

THE Signature

SIGONELLA, SICILY



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SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe Visits Sigonella

Article by MCSN Jonathan Idle
Photos by MC2 Joshua Wink
Signature Staff

The commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Naples, addressed Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella Sailors during an "all hands" call during a visit to the operational side of Sigonella Aug. 25.

Before Adm. Mark P. Fitzgerald spoke, he personally acknowledged three Sailors who recently returned from individual augmentee deployments as well as three Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Sailors of EOD Mobile Unit 8 who recently received the Bronze Star for their service in Iraq.

"It's important for me to visit all the facilities within my area of responsibility to see firsthand how things are actually being operated on the ground," Fitzgerald said. "With each visit, I learn

Story continued on page 13



Admiral Mark P. Fitzgerald speaks to the Sailors of Naval Air Station Sigonella, three of whom were awarded Bronze Stars for Meritorious Service during their recent deployment to Iraq.

Register To Vote

Article by Lt. Chris Sovich,
edited by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight

Voting is a privilege that every American has inherited from the United States founding fathers. Every American should exercise their right to vote, electing their leaders and changing the course in which the United States government is run. The opportunity to vote in 2008 is rapidly slipping away as each state's absentee voter registration deadline approaches.

To begin the process visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov and select the applicable "Get Started" button. This site leads the user through filling out the form and makes the process simple and quick. Voters should request a ballot no later than 45 days prior to the election. The sooner the absentee ballot is requested, the more likely the voter will receive the ballot in time. Every State has different rules for when to request an absentee ballot and www.fvap.gov can assist with any questions.

There is a backup for those who don't receive a ballot in time, but it can only be used if the voter has registered and requested an absentee ballot which has not shown up two weeks prior to the election.

Most states and territories begin mailing ballots 30-45 days before an election. If the ballot has not been received two weeks before the election, contact your local election official.

There are people in every command designated to help out with any questions a service member may have. If a person is unsure who that person is or has a question the tenant Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) can't answer, they can contact the Naval Air Station Sigonella VAO, Lt. Chris Sovich at 624-6352, or at christopher.sovich@eu.navy.mil.

It is a top priority that every one stationed overseas; whether active duty service member, spouse, or any other eligible dependent know how to make their vote count.

U. S. Sixth Fleet Provides Humanitarian Support to Georgia

Article and photos by
MC2(AW) Jason T. Poplin
Fleet Public Affairs Center

Sigonella, Sicily - U.S. Sixth Fleet, having been directed to provide humanitarian relief support to the Republic of Georgia, began conducting air operations utilizing the C-9B Skytrain, August 18.

The aircraft, assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 46 (VR 46), based out of Naval Air Station Atlanta, Georgia, has been conducting fleet logistics support for units within the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of responsibility.

Supplies being delivered include 376 boxes containing 2,256 hygiene kits.

U.S. Navy aircraft like the C-9B will continue to transport life-saving and quality of life humanitarian

All Navy Boxing Looking for European Servicemembers

Article by
MC2 Marc Rockwell-Pate
Photo by MC2 Barry Hirayama

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard male and female servicemembers are invited to attend an All Navy Boxing mini-camp Sept. 13-14 at Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), Calif., or Oct. 11-12 at Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Little Creek, Va.

The Sailors or Coastguardsmen who plan to attend must have previous USA Boxing experience or are current USA boxing members. According to a Navy boxing WEB site, a servicemember must have at least five bouts in their USA Boxing Passbook to be eligible for the camp.

The top boxers from the mini-camps will be invited to attend the month-long All Navy Boxing training camp Dec. 1 at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme, Calif. During the training camp, there will be a "box off" to help the program coordinators choose its 2009 Navy Boxing Team. Those servicemembers will compete at the Armed Forces Championships Feb. 2-9 at Army installation Fort Huachuca.

Story continued on page 13

Ariz.

There is no pre-registration for the mini-camp. Those interested just need to show up and sign up. Navy boxing coaches will run the events and USA Boxing safety precautions will be enforced. The NBSD mini-camp will be held at Admiral Prout Field House and the NAB Little

Creek mini-camp will be held at Rockwell Hall Gym; both from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about the All Navy boxing program, please contact Kevin Ludwig, NBVC Port Hueneme Morale, Welfare and Recreation at DSN 551-4749, commercial (805) 982-4749 or cell (805)



Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Nathaniel Zamora, assigned to the "Golden Dragons" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 192, trains for his shot to be a part of the All-Navy Boxing Team while underway with the aircraft carrier USS George Washington.

WEATHER UPDATE

September 5
H:91F
L:71F



September 6
H:99F
L:75F



September 7
H:98F
L:73F



September 8
H:96F
L:68F



September 9
H:90F
L:66F



September 10
H:90F
L:67F



September 11
H:89F
L:68F



TOP STORIES

One of the major initiatives the healthcare industry is taking to make the medication process safer is termed "Medication Reconciliation". Although this sounds daunting, it is quite simple; it means that your provider should have a complete and accurate list of all your medications.

Page 2

National and state government officials from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as well as crewmembers from USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) gathered on the pier on Weno Island Aug 22 for the opening ceremony of Pacific Partnership.

Page 3

Today, thanks to the Catania Archdiocese's effort, the Chierici building is back to its original splendor. "The Museum is the symbol of the past that is still alive.

Page 6

"Valle Dell Anapo" or Valley of Anapo is a beautiful Sicilian reserve that was created through a "tracks to trails" project from the remnants of an old train track which winds alongside and over the Anapo River.

Page 8

Stephen Decatur Elementary School opened its new facilities to parents, teachers and students for the first day of school Thursday Aug. 28 on NAS I.

Page 12

TRAFFIC NUMBERS

Jan.- Sept. '08 Jan.- Sept. '07 Diff.

Accidents	197	203	-6
Injuries	33	30	+3
DUIs	6	7	-1
Traffic Deaths	2	0	+2

PLEASE,
DON'T BECOME
A STATISTIC!

INSIDE

Direct Line
2

Navy News
3

Community Calendar
4

MWR Corner
11

Il Mercato
14

DIRECT LINE NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT. THOMAS J. QUINN

On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America in a series of despicable acts of war. 19 hijackers took over four passenger jets, crashing two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers and a third into the Headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon, causing a great loss of life and a tremendous amount of damage. The fourth plane crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside, killing all on board but falling well short of its intended target because of the heroic efforts of passengers on board. These acts, which caused the destruction of both Trade Center towers and the destruction of part of the Pentagon,

killed just fewer than 3,000 people, including nearly 400 New York City Firefighters and Policemen.

These acts and the forces of terrorism they represent have forever changed the world we live in. Terrorists have targeted our nation and many of our allies to try and break our collective wills and win through fear and terror. The United States and our allies have engaged in a war against terrorism to combat it at its source which affects every service member and dependent's lives in incalculable ways.

As we now approach the 7th anniversary of this day, we at Sigonella will honor and remember our lost countrymen by holding the Fifth Annual

September 11 Memorial Formation Run on Wednesday, September 10, which will be led by our new chief petty officer selectees. The event will start at 7am at the Flightline Fitness Center on NAS II.

There will also be a memorial flag raising and moment of silence at 2 p.m. September 11 on NAS I with a special formation by the chief's mess. I invite the Sigonella community to participate in the local events to honor the memory of those lost in the September 11 attacks.

