



Sigonella Chiefs Celebrate 115 Years of Brotherhood

Article and Photos Lt. j.g. Matt Knight
Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

Sigonella chiefs celebrated the 115th chief petty officer birthday, Friday, at NAS 1 Midtown complex with a series of celebratory events.

The day's events were designed to celebrate the pride, honor and tradition innate to the

chief brotherhood since its creation Apr. 1, 1893 and included a flag ceremony prior to morning colors, a five km formation run, a CPO History presentation in the Midtown Movie Theater, a presentation by guest speaker Commander Navy Region Europe Command Master Chief Michael Hurley, an all hands barbeque, and a ceremonial cake cutting.

When asked what he felt it meant to be a chief, Chief Petty Officer John Cordero, senior enlisted leader for Executive Transport Detachment Sigonella replied: "a chief is) part of the biggest and best fraternity in the world... First and foremost the brotherhood is stronger than ever."

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Navy Introduces New PT Uniforms

Article by MC2 (SW) David Beyea
Naval Media Center

The Navy introduced its new physical training uniform (PTU) to the world in a photo shoot, March 20-21.

The PTU consist of a gold shirt with

reflective Navy lettering and blue shorts with Navy lettering and reflective markings.

The new uniforms will be required for all group and unit physical training (PT) in the Navy, as well as the semi-annual physical fitness tests.

"It's to support the culture of fitness and provide a uniformity among Sailors," said Robert Carroll, the head of the naval uniform office at Chief of Naval Personnel. "To achieve this, the Navy's leadership decided to adopt the new PT uniform."

The new PTUs will begin hitting the Navy, with Recruit Training Command, in April, and will phase into the rest of the fleet between May and September. Sailors will be able to pick up their uniforms at Navy Exchanges around the world, costing \$50 for the required two sets of PTUs.

Simultaneous with the official fleet rollout of the uniform, flag officers, commanding officers and command master chiefs will have the opportunity to purchase their PTUs by calling the Navy exchange uniform call center.

"It's called leading from the front," said Carroll when explaining why a commanding officer can get his PTUs right away. "The Navy wants to lead its Sailors from the top."



DDSI Continues Culture of Continuous Improvement

By Navy Cmdr. Mark E. Semmler
Commander, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy

The terms "Lean" and "Six Sigma" are becoming increasingly common in the business world today. Under the Lean concept, the focus is on maximizing process velocity. Lean provides the tools for analyzing the work flow and delay times for any process. The processes are documented, and then put through a rigorous value stream mapping analysis to identify and then eliminate inefficient actions.

"With so much focus on analysis, some programs can get too focused on statistics and lose sight of their priorities," said Robert

Pattillo, the program manager for Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy's Lean program. "At DDSI, we've tried to take a practical approach to Lean concepts and are focused on building a culture of continuous improvement that puts our customer first."

During february, at an all hands gathering of employees, two of the organizations foremen signed the first of DDSI's Standard Operating Procedures; many more are expected to follow. The SOPs are a culmination of effort by teams to

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The new Navy physical training uniform consists of a gold t-shirt and blue shorts. The t-shirt will have the word "NAVY" in safety reflective letters on the back and on the front. The shorts will have the Navy seal on the left leg. The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) will begin rolling out the new Navy PT uniforms through the Uniform Centers in spring.

WEATHER UPDATE

Apr. 11
H:89F
L:62F



Apr. 12
H:81F
L:53F



Apr. 13
H:73F
L:47F



Apr. 14
H:70F
L:49F



Apr. 15
H:71F
L:49F



Apr. 16
H:72F
L:52F



Apr. 17
H:72F
L:51F



TOP STORIES

Spring has sprung and the time to address the clutter that accumulated during the winter season has to be addressed. Growing up in New England, the winters were beautiful however they seemed to linger--sometimes into April!

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Most people would not consider a career in the military if they wanted to make a fortune, but a Navy message released March 21 indicates that a Navy retirement can be worth millions of dollars over the course of a lifetime.

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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and provides an excellent opportunity to teach prevention. It is important to let others know what they can do to keep from being victims of sexual assault. Sexual assault IS a CRIME.

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On April 1, 2008, the Catbird Chiefs' Mess celebrated the CPO's birthday with fellow ETD members. The celebration started with the reading of some of the Navy's distinguished chiefs that had been awarded the Medal of Honor and a cake cutting ceremony.

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It is interesting how the various tenants command at NAS Sigonella organize their fund raisers, to make money and to have fun at the same time. The best initiatives, however, are the ones that allow all the Sailors of one command to be on the same level regardless of their military rank.

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TRAFFIC NUMBERS

	Jan.- Apr. '08	Jan.- Apr. '07	Diff.
Accidents	84	66	+18
Injuries	12	5	+7
DUIs	5	1	+4
Traffic Deaths	2	0	+2

PLEASE,
DON'T BECOME
A STATISTIC!

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DIRECT LINE

The April 3rd Feedback Live was so successful that some of the questions couldn't be covered in the allotted time, so we are going to devote this Direct Line to answering them. Please keep sending the questions via email or phone, and I will do my best to answer them.

Additionally, has someone in Housing, the Exchange or Commissary provided you Great Service? Are you excited about a base sponsored program or service? Feedback Live is the perfect opportunity to share with the community about your positive experience. Feedback Live is held on the first Thursday of each month, from 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. To call in live on the show, please dial 624-4265 or 095-56-4265.

1. Many items at the commissary have expiration dates that are very near, sometimes that day or next couple days, when purchasing and virtually no way of using the product before it is expired. This is typical but not limited to dairy products. What can be done to get items on the shelves that are not about to expire?

Answer: DECA products are required to

NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT. THOMAS J. QUINN

have a minimum number of days remaining on the best use by or taste date prior to being shipped to the commissary. The commissary has a trained staff as well as medical food inspectors who monitor this process. However, in order to understand why the expiration dates seem close, you need to realize that most commissary products come from the United States and are shipped into Germany before heading to Sigonella.

Items that have a short shelf life such as eggs and milk products are procured in Europe and are then trucked into Sicily taking anywhere from two days or longer to arrive at the Sigonella commissary.

The commissary orders most products that are procured in Europe two weeks out and receives two deliveries a week. For example: milk comes in with eight days shelf life, which is received on Tuesday and Friday. When Friday's shipment is received the product from Tuesday's shipment would have 4 days remaining on the best use by date.

The Veterinary Food Inspection Office

states that regarding milk, every 1° above 40° you are taking away 1 day of shelf life of the product. The Veterinary Food Inspection Office recommends that the consumer select their dairy products last upon checking out. That way the milk continues to be in a refrigerated status while the customer is shopping.

Furthermore, it is also their position that the expiration dates on the products are the suggested best dates for consumption of the product. Not all products will be unfit for human consumption if it precedes that date. Example: If a customer purchases a meat product that has a date showing 10 April 08 and today is 02 April 08, the customer might not plan to use the meat but then which is fine, the product, however, must be frozen, by the date to counteract product deterioration. Once frozen the product has an extended shelf life of approximately 2-3 months and sometimes more.

For further concerns on food safety, please contact: Sigonella Branch Veterinary Food Inspection Office, 624-3883.



Health WATCH

Handwashing

Michal Ballou, Health Promotion Coordinator
Naval Hospital Sigonella

During the 19th century, women in child-birth were dying at alarming rates in Europe and the United States. Up to 25 percent of women who delivered their babies in hospitals died from childbed fever.

In the late 1840s, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis was an assistant in the maternity wards of a Vienna hospital.

There, he observed that the mortality rate in a delivery room staffed by medical students was up to three times higher than in a second delivery room staffed by midwives. In fact, women were terrified of the room staffed by the medical students.

Semmelweis observed that the students were coming straight from their lessons in the autopsy room to the delivery room. He postulated that the students might be carrying the infection from their dissections to birthing mothers.

He ordered doctors and medical students to wash their hands with a chlorinated solution before examining women in labor. The mortality rate in his maternity wards eventually

dropped to less than one percent.

How Far Have We Come?

Despite its rocky beginnings, hand washing has become a part of our culture.

Yet, recent studies and reports indicate that lack of or improper hand washing still contributes significantly to disease transmission. It is estimated that one out of three people do not regularly wash their hands, even after using the restroom.

Soaps - plain

Regular bath or dish soap works. Antibacterial soaps have become increasingly popular in recent years. However, these soaps are no more effective at killing germs than regular soap.

Using antibacterial soaps may lead to the development of bacteria that are resistant to antimicrobial agents making it even harder to kill these germs in the future. In general, regular soap is fine. The combination of scrubbing your hands with soap and rinsing them with water loosens and removes bacteria from your

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NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

DS Chapel in Catania
Sunday
1 p.m. Church of Jesus Christ
Latter-day Saints

NAS II Chapel
Monday
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Tuesday
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Wednesday
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Friday
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Sunday
4 p.m. Catholic Mass

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings
Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
11:30 a.m.

