

# THE Signature

SIGONELLA, SICILY

Vol. 25 No. 7

FEBRUARY 22, 2008

## Coming Together Under One Roof

Article and photos by MC2 Joshua Wink  
Signature Staff

For the past seven years, the Mineo Public School has been teaching not only the Italian children who call this city their home, but also a sizable number of American children from Sigonella's Marinai and Mineo housing who, for the time being, also call this city their home.

Currently, there are 31 American children who are attending the Mineo Public School. Of these children, 28 who currently enrolled in preschool, two are attending kindergarten, and one is in the first grade. What is so unusual about these children, however, is not that they are attending an Italian school, but that they came into this school with no prior knowledge of speaking the language or being immersed in the Italian culture. How these chil-

dren managed to adapt so quickly to their environment shows just how impressionable children are and how easily they can be taught when they are confronted at such a young age.

While communication between the children who don't know Italian and the teachers who don't know English might seem like a large feat to overcome, most of the parents of these children confess that within a couple weeks their child is fully communicating with both the teachers and the other students at the school. Furthermore, upon arriving back home from school these children are even spreading their newly acquired knowledge to their parents, who for the most part were in the

*Story continued on page 9*

## Plastic on Wheels

Article by Lorie Warchol  
MWR Marketing

For many years, the children at the Youth Center have been involved with a nationally recognized organization, the Boy's and Girl's Clubs of America. One of the clubs recognized under their umbrella is the Torch Club. The Torch Club's goal is to help build tolerance, civic responsibility, community involvement, good character and leadership in children ranging in ages 6-13.

"This club provides them skills to become productive, responsible, and caring citizens in our Sigonella community and later in society," stated Tiffany Franklin, Assistant Director at the Youth Center.

Last December, club members sponsored a lock-in for children ages 6-12, in an effort to raise money to sponsor four IA soldiers, just in time for the holidays. The club collected a total \$462, which provided sponsorship of 10 IA soldiers. The members shopped from wish lists they received from soldiers and their families.

They have also raised over \$200 to support pregnant Sicilian

mothers in need, volunteered their time at Sigonella Animal Welfare Society (SAWS) and have dedicated numerous hours planting flowers, picking up trash and pulling weeds to contribute to base beautification.

The Torch Club has found a new project. Currently they are collecting plastic bottle tops found on water, soda and juice bottles. This type of plastic is a very hard consistency and a local church, in Catania, has found a program that recycles them. With every 1000 bottle caps turned in, a much-needed wheel chair is produced for a handicapped individual.

There will be collection boxes located throughout Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities and in the NEX Food Court. Don't throw away these very valuable pieces of plastic. Recycle them for wheels!

If you have a cause that you would like this very enthusiastic club to help you with, please contact the Sigonella Youth Center at 624-3711.

## The Tax Center Re-Opens It's Doors in Sigonella

Article and Photo by MC2 Joshua Wink  
Signature Staff



The Naval Air Station Sigonella's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center held its grand opening Feb. 15 to assist Sailors with their 2007 tax returns. All volunteers have undergone IRS training to be able to provide this free service to the community. The Tax Center is Located in building 410 across the street from the Auto Hobby Shop on NAS II.

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.

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).



Torch Club Members proudly hold up their banner after discussing ways to Market their latest project to collect bottle caps.

### WEATHER UPDATE

Feb. 22  
H:62F  
L:46F



Feb. 23  
H:62F  
L:46F



Feb. 24  
H:65F  
L:44F



Feb. 25  
H:65F  
L:45F



Feb. 26  
H:66F  
L:44F



Feb. 27  
H:64F  
L:43F



Feb. 28  
H:67F  
L:47F



### TOP STORIES

At times life can get rather scary. Sometimes our children awaken in the middle of the night with nightmares. When we ask them to recount them to us, it often involves being chased by scary things. What is it that makes us so fearful and how should we overcome those fears? Find out in this weeks Chaplains Corner.

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As the Navy relaxes management controls on tuition assistance the restrictions on enlisted Sailor participation in Tuition Assistance (TA) and Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) based on time in service and end of obligated service have been rescinded. Learn more on.

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PAO has recently begun facilitating base tours of the NAS 2 facilities. This successful Community Relations program, which is sometimes conducted jointly with the Italian Air Force 41st Stormo PAO, is aimed at fostering good relationships between the U.S. Navy and host nation communities.

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The Navy will shoot down a malfunctioning U.S. spy satellite sometime after Feb. 20, government officials said during a Pentagon news conference Feb. 14. The reason, as described by President Bush, is due to a potential hydrazine leak, that if left alone could dispell the toxic chemical.

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Located high on a hill, above the seaside town of Cefalu, sits the majestic castle of Castelbuono, named for the town, it demonstrates the classical history and culture of ancient Sicily.

Page 10

### TRAFFIC NUMBERS

	Jan. & Feb. '08	Jan. & Feb. '07	Diff.
Accidents	47	32	+15
Injuries	8	3	+5
DUIs	4	1	+3
Traffic Deaths	2	0	+2

PLEASE,  
DON'T BECOME  
A STATISTIC!

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## DIRECT LINE

Each year we celebrate diversity, through recognition of our Sailors achievements and contributions in the military. U.S. Naval Air Station Sigonella is very fortunate to have Heritage Committee representing our base. Their mission is simple: Promote Diversity.

The Heritage Committee is as diverse as their message with volunteers from each division, command, ethnicity, gender, age and experience. These Sailors who volunteer their off-duty time in support of one of the most valuable components of the Navy are highly appreciated for the job they do. These Sailors enhance the quality of life at Sigonella and strengthen our ties with the host nation.

The Heritage Committee's events are always ones to remember and have even been published on the front page of the Navy.com website. We need more volun-

teers! Everyone is qualified to participate. All it takes is a can-do attitude. We would like your support as volunteers or spectators throughout the year as we recognize every aspect of our diverse Navy culture!

The month of February marks the annual celebration of Black History Month. As you reflect on the contributions of African Americans throughout the years and participate in Black History Month celebrations, focus your attention on how diversity enhances everything we do. It is this diversity, which allows our Command, our Navy and our Country the ability to connect with every society in the world.

Diverse views bring diverse solutions and we should value that gift every chance we get. I would like to personally encourage each Sailor to read *The Golden Thirteen: Recollections of the First Black Naval Officers*. This is an extraordinary tale

## NASSIG COMMAND MASTER CHIEF ROSA L. WILSON

of sacrifice, bravery and honor. This Naval Reading List literature is an important book that will enhance the knowledge of everyone who reads it.

On February 26, 2008, NAS Sigonella has the privilege to welcome Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Joe Campa. Every Sigonellan should feel honored that the MCPON has chosen NAS Sigonella as an opportunity to meet and greet the Sailors. This visit should show you that the missions we do here are important. This is your opportunity to shine!

We have an abundance of star talent throughout the installation, and I am confident that the MCPON's visit will be one to remember. Take pride in yourself, pride in your shipmates, and pride in your Command. First impressions are lasting ones, so lets make sure we put our best foot forward!



# Health WATCH

## (PFPS)

### Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome

Article by Ms. Stacy Carman, SPT  
Pacific University in Oregon

Knee pain, a common result of high repetition of high impact loading, can be a repercussion of multiple factors ranging from trauma to the mere anatomical design of any given individual. Women inherently have a wider pelvis, which adds musculoskeletal stress at the knees. Flat or high arches may also cause faulty alignment throughout the legs. Specifically, patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS) arises when there is a dysfunction in the way your kneecap (patella) moves on the groove of your thigh bone (femur). This may result in patellar tendonitis and/or chondromalacia (break down of the cartilage) under the patella.

PFPS is very common in the Navy, as everyone is required to meet a certain level of physical fitness. Maintaining this level over the years can be enough stress (overuse) to cause knee pain. Running, squatting and jumping are all activities that cause a tremendous amount of impact at your joints. Often times, you will not

remember when your knee(s) started to hurt, because it is due to high impact activities over time. The pain is usually localized in the front of the knee, but can be more diffuse around the inner or outer portion. Often the knee joint(s) will make noise (crepitus) when moving, though this alone does not imply PFPS. With PFPS, knee pain is worse with activity, whether it be running, squatting to lift heavy weights, ascending or descending stairs or even prolonged sitting, like while watching a movie at the theater.

Fortunately, this syndrome can be treated by correcting muscular imbalances and biomechanical faults using strengthening and flexibility exercises to restore normal function. Follow these guidelines.

1. Take a break from activities that cause impact on your legs, such as running and basketball. If you want to keep exercising, try

*Story continued on page 13*

## NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

<b>DS Chapel in Catania</b> <u>Sunday</u> 1 p.m. Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints	<b>Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings</b> Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 11:30 a.m.
<b>NAS II Chapel</b> <u>Monday</u> 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	<b>NAS I Chapel</b> <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	<b>Mineo Community Center</b> <u>Sunday</u> 9 a.m. Protestant Worship 12 p.m. Catholic Mass
<u>Wednesday</u> 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	<b>Maranai Community Center</b> 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 095-86-1205 for weekly Jewish services



# Don't Be Afraid

Article courtesy of Chaplain Ken Amador

At times, life can get rather scary. Sometimes our children awaken in the middle of the night with nightmares. When we ask them to recount them to us, it often involves being chased by scary things. They can be downright terrifying. Television and playground games can seem innocuous enough, but sometimes our children see and experience things that they can't quite understand or put into a proper perspective. The end result - they become fearful.

As adults, we can also become fearful. There are many things in life that we cannot

understand or put into a proper perspective, and it makes us afraid. There are things that on the surface are benign but fill our hearts with fear, such as: Our PRD is nearing and we have not received our orders. We are moving to a strange location with even stranger customs. We have a harmful health problem, and we do not know what the future holds. Our spouse is deployed for an unspecified length of time, and we don't know how we are going to make it alone. The list goes on and on of the potential culprits.

Whatever you are facing right now that is

*Story continued on page 13*

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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

### Traffic Court Results

- E3 - Knowingly permitting a physically impaired person to operate a motor vehicle. Member was awarded 6 points, a 3 month suspension of license, and DIP.
- E4 - Improper passing. Member was awarded 3 points and DIP.
- E5 - Following too close. Member was awarded 2 points and DIP.
- E6 - Failure to stop at a stop sign. Member was awarded 2 points and DIP.
- E5 - Driving too fast for conditions. Member was awarded 5 points.

# NAVY NEWS

## Navy Relaxes Management Controls for Tuition Assistance

Article from Naval Education and Training Public Affairs

Restrictions on enlisted Sailor participation in Tuition Assistance (TA) and Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) based on time in service and end of obligated service have been rescinded.

The change, announced by Navy Administration message (NAVADMIN) 42-08 released Feb. 12, was based on Sailor feedback and as a result of savings from management controls that were put in place in June 2007.

Sailors with less than 19 years

time in service and meeting all other requirements may participate in TA or NCPACE as long as course completions occur prior to separation from active duty.

"If you look at what some of the 'Top 50' civilian corporations are offering for education, I think we are matching that," said Capt. Ken Barrett, Task Force Life/Work lead. "We then take it a step further by offering Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online certifications, paying for College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam-

inations and access to Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support (DANTES) programs. Not only will the Navy help pay for your degree, we're making it easier to get credit for the job you're already doing."

During the recent Task Force Life/Work Roadshow events held in five fleet concentration areas, Sailors provided more than 250 feedback comments on education issues, recommending changes to a variety of programs including the current TA

*Story continued on page 12*

## PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Peter D. Lawlor

Members of the repair locker 2 hose team guide each other to safety while backing out of a space during a general quarters drill aboard the amphibious command ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Buyers Best Beware Of Banned Animal, Plant Products

By Robert Szostek

U.S. European Command Customs Public Affairs

Mannheim, Germany - It is a crime to take many natural animal and plant products across international borders.

Foreign and U.S. customs authorities can confiscate the goods and issue a hefty fine.

People vacationing abroad should never buy live animals such as baby tortoises, turtles or birds or live plants such as cacti and orchids. Beluga caviar is another restricted item as are traditional medicines containing ingredients such as tiger bone or rhinoceros horn, said Bill Johnson, Director of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency

Artifacts made from hides, shells, feathers or teeth should also be avoided.

"Souvenirs made of tortoise shell, coral, ivory and skins may be openly sold in many countries but they are still illegal," Johnson said. Ivory and whale teeth decorations, known as scrimshaw and netsuke, are also banned.

He warned that most crocodile, lizard, snake, and all sea turtle products are prohibited too. Reptile skins are often used in watchbands, handbags, belts, wallets and shoes.

### Are You Interested in Having Your Voice Heard?

NASSIG has been approved to conduct a dissertation study on Navy attrition. The study has been approved by the Navy Surgeon General's Office.

We are looking for partici-

pants who are separating from active duty service prior to retirement. All participants will be interviewed on a one-on-one basis, and will be asked the same four questions. Information obtained will remain confidential.

We invite you to participate in this study. While your involvement will not provide any immediate compensation for you, your answers will represent a piece of the attrition puzzle.

If you are interested in having your voice heard, please contact Marlene Casel at 624-4291 or email [caselm@nassig.sicily.navy.mil](mailto:caselm@nassig.sicily.navy.mil). Thank you for considering the possibility.

### Attention All Military Members Living On The Economy In Italy

The Annual Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utility and Move in Expenses Survey for uniformed U.S. Service members is scheduled to be done in Italy from 18 March through 17 April 2008. The survey will be available to all uniformed Service members who reside in privately leased quarters overseas and receive an overseas housing allowance. The survey will be available on the internet via the PDTATAC home page. This survey is for military personnel and dependents only and not for civilian personnel and private contractors. The survey can be taken on the link below, but it will not be operational until 18 March 2008. So please do not attempt to take the survey until the actual start date.

<https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oha/survey/maroha.html>

This is a VERY IMPORTANT survey and should not be taken lightly. More information will be provided as the survey progresses. Please pass the word and encourage your friends and co-workers to participate.

Tutor Etna  
ial

Monika

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA</b> <b>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</b>					<b>22</b> Benvenuti -FFSC Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>23</b> Latin Quarters - Jox Nearly New Shop Open 10a.m. - 1 p.m.
<b>24</b> Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	<b>25</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>28</b> Cooking Class - FFSC Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	<b>29</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>1</b> March Last Snowboarding Trip with ITT
<b>2</b> Gambino Winery - ITT Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	<b>3</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>6</b> Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	<b>7</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>8</b> Guitar Hero Turn. - Jox
<b>9</b> Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	<b>10</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Sicilian Easter Cooking - Midtown Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>13</b> Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	<b>14</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	<b>17</b> St. Patrick Day Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Early Release - School Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>20</b> Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	<b>21</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	<b>24</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>27</b> Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	<b>28</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>29</b> Latin Quarters - Jox
<b>30</b> Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	<b>31</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>1</b> April	<b>2</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>3</b> Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	<b>4</b> Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	<b>5</b>

Motta

Oxidiana

Stags

Marchi

*Did you know?*

Living beyond your means is a prescription for disaster? Does more than 25% of your take-home pay go to paying bills? Are you making only minimum payments on bills due? Are you taking out new loans to pay off old ones? Are you missing payments? Are you stalling one creditor to pay another? Are you having frequent family arguments over money? The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can help you improve your financial picture. NMCRS Volunteers and employees work hard to help Sailors, Marines, and their families pull themselves out of deficit budgets and into savings plans. Call today to schedule an appointment.

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 I)  
Monday-Friday  
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
DSN 624-4291  
Commercial 095-56-4291

## Military Saves Week Feb. 24 - Mar. 2

Article Courtesy of the Fleet and Family Support Center

Naval Air Station Sigonella will launch Military Saves Week on base from February 24 to March 2, 2008. Military Saves Week is a week of intense focus on taking financial action and making a commitment to saving money. In 2008, the campaign promotes wealth building messages for military and family members to set savings goals, save for emergencies, make regular contributions to household savings, increase debt payments and participate in financial education programs.

NASSIG Participants in Military Saves Week include Command Financial Specialists (CFS), Fleet & Family Support Center (FFSC), Community Bank, Navy Marine Corp Relief Society (NMCRS), Morale & Welfare Recreation (MWR) and Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU).

To Sign-up for any of the Lunchtime events please contact the Fleet and Family Support Center 624-4291

**The calendar of events include:**  
Located in the Fleet and Family Support Center, Bldg 319

**"Retirement Planning "**  
February 19th 1030-1200  
**"Money Management for life"**  
February 21st 1400-1530  
Sponsored by Fleet and Family Support Center

Lunch and Learn at NAS II Base Education and Training Bldg 407

**"Savings and Credit Card Management"**  
February 26th 1130 - 1230  
(Lunch provided)  
Sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union

**"Financial Readiness"**  
February 28th 1130 - 1230 -  
Sponsored by Community Bank (Lunch provided)

**Lunch and Learn at Take 5 - "Who's Afraid of becoming a Millionaire"**  
February 27th 1130-1230 -  
Sponsored by Liberty Center (Lunch provided)

**Evening Workshop at Marinai Community Center "Couples and Money"**  
February 26th 1900 - 2000  
Sponsored by Fleet and Family Support Center

**Evening Workshop at Mineo Community Center**

## Cold Noses

WARM  
HEARTS



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



**"Couples and Money"**  
February 29th 1830 - 1930  
Sponsored by Fleet and Family Support Center

**"Search for Savings"**  
10K Bike Marathon, Flight Line Gym, NAS II - March 1st 1000 - 1200  
Sponsored by MWR Youth Activities & FFSC

**"Lunch and Conversation regarding Savings Opportunities"**  
Comm. Bank NAS I & NAS II  
February 25 - 29 1130-1300  
Sponsored by Community Bank.

Sigonella'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.

Tulsa (Left) is a great dog who loves to play fetch. If you have room in your home and heart for this boy come and see him at the Stray Animal Facility.

Oscar (Right) is a great dog with a great personality. He would make a great asset to any family.

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

# Sushi

## 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](http://www.pwocsig.com) or [pwocsig@yahoo.com](mailto:pwocsig@yahoo.com)

# Pentagon

# Italian NEWS

Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle



Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff



**NASSIG hosts first base tour for Italian students**

PAO has recently begun facilitating base tours of the NAS 2 facilities. This successful community relations program, which is sometimes conducted jointly with the Italian Air Force 41st Stormo PAO, is aimed at fostering good relationships between the U.S. Navy and host nation communities.

Tours are facilitated mostly for

Italian students but also for local cultural associations and groups such as the Lions Club, Rotary, Kiwanis, Red Cross etc.

Last week, about forty students from the Liceo Scientifico (a scientific high school) participated in the first 2008 orientation tour of NASSIG and the 41st Stormo. The tour included visits to the Fire Department, Air Operations and Military Working Dogs. Students also

visited the 41st Stormo Radar and Weather Stations. It was the first time those students, who came from the Caltanissetta Province, had been on a U.S. military base. Those tours are particularly beneficial to raise public awareness of the Navy mission in Sicily. They give Italian students, especially the ones who live far from the base, an opportunity to get an up-close look at the base activities during a typical day at NAS Sigonella.

"I first heard from another teacher in my hometown about the chance to see Sigonella since she had already brought her school on base last year. So I asked my students if they would like the opportunity to do that, and they enthusiastically replied 'yes!'" said Mrs. Rosalba Di Cristina, a chaperon teacher.

Air OPS officers briefed participants on their activities and presented them the C-26 military aircraft. "Those tours are a lot of fun! I really enjoy showing off the aircraft. There is also the possibility some students might become interested in pursuing a career in aviation," explained Lt. Chris Hansen.

Students were encouraged to ask questions about the Navy planes.

"I loved visiting the aircraft! I'm



Photo by Alberto Lunetta

**During the first base tour for 2008, Italian students from the Riesi high school also visited the NASSIG Operation Department, where they got a chance to learn about the mission of C-26 aircraft and meet with the Navy pilots.**

very happy about this tour. I thought the base was strictly off-limits to the general public," said one of the students, Daniela Strazzante, 17.

"I got here in July. This is the first time being a base pilot, but before I was deployed here with the VP-Squadrons. I love facilitating base tours. It's a nice way to recharge your batteries, see something new and enjoy the culture of Italy. My wife and I are very happy to be here," noted Lt Christopher Sovic.

Other students commented on the stop at the largest MWD unit in Europe. "I have dogs at home and I love them. It was very interesting to see how military working dogs are trained in both patrol and detection," noted Giovanna

Terranova, 16.

K9 Dog handlers were also pleased by the opportunity to meet Italian students.

"This was the first time that I took care of a base tour. The Navy military working dogs' handlers are part of a small community, so it's nice to go out there and show what we do. I think it's a great program that helps building a strong relationship between the local population and the American military," MA3 Millard said.

Another tour highlight was the Fire Department, which gave visitors a chance to see how Italian and American firefighters work hand-in-hand to assure fire safety and provide quality emergency response services, as well as fire prevention training.



Photo by Alberto Lunetta

**Military dog handler MA2 Danielle Kubit shows one of the NASSIG K-9 Unit dogs to Italian students from the Riesi high school at the end of a MWD demonstration, which featured patrol dog training and obedience.**

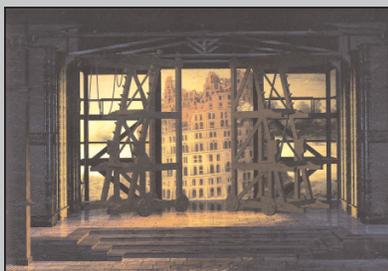
## Upcomming Shows at Catania Bellini Opera House

Photos Courtesy of the Bellini Opera House



The Catania Opera House's symphonic music calendar continues to be filled with attractive events, from now until the end of the year. On Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 9 pm., internationally acclaimed Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire will perform music by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Schumann and Chopin.

Freire's career began in 1959 with concerts in the most important cities in Europe, the United States, South and Central America, Japan and Israel. Ever since, he has been performing both as soloist all over the globe and with the most prestigious world orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Bayerische Rundfunk, Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, Vienna Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, London Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, as well as American Orchestras of Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia etc. For more information and tickets visit [www.teatro-massimobellini.it](http://www.teatro-massimobellini.it)



Giuseppe Verdi's *Il Trovatore* will make its Catania premiere on Feb. 26. Set in 15th century Spain and adapted by Verdi from Antonio Garcia Gutierrez's play "El Trovador," this historical drama, which made his debut in Rome in 1853, tells a gripping story of love, passion and revenge featuring Count di Luna, a nobleman, the troubadour warrior Manrico, the noblewoman they both love, Leonora, and a vengeful gypsy, Azucena. 0

One of Verdi's masterpieces, the Opera features the famous "Anvil Chorus," which is sung by the Gypsies at the beginning of Act 2. There will be two groups of singers alternating in the principal roles. The role of the gypsy Azucena is sung by mezzo-sopranos, Irina Makarova and Sara Punga. Greek Soprano Dimitra Theodossiou and Katia Pellegrino will be Leonora. Tenors Francesco Hong and Kamen Chaney will sing the role of the Troubadour Manrico. Conte di Luna will be Alexandru Agache and Carlo Kang.

Other roles include Marco Spotti and Francesco Palmieri as Ferrando, Piera Puglisi as Ines, Domenico Ghegghi as Ruiz, Armando Caforia as an old gypsy and Francesco La Spada as a messenger.

Roberto Laganà Manori is the Opera scenic and lighting designer as well as choreographer and director. Conductor Antonio Pirolli will lead the cast and the orchestra. *Trovatore* will be performed through March 8.

For more information, detailed schedules and tickets visit <http://www.teatro-massimobellini.it/>



Notice the amazing toe-heel dance steps, rhythmic hand clapping, a colorful dance that rises to an emotional crescendo, evoking the passion and the drama of the gypsy culture. That's what Flamenco is about! So, make sure you don't miss the vibrant show staged by "Jerez de La Frontera," a group featuring some of the finest Spanish Flamenco artists, which will be set up on Thursday Feb. 28 and Friday, Feb. 29 at 9 p.m. at the Catania Metropolitan Theater (# 21 via Sant' Euiplio, phone: 095 -322323). Admission: € 30, € 25 and € 20. For general information and tickets call 095 -7225340 or visit



Tonight, Italian jazz piano player Andrea Beneventano will perform in Catania along with the "Standards & Originals Trio" featuring Ruggero Rotolo (drums) and Alberto Amato (double bass).

Tomorrow night (Feb. 23) Beneventano will be again on stage paying tribute to Academy Award-nominated American jazz tenor saxophonist Dexter Gordon, who is considered as the first bebop tenor player in the world and whose interpretation of ballads still remains unparalleled.

The line up for this night will also feature Cristiano Giardini (saxophone), Alberto Fidone (double bass) and Pucci Nicosia (drums).

An accomplished pianist, who has participated in a number of different international jazz festivals, Beneventano graduated at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory and "O. Respighi" Jazz Music School in Rome. He played with numerous top quality Jazz artists such as Sal Nistico, Steve Grossman, Jon Faddis, Red Rodney, Gary Bartz, Donald Harrison, Rick Margitza, Steve Turre, Massimo Urbani, Paolo Fresu, Flavio Boltro, Eddy Palermo, Franco Cerri, Benny Golson, Buster Williams, Ed Thigpen, Arthur Blythe, Nathan Davis and Chico Freeman and more. Beneventano is Professor of Jazz Studies at the Benevento "Nicola Sala" School of Music and has taught at several music colleges in Rome.

The concerts will take place on both nights at the Y'S Jazz Club (located at the Dune Hotel, viale Kennedy # 10B, the Catania playa beach area) at 10 p.m. Admission is free. For more information and tickets call 095-7233120.

## Chiechio

## Grande Cina

## Casablanca

# Navy to Shoot Down Malfunctioning Satellite

Article by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

The Navy will shoot down a malfunctioning U.S. spy satellite sometime after Feb. 20, government officials said during a Pentagon news conference Feb. 14.

Ambassador James F. Jeffrey, assistant to the president and deputy national security advisor, said President George W. Bush decided to bring down the satellite because of the likelihood that the satellite could release hydrazine, a toxic chemical used as a maneuvering fuel.

"The likelihood of the satellite falling in a populated area is small, and the extent and duration of toxic hydrazine in the atmosphere would be limited," Jeffrey said. "Nevertheless, if the satellite did fall in a populated area, there was the possibility of death or injury to human beings beyond that associated with the fall of satellites and other space debris."

The window for shooting down the satellite opens in the next three or four days and remains open for as many as seven or eight days, said Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said the study group looked carefully at increased risks to the shuttle and International Space Station and decided they are negligible.

"We are very comfortable that this is a decision made carefully, objectively and safely," Griffin said.

Still, the Navy will not fire until after the shuttle Atlantis mission ends Feb. 20.

In late January, the U.S. government notified other nations that the satellite was unresponsive and would make an uncontrolled reentry in late February or early March.

The Navy has modified three SM-3 missiles aboard Aegis ships to strike the satellite, Cartwright said. The Navy wants to intercept the satellite at a point just above the atmosphere so there would be a high likelihood of bringing it down in an unpopulated area. An intercept also would rupture the hydrazine tank. The vice chairman would not say exactly where the ships would fire from, only saying it will be from the northern hemisphere and the Pacific Ocean.

Intercepting the satellite at about 130 nautical miles altitude will reduce the risk of debris in space. Once the satellite is hit, officials hope 50 percent of the debris will come to Earth in the first two orbits and the rest shortly thereafter, Cartwright said.

The satellite belongs to the National Reconnaissance Office and was launched Dec. 14, 2006. It weighs roughly 5,000 pounds, and computer models show that roughly 2,800 pounds would survive reentry.

"What is different here is the hydrazine," Cartwright said. "In this case, we have some historical background that we can work against for the tank that contains the hydrazine. We had a similar one on Columbia that survived reentry. We have a pretty reasonable understanding that, if the tank is left intact, it would survive the reentry."

The tank is circular with a radius of 20 inches. It holds about 1,000 pounds of the fuel.

While details of the satellite are classified -- DoD officials will not release who built it or how much it costs -- that had no bearing on the decision to shoot it down, Cartwright said. The temperatures from reentry would burn up any classified system on the satellite, he said.

Hydrazine is similar to chlorine or ammonia in that it affects lung tissue. People inhaling it would feel a burning sensation. "If you stay close to it and inhale a lot of it, it could be deadly," Cartwright said.

If the military did not shoot down the satellite, the hydrazine would disperse over an area roughly the size of two football fields, the gen-

eral said. Those who breathed it would need medical attention.

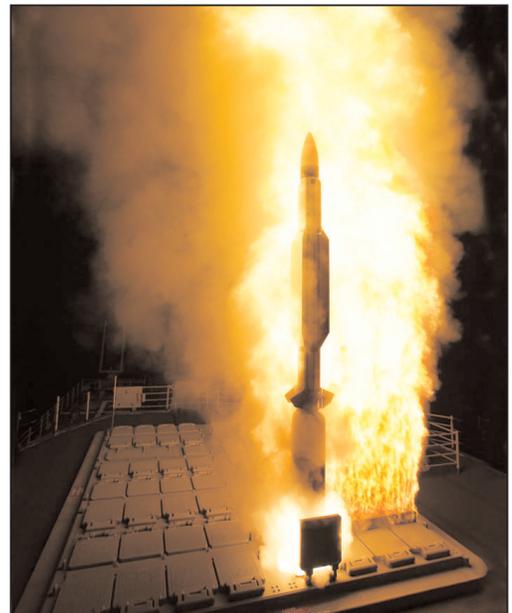
"As we reviewed the data, if we fire at the satellite, the worst that could happen is that we miss," Cartwright said. "Then we have a known situation, which is where we are today."

Grazing the satellite would probably still bring it down quicker and more predictably, he said.

"If we hit the hydrazine tank, then we've improved the potential to mitigate that threat," he said. "The regret factor of not acting clearly outweighed the regret factor of acting."



A Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) is launched from Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) to intercept a threat representative target as part of a Missile Defense Agency test of the sea-based capability under development. This was part of a multiple simultaneous engagement involving two ballistic missile targets that were intercepted about 250 miles from Kauai and approximately 100 miles above the Pacific Ocean. The SM-3 was one of two interceptors launched from the ship that collided with two ballistic missile targets launched from the Pacific Missile Range Test Facility in Kauai, Hawaii, within minutes of one another.



# Navy's Environmental Readiness Director Discusses Sonar and New Website

Article by Lt. Jennifer Cragg, Navy News Service; and Tracey Moriarty  
Chief of Naval Operation Environmental Readiness Division

The Environmental Director for the Chief of Naval Operations has spearheaded the creation of a new Website to better educate and inform the public and Sailors on what the U.S. Navy is doing to protect the seas and its inhabitants during crucial training exercises.

Rear Adm. Larry Rice, director of the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division (N45), recently discussed why training with sonar is important and vital to national security.

"We cannot send our American Sailors and Marines into potential trouble spots around the world without adequate training to defend them," said Rice. "This is a national security issue, and we must use all methods available to ensure that arbitrary and excessive restrictions do not hamper our ability to train."

Rice added that the U.S. Navy has trained in Southern California for the past 40 years, and they have had zero incidents with marine mammals--no strandings, no deaths, and no documented injuries.

"We want to keep that up," added Rice. "In order to accomplish this, we have 29 protective measures that we already employ. The additional training restrictions that the court levied on us frankly don't help us take care of the environment--and it restricts our training."

Rice added that it is important for Sailors and citizens to know how small an impact Navy sonar has on the marine environment.

As part of learning what type of impact the Navy is having, Rice encourages everyone to log onto the Navy's newest sonar Web site, which features information on whales, video clips, environmental stories, the Currents magazine, and more.

The web site is located at [www.navy.mil/oceans](http://www.navy.mil/oceans).

Rice also added that it is important that people are aware of the many reasons for strandings.

For nations that track such events, worldwide naval use of active sonar has been correlated with the stranding of approximately 50 whales during the 10-year period from 1996-2006.

"Contrast that with over 3,500 marine mammal 'normal' strandings that occur on U.S. shores annually, and 600,000 marine mammal deaths each year by commercial fishing interests," Rice said. "So, let's examine this: 600,000 are attributable to commercial fishing, over 3,500 a year are

contributable to normal causes, and approximately five a year to sonar. And remember that in the last couple of years sonar-caused deaths have been zero."

Rice attributes the U.S. Navy's success with sonar to the fleet operators who are paying attention to what is going on in the world with marine mammals and sonar, and they realize that this is really important. The recent court case in Southern California only reaffirms its importance.

"Their actions directly influence their ship's training that will be following them. The folks that preceded the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group took precautions; they used the 29 protective measures, they ensured that our record of zero marine mammal incidents in Southern California was kept up. It's important that we keep that up so the training can continue," said Rice.

Rice added that one of the reasons for zero strandings associated with sonar is the result of continued U.S. Navy research.

"The U.S. Navy funds \$18 million a year in marine mammal research, including independent, peer-reviewed research conducted by Boston University, Duke University, University of Hawaii and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Research topics include sound effects on marine mammals," said Rice.

While the U.S. Navy works hard to train in an environmentally responsible manner, submarine technology is improving and widely available to interested nations. More than 300 extremely quiet diesel electric submarines operate in 41 countries worldwide. These submarines are cheap, mass produced and readily available to any country that wants to pursue this technology.

Rice explained how difficult a job sonar technicians have when trying to pinpoint the sound of an extremely quiet submarine.

"As you know the ocean isn't like the atmosphere. The ocean is changing all of the time, whether it is the salinity, whether it is the density, whether it is the currents out there. It is a noisy place; not only are there submarines out there, but there is wave sound, rain sounds, there are other marine mammals, there are seismic sounds, earthquakes, volcanoes--a lot of sounds in the oceans, and they have to pick out that really quiet diesel electric submarine amongst all of those other sounds. That isn't something that we can simulate," said Rice.

The U.S. Navy employs 29 protective



Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Mark Osborne supervises Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class Randy Loewen, left, and Sonar Technician (Surface) 3rd Class Roland Stout, right, as they monitor contacts on an AN/SQQ-89V15 Surface Anti Submarine Combat System, aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Momsen (DDG 92). Ships and aircraft assigned to Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 9 are underway off the coast of Southern California participating in a Joint Task Force Exercise.

measures to protect marine life when using mid-frequency active sonar during a major exercise or within established ranges or operating area.

The measures include stationing trained lookouts, passive acoustics monitoring for marine mammals, employing night vision, establishing protective safety zones around ships, taking appropriate action when marine mammals are spotted, and employing extra precautions during chokepoint exercises.

These measures were developed with-and are fully supported by-Federal environmental regulators, including the National Marine Fisheries Service.



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.

## Scalilli

## Rigattiere



While standing watch aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Momsen (DDG 92), Boatswain's Mate Seaman Alden Fenton discusses some of the training he has received to help him spot and identify marine mammals with a journalist from Reuters. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) The Honorable Dr. Donald Winter visited Momsen with members of the press to observe protective measures Navy employs to protect marine mammals during joint task force exercise.



(Above) Toro Marcella and her sister Giutia teach the preschoolers at the Meneo School.

**SCHOOL continued from page 3**

same boat as their children, not having any experience in Italian.

Katja Alexis, whose child is currently enrolled in the Mineo School, moved to Sicily last summer with her daughter and her husband. Two months later she was faced with a decision to send her daughter to the DoDDS school on NAS I, or the Mineo School. In the end, her decision was made by her desire to help her daughter to learn a foreign language. She concluded that if she was going to spend three years in Italy, it would be most beneficial to send her child to an Italian school.

"It was scarier for me than it was for my daughter; she's generally a shy girl and she wasn't even worried," Alexis said. "At the time, she didn't speak any Italian, but in three months, she was fluent. No problems whatsoever. The teachers were very good at helping. They were patient, and always sat her up front so she could hear the pronunciation better, and spent extra time with her, showing her how to write everything well."

Two people who were crucial to the success of Alexis's daughter, as well as the rest of the parents of the American children in the school are Anna Roccouzzo and Gino Salerno. These two have been acting as liaisons between the community, the school and the parents for the past seven years. Whenever the parents have had questions or concerns about their children that they wanted to address with the teachers, the two of them would always be willing to help, acting as a translators for smooth communication as well as friends and mentors.

Deanna Windle, another parent of a Mineo school child, still had different reasons for her decision to send her child to an

Italian school. "Language was part of it, but more importantly, it was to be a part of the community. This way he'll better understand what it's like to live in another country and be able to see that people are still the same. It also gives him a chance to interact with them and presents him a challenge."

Even the teacher had something to gain from the American children's foreign education. In a very real way, the teachers have become the students when it comes to learning English from the children. They too have seen it as an opportunity to learn and become more well-rounded individuals. It also has provided them with an incentive to become better communicators themselves.

"I owe a great deal to the American families," said Maria Giovanna Bellino, a teacher at the Mineo School.

The global culture we are living in provided the same rationale for Lilly Meyers to send her two sons to Mineo. "It was my experience, seeing children who were in eighth grade who couldn't read and couldn't write, and that was my biggest fear for my children, but with the global economy the way it is, people who don't speak at least two languages are at a disadvantage."

Although it was frightening at first for most of the parents, none of them regret the

decisions they made, and none of them could have been happier with the outcome.

"It has been different in a way because a lot of people are stubborn or afraid and will ask 'why are you sending your children there? They don't speak English, and you don't know who they are,' but you just have to be open minded and trusting and take the experience of learning a new culture and a new language," Joanna Salton said.

Further support was given from the Mayor of Mineo.

"It's definitely a privilege to host American students in our school because we believe that it's important to promote at an early age the integration between our two communities. The blend of different languages and cultures can, indeed, bring wonderful benefits to both our nations. Ever since the opening of Mineo Housing, my administration and the entire local community has been striving to welcome the American families living in Mineo Housing and make them feel at home in our town. We have organized several COMREL events such as soccer games, Italian/American friendship days, cultural exchanges etc. The presence of American children, who attend our school, shows that our friendship has been strengthened still further over the years," Dr. Giuseppe Castania said.

# Alphio

# Magnolia



(Above) One of the classes at the Meneo School teaching both Italians and Americans. This preschool class is comprised of three, four and five year olds.

## The Next Generation of Military Satellite Communications Comes to NCTS Sicily

Article by ET2 Craig Black, NCTS Sicily

Information Warfare has become a primary element of the modern battlefield. Getting the right information to the right person in a timely matter is imperative. Currently the Navy, DoD, and America's allies use the UHF (Ultra High Frequency) Follow-on (UFO) satellite system. The UFO system is coming to the end of its life expectancy and will soon require a replacement system. In 1996 the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Space (DUSD Space) was tasked by the Joint Space Management Board (JSMB) to define the DoD Space Architect's MILSATCOM (Military Satellite Communications) recommended architecture and to develop an affordable transition roadmap. Volunteering to be at the forefront of the satellite communication's most

technologically advanced system was the United States Navy. After many years of research and development the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) was born.

MUOS will utilize Third Generation (3G) cellular technology, which will utilize the technology used in many modern mobile phones. The 3G technology has provided cellular customers with services such as streaming video, networked communications, and data and voice over IP networks. To provide world wide coverage, MUOS will utilize four in-orbit satellites and four ground stations to provide for global point-to-point communications and data transfer from mobile users directly to the command and control authorities. This advanced satellite communication constellation will allow for

64Kbps total throughput with 1,997 users world wide, permitting more users to download data much faster than previously possible.

Eagerly standing by to launch this cutting edge technology are the technicians and operators at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS), Sicily. On February 19, 2008 the ground side infrastructure for the European theater will participate in a ground breaking ceremony in Naval Radio and Transmitter Facility (NRTF), Niscemi; a NCTS, Sicily subordinate unit. "We are very excited to be a part of the future of communications for the U.S. and our allies" said LT Terry Traweck, Officer in Charge at NRTF. "Things like this make my job worthwhile."

# A Stone's Throw

## THE HUB OF THE MED IS ALSO THE HUB FOR TRAVEL Castle in the Sky

Story and Photos by LT Jonathan Groveman  
NASSIG Public Affairs Officer

Located high on a hill, above the seaside town of Cefalu, sits the majestic castle of Castelbuono, named for the town, it demonstrates the classical history and culture of ancient Sicily.

Castelbuono's history goes back to the thirteenth century when a local count funded an Arab-Norman style fortification built to protect the small town and neighboring valley against invaders. As years went on, addition-

al connecting structures were added, turning the architectural phenomenon into a full castle.

Today, the town of Castelbuono falls under the Province of Palermo, and offers a wealth of tourist amenities, shopping opportunities and local agricultural products. Locals boast of their high quality organic wine and olive oil, along with an affinity for cooking with ricotta cheese and porcini mushrooms.

The castle was primarily linked to the Ventimiglia Family, whose ancestors continued building upon the original fortification and eventually turned it into a Renaissance palace and residence of the court. The highlight of the building is its palace chapel, decorated in 1683, with elaborate stuccoes and a religious relic of Saint Anne.

After an earthquake in the nineteenth century, it was neglected, but eventually in 1998 it was again restored by local citizens of the town. Although its original splendor is covered over by some

of the restoration work, it now breathes new life as an art gallery for numerous works of modern art.

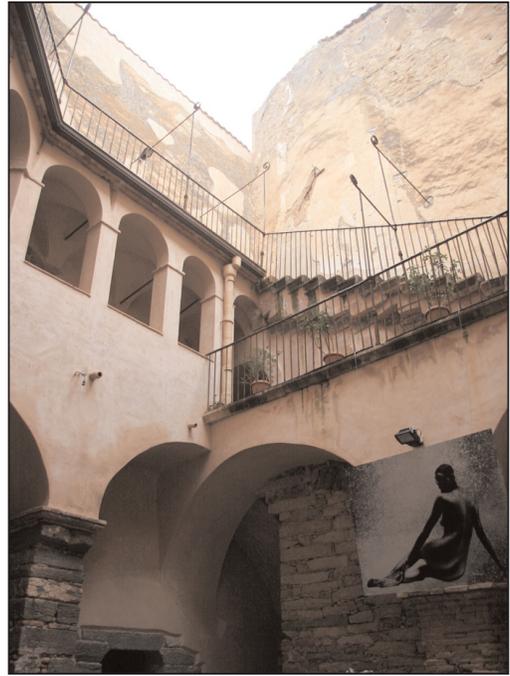
A walk through the town's ancient streets gives visitors a sense of its distant past. Local shops offering handicrafts, agricultural products, coffee and pastries make the two-hour journey well worth it. The Testa Di Turco is unique to this town, and is best described as a conolli pie, a culinary delight for anyone with a sweet tooth.

Other architectural sites include the Church of Madrice Vecchia, which was built in the fourteenth century on the ruins of a Pagan Temple.

The inside is decorated with numerous prized paintings of famous saints. In addition, the Church of San Francesco is nearby, which is reportedly connected to the town's castle by an underground tunnel.

Castelbuono can be reached on the A19 toward Palermo. From the A19, take the Scillato exit, and follow the signs toward Castelbuono.

The entire distance is approximately 175 kilometers and is close enough to the seaside town of Cefalu to make a weekend trip out of the visit.



## Navy Federal

# Perla d'orientale

# 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

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! - Sign up at the Teen Center!

## 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

March 6: Indoor Cycling, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$110

March 7 - 9: Personal Fitness Training Certification, 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 Tournery:** 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 22 - FEBRUARY 28

## MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE HOTLINE: 624-4248

### SCHEDULE

### MOVIE DESCRIPTIONS

#### Friday, February 22

12:00pm Taxi PG-13 97 min.  
3:00pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.  
5:00pm One Mised Call PG-13 87 min.  
5:30pm I Am Legend PG-13 114 min.  
7:30pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.  
8:00pm Alien VS Predator-Requiem R 94 min.  
9:30pm P.S. I Love You PG-13 126 min.

#### Saturday, February 23

2:00pm The Water Horse PG 112 min.  
2:30pm National Treasure: Book of Secrets PG 130 min.  
4:30pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.  
5:00pm The Kite Runner PG-13 128 min.  
7:30pm One Mised Call PG-13 87 min.  
8:00pm Alien VS Predator-Requiem R 94 min.  
9:30pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.

#### Sunday, February 24

12:00pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.  
2:30pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.  
4:30pm The Kite Runner PG-13 128 min.  
5:00pm Alien VS Predator-Requiem R 94 min.  
7:00pm Charlie Wilson's War R 130 min.

#### Monday, February 25

12:00pm No Country For Old Men R 123 min.  
3:00pm The Water Horse PG 112 min.  
5:00pm P.S. I Love You PG-13 126 min.  
5:30pm The Kite Runner PG-13 128 min.  
7:30pm I Am Legend PG-13 114 min.  
8:00pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.

#### Tuesday, February 26

5:00pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.  
5:30pm One Mised Call PG-13 87 min.  
7:30pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.  
8:00pm Alien VS Predator-Requiem R 94 min.

#### Wednesday, February 27

12:00pm P.S. I Love You PG-13 126 min.  
3:00pm National Treasure: Book of Secrets PG 130 min.  
5:00pm I Am Legend PG-13 114 min. LS  
5:30pm Charlie Wilson's War R 130 min.  
7:30pm No Country For Old Men R 123 min. LS  
8:00pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story R 96 min.

#### Thursday, February 28

3:00pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.  
5:00pm One Mised Call PG-13 87 min.  
5:30pm The Kite Runner PG-13 128 min.  
7:30pm THROWBACK THURSDAY - FREE ADMISSION  
King's Ransom PG-13 95 min.  
8:00pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.

### Alien Vs Predator Requiem (R)

The iconic monsters from the two film franchises wage a brutal battle in an unsuspecting Colorado town.

### 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.

### 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.

### Jumper (PG-13)

A genetic anomaly allows a young man to teleport himself anywhere. He discovers this gift has existed for centuries and finds himself in a war that has been raging for thousands of years between "Jumpers" and those who have sworn to kill them.

### The Kite Runner (PG-13)

In a divided country on the verge of war, two childhood friends, Amir and Hassan, are about to be torn apart forever. It's a glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are bursting with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fearful act of betrayal will mark their lives forever and set in motion an epic quest for redemption. Now, after 20 years of living in America, Amir returns to a perilous Afghanistan under the Taliban's iron-fisted rule to

face the secrets that still haunt him and take one last daring chance to set things right.

### 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.

### One Mised Call (PG-13)

Beth Raymond is traumatized when she witnesses the gruesome deaths of two friends just days apart. Even more disturbing, she knows that both of them had received chilling cell phone messages--actual recordings of their own horrifying last moments. Impossibly, the calls were received days before they died, but each death occurred precisely when and how the messages foretold. The police think Beth is delusional--except for Detective Jack Andrews, whose own sister was killed in a freak accident that bears a strange similarity to the deaths of Beth's friends. Together, Jack and Beth work feverishly to unravel the mystery behind the ominous calls. But even as they get closer to the truth, Beth's cell phone begins to ring with an eerie tune, and the readout displays: "One Mised Call."

### 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.

### The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG)

From the beloved best-selling series of books comes "The Spiderwick Chronicles," a fantasy adventure for the child in all of us. Peculiar things start to happen the moment the Grace family (Jared, his twin brother Simon, sister Mallory and their mom) leave New York and move into the secluded old house owned by their great, great uncle Arthur Spiderwick. Unable to explain the strange disappearances and accidents that seem to be happening on a daily basis, the family blames Jared. When he, Simon and Mallory investigate what's really going on, they uncover the fantastic truth of the Spiderwick estate and of the creatures that inhabit it.

PREMIERS FRIDAY FEBRUARY 29

Juno  
Sweeney Todd  
COMING SOON

First Sunday  
The Great Debaters  
The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything

# New Law Protects Military Members and Their Families from Predatory Lending

Article by Lt. Liam A. Connel, JAGC, USN

A new federal law went into effect on 1 October 2007 that places limitations on consumer credit terms involving members of the armed forces and their dependents in order to prevent predatory lending. The new law, referred to as the Federal Military Lending Act, applies when service members or their dependents contract for any of three types of consumer credit: 1) Payday Loans, 2) Vehicle Title Loans, and 3) Tax Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs).

The law defines Payday Loans as closed-end credit with a term of 91 days or fewer in which the amount financed does not exceed \$2,000 and the borrower provides a post-dated check or a delayed debit authorization to secure the loan; Vehicle Title Loans are defined as closed-end credit with a term of 181 days or fewer that is secured by the title to a motor vehicle that has been registered for use on public roads and owned by a covered borrower; and Tax Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs) are closed-end credit in which the borrower gives the creditor the right to receive all or part of the borrower's income tax refund or expressly agrees to repay the loan with the proceeds of the refund.

If a service member or their dependents contracts for a Payday Loan, a Vehicle Title Loan, or a Tax Refund Anticipation Loan (as defined above) the creditor (defined as the one to whom money will be owed) is prohibited from doing any of the following:

-36% Interest cap: Creditors are prohibited from charging any member greater than a 36% Annual Percentage Rate (APR), including all cost elements associated with the extension of credit, such as fees, service charges, renewal charges, credit insurance premiums, any ancillary product sold with any extension of credit, and any other charge or premium with respect to the extension of consumer credit.

-Roll-Over Loans: A creditor cannot "roll-over" or refinance the same loan between the same creditor and borrower.

-Mandatory waivers of consumer protection laws: Creditors cannot require borrowers to waive any State or Federal law, including provisions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

-Mandatory arbitration provisions: Creditors cannot require borrowers to submit to arbitration or onerous legal notice provisions.

-Use of check or vehicle title as loan security: A creditor cannot require a borrower to issue a check as a

means of access to the borrower's financial accounts or require a borrower to provide a vehicle title as loan security.

-Unreasonable notice requirements: A creditor cannot insert into credit agreements any unreasonable notice requirement as a prerequisite to a borrower's right to bring legal action against the creditor.

-Mandatory allotments: A creditor cannot require a borrower to create a voluntary allotment for the benefit of the creditor as a loan prerequisite.

-Prepayment penalty: A creditor cannot charge a penalty for prepayment of a loan, in whole or in part.

Violation of the Federal Military Lending Act is a federal misdemeanor subjecting a violator to fines and imprisonment. However, rather than relying on the laws protections, service members needing quick cash are encouraged to seek alternatives to predatory loans. For example, a service member can talk to the Command Financial Specialist, and visit the Fleet and Family Support Center for valuable and private advice and assistance; talk to on-base Banks and Credit Unions, as they are tasked to help service members; visit the local Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society; visit Military OneSource at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) or call 1-800-342-9647 for advice

and assistance, 24/7; talk to the American Red Cross via the Armed Forces Emergency Service Center, which provides 24/7 emergency financial advice and referral, at 1-877-272-7337, [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org); visit Military Homefront, the official DoD web site for quality of life information to help service members and their families at [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)

Additionally, the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society started a new pilot loan program on 17 September 2007 in San Diego, CA and Groton, CT called "QUICK ASSIST LOAN." It is available to eligible active duty Sailors and Marines assigned to a command at MCB Camp Pendleton and San Onofre, NSB Groton, MCAS Miramar, MCRD San Diego, NAS North Island, Naval Base San Diego or MCAS Yuma. The program offers emergency interest-free loans up to \$500, and is designed to get the service member a loan in less than 15 minutes. Members must not have a pending discharge, bankruptcy, or military disciplinary action pending or within the last six months. The loan application and information on eligibility is at <http://www.nmcrs.org/quickassist.html>.

If you have any questions about the Federal Military Lending Act, please contact the Region Legal Service Office at 624 5258 to make an appointment to speak with a legal assistance attorney.

## Tattoo

## Stampa

## CFFC Emphasizes Stability, Consistency, Clarity in IA Detailing

Article by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Christal A. Bailey  
Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs

Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (CFFC), emphasized the need to provide stability, consistency and clarity to Sailors preparing to deploy as individual augmentees (IAs) under the Navy's Global War on Terrorism Support Assignment (GSA) detailing system in an address to the San Diego Military Advisory Council meeting here Feb. 13.

Greenert said the IA program is one of his top priorities, noting Sailors have specific skill sets that are needed in Central Command.

"These are folks with unique skills; medical, legal, guards, logistics, language or customs people. We're doing a good job. We have a lot of Sailors that fill these skills," he said.

He added that Sailors are also supporting Pacific Command in a similar way.

Greenert said the Navy is working to improve the IA assignment process.

"Our folks have been called to

serve on a short notice because certain skill sets were needed," he said. "This has been going on for about two years now and a pattern [has] developed. The replacement of folks that [have] to go over there is imminent and most likely will be going on for awhile."

The new GSA detailing process was developed to reduce the number of Sailors sent as IAs on short notice. Sailors now have the ability to accept a GSA assignment as a permanent change of station (PCS). Eventually it will replace the need to pull Sailors from other assignments mid tour in order to fill an IA.

"It's providing stability and a consistency to the individual augmentee process, which we really need," Greenert commented.

Currently there are more than 11,000 IA Sailors deployed. According to Greenert, one in three Sailors are currently assigned via the PCS process, but he hopes to increase that number to three out of four in order to give Sailors the ability to

plan ahead.

"They need to be given enough time to prepare and effectively learn to be a soldier, and to be able to plan for their life today and their life in the future. We need to integrate planned IA rotation into their Navy career path," he said. "We need to be consistent in the GSA process. We need to stabilize the assignment, which we're working towards. ... We need to grab this process and make a future out of it for Sailors and their families."

In addition to addressing the need to improve IA detailing, Greenert also addressed critical fleet training needs and challenges presented by encroachment, ship and aircraft maintenance and the need for the supplemental budget in support of fleet operations.

Greenert went on to thank the San Diego community for support and partnership opportunities, noting that no community in the country has a closer relationship with the Navy than San Diego.

*TA continued from page 3*  
policy, according to Barrett.

"Listening to our Sailors has allowed us to calibrate the controls to become even more effective," said Rear Adm. Gary Jones, commander, Naval Education and Training Command. "We continue to monitor the new policies and their impact on Sailors and the Voluntary Education (VOLED) program, building the programs and making changes as needed. TA and NCPACE support our Sailor's education goals and are included as part of our new Enlisted Learning and Development Strategy that we are beginning to rollout."

Setting realistic goals, conducting early career planning, and main-

taining a balance between job and education is essential to a Sailor's success, according to Ann Hunter, the Navy's Voluntary Education (VOLED) Service Chief.

"For example, Sailors with four-year commitments may find completing degree requirements challenging. Completion of "A" School and satisfactory progress toward warfare qualifications must come first," said Hunter. "This doesn't prevent Sailors from developing an education plan and studying for CLEP and DANTES exams."

"With careful planning, these Sailors may complete 24-30 hours of college courses before completion of their four-year commitment. This,

combined with credit for military training and experience, could lead to a degree," added Hunter.

Sailors are required to assess career and educational goals and work with both Navy leadership and Navy College Offices to develop a plan that places a priority on warfare and professional qualifications, and supports career development.

The education plan is only one aspect of a Sailor's career development plan. Full implementation of the Navy's management controls requires cooperation between the Navy College Offices, command leadership and Sailors. Roles and responsibilities are outlined in the NAVADMIN.



## Get Fit With New Web-Based Program FitFactor

Article by Lorie Warchol  
MWR Marketing

Fleet and Family Readiness Programs (Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Child and Youth Programs, Housing, Galley and Fleet and Family Support Center), have initiated an exciting web-based program, FitFactor, that is designed to encourage youth, ages 6-18, to get fit!

FitFactor offers youth and teens five exciting levels: Energy, Strength, Agility, Adventure, Endurance and Feel the Power, with exciting prizes at each level.

The first step is for the children to sign up at the Youth Center or Fit District on NAS I and establish a username and password. Then, all they need to do is start logging their daily fitness activities. The program is military wide and accounts will stay valid when children transfer in or out of Sigonella.

MWR's youth sports and fitness teams have several ways to help get

the points on the board for FitFactor. Youth Hip Hop Dance is Mondays at Fit District, ages 5 - 8 from 2:30 - 3 p.m.; ages 9 and up from 3 - 4 p.m. Youth will learn the latest hip hop and street dance trends!

The emphasis will be developing individual style and a love for fitness dance. Also available is Teen Spin (13+ at least 5ft. tall) on Tuesdays at Fit District from 3 - 3:45 p.m. Let the beat move your feet! Both classes are worth 50 FitFactor points.

Sigonella's FitFactor participants are currently 25 percent more active than participating European FitFactor participants. "I am so proud of all of the Sigonella FitFactor participants," said Shannon Rotilio, MWR Youth Sports Coordinator.

"Sigonella's youth are very active in all of the programming provided by MWR. We have many

healthy role models in our middle school and high school setting a great example for our younger youth. The Sigonella high school students are currently the most active FitFactorians in Europe."

Sigonella currently has 215 youth signed up in the FitFactor program. There are 105 females and 110 males, with 35 at the Energy level and 10 at the Strength level. The top five activities logged for Sigonella are: ate a good breakfast today, ate three regular meals today, walking, swimming, and wrestling.

March Madness Bike-a-thon is fast approaching on March 1. This is a 5K, 10K or 15K perimeter bike ride with sign ups starting at 10am at Flight Line Fitness Center.

So how-about-it Sigonella? Call Fit District at 624-4945 or stop by to enroll and join the fun. Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit!

### PFPS continued from page 2

low impact activities such as swimming, biking or elliptical machine. As your knees feel better, you can gradually return to the activities you enjoy.

2. Strengthen weak muscles. Knee pain often occurs due to muscle weakness around your hip joint. Exercises that make the front (quadriceps) and outside (tensor fasciae latae) of your thigh stronger are essential as they support your knee. Exercises should be done every other day. Perform 2-4 sets with an amount of weight that you can fairly easily do 10-15 repetitions of, painfree.

3. Stretch. Tight hamstrings, quadriceps and the iliotibial band are likely culprits. All stretches should be held for 30 seconds and repeated 2-3x/day.

4. Proper footwear. Inserting a simple arch support may be helpful

in providing cushion. These inserts are affordable and worth trying.

5. Ice your knees for 10-20 minutes after activity. Anti-inflammatory medications such as Motrin may also relieve pain.

To reduce the risk of PFPS do not prepare for your physical PRT last minute, or make sudden changes in your workouts. It is better for your joints to gradually increase your activity and to maintain this level, rather than fluctuating between sedentary life styles and extreme fitness.

PFPS can be hard to treat and your knees won't get better overnight. It may take 6 weeks or longer to fully recover. If your symptoms persist or worsen, you should make an appointment with your primary care physician or ask for referral to physical therapy.

### DON'T BE AFRAID

continued from page 2

filling your heart with fear can be a consuming thing. I like the story from the Bible about the Lord's attitude during a particularly bad storm. The men in the boat with Jesus were fishermen by vocation and had probably experienced some terrible storms during their careers as fishermen. Yet this storm was unique in its ferocity and they were scared to death. They were absolutely convinced that they were all going to die during this storm. And what was Jesus doing? He was asleep! He was resting comfortably while these fishermen were panicking! The Lord was demonstrating to these rugged men that He is in control even during very difficult times. The Bible gives this account, "...Then He arose and

rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

The Lord in effect was telling these men, don't be afraid. I have the situation well in hand and I will take care of you! What difficulties are you facing right now that cause fear? These fishermen were tough individuals, yet they were genuinely afraid. They did a very important thing when they were afraid, they approached the Lord with their fears. Who do you approach with your fears? I encourage you to take your problems and fears to the Lord. He not only loves and cares for you, but He can do something about your personal storms!

# Volvo

Calling all singers, dancers, actors and musical theatre buffs...  
Ages 6 to 60!

- ❖ Every day when you wake up, do you break into a rousing rendition of "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning"?
- ❖ In high school, were you voted "Most likely to make it on Broadway"?
- ❖ Is your video of "Oliver!" totally worn out from too many viewings?
- ❖ Are your daughters named Liesl and Gretl?
- ❖ Is your dog named Toto?

If so, we've got trouble my friends! - trouble that can only be remedied by getting involved in Sigonella's upcoming musical:

MEREDITH WILLSON'S  
**THE MUSIC MAN**

Audition Workshops: February 19/21  
Auditions: February 25/26  
Production Dates: May 9/10

For more info: [lynn.soebey@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:lynn.soebey@eu.dodea.edu)

THE Signature  
SIGNONELLA, SICILY

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.

# 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](mailto:THESIG@NASSIG.SICILY.NAVY.MIL)

## AUTOMOTIVE

**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 Deedee hm X-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

**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

**2003 Honda CBR1100XX Blackbird** pristine condition. Black, 13k miles, new chain and tires, Helibars, Givi Wingrack II system, stock screen and Givi touring screen, Ram mount for GPS/camera. 160bhp, 500lbs dry. Looking for the first \$9,200. Call John at 624-1463.

**2003 Harley Davidson XL883C Sportster Custom.** Anniversary Edition Black and Silver. Lots of chrome. Stage 1 kit installed. Looks great, sounds great, runs great. Appr. 9K mi. \$5500.00 Firm. Call Joe -- Cell:3392557154 Home:095306149 Work: 624-5764. Must see to appreciate!

**1996 Alfa Romeo 164 T-spark.** Well maintained; all fluids replaced, new timing belt, brakes, tires and exhaust with only 56,000 miles. \$4,300 obo 624-1343

**1996 Alfa 164**-with 56,000 miles in great condition. All new fluids,brakes and timing belt. A steal at \$4300. Call Anthony at 624-1343 to setup a test drive.

**1996 Mercedes C-180**, 1.8L, 4Cyl gas engine with cold A/C, Clean, gas efficient and reliable. Asking \$4800.00. Call Carlos at 624-4700x17,

or Cel 335-578-8119

**1998 Fiat coupe'** with in dash DVD player, new brakes, and tune up. Asking price is \$3,000 obo. Call 624-1326 or 3334277357 ask for Piera or Kevin

**2004 BMW X3 SAV**, 1 owner, Jet Black, 60,000 miles, 6pd manual transmission, Sports Package, Terracotta Leather sports seats, Premium Sound System, Dynamic Stability Control, Hill Descent, 8-way Power Sport Seats w/memory, Xenon Adaptive Headlights, fog lights, on-board trip computer, automatic air conditioning, cruise control, rain sensing windshield wipers, dealer maintained, excellent condition, \$25,000. Contact Antonio 340 964 3773.

**Opel Tigra 2 Door Coupe'** full option in excellent condition like new asking price euro 3450,00 obo for info call 346-6082330 ask for Joe

## FOR SALE

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 handwoven bar stools were crafted

with great attention to detail with a distinctive herringbone design. Selling both for \$120. Contact Rebekah 624-1205

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

Barbie The Island Princess Nintendo DS game new never used for sale \$15.00. Call 624-1220 after 6 pm

## 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.

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.

The Ombudsman ladies are sponsoring a QUILTING CLASS. Classes are open for anyone and it will start at the Marani Community Center at 1:30 pm on Saturday. March 1st. POC will be Gwen Gooch at 624-1493. Classes will be

for newcomers as well as for the seasoned quilters. Come and have a lot of fun!

## PETS

1 year old pure bread beagle named Max for sale. Brown and Black spots, GREAT with small kids. Had him since he was 8 weeks old from Virginia. Call Carol at 624-1323 for information. Serious inquiries please.

## YARD SALE

Multifamily Yard Sale: Mineo - Saturday 2/23/08 9am-1pm Kitchen island w/ granite top, Yamaha key board, bench, stand, & several music books from beginner to intermed. Some household items, clothes, etc. 1079D Decatur Street.

## 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, score-keepers 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 saoasecretary@yahoo.com

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at [thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil](mailto: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.

Centro  
traslochi

Joes

Assomondo  
animale

Hi Tech

Vento del-  
l'est

Volcano

Craivan

Classified

# Stampa