

# THE Signature

SIGONELLA, SICILY

Vol. 26 No. 24

The Signature Online - [www.sicily.navy.mil/signature](http://www.sicily.navy.mil/signature)

JUNE 19, 2009



## NAS Sigonella kicks off 50th anniversary celebration

Article and photos by  
MC3 Jonathan Idle,  
The Signature Staff

Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella kicked off a weekend long celebration to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the base with an official ceremony June 12 on the support side of Sigonella.

More than 200 U.S. and Italian military personnel and civilians attended the ceremony, including several former commanding officers of Sigonella and several local nationals who were founding members of the base.

Capt. Thomas J. Quinn, Commanding Officer of NAS Sigonella, opened the ceremony by greeting the more than 200 guests in both English and Italian.

"The Sicilian people have welcomed us into their homeland, they've welcomed us into their homes and they've welcomed us into their hearts," Capt Quinn said. "That is what has made NAS Sigonella  
**CEREMONY, continued on page 12**



Rear Adm. David J. Mercer, center, commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, Commander, Maritime Air Naples, and Capt. Thomas J. Quinn, left, Commanding officer Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella, assisted by Italian Air Force Col. Luca Tonello, right, Commanding officer 41st Stormo, unveil a plaque to commemorate the partnership between the U.S. and Italy at a ceremony for the 50th anniversary. NAS Sigonella provides logistical support for Commander, 6th Fleet and NATO forces in the Mediterranean area.

## Ceremony Celebrates Sigonellans' Educational Achievements

Article and photo by  
MCSN Whitfield Palmer,  
Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element East Detachment  
Sigonella

Thirty-Nine Sigonellans, including dependants and civilians, met in the chapel at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella with family and friends Thurs., July 11 to celebrate educational achievements made between Sept. 2008 and June 2009.

Graduates from both on-base and stateside institutions were invited to participate in the graduation recognition ceremony, which acknowledged the students' degrees, certificates, and general education development (GED) diplomas.

The ceremony began with the posting of colors and included a graduation address from Command Master Chief Rosa Wilson of NAS Sigonella.

"I truly believe no matter what our station, our dreams can come true," said Wilson. "It takes only opti-

mism and motivation"

Students were then presented their diplomas and the in tradition, turned the tassels of their graduation caps to mark their achievements.

"What can I say?" said Steel Worker 1st Class Herbert Valle of Public Works who received an Associate of Arts in General Curriculum. "This is a big accomplishment and gives me the motivation to go for my Bachelor's."

Service members and family members interested in pursuing their education can choose from a number of alternatives offered by the Navy College office, including college degrees and national certificate programs.

The Navy College Office is also a DANTES testing center providing GED exams, CLEP, DSST, ECE, SAT, ACT, GRE subject tests. Contact the Sigonella Navy College Office at 624-4514 for further information.



Command Master Chief Rosa Wilson addresses students during a graduation recognition ceremony held in the chapel at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella. The ceremony recognized the educational achievements of students who received degrees, certificates, or general education development (GED) diplomas from Sept. 2008 - June 2009.

## Chiefs Mess celebrates 50th anniversary with commemorative run



Women's division first place finisher, Tara Rather, and youth first place finisher X cross a bridge with Mt. Etna in the background during the Chiefs Mess-sponsored Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella Base to Base run. The NAS 50th anniversary celebrates 50 years of cooperation and friendship between the U.S. Navy, Italy and the Italian Air Force 41st Stormo.

Article and photos by  
Tracie Barnthouse,  
The Signature Editor

Under a blue but muggy sky, runners of all ages hit the pavement in the Chiefs Mess-sponsored 50th anniversary base to base run on June 13. The run started in front of the Flight Line Fitness Center on Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's operational side and finished seven miles later at the Midtown Complex on NAS Sigonella's support side.

Master at Arms Chief Richard Eckles coordinated the run for the Chiefs Mess along with his fellow Chiefs and said that the event was a great way to bring the community together and start the day off with some physical activity. "It definitely builds camaraderie in the community," said Eckles. He said that the Chiefs Mess really came together to coordinate the event and that they were proud to support the 50th anniversary event with the run.

**RUN, continued on page 12**

WEATHER UPDATE	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25
	H:94F L:70F	H:94F L:67F	H:86F L:62F	H:87F L:64F	H:87F L:65F	H:89F L:64F	H:89F L:65F

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Did you know that less than one percent of the general public in the United States suffers from Latex allergies? So, why is it important you ask? Find out why in this week's Health Watch article.				
President Barack Obama's latest efforts to look after home renters gives military members additional protection if the homes they rent are foreclosed, a Defense Department official said today.				
Naval Air Station Sigonella held its first Million Dollar Sailor seminar at the Fleet and Family Support Center June 11 & 12.				
The celebration of St. John the Baptist is also a way to convey the message of peace and universal love that is promoted by the Christian doctrine. St. John's life indeed embodies the perfect example of Christian virtue.				
Naval Air Station Sigonella celebrated 50 years this past week, with a weekend full of activities including an official ceremony, ITAF vs. NASSIG soccer game, MWR County Fair, and more.				

INSIDE	Direct Line	Navy News	Community Calendar	MWR Corner	Il Mercato
	2	3	4	11	14

TRAFFIC NUMBERS		
	Jan. 09- June 09	Jan. 08- June 08
Accidents	105	164
Injuries	11	25
DUIs	0	5
Traffic Deaths	0	2

PLEASE,  
DON'T BECOME  
A STATISTIC!

# DIRECT LINE NASSIG COMMANDING OFFICER, CAPT. THOMAS J. QUINN

This past weekend NAS Sigonella celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the base with style, class, and fun for all. Friends old and new came from around the world as well as from neighboring communities to celebrate 50 years of friendship and cooperation between the US and our Italian Allies.

First and foremost, the base as a whole did an impressive job in pulling together as a community and really showing our guests a good time. The booths run by the base associations and commands really reflected the hard work everyone put into preparing for the celebration. Also, there were no major incidents this weekend and no DUI's or near misses. This shows that the base did a great job in planning ahead to enjoy the festival and stuck to the plan throughout the weekend.

In addition to our distinguished guests, Rear Adm. Mercer and Col. Tonello, two very special groups of old friends joined NASSIG this past weekend in our celebration. In attendance were three of my predecessors, Capt. Grafel, USN ret. (June 1982- June 1984), Capt. Tyson, USN ret. (Sept. 1996- Sept 1998) and Capt. Nelson, USN

ret. (Sept 1998- July 2001). It really was wonderful to hear their stories from when they were COs and talk about how the base has changed. The second group of people that joined us was 12 of the founding members of the then Naval Air Facility Sigonella. It was my pleasure to meet them and present each of them with a Plank owner certificate in true naval tradition during the official ceremony. I hope that some of you had a chance to talk with them because they represent the beginnings of Sigonella and have a wealth of knowledge on where we came from.

