

The Signature



MARINES DEPLOY
TO SIGONELLA

Story on page 6

◆

TELEHEALTH
SERVICE EXPANDS

◆

PCS SEASON BEGINS

Prepare your finances and
family for the big move

Direct Line

Fleet Readiness Director, Courtney Silvestre

Choosing child care is one of the most important decisions you make for your family. As the Month of the Military Child comes to a close, we want to reinforce that NAS Sigonella Child and Youth Programs are here to support our military community and military children throughout the year. Our standards are tailored to meet the unique needs of military families by offering quality programming, care, and community support for children and youth ages 6 weeks to 18 years of age.

Sigonella's Child Development Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and serves children from six weeks to five years old. CDCs across the Navy utilize the Creative Curriculum, which is a tool that helps program professionals observe and develop age appropriate activities that will enhance the cognitive, physical, and emotional development of our children through choices and play.

Both the CDC and the School Age Care programs offer full time care and hourly care programs during the work day. Hourly care is available to families on a first-come, first served basis. For questions about childcare availability and eligibility, please call the CDC directly at DSN 624-3736/COMM 095-56-3736 or the SAC program at DSN 624-3712/COMM 095-56-3712. We understand that the needs of every family are different, so we encourage parents to call in order to provide a more personalized level of assistance. Caring for the children of working parents and families that have intermittent childcare needs is a critical component of our mission.

To support our youth, CYP operates an open rec/teen program for kids aged 11-18. For both youth and SAC programming, CYP integrates character and leadership, health and life skills, education and career development, sports fitness and recreation, the arts, and technology into lesson plans. We also implement Boys and Girls Clubs of America and 4-H programming. In our overseas environment, a vibrant youth program is vital to creating a sense of community for our children.

And for kids of all ages, CYP operates an extensive youth sports and fitness program. Each year there are leagues in soccer, flag football, basketball, and baseball. During the summer months, we also offer sports camps ranging from wrestling and lacrosse, to outdoor recreation. Specific for younger kids aged 3-5,

“Unique to our overseas location, we are essentially taking care of each other”

we offer the Start Smart program, which is a motor skill development program centered on each sport.

Of course, none of these programs would be possible without our CYP professionals. Caring, knowledgeable staff members are the backbone to planning and facilitating developmentally appropriate offerings for our children. We hire employees who truly care about the growth and well-being of children and youth and who are committed



to serving all children with respect and positive interactions that foster each child's development and growing independence.

To ensure that our staff are fully competent and trained on current best practices of caring for our children, the CYP lays out an extensive employee training schedule that begins on Day 1. In addition, each hired staff member goes through a clearance process that involves comprehensive background checks. The majority of our staff are military dependents hired from within the Sigonella community. Unique to our overseas location, we are essentially taking care of each other. We are thrilled to have a dedicated group of professionals who enjoy working with the children and youth, and currently have vacancies for more staff to join our team. Those interested in working with children and youth can apply online at: https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnreurafswa/installations/nas_sigonella/about/jobs/mwr_jobs.html.

It truly does take a village!

Interactive Customer Evaluation

Comment Regarding NEX Gas Cards:

On April 18 I went to the AGIP gas station by the train tracks. After pumping gas, I attempted to pay with my gas card and it was repeatedly denied. The attendant said that I should talk to the NEX or maybe I had the wrong pin. I knew my pin was correct, but I paid the full rate with my own card and went about my day. The following day, I spoke with Salvo at the NEX who was able to confirm that my card was live and that I still had rations left for the month. He also said that he has had people come in complaining about this happening at the gas station across from Marinai, as well. I double-checked with MVRO to make sure that there was nothing on my end that had lapsed with my vehicles and was assured that everything was good to go and that there should be no issues with the card. Unfortunately, it appears that there may be an issue with the card itself. I would like to know what, if anything, the base is going to do about this issue as it seems to be happening with some amount of frequency? Can I (and any others) get a refund of the discounted NATO rate difference since we were charged the full amount through no fault of our own? Thank you so much and I eagerly await any action in this manner.