Let us never forget the heroes of September 11. Thank you for your courage, commitment, and service to our country and the Navy.



Health WATCH

Your Role in Ensuring Medication Safety

Article by Lt. Cmdr. Bryn Reina MC, USN

Your Health Care Team: Doctor, Nurse, Corpsman and Pharmacist have a critical role to ensure that the medication process is safe. It is their responsibility to prescribe you the right medication at the right time at the right dose. In this effort it is important that your healthcare team have an accurate list of all the medications that you take to include over the counter (OTC) medications and supplements; this is where you can help us.

One of the major initiatives the healthcare industry is taking to make the medication process safer is termed "Medication Reconciliation". Although this sounds daunting, it is quite simple; it means that your provider should have a complete and accurate list of all your medications. This list will be reviewed and updated every time you are seen at the hospital. Having this list your Provider will be able to reference all your medications

when writing your medication orders and the Nurse will be able to compare the orders against the list so that any inaccuracies can be caught. Medication errors that can be prevented by adopting this process include: inadvertent omission of home medications, failure to restart home medications, duplicate therapies and other errors such as incorrect dosage, form or interactions.

Naval Hospital Sigonella is aggressively pursuing Medication Reconciliation in our efforts to maximize your safety. What we ask of you is that you take an active role and work with us in making this list as complete and accurate as possible. You do not have to wait until you are seen by your provider to begin this process; start the list at home and give it to your provider at your next visit. If you have children who take medications make sure they have a list as well. When making your list it is important that we know the name, dose, and when

Story continued on page 12

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NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

Chapel Office: 095-86-3975

<p>ROMAN CATHOLIC</p> <p>Sunday 0845 Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel) 1200 Catholic Mass (Mineo Community Center) 1600 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)</p> <p>Monday - Wednesday, Friday 1130 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)</p>	<p>PROTESTANT</p> <p>Sunday 0900 Protestant Worship (Mineo Community Center) 1045 Protestant Worship (NAS I Chapel)</p> <p>Wednesday 1700 Protestant Fellowship Dinner 1800 Bible Studies for All Ages (NAS I Chapel)</p>
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CHURCH OF CHRIST LAY SERVICE
Sunday 1530 NAS I Chapel Rooms 3 & 4 (Call 624-5128 or 335-841-8069)

OTHER SERVICES/ACTIVITIES POINTS OF CONTACT

Latter-day Saints: Please email ldssig@gmail.com or call 624-1671 or 349-197-7119
Jewish Services: Please call 095-86-1205
AA Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1900, NAS II Chapel, 339-344-9332



Of Celebrities And Heroes

Article by Stephen M. Coates LT, CHC, USN

Larry was a boy in my high school who had some intellectual and social challenges. Students made fun of Larry, the special needs student. Larry loved baseball and always wore a Cubs hat. I hated the Cubs. But I didn't hate the Cubs near as much as I hated the way those students treated Larry.

Our gym class was playing softball and our field had its own version of "the green monster," a forty-foot high brick wall in left field. By our rules, a shot off the wall was a homerun. Time was running out - both for the game and for the school year. Trailing by a run with two runners on, I came to the plate.

I know this sounds like sap but I will never forget Larry's face, his words, his tone, his faith. With slurred sounds, he said, "Come on Steve. Hit a homerun. I know you will do it."

I did hit the home run. Larry celebrated and said, "I knew you were going to do it. I knew you would. I knew it." I'm not sure I had ever seen such celebration in Larry's countenance. Amazing . . . I was Larry's hero. It wasn't the homerun. It was the fact that I added value to his life rather than subtracting it.

Four years ago, I had the privilege of serving as emcee for the 229th Navy Ball at an overseas base. The guest of honor was a retired

Story continued on page 13

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

E6 - Negligent driving. Failure to comply with NASSIG/host laws. Member was awarded 5 points and DIP.
E5 - Speeding. Member was awarded 4 point and DIP.
E4 - Other moving violation. Member was awarded 3 points.

NAVY News

Ceremony Officially Marks Opening of Pacific Partnership in Micronesia

Article by Lt Arwen Chisholm
Pacific Partnership Public Affairs
Photo by MC1 Nick De La Cruz

CHUUK STATE, Federated States of Micronesia -- National and state government officials from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as well as crewmembers from USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) gathered on the pier on Weno Island Aug 22 for the opening ceremony of Pacific Partnership. This visit marks the first time the hospital ship has visited the Federated States of Micronesia.

"You are a part of history," said Mori. "Mercy is the largest vessel to drop anchor in Chuuk since the Pacific War."

Pacific Partnership is a humanitarian civic-assistance mission to Southeast Asia and Oceania to provide medical, dental and engineering assistance to the people of the region. "Pacific Partnership is a five-month voyage of peace and goodwill," said U.S. Navy Capt. William A. Kearns, Pacific Partnership mission commander. "We are grateful for the close partnership with the government of FSM."

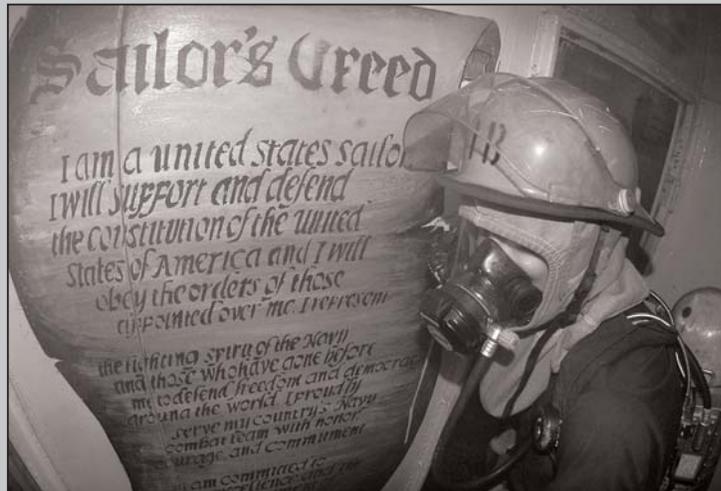
By collaborating with the Federated States of Micronesia and Pacific partner nations, the United States is working toward strengthening relationships and ensuring regional stability in the Western Pacific.



Cmdr. Michele Gasper examines 13-year old boy at a Pacific Partnership medical civic action program (MEDCAP) held at the Yap Sports Complex in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia. A 26-personnel advanced medical team is conducting MEDCAPs and repairing medical equipment in Yap as part of Pacific Partnership 2008, a humanitarian mission dedicated to providing medical and dental assistance programs in cooperation with host nations throughout the Asian Pacific region.

PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy photo MC3 Ian Schoeneberg

A Sailor assigned to the at-sea fire party aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) responds to a class alpha fire drill. George Washington is off the coast of Southern California conducting flight deck qualifications with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 for the first time. George Washington departed San Diego en route to Yokosuka, Japan, where the ship will replace the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier.

"FSM takes great pride in our unique partnership [with the U.S.] that has provided opportunities for FSM to participate and contribute to our common goal of regional peace and stability," said FSM President Emanuel Mori. "Our FSM young men and women are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, side by side with U.S. counterparts, pursuing the same freedom of democracy together, as partners."

The nearly 1,000 professionals embarked in support of Pacific Partnership will work together with FSM to include medical and engineering professionals who are scheduled to assist the people of Chuuk, Yap and Pohnpei.

"Mercy's visit to FSM is a dramatic opportunity for the U.S. to reach out to the people of FSM," said Miriam Hughes, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. "The Mercy's visit highlights America's commitment to peace and stability throughout Asia Pacific."

The Pacific Partnership team will provide 13 medical civic action programs on 13 different islands and three engineering civic action programs on two islands throughout Chuuk state.

Prior to the Mercy's arrival, 26 medical personnel from the Mercy and 20 Seabees from Naval Construction Battalion 133, from Gulfport, Miss., joined Pacific Partnership Aug. 17 to kick-off Pacific Partnership in Pohnpei and Yap.

The visit highlights the commitment of the United States to work with nations in Oceania and to develop stronger and deeper ties with the people of the Pacific.

"The degree of understanding between us, no matter how small, will go a long way to bettering our relationship," said Wesley Simina, governor of Chuuk. "This visit connects people from Chuuk and the United States."

Pacific Partnership brings together host nations, partner nations, such as India and Canada, non-governmental organizations, such as Project Hope and the University of California Pre-Dental Society, to work toward a common goal.

"Pacific Partnership reminds everyone, everywhere around the globe, that we are dependent on other people," said Simina. "We will forever be grateful to be a part of this monumental occasion."

New Hitech
Hop

Monika



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

				FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				5 - SEPTEMBER Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203	6	7
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY			
8	9 FFSC Resume Writing 1p.m. - 3:00 p.m.; x4291 Money Management for Life 9a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; x4291 Anger and Stress Management 8a.m. - 11:30a.m.; 4291 Smooth Move 2p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; x4291	10 FFSC Mens Group 1:30p.m. - 3 p.m. x4291 10 Steps to a Federal Job 10:30a.m. - 1:30 p.m. x4291 Motta Castle Tour 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m. x4291	11 FFSC Ombudsman Assembly 9a.m. - 1:00 p.m. x4291 The Interview 2p.m. - 3:00 p.m. x4291	12 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203 Red Cross Babysitter Training 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. x4479	13 Red Cross CPR Class 8a.m. - 5 p.m. x4479	14
15	16 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203 FFSC What About the Children 8a.m. - 11:00 a.m. x4291 NMCRS Volunteer Orientation 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. x4212	17 FFSC Survive and Thrive 8a.m. - 2:30 p.m. x4291 Mens Group 1:30p.m. - 3 p.m. x4291 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203	18 NMCRS Budget for Baby 5 p.m. x4212	19 Alcoholics Anonymous -7 p.m. -NAS II Chapel x9203 FFSC Identity theft 10a.m. - 11:30 p.m. x4291 Home Buying Strategies 1p.m. - 4:00 p.m. x4291	20	21

Motta

Days Inn

Stags

Marchi

Did you know that . . .

A Budget Review could be the key to your financial peace of mind? Are you living from payday to payday, having trouble meeting monthly bills, being harassed by creditors, or hoping your paycheck reaches the bank before those checks you just wrote do? Visit your Sigonella Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office where case-workers can review your financial situation and suggest corrective actions. Are you about to get married, expecting a new baby, or about to make a major purchase? The Society can also provide invaluable budgeting assistance before you make these major decisions.

For more information, call us today: 624-4212. Our office is located in the Administration Building in NAS 1 (2nd Floor, above FFSC.)

Office hours are Mon-Fri
0900 - 1600.

NMCRS: A Helping Hand!
www.nmcrrs.org



Bldg. 319 (NAS 1)
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
DSN 624-4291
Commercial 095-56-4291

What is an Ombudsman?

Article by Maggie Torress, NASSIG/Security Ombudsman, with Information adapted from www.nffsp.org

The Ombudsman is a volunteer, appointed by the commanding officer, to serve as an information link between command leadership and Navy families.

They also provide resource referrals when needed. If family situations arise they are instrumental in knowing how to help resolve, where to refer, and what needs to be done before requiring extensive command attention. The command Ombudsman program is shaped largely by the commanding officer's perceived needs of his/her command. The command ombudsman is appointed by and works under guidance of the commanding officer who determines the priorities of the pro-

gram, the roles and relationships of those involved in it, and the type and level of support it will receive.

The Role of the Command Ombudsman

- Serve as the primary communications link between the families and the command, and the channel of official information from the command to the families.

- Disseminate timely and critical information regularly through newsletters, careline/infolines, telephone trees, and e-mail.

- Supply information about and referrals to military and civilian support organizations like, Fleet and Family Support Program, American Red Cross, Navy and Marine Corps

Relief Society, Chaplains, medical facilities and legal assistance offices. These organizations are valuable resources in obtaining assistance for command family members.

- Provide support to family members seeking professional assistance and refer them for counseling. Ombudsmen, in their official role, are not counselors or social workers.

- Act as an advocate for the command families, using knowledge of the system, can help access the appropriate level of chain of command for intervention and forward suitable request or grievances while exercising confidentiality.

- Support command-sponsored groups and activities and advertise support group activities as permitted by the command.

The most significant value to the Ombudsman is the satisfaction of helping other command family members.

Also, the skills and experience gained benefit the volunteers throughout their lives! If you would like to reach your Command Ombudsman please call Fleet & Family Support Center 624-4291.

Sushi

Camping

Pentagon

Cold Noses



WARM HEARTS

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.

Moroni (Right) is a wonderful dog with a great personality. He loves to walk and loves a good belly rub. He would make a wonderful addition to any family.

Tulsa (Below) is fantastic dog who desperately needs a home to call his own. He has been at the Stray Animal Facility for almost two years and needs



chance to prove his loyalty to a family. He is very smart, loves to play ball and loves to walk. If you would like to see Tulsa, please come by the Stray Animal Facility.

For more information contact the Stray Animal Facility at 624-3936 or a SAWS representative at 345-502-2266.

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.

Italian NEWS

Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle

Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff



Diocesan Museum, a Glowing Jewel in the Heart of Catania



Photo by Catania Diocesan Museum

The Painting Gallery of the Catania Diocesan Museum gives visitors a chance to admire major religious narrative paintings which belonged to the personal ancient collections of Catania-based Benedictine monks.

Kartodromo

A precious gem set into the Catania historic centre, the "Museo Diocesano" (Diocesan Museum) is the keeper of the Cathedral's fascinating treasures (ornaments, paintings and furniture). The museum, which opened in 2001, is located in the Seminario dei Chierici al Duomo, a 16th century building which hosted the Catania seminary for student priests until the 1930s. During World War II, the seminary was moved to another location to protect the priests from the bombings. Later, the Chierici building was rented out to private companies, banks and even a karate gym.

Today, thanks to the Catania Archdiocese's effort, the Chierici building is back to its original splendor. "The Museum is the symbol of the past that is still alive. It preserves the art, the culture, the tradition and the spirituality of the Catania Archdiocese's heritage," museum director Father Santino Salamone said.

The Museum is divided into two sections and a room n. 9, located downstairs, in which the St. Agata "Vara" (the silver float on top of which the bust depicting the patron of Catania is brought in procession on Feb 5th through the streets of the city).

The first one, hosted on the first floor and in the Chapel located on the second floor, displays the Catania Cathedral ornaments. The second, which preserves ornaments from other churches of the Catania province, is located on the second and third floor and includes the picture gallery.