The events this past weekend were fabulous. The ceremony had just the right mix of nostalgia and formality and all the participants represented NASSIG very well. The Chiefs Mess did a wonderful job in coordinating the base to base run which had 75 participants. Our base soccer team gave a valiant effort against the ITAF team but ended up losing by a goal. The Navy Band showed their talent at both the ceremony and on Saturday when they rocked Etnapolis in the morning and midtown that evening. Our home grown rock band "Killer Tomato" put on a world class performance which rivaled the headline

band and showed what a lot of hard work can accomplish. Lastly, MWR and their County Fair events really raised the bar on what a festival should be. Their entire list of events from bringing in "Hinder" to perform Friday night, to the bumper cars and other rides were really top notch.



I am sure that the 50th Anniversary of NAS Sigonella will be remembered for years to come by our guests and I want to thank all of NASSIG for showing our friends a really great time.

# Health WATCH

## Latex allergy

Article by Lt. Skinner, RN,  
U.S. Navy Hospital Sigonella

Did you know that less than one percent of the general public in the United States suffers from latex allergies? So, why is it important you ask?

One percent sounds small, but equals to about three million people. Now add that to the risk of exposure and it indeed becomes important to know the facts, and how you can avoid developing sensitivity or a full blown allergy to latex.

Latex is a natural substance found in Hevea Brasiliensis Trees. It is a milky fluid that is combined with several chemicals and additives to form rubber that can be found in everyday products not just medical supplies.

Population most at risk are those with repeated exposure to latex whether at work, home or from having multiple procedures or surgeries. Additional risk factors are immune suppression, spina bifida or having multiple allergies to include foods. Associated food allergy's are to avocado, potato, banana, tomato, chest-

nuts, kiwi and papaya.

If any of the above applies to you, then you should always try and use a latex free product. Hand washing, as always is key in maintaining wellness but can also help in preventing a sensitivity or allergy. Even if the product is latex free good hand washing after use is important as well as completely drying hands. Using lotions to moisturize hands will also keep a healthy skin barrier.

If you suspect any sensitivity to latex, please contact your primary healthcare provider and always report the sensitivity to your health care team. Make sure whenever you seek treatment or care latex free products are being used.

Accredited website for further information may be obtained at the following: American Latex Allergy Association

NIOSH Latex Prevention Guide: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/98-113.html>

As always your NH Sigonella  
**LATEX, continued on page 12**

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## NASSIG WORSHIP SERVICES

Chapel Office: 095-86-3975

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

**Sunday**  
0830 Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel)  
1200 Catholic Mass  
(Mineo Community Center)  
1600 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)

### Monday - Thursday

1130 Catholic Mass (NAS II Chapel)

### Sunday, June 28th ONLY

0830 Contemporary Protestant (NAS I)  
1130 Catholic Mass (NAS I Chapel)  
Only One Catholic Mass  
1300 Catholic Picnic (NAS I)

### PROTESTANT

**Sunday**  
0900 General Protestant  
(Mineo Community Center)  
1000 Traditional Protestant (NAS I Chapel)  
1130 Contemporary Protestant (NAS I Chapel)

### CHURCH OF CHRIST LAY SERVICE

**Sunday** 1530 NAS I Chapel Rooms 3 & 4 (Call 624-5128 or 335-841-8069)

**JEWISH SERVICES:** Please call 095-86-1205

### OTHER SERVICES/ACTIVITIES POINTS OF CONTACT

**Latter-day Saints:** Please email [ldssig@gmail.com](mailto:ldssig@gmail.com) or call 624-1314 or 349-1977-116  
**AA Meetings:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1900, NAS II Chapel, 346-840-7745



# Who killed Dr. Tiller? Clear Thinking Regarding Cause and Effect

*This is the fifth in a series of articles on character.*

Article by Chaplain Steve Coates

When brutality occurs, accusations fly. Recently, talking heads have filled the airwaves implicating groups and individuals in the murder of Dr. George Tiller. I do not care to join in their particular fray but I would like to invite you to think rationally about cause and effect. People of character take time for such ruminations.

As I listened to both scathing allegations and impassioned declarations of defense, I was reminded of public statements regarding the death of a young South Korean named Kim Sun-il. Do you remember him? He worked very hard to learn Arabic so that, through translation, he could be a servant to those he did not know.

On June 21, 2004, a few men I did not know celebrated their cause in life by removing Kim Sun-il's head. He was 33 years old.

These abductors offered a way to avoid his execution. If South Korea would only abort their intention of sending

3,000 individuals to help Iraqi citizens in rebuilding their country, the terrorists would allow Kim Sun-il to live. South Korea sent the troops anyway and Kim Sun-il was brutally murdered.

So who killed him? Some demonstrators in South Korea carried placards saying, "Bush and Roh (President of South Korea) Killed Kim Sun-il." Do you believe that sign?

Terrorists sometimes use innocents as shields. Some of our own

**LEADERSHIP, continued on page 12**

## 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.*

# NAVY News

## Law gives military renters more protection against foreclosures

Article by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden  
 Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 11, 2009 – President Barack Obama's latest efforts to look after home renters gives military members additional protection if the homes they rent are foreclosed, a Defense Department

official said today. The president's Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 was signed into law on May 20. The legislation ensures that renters aren't forced out of their homes if foreclosure occurs and a new landlord takes over.

Renters in every state now have more time to find new homes. The

new law greatly benefits the military, as the vast majority of active duty servicemembers rent homes throughout the United States, said Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of legal policy in the Pentagon's personnel and readiness office.

While about 65 percent of the U.S. population own their homes, only about 25 percent of service-

members are homeowners, so, foreclosure of rented homes potentially can affect most of the military, Shumake said.

"We've got a lot of folks out there that find that they are in really difficult positions, because their landlords are foreclosed on," he explained in a Pentagon Channel interview. "This law provides them a measure of security and protection they didn't previously have."

The legislation gives renters the right to stay in their homes throughout the duration of their lease, he said, unless the new owner is moving into the home or if the renter is renting under a month-to-month lease. Still, the new law gives renters at least 90 days before they can be evicted, he noted.

"This act is a protection that's really powerful and important, and a great help to our servicemembers," the colonel said. "This provides renters some particular [and] some important rights so they're not kicked out on the street with no notice."

