

The Signature



**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

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◆
**NASSIG PARTICIPATES
IN RTAV**
◆

**ACIREALE CARNEVALE
POSTPONED**

Direct Line

Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy

Each February, the Department of the Navy (DON) celebrates African American/Black History Month and the significant role that African Americans, both past and present, have played in the defense of our Nation.

Within the DON, African Americans have served in ground and aviation combat units, aboard U.S. Navy ships and submarines, in diplomatic missions, and in many other critical positions supporting organizations around the world. Equally important is the role of our African American civilian employees serving alongside our Marines and Sailors in operational and support roles, as well as in critical science, engineering, and policy-making career fields. Their contributions and sacrifice to our Nation are not just a part of African American history, but American history.

In 2022, we recognize the accomplishments of our predecessors, including the 8 black Sailors who earned the Medal of Honor during the Civil War; the 14 black female yeomen who enlisted during World War I; and the Montford Point Marines who took part in the seizure of Okinawa during World War II.

We also acknowledge the achievements of our present day teammates, Daquan Styles, Dr. Brandice Weathers, and Cmdr. Desmond Walker, all recent winners of the 2022 Black Engineer of the Year Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Awards.

As of today, more than 114,000 members of the DON's total force identify as African American/Black American. The DON strives to create an inclusive, accessible, and equitable environment for all employees. We are committed to attracting, developing, and advancing a highly talented and diverse workforce capable of meeting our many



requirements. A diverse range of experiences, abilities and perspectives is critical to the DON's mission and operational preparedness.

As we commemorate the achievements of African Americans across the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Nation, let us also engage and learn about the cultural customs, background, and experiences of each of our colleagues.

Working together, we can build a diverse and operationally ready workforce prepared to serve and protect our Nation.



Traffic Court Results

Below service members were awarded suspension of driving privileges. No points assessed pending completion of the Hazard Course with Safety by 14 March 2022.

- An E-3 was awarded 30 days suspension for negligent backing and not having insurance while operating a motor vehicle.

- An E3 was awarded a 6 Month Suspension for 3 parking violations within a 6 month period all occurring within 4 months of each other.

- An E-6 was awarded a 40 day suspension for improper passing and too fast for conditions as witnessed by the NASSIG Security Officer.

Below service members are required to complete the Hazard Course with Safety by 14 March 2022.

- An E-5 cited for improper passing off base.
- An E-4 cited for 2 parking violations within a 6 month period.
- An E-4 cited for 2 parking violations within a 6 month period.

THE SIGNATURE

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION
SIGONELLA

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Executive Officer
Cmdr. Ronald Cappellini

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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.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

1) Keep the tires of your car or truck properly inflated. For every pound per square inch (psi) below the proper level, there is an average increase of 0.4 percent in fuel consumption; being low by as little as four pounds of pressure can reduce your mileage by 10%

2) Use a programmable thermostat for automatic energy savings. Set the thermostat for lower heating temperatures at night when everyone is asleep and during the day if nobody is home.

3) Fill a basin when you wash dishes by hand instead of letting the water run. You could save up to 25 gallons of water each time you wash dishes.

4) Use task lighting when you need lighting in one small area, and then reduce background or ambient light levels.



In the Spotlight



Name: SrA Kason Campbell
Command: 7RS
Department: Security

By MC2 Josh Cote, *NAS Sigonella Public Affairs*

In Texas, it's said that football is life. For Senior Airman Kason Campbell, a member of the security forces for the 7th Reconnaissance Squadron (RS), it helped him excel in life in the Air Force.

"Growing up in a football town, it was important for me to have a strong work ethic early on in my life," said Campbell, who hails from Fort Worth, Texas. "Between sports and school, my coaches instilled a work ethic in me that has carried on throughout my military career."

Campbell has been serving in the Air Force for more than two years now. Prior to coming to 7th RS, he was assigned to 60th Security Forces Squadron and also the 409th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. While serving in the Air Force, Campbell was able to pursue a degree in project management.

During his time in security forces it has allowed him to do some pretty interesting things. Campbell got the chance to serve as a Quick Reaction Force member for the 409th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in Africa.

"The best part of my job to me is not just the traveling," said Campbell, "but also the opportunity to make friends of different nationalities across the world."

In his short six months here in Sigonella, Campbell has already stood out to his leadership.

"Senior Airman Campbell has been my number one Airman since he arrived last fall," said Tech. Sgt. Matthew Cornell. "He came in extremely motivated and attained two duty certifications within his first four months. He has jumped on multiple community relations events since being here and has assisted with our flight training program. Senior Airman Campbell has far exceeded expectations and that led him winning Senior Airman Below-the-Zone."