Response:

That is truly an inconvenience and I appreciate you bringing this to my attention.

So I'd like to address the heart of your request. First of all, you CAN receive a refund should your card not work. But there are some important steps you need to do to ensure that you have all of the documentation the NEX will need to process your refund. Also, there are some "best practices to share that will help avoid an unexpected or unplanned suspension of your ration privileges.

If your gas card gets declined after you have already pumped your fuel, please

save both the "declined" receipt AND the paid receipt. If everything checks out with MVRO (i.e. no expired documentation) and the gas card was still declined, you are eligible for a refund of the discounted NATO rate difference. Please verify that all documentation with MVRO is current first, and then take your receipts to the FORAX customer service desk at the NEX in order to process your refund.

As a reminder of the process, the access to fuel rations is run by the MVRO. They will check that your registration, safety inspection, road taxes, and insurance are all up-to-date in their system. If any of these items lapse, your access to fuel rations will be shut off. This is the case for all of your vehicles. So if you own multiple vehicles and any one of these requirements is not updated in the MVRO system, your fuel rations will be shut off. Also, make sure that your credit card linked to your account is current and correct.

In an effort to simplify the vehicle information updating process and to help prevent deactivation issues with the NEX gas card, MVRO can help you align the expiration of your road taxes with the expiration of your primary vehicle's safety inspection, insurance, or both at the member's discretion. Members are responsible for managing the expiration of vehicle insurance and safety inspections. For questions or concerns about fuel rations or to align your documentation please contact MVRO at DSN 624-5275 or COMM 095-86-5275 or email nassigmvro@eu.navy.mil.

One way to potentially avoid paying full price for fuel is by using stations that require you to run your gas card prior to pumping. Also remember that you will pay less per liter of fuel if you use the self-service lanes, labeled as "Iperself" or "Fai da te." In many cases, the self-service lanes will allow you to pay prior to pumping. Please be aware that there have been instances where gas station credit card

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THE SIGNATURE

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Editorial submissions are welcomed from all Naval Air Station Sigonella departments, divisions and tenant commands. Editorial submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs Office via thesig@eu.navy.mil. All articles submitted by non-staff members will be considered contributing writers.

Sailor in the Spotlight



Name: HM3 Shelby Hadden
Department: U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella
Hometown: Staten Island, N.Y.

Overseeing the healthcare for U.S. personnel stationed at Naval Air Station Sigonella, U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella has the tall task of ensuring that while stationed abroad, personnel and their families have access to preventative and emergent medical care. It takes Sailors like Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Shelby Hadden to ensure that the approximately 1,500 patients seen at the Medical Home Port Clinic receive quality healthcare.

Hadden works as a coordinator for telehealth appointments, assisting two officers. Telehealth is an emerging technology that allows patients to gain virtual access to specialty healthcare. It can help patients here access to providers located at other U.S. military bases in Europe. The most common types of telehealth appointments she coordinates developmental pediatrics and neurosurgery.

To become qualified for her duties, Hadden attended a telehealth training

course at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. In addition to scheduling and setting up the technology itself, Hadden can also perform some routine examinations while the doctors observe virtually. She also assists with normal MHP clinic appointments, mainly supporting the staff mental health specialist.

When she arrived at Sigonella in October 2017, Hadden was originally slated to work in the ER department. But she ultimately ended up working at MHP. Hadden says that working there allows her to learn more about what she's passionate about—developmental pediatrics—as well as getting to know her patients.

“It’s good getting closer to the families. I love it when families come in that I’ve seen their kids grow from two weeks to two years old,” said Hadden.

In addition to her regular duties, Hadden also helps train incoming Sailors and works as a supply purchasing officer.

Sigonella is Hadden’s first tour in the Navy and she is taking full advantage of the education benefits. She is scheduled to graduate this semester with an associate’s degree in general science. And she plans to jump right into her bachelor’s coursework after that. Her work ethic has led her to being meritoriously promoted to 3rd class petty officer just last month. But she has her sights set even higher—her ultimate goal is to put in an officer’s package to go to medical school.