NAS I Chapel
Sunday
8:45 a.m. Catholic Mass
10:45 a.m. Protestant Worship
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6 p.m. Bible Study

Mineo Community Center
Sunday
9 a.m. Protestant Worship
12 p.m. Catholic Mass

Maranan Community Center
11 a.m. Protestant Traditional Service

Call 095-86-3801 for the Chaplains Office
Call 095-86-1205 for weekly Jewish services



Spring Cleaning

Article Courtesy of Chaplain Paul N. Rumery

Spring has sprung and the time to address the clutter that accumulated during the winter season has to be addressed. Growing up in New England, the winters were beautiful. However, they seemed to linger-- sometimes into April! It was reported this year that the town of Caribou, Maine has experienced a record snowfall of 185 plus inches, and it's still snowing! When the calendar moves into the spring months, and the early flowers like crocuses push forth from the frozen tundra, the human heart is lifted up with the sincere hope that warmer, sunnier days are ahead. It is like that around the world. When the

darker, albeit picturesque, snowy days of winter begin to fade, our hearts yearn for the warmer, refreshing days of spring. Even at this time, Mount Etna has a fresh blanket of snow, which will eventually surrender to the warmer days.

I remember my childhood days when my mother would go outside and rake the still-brown grass waiting for the warm spring days to make it green. The storm windows would be removed from the house and the fresh crisp air would come in. It would be time for spring-cleaning. Dusting would take place because

Story continued on page 10

Commanding Officer
Capt. Thomas J. Quinn

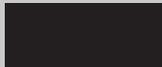
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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

Traffic Court Results

ES - Speeding. Member was awarded 5 points DIP and 10 day suspension of license.

NAVY NEWS

Career Sailors on Course for Comfortable Retirement

Article from Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Most people would not consider a career in the military if they wanted to make a fortune, but a Navy message released March 21 indicates that a Navy retirement can be worth millions of dollars over the course of a lifetime.

Of course, those millions include future dollars affected by inflation, but Sailors can rest assured that their retirement pay will maintain its real value over time.

"Although Sailor career satisfaction is not based solely on compensation we recognize that pay and benefits are an important factor in Sailor and family satisfaction, and as a result, retention," said Capt. William Foster, director of Navy Personnel Command's Center for Career Development, author of the message.

NAVADMIN 076/08 Pay and

Compensation provides examples of current earnings and benefits and retirement income potential based on the Pay and Compensation Calculator located on the Navy Personnel Command Web site (<https://staynavy-tools.boi.navy.mil/PCC/?B3=Launch+Calculator>). The Pay and Compensation Calculator shows active-duty service members and reservists their current pay as well as the future retired pay they can earn after serving 20 or more years of qualifying service. The results are estimates based on input entered to the tool. For confirmation of pay, refer to a pay specialist.

Using the Pay and Compensation Calculator, Foster demonstrated how a Sailor in boot camp today might fare after a Navy career.

An 18-year-old Sailor in boot

camp today, who makes the Navy a career and advances to chief petty officer, retiring after 24 years, would be 42 when hanging up the uniform in 2032. Under the High-3 retirement plan, that Sailor is projected to earn \$5.1 million in retirement pay by the age of 82. That does not include additional benefits like TriCare for Life medical coverage and exchange and commissary privileges.

If the same Sailor in boot camp today rose through the ranks, served 30 years and retired as a master chief petty officer in 2038, projected earnings are \$11.6 million in retirement pay by age 88.

According to Foster, most civilian retirement plans are Defined Contribution Plans, such as 401(K) plans, requiring investment (usually payroll deduction) by the individual.

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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 Joseph M. Buliavac

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Scott, a plotter in repair locker 7F, listens to a report from the messenger during a general quarters drill aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is conducting a composite training unit exercise preparing for an upcoming deployment.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mailing Meat Can Cost \$100 and More

By Robert Szostek, USEUCOM Customs PAO

Mannheim, Germany - Many U.S. personnel in Europe have received a \$100 fine from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) because they mailed packages of wurst, ham or paté to the States. However, infestations of animal disease cost the U.S. taxpayer much more than this, i.e., millions of dollars each year. Therefore it is illegal to import red meats and sausage into the USA without USDA approval. Trying to "sneak" them into the country is a crime and it is worth remembering this when you prepare your Christmas shopping list later in the year.

USDA routinely checks packages from overseas to see if they contain prohibited food products. "All packages mailed to the USA must have a customs declaration," said Delcio Rivera, USDA adviser to the European Command. "In many cases, people falsely list the contents of the packages. Willfully trying to import anything into the USA without declaring it, is smuggling and carries very stiff penalties and fines," he added. To aid in the fight against pests and diseases in the USA, we must all do our part. "We can all start by honoring our import laws," Rivera stated. "Not only is it the right thing to do - it's the law."

Call a military customs office to find out more or visit our Web site at www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/cus toms.htm.

IA Discussion Group

The Fleet & Family Support Center is offering an IA Discussion Group for all personnel and their families that have recently experienced a deployment or IA assignment. The group will provide an opportunity to meet recently returned IAs and their spouses, as well as provide information about resources and support services available to help manage the challenges that can occur during a deployment phase.

This group is open to all IAs,

service members who have deployed or will deploy, as well as spouses and family members.

The next group meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, from 11:00 a.m. - noon.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the FFSC at 624-4291 to sign up and to receive more information.

Second Annual Khaki Golf Tournament

This is the first call for those interested in participating in our 2nd Annual NASSIG Khaki Golf Tournament. Last year's event was a huge success bringing our Chief's Mess and Ward Room together and we are hoping for a bigger turnout this year. We are currently taking names of those interested in participating in this day of fun in the sun.

This will be a two man, best ball tournament. Prices and details are being worked out, however, the more that play the better the prices. We do plan on having a bus for transportation and lunch included. We have also worked out a special deal for those who want to stay the night in the Villas on the course. Below are the estimated prices for this event but are subject to change. RSVP's must be received by 09 May 2008 so exact numbers of players can be planned.

This year, teams will be picked randomly based on your average golf score. (ie: 70's, 80's, 90's, 100's or Hacker) Remember, you don't have to be a golfer to have some fun with this event. Also, we are looking into ordering Polo shirts for this event, however, we would like to pre-order these. We haven't gotten a price yet but we need to know about how many would be interested. Please let us know.

More information will be provided but if you are interested, please forward an email with your name, contact info, average golf score, command and whether you are interested in a Polo Shirt to MAC(SW) Travis Winfield (travis.winfield@nassig.sicily.navy.mil) or call at 624-6127.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA COMMUNITY CALENDAR					11 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	12
13 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	14 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	15 Career Exploration -10 a.m. -FFSC	16 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel Men's Group -1:30 p.m. -FFSC	17 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater Identity Theft -1:30 p.m. -FFSC	18 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel Banking & Checkbook Management -10 a.m. -FFSC	19
20 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	21 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel CFS Training -8 a.m. -FFSC	22 CFS Training -8 a.m. -FFSC	23 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel CFS Training -8 a.m. -FFSC	24 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater CFS Training -8 a.m. -FFSC	25 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel CFS Training -8 a.m. -FFSC	26 Latin Quarters - Jox
27 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	28 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	29	30 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	1 May Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	2 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	3
4 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	5 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	6	7 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	8 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	9 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	10
11 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	12 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	13	14 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	15 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	16 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	17
18 Over 30 pick-up Basketball - Midtown	19 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	20	21 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	22 Throwback Thursday Midtown Theater	23 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel	24

Motta Perla d'oriente

Stags Rigattiere

Did you know?

Living beyond your means is a prescription for disaster? Does more than 25 percent 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

Sexual Assault Awareness

Article courtesy of the Fleet and Family Support Center

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and provides an excellent opportunity to teach prevention.

It is important to let others know what they can do to keep from being victims of sexual assault. Sexual assault is a crime. Sexual assault is about power, not lust or uncontrollable desires. People who commit sexual assault have a need to feel control over someone else. They use sexual acts to act out this control and abusive power.

They may use strength, coercion, manipulation, guilt, threats, alcohol or drugs as weapons to force a victim to be sexual. Some people may exploit differences in power between people. They try to pressure others to engage in sexual activities by using differences in rank, rate, popularity, class, age, gender, culture and experiences. Remember, it is never the victims fault.

Every one of us deserves to be treated with respect. Every one of us should treat others with respect. We also need to respect ourselves. This is key to preventing sexual assaults.

We can respect ourselves by being true to ourselves, taking care of ourselves and trusting our instincts.

Be true to yourself by knowing your limits, boundaries and standards and staying within them. Tell others clearly what you expect and will and won't do before a situation arises. Make plans that honor your desires.

