

The Signature

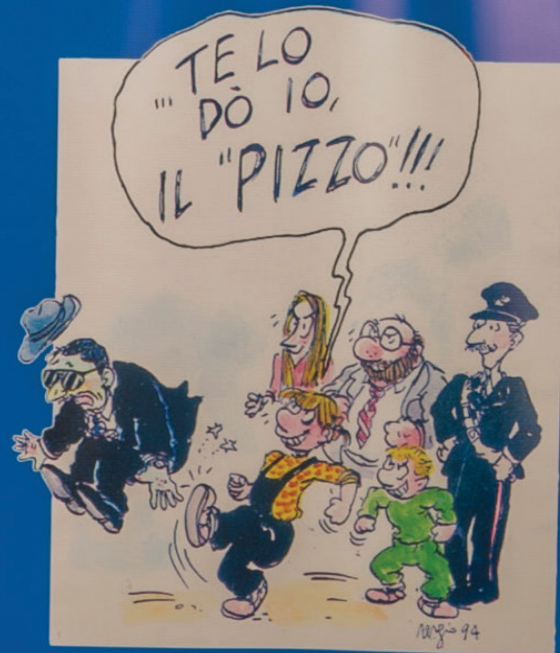
ASAEEC



THE MODERN MAFIA
and who is fighting it
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**MARINES TRAIN
MOROCCAN SOLDIERS**

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**SECNAV MEMO ON
NAVAL INSTALLATION
TRAGEDIES**



**Associazione
Anti Estorsione
di Catania
"Libero Grassi"**

dal 1991

Direct Line

NAS Sigonella Commanding Officer Capt. Kevin Pickard

Buon Natale Sigonella! Can you believe the holiday season is already in full swing? Over the past week or so, we have kicked off our on-base celebrations with our annual “Sig’s the Season” events. We have had two spectacular Christmas tree lightings at Midtown and Marinai, a breakfast with Santa, a Jingle Bell Jog, and many other events. Kudos to MWR, USO, and our friends at Pizzarotti for making these events so memorable. It has truly been wonderful for Amy and I to see so many of you getting into the spirit of the season.

The end of the year is traditionally a time spent in both reflection on our annual achievements and an opportunity to look forward to all of the good things to come in the New Year. Since taking command in April, I have been humbled to see the hard work, professionalism, and dedication displayed on a daily basis from each and every service member and civilian employee who lives and works here. It is due to your efforts that this installation runs both smoothly and effectively. No matter your command, each of you plays a critical role in making NAS Sigonella the indispensable “Hub of the Med.” I’d like to take a moment to reflect on the amazing work that we have accomplished together at Sigonella in 2019.

As you all know, NAS Sigonella continues to be a key aviation enabler for the entire region. As a team, we executed over 18,000 operational and training sorties from land and carrier-based aircraft. And unique to our installation, we are the leader in unmanned aerial systems. In fact, 2019 saw

the addition of a new unmanned capability when NATO AGS received its first two RQ-4D aircraft.

Our AMC passenger terminal successfully processed more than 18,000 passengers, 26 million pounds of cargo, and serviced thousands of transient aircraft. Our Fleet Logistics Center Site Sigonella processed millions of pieces of mail for carrier strike groups and deployed units throughout the theater. Our port ops team supported dozens of ship visits at the NATO pier in Augusta Bay. Our Security department opened the new \$13 million ECP on NAS II and demonstrated exceptional ability in scoring a 90% on the Commander Navy Installations Command Final Evaluation Problem in June.

Our quality of life programs continue to set the standard throughout the region. Our Bella Etna galley won back-to-back Ney Awards for best ashore galley and just finished the final round of inspection for consideration in this year’s Ney award. MWR has not rested on those laurels, overseeing the completion of a \$900,000 multi-year upgrade to our sports fields, and once again hit the Red, White and Boom and AutumnFest events out of the park! And throughout the year, the entire Sigonella team supported over 200 community relations projects, continuing the tradition of fostering positive and impactful relations with our Sicilian hosts.

The importance of our mission to national and Alliance strategy is continually recognized at the highest levels. We have had a steady stream of distinguished visitors, including three heads of state and



countless senior government and military officials. Each of them has walked away with a distinctly positive view on our operations and praised your clearly visible commitment to the mission.

Your success wouldn’t be possible without the effort you put in day in and day out. So as we look back on this past year, you and your families have much to be proud of. No matter what your holiday plans are—whether you are traveling home or relaxing in Sicily—please enjoy the well-deserved time with your family, friends, and those who matter most. You deserve it.