The first section consists of five rooms. They include the Cathedral ornaments dating from foundation to the terrible earthquake occurred in 1693 that almost destroyed it, the Cathedral Treasure and vestments.

The small sword of King Ludovic of Aragon, who died in 1355, when he was seventeen years

old, is one of the best pieces of the collection displayed in Room 1. It was found inside his tomb in 1958 as the graves of the archbishops and kings buried in the Catania Cathedral were moved from the Presbyterian area to the Chapel of Virgin Mary. The sword is furnished with a red velvet sheath. The golden ferrule is inlaid with enamel and it includes a small reliquary allegedly containing a small fragment of the Holy Cross. The sword is the most ancient and magnificent pieces of Catania goldsmith's art which was also characterized by Catalan influences.

The remains of the Cathedral Treasure that survived the 1693 earthquake are displayed in Room 2. The treasure includes several elaborate saints' reliquaries (Saint Giorgio and Saint Cataldo) that are shaped as arms or busts and other ornaments, also including bishop emblems, coming from Palermo, Messina and Catania and even Rome workshops. Worth mentioning are also the precious silver gilt chalices especially one dating back to the 17th century. It is inlaid with coral decorations by craftsmen from Palermo depicting putties (on top) and bishops (at the bottom).

Among these magnificent ornaments, the ones dedicated to St. Agata, the patron of the city (room n. 4) are undoubtedly the most relevant. Unfortunately, for security reasons, the main St. Agata reliquary, a silver bust depicting the saint that is considered as a masterpiece made by the most prominent 14th century Vatican goldsmiths, is preserved inside the Cathedral and cannot be displayed at the museum. Instead, the museum offers a variety of decorated fragments of the St. Agata original silver carriage.

Two magnificent silver altar frontals by Messina-based artist Saverio Corallo, and six chandeliers depicting the story of the life of Catania's patron saint also glitter in

this room. Those elaborate decorative lighting fixtures were created by Domenico Juvarra, another goldsmith from Messina.

A 18th century inlaid wooden door used to close the relics of St. Agata is also displayed in this room. The door was later replaced with a silver one. Scenes from the life of St. Agata are depicted on it.

Portraits of two famous local cardinals from the 19th century, Giuseppe Benedetto Dusmet and Giuseppe Franca-Nava, can be seen in room n. 5. A variety of liturgical artifacts coming from the churches of the Catania Dioceses are showcased in room n. 6.

Highlights include the Saint Giuliano reliquary bust dating to 1664 which comes from the monastery that has the same name, as well as the precious silver handiwork by the Puglisi brothers, a family of skilled goldsmiths who were active in Catania in the 17th century. Puglisi created neoclassical-styled works of great value and refinement that were placed in all the city churches.

The painting gallery (room n. 7) featuring religious imagery is located on the second floor. Paintings depict religious subjects that belonged to private collections of Benedictine monks. Of particular interest are two paintings depicting the "Holy Family" by Greek painter Bernardino Niger (16th century) and Italian artist Antonio Cavallucci (18th century). Room n. 8 hosts some valuable liturgical objects.

The museum is located in Elephant square in Catania, next to the Cathedral. It also has a terrace with a breathtaking view of Catania.

Opening Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday group tours can be arranged upon request. For more information, guided group tours and tickets call 095-281635 or send an email to museo@musediocesicatania.it

Magnolia



Photo by Catania Diocesan Museum

The Catania Diocesan Museum houses an impressive collection of liturgical objects which are among the best examples of sculptural metalwork from ancient Sicilian workshops.

Raddusa hosts Wheat Festival



Travel back in time and discover the flavors of agricultural Sicily! This weekend (Sept. 5-7), Raddusa, a small picturesque town in the Catania province will host the 14th edition of the exciting "Sagra del Grano" (Wheat Festival) that will be held in the historic center.

Highlights include threshing and bread-making demonstrations, folklore and horse parades, tours to the local agricultural and tea museums, food specialties and entertainment. For detailed schedules contact the Raddusa Tourist Office at 095-667003.

Mario Biondi Holds Concert in Taormina



Catania-born singer Mario Biondi will perform tomorrow (Sept. 6) night at 9 p.m. at the Taormina Greek Theatre. Biondi, who is nicknamed the "Italian Barry White," has an enchanting soulful voice. He became famous all over the world for his song "This Is What You Are."

For more information and tickets visit www.ctbox.it

Red Tuna Festival in Catania



The traditional "Sagra del Tonno Rosso" (Red Tuna Festival), a food event which opens the two-week religious festival honoring Saint Maria of Ognina, is in its 4th year and celebrates the local harbor fishing industry. Food booths will dot piazzale Porto Peschereccio in the Ognina harbor district from Sept. 5 through 7, starting at 8 p.m. Each night for three nights in a row there will be different red tuna specialties which will include: Friday, Sept. 5: "Fusilli Tonno e Zucchine" (helical-shaped pasta with red tuna, zucchinis, cherry tomatoes, white onions and olive oil) and "Bisaccia di Tonno" (red tuna with pistachio, white onions, primo sale cheese, breadcrumbs and olive oil); Saturday, Sept. 6: "Sedanini di Tonno Rosso e Ciliegino" (tubular shaped pasta with red tuna, tomatoes, fish broth, peppermint and olive oil) and "Insalata di tonno alla Catalana" (red tuna salad with celery, red onions, cherry tomatoes, basil, oregano and olive oil); Sunday, Sept. 7: "Conchiglie Tonno Rosso e Pinoli" (shell-shaped pasta with red tuna, pine seeds' pesto sauce, cherry tomatoes, red onions and olive oil) and "Tonno Rosso alla Palermitana" (red tuna, bread crumbs, garlic, onions, tomatoes, oregano and parsley).

Religious festival highlights include the Saint Maria statue unveiling (Monday, Sept. 8 - 8 a.m. - Saint Maria of Ognina Parish); a play inspired by 19th century novel "I Malavoglia by Italian novelist Giovanni Verga" (Thursday, Sept. 11- 8:30 p.m. - stage set up on the Ognina harbour sea); Italian pop star Michele Zarrillo's concert (Wednesday, Sept. 10- 9 p.m. - stage set up on the Ognina harbour sea); Sailboat Regatta (Sunday -Sept. 7 - 10 a.m. - Ognina harbour); Sicilian Puppets Show by Fratelli Napoli Company (Monday, Sept. 8- 9 p.m. Saint Maria of Ognina Parish Gardens).

The Ognina Harbor is family easy to reach. From the Catania Train Station take viale Africa and drive until you reach piazza Europa. Then, turn right towards the Catania Lungomare (waterfront) and drive for a few miles until you reach the Ognina Harbor.

University

Strike

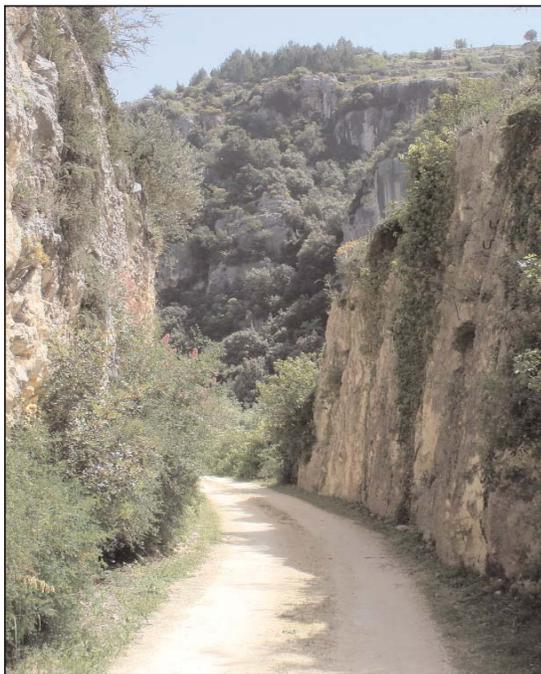
A Stone's Th

THE HUB OF THE MED IS ALSO THE HUB FOR T

Article and photos by Lt. j.g. Matt Knight
NAS Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

"Valle Dell Anapo" or Valley of Anapo is a beautiful Sicilian reserve that was created through a "tracks to trails" project from the remnants of an old train track which winds alongside and over the Anapo River. The reserve is located near the town of Sortino, Sicily and offers amazing views of the Anapo Valley which is filled with flowers, trees, wildlife and crystal clear fish filled pools alongside the Anapo River. In addition to the scenic views, alongside the path is the "Necropolis de Pantalica," a seemingly limitless number of tombs carved out of the sheer cliff walls dating back several thousand years. This trip can make a wonderful solo adventure or can be taken through Adventures Unlimited.

Site: The site earns a solid five star rating for the diverse hiking and walking trails as well as the scenery and history that accompanies them. The highlights of this location include a lack of people, peaceful surroundings, and wide open spaces that allow for a relaxing stroll. There are several places along the trail that allow hikers to get off the central path and hike side trails which criss-cross through the woods. The central trail is where the train tracks used to be, leaving a wide gradual sloping path which winds through the valley. The central trail stretches several miles from the entrance, but conveniently located at the 1.75 mile point is an abandoned train station. This station has out house style restroom facilities and benches to rest on, making it an ideal turn-around point. There is no fee to enter the reserve and the hike from the entrance to the train station is a gradual incline gaining 600 ft. in altitude. Bicycles are only allowed on certain days or by special request. For planning purposes, the reserve is closed for three days after a rain to ensure no rocks have dislodged onto the trail. Several items needed on this



The Valle Del Anapo hiking trail was built on the remains of an old train line leaving a wide and level path for the entire hike.

hike include: plenty of water, snacks, some comfortable shoes or boots, and a flashlight since the central path goes through several very long train tunnels which are nearly pitch black at their midpoints. There is no place to purchase any items once you are at the reserve. The reserve's offices may be contacted at 0931-95-4805.

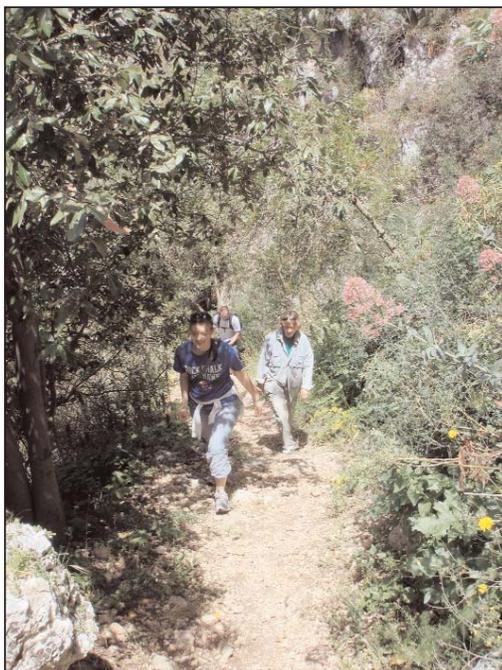
Family Friendly: This site rates four out of five stars for family friendliness. The main reason for the one star loss is the lack of bathroom facilities along the path which may make the trail uncomfortable for some hikers. However, the paths are perfectly accessible for sturdy wheel chairs or strollers as well and the reserve offers more challenging opportunities immediately off of the main trail for those who

want variety.

Accessibility: This site rates five stars for accessibility because it is offered by Adventures Unlimited making the drive there simple.

However, if attempting to find this location on one's own it is closer to a two star rating due to the challenging hair-pin alpine turns, complex directions, and limited parking at the site. The basic directions to reach the reserve from NAS II are to take SS417 towards

Catania th
Stay on S
reserve is
Unlimited
ther detai
Tra
the travel



REVIEW SUMMARY

Site:



Family Friendly:



Accessibility:



Travel Time:



These ratings are out of five stars, and are the opinion of the Signature staff and in no way constitute a professional travel review. If you have comments or questions on this review contact:

thesig@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

In addition to the main trail, there are many side trails which allow hikers to see the raw

Pietro

Throw

HUB FOR TRAVEL

ve stars for accessibility because
making the drive there simple.
this location on one's own it is
challenging hair-pin alpine turns,
ing at the site. The basic direc-
S II are to take SS417 towards

Catania then get on A18 towards Augusta. A18 will turn into SS114. Stay on SS114 past the August exit and take the Sortino exit. The reserve is located outside of Sortino, Sicily. Contact Adventures Unlimited at 624-4177 or the reserve's office at 0931-95-4805 for further details.

Travel Time: This location rates three out of five stars because the travel time is approximately an hour and thirty minutes.



An abandoned train station makes a unique point to turn around. It's 1.75 miles from the entrance of the reserve and offers limited restroom facilities.



ails which allow hikers to see the raw beauty of the reserve.



Stampa

Belmontino

Ristorante Bella Etna

Friday 5
Lunch: New England Clam Chowder, Vegetable Lasagna, Pork Chops w/ Mushroom Gravy, Steamed Rice, Garlic Roasted Potatoes, Steamed Asparagus, Seasoned Okra, Lemon Cookies, Carrot Cake.
Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes.
Dinner: Cream Of Mushroom Soup, Cantonese Spareibs, Pork Fried Rice, Steamed Whole Corn, Seasoned Spinach, Lemon Cookies, Carrot Cake.
Made to Order: Vegetarian Burger, Turkey Wrap, French Fries.

Saturday 6
Lunch: Vegetable Beef Soup, Baked Tuna & Noodles, Chicken Nuggets, Cajun Fries, Mixed Vegetables, Hot Beets, Sweet & Sour Sauce, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Apple Crisp.
Dinner: Manhattan Clam Chowder, Beef & Corn Pie, Jamaican Chicken, Steamed Rice, Green Kales, Peas & Mushroom, Chocolate Drop Cookies, Apple Crisp.

Sunday 7
Brunch: Breakfast Items, Bean & Bacon Soup, Reuben Sandwiches, Italian Roasted Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Glazed Carrots, Yellow Cake w/ Frosting, Hermits.
Dinner: Split Pea Soup, Kielbasa w/ Sauerkraut & Apples, Jaegerschnitzel, Aztec Rice, Steamed Broccoli, Turnip & Bacon, Yellow Cake w/ Frosting, Hermits.