Below-the-Zone is a competitive early promotion program offered to enlisted U.S. Air Force personnel in the pay grade of Airman First Class. This early promotion opportunity is restricted Airmen who stand out from the others and perform duties at a level above their rank. If selected by the board the Airman is allowed to promote six months earlier than their peers.

Campbell said he joined the Air Force in order to better himself and to serve his country.

"Serving in the Air Force means a great deal to me," said Campbell. "It has given me important life lessons that I will use for the rest of my life."



NAS Sigonella Participates in RTAV

By NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

Since 2019, Naval Air Station Sigonella's naval security forces (NSF) have been working toward the Command Assessment for Readiness and Training (CART) scheduled to take place in May 2022. The Regional Training Assistance Visit (RTAV) is Commander, Navy Region Europe Africa, Central (CNRE)'s assessment of the installations readiness leading up to the training cycle exercise of a three-year certification process by Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC).

After many months of training, drilling, and intermediate assessments, CNRE determined that NAS Sigonella's installation security is ready for the CART.

The RTAV was a four-day exercise that CNRE assessors used to spot-check the installation's administration of its NSF, and it included drills designed to test whether the base can defend itself. The drills included simulated responses to scenarios involving a gate runner, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, and an active shooter.

"The Region's recent visit was just the first step in the NSF's certification process," said James "Chilly" Vaiciulis, NAS Sigonella's operations, training, and exercises officer. "The RTAV was challenging but ultimately plays a significant role in our team's sustained readiness."

The security department cannot defend the installations alone, which is why the evaluation also looked for integration with other emergency responders—emergency dispatch, fire, and medical—along with the support of the community.

"With restrictions in place to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19, our team has found innovative ways to maintain proficiency through these dynamic conditions," said Vaiciulis. "Having everyone's full participation establishes a realistic training environment to ensure our NSF are prepared and ready to respond. I'd also like to send a special thanks to the Sigonella community, who played a



critical role with actively supporting 'lockdown' and 'shelter in place' procedures and staying clear of affected areas."

The CNIC security assessment process was put in place not long after the shooting death of Master-at-Arms second class Mark Mayo at Naval Station Norfolk, which was determined to be the result of security lapses and ensures there is a professional and ready to fight security force. The importance of MA training and certifications has the attention of the enterprise.

Lt. Nathan Ouellette, the NAS Sigonella security officer, remarked, "NAS Sigonella's security forces passed the event which is a good stepping stone towards success in the days to come. I am excited and enthusiastic of what our team can and will do. We have proven ourselves through recent major events that validate our professionalism during OAR [Operation Allies Refuge], the recent flooding event, the many exercises, and distinguished visitors that we hosted here at NAS Sigonella. I have no doubt we are ready to face any challenge."

Known as the "Hub of the Mediterranean," NAS Sigonella, due to its strategic location, allows the forces of the United States, allies and partner nations to deploy and respond as required to ensure security and stability in Europe, Africa and Central Command.



Robert Smalls
1862

Former slave turned
Pilot of the CSS Planter



**Chief Yeoman
Edna Young**
1948

First African American
woman to enlist in the
U.S. Navy and achieve
the Chief Petty Officer rank

Golden 13
1944



13 enlisted men who
became the first African
American commissioned
and warrant officers
in the U.S. Navy

**Theodore E.
Chandler**
(DD-717)
1961



First U.S. Navy ship
commanded by an
African American
officer, Samuel Gravely Jr.

**Phyllis Mae
Dailey**
1945



First Black
nurse to
serve in the
Navy Nurse Corps

Carl Brashear
1970

First Black
American
master diver
in the U.S.
Navy, despite
losing his left
leg in 1966



Doris Miller
1941

First Black
American to be
awarded the Navy Cross



Jesse L. Brown
1950

First African American
aviator to complete the
U.S. Navy's flight
program. First African
American officer killed
in the Korean War

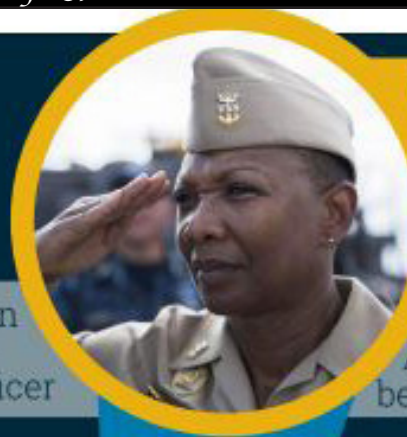


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5



Samuel Gravely Jr.
1971

First African American fleet commander and first to become a flag officer



Fleet Master Chief April D. Beldo
2006

First female Command Master Chief at Recruit Training Command. First African American CMC to be sent to an aircraft carrier