I could proudly go on and on regarding your accomplishments. As we look forward to 2020, I ask that you continue the hard charging attitude you maintained in 2019. On behalf of the Big XO, CDR Moran, Command Master Chief Estrada, and my family, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful New Year. I migliori auguri di Buon Natale e Felice 2020!

Interactive Customer Evaluation

Comment Regarding Housing:

We have received several complaints recently about power outages and surges at Marinai family housing. Please allow us to discuss the issue and what the installation is doing to minimize the inconveniences to residents.

Response:

Thank you for voicing your concerns about utilities in Marinai. As you have likely already experienced, power supply is inconsistent throughout Sicily. We sympathize with your frustrations. Unfortunately, due to infrastructure challenges within the Italian electricity distribution system, Pizzarotti and the U.S. government have limited control over the quality of power provided to our installations. Both Public Works and Pizzarotti continue to proactively and routinely engage with the utility company in an effort to advocate for upgrades to the distribution system. For the utilities infrastructure that is under our control, we are working hard to ensure that its reliability and functionality are above industry standards.

In order to mitigate the inconsistencies in power supply and protect your electronics, we encourage residents in Marinai and in economy housing to purchase uninterruptible power supply equipment. For future housing-related concerns, feel free to directly contact the Housing Director, Peter Faulk, at peter.faulk@eu.navy.mil or DSN 624-4070 / COMM 095-56-4070.

Comment Regarding Food Court:

The NAS I food services are disappointing. I have paid for items on the menu and after receiving the food,

it is not what I ordered and ingredients are missing. Customers should be informed prior to paying for a good or service, not after. This has happened several times at different locations. The staff does not offer a refund, either. The NEX needs to fix these simple issues and work on quality control.

Response:

Thank you for taking time to voice your concerns. We rely on customer feedback to identify areas for improvement and appreciate the feedback you provided. While food vendors sometimes experience delays in receiving their supply shipments from the U.S., we expect vendors to notify customers at the time of ordering if there is a limited menu or missing ingredients. We have reached out to all NEX food vendors to correct this problem going forward. Unfortunately, while refunds cannot be performed on the registers in food court, they can be processed at the customer service counter in the NEX store. For any future concerns, please feel free to reach out directly to the NEX manager, Teresa Goley, at DSN 624-4278 / COMM 095-56-4278 or teresa.goley@nexweb.org.

Comment Regarding Housing:

I have brought this issue up to my chain of command multiple times. There are mice in the Bldg. 170 barracks. They are in my room, and I know of multiple other people who are having the same issue as well. I did put in a work order to get it addressed and I haven't had any luck. This is unsanitary and disgusting.

Response:

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. Pests and

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: AT2 Alexandria Buck
Department: AIMD
Hometown: Glendale, Calif.

Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment is just one of many tenant commands here at Naval Air Station Sigonella. AIMD's purpose is to provide maintenance and repair services of aeronautical components and support equipment to naval forces throughout the African, European, and southwest Asian regions. AIMD itself is broken down into several departments, and in one of those shops is standout Sailor Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Alexandria Buck from Glendale, California.

The rate of Aviation Electronics Technician was converted from Aviation Radio Technician in 1945, so it has a long history in the Navy. ATs perform maintenance and repairs on a wide range of aircraft electrical and electronic systems. Repairs jobs can range from troubleshooting the computer-controlled weapon system on an F/A-18

Hornet on the flight deck of an air carrier to changing circuit cards or tracing electrical wiring diagrams in an air-conditioned shop.

Although her work is slowing in anticipation of transferring to a new duty station, Buck's primary duties here were calibrating torque wrenches and conducting maintenance on electronics that the Navy's patrol squadron sends in. Buck also held a number of different collateral duties, including HAZMAT petty officer for her department and serving on the command resilience team.

"For me, my favorite part of my job is definitely my co-workers," said Buck. "They make they day more fun and interesting and just go by smoother."

Buck has a rather unusual story of how she ended up deciding to serve.

"I didn't join the Navy for the normal reasons most people join for," said Buck. "One of my classmates in high

school was pretty much too afraid to join on his own, so he asked me and I decided to help him out."

AIMD Sigonella is Buck's first command, and she has been in the Navy for a little over four years. Soon she is transferring to Japan, where she will be joining Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 12 based at Naval Air Facility Atsugi.

In her time here, Buck took advantage of the cheap and convenient travel to explore Europe. She has traveled to Germany, London, and all over Sicily. She also visited Ukraine and several other countries. Her two favorite places to visit were Germany and Ukraine.

Buck is working on her associate's degree in information technology and hopes to complete her coursework soon. As for the future, Buck plans on pursuing a 20-year Navy career if she can.

SIGONELLA'S SPMAGTF-CR-AFRICA 20.1 HELPS TRAIN MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES

By 2nd Lt. Grace Jenkins

SPMAGT-CR-AF 20.1 COMMSTRAT Officer

Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa and U.S. Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard concluded a joint bilateral training program in Morocco Dec. 13, 2019. After the two-week training program, U.S. service members graduated more than 50 Royal Moroccan Armed Forces service members.

The program trained Moroccan service members in humanitarian mine action explosive ordnance disposal level one instructor training in order to increase the explosive ordnance disposal capability of the Moroccan military. In other words, the program implemented a “train-the-trainer” instruction program to develop the Moroccans’ skills in order to train their own personnel for future operations.

The curriculum covered a variety of topics such as teaching techniques, public speaking, and

course preparation. The training also included practical application where students instructed their classmates in the disposal of improvised explosive devices. In addition to EOD-specific activities, a U.S. Navy corpsman delivered tactical combat casualty care classes to build upon what was taught in previous engagements.

HMA Program instructors plan to return for advanced training sessions in the spring of 2020. The intent of the spring period of instruction is to supervise and pin the coveted EOD badge on the new Moroccan Armed Forces EOD level one instructors.

U.S. instructors were all EOD technicians and the training delivered adhered to both U.S. and international safety regulations. U.S. Marine explosive ordnance disposal technicians are all graduates of the Naval School for Explosive Ordnance Disposal where they complete nine months of rigorous training to include

locating, accessing, identifying, rendering safe, neutralizing, and disposing of ordnance. The technicians are also screened annually to validate their proficiency in EOD policies and procedures.

While there is no permanent “footprint” of U.S. military forces in Morocco, they have had a long history of training with the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. The training during HMA Morocco strengthens the development of joint leaders and teams who understand the extraordinary capability brought to the joint warfighter to integrate efforts across all layers of the battlespace.

The Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Africa is deployed to conduct crisis-response and theater-security operations in Africa and promote regional stability by conducting military-to-military training exercises throughout Europe and Africa.



Moroccan service members are trained by SPMAGTF in EOD instruction. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Grace Jenkins)



Moroccan service members receive training from SPMAGTF. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Brytani Musick)

TODAY'S MODERN MAFIA

By Janine Scianna

NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

Being a little off the beaten path compared to mainland Italy, few have visited Sicily before being stationed here. Perhaps your only exposure to Sicilian culture was watching “The Godfather” or other mobster movies. With little other pop culture that depicts Sicily, it’s hard not to associate the mafia with it.

Upon arriving, we learn quickly that Sicily is actually very different from the stereotype—its people are overtly

friendly, its orange and olive groves plentiful, and its history rich and fascinating. But it’s hard not to secretly wonder: is the mafia still alive in Sicily? And do I have anything to worry about?

The mafia has deep roots in Sicilian history. Its current form originated after the unification of Italy in 1861, when Sicily was annexed to be part of the new kingdom. Noblemen, who previously owned most of Sicilian land, turned over ownership to private farmers and allowed them to self-govern. Without real law enforcement, the environment was ripe for collusion and led to the development of organized crime.

After World War I, Sicily’s economy was extremely depressed and many of its people emigrated to other countries. The lack of a healthy state created a vacuum for further rise in organized crime. Over time, activity spread from the countryside to cities (primarily

Palermo), and from agriculture to all economic sectors. In particular, the huge demand for construction after World War II clinched the mafia’s hold over almost all aspects of the economy. There was no violence, simply because the mafia controlled everything. Without resistance, there was no need for aggression.

But in the 80s, everything changed. Once totally subverted by mafiosos, some members of the judicial system began to combat organized crime. Among the first, Rocco Chinnici created the Antimafia Pool of investigative judges who worked together to share information and develop strategies to investigate and prosecute mafiosos. Unsurprisingly, Chinnici was assassinated by the mafia in 1983 for his bold efforts.

Judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino continued the efforts of Chinnici, including making being an accomplice to mafia crimes illegal activity itself. Their efforts led to the conviction of 338 mafia bosses in December 1987 after the famous Maxi Trial. Subsequent appeals were aggressively fought by Falcone and Borsellino. Again showing its strength via violence, the mafia killed both judges in separate bombings in 1992. The media coverage of their assassinations was a formative and poignant memory for many Sicilians.

“[Falcone and Borsellino] were two symbols of the fight against the mob,” said Nicola Grassi, president of the anti-mafia grassroots organization Associazione Antiestorsione Catanese Onlus – Libero Grassi (ASAEC). “It was a turning point in public opinion towards the mafia. There was a very strong anti-mob sentiment afterwards.”

As part of the legislative response, an existing article of Italian law known as “41-bis” was modified to reduce



Business owner Tony Ruperto hangs a banner outside his restaurant that indicates his refusal to pay the pizzo. (U.S. Navy photo by Janine Scianna)



Sicilian judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino were among those assassinated by mafiosos in the 1990s.

communications between imprisoned mafiosos and outside associates, weakening the chain of command. The cumulative effects of the Antimafia Pool's efforts essentially forced the mob back underground, operating in stealth with few acts of violence.

Yet, as Grassi attests, the mafia is still a pervasive part of Sicily. There continue to be corrupt politicians who allow state infiltration of mafiosos. Today, the mafia has a firm grip on the drug trafficking and construction industries. It also collects the "pizzo," which is a forced protection "tax" levied against Sicilian business owners. Owners can choose to pay it and avoid trouble, or refuse and risk damage to their business or property. Luckily, no business owner who has reported pizzo demands to the police has ever been retaliated against. Still, Grassi estimates that 70% of business owners pay the pizzo.

Several grassroots organizations like the ASAEC have formed to help business owners fight against the mafia's demands. ASAEC was formed in 1991 after a business owner, Libero Grassi, was killed by the mafia for refusing to pay the pizzo. The ASAEC serves as a liaison to help owners report mafia demands and litigate against them in court, and also acts as a safe haven and listening ear for those fearing mafia retaliation. With state funding, it can also assist with legal expenses.

Today, Grassi says that the mafia is winning the public relations battle. People do not see violence and think that mafia activity is subsiding. That is not the case, he warns. This perception enables the mafia to quietly continue its exploits. But for Sigonella personnel and families, there is no specific concern; the mafia focuses solely on Sicilian-owned businesses.


Tony Ruperto, a pizza restaurant owner in Catania and a beneficiary of the ASAEC's efforts, encourages Americans to be conscious of what businesses they patronize.

"The customer has the power to choose," said Ruperto. "If you see a big, beautiful business, ask yourself 'Where does that business get its large profits?'"

He advises that to create a better chance of supporting businesses that don't comply with mafia demands, like his, try to go to smaller businesses and look for a special sticker advertising that they refuse to pay the pizzo.

Ruperto also wants Americans to know that despite the stereotypes depicted by movies like "The Godfather," most Sicilians are just normal people living their lives.

"Our country does have some problems. But it's a beautiful place with beautiful people," said Ruperto.

LA M
MODI


I giudici Giovanni Falcone e Paolo Borsellino sono tra i servitori dello Stato uccisi dalla mafia negli anni 90.

(Janine Scianna)

Ufficio Pubblica Informazione NAS Sigonella

Non trattandosi di una meta gettonatissima rispetto al resto d'Italia, poche persone hanno avuto la possibilità di visitare la Sicilia prima di essere inviati in servizio nell'isola. Probabilmente, l'unico modo di entrare a contatto con la cultura siciliana è stato quello guardare il film "Il Padrino" o altri film di mafia. Non essendoci in giro molte altre rappresentazioni dell'identità siciliana, è difficile non associare la mafia ad essa.

Una volta arrivati in Sicilia, abbiamo subito capito che la Sicilia è in realtà molto diversa dallo stereotipo mafioso: la sua gente è sinceramente amichevole, i suoi aranceti e uliveti abbondanti e la sua storia ricca e affascinante. Ma è difficile non chiedersi in segreto: la mafia è ancora viva in Sicilia? Devo preoccuparmi di qualcosa a riguardo?

La mafia ha radici profonde nella storia siciliana. La sua forma attuale ebbe origine dopo l'Unità d'Italia nel 1861, quando la Sicilia fu annessa al

costituendo Regno d'Italia. I nobili, che in precedenza possedevano vaste proprietà in Sicilia, cedettero la proprietà ai gabellotti (affittuari) e permisero loro di autogovernarsi. L'assenza dello Stato alimentò l'humus che permise lo sviluppo della criminalità organizzata.

Dopo la prima guerra mondiale, l'economia siciliana era estremamente depressa e molte persone emigrarono in altri paesi. La mancanza di uno Stato sano creò un vuoto per l'ulteriore aumento della criminalità organizzata. Nel tempo, l'attività si diffuse dalle campagne alle città (principalmente Palermo) e dall'agricoltura a tutti i settori economici.

In particolare, il boom edilizio che si verificò dopo la seconda guerra mondiale favorì l'infiltrazione della mafia in quasi tutti gli aspetti dell'economia. Non c'era violenza, semplicemente perché la mafia controllava tutto. Senza resistenza, non c'era bisogno di violenza.

Ma negli anni '80 tutto cambiò. Alcuni membri del sistema giudiziario,

asservito fino a quel momento alla mafia, iniziarono a combattere il crimine organizzato. Tra i primi, il giudice Rocco Chinnici costituì il pool di magistrati investigativi Antimafia che si unirono per condividere informazioni e sviluppare strategie volte ad indagare e perseguire i mafiosi. Non sorprende che Chinnici venne assassinato dalla mafia nel 1983 per il suo impegno antimafia.

I giudici Giovanni Falcone e Paolo Borsellino continuarono l'impegno antimafia di Chinnici, che comprendeva anche l'introduzione del reato di associazione mafiosa.

I loro sforzi investigativi portarono alla condanna di 338 boss mafiosi alla fine del famoso Maxiprocesso nel dicembre 1987. I successivi appelli furono combattuti con caparbietà da Falcone e Borsellino. Ma la mafia, esercitando nuovamente la sua forza attraverso la violenza, uccise entrambi i giudici in attentati separati nel 1992. La copertura mediatica dei loro omicidi suscitò una profonda emozione e consapevolezza nell'opinione pubblica siciliana.

AFIA ERNA

“Falcone e Borsellino sono stati due simboli della lotta contro la mafia”, afferma Nicola Grassi, presidente dell’Asaacc, l’Associazione Antiestorsione di Catania “Libero Grassi”, nata nel novembre del 1991 all’indomani dell’assassinio dell’imprenditore palermitano ucciso dalla mafia perché si era ribellato al pizzo. “È stata una svolta culturale epocale nell’opinione pubblica contro la mafia che ha successivamente generato un forte sentimento antimafioso.”

La risposta legislativa dello Stato si concretizzò nella modifica dell’articolo “41-bis” volta ad ostacolare le

comunicazioni dei mafiosi con le organizzazioni criminali operanti all’esterno, interrompendo la catena di comando. L’efficace impegno del Pool Antimafia costrinse la mafia ad agire sottotraccia, operando di nascosto con pochi atti di violenza.

Tuttavia, come sottolinea Grassi, la mafia è ancora ampiamente diffusa in Sicilia. Continuano ad esserci politici corrotti che favoriscono l’infiltrazione all’interno delle strutture di potere. Oggi la mafia ha un saldo controllo sul traffico di droga e sull’edilizia. Riscuote anche il “pizzo”, che è una “tassa” di “protezione-obbligata”. I commercianti possono scegliere di pagarlo illudendosi di evitare problemi, oppure rifiutare e denunciare ai Carabinieri. Dopo la denuncia nessuno è stato toccato perché la risposta delle forze dell’ordine è stata sempre efficace. Oggi, Grassi stima che il 70% degli imprenditori paghi il pizzo.

Diverse associazioni di base come l’Asaacc si sono costituite nei

processi per aiutare gli imprenditori a combattere le pretese della mafia. L’Asaacc funge da collegamento per aiutare i commercianti e gli imprenditori a denunciare le richieste della mafia e ad agire in giudizio nei loro confronti in tribunale, offrendo supporto e ascolto a coloro che temono ritorsioni della mafia. Grazie alle leggi dello Stato l’assistenza legale viene sostenuta da un fondo statale.

Oggi, Grassi afferma che la mafia sta vincendo la battaglia della comunicazione. Le persone non vedono violenza e pensano che l’attività della mafia si stia attenuando. “Non è così,” avverte Grassi. Questa percezione consente alla mafia di insinuarsi silenziosamente per continuare la sua attività illecita. Ma per il personale e le famiglie della NAS Sigonella americana non vi è alcuna preoccupazione specifica; la mafia si concentra esclusivamente sulle aziende siciliane.

Tony Ruperto, proprietario di un ristorante pizzeria a Catania, che ha beneficiato del supporto dell’Asaacc, incoraggia gli americani al consumo critico antipizzo. “Il cliente ha la facoltà di scegliere”, dichiara Ruperto. “Se vedi un negozio grande e bello, chiediti: “da dove provengono i grandi profitti di quell’azienda?””

Consiglia quindi di sostenere le aziende che respingono le pretese della mafia, proprio come la sua, e di orientarsi verso le aziende più piccole, riconoscendole dall’adesivo esposto che contraddistingue chi rifiuta di pagare il pizzo.

Ruperto ci tiene infine a spiegare agli americani che, nonostante gli stereotipi raffigurati da film come “Il Padrino”, la maggior parte dei siciliani è composta da persone normali che vivono la loro vita.

“Il nostro paese ha dei problemi. Ma è un posto bellissimo che ospita persone meravigliose”, ha detto Ruperto.



Il ristoratore Tony Ruperto mostra la sua appartenenza all’ASAEC e il suo rifiuto di pagare il pizzo. (U.S. Navy photo by Janine Scianna)

Italian News

Famous Sicilian Cakes to Try This Holiday Season

By Alberto Lunetta

NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

According to Sicilian tradition, Christmas night is magical because spells are cast by wizards who hide in mysterious hideouts located on remote mountain passages. Legend says that during this night, the blue sky turns into a dazzling golden color and that hidden treasures concealed beneath walnut trees bring a sudden wealth to whoever unveils them. Eccentric vendors offer precious objects, spices, and baskets full of nuts, pomegranates, almonds, pistachios, dried figs, raisins, pine-seeds and hazelnuts to the visitors. Dried fruits are always mentioned in Sicilian Christmas traditions as they symbolize wealth and plenty. This is the reason why many Sicilian Christmas cakes are made from dried fruit.

“Buccellato” or “cucciddatu” (as it is called in Sicilian), is one of the most popular cakes that are prepared during this holiday season. It is a short crust ring shaped cake filled with dried fruits, orange peels, chocolate, and honey and sprinkled with pistachio. There is also a smaller version called buccellatino that is covered with white frosting. Other traditional cakes include mustazzoli (sweets filled with cooked wine and mixed with almonds, pine-seeds, and nuts), raviole (fried pastries filled with sweet ricotta) and crispelle (rice fritters covered with honey).

The classic Italian Christmas cakes such as “panettone,” “pandoro,” and “torrone” are also very popular in



Satisfy your sweet tooth with Italian and Sicilian Christmas desserts. Panettone is among the most popular cakes that can be found during Christmas at supermarkets and pastry and bakery shops across the island. (Photo by Dreamstime.com)

Sicily. Panettone was first prepared in Milan in the 15th century at the bakery of a man named Tony. Since Tony had such a bad temper, Ughetto, one of his assistants, was afraid to ask him for permission to marry his daughter, Adalgisa. Instead, he decided to impress Tony by baking a special cake made from flour, sugar, candied fruits, and raisins. Soon, his cake became very popular and everybody in Milan asked for “Pan di Tony” (Tony’s bread) which was later named Panettone. In the wake of its popularity, Tony rewarded Ughetto by allowing him to marry Adalgisa.

A competing tradition claims that panettone was first served for Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan from 1494–1499, during a lavish banquet as a replacement of a cake

baked by the lead chef. After the original cake was botched, Tony, a bold scullery boy, prepared another one by hastily mixing flour, eggs, butter, sugar, and candied fruits to save the chef’s reputation. The Duke and his guests raved about the new cake and he decided to name it after Tony. Today, in addition to the traditional candied fruits and raisin fillings, panettone is enriched with chocolate chips, frosting, almonds and fruit creams.

According to one tradition, “pandoro” (bread of gold) was named because of the delicate yellow color of the dough, which comes from eggs. Its origin stems from Verona, an elegant Renaissance city located in the north of Italy that was also

“ITALIAN NEWS” continued on Page 13



Memo From Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly

On the Recent Incidents at Naval Installations

In the last two weeks, our entire Navy and Marine Corps family was struck by three tragic acts: Little Creek, Virginia; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and Pensacola, Florida. These crimes targeted us all, and I know I speak for every Sailor, Marine, and Civilian in the Department when I say that our prayers are with the families of the fallen and with the wounded. It is our solemn duty to find the causes of such tragic loss and ceaselessly work together to prevent them. As we reflect on these tragedies, I ask that we focus on the following:

Grief.

We must understand, and stand in grief, alongside the families of those who lost their lives in these tragic incidents. The families of Airman Mohammed Sameh Haitham, Airman Apprentice Cameron Scott Walters, Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Oscar Jesus Temores, Mr. Vincent Kapoi, and Mr. Roldan Agustin are a part of OUR broad naval family. They are suffering from the loss of their loved ones. We must pray for them and keep them in our thoughts. For those who witnessed these events, and/or were injured, we must be committed to help them in their journeys back to normalcy. It is all of our jobs to help them recover from their injuries, visible or not.

Heroism.

We must never forget the heroism of those who ran towards the danger in these incidents, exhibiting the finest warrior ethos and quick decision-making that doubtless saved many lives. On Tuesday, I traveled to Naval Air Station Pensacola to meet with the patrol officers and Naval Security Force personnel, who were the first responders on the scene and confronted the shooter, along with heroic civilian officers from the Escambia County Sheriffs Office. I learned about countless acts of heroism from the first responders, and many of the victims themselves which will come to light as the facts of these tragedies are revealed. I assure you that we will all be proud of these heroes and what they did in moments of terror and extreme danger.

Resolve.

Even as we grieve together as a community, we must stand united in our resolve that these attacks will not deter us from fulfilling our sacred obligations to protect and defend our fellow citizens. The facilities at Little Creek, Pearl Harbor, and Pensacola remain fully operational and mission-focused. Around the world, our people still maintain the watch in protection of our nation, securing the sea lanes, and responding wherever there is need alongside our allies and partners. From these incidents, we must take renewed purpose, learning where we can to ensure greater protection of our assets, information, infrastructure, and most importantly, our precious people. It is my expectation that each of our facilities will review physical security and emergency response procedures to minimize the risk of a recurrence. And it is my expectation that all of our people military, civilian, and contractor be provided with the training, information, and motivation to maintain the vigilance we must all have to spot the warning signs that are often precursors to tragedies such as these.

“We must understand, and stand in grief, alongside the families of those who lost their lives in these tragic incidents.”

The events at Pensacola, Pearl Harbor, and Little Creek were very different, but each represented an attack on our naval family and our ideals. These incidents will not hold us back but will serve as a constant reminder of our common responsibilities to each other and the nation we so proudly serve.

I have never been more honored to serve at your side than I have over the past two weeks, as I witnessed how senseless tragedies have elevated within us the values that define our force and unite us all.



Making the wheels on the Bus Go Round

From the Student Transportation Office

Personnel Like many services offered at NAS Sigonella, transportation for the DoDEA Elementary and Middle/High Schools is provided via a vetted contracted service. The vendor is charged with providing safe transportation to and from the school for students residing within a defined transportation radius.

Like all contracts, there are stringent requirements that must be adhered to. Bus routes, bus stops, and pick up/drop off times are dependent on number of student riders, distance to the school, road conditions, and safety considerations. All efforts are made to maximize route efficiency and ensure that students arrive at school and at home safely. Bus stops are a major factor in establishing the bus route. They are often located near your home, but there may be situations where a consolidated bus stop is used to ensure the student's safety and transportation efficiency. Routes are subject to change to accommodate our transient community. Before signing any lease, it's highly recommended that you visit the Student Transportation Office to understand bus service

to a potential residence. If you live further from the school, anticipate that your child will probably have an earlier pick up time and longer bus ride to make sure they arrive on time.

Bus crews consists of a driver and a safety aide. Safety aides keep track of student riders and ensure the safety of your children by enforcing transportation policies and rules. They make sure that children are buckled up, remain seated, follow directions from the crew, and treat everyone on the bus with respect. Disciplinary issues are coordinated with the school principals for further action and may result in the loss of riding privileges. Seating arrangements are used to ensure that students get off the bus at the allotted time for each grade. This means that your child may not always be able to sit with their friends or siblings, but it does ensure a safe handoff of your child to their teacher.

All student riders must have a valid bus pass that designates their bus stop and pick up/drop off times. Parents or guardians must show a valid ID card to pick up children under the age of 10. Requests for temporary changes in your child's

pick up or drop off location must be coordinated with the office and your child's teacher 24 hours in advance. Students must ride the bus at least three times a week in order to maintain routine riding privileges. In the case that your child does not meet this criteria, they may be considered for as-needed transportation privileges. Please contact the office to make arrangements.

When situations occasionally arise that warrant parent notifications, please remember that it takes time to first verify which students are on the bus at a specific time and then contact each affected parent or guardian individually. The process can be further delayed by not having the right contact information on file for your child. Please help us help you by ensuring we have the most up to date information for your child. If the bus is running late or appears to have missed a stop, rest assured that the office is working hard to resolve the issue and get the word out.

We are here for you! Contact us by calling 095-56-3244/3247 or www.dodea.edu/SigonellaES/transportation.cfm.

"ICE" cont'd from Page 3

rodents definitely do not belong in our building and especially in barracks rooms. We do have an active pest-control contract that provides routine inspections in barracks common spaces and treatment if they are discovered. We expect to increase our annual budget for more comprehensive pest control in future contracts.