When she’s not working or studying, Hadden has been hitting the travel circuit hard. She has already visited 10 countries and has separate trips planned to go to Japan and Thailand. But she is loving the scenery in Sicily, as well.

“I’m not going to be able to get used to looking at the ocean and not seeing it so blue when I get home,” said Hadden. “And the rolling hills. It’s just so scenic and beautiful.”

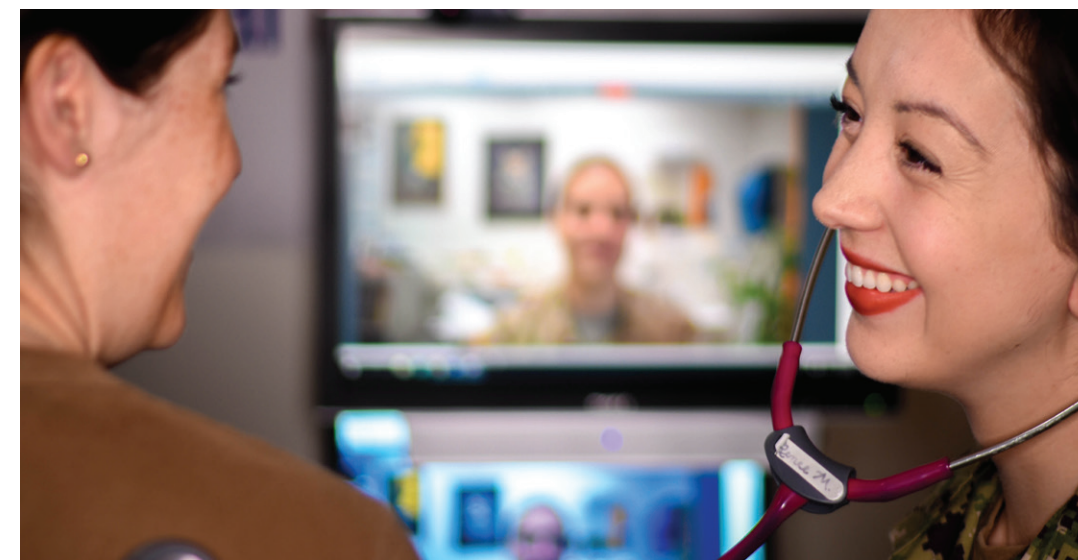


Telehealth Services Expanding at U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella



Lt. Jacqueline Canfield and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Shelby Hadden are trained to help facilitate telehealth appointments with specialists throughout the region. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Mark Knutson.

Lt. Jacqueline Canfield presents a telehealth encounter at U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Mark Knutson.



By Lt. Mark Knutson
U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella

U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella is offering virtual health technology, adding more ways for patients to see a specialist outside a local treatment facility. These remote appointments are scheduled at USNH Sigonella and include video conferencing with a secure and private setting. A virtual appointment can be just as natural and welcoming as a physical visit, connecting patients with additional

services. Sleep medicine, allergy, immunology, and developmental pediatrics are just some of the many specialty clinics being offered via remote telehealth sessions.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Shelby Hadden and Lt. Renee Rappold, a registered nurse, recently completed training at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, to facilitate specialty telehealth assessments. They can help the provider perform initial and routine specialty care

appointments, saving patients the time and the stress of traveling to other clinics within the region.

U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella is one of the first naval hospitals in Europe to begin implementing the Navy Surgeon General’s goal of adding virtual health services Navywide. If you have specialty medical needs that may warrant telehealth appointments, talk to your primary care manager to receive more information.