Admiral J Paul Reason
1996

First African American officer in the U.S. Navy to become a four-star admiral



Admiral Michelle Howard
2014

First African American Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO)



USS Bushmore (LSD-47)
1998

First U.S. Navy ship to be commanded by an African American woman, Michelle Howard



Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber
2021

First African American female brigade commander at the U.S. Naval Academy



Matice Wright
1983

First African American female naval flight officer



Vice Admiral Adam Robinson Jr.
2007

36th Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy. First African American in the position

2022

Italian News

Acireale Carnevale Floats Postponed

By Dr. Alberto Lunetta, *NAS Sigonella Public Affairs*

Sigonella Carnevale-lovers will have to wait until Springtime to see the traditional dazzling papier-mâché float parades in the Acireale's historic center. Due to the uncertainty of the Omicron variant infections, organizers of the Acireale Carnevale (Carnival) celebrations had no choice but to postpone the event for a couple of months. The world-renowned parades of flowery allegorical floats will be held in between April 21 and May 1 (Italy's Labor Day), with a possible extension through May 8th.

Acireale is not alone in deciding to postpone the parades. Other Italian cities, which also boast a centuries-old tradition of Carnevale floats, did the same, including Putignano in Apulia (the oldest Carnival in Europe), Cento in Emilia-Romagna, and Fano in Marche (one of the oldest in Italy, dating back to 1347). However, in Tuscany, the town of Viareggio decided to hold the parade, and the city of Venice hosted a smaller version of its big Carnevale festival.

In Italy, the 2022 Carnevale officially began on Feb. 13 and will continue until Sunday, March 1. Highlights will include Giovedì Grasso (Shrove Thursday, which fell on Thursday, Feb. 24) and Martedì Grasso (Shrove Tuesday, which falls on March 1). Carnevale Sunday will be on Sunday, Feb. 27. Then, with Ash Wednesday (Wednesday, March 2), Carnevale will come to an end and, according to the Christian tradition, Lent will begin.

Sicilian media quoted Gaetano Cundari, the president of the Carnevale of Acireale Foundation, as saying the postponement was inevitable because it would have been impossible to comply with the Carnevale competition's timescales and deadlines due to the possible cancellations related to the pandemic. The preparation for the annual spectacular nine allegoric floats' competitions begins months before Carnevale and costs thousands of euros.

However, the city will host "collateral events" as a preview for the big parades that will be held in the springtime. Every afternoon through March 1st, the city of Acireale will host Carnevale-themed exhibitions and projections in squares and historic buildings. For detailed schedules visit <https://www.carnevaleacireale.eu/program/?lang=en>

What is Acireale Carnevale?

As the popular Italian saying goes: "A Carnevale ogni scherzo vale!" (Any prank is accepted at Carnival).

In non-pandemic times, Carnevale is a week of revelry, cheer, good food and, most of all, crazy fun. Thousands of Italians throng the streets attending colorful carri (floats) parades, wearing costumes, playing pranks on friends and



Even though the spectacular Acireale Carnival papier-mâché floats' parades have been postponed to the springtime, the traditional Carnevale sweets, like the crunchy stripe-shaped and deep-fried "chiacchiere," are available at local pastry shops and bakeries. (Photo by Alberto Lunetta)

having a blast.

Historians believe that the word Carnevale derives from the Latin words "Carne Levare" (put meat away). It refers to the period preceding the beginning of Lent, the austere 40 days during which Roman Catholics abstain from eating meat.

In ancient times, many Carnevale-like festivals were held in different cultures. In ancient Greece, floats were used for the yearly celebration in honor of Dionysus, the god of wine, in order to guarantee fertility and a successful breeding among the animal stock. Ancient Egyptians celebrated the renewal of life brought about by the yearly flooding of the Nile through a joyful festival held in the springtime.

Ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia to honor their god Saturn in the hope of procuring plentiful harvests. Celebrations included feasting, gift-giving, drunkenness, and pranks. Masked parades of merrymaking featuring young boys and girls danced on allegorical floats during masked parades through the streets.

During the festival, Romans would burn the effigy of the "King of ancient Saturnalia," a grotesque puppet embodying the feast. Today, this practice is still performed in many countries. A straw puppet named the "King of Carnival" is burnt on the evening of Mardi Gras.

Acireale boasts an ancient Carnevale tradition dating

NAVSUP's Leaders in Europe Host CTF-63/MSCEURAF's New Commander

By Joe Yanik, *NAVSUP FLