.

"Brown is a sterling example of the hard work and dedication that saves the lives of both our military members and civilians in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq."

- Navy Public Affairs Support Element East

### Bahrain Observes Women's Equality Day

MANAMA, Bahrain - Service members stationed at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain commemorated the 91st anniversary of the 19th amendment, which granted women full voting rights in 1920, during a Women's Equality Day celebration, Aug. 23.

The event was held a few days before the official observance, Aug. 26, which was designated as Women's Equality Day by Congress in 1971 to honor the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The event, hosted by the Multicultural Heritage Committee, included a panel of speakers who focused on notable women throughout America's history, such as Amelia Earhart; Opha Mae Johnson, the first woman to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps; retired Rear Adm. Lillian Fishburne, the first African-American woman promoted to the rank of rear admiral; and Rear Adm. Michelle Howard, the first

African-American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship.

Women have served in the Navy since 1811, first as nurses, then as yeomen.

Today, there are more than 54,000 active-duty women and approximately 20,000 female reservists serving in the Navy.

-U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs

Follow this [LINK](#) to navy.mil and read more on Women's Naval History

### Navy Assists with Infant Cyst Removal

Story by Lt. Col. Leslie Pratt, Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa Public Affairs

BALBALA, Djibouti - U.S. Navy healthcare providers from Camp Lemonniers' Michaud Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) recently teamed up with Djiboutian surgeons to successfully remove a large lymphatic cyst from the neck and shoulder of a local newborn infant. This proce-



NORFOLK (Aug. 27, 2011) The guided-missile destroyers USS Ross (DDG 71), USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98), the amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and the guided-missile cruiser USS Normandy (CG 60) safely moored at Naval Station Norfolk as Hurricane Irene passed over the area. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jonathan Sunderman.

dure represents one of many surgeries involving combined U.S. Navy and local medical staffs.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Jason Hollensbe, EMF chief surgeon, the girl was born with the cystic lymphatic malformation which posed potential serious health risks including compression of her airway. The cyst was larger than her head.

"It was pretty serious and usually these types of cysts

should be removed at the earliest opportunity," said Hollensbe, adding that the family is very poor, making travelling outside of Africa for surgery not an option.

The surgery was carried out by a combined team including Djiboutian surgeon, Dr. Elias Saïd Dirie and his Peltier General Hospital surgical staff. The one-week-old child recovered quickly and returned home to a welcoming community.

## R E G I O N S P O T L I G H T

## Danish 'Proud to Serve' from Sigonella



A plane captain prepares to direct a Royal Danish Air Force F-16 Lockheed Fighting Falcon for taxi at Naval Air Station Sigonella in support of Operation Unified Protector. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Cameron Bramham.

Story by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Cameron Bramham Naval Air Station Sigonella

SIGONELLA, Sicily - Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella has the distinction of welcoming coalition forces from different parts of the world as it supports international efforts to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas under threat of attack in Libya.

Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which allows for enforcement of a no-fly zone, the Royal Danish Air Force (RDAF) Fighter Wing Skrydstrup operates along side other NATO and international partners.

The RDAF Fighter Wing Skrydstrup has called NAS Sigonella home since Operation Unified Protector (OUP) began March 31.

"I think it's necessary for us to be here," said Master Sgt. Per Stecknir, RDAF Fighter Wing Skrydstrup ammunition leader. "We like to do our job."

While the roles of each coalition partner vary, the Danish have had a notable presence in air operations. Royal Danish Air Force Lockheed F-16 Fighting Falcons

have flown some of the 7,848 total strike sorties conducted by NATO-led forces as of Aug. 29.

"We do whatever it is, we are tasked to do," said Capt. Morten Jensen, RDAF Fighter Wing Skrydstrup's public affairs officer. "Our main objective is the UN resolution which means that we are making sure the Libyan people don't suffer from any means or harms that [Libyan President Muammar] Gaddafi could do to his people."

OUP is the first time the Danish have served as part of a coalition enforcing a UN resolution from the very beginning of operations.

"Looking at it through Danish eyes, this is the first time we have been a part of the first wave," Jensen said. "We've participated in Kosovo and Afghanistan, but this is the first time we have been there since the first day."

RDAF Fighter Wing Skrydstrup officers and enlisted personnel agree that working at NAS Sigonella with the U.S. Navy has been a pleasurable experience.

"Working with Americans has felt like being part of a big family from the beginning,"

Stecknir said.

"You guys have said that you are very proud to serve," Jensen said. "We too are very proud to serve, especially along with the Americans because we have had great cooperation with them. We usually only get to work with the U.S. Air Force and almost never with the Navy but we could not feel any different about how great it's been."