A READY FORCE

NEW MARINE CORPS UNIT DEPLOYS TO SIGONELLA

By Janine Scianna

NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

The base name itself, “Naval Air Station Sigonella,” might lead an outsider to believe that only the Navy operates here, but that couldn’t be farther from the truth. Indeed, not only does NAS Sigonella have tenant commands representing all the services except the Coast Guard, but we also have a close working relationship with our host, the Italian Air Force. All of this collaboration and fusion of capabilities is essential to ensuring that as the “Hub of the Med,” we can effectively promote regional stability and respond to a security event quickly.

Meet the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa, a critical part of that equation. They are a rotational contingent of approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors. Because they are self-deploying, they are a highly-mobile crisis response force and can quickly respond to potential crises within the African theater.

Every six months or so, a new rotation arrives at Sigonella and relieves the outgoing unit. The newest deployment, SPMAGTF-CR-AF 19.2 (“19” for the year 2019 and “2” for the second deployment within the fiscal year), arrived April 6 and consists of personnel from II Marine Expeditionary Force based out of Marine Corps Base

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Some of the missions they are prepared to execute are reinforcing U.S. Embassies, providing fixed-site security, evacuating personnel in non-combatant environments, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, recovering aircraft and personnel,

and providing theater security. Put simply, they can quickly get help to where it is needed in the theater.

“We’re excited to be here and we look forward to serving as a crisis response force for U.S. AFRICOM,” said U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Clay Groover, communication strategy & operations officer. “While we’re here, we have to be prepared to respond on a moment’s notice. That means consistently training to increase our unit and individual proficiency. Consistent and realistic training will improve our procedures and ultimately, make us a more capable and skilled crisis response force.”

Crisis response requires many of their operational assets to be in-house. The Aviation Combat Element has a mix of MV-22B “Osprey” tiltrotor aircraft and KC-130J “Super Hercules” aerial refueling and transport aircraft. The Ground Combat Element has two reinforced companies of infantry Marines. And the Combat Logistics Element provides logistics support for all of their operations, including tactical, medical, and humanitarian support. These assets are spread across two locations, here at NAS Sigonella and in Morón Air Base, Spain.

Advancing regional stability wouldn’t be fully effective without building regional partnerships along the way. When they’re not rehearsing or executing crisis response missions, SPMAGTF-CR-AF is teaming up with the militaries of neighboring countries in Europe and Africa. In doing so, the Marines help enhance partner nation

capabilities as well as their own. This type of joint training improves teamwork and the ability to deter and respond to emerging regional security situations.

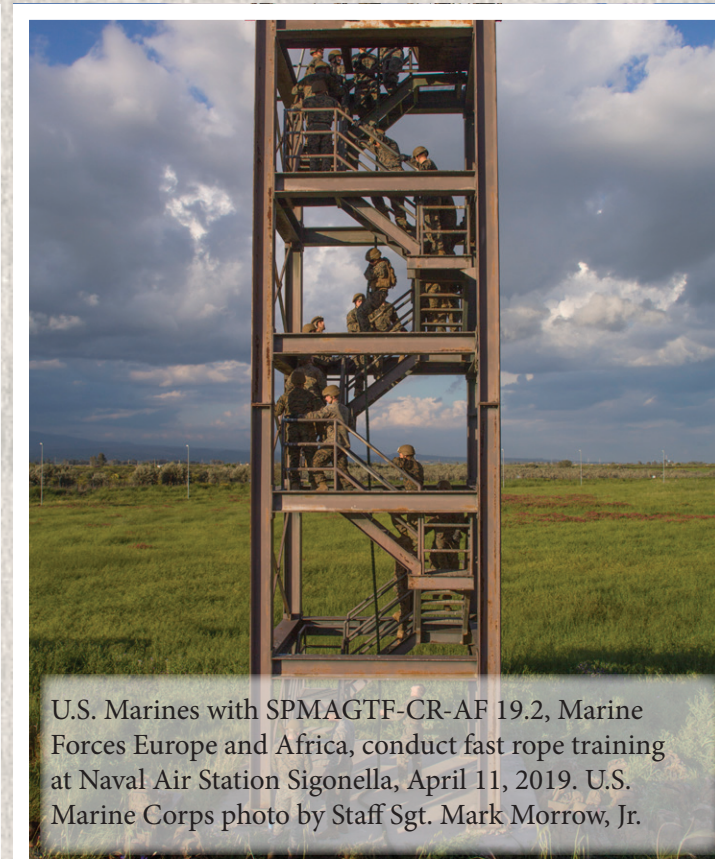
When they’re not drilling, Marines from the SPMAGTF-CR-AF 19.2 are often doing community relations projects around the island, even on the weekends. From beach cleanups to church repairs to language interactions at local schools, these Marines are making sure they are making a positive difference in Sicily. Thank you, Marines, for your service during your deployment to Sigonella, and for being an example of how service members can make a difference in their local communities. Oorah, Marines!