In the meantime, we recommend the following preventative measures that barracks residents can take to make their residences less attractive for pests. Take active steps to remove food sources, water, and items that provide shelter for rodents. Store food in airtight containers. Clean up spilled food right away and wash dishes and cooking utensils soon after use. Make sure your garbage can has a tight-fitting lid and that you aren't overflowing common area trashcans. Alert Public Works if you see any that trash cans that need attention. And finally, remove clutter that could provide shelter for rodents and pests. Being proactive towards pest control can go a long way towards preventing infestations.

We appreciate all barracks residents taking these steps while we look to amplify future contracts with our

pest control vendor. For any future concerns, please continue to work with your RA, Housing, and chain of command to solve barracks issues. For more information on the pest control contract specifically, feel free to reach out to Lt. Aaron Thompson, Asst. Public Works Officer, at Aaron.Thompson@eu.navy.mil or DSN 624-5444 / COMM 095-86-5444.

Comment Regarding**AMC Flights:**

My family flew in to visit and we were all looking forward to Oktoberfest. But when my husband went to buy tickets they said it is only 18 and up, so my 16 and 17 year-old nephews couldn't go. We are not drinkers but we like German music and food.

Response:

We are sorry to hear of your troubling travel experience while departing from NAS Sigonella. We always strive to meet your expectations and regret for the delay in processing as well as the lack of communication. We conducted a thorough review of the specifics of your flight and determined that a significant breakdown in communication occurred between the contracted air carrier and air terminal personnel.

The aircraft itinerary originally

included a quick turnaround at Sigonella, but an unannounced crew change extended the planned ground time from two to four hours. This change should have been coordinated and communicated by air carrier representatives with terminal staff. Although the air carrier did not provide our staff with timely information, we, as the air terminal operator, are ultimately responsible for ensuring that passengers are kept up to date with changes as they occur. Please feel free to reach out with any further questions or concerns to Air Terminal Director, Richard Brown, at richard.brown2@eu.navy.mil or 335-193-8767.

Bravo Zulu**Security:**

Thank you to the military police on NAS Sigonella. I was lost on NAS I, looking for the hospital, and a young MA walked me all the way there. With his help, I was able to make it to the clinic to pick up a prescription for my daughter. His extreme hospitality and kindness is what you expect from a service member. Unfortunately I don't know his name because his vest was covering it up, but I want to express my gratitude anyways.

"ITALIAN NEWS" cont'd from Page 10

chosen as a setting by Shakespeare for his tragedy, "Romeo and Juliet." Yet another tradition says pandoro was first prepared in Venice in the 16th century, when the maritime republic was wealthy and powerful. Chronicles of the time indicate that pandoro was presented at the tables of the Venetian aristocrats. Today, pandoro is enriched with fruit cream filling and frosting such as lemon or orange and chocolate.

Another delicacy "torrone" is nougat made with sugar, honey, almonds, and hazelnuts. Tradition holds that it was first prepared for the wedding reception of the Duke of Milan, Francesco Sforza, and Bianca Maria Visconti that took place in Cremona in 1441. The nougat was molded into the shape of the 13th century Torrione tower, which still flanks Cremona's cathedral, because it was included in bride's dowry. Thus, the dessert was given the name

torrone. The wedding guests, who hailed from across Europe, were so impressed by the savory taste of torrone that they praised its delicacy as they traveled back to their homes, earning it a worldwide reputation. Today, torrone has many different flavors. The traditional hard white one includes almonds or hazelnuts, but it can be enriched with liqueurs like rum, Gran Marnier, and Strega, or chocolate and is sometimes frosted with lemon, pistachio or orange icings.

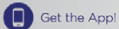
Ring in the New Year at Jox Pub!

Roaring 20's New Year's Party



Party favors • Food • Selfie Booth
 Dec. 31st • 9:00 pm - 2:00 am
 Dress the part by donning your
 best flapper or mob boss outfit!

GET MORE DETAILS ON
WWW.NAVYMWR.SIGONELLA.COM



AFE BRINGS THE CHEER

Junk FM

HOME for the HOLIDAYS



A COVER BAND LIKE NO OTHER...

JANUARY 3

JOX PUB | 9PM

Junk FM brings genre-bending mashups and juxtaposing styles, while delivering an infectious high energy show. From Garth Brooks to Lady Gaga in one slamming step, simultaneous Eminem and Green Day, Cee Lo Green meets Rod Stewart, Junk FM doesn't care. Get ready for a show that is going to get everyone out of their seats and on the dance floor.

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