Monday 8
Lunch: Chicken Noodle Soup, Rosemary Turkey Roast, Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes w/ Syrup, Seasoned Summer Squash, Steamed Peas, Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Banana Cake.
Speed line: Sub Sandwich & Vegetarian Spaghetti.
Dinner: Spanish Soup, Steak w/ Onions, Baked Potatoes, Vegetable Stir Fry, Collard Greens, Brown Gravy, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Banana Cake.
Made to Order: Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Tuna Salad on Wheat Bread, Potato Chips.

Tuesday 9
Lunch: New England Clam Chowder, Roast Pork, Chicken Lemon Sauce, Aloha Sweet Potatoes, Harvest Rice, Brown Gravy, Baked Beans, Glazed Carrots, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Hawaiian Ambrosia.
Speed line: Chicken Fillet Sandwich, Onion Rings.
Dinner: Beef Rice Soup, Italian Sausage, Garlic Cheese Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Vegetable Stir Fry, Steamed Asparagus, Brown Gravy, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Hawaiian Ambrosia.

Wednesday 10
Lunch: Vegetable Beef Soup, Pasta Carbonata, Lemon Baked Fish, Potatoes Au Gratin, Oriental Rice, Eggplant Parmesan, Steamed Spinach, Cherry Cheese Cake, Chewy Nut Bars.
Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes.
Dinner: Minestrone Soup, Baked Chicken, Tossed Green Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Steamed Beans, Stewed Tomatoes, Cherry Cheese Cake, Chewy Nut Bars.
Made to Order: Sicilian Submarine, Grilled Cheese, Onion Rings.

Thursday 11
Lunch: Egg Drop Soup, Chicken Cacciatore, Beef Stroganoff, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Pasta, Seasoned Mix Vegetables, Steamed Cauliflower, Chicken Gravy, Vanilla Cookies, Devils Food Cake.
Speed Line: Baked Potatoes, Bacon Bits, Sautéed Mushroom, Cheddar Cheese, Asst. Pizza.
Dinner: Chicken Noodle Soup, Meat Loaf, Oven Brown Potatoes, Corn O Brien, Simmered Carrots, Brown Gravy Garlic Herb Roll, Vanilla Cookies, Devils Food Cake.
Made to Order: Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Tuna Salad on Wheat Bread, Nachos.

The Sigonella Galley is open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for breakfast, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for lunch and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for dinner. The galley is located on NAS II. This menu is subject to change without notice.

casablanca

Ristorante Bella Etna Implements Cosit Team

chiechio

Article courtesy of CWO3 Herman McCrary

You are probably wondering what in the world is a COSIT Team. COSIT stands for Customer Oriented Service Improvement Team which is synonymous with CNIC Fleet and Family readiness initiative called Customer Oriented Enterprise (COE). The purpose of a COSIT is continuous process, program, product, and service improvement based on "real time" customer feedback.

Feedback is crucial to any organization's success and the Galley's COSIT has identified many of your concerns, commonly referred to as Moments of Truth (MOT). Moments of Truth are customer's level of satisfaction when an expected need is fulfilled or unfulfilled. Based on the results of a recent real time survey, the galley was able to address many of your concerns and expectations as it relates to your Moment of Truth.

To date we have answered your call for more TV channels just prior to football season. All AFN channels, including Sports are now available for you viewing pleasure. A Seconds Policy has also been implemented and

will be prominently posted inside the galley. To-Go cups with lids have been placed on order and will be available soon to compliment our To-Go meals.

The COSIT is also looking at the Galley's evening meal hours to see if a thirty minutes later shift in opening and closing will work. The possibility of a standard cook to order menu is being reviewed for those desiring a change from the standard evening meal fare. Other areas of concern include healthier menu options, more salad bar items and customer appreciation days/meals and each one is being reviewed.

The COSIT is working hard to eliminate or minimize detracting MOT's while also incorporating service enhancing MOT's. Your feedback has fueled our change. Please continue to keep us informed as we endeavor to provide you with the best possible service. Customer feedback forms are always available on each table and outside the Food Service Officer's office located near the entrance/exit. Our goal is to provide consistent quality service that will produce memorable MOT's.

MWR CORNER

Aquatics

Splashers pool on NAS I and the NAS II pool have moved to fall & winter hours. Both are now open from 6 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lap swim only. Splashers is open on weekends from 11a.m. to 6 p.m. for open swim until September 29.

Sports

Captain's Cup Flag Football
Rosters due at Coaches Meeting September 10 - 4 p.m. at Jox Pub
Season begins Tuesday, September 16

Fitness

Signonella's Annual Triathlon
(teams welcome): September 6
Intro to Cardio: September 10
Fifth Annual 9/11 Memorial Formation Run: September 10
Family Rock Climbing Night: September 12

Jox Pub

Live Band - Dazed & Confused:
September 5
Guitar Hero Competition:
September 6

Take 5

Drinks on Us! September 5



From Left: Leisure Activities Director John Lenz, Adult Sports Coordinator Miki Gilbert and MWR Director Bill Bray

This month Signonella made history as the first base to capture two MWR regional employee recognition awards. Two Signonellans received top honors from Navy Region Europe. John Lenz was named Supervisor of the Year and Miki Gilbert was named Practitioner of the Year by the "Big Navy MWR" annual awards program.

Xbox 360 Tournament: September 9

Liberty

Chinese Dinner: [REDACTED]
Movie Night Out: [REDACTED]
Mexican Dinner: [REDACTED]

ITT Gear-n-Go

See the Preview or stop by the ITT office for details.

Catania and Outdoor Bellini Concert:

[REDACTED]

Kayaking Trip to Noto:

[REDACTED]

Milo Wine Festival:

[REDACTED]

Bait Trolling Fishing Trip to Marzamemi:

[REDACTED]

Siracusa II & Fontane Bianche Beach:

[REDACTED]

Mistretta & the Festival of Giants (Family Trip):

[REDACTED]

Shopping Trip to Piazza Armerina:

[REDACTED]

Panarea and Stromboli by Night (Aeolian Islands):

[REDACTED]

Catania by Night: History, Wine Tasting and Restaurant:

[REDACTED]

Youth Center

Back To School Welcoming Party
September 5 at 3:30pm

Teen Center

Paintball: September 6
4-H Cooking/Eating Club: September 6

SEPTEMBER 5 - SEPTEMBER 12

MIDTOWN MOVIE THEATER

MOVIE HOTLINE: 624-4248

SCHEDULE

MOVIE DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, September 5

1:00pm Space Chimps PG
3:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G
5:00pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG
5:30pm Space Chimps PG
7:30pm Mama Mia PG-13
8:00pm The Dark Knight PG-13
9:30pm Hellboy II : The Golden Army PG-13

Space Chimps (PG)

Three NASA chimps are sent to a galaxy far, far away. Two have 'The Right Stuff,' and the other, a good natured goofball, has 'The Wrong Stuff.' They find themselves on a strange, uncharted planet, where they embark on a fantastical journey to save its inhabitants from a tyrannical leader. 81 min.

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG)

As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences. 100 min.

Saturday, September 6

2:00pm Wall-E G
2:30pm Space Chimps PG
4:30pm Meet Dave PG
5:00pm Journey to the Center of the Earth PG
7:30pm The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor PG-13
8:00pm Tropic Thunder R
9:30pm Wanted R

Mamma Mia (PG-13)

Raised on a Greek island by a formerly rebellious mom who never disclosed the identity of her father, a bride-to-be locates three men who might be her father and invites them to her wedding. 109 min.