U.S. Marines with SPMAGTF-CR-AF 19.2, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, move to a training area to conduct fast rope training at Naval Air Station Sigonella, April 11, 2019. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Morrow, Jr.



U.S. Marines with SPMAGTF-CR-AF 19.2, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, post security during a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel exercise in Troia, Portugal, April 5, 2019. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Margaret Gale.



U.S. Marines with SPMAGTF-CR-AF 19.2, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, conduct fast rope training at Naval Air Station Sigonella, April 11, 2019. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Morrow, Jr.

Italian News

Three Patron Saints Festival Returns to Trecastagni

By Alberto Lunetta
NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

“Viva St. Alfio!” (Long live Saint Alfio!) is what devotees scream during the annual “Martyred Brothers” festival celebrating the Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino, one of the most interesting and spectacular religious festivals in Eastern Sicily. Alfio was the oldest brother and over the centuries, his figure became prominent among devotees. Townspeople believe that the sanctuary of St. Alfio invites pilgrims to reflect on the story of the saints’ painful journey by foot from Apulia to Lentini, where they were eventually executed for not giving up their faith.

Celebrations dating back to the 16th century feature religious processions and dramas as well as spectacular parades, town bands, and a traditional garlic fair that celebrates the arrival of spring. In Trecastagni, garlic is the symbol of the devotees’ participation in the festival and is believed to keep evil away and grant protection from illness.

Every year, Trecastagni townspeople publicly show their deep faith and gratitude toward the three patron saints, their helpers and intercessors in heaven, whose prayers can reach God. Devotees typically undertake long barefoot pilgrimages from local towns surrounding Trecastagni to the sanctuary to thank the saints for being spared from an illness or a disaster.

Sometimes, the pilgrims’ gratitude takes the artistic form of “ex voto,” small paintings of the devotees which are donated to the sanctuary. Ex-voto also include artificial limbs which pilgrims donate to the sanctuary after they are healed. Trecastagni has an impressive collection of these small icons, which are authentic works of art made primarily by Aci Sant’Antonio



Trecastagni townspeople share their faith among three patron saints, the “Martyr Brothers” Alfio, Filadelfo, and Cirino, who are celebrated May 8-10. Devotees believe these saints have the power to win divine aid for mortal petitioners by interceding with God. Celebrations dating back to the 16th century include processions of relics, parades, pilgrimages, arts and crafts, fireworks, music, and a traditional garlic fair. Photo By Trecastagni Sanctuary Press Office.

craftsmen which date back to the 19th century. These art pieces represent the hopes, joys, and sorrows of thousands of people who have turned to the saints for assistance over the centuries.

The festival of the three saints is also held in other parts of Sicily (St. Alfio, St. Fratello and Lentini), Italy, and the world (Lawrence, Massachusetts and Sydney, Australia).

According to tradition, the name of Trecastagni is linked to the three saints. Some believe that the three brothers ate “castagne” (chestnuts) during their visit to the town. The legend is that three chestnut trees, which are very common in the area, miraculously sprouted from the empty shells dropped by the brothers. Other traditions maintain that Trecastagni comes by the Latin words “tres casti agni” (three chaste lambs), a name that

remembers the tragic sacrifice of these three young heroes of Catholicism.

Life of the Three Saints

According to historical sources, the three saints were born in Vaste, Italy in the 3rd century. During the persecutions by Romans against Christians, they were arrested and forced to go to Rome where they were convicted and tortured. Historic chronicles tell of miracles worked by the saints, like how every place they visited became a Catholic community. Since they belonged to a noble family, Romans feared that they could influence other aristocrats. As a result, they used them as scapegoats to convince the others to turn away from Christianity.

After being tortured in Pozzuoli and then back in Sicily, they were

“ITALIAN NEWS” continued on Page 11

Fleet News

PCS Season Begins; Are you Ready?

Making the Move Easier for Military Kids

From Military OneSource

Moving with kids can be a little like assembling a jigsaw puzzle. A little perspective and patience is needed for you to fit all the pieces together. Here are a few tips to make your next move a smooth one for your kids – and you

Tell your kids about the move as soon as possible. Give your kids plenty of time to adjust to the idea of moving and say goodbye to all their friends.

Give your kids space and answers. They may also have a lot of questions, so listen patiently and answer as best you can. Help your kids research their new school, nearby parks and base activities. The adjustment – for you and your kids – will take time.

Give your kids a task. Depending on the age of your kids, there are many ways to help. Older youth might be able to help

plan portions of the move, such as searching for new houses online or researching fun things to do on the new installation. Younger kids can help by packing their own “first day box.”

Reassure your kids. Let them know they will have a new home address, but the important things in life – like how much you love each other – will not change. Your kids take their cues from you. Stay positive and make the move fun to help them feel involved and excited.

Enjoy your kids’ favorite things and places. Before you go, make a point to visit the park, the frozen yogurt shop or another favorite place. You might



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Palacios

take something from one of those places to the new house and encourage your child to find a new favorite spot. Moving is part of military life. Plan ahead as much as possible and know: The more you talk about your new home ahead of time, the easier the relocation will be for your kids – and you.

Are You Financially Prepared?

From Fleet and Family Support Center

We are in the middle of the Navy’s permanent change of station (PCS) season. Getting financially prepared for a big move can be challenging, but planning ahead alleviates a lot of the financial stress during a move. Here are three quick and easy steps to help you prepare financially for your PCS move.

Boost your Savings Account and update your budget.

Plan for family fun during the move and reduce stress by increasing your savings accounts before the move. A big move is a great time to work in a family adventure vacation. Also, plan for delays in travel reimbursement and non-reimbursable expenses. Update your

budget with your new basic allowance for housing (BAH) rates and other anticipated living expense changes. If a spouse is losing employment during the transition, make sure you alter your budget accordingly. Don’t forget to contact the spouse employment office at the new duty station’s Fleet and Family Support Center for job search and resume assistance.

Review your insurance policies.

The rate of your car insurance is determined by a number of factors, including your age, driving history, car, credit score and your address. Change your renter’s insurance policy to make sure your valuable household items are protected. If you are moving overseas,

many companies require that you start your renters’ insurance before you move. Adjust your budget based on the increase or decrease of insurance premiums. Don’t forget to ask for military discounts.

Explore your childcare options.

If you have young children, be sure to research the child care options available at your new location. You might have access to on-post child care or your Fleet and Family Support Center may be able to share some of the most affordable child care options available in the area. Want help preparing your finances for your next PCS? Ask for a free personal financial management consultation at the NAS Sigonella Fleet and Family Support Center.

Base Drinking Water Program Review to Begin Soon

By Crystal St. Clair-Canai
Installation Environmental Program Director

Water is an essential part of our daily lives. Naval Air Station Sigonella ensures quality drinking water is available for service members and their families through the implementation of the Commander, Navy Installations Command's Overseas Drinking Water Program which incorporates stringent requirements to provide drinking water that meets standards for human consumption.