Before the law went into effect, only individual state protection was available, or none at all, Shumake said. There was no consistency from state to state in the rights people had to fight immediate eviction after foreclosure.

The inconsistency may have been difficult on military members, many of whom are transferred from one state to another every two to three years. The federal law now provides a baseline of protection for all

renters, no matter where they live in the United States, he said.

"There was no uniformity or anything you could count on," Shumake said. "[The law] now makes things the same across the country, and it at least gives you some basics that you know are there. At the very least, you know you're going to get that 90 days of protection."

The act is one of several laws that ensure military members are taken care of as they move from state to state to new duty stations, Shumake said. He noted the Joint Federal Travel Regulation, which defines financial benefits awarded to servicemembers upon changing duty stations.

The regulation was amended in July because of the rising foreclosure rates to allow the federal government to financially support local moves by military members. So, if one of the two exceptions occurs and servicemembers are forced to move from their home, the government may pay for the move, he said.

The regulation and Obama's new legislation go "hand in glove," Shumake said.

Military members faced with such uncertainty are in the best possible position with the two protections, he said.

For more information, servicemembers should contact their local legal office.

### PHOTO FROM THE FLEET

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Torrey W. Lee/Released

Midshipman Kaitlyn Hackel tests the weight of an Enhanced Battle Rifle (EBR) during an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician demonstration in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). The midshipmen embarked aboard Ronald Reagan in San Diego and are learning the many facets of aircraft carrier life, from fire-fighting drills to ordnance. Ronald Reagan is on a routine deployment to the Western Pacific.



NEW Arrivals

Calvary Monika

Volcano

				FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<h2 style="text-align: center;">COMMUNITY CALENDAR</h2>				<b>19 JUNE</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	<b>20</b> NMCRS Nearly New Shop Open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. x4212	<b>21</b> 
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY			
<b>22</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	<b>23</b> Tobacco Cessation Class Flight Line Clinic 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. x4710 Home Buying Strategies FFSC 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. x4291 PWOC Meeting NAS I Chapel 10 a.m. x3975	<b>24</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Anger Management FFSC 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. x4291	<b>25</b> Cooking Class FFSC 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. x4291 VBS Work Day NAS I Chapel 9 a.m. x3975	<b>26</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	<b>27</b> Latin Night Jox 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.	<b>28</b> Catholic Congregation Picnic NAS I 12 p.m. x3975
<b>29</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 Conflict Resolution FFSC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. x4291	<b>30</b> Tobacco Cessation Class Flight Line Clinic 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. x4710 PWOC Meeting NAS I Chapel 10 a.m. x3975	<b>1 JULY</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Alcoholics Anonymous NAS II Chapel 7 p.m. 346-840-7745 MWR Independence Day Celebration	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>

Motta

Taberna

Alphio

Funny

*Did you know that . . .*

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a resource for all active duty and retired Sailors, Marines, and their families - whether you're single, married, or divorced? A substantial amount of our financial assistance goes to service members with families because they often face more budgetary problems. However, the Society renders financial assistance to everyone - regardless of marital status.

Check out the programs and services available through your local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office. We may be able to help you!

NMCRS: A Readiness Multiplier!  
[www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)



# The Fleet & Family Support Center

Fleet and Family Support Center  
 Administration Building 319  
 NAS I  
 Monday-Friday 0730-1630  
 DSN 624-4291  
 Commercial 095-56-4291

## Service members attend Million Dollar Sailor seminar

Article by  
 Lavoshia McCracken,  
 Sigonella Fleet and Family  
 Support Center and  
 Navy Press Release

Naval Air Station Sigonella held its first Million Dollar Sailor seminar at the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) June 11 and 12.

Through the Navy's Personal Financial Management (PFM) program offered at the FFSC, Sailors have the opportunity to learn about money management and financial planning by enrolling in the Million Dollar Sailor (MDS) program.

MDS is a two-day course at FFSC Sigonella and many other FFSCs around the world that helps service members and their families develop financial management skills to actually become a million dollar Sailor, though the primary goal is to provide participants with the necessary tools they will need to increase financial awareness, develop skills in managing personal finances, and enhance quality of life.

During the two day course at Sigonella, participants were able to benefit from the interactive session with group activities and hands-on learning in developing their own personal financial goals and developing

their spending plans for the future.

The seminar places a focus on current economic conditions with an emphasis on the military lifestyle to assist Sailors and their families through the transitions of Navy life and the financial challenges that accompany them.

The two-day course covers a variety of topics, including the need for personal financial management; military pay and allowances; car buying; buying insurance; creating a spending plan; savings and investment basics; how to be a smart consumer; establishing and maintaining credit and understanding your credit report; and checking account management.

Million Dollar Sailor targets many of the current financial challenges that face our Navy personnel and their families including security clearance issues, credit management, identity theft, bankruptcy, mortgage and foreclosure issues, government credit card abuse and the multiple issues involving Internet buying and selling.

Since the program's inception

in 1998, 1,600 people have benefited from MDS.

PFM was created in 1990 to educate, train and counsel Sailors and their families on basic principles and practices of sound money management.

The program emphasizes a proactive, career lifecycle approach to service members by providing long-range education aimed at preventing financial crises before they can occur. This preventive and educational approach allows Sailors to focus on mission needs and helps to increase retention and readiness for the Navy.

Command Financial Specialists (CFS) are the first line of defense in the war against financial mismanagement. CFSs receive their training from base FES.

PFM offers several classes and services, including assistance with planning a budget, credit card debt management, the Thrift Savings Plan, car buying, insurance, savings and investments, deployment and finances, and home buying.

If you are interested in attending the next seminar, speak to your Command Financial Specialist or call the Fleet and Family Support Center at 624-4291.

# Strike

# Pentagon

# Mondo Animale

## Cold Noses

WARM  
 HEARTS



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

**Sigonella's Stray Animal Facility (SAWS) has many cats and dogs looking for a warm home and someone to love. Each week, *The Signature* will feature animals in need of adoption.**



**AJAX (below)** is one of our newest little puppies. He is still rather shy and quiet, but he does enjoy your attention. He enjoys running around outside and having you chase after him.



**GENERAL (above)** is one of our newer dogs. He is about 2 years old and he is quite the mellow character. He likes to be outdoors socializing with dogs and people. General is also the quintessential lap dog.