"Every time we were tasked to do a mission, the aircraft was ready to go and made it in the air," Jensen said. "Looking at it that way, I think we were very successful in the time we were here completing our missions."



Final tests are conducted on a Danish F-16 before it takes off on a mission in support of Operation Unified Protector. Photo by Kurt Hansen.

## Operation Unified Protector Fact Sheet

\* accurate as of August 29

- 20,751 total sorties
- 7,848 strike sorties
- 15 ships under NATO command actively patrolling Central Mediterranean
- 2,426 vessels hailed
- 246 boardings
- 870 total humanitarian assistance movements by air, ground and sea
- NATO's operational commander for Operation Unified Protector is Lieutenant-General Charles Bouchard of the Canadian Air Force

For more facts and photos click [HERE](#) for the latest from NATO

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

## Panetta: DOD Will Meet Fiscal Challenges

Story by Karen Parrish,  
American Forces Press  
Service

WASHINGTON - Though defense spending must and will be part of the solution to the national financial struggle, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta told the Department of Defense workforce in a message Aug. 3, budget reductions must take sound strategy and policy into account.

"One of the key challenges we face as a department [is] how to ensure that our military has everything it needs to protect our national security at a time of considerable

fiscal challenge in our country," Panetta wrote. The secretary said reductions in defense spending that will result from the legislation, \$350 billion over 10 years, are in line with what DoD leaders were anticipating. Defense leaders can implement those reductions while maintaining the military's excellence, the secretary wrote, adding that spending choices must be based on sound strategy and policy.

"As a department, we are asking ourselves: What are the essential missions our military must do to protect America and our way of life? What are the risks of the stra-

tegic choices we make? And what are the financial costs?" he wrote.

Across-the-board cuts have in the past resulted in a force undersized and underfunded relative to its responsibilities, Panetta wrote. "I will do everything I can to ensure that further reductions in defense spending are not pursued in a hasty, ill-conceived way that would undermine the military's ability to protect America and its vital interests around the globe," he added.

"I promised in my first message as secretary that I will fight for you. That means I will fight for you and your families as we face these budget chal-

lenges," he added. DoD owes the defense workforce and its families the support they have earned on the battlefield and the home front, he wrote.

"Going forward, we must ensure that the military gets the effective and affordable weapons it needs by redoubling our efforts to enforce procurement discipline," he wrote.

DoD must also continue to tackle wasteful and duplicative spending, and overhead staffing, he wrote. "We must be accountable to the American people for what we spend, where we spend it, and with what result," he added.



Chief selectees sing Anchors Aweigh at Quincy Market during the annual Chief Petty Officer Training Heritage Week aboard the USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat.

the opportunity to not only learn about the fleet but also meet the leaders who are out there," said Cmdr. Matt Bonner, Constitution commanding officer. "The big takeaway for the chief selects is they learn about and see all the things that Sailors assigned here

do and how they live, plus they experience what life was like in the early Navy through gun and boarding pike drills, sail training, and living aboard 'Old Ironsides.'"

During CPO Heritage Week, Constitution's crew teaches approximately 300 chief selectees a variety of time-honored maritime evolutions. Selectees will learn boarding pike and War of 1812-era gun drills using Constitution's traditional 24-pound naval long guns. They also will learn small boat operations and how to climb the ship's shrouds.

"I hope to gain a deeper knowledge of our naval heritage through the selectee training," said Chief (select) Culinary Specialist (SW) Brian Pettee.

## Navy Unveils New Enlisted Review Board Web Page

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. - Navy Personnel Command (NPC) announced Aug. 16 that it has launched a new enlisted retention board (ERB) Web page on their command website, [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

"Our objective is to provide Sailors and their families with a one-stop shop for all enlisted retention board-related information to answer their questions in a centralized location," said Lt. Cmdr. Delmy Robinson, strategic communications officer, NPC.

The new Web page will contain links to guidance and policy, quota information, timelines, frequently asked questions, and ERB news stories and videos.

The Navy will conduct a focused ERB for 31 specific ratings that are more than 103 percent manned.

Visit Old Ironsides [HERE](#) on Facebook and see more of CPO Heritage Week

## Chief Selectees Train Aboard Old Ironsides

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kathryn E. McDonald, USS Constitution Public Affairs

CHARLESTOWN, Mass. - USS Constitution began its 14th annual Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Heritage Week training for CPO selectees Aug. 15.

Constitution's CPO mess designed CPO Heritage Week to instill pride in naval heritage and build esprit de corps while selectees lived and trained aboard the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world.

"The wonderful part about CPO Heritage Week is that Constitution Sailors get