From 6-15 May, NAS Sigonella's drinking water program will be undergoing a comprehensive, triennial survey conducted by CNIC, from the source to the tap. This includes drinking water on NAS I, NAS II, Marinai Housing, and Niscemi.

During this period, you may see teams of inspectors in your work area while they are conducting field inspections and assessing operational and environmental compliance. The survey team will be looking to identify any deficiencies that might increase the risks associated with operating our system, both now and in the future. We fully anticipate that NAS Sigonella will be given the authorization to continue providing quality drinking water to all base personnel. It is also likely that the survey team will identify some opportunities for improvement in order to ensure that we can continue to produce safe drinking water long into the future.

The Overseas Drinking Water Program is overseen by a local installation water quality board, a regional water quality board, and an oversight council at the CNIC headquarters level that regulates

all facets of drinking water from the source, throughout production and distribution, all the way to the tap. The Environmental Division of the Public Works Department, in conjunction with Public Works Utilities and U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella Preventative Medicine, work as a team to monitor and maintain the quality of drinking water provided to Sigonella personnel and their families.

NAS Sigonella's drinking water is required to meet the same water quality standards as in the U.S. We publish annual Consumer Confidence reports that can be accessed at www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnreurfswa/installations/nas_sigonella/om/environmental_support.html

For additional questions, please contact the Environmental Division at DSN 624-2725/COMM 095-86-2725.

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systems have been disabled due to holidays or other unexpected circumstances, so you may have to find an alternate station.

As a whole, the FORAX gas card system has been successfully rolled out across the region with relatively few hiccups. Unfortunately not every system is perfect 100% of the time. It is true that the FORAX gas card logistics are spread across two organizations—the NEX and MVRO. The NEX ensures that the physical card works and is tied to your account. For expired cards or issues with the physical card, please contact the NEX at DSN 624-4891/4974 or COMM 095-56-4891/4974 or visit their offices at NAS I.

Again, thank you for raising this issue as your quality of life is one of my highest priorities.

Comment Regarding NEX Mini-Mart:

Yesterday after we had walked out on the mini mart, I entered the restroom between the NEX Mini-Mart and the barbershop. Upon walking into the stall I must have been right underneath the vent in the restroom and I felt something fall on my head. I proceeded to swipe my hand across the top of my head and two cockroaches fell down. I must have screamed so loud I gained the attention of the cashiers and many service members. After five minutes of employees stomping around the bathroom the roaches were

killed. I am unaware if this is an issue for the NEX or Public Works, but it raises major concerns for many reasons. The Mini-Mart is under renovation and currently adding concessions that will be selling hot and ready food. After speaking with the employees, this is not the first time and rodents frequently roam the store. Again, I am unsure who exactly this complaint should go to, but this is a big problem and I hope hot-and-ready food won't be sold anytime soon as there seems to be quite a few critters in the building.

Response:

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. I can't even imagine what my reaction would have been! Pests like cockroaches are unacceptable anywhere, but especially in spaces with food service. We do have a problem with some types of pests and insects here in Sicily. Public Works continually works to eradicate and minimize pest infestations throughout the installation. Beginning in June, a new pest control contract will allow non-recurring service calls for pest control at all NEX food service locations. Public Works is also exploring the possibility of adding additional preventative, recurring pest control services for the Mini-Mart.

In the meantime, the NEX has inspected the Mini-Mart and has taken additional pest control measures such as deploying pest control devices, ensuring access points are patched and secured, and

adding pest guards to the doors.

Again, thank you for your feedback and know that we are doing everything we can to solve the problem in a timely manner.

BZ Regarding Security:

I'd like to take a moment and recognize the excellent planning and execution that the Security department has done to make sure that gate traffic during the final phase of ECP construction is smooth. They clearly communicated the plan, and have staffed the gates adequately so that long lines aren't developing during high traffic. BZ to Security for a job well done!

Response:

Thank you taking the time to comment on the positive experience you have experienced with the temporary ECP closure and the modified traffic pattern that was employed. I know that the ongoing ECP construction has been a source of inconvenience. A lot of planning went into ensuring that traffic flow would be as safe and smooth as possible during this final phase. Teams from the Security Department, Public Works, and the Public Affairs Office each played a crucial role in ensuring that the public was notified in a timely and repetitive manner.

Thank you again for your comment and patience as we await the opening of the new and highly anticipated ECP. If you have any questions, please contact the Security Officer, LCDR Richmond at 624-6392.

"ITALIAN NEWS" cont'd from Page 8

eventually martyred in Lentini on May 10, 253 A.D. Although the festival was meant to celebrate all three saints, the devotion of St. Alfio due to his older age overshadowed the memory of the other two saints. Over time, people tended to ask St. Alfio rather than his brothers for help healing from illnesses and injuries.

Festival Highlights

During the days preceding the festival, processions of the three "candelore" (heavy wooden floats) from the St. Alfio sanctuary are held several times throughout the city center.

On May 8 at 7:45 p.m., the relics of the saints are brought in procession from the main church to the St. Alfio sanctuary. The procession lasts until late evening. The "nudi" barefoot pilgrimage, which happens on the night between May 9 and 10 from Catania and other Etna towns to the sanctuary of St. Alfio, is a must-see. The primary festival is held on May 10. It begins with the unveiling of the three saints' statues before a huge crowd and the Catania archbishop of devotees at 9:15 a.m. The ceremony takes place at the sanctuary, located in piazza St. Alfio. Afterwards, the statues are placed

on the "fercolo" (carriage) to prepare for the long procession. At noon, the first solemn procession will depart the historic center among devotees screaming "Long live St. Alfio!" and throwing confetti with the phrase written on it, filling the air. After stopping at the main church (Chiesa madre di San Nicola), the procession is repeated again at 5:30 p.m. and lasts through the evening. Fireworks and music will also highlight the festival. As the schedule is subject to change, visit the sanctuary's website for up to date information at www.santuariotrecastagni.it.



Former Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia Rear Adm. John Scorby, Jr., surveys NAS Sigonella drinking water facilities during the last triennial survey conducted in March 2016. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ramon Go.



Recreation & Entertainment

NAS I SPLASHERS POOL REC SWIM OPENING



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND Sat 25 - Mon 27

11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Family friendly games will be provided throughout the rec swim.

Hours of Operation May 28 - June 14

Lap Swim

Mon, Wed, Fri 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Tue & Thu 5:30 - 8:00 am • 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Rec Swim

Fri 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Sat/Sun/Hol 11:00 am - 5:30 pm

Navy Youth Swim Test

This test will be given to children 17 years old and under.
The test can be taken during the hourly swim breaks at rec swim

American Red Cross - Swim Lessons

All levels will be taught by a certified Water Safety Instructor.

Session 1 • May 7- 23 (Tues and Thurs 3:30 - 5:30 pm)
Online Registration: May 1-4

Session 2 • May 28 - June 13 (Tues and Thurs 3:30 - 5:30 pm)
Online Registration: May 23-25

Parent and Child classes will be offered
through the Summer Swim Season



NAVY ENTERTAINMENT
and ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT
PRESENT

BEST LAID PLANS

"AN OLD HOLLYWOOD MURDER MYSTERY"

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Doors open at 7 p.m. Showtime is 8 - 10 p.m.
NAS 1 Chart Room

This is an interactive event, so be prepared to get out of
your chair and move around.

FREE SHOW!

Register NOW at the Community Recreation Office.
Only 4 tickets per person permitted.
For more information, call 624-4396/4777.

Drinks will be available for purchase.
This event is for adults 18 and over!

GET MORE DETAILS ON
WWW.NAVYMWRSIGONELLA.COM



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Madam Butterfly



BELLINI THEATER

Depart: NAS I 4:00 pm from the CDC Parking Lot
Return: 10:00 pm **Cost:** \$75-Floor Seats,
\$35-Gallery Seats
(Price includes tickets and transportation)

MAY 11