Choose to spend time with people who share your values and standards. Pick a friend or family member that you really trust and talk about a plan to get out of uncomfortable or escalating situations. Have a code word or signal that lets them know you'd like their assistance. If you're on a date, be very clear about your expectations; don't assume your date understands your position.

Take care of yourself by staying out of dangerous situations. Let others know where you're going, with whom, and when you'll be back. Try to keep a cell phone or calling card on you at all times. Know and honor your limit with alcohol. Don't accept drinks from others and never drink one that's been left unattended. Don't use drugs.

Only accept rides from those you already know and agreed to leave with. Don't go outside by yourself to get fresh air or make a phone call. Take your buddy with you. At home, lock your doors.

When out alone, walk confidently with your head up. Stick to well lit populated streets. Try to park on well lit streets. Keep your arms free; don't burden yourself down with shopping bags.

Trust your instincts! They were given to us for a reason. If you feel uncomfortable or fearful, act upon it. State assertively what you feel or your concerns. Be clear about how you'd like to be treated. Arrange with

your friends to extricate you when you use your code/signal word. Have security's number in your phone and use it. Leave the situation physically. Know your escape route and use it. If you can't leave, let the person know you consider their actions not only inappropriate, but criminal. Don't just say or yell no, yell rape or fire.

Respect others! Respect their instincts. If your friends or family aren't comfortable with a situation, listen to them.

If your family member or friend does not want to hug or be with a person, don't insist upon it. Respect their limits. Respect your date and friends, do not pressure them to do things. If you and another person have been drinking, agree to wait until you both have full faculties and can give informed consent.

We all deserve to live our lives without being violated or abused. By respecting ourselves and others, we can decrease the incidences of sexual assault. For more information on sexual assault prevention, contact your command Point of Contact, Victim Advocate, SARC or Fleet and Family Support Center. Several websites also have information including www.sapr.mil, www.rainn.org and MilitaryOneSource.

Cold
Noses



WARM HEARTS



Kaleho (Above) is a wonderful dog who loves to play. She would make a great pet for any home.

Nix (Right) is a great dog who needs a home to call her own. She would be a great asset to any family.

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



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

Signonella'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.

S.A.W.S. Adopt-A-Thon, Bake Sale and Car Wash

On Saturday, April 12th, S.A.W.S. will be having their adopt-a-thon and bake sale in front of the commissary along with a car wash in the NAS I CDC parking lot. It all starts at 10 am and ends at 2pm. All proceeds go towards medical care, food, blankets, water, and other items the animals need. S.A.W.S. is always looking for volunteers and if you would like to help please contact Rose Cummings at 334-383-8786 There will be some wonderful dogs up for adoption as well who would love to have a forever home. April is also Pet Month so please come out and support our cause!

Sushi

Pentagon

Italian NEWS

Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle

Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff



Valguarnera Honors Saint Joseph



The "Tavole" (tables) are an ancient Sicilian tradition, which typically honors Saint Joseph's Day on March 19. However, this year, the town of Valguarnera will celebrate this festival on Saturday, Apr. 19 with religious processions, horse and period costume parades, fireworks, sports events, traditional food and arts and crafts booths.

It's never too late to celebrate an important religious festival! This year, in Valguarnera, a picturesque village nestled among the Erei Mountains and the Dittaino hills, in the province of Enna, the annual March 19 "San Giuseppe" or Saint Joseph festival was rescheduled for Apr. 19 to avoid conflict with the Easter Week celebrations. The festival blends religious and folklore tradition.

The ritual "tavolate" or "taul" (tables) are the essence of this festa, which dates back to the 19th century, when father Vito Boscarini, a local priest, made a commitment to celebrate and honor this day as a religious holiday.

Several families in town prepare those elaborate devotional altars at their home, spending thousands of euro and devoting a lot of time to cook food for this special occasion. It's a way to say "Grazie!" to their beloved patron saint for "grazia ricevuta" (grace received), i.e. having responded to a desperate prayer's request during a difficult time (car accident, natural disasters, terrible illness etc.). Devotees feel they owe a debt of gratitude to the saint. This is indeed an ancient tradition which was already popular in pre-Christian times when votive offer-

ings were made to pagan gods to seek protection from disasters. On Saturday, Apr. 19, the festival begins with firecrackers and town bands' concerts at 8 a.m. However, earlier in the morning, pilgrims already walk around town barefoot to fulfill their vow while holding the traditional candles called "m'braculi" (miracles).

Later, the "Processione della Sacra Famiglia" (Procession of the Holy Family) begins in the historic center at 10 a.m. At the end of the 11 a.m. holy mass at the San Giuseppe Church, a spectacular horses and knights' parade leaves from the Padre Pio Sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. The solemn religious procession featuring the statue of St. Joseph is then held in the evening in the historic heart, starting at 8 p.m. A breathtaking fireworks show eventually marks the festival's grand finale at 10 p.m. The festival features also an array of sporting events.

As for the food altars, you will find them pretty much everywhere in town. They will be already set up since the evening of the festival's eve (Apr. 18). Their symbolic significance is to feed the poor and the needy. In ancient times, the town's noblemen would get barefoot and serve dinner for three needy people representing the Holy Family on St. Joseph Day. It was a way to publicly display their charity engagement. The "zena" or dinner actually takes place in the morning of Apr. 19 featuring an impressive amount of mouthwatering Sicilian specialties such as vegetables, omelets, sweets, fresh bread and pasta.

The food is blessed by the local priest and then offered to "official" guests whose total number must be 13 in memory of Jesus and his Last Supper's table companions. Once their meal is over, the doors of the houses are open to visitors who can sample that entire scrumptious foodstuff. When I asked more details on the tables' locations and opening times, this is what I was told: "don't worry about it, just come visit us and go with the flow. You will be our guest!" It was a very "Sicilian" answer!

Valguarnera is not far from Sigonella (approximately 40-minute drive) and is fairly easy to reach. Exit Mulinello on A-19 (Catania -Palermo

Photo Exhibition in Caltagirone



Photo courtesy of "Luigi Ghirri" Gallery Press Office

A major photographic exhibition was recently unveiled at the "Luigi Ghirri" Gallery in Caltagirone. Titled "Morphologies," the exhibit showcases a collection of about 50 photographs by Mantua-based photographer Antonella Gandini. "My photographs explore the surreal dimension between reality and dreams. That is why I typically use black and white images. Visitors will be transported to the ambiguous world of the indeterminate and, using their imagination, they will discover what lies beyond the surface appearance of objects," explained Antonella. The exhibition is open through Apr. 27 at the "Luigi Ghirri" Gallery (# 11 via Duomo).

"I chose Caltagirone because it is a breathtaking Baroque town whose beauty has been a great source of inspiration for my works," added Antonella, who also creates paintings and video-installation works. Exhibition hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

LE CIMINIERE CATANIA
expocar 2008
16° Salone dell'Auto e della Moto di Catania
11-12-13 Aprile 2008
ORARI: Ven. 17,00 - 21,00 Sab. - Dom. 9,00 - 13,00 / 16,00 - 22,00
AMPIO PARCHEGGIO GRATUITO PER I VISITATORI A 300 METRI DALLA FIERA IN CORSO MARTIRI DELLA LIBERTÀ
AUTO - MOTO - KART - ACCESSORI - SERVIZI

"2008 Expocar," the 16th edition of the popular auto and motorcycle show, will open today with exhibits and attractions at the Catania Ciminiere Convention Center. Highlights include a plethora of new-model vehicles from major manufacturers including Harley-Davidson "Mega -Truck," Jaguar XF, Harley Davidson "Rocker" Motorcycle, Ferrari 430 "Scuderia" etc. Opening Hours: Friday, Apr.11, 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday Apr. 11 and Sunday, Apr. 12: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday; 4 to 10 p.m. Free parking is available near the show's location (corso Martiri della Libertà). For more information visit <http://www.expocar.info>

Concerts at Bellini Opera House



Sigonella classic music buffs will appreciate the upcoming Bellini Opera House Orchestra concerts' lineup. Italian conductor Stefano Ranzani, who is also the current Bellini Opera House artistic director, will lead the Bellini Orchestra in a series of symphonic concerts, featuring an exciting repertoire, which will be held in the next three weekends. The dates for the concerts are as follows: Apr. 11, 9 p.m. / Apr. 12, 5:30 p.m. (Music by Beethoven: Egmont, Fidelio and Coriolano Overtures/ Third Symphony, nicknamed the "Eroica"); Apr. 18, 9 p.m. / Apr. 19, 5:30 p.m. (Richard Strauss: "Don Juan" and "Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche" and Fifth Symphony "Reformation" by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy); Apr. 26, 9 p.m. / Apr. 27, 5:30 p.m., special guest Giovanni Sollima on cello, ("Hebrides" Overture, in B minor Op. 26 by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129 and Symphony No. 5 in E minor, op. 64 by Piotr Ilic Tchaikovski). For more information and tickets, please visit <http://www.teatromassimobellini.it/> or call 095-7150921.

Oxidiana

Alphio

Executive Transport Detachment Celebrates CPO's Birthday

Article by YN2 Jennifer Hood, Photo by PR1(AW) Gary Vaughn



On April 1, 2008, the Catbird Chiefs' Mess celebrated the Chief Petty Officers's birthday with fellow ETD members. The celebration started with the reading of some of the Navy's distinguished chiefs that had been awarded the Medal of Honor and a cake cutting ceremony.

Yeoman Chief John Cordero, Aviation Structural Mechanic Chief Robert Botts, and Storekeeper Chief Leon Smith called attention to awards and shared the heroism of three exemplary chiefs. The history and citation of award was read for Chief Watertender Oscar Peterson, Chief Boatswain's Mate Edwin Hill, and Chief Watertender Peter Tomich.

When Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Chief Boatswain's Mate Edwin Hill and Chief Watertender Peter Tomich gave their lives while continuing to man their post, ensuring the safety of their fellow Sailors. Chief Watertender Oscar Peterson gave his life in the line of duty when attacked by enemy forces on USS Neosho on May 7, 1942, during the Battle of the Coral Sea. Chief Watertender Peterson was in charge of a below-

decks repair party. Despite being already severely burned in the rescue effort, he ignored the probability of incurring additional burns to close a set of bulkhead stop valves in order to save the ship, ultimately causing his death. Upon the reading of the incredible acts of the above-mentioned chiefs, Cmdr. Michael Graban (assistant officer in charge) and Lt. Cmdr. Jon Brady (Safety/Training Officer) spoke of their memories as new Ensigns and how chiefs were truly the heart of the Navy. Cmdr. Graban announced, "In my first division, as an ensign, my chief took me under his wing and taught me what I needed to know and without him I would have been lost."

Cmdr. Graban's statement was followed closely by Lt. Cmdr. Brady concluding, "I have a friend, who when he was an ensign and new to his first command his senior chief came up to him, threw his arm over his shoulder, and told him 'Sir, every senior chief ought to have an Ensign'", to a room full of laughter. The cake was formally cut and shared by all while remembering the unselfish acts of our extraordinary service members, both past and present, that ensures our right to celebrate the very freedom so many take for granted.



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 or pwocsig@yahoo.com

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.*

Magnolia

HANDWASHING

continued from page 1

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers
Alcohol-based hand sanitizers, which don't require water, are an excellent alternative to hand washing, particularly when soap and water aren't available.

Not all hand sanitizers are created equal, though. The CDC recommends choosing products that contain at least 60 percent alcohol. If your hands are visibly dirty, however, wash with soap and water, if available, rather than a sanitizer.

What is the correct way to wash your hands?

The following steps will help you make sure your hands are properly washed.

1. Wet your hands under warm, running water and apply a liquid, powder or bar soap.
2. Rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Clean under fingernails and between fingers.
3. Continue scrubbing for about 20 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove dirt and germs.

When should you wash your hands?

Although it's impossible to keep your bare hands germ-free, there are times when it's critical to wash your hands to limit the transfer of bacteria, viruses and other microbes.

Always wash your hands:

- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper - wash the diaper-wearer's hands, too

- After touching animals or animal waste

- Before and after preparing food, especially raw meat or poultry

- Before eating
- After blowing your nose
- After coughing or sneezing into your hands

- Before & after treating wounds or cuts

- Before & after touching a sick or injured person

- After handling garbage
- Before inserting or removing contact lenses

Although cold and flu viruses primarily spread from person-to-person contact, they can also spread from contact with contaminated objects or surfaces.

The best way to avoid becoming infected with the cold or flu virus is to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Frequent hand washing is the best way to avoid most MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) skin infections if there's an outbreak in your area, said Julie Gerberding, MD, director of the CDC. MRSA as well as other resistant organisms are susceptible to handwashing/hand hygiene, and routine cleaning practices.

Hand washing doesn't take much time or effort, but it offers great rewards in terms of preventing illness. Adopting this simple habit can play a major role in protecting your health.

Reference-Mayo Clinic & CDC

CHIEFS BIRTHDAY

continued from page 1

According to Navy.mil the CPO rank is unique in that "there was no first Chief Petty Officer due to the fact that nearly all ratings carried as Petty Officers First Class from 1885 were automatically shifted to the Chief Petty Officer level." This equality amongst peers is a binding theme amongst the chiefs. Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment Sigonella Command Master Chief Bud Peters said "Once a chief, always a chief. Once we sit down it's a horizontal organization. We already have that common ground, that common bond, and no

matter where I go, I can count on that other chief, and we are all over the world."

Hurley, the guest speaker, commented that he had to prepare remarks in advance for his presentation because there was simply too much to say in such a short time about being a chief.

He explained "It's a lot of emotion. It's what we do. It's our life. You wake up in the morning and put your uniform on; at the end of the day, when you take it off you, are the chief. You are always a chief. It's a way of life."

SPORTS & Fitness

Sigonella Sports and Stuff: Triple S Football in the Spring?

Article by CWO 4 Ronald Herb
Signature Volunteer

In the last two weeks, Major League Baseball has started and college basketball season has ended, its time for Triple S to focus on one of our seven favorite sporting events, the NFL Draft.

This is an event that was at one time nothing more than a front page sports section picture with a 4th page article and listing of the top five picks, has become a multi-day t.v. event. Sports magazines are written and published covering just this specific event. Triple S has seen three separate magazines for sale locally this season.

Has football become such an overwhelming force in the sports world that its draft can demand this type of attention? With so many sports channels and packages to view stateside, it is easy to understand some of the t.v. coverage but that alone should not explain the rapid expansion that has taken place.

Triple S believes that the fantasy sports

culture has fed this growth. Hardcore football fans have always followed their team's needs through the draft process, but now, many fantasy footballers want to see the new kids on the block. It's a form of homework that can be done, a way to get a leg up on the rest of the fantasy football world. What young player is going to a team that he has a good chance to start for? This is important information when heading into a fantasy football draft setting. It is more difficult to pick the top five players to be drafted correctly than it is to pick the final four in most years. Normally, Triple S would post our top ten picks and any later selections we believe will happen on a website with some friends and then hope to go back with "I told you so because I truly know football". This year we will share these thoughts in a more open forum.

The top pick is tough this season, in most

years the top overall pick is pretty clear, this is not one of those years. This season it will have Matt Ryan, QB, Boston College going to Miami to help the rebuilding process down south. This is not your typical Bill Parcells move, but it really has to happen for the good of this organization. The second pick will be Chris Long, DE, Virginia to the Rams. The Rams offense is still respectable but almost zero pass rush came for the D-line last season, and ex-Raider great Howie Long's son should help out in this cause. The Falcons will take Jake Long, OT, Michigan, third overall.

He is an elite talent on the O-line. The toughest pick to make is at forth with the Raiders. They will end up taking Glenn Dorsey, DT, LSU but every fan in the building will boo them relentlessly for not taking Darren McFadden. McFadden may be the best overall talent in this years draft, but what the Raiders

need is not at RB. The Chiefs will take Vernon Cholsen, DE, Ohio State at the fifth pick. That leaves the New York Jets with the gift of McFadden at the sixth pick.

After the top six, it is tough but Triple S feels very strongly about the Bears taking Rashard Mendehall, RB, Illinois at number 14. Cedric Benson has been a disappointment at RB and Medenhall is loaded with talent and a local product. The Cowboys will certainly use one of their two first round picks numbers 22 or 28 on Felix Jones, RB, Ark. Darren McFadden's college backfield partner is sure to be an impact player next season. The World Champion Giants are set at all key spots for next season but will most likely use their pick on a defensive player. Triple S sees Dan Connor, OLB, Penn State falling to them at the bottom of the first round. Remember thoughts and comments are welcome at 'bmc27nyg@aol.com'.

USS Simpson Completes Successful Counter--narcotics Deployment

Article from USS Simpson Public Affairs

USS Simpson (FFG 56) pulled back into homeport at Naval Station Mayport April 5, after a six-month counter-narco terrorism deployment to the Eastern Pacific with Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 405 and Helicopter Squadron Anti-Submarine Light (HSL)46 Detachment (Det) 7.

Simpson departed Mayport on Oct. 5, 2007 en route to the Eastern Pacific with a brief port visit to Montego Bay, Jamaica, before transiting through the Panama Canal. The primary mission throughout the deployment was drug interdiction in the Eastern Pacific. Simpson succeeded in stopping an estimated 16 metric tons of cocaine from making it to the streets of America.

On Nov. 29, Simpson, LEDET 405 and HSL 46 Det 7 worked together for the successful interdiction of a self-propelled semi-submersible (SPSS) vessel suspected of smuggling drugs. An SPSS is capable of carrying 5-8 metric tons of cocaine and has no maritime use other than the covert transport of narcotics or other illegal goods. The SPSS crew managed to sink the vessel and the four suspected smugglers were detained and turned over to Colombian authorities.

Other port visits of the deployment included Cartagena, Columbia, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, numerous visits to Panama City, Panama, and Aruba.

Cartagena, an old European-style town set on the Caribbean Sea, offered beautiful scenery and great shopping. In Guantanamo Bay, many of the crew members took a tour of the entire base. Panama City became a second home to Simpson's crew during deployment with three port visits to the growing city, including one during Carnivale, a festival that takes place every year before Lent.

The port visits provided the Sailors with liberty along with a chance to improve international relations as Simpson's crew interacted with the host nations. The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation team set up numerous trips during the port visits for the crew to get a chance to experience different aspects of the host nations. Some of these trips included a beach trip in Cartagena, a white-water rafting trip in Panama, and a hiking trip to the waterfalls outside of Montego Bay.

Community relations projects were conducted throughout the deployment including painting an orphanage in Panama and repairing an orphanage in Jamaica.

"I believe that it did a little part in helping make the girls home more welcoming and comfortable to live in. To me it was a blessing to help others in need," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Marshall Knight.

Generally, ships deployed to Latin America return to Mayport for a mid-deployment repair period. Simpson's emergent repairs were completed in Panama City instead.

"A combined and proactive effort by the crew and technical representatives, who flew out to meet the ship in Panama, corrected many of the equipment casualties that inevitably come to a ship halfway through deployment," said Lt Cmdr. Antonio Defrias, Simpson's executive officer. "In one short week, we were able to cut our equipment casualties in half. The successful repair period was a testimony to Simpson's adaptability and commitment to mission."

Simpson Sailors achieved success on all levels, as a unit and individually. Twenty-five Sailors earned their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists pins and five officers earned their Surface Warfare Officer pins during deployment.

During the final port visit of deployment to Aruba, the ship conducted a change of command ceremony as Cmdr. Edwin D. Kaiser relieved Cmdr. Luis A. Maldonado as commanding officer (CO) of Simpson. Maldonado served as CO of Simpson from July 2006 to March 2008.

Simpson, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate under Destroyer Squadron 14, deployed to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command area of focus under tactical control of Joint Interagency Task Force South. Simpson conducted counterdrug oper-

ations, which are joint efforts designed to support participating nation's drug control programs and the President's national drug control strategy.

Magnolia

Let's Have Pies in the Face

Article by [REDACTED] Photos by AMAN Austin Milton
Signature Volunteer

It is interesting how the various tenants command at Sigonella organize their fund raisers, to make money and to have fun at the same time. The best initiatives, however, are the ones that allow all the Sailors of one command to be on the same level regardless of their military rank. The Navy - Marine Corps Relief Society at Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance

Department (AIMD) surely knows how to make that happen, by playing dodge ball, by having civilian clothes day, or better yet by throwing pies on the Sailors face. This last event, pie on the face, is one of the best initiatives because it is funny and messy. Furthermore, it is an opportunity for everyone to be a child again. The committee proposed this idea by sug-

gestion of Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class Kirby, finding 100 percent support of Master Chief Peters. "This is how it works" says Chief Taylor, one of the committee coordinators, "we decide a time frame, usually one week, during which we charge \$1,00 per vote. At the end of the week, the Sailors, who come in the first five places, including the ones who tie, get the pie on the face." Peters supports events like this one because it is an opportunity for junior and senior Sailors to connect and to be equal. At AIMD, on Thursday March 27, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. the committee counted the votes and the results were the following:

- 1st place Chief Summerfield;
- 2nd place Chief Fitzgerald;
- 3rd place Avation Support Equipment

Technician Second Class Franco; 4th place Avation Maintenance Administrationman First Class York/Avation Support Equipment Technician First Class Hemmings; 5th place Avation Support Equipment Technician First Class Levenduski/Storekeeper Second Class Reis.

The pleasurable event had the background of a potluck featuring dishes from around the world, while the "victims" received the pies on their face. To make it even more exciting, the contestant's pie was auctioned, so the highest bidder smashed the pie on the face.

It would have been fun if the "victims" wore their uniforms, but of course, the choice was civilian clothes, clearly easier to clean afterwards. However, even in this case two Sailors were original with what they wore. Petty Officer York wore a raincoat, pretty clever, everything slid down, even cleverer when she

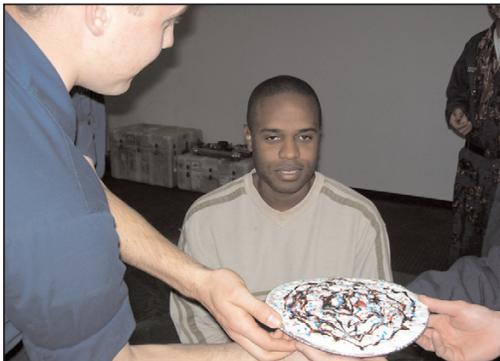
had to take the hood off. "I wonder if they know how much time and shampoo takes to get this stuff off my hair," she said. Petty Officer Levenduski, showed his military pride wearing coveralls. "I took it like a real Sailor" he said. But let's move along to other comments of the targets. Chief Fitzgerald thought that it was a small price to pay for the come rotary built around the occurrence. Petty Officer Reis was a first timer. Petty Officer Franco and Petty Officer Hemmings commented how fun it was the all deal. What did the number one sailor on the list thought?

Well, Chief Summerfield gathered More than \$200 he surely was wanted. "All I can say is that my division loves me. It is evident on the amount of money they spent putting this pie on my face. I am still digging chocolate out of my ears." Where was Lt. Cmdr Zrembski? His face was spared. "Nobody bid on me" he said. "Maybe they were worried that I could make them work longer. If they would have. I would come out with a few hundred dollars to see if they really wanted to do it. I would have taken a pie on my face for this good cause." Zrembski said this was a great opportunity for the personnel to blow off some steam, as well as to build the morale.

So, in the end Friday was very successful in every way. The weather was wonderful, the food was delicious, the crowd had fun and how petty officer York said "it was refreshing to get the pie on the face."



(Above) The AIMD Pie in the Face Group, from left to right, AS1 Hemmings, AS2 Franco, Chief Fitzgerald, AZ1 York, Chief Summerfield, AS1 Levenduski, prepare for the contest. (Below) AS1 Hemmings prepares to get a pie in the face. (Right) Afterwards the group experiences a refreshing moment.



bank

DDSI continued from page 1

document warehousing procedures in detail at the depot. Those teams are made up of experts from every functional area, ensuring a comprehensive analysis.

"Our workforce is really beginning to buy-in to our approach to continuous improvement," said Dave

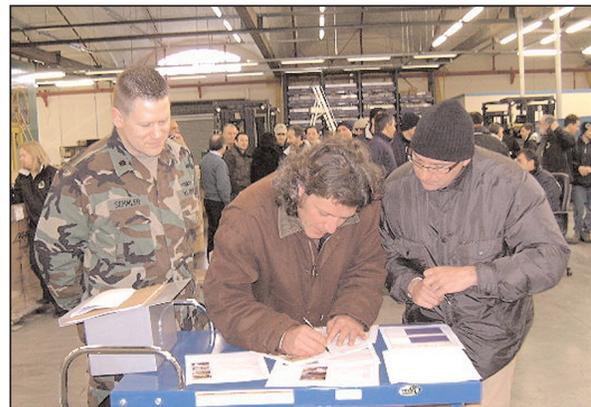
Bukauskas, DDSI Lean Team Leader. "There was a learning curve with implementing Lean at DDSI; however, we are beginning to build momentum and expect our customers to see the benefits of our work in the future."

DDSI is a full service warehousing and distribution organization, serving the entire Mediterranean region, as well as points east and south, with an accelerated emphasis on the African continent.

As DDSI wraps up its fourth year of operations at Naval Air Station Sigonella, management's attention has been on completing a substantial renovation effort. Once renovations are complete, momentum will shift more heavily toward maximizing efficiencies and generating new business. It is DDSI's goal to provide the most efficient and effective distribution and warehousing services possible to the region's war fighters.



(Above) The team of newly trained "Six Sigma" green belts. (Right) U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mark Semmler, left, commander, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy and Nunzio Longhitano, right, watch as Paolo Pappalardo, center, signs DDSI's Lean Standard Operating Procedures. Longhitano and Pappalardo are DDSI's foremen for material handling and warehousing respectively.



Weapons Department Visits Orphanage

Story and Photos by MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Sigonella

Sailors of Naval Air Station Sigonella's (NASSIG) Weapons Department visited the Accoglienza Nazareth orphanage to participate in a community relations project (COMREL) April 4.

Fifteen Sailors and spouses attended the event which marks the continuing efforts made by Weapons Department to maintain relations with the orphanage by making periodic visits throughout the year.

Since the 1960s, the Accoglienza Nazareth orphanage has provided a home

to numerous children of Giarre, a small town approximately 15 kilometers south of Taormina, Sicily, in addition to offering assistance to single mothers who don't have the benefit of a secure family structure.

"We're performing a general cleaning of the grounds today," said Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Richard Barreto, event coordinator. "They have a lot of orange trees here and we're picking up a bunch of fallen, rotten fruit in addition to the regular garbage that is laying around."

In addition to policing the grounds, volunteers made repairs to a broken swing set, donated clothing and toys, and interacting with the children during play-time. A popular amusement for the kids came in the form of a small puppy brought by one of the volunteers that lead to a frenzy of petting and ear-to-ear grins.

"We set up a donation box at our command and asked if sailors with families could give us their children's old toys and outgrown clothing," said Barreto. "Everyone contributed, single sailors certainly devoted their time and effort, but most of the donations came from the community."

NASSIG Weapons Department maintains it will continue its relationship with the orphanage. Plans are already on the horizon to replace a broken and rusty merry-go-round in addition to repairs to other toys.

NASSIG Weapons Department is a stratigal nucleus command which distributes ordnance, weapon-related services, and inventory accuracy for the Mediterranean, southwest Asia, and the US 6th Fleet.



RETIREMENT

continued from page 3

Most employers match part of the investment but matching is limited and varies by employer.

"Our military retirement is a Defined Benefit Plan requiring no monetary investment by the service member. What makes our plan so valuable is that active-duty Sailors receive it from the moment they retire rather than having to wait until age 65. Plus, it is adjusted upward for inflation each year. Less than 5 percent of defined benefit plans do that," said Foster.

Currently active-duty and reserve Sailors fall under one of three retirement plans; Final Pay, High 3, or Career Status Bonus/REDUX (REDUX).

Final Pay applies to Sailors who entered the Navy before Sept. 8, 1980. Under the Final Pay system, eligible members receive a percentage of their final basic pay.

High 3 applies to Sailors who entered active duty between Sept. 8, 1980 and July 31, 1986. Under the High-3 system, eligible members receive a percentage of the average of the highest 36 months of basic pay.

Sailors who entered the Navy on, or after Aug. 1, 1986, must choose between the High-3 retirement system or REDUX at their 15th year of service, according to Foster.

Members who elect REDUX receive a \$30,000 Career Status Bonus (CSB) after 15 years of active duty if they agree to serve at least 20 years of active duty service. Their retirement pay is calculated at a lower percentage rate if they retire before 30 years of active duty (i.e. 40 percent of High 3 years of base pay at 20 years of service). Additionally, REDUX retirees receive 1 percent less in their annual cost of living increases than High 3 and Final Pay retirees.

Foster and his team conduct Career Management Symposiums at installations worldwide where they educate Sailors about their Navy benefits and what they're really worth. To learn more about your Navy benefits and use the pay and compensation or retirement calculator visit www.NPC.Navy.mil and clicking on the "Stay Navy" button on the left side.

Armed

SPRING CLEANING

continued from page 1

whatever heat source you employed it would create a layer of dust that was now very evident in the rays of sun now pouring into the various rooms. Spring includes the Easter season and the time change signifying the strange rite of the end of Daylight Savings Time. And we all know that spring showers bring mayflowers and one should know what Mayflowers bring...Pilgrims!

On a serious note, our lives include a spiritual side that also experiences seasonal changes. And the sometimes gloom and darkness of the winter needs to give way to the hope and beauty of spring. Is there an element in your heart or mind that needs spring-cleaning? Perhaps you have held onto a grudge against someone and need the Lord to help you extend forgiveness. We need to allow God to help us clear the clutter in our lives, arise from the winter of our discontent, and perform spring-cleaning in

our hearts. Are you spending time in prayer and meditation? Have you forgotten or failed to follow through with your new year's resolutions? Spring is a time to begin again. Do some mental, emotional and spiritual spring-cleaning and allow God to minister to you in your life.

The season of spring should bring an element of hope that brighter days are ahead and God can use this season to remind us that our lives, like His creation, are in a state of renewal and new growth. I think the Apostle Paul stated a spiritual truth that we can all adapt into our thought and action process.

I leave you with a quote from the Letter to the Romans chapter 12 verse 2... "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

MWR CORNER

Community Events

Commands and special interest groups interested in participating in the Sigonella County Fair, please call 624-4945 for booth information.

Jox Pub

Live Soul/Funk Band!

Freedom or Not:

April 12 - 10:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Take 5

Happy B-day April Babies!: April 14

Air Hockey Tournament: April 15

Liberty

Catania Dinner: April 11

Pantalica Gorge Hike: April 12

Gambino Winery Tour & Lunch: April 13

Siracusa Dinner: April 18

ITT Gear-n-Go

Palazzolo Acreide and Colle Acre Winery

April 11: Depart: NAS II 8 a.m., NAS I 8:30 a.m.,

Return: 7 p.m. -

\$45, includes lunch and wine tasting

Agrigento: Valley of the Temples & Turkish

Steps - April 12: Depart: NAS II 8 a.m., NAS I 8:30

a.m., Return: 6 p.m.

\$34; includes entrance fees + bring euro for food

Gela with Museum & Carrubo Agriturismo

April 13: Depart: NAS II 7 a.m., NAS I 7:30 a.m.,

Return: 6 p.m.

\$35 or 2 for \$60, includes the lunch + bring euro for entrance fee

Patti Shopping (Caleca Pottery Factory)

April 17: Depart: NAS II 7 a.m., NAS I 7:30 a.m.,

Return: 3 p.m.

\$18, or 2 for \$30 + bring euro for food and shopping

Taormina - Savoca "Godfather Tour" and

Gambino Winery

April 18: Depart: NAS II 7:30 a.m., NAS I 8 a.m.,

Return: 5:30 p.m.

\$54, includes wine tasting and lunch

Scuba

Classes will now be held at the Duomo Conference Center on NAS II. Pool dives will be at the NAS II pool. Please contact ITT x4396 for more information.

Advanced Open Water Diver Class:

April 11 at 5 p.m.

SCUBA Discovery Pool Party

April 12: 2 - 6 p.m. at NAS II pool

Enjoy the Sigonella Scuba shop for an afternoon of fun in the sun! Open to all ages. Learn about scuba with a free discover dive to the depths of the NAS II pool (8 years and up). Bring a healthy dish to enjoy by the poolside. Free Nitrox Class: April 18 at 5 p.m.

Extended Trips 2008

Corfu, Greece: May 22 - 26

Camping in Tropea: May 23 - 26

Legoland Deutschland (Germany): June 13 - 16

Camping in Lipari: July 4 - 7

Citta del Mare, Sicily: July 4 - 7

Fitness

Family Rock Climbing Orientation Night

April 11: 5 - 6:30 p.m., 6:30 - 8 p.m. at The Cave (50 FitFactor Points)

EOD Memorial Formation Perimeter 10k Run

April 16: 7:10 a.m. at Flight Line Fitness Center

Sports

2-Person Scramble

Golf Tournament

April 12: 9 a.m. at Il Picciolo Golf Course

\$43, includes entry fee, lunch, awards and greens fee - \$5, transportation

Youth Sports

Youth T-ball and Baseball

Sign up deadline April 11 at Fit District.

Registration fee \$35.

Teen Center

BBQ & Dodgeball: April 12 at 3 p.m.

Nail Supreme: April 18

Mineo Recreation Center

National Peach Cobbler Day: April 11

Movie Night: April 12

APRIL 11 - APRIL 17

MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE HOTLINE: 624-4248

SCHEDULE

MOVIE DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, April 11

12:00pm Over Her Dead Body PG-13 95 min.
3:00pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.
5:00pm Step Up 2: The Streets PG-13 97 min.
5:30pm The Eye PG-13 97 min.
7:30pm Definitely, Maybe PG-13112 min.
8:00pm Untraceable R 101 min.
9:30pm Rambo R 93 min.

Saturday, April 12

2:00pm Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins PG-13114 min.
2:30pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.
4:30pm Shine a Light PG-13 122 min.
5:00pm Meet The Spartans PG-13 84 min.
7:30pm Fool's Gold PG-13 109 min.
8:00pm There Will Be Blood R 158 min.
9:30pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.

Sunday, April 13

2:00pm Step Up 2: The Streets PG-13 97 min.
2:30pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.
4:30pm Definitely, Maybe PG-13112 min.
5:00pm Shine a Light PG-13 122 min.
7:00pm Rambo R 93 min.

Monday, April 14

12:00pm Over Her Dead Body PG-13 95 min.
3:00pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.
5:00pm Meet The Spartans PG-13 84 min.
5:30pm Fool's Gold PG-13 109 min.
7:30pm Shine A Light PG-13 122 min.
8:00pm The Eye PG-13 97 min.

Tuesday, April 15

5:00pm Untraceable R 101 min.
5:30pm Rambo R 93 min. LS
7:30pm Da Vinci Code PG-13 149 min. 8mm
8:00pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.

Wednesday, April 16

12:00pm Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins PG-13 114min.
3:00pm Meet The Spartans PG-13 84 min.
5:00pm Over Her Dead Body PG-13 95 min.
5:30pm Step Up 2: The Streets PG-13 97 min.
7:30pm There Will Be Blood R 158 min.
8:00pm Definitely, Maybe PG-13112 min.

Thursday, April 17

3:00pm Fool's Gold PG-13 109 min.
5:00pm The Spiderwick Chronicles PG 97 min.
5:30pm Untraceable R 101 min.
7:30pm FREE ADMISSION
THROWBACK THURSDAY -
Waiting R 93 min.
8:00pm Jumper PG-13 90 min.

Da Vinci Code (PG-13)

The murder of a curator at the Louvre reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected since the days of Christ. Only the victim's granddaughter and Robert Langdon, a famed symbologist, can untangle the clues he left behind. The duo becomes both suspects and detectives searching for not only the murderer but also the stunning secret of the ages he was charged to protect.

Definitely, Maybe (PG-13)

A thirty-something Manhattan dad is in the midst of a divorce when his 10-year-old daughter, Maya, starts to question him about his life before marriage. Maya wants to know absolutely everything about how her parents met and fell in love: Will's story begins in 1992, as a young, starry-eyed aspiring politician who moves to New York from Wisconsin in order to work on the presidential campaign. For Maya, Will relives his past as an idealistic young man learning the 'ins' and 'outs' of big city politics, and recounts the history of his romantic relationships with three very different women. Will hopelessly attempts a gentler version of his story for his daughter, and changes the names so Maya has to guess who is the woman her father finally married. Is her mother Will's college sweetheart, the dependable girl next door Emily? Is she his longtime best friend and confidante, the apolitical April? Or is she the free-spirited but ambitious journalist Summer? As Maya puts together the pieces of her dad's romantic puzzle, she begins to understand that love is not so simple or easy.

The Eye (PG-13)

Sydney Wells is an accomplished concert violinist who has been blind since a childhood tragedy. Sydney undergoes a double corneal transplant, and her sight is restored. But Sydney's happiness is short-lived as unexplainable shadowy and frightening images start to haunt her. Are they a passing aftermath of her surgery, Sydney's mind adjusting to sight, a product of her imagination, or something horrifyingly real? As Sydney's family and friends begin to doubt her sanity, Sydney is soon convinced that her anonymous eye donor has somehow opened the door to a terrifying world only she can now see.

Fool's Gold (PG-13)

Ben "Finn" Finnegan is a good-natured, surly bum-turned-treasure hunter who is obsessed with finding the legendary 18th century Queen's Dowry—40 chests of exotic treasure that was lost at sea in 1715. In his quest, Finn has sunk everything he has, including his marriage to Tess Finnegan and his more-rusty-than-trusty salvage boat, "Booty Calls." Just as Tess has begun to rebuild her life, working aboard a mega-yacht owned by billionaire Nigel Honeycutt, Finn discovers a vital clue to the treasure's whereabouts. Certain that his luck will change with the newfound information, Finn maneuvers himself aboard Nigel's yacht and, using his good-natured charm, convinces the tycoon and his Blackberry-wielding, celebante daughter, Gemma, to join him in the

pursuit of the Spanish treasure. Against Tess' better judgment, the search rekindles her love... of discovery. But they are not the only ones after the treasure. Finn's mentor-turned-nemesis Moe Fitch has also set out to claim the prize. Let the treasure hunt begin...

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.

Meet The Spartans (PG-13)

The heroic Leonidas, armed with nothing by leather underwear and a cape, leads a ragtag group of 13--count 'em, 13!--Spartans to defend their homeland against the invading Persians (whose ranks include Ghost Rider, Rocky Balboa, the Transformers, and a hunchbacked Paris Hilton--no one is safe when the Spartans take on the biggest icons in pop culture).

Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)

Devastated when his fiancée Kate is killed on their wedding day, Henry reluctantly agrees to consult a psychic named Ashley at the urging of his sister Chloe. Despite his skepticism over her psychic abilities, Henry finds himself falling hard for Ashley, and vice versa. But there is a big snag. Ashley is being haunted by Kate's ghost, who considers it her heavenly duty to break up Henry and Ashley's fledgling romance, if it is the last thing she does on this earthly plane.

Rambo (R)

John Rambo has retreated to northern Thailand, living a solitary and peaceful life in the mountains and jungles. A group of human rights missionaries search him out and ask him to guide them into Burma to deliver medical supplies. When the aid workers are captured by the Burmese army, Rambo decides to venture alone into the war zone to rescue them.

Shine A Light (PG-13)

In autumn 2006 the Rolling Stones gave two concerts at Beacon Theatre in New York. Here, in the 2,800-seater old Broadway theatre that opened in 1928, we encounter living legends Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ron Wood and Charlie Watts. Before an enthusiastic audience that includes Hillary and Bill Clinton, the Stones present their hit songs as well as less known numbers. Guest appearances include Christina Aguilera, blues legends Buddy Guy and Jack White.

PREMIERS FRIDAY APRIL 18

Nim's Island
Witless Protection

COMING SOON

College Road Trip

And the Beat Goes On...



Children perform a rock and roll dance during the musical "And the Beat Goes On."

Article and photos by [redacted]
Signature Volunteer

And the beat went on for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders of Stephen Decatur Elementary School. On Thursday, March 27th, 2008, [redacted] coordinated a "Broadway Style" show with the title "And the beat goes on..." performed in the Knights Hall at the elementary school. About 140 children participated on this play that included different music styles, from hip-hop, to cha-cha, to rock and roll. [redacted] is the music teacher, but she is also a talented musician. She wrote the play to fit the children and she had the will and patience to teach them their roles. As always, the show was a success. The performers were very excited and they acted with enthusiasm. Each one of them showed their talent, acting, dancing and singing.

For instance, Tre Tillman break danced, surprising the audience that naturally started to clap. [redacted] lifted up his partner in a rock and roll move, once again receiving the audience applause. It took approximately six weeks of hard work to put this show together. If we think about it, it is not much time for little people that range in age from eight to 11. In an interview after the play, [redacted] said "It is always a challenge and a pleasure to prepare, to write and to coordinate the children, but I love to see big smiles on their faces." So, do you want to spend a fun evening? Look out for the next upcoming event "The musical man," and let the students and [redacted] show you what they can do.

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 Jason T. Poplin

Capt Quinn signs proclamation for NASSIG to observe April as Child Abuse Awareness month. Included in the picture are Vice Admiral Conway, Marlene Casel, FFSC director, and the FFSC staff.

FOD WALKDOWN ON THE FLIGHTLINE



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Jason T. Poplin

Italian and US service member work together to police the flight-line during a foreign object debris (FOD) walk-down. FOD walk-downs help to minimize hazardous material from being absorbed into in the intakes of aircraft which would result in inoperable equipment.



[redacted] during a break dance performance.

Palermo

Feudo S. Vitos

All Services

GO green!

Conserve at your commissary!

Commissaries Stocking More 'Green Clean' Products

Article by Lynda Valentine
DeCA Marketing

Over the past year, the Defense Commissary Agency has almost tripled the number of "green clean," recycled and biodegradable products sold in stores. Commissaries now offer 24 green and natural products in laundry detergents, glass and surface cleaners, bleach, stain removers, drain openers, fabric softeners and floor cleaners.

"We see, by the sales of these items, that our customers want this type of product," said Rick Page, the agency's acting director. "As the availability of products in the green clean, natural and recycled categories continues to grow, DeCA will also continue to increase the number of items we make available to our customers."

The largest natural brand being stocked within DeCA is the Seventh Generation brand. Commissaries also stock Citra Sol, another well-known natural brand. Plus, many mainstream brands are coming out with natural alternatives. Purex has a laundry detergent called "Purex Naturals" and Clorox has begun manufacturing all-purpose cleaning, glass, bathroom and toilet bowl cleaner products under a "Green Works" label.

Rounding out the list of green products being sold at commissaries are 21 types of compact fluorescent light bulbs and 15 recyclable products in the paper section.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site, <http://www.epa.gov/>, about one out of every three commercial cleaning products contains harmful chemicals. Green products are defined as cleaning and maintenance products that minimize adverse impacts on children's health and the environment while cleaning effectively. Environmentally preferable cleaning products have less impact on human health and the environment than their traditional counterparts because they are generally less toxic and contain lower concentrations of volatile organic compounds, ozone-depleting chemicals, endocrine disrupters, and reproductive toxins and carcinogens.

When shopping for green clean products, consumers should check labels for wording such as "nonhazardous," "mild or nonirritant" and "neutral pH."

Product availability may differ from store to store.

Month of the Military Child

Article by Kristine Twing
MWR Marketing

April is the month of the Military Child and was kicked off with a parade through Midtown. The Child and Youth Programs (CYP) supplied specially designed shirts for each of their centers. At the Child Development Center (CDC), the children participated in a parade with each classroom making a banner to show their artistic talents, plus they displayed their musical talents with noisemakers.

"It turned out awesome. Parents really came out to support the children, along with the community," said Patrice Ryan, CDC training and curriculum specialist, "It really made the children feel special."

The CYP Centers have the whole month filled with fun activities. The CDC is having a pancake lunch, Spirit Day, Make Your Own Sundae Day, Pajama Day and several other fun days. An inaugural open house and art show is planned for Friday, April 25 at 6 p.m. with open invitations to parents and members of the community to celebrate the life of the military children and there will be light refreshments provided.

The Youth Center hosted a multicultural dinner and talent show last Friday to celebrate everyone's heritage. The event was an amazing success and the moral of the evening is best described in the following poem by [redacted] age 8.

Diversity

"We are the same because we all breathe the same air; we bleed the same color; we are all human beings. We are not the same because we are different colors, but that's okay. We have different families but God created us in different ways. I wanted to write about diversity because I wanted you to know how we are different and how we are the same."

At the end of the month on Saturday, April 26, they will host a father/daughter dance at Fit District.

Along with the other centers, the Teen Center will be conducting in-house activities as well. They will close out the month with a party at the Marinai Community Center on Saturday, April 26.

For more information on any of the upcoming events, please contact any of the CYP Centers.

Stampa



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

AUTOMOTIVE

Lancia K, black, excellent condition, full optional, 5 cylinders, A/C, on board computer, has new brakes, 4 doors, and has a very large trunk. Asking 4,300.00 Euro negotiable. Call 348-8242543.

1997 Mercedes Benz C180, Silver Elegance. 4 door Sedan, Excellent condition. 5 speed, A/C power windows and locks. CD/Radio, New tires and brakes. Recent tune up and Inspected March 08 and ready to sale. \$4,500 OBO Call Manny @624-3797 wk or 624-1399 hm

2000 Mitsubishi Galant, with leather seats,ABS, and sunroof. KBB is \$5,000. however asking price is \$4,000. call 624-1326 OR 3334277357 for more info.

Alfa Romeo 164, reliable car,1994 with only 140000 km, power everything, new tires, manual transmission, cold A/C, very well maintained vehicle. Asking \$1600 obo. call Ian at 3486298865.

2006 Toyota Corolla S, Must Sell, American spec, 12000 miles, fully loaded including sunroof and Sports Pkg. . Blue book value is 17,500, I will take 16,500 OBO, this car is a must see and great on gas, draws 300 liters Call Mac at 3394194857 or 0957275032

2000 Suzuki Bandit (600cc) Black and silver. 10,000 miles. American specs. Looks good, runs great. New tires, some spare parts included. 2nd owner. \$2000 obo. Contact Brian @ 3343917471.

1991 - Mercedes 200E metallic dark gray, a/c, very good condition (always been kept in a garage), price \$3000. For info call 335-7441667.

1998 Chevy S10 Blazer 4x4 2" Body Lift kit, Brand New, \$150; Mamasan Chair & Stool with Cream colored pads, used - good condition, \$30; DVD rack, \$5. Call Mindy at 095-30-7970 or 340-156-8076.

1997 Ford KA, Great island car in great condition, well kept reliable and well maintain engine, very good on gas/mlg. A/C, PWR steering/locks/windows, AM/FM/CDplayer. Asking \$3600 Contact Thomas @ 3403246810 or 624-1720

1995 Nissan 200sx 2 Door, Automatic, AC, Sunroof, PW, CD Player, 4cyl. White, Runs great, New tires,Very good on gas. "MUST SELL" Available May 1st. \$2,500 OBO. Call 624-0189

2001 Ford Focus ZX3 Hatchback 2 Door, U.S. Specs, Silver with Black Interior. Automatic Transmission, 4 Cylinder 16 Valve 2.0 ZTEC Engine, Draws 300 Liters. Air Conditioning, Power Steering, Power Brakes, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Power Mirrors, Cruise Control, Tinted Windows, AM/FM Stereo, Single CD Player. Tilt Steering Wheel, Dual Front Air Bags, New Tires. Great Condition, Meticulously Maintained. Maintenance Receipts for the last four years. 85,000 Miles, \$4,400 Contact Kent 3407891417

BMW 520, 150k Km, European

specs, Denationalized, power everything, Safe, clean and reliable car. Tune up done in Jan 08. \$4,900. Cell 3407101062.

1990 Lancia Thema 2.0 I 16 valves Turbo
Air Conditioning, Good Cotions 75.000 Miles 2500 Euros,Call 347-3232890

1991 BMW 520I, 150k Km, Power everything, Clean, Safe and very reliable. Tune up conducted Jan 08. \$4,300 call 3407101062

1993 Alfa Romeo 155. Runs good and has had all regular maintenance performed. 1.8 L, 4 cyl engine and pulls 300 L/month in gas coupons. 4-door, manual transission, power front windows, auto heat. Has A/C, but the system is not charged. Asking \$1800 OBO. Call Steve Walker at 624-8593 or 347-627-9370.

2006 VW Passat 2.0T FSI \$19000 obo. US SPEC / Black interior/ Black Exterior. Under Warranty / Maintenance records / All Receipts. DVD Navigation/ 2 sets of wheels/tires New. Adjustable Coil over suspension + Stock. 29mpg avg. / 8 airbags / Ready in May For more information + showing! Contact Mario 340-765-4978 or 624-0126 Home after 1700

Scoda Octavia Felicia year 2000 in excellent condition kl 88.000 with 1600 cc engine asking price euro 2000.00 for info call 346-6082330 joe

FOR SALE

Women or girls bike Black & Pink\$30. University of

Maryland Books/Psychology 7th edition, Biology 6th ed ; MicroEconomics 16th edition. If intersted please call:624-1315

Coby (New in Package) Digital Photo Keychain-\$15 Call Karrie at 624-1723 or email leinaar@gmail.com

Sony CD Walkman (new, in package) -\$30 Call Karrie at 624-1723 or email leinaar@gmail.com

Kids brand new (still in package) 5 piece drum set \$100 Call Karrie at 624-1723 or email leinaar@gmail.com

Saturday Night Live-Season 2 Collector set-\$20 Call Karrie at 624-1723 or email leinaar@gmail.com

Charmed DVD set - Seasons 1-6 Each season \$20 or all for \$100 Call Karrie at 624-1723 or email leinaar@gmail.com

Polaroid Portable DVD player-\$100 Call Karrie at 624-1723 or email leinaar@gmail.com

Piano model U1 Yamaha, \$2500 call 624-1689

18" used chrome rims for sale.

Fits any vehicle with five lugs. Asking price is \$350. call 624-1326 or 3334277357 for more info.

Aloft Bed, Twin, Wood, Blue-Painted. \$50.00 Entertainment Center, Wood with Glass Door. \$50.00 Rotary fan 220V. \$8.00 If interested, please call 335-100-0164 or email jellenquizon@yahoo.com POC: Majjellen Quezon 624-6103 or 335-100-0164

Gently used white Graco crib for sale with mattress, and turns into a toddler bed...asking \$70.00 OBO call Aundrea @ 624-0651

Kitchen island for sale. Hand made by Palermo Furniture here in Sicily. Top is ceramic tile, hand painted in Caltagirone. It is a large piece of furniture, tons of storage room. Paid 850 euro, asking 700\$ or best offer. E-mail gretchenmanzer@yahoo.com for pics, or please call 624-0275 if interested.

Whirlpool Refrigerator (side by side) 21.6 cu.ft \$700; Whirlpool dehumidifier \$50; Regina steam cleaner \$20; box fans \$15; Toaster (Hamilton beach) \$10;

Marchi

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at 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.

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transformers 500 watt \$5; 1500 watt \$15; car tire (Good Year)175/70r13 \$15. Call Ray @ 095-308516 or 328-4772346.

AFN decoder for \$175 obo. Call Anthony or Eileen at 624-1343. 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.

The Ombudsman Ladies are sponsoring a quilting class. Classes are open for anyone and it will start at the Mineo Community Center at 2 pm Sat. April 12. POC will be Gwen Gooch at 624-1493. It is never to late to start, come & get started.

Calling all Photographers!! Got a fancy Camera and not sure how to use it? Got some tips and tricks to share? Join the Sig PhotoClub!! Email meagan.yohnke@yahoo.com for more information.

PETS

Cute spotti Dalmation; if interested please call: 624-1315

4 yr old small terrier mix, FREE to a good home! Includes all her stuff, she is fully housebroken and all ready to go! call Aundrea @ 624-0651.

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Vento Dell'st

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Camelot

Armed Forces

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