Tropic Thunder (R)

A group of self-absorbed actors set out to make the most expensive war film. But after ballooning costs force the studio to cancel the movie, the frustrated director refuses to stop shooting, leading his cast into the jungles of Southeast Asia, where they encounter real bad guys. 107 min.

Sunday, September 7

2:00pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG
2:30pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G
4:30pm Space Chimps PG
5:00pm The Dark Knight PG-13
7:00pm Mama Mia PG-13

Hancock (PG-13)

Unpopular superhero Hancock saves the life of a PR executive who attempts to salvage his public image. 92 min.

Wall-E (G)

What if mankind had to leave Earth, and somebody forgot to turn the last robot off? Wall-E, spends every day doing what he was made for. But soon, he will discover what he was meant for as he adventures across the galaxy chasing his dream. 98 min.

Monday, September 8

1:00pm Journey to the Center of the Earth PG
3:00pm Space Chimps G
5:00pm Hancock PG-13
5:30pm Mamma Mia PG-13
7:30pm The Dark Knight PG-13
8:00pm Tropic Thunder R

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13)

The mythical world starts a rebellion against humanity in order to rule the Earth, so Hellboy and his team must save the world from the rebellious creatures. 120 min.

We Are Marshall (PG)

A true story, based on devastating events, set in Huntington, West Virginia, about a small town steeped in the rich tradition of college football. For decades, players, coaches, fans and families have come together to cheer on Marshall University's "Thundering Herd." But on a fateful night in 1970, while traveling back to Huntington after a game in North Carolina, 75 members of Marshall's football team and coaching staff were killed in a plane crash. As those left behind struggled to cope with the devastating loss of their loved ones, the grieving families found hope and strength in the leadership of Jack Lengyel, a young coach who was determined to rebuild Marshall's football program and in the process helped to heal a community. 127 min.

Tuesday, September 9

5:00pm Meet Dave PG
5:30pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG
7:30pm Hellboy II : The Golden Army PG-13
8:00pm SPORTS SPECIAL - FREE ADMISSION
We Are Marshall PG

Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG)

A science professor's untraditional hypotheses have made him the laughing stock of the academic community. But on an expedition in Iceland, he and his nephew stumble upon a major discovery that launches them on a thrilling journey deep beneath the Earth's surface, where they travel through never-before-seen worlds and encounter a variety of unusual creatures. 93 min.

Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl (G)

Aspiring reporter Kit Kittredge can't resist bringing home strays, whether it's Grace, an abandoned basset hound, or Will and Countee, a pair of young hobos willing to trade work for meals. Determined to recover the stolen money and believing Will is innocent, Kit recruits her friends Ruthie and Stirling to help her track down the real culprit. 101 min.

Wednesday, September 10

1:00pm Wall-E G LAST SHOWING
3:00pm Journey to the Center of the Earth PG
5:00pm Space Chimps G
5:30pm Hancock PG-13
7:30pm Mamma Mia PG-13
8:00pm The Dark Knight PG-13

Meet Dave (PG)

A massive fireball from space hits New York's Central Park and an ordinary man emerges unscathed. The man turns out to be a spaceship operated by 100 human-looking aliens who are one-quarter inch tall and seeking a way to save their planet; complications ensue when their captain falls in love with an Earth woman who's always picked losers for previous romances. 90 min.

Thursday, September 11

3:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G
5:00pm Star Wars: The Clone Wars PG
5:30pm Meet Dave PG
7:30pm Tropic Thunder R
8:00pm THROWBACK THURSDAY - FREE ADMISSION
Old School R

SHOWING FRIDAY AUGUST 29

1:00pm Space Chimps PG
3:00pm Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl G
5:00pm Hancock PG-13
5:30pm Meet Dave PG
7:30pm X-Files: I Want to Believe PG-13 PREMIERE
8:00pm Hellboy II : The Golden Army PG-13
9:30pm Step Brothers R PREMIERE

COMING SOON

Swing Vote

School NEWS

Stephen Decatur Elementary School Opens New Building

Article and photos by
MCSN Jonathan Idle
Signature Staff

Stephen Decatur Elementary School opened its new facilities to parents, teachers and students for the first day of school Thursday Aug. 28 on NAS I.

The opening of the new school marks the culmination of a \$35 million building project to improve the quality of the learning environment and educational services for the children of servicemembers in Sigonella, Nadine Sapiente, the Principal of the school, said.

Sapiente explained that the exterior and interior of the new facil-

ity have amenities that are vastly superior to those of the old buildings.

"We have an art wing," Sapiente said. "The lighting in the art room is special so that the kids can learn how to deal with light. So, the facility has taken advantage of living in Sicily. We have the plaza on the side here, which is like an amphitheater where we do things outside. We have a beautiful courtyard."

She believes the new technology that is being implemented will make for a unique learning environment for the children.

"In the building itself, we have a lot of technology," she said. "We have a video production room in the

library. We have two COW labs, which are Computers on Wheels. We have a computer lab so that the kids will be doing podcasting and broadcasting, and there's a lot of technology that they're going to be able to use."

Other improvements to the new facility include a more comprehensive library and the addition of a smart board in every classroom.

She stated that the move was a necessity due to the aging facilities where the school was previously.

"We were in a facility that was very old," Sapiente said. "The temporary building was a fine temporary building, but the portable buildings that our fourth and fifth graders were in were over 20 years old and really needed to be torn down."

Joseph Cianciaruso, a 5th grader at the school, explained that there are vast improvements from the last facility.

"There are no leaks, there are more windows, there's better scenery and it's a lot bigger," Cianciaruso said.

Jon Gaporra, another 5th grad-

er, said the students have been waiting for this for a long time and it's good to get back to school.

"We're excited," Gaporra said.

The school relied heavily on the help of volunteers from the Sigonella community to get everything moved and ready for the start of the school year, Sapiente said.

"We really want to thank the community for helping us it's been an

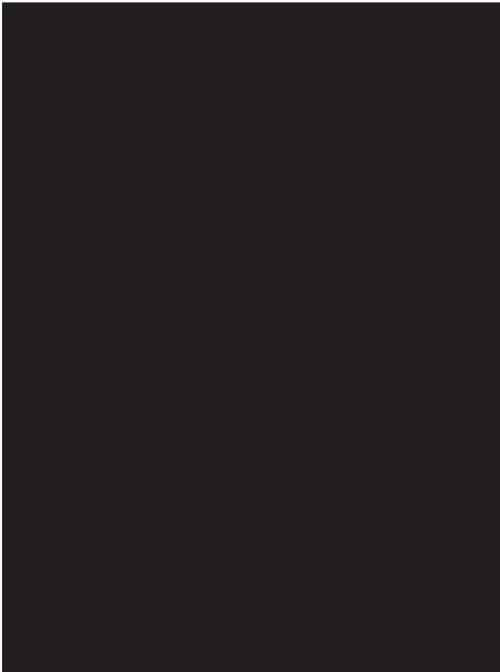
incredible community project," Sapiente said. Without all of the volunteers in the last month we wouldn't have been able to open up in time."

The school will be holding an open house on Sep. 9. Parents are invited to come and take a look at the new school. The teachers will meet with parents and talk about their homework policies, grading policies and discipline policies.



Students from Stephen Decatur Elementary School warm-up for music class on their first day in the new facility.

Sigonella Swordfish 2008/09 Schedule



Come out and see the next Natalie Coughlin or Michael Phelps as the Sigonella Swordfish begin the 2008/09 European Forces Swim League season at home on Sunday September 7th with an eye on winning the Southern division championship. Competing in the meet will be teams from Naples and Aviano. The Swordfish team is comprised of over 50 swimmers from ages 7-19. The team is coached by Rich McKeon, Christie Rother and Kathleen Kinsey. This year the Swordfish will once again compete in the Southern division against teams from Rota, Naples, Aviano and Vicenza. The Southern division championship will be held in Naples on January 18th. The European Forces Swim championship open to all swimmers with qualifying times, will be held in Berlin on February 7th and 8th.

2008/09 Schedule

- Sept. 7 - Home
- Sept. 27 - at Lakenheath
- Oct. 12 - Home
- Oct. 26 - at Naples
- Nov. 8/9 - at Aviano
- Nov. 23 - at Naples
- Dec. 13 - at Geilenkirchen
- Jan. 18 - Southern Division
- (Championships at Naples)
- Feb. 7/8 European Forces Swim League
- (Championships at Berlin)

Maryland

MEDS continued from page 2
(i.e. mornings) and how often you take the medication or supplement.

Medication cards are being handed out at base indoctrination. If you don't have one and would like one, ask a healthcare worker in the clinic, pharmacy or your provider for a medication card on which you can make your list. When you come in for your next appointment, share this with your provider and work with

him/her in compiling the list for your medical record.

Safety is a top priority to us as we strive to provide you and your family with superior healthcare. We believe that the medication reconciliation initiative is a powerful and long needed tool in ensuring your safety. Your involvement in this process is critical. We all have a role in patient safety and everyone will benefit from its success.

Chiechio

Oxidiana

Days Inn

Oxidiana

HEROES continued from page 2
Master Chief who had served almost fifty years on active duty. Did you catch that?

He served 20% of our Navy's entire history. He was a SEAL plank owner and worked among the highest echelons of Navy operations and strategy.

That is not why the Command invited him. He was a well-known participant on Survivor.

Sad . . . as emcee, I absolutely could not get him to share one single sea story. Despite my complete lack of interest in Survivor, he continued to talk about that experience and the speaking engagements resulting from it.

I'm guessing that 100 years from now, people will still be discussing Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, OEF and OIF. I doubt many essays will be written regarding the

valor of those first Survivor contestants.

When I examine headline news, I fear our day is marked by a frightening combination of unwarranted fascination with celebrities and utter disregard and boredom towards people of heroic stature.

Pulitzer prize winning historian Daniel Boorstin defines a celebrity as "a person who is known for his/her well-knownness. Their chief claim to fame is their fame itself. They are notorious for their notoriety."

Boorstin draws a sharp contrast. "The hero was distinguished by his achievement; the celebrity by his image or trademark. The hero created himself; the celebrity is created by the media. The hero was a big man; the celebrity is a big name. The dead hero becomes immortal. He becomes more vital with the passage of time. The celebrity even in his lifetime

become passé: he passes out of the picture."

I'm convinced celebrities don't add value to life. In fact, I wonder if they subtract from it, encouraging us to emulate them and to spend our lives attempting to be a celebrity within our own circles of acquaintances. Heroes, on the other hand, add value to lives, reminding us that we all have the makings of heroes within us, far more so than the makings of celebrities. Such heroism, however, will not be automatic.

Most of you don't even know my heroes. Their names would mean nothing to you but they are great heroes nonetheless.

In my next few articles, I think I will write about a few heroes of character. Their names may not be familiar to you but I think you will enjoy their stories - stories that will never become passé.

GEORGIA continued from page 1

supplies into the region. The 7 crewmembers, which are responsible for loading and safe transfer of personnel and the unloading of supplies into theater, arrived at Tbilisi International Airport late Monday evening.

"We're very excited to be the first navy aircraft to drop off these humanitarian supplies," said Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class(NAC) Jonathan Mack. "It's always satisfying when you get to help someone who is having difficulties helping themselves at the moment."

Mack continued on by mentioning the squadron's past humanitarian efforts, specifically their active role in the evacuation of personnel from New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The C-9B Skytrain is a DC-9 jet transport designed for transportation of up to 90 passengers or 33,000lbs of cargo. Capable of reaching speeds in excess of 570 miles per hour, the aircraft greatly surpasses the navy's primary and largest cargo transport, the C-130 Hercules.

"I think our involvement is a great idea because it's good for the C-9 community to show our support," said Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class(AW) Amy Gunter. "Typically we only transport passengers such as military families, spouses and troops within the states and abroad, so this is different for us to be able to transport aid and cargo internationally to people in need."

Upon their arrival to Tbilisi, a metropolis approximately 30 miles east of Russian occupied Gori, the crewmembers were greeted by airport personnel and local national military officials which assisted in the safe offload of the cargo. The supplies were later turned over to the Republic of Georgia's Ministry of Refugees to be distributed to the Georgian people.

"We are very glad that in this difficult time that we have friends," said Lt. Col. Giorgi Kbiltsetskhlashvili, Joint Staff J-4. "It signifies several things. First of all is moral support, which is very important to know you aren't

alone. The second import thing of course is material support, supplies for our people, our refugees. They have absolutely nothing, no houses, no clothing, no beds, nothing. They have only their lives."



Aircraft Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Jonathan Mack guides a pallet onto a C-9B Skytrain as the aircraft loads humanitarian supplies. The aircraft, based in Marietta, Ga., represents the U.S. Navy's first asset participating in the ongoing humanitarian efforts in the Republic of Georgia. Navy participation is part of a larger United States response to the government of Georgia request for humanitarian assistance.

ADMIRAL continued from page 1



Six Sailors at Naval Air Station were honored by Admiral Mark P. Fitzgerald, Capt. Thomas J. Quinn, Command Master Chief Rosa L. Wilson, Fleet Master Chief Anthony Evangelista and CNE Command Master Chief Jay Wood. Three of the Sailors were awarded Bronze Stars for Meritorious Service during their recent deployment to Iraq.

a lot, and I get a good sense of the issues concerning our Sailors and our families."

He addressed topics such as Sigonella's continuing importance in supporting humanitarian assistance in the Democratic Republic of Georgia and continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"NAS Sigonella is a vibrant part of the naval community here in Europe," Fitzgerald said. "I appreciate all their hard work, and I'm very impressed with the way they've responded to every mission."

After his speech, Fitzgerald fielded questions ranging from individual augmentee deployments in the future to the future relationship between U.S. naval forces and Italy. Afterward, Fitzgerald sat at lunch with Sigonella Sailors at Ristorante Bella Etna, the galley on the operational side to visit and gauge their morale. He also toured U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools.

IL Mercato

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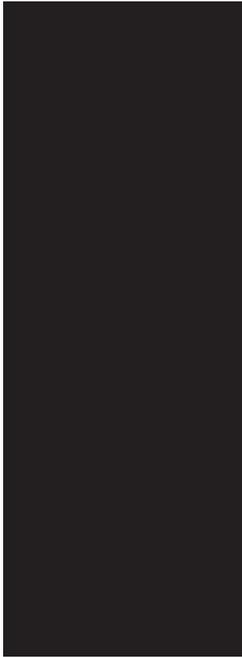
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