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

# Parco della Rocca

Alberto Lunetta  
The Signature Staff

# Italian NEWS

Sicilian Culture, Events and Lifestyle

## Acitrezza honors St. John the Baptist

"W San Giovanni," Dicemulu tutti ccu tuttu u cori evviva San Giovanni...Dicemulu tutti picciuli e ranni, evviva San Giovanni!" (Let's say it with all our hearts, long live St. John...all of us should say it, the young and the old, long live St John!). This invocation screamed by Acitrezza is a true public display of devotion to San Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist), the town's patron saint. On Wednesday, June 24, the community of one of the most fascinating fishermen's villages in the Catania province will honor its beloved celestial patron. The festival showcases the cultural, religious and fishermen traditions of Acitrezza and attracts tourists from all over Sicily.

Trizzoti (Acitrezza townspeople) have been celebrating their festival for over 300 years.

Acitrezza fishermen invoke the blessings of St. John the Baptist for safety when they go out at sea to earn their living. It's a tough job and sometimes they risk their lives to bring home their livelihood.

The celebration of St. John the Baptist is also a way to convey the message of peace and universal love that is promoted by the Christian doctrine. St. John's life indeed embodies the perfect example of Christian virtue.

Complementing the festivities are the spectacular pantomime, named "U pisci a mari" (The fish in the sea), that is staged by Acitrezza fishermen and the traditional "Calata dell'Angelo" (Descent of the Angel) performance.

Sicilian folklore historian Monsignor Giovanni Lanzafame wrote that this show is a metaphor of the fishermen's life: "Some say that the pantomime that is staged in Acitrezza is actually an ancient propitiatory rite aimed at bringing good luck to the fishermen during the swordfish fishing activity. Despite the jubilation displayed during the festival, I believe that the life of the fishermen is somehow imbued with a sense of melancholy."

The festival runs through June 25. Highlights include religious processions that will be held throughout the historic center and along the seaside. The festival revolves around the "Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista" (St. John the Baptist Parish) which houses the wooden statue depicting San Giovanni Battista and the saint's relics.

Origins of the Festival

Prince Stefano Riggio, the founder of Acitrezza, built the Parrocchia (Parish) di San Giovanni Battista in 1693 to replace another

church erected in 1678 and formally dedicated to San Giuseppe (Saint Joseph), which was destroyed by a violent earthquake. Shortly after the construction of that church, the people of Acitrezza made a statue depicting San Giovanni Battista to honor their beloved patron. Today, historians are still debating on who carved this beautiful sculpture. Some stories say that the sculptor was a trizzoto named Castorina or Lo Faro. Legend has it that the artist locked himself up inside the Palazzo del Principe di Acitrezza (Palace of the Prince of Acitrezza) for three months and carved the statue, taking as a model a member of the Giletti family from Acitrezza.

Other legends say that the eccentric sculptor would accept food only if it was lowered from the palace's roof whose tiles were temporarily removed. For that reason, nobody saw the statua (statue) until it was finished. When the sculpture was ready, it was placed in small niche above the main altar named "Cammaredda" where it is still preserved up to today. The statue is over 300 years old but it is still in excellent conditions, a detail that has contributed to the mystique surrounding this amazing piece of art.

Festival Highlights' Schedule

On Tuesday, June 23 (the festival's eve) Holy Masses are celebrated at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. In the evening, the saint relics are brought in procession, (around 8 p.m.) escorted by the city band, through the town's historic center. A musical show will be held at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 24 is the main festival day. After the early morning bell ringing and firecrackers, the unveiling of the statue, one of the most touching moments of the entire festival, takes place in a crescendo of devotees' enthusiasm at 10 a.m. Later at 10:30 a.m., the archbishop of Noto celebrates a solemn Holy Mass at the St. John the Baptist Parish which also features enchanting religious chants. In the afternoon, local bands perform again at 4 p.m. throughout the historic heart of the town. Those concerts announce one of the most folkloristic events of the entire festival: the "U pisci a mari" pantomime that is staged in the Barriera district at 5 p.m. (southern part of the town) The show begins with a group of fishermen in castoff clothing (a straw hat, a red shirt, tattered shorts, and a yellow sash; yellow and red are the colors of the saint, which are tied together by a rope) walking towards the pier while dancing and singing among a large crowd. Three performers jump on a

boat that is decorated with flowers, and yellow and red ribbons. The fourth actor, a skilled swimmer who plays the swordfish, dives into the water. The fifth performer plays the Raisi or crew leader. He places himself on the highest point of the pier giving directions to capture the fish. Once the swordfish is sighted, the Raisi shouts phrases in ancient Sicilian inciting the fishermen to catch it. After several attempts, the fish is eventually caught. The fishermen hoist it aboard and try to butcher it. But the swordfish manages to escape twice. The fishing goes on and the fishermen capture the swordfish again (this time it is a real one, usually a dead shark or tuna fish). But once again, while the fishermen are about to praise the tastiness of the fish, it escapes disappearing into the sea. The fishermen give up in despair, argue and overturn the boat. The pantomime is over.

Later at 7 p.m., a solemn procession begins in piazza Giovanni Verga. The statue of St. John is placed on a float called "fercolo" and is taken around among a rejoicing crowd of pilgrims who screaming: "Viva San Giovanni!" (Long live St. John!). The procession itinerary is as follows: via Provinciale, Leopolda, Litteri, Calamenzana, Dietro Chiesa,



Photo by Angelo Fragalà

Every year on June 24, the streets and the fine baroque churches of Acitrezza are filled with joy and devotion as people gather to pay their tribute to San Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist), the beloved town's patron saint.



## Maricriu

## Magnolia

Cappello, Fontana Vecchia, Lungomare Ciclopi, Porto Nuovo (a stop at the pier, where the Stele of S. Giovanni Battista is placed, is performed; flowers are offered to the saint), Magri, Gibuti, Gondar, Guarnaccia, Grasso, Tunisi, Capparelli, Piazza delle Scuole, Largo Medusa and back to the Parrocchia di San Giovanni.

The "Calata dell'Angelo" (Descent of the Angel) is staged in via Dietro Chiesa (8:30 p.m.) and piazza delle Scuole (10:30 p.m.). This performance features the descent of an angel who pays homage, on behalf of the town districts, to the touring statue of the saint. At the end of the tour (around 11:30 p.m.), devotees perform the "Cussa" (the run) that consists of covering the last route of the procession (via Provinciale) by running while carrying the statue.

A spectacular firework show ends the festivities after the arrival of the fercolo while the statue is placed back into the San Giovanni Parish.

On the last day of the festival, Thursday, June 25, holy mass is celebrated at 11:30 a.m. at the St John Parish. Band; concerts are held in the historic center in the afternoon at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. In the evening at 7 p.m., the solemn St. John procession leaves from piazza Giovanni Verga. The saint is paraded through the following roads: Provinciale, Ricca, Muscarà, Ferretti, Spagnola, Livorno, Scalazza (stopping at the Church of S. Maria la Nova), Dusmet, Calabretta, Marina, Vico Musumeci until late at night. During the procession at 8 p.m., the Calata dell'Angelo show is repeated in via Provinciale. A spectacular music concert is held in piazza Verga at 9 p.m. At 11 p.m., amazing fireworks are staged along the waterfront to celebrate the festival's grand finale. The festival will then end at 11:30 p.m. with the arrival of the float in piazza Verga.

For more information and schedules visit [www.festasangiovan-ni.it](http://www.festasangiovan-ni.it) or [www.parrocchiaacitrezza.it](http://www.parrocchiaacitrezza.it).



Photo by Angelo Fragalà

"U pisci a mari" (The fish in the sea) is a spectacular folkloristic must-see pantomime that attracts thousands of festival goers. It is held on June 24 during the annual St. John the Baptist Feast that honors the town patron saint and celebrates the Acitrezza fishermen's heritage.

## Armed

## Red Tuna Festival in the Trapani Province

The Province of Trapani Tourist Office has announced the return of "Bonton," the resoundingly successful fish and food festival celebrating red tuna. Taking place from Thursday June 25 through Sunday, June 28 at the historic 13th century Bonagia "tonnara" (tuna fishery) in the village of Valderice, this not-to-be-missed is a gourmet food event which annually draws over 12,000 tourists. Wine, olive oil and red tuna tastings as well as food seminars and workshops, music shows and poetry reading celebrating the tuna fishing heritage, children activities and other events will satisfy your palate and food passion. For more information, directions and detailed schedule visit [www.rassegnabonton.it](http://www.rassegnabonton.it)



## Concert in Palermo



Italian pop star Tiziano Ferro will perform on Tuesday, June 30 in Palermo at the Velodromo cycling arena and Thursday, July 2 in Taormina at the Greek Theater. Ferro's albums have sold over 7 million copies in the world. For more information and tickets visit [www.ctbox.it](http://www.ctbox.it)

## Hospital

# Sigonella celebra

Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella celebrated 50 years over the weekend of June 12 and 13 with a variety of activities for service members and their families to enjoy. *The Signature* staff was out in force to capture the celebration.

Photos by Lt. Matt Knight, Tracie Barnhouse, MC2 Jason Poplin, MC3 Jonathan Idle, and MCSN Whitfield Palmer



Gelso Bianco

Oxidiana



# Celebrates 50 years

nd of June 12 and 13. During the two-day celebration, there were plenty of events and staff was out in full force capturing memories from the weekend.



## Medusa



## Cafe Brasil

Protestant Women of the Chapel



**Protestant Women of the Chapel**  
**Summer Program**  
**June 23-July 28**  
**10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**  
**NAS | Chapel**  
**Childcare Provided to age 12!**  
**[www.pwocsig.com](http://www.pwocsig.com)**

# Go Green Sigonella!

## Fans, fans, and window fans

Article provided by [energyhawk.com](http://energyhawk.com)

Three different types of fans can help you cool your home in different ways: ceiling fans, window fans, and whole-house fans.

If you are just using your air conditioner during the day, you can be comfortable with a setting of about 78 degrees Fahrenheit, so long as the humidity isn't extremely high. You can set the temperature for 82 degrees if you turn on one of those slow-moving ceiling fans. The bigger the room,

the bigger the fan you will need.

Take advantage of the cool air outside to cool off inside at night. Make sure there is an open window in each room and interior doors are open to allow the air to move through the house. Then shut the house back up tight during the day to keep the cool air inside. If there is a good breeze in your neighborhood, this may be all you need to cool your home without having to pay for any energy at all.

If the breeze isn't strong enough to cool your home, you can add one

or more window fans to boost your ventilation. The most efficient way to set up a window fan is to place it in a window on the downwind side of your house. (For you nautical types, that is the leeward side.) So, if the wind is blowing from the north, use a window on the south of the house. Place the fan so that it blows air out of the house. Cool air will come in from the outside to replace the warm air you are blowing out. Remember to keep windows and interior doors open while the fan is on at night and to shut up the house during the day to keep the hot air out.

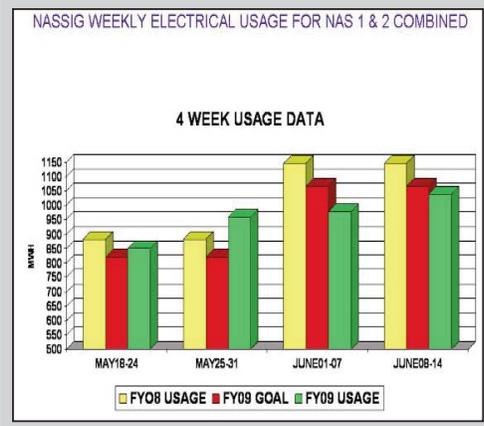
A whole-house fan may be more convenient, particularly if you need to use three or more window fans to cool your house. A whole-house fan is mounted in the ceiling of an upstairs hallway so that it can suck the air from the house into the attic. The attic needs to have enough vents to the outside. (The rule of thumb is, have twice as much free vent area to the outside from the attic as you have free vent area of the fan opening.)

When buying a whole-house fan, look for one with two speeds. The highest speed should be capable of changing all the air in the house quickly. Be sure to install it within an insulated, weatherstripped box with a lid that is either hinged or removable so you lose less heat during cold weather. You also need to install a fusible link to shut the fan down automatically in case of fire.



### Electrical Consumption at NASSIG

The following graph charts the last four weeks of energy consumption on both NAS 1 and NAS 2 in comparison to the same week last year, as well as our target usage for the week.



# Geico

## Ristorante Bella Etna

**19** Lunch: Cream of Mushroom Soup, Beef Stir Fry, Tempura Fish, Penne Alla Norma, Steamed Rice, Calico Cabbage, Herbed Broccoli, Tartar Sauce, Strawberry Cake, Lemon Meringue Pie, Fruit Gelatin.  
Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Turkey burger, Baked Beans, French Fried Potatoes  
Dinner: Egg Drop Soup, Chicken Cacciatore, Beef Cordon Bleu, Rice Pilaf, Southern Green Beans, Savory Squash, Strawberry Cake, Lemon Meringue Pie, Fruit Gelatin.

**20** Breakfast: Farina, Grilled Ham Slices, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Buttermilk Pancakes, Asstd Doughnuts, Crumb Cake.  
Brunch: Breakfast Items, Chicken Gumbo Soup, Texas Hash, Roast Pork, Cottage Fried Potatoes, Tossed Green Rice, Peas w/ Carrots, Cauliflower Au Gratin, Brown Gravy, Velvet Pound Cake, Vanilla Cream Pie.  
Dinner: Zesty Bean Soup, Baked Italian Sausage, Veal Steak, Steamed Rice, Home Fried Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Savory Style Beans, Chicken Gravy, Velvet Pound Cake, Vanilla Cream Pie.

**21** Breakfast: Rolled Oats, Grilled Minute Steak, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, French Toast Puff, Asstd Doughnuts, Italian Croissant.  
Brunch: Breakfast Items, Knickerbockers Soup, Creole Pork Chops, Macaroni and Cheese, Islander Rice, Corn O'Brien, Green Beans, Marble Cake, Sugar Cookies.  
Dinner: Nutty Split Pea Soup, Roast Beef, Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Steamed Asparagus, Natural Pan Gravy, Marble Cake, Sugar Cookies.

**22** Breakfast: Farina, Oven Fried Bacon, Baked Sausage Patties, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Waffles, Asstd Doughnuts, Blueberry Muffins.  
Lunch: Egg Drop Soup, Sweet & Sour Pork, Chicken Chopstey, Penne Amatriciana, Egg Foo Young, Chinese Fried Rice, Chow Mein Noodles, Oriental Fried Cabbage, Corn Kernel, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Blueberry Pie.  
Speed line: Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, Hotdogs, Onion Rings, Mac & Cheese.  
Dinner: Cream of Broccoli Soup, Braised Beef Cubes, Shrimp Scampi, Seasoned Boiled Pasta, Spanish Style Beans, Carrots Slices, Fruit Cocktail Upside Down Cake, Blueberry Pie.

**23** Lunch: Beef Noodle Soup, Pepper Steak, Chipper Fish, Spaghetti Carbonara, Bruschetta, Steamed Rice, Franconia Potatoes, Cream Style Corn, Eggplant Parmesan, Almond Cookies, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Pudding.  
Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Turkey Burger, Pork & Beans, French Fried Potatoes.  
Dinner: French Onion Soup, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Steamed Rice, Potatoes Au Gratin, Club Spinach, Steamed Peas & Carrots, Almond Cookies, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Pudding.

**24** Breakfast: Hominy Grits, Corned Beef Hash, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, French Toast, Asstd Doughnuts, Raisin Muffin.  
Lunch: Vegetable Supreme Soup, Roast Porkloin, Honey Glazed Chicken, Farfalle Al Pesto, Steamed Rice, Roasted Garlic Potatoes, Seasoned Mix Vegetables, Club Spinach, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Cherry Cobbler.  
Speedline: Hotdogs, Assorted Pizza, Sautéed Mushroom, Baked Potatoes, Sourcream, Bacon Bits, Baked Italian Sausage, Sautéed Pepper & Onions.  
Dinner: Tomato Bouillon Soup, Ginger Pot Roast, Swedish Meatballs, Red Beans w/ Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Natural Pan Gravy, Creole Green Beans, Corn Kernel, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Cherry Cobbler.

**25** Breakfast: Rolled Oats, Grilled Sausage Links, Oven Fried Bacon, Asstd Omelets, Eggs to Order, Roasted Potatoes, Waffles, Asstd Doughnuts, Cinnamon Rolls.  
Lunch: Chicken Corn Chowder, Tempura Fish, Beef & Broccoli, Penne Ala Norma, Paprika Buttered Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Fried Okra, Spiced Cake w/ Frosting, Crisp Drop Cookies.  
Speed line: Grilled Cheese/Hamburger, Turkey Burger, Pork & Beans, French Fried Potatoes.  
Dinner: Chicken Noodle Soup, Baked Fish, Grilled Steaks, Tossed Green Rice, Corn O'Brien, Lima Beans, Spiced Cake w/ Frosting, Crisp Drop Cookies.

## ON THE GO WITH MWR

# Youth, stay cool and get fit!

Summer marks the return of many fun-filled youth events in Sigonella. On June 27, the anticipated Youth Splash-n-Dash series kicks off. Kids ages 5 to 18 are invited to challenge themselves, cool off and get fit.

The race begins at 9 a.m. at Splashers Pool on NAS I.

Categories and distances are:  
Ages 5 to 8: 50 meter swim/.5 km run

Ages 9 to 11: 100 meter swim/2

km run

Ages 12 to 14: 150 meter swim/1.5 km run

Ages 15 to 18 and challenge distance for any age: 200 meter swim/2 km run

"The best part of these events is seeing the look on the kid's faces as they cross the finish line," said Tara Rather, MWR Youth Sports Coordinator. "They have this amazing sense of accomplishment. For many of the kids, this is the hardest

physical thing they've ever done."

The event is free and pre-registration is highly encouraged and available at Fit District. Day-of sign-ups are also available. Volunteers are always welcome.

"Parents can assist their child in the water, if they need it," said Rather, "We definitely encourage parents to get out and run with their kids."

Looking to volunteer or to sign up? Call Fit District at 624-4483.



A young participant from last year's event gets ready to race.



Finishing to cheers and applause.

### School's out and the 101 Days of Summer Fun has begun!



The America's Kids Run is just one of many ways that Sigonella's youth earned FitFactor Points. Schools out and the 101 Days of Summer Fun has begun! FitFactor is back and now the youth of Sigonella can get creative with getting healthy, staying fit, and having fun!

"This is a great program that encourages our youth to make choices that will lead them to live a healthy lifestyle," said Tara Rather, MWR Youth Sports Coordinator.

FitFactor is a Navy-wide child and youth program focusing on kids ages 6-18. It shows kids how to make healthy choices while at the same time introducing them to a variety of fun activities that gets them out and having fun. Kids collect points by participating in physical activ-

ities, making smart eating choices, or taking part in Navy-wide fitness events. Participants can log up to 100 points per day, earning their way toward awesome prizes.

The "101 Days of FitFactor Summer Fun" runs now to the end of August. This event gives FitFactor participants an assortment of ways to get creative while staying healthy.

"Certain activities can earn you double points throughout the summer," explained Rather. "There are also different contests, like a Photography contest and a Create-a-Game contest."

If interested in signing up for Fit Factor, check out [www.navygetfit.com](http://www.navygetfit.com) or call Youth Sports at 624-3785.



You saw them at MWR's Pub on NAS II. Showtime is 10:30 p.m. For more information, call 624-5603. Sigonella County Fair, now come check them out at Jox Pub! Friday, June 26 The Revenge performs at Jox

### Bring it to NightWarz!

NightWarz is back! Every Friday, all summer long, from 6-10 p.m. Sigonellans can come out and paint the town red (Literally!). Entry to the paintball park is only \$5. Need the gear? ITT Gear-n-Go has rental equipment and paintballs available. Never paintballed before? Experts are on hand to show

you the ropes.

The paintball field and party packages are also available for your next command function, birthday, and special event.

To reserve the field or for any information on paintballing, call ITT Gear-n-Go at 624-4777.



**Due to an electrical issue, Midtown 2 Theaters is operating on one theater. This has caused a change in the Midtown 2 Theaters weekly schedule with limited amount of premieres and movies being offered. We apologize for this inconvenience. We hope to have the problem resolved in the upcoming weeks ahead. Please call the movie hotline at 624-4248 to verify that day's movie schedule. Thank you.**



**When you're off duty, MWR is on the job with more than 30 programs and services. MWR is your access point for fun, fitness and travel. For more about MWR's programs and services, hot jobs, and special events, call 624-3968.**

**CHARACTER, continued from page 2**

personnel, though never intending to harm any innocents, have been haunted due to carrying out orders and doing their jobs. They feel responsible for killing an innocent child. Granted - a principle they hold precious has been violated. But are they responsible?

These situations involve what philosophers call "The Doctrine of Double Effect" - one action has two results: one is desired and the other is not. You want to disable enemies bent on destruction; you do not want to harm innocent children. South Korea wanted to help Iraq without catering to terrorist demands; they desperately did not want to lose Kim Sun-il.

You will face situations like this in your life though they may not be so dramatic. You promise a friend you will meet him at a certain restaurant at a specific time. On your way, you encounter someone in need. Do you help the person (desired effect) but break your promise (bad effect)?

When you face a situation like this, ask yourself the following questions: 1) Is the bad effect my desire? If it is, cut it out. If not, ask, 2) Is there a way to avoid the bad effect? If you find a solution - great! If time is not an issue, help the person after your dinner. Maybe someone else could meet the need. If no alternative will work, ask, 3) Is the bad effect the means of producing the good effect? Is breaking your promise the means of helping the individual? No. You could break your promise by playing golf. In this case, helping the other person in need unintentionally causes you to be late. Finally, ask, 4) Does the bad outweigh the good? This is a tough call but the question needs to be answered.

By the way, terrorists killed Kim Sun-il. We did not kill him but we are the ones who feel the pain far more keenly than those who did the deed. And yes, we take responsibility for tough choices.

Now I certainly maintain that ideas have consequences, sometimes unintended ones. Yes, ideologues, reporters and commentators need to be mindful of the impact their words and ideas possess. But I refuse to give credence to irrational rant whether it comes from demanding terrorists, belligerent protestors or self-pious journalists. To my knowledge, Dr. Tiller's assassin acted alone. Nevertheless, all of us who value life and care about people mourn yet another irresponsible act.

Some days, it is hard to do our jobs. We do them anyway - not with hearts of stone, as though calloused, but with hearts of flesh. Courage only exists in those who care.

**CEREMONY, continued from page 1**

happen." Italian Air Force Col. Luca Tonello, Commanding Officer of 41st Stormo, believes the strong sense of community is what has allowed Sigonella to evolve into the base it is today, and he looks forward to building on that relationship in the future.

"I can still feel the same spirit of collaboration and cooperation that the founding members of Sigonella felt during that time," Col. Tonello said.

Rear Adm. David J. Mercer, Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, Commander, Maritime Air Naples, discussed the history of the base and the prominent role it has played in naval operations throughout Europe and Asia.

"For the last 50 years, through war and peace, Sigonella has made immeasurable contributions to our common defense," Rear Adm. Mercer said. "As we look forward, it's crucial that our alliance remain intact and that Sigonella remain in place. The future of Sigonella is bright. Continued U.S. presence with the possibility of an increased NATO footprint ensures that Sigonella will continue to be the 'Hub of the Med' and beyond."

The Italian founding members of the base were also recognized with "Plank Owner" plaques to commemorate their contribution to the birth of Sigonella. Traditionally, "Plank Owners" are founding crewmembers of naval vessels, which entitles them to one of the original wooden planks in the main deck when a ship is decommissioned.

Also during the ceremony, Capt. Quinn, Col. Tonello and Rear Adm. Mercer unveiled a bronze plaque to commemorate the anniversary.

The plaque reads, "Dedicated on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of U.S. Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Sicily. Possible to the enduring alliance of the Republic of Italy and the United States of America - partners for peace."

NAS Sigonella was founded as Naval Air Facility Sigonella during the peak of the Cold War in 1959 with the purpose of serving as a support hub for aircraft transiting through the Mediterranean area.

The NAS Sigonella 50th Anniversary celebrates 50 years of cooperation and friendship between the U.S. Navy, Italy and the Italian Air Force 41st Stormo. NAS Sigonella provides logistical support for Commander, 6th Fleet and NATO forces in the Mediterranean area.

**LATEX, continued from page 2**

health care team is here to assist you in maintaining and enhancing your wellness.

**RUN, continued from page 1**

"Chiefs get it done," he said.

You never know how steep the incline is going up to the front gate of NAS I until you've run it, and as runners made their way to the finish line, they seemed quite proud of themselves for making it the entire seven or so miles. Trophies and medals were awarded to the first through third place finishers in three categories: men, women and children. First place finisher for the male division was Rich McKeown, with a time of 52:21. McKeown is preparing for an Ironman competition in Nice, France later this month. Tara Rather finished first for the women, with a time of 56:41, and the youth winner was 16-year old X, with a time of 56:10.

Jonathan Bartlett, who finished in second place for the men with a time of 53:39 said that this was the first time he'd run the famed base-to-base event. "It was a lot of fun," he said. "[It is] hot out, but fun." Heat definitely played a factor in the times, but the Chiefs Mess was ready, placing water stops along the route and having cold sports drinks and fruit at the end for the 75 participants.

The run was in conjunction with many other events to celebrate Sigonella's 50th birthday, and kicked off the festivities to run through Saturday evening. After the run and a shower, participants came back to NAS I for the rest of the 50th anniversary events, including an exhibition game between the NAS Sigonella team and the Italian Air Force, MWR's County Fair and fireworks. Some participants went out to the Italian mall Etnapolis to watch the Navy Band performing for the local community.

**NAS Sigonella Ombudsman Program**

**Our Mission:**

- Primary liaison between families and the command
- To be an advocate for families and single sailors
- To disseminate information regarding command policies, services available, deployments, and Individual Augmentee (IA) support
- To be the primary POC for families and single sailors and to refer them to the appropriate agency for questions, concerns, help, or intervention

**Our Commitment:**

- We are committed to representing and supporting the command as well as the families and single sailors
- We are committed to presenting accurate and up-to-date information for referrals
- We are committed to COM-PASSIONATE and CONFIDENTIAL advocacy within the guidelines of OPNAVINST 1750.1F
- We are committed to being available 24/7. Please keep calls between 0900-2000 unless you are experiencing an emergency.

Call us at 624-4291 or 24/7 at 335-580-1269 for more information.

**THE Signature**  
SIGNONELLA, SICILY

Do you have a passion for writing or are you looking for a little experience in journalism? Do you ever read the stories here and think you'd like to add to our growing archive of travel articles? Does your command have something special going on that you think deserves to be in the paper? If so, The Signature is looking for you! We are 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.

Stampa

Marchi

Subway

Associazione en blues



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Attention all good standing Catholic gentlemen!  
Come join the ranks of Sigonella's newest Knights of Columbus Chapter!  
We meet the first Sunday of every month at 1000 a.m. (after Catholic Mass) at the NAS I Chapel. You may also contact a fellow Knight after the Sunday Mass service in the NAS I Fellowship Hall, or Mineo community Building. (Pizza and soft drinks provided at the meetings!)  
For more information visit - [www.kofc.org/](http://www.kofc.org/)

## Sigonellans come out for County Fair



Photo by Lt. Matt Knight, NAS Sigonella Public Affairs Officer

Article by  
**Tracie Barnthouse,**  
The Signature Editor

A large part of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's 50th anniversary celebrations was the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) County Fair, held on June 12 and 13 in the Midtown Complex area on NAS Sigonella's support base. Over 3600 participants came out to enjoy the festivities over the two days of activities, and those festivities went well into the evening both days.

Service members and their families lined up early on Friday to experience some of the new carnival rides MWR debuted, which included four adult rides and four child rides. The crowd stuck around until the base closed down for the evening at 11 p.m., and capped off the evening with a performance by NAS Sigonella's very own band - Killer Tomato. The band opened for the headlining act, Hinder, who drew a huge crowd of rock fans.

Saturday started with more rides, contests and food, as commands lured customers to their

booths for a sampling of their tasty treats. The booth from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit EIGHT had a long line in front of it all night, and for a good reason. They were selling traditional carnival foods such as onion rings. Another booth was selling fried Snickers bars and funnel cakes. The Navy Band took the stage following the band The Revenge and really brought down the house with their covers of popular songs from John Mellencamp and Amy Winehouse. The night ended with a fireworks display that signaled the end of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

"Events such as the MWR County Fair bring the entire Sigonella community together for good-spirited fun," said Token Barnthouse, MWR Community Activities Director. "We build a better sense of camaraderie by offering the entire Sigonella community opportunities like this to cut loose with friends, family and co-workers. It is events like this that will make the next 50 years of Sigonella's history memorable."

## NAS Sigonella celebrates 50th anniversary in Sicily with band performance at Etnapolis

Article and photo by  
**MCSN Whitfield Palmer,**  
Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element East Detachment  
Sigonella

Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella continued its weekend long celebration to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the base with a performance at Etnapolis shopping center by Flagship, Naval Forces Europe and Africa Allied Band's rock group Sat., June 13.

The band performed covers of hit songs like "La Bamba" by Ritchie Valenz, Blondie's "Call Me", and "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor to a crowd of service members and local Italians.

"It's exciting to be part of such an important milestone for the base," said Musician 3rd Class Emily Starnes "This was my first

performance with the Navy and the band, the crowd was energetic, and I had a great time."

The celebration continues throughout the weekend with County Fair events at the base including sporting matches, rides and games, and another performance on the base by Flagship.

Naval Forces Europe and Africa Allied Band supports Commander Naval Forces Europe and Africa with internal support and community relations projects throughout the Sixth Fleet's area of responsibility.

NAS Sigonella was founded as Naval Air Facility Sigonella during the peak of the Cold War in 1959 with the purpose of serving as a support hub for aircraft transiting through the Mediterranean area.



Naval Forces Europe and Africa Allied Forces band performs during a community relations project for the Italian community at a local mall.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Job Opportunities

#### Naval Hospital Sigonella

U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella is seeking applicants for a full-time Mail and File Clerk. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen. For inquiries concerning job applications, please call the Human Resources Office at (095) 56-4165/ or DSN 624-4165 or visit: <http://www.sicily.navy.mil/positions/hro/>.

#### NCTS Sicily

Computer technician needed!!! NCTS Sicily has an opening for a Command Sponsored Dependent to support the computer systems in Sigonella. If you have computer skills and want to put them to work, please submit your application @ the local HRO office. If you have any questions, please call Agatina @ 624-4177.

#### The Navy Exchange is hiring!

Current openings:  
Supervisory Sales Clerk, Sales Clerk, Security Guard, Cash Verifier

Be a part of a team committed to supporting the USN and your family. Navy Exchange Sigonella is currently looking for prospective associates to fill these positions.

#### Leaving the military?

Thinking about leaving the military? Do you know about the broad range of programs and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs?

If not, make plans to attend the upcoming Veterans Affairs Benefit brief, provided by Lyn Cammack.  
Date: June 25, 2009  
Place: Midtown Theater  
Time: 0800-1100

For more information or to schedule 1 on 1 appointment please contact the FFSC at 624-4291.

# Volvo

# Chiechio

# Tamoil

# Kartodromo

# 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 5 p.m. of the Friday before the week of publication. For more information, call 624-5440, 624-2798 or 095-86-5440/2798. Requests for commercial classifieds must be made to Stampa Generale at 081-568-7884.

Send Il Mercato advertisements to [thesig@eu.navy.mil](mailto:thesig@eu.navy.mil)

If you are transferring to Sigonella and would like to see the newspaper in its entirety, please email us at [thesig@eu.navy.mil](mailto:thesig@eu.navy.mil) from your .mil account to verify your affiliation with the U.S. Military.

Anyone interested in sending ads via email should leave a phone number and point of contact name at [thesig@eu.navy.mil](mailto:thesig@eu.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/American base employees. Ad must be 40 words or less and typed in regular upper case, lower case format. *The Signature* does not accept 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*, call Stampa Generale @ 081-568-7884.

New Joe

Marios

Hope

Delivery

Tattoo

Stampa

Hi Tech

Volcano

Traslochi

Grand Cina

Stampa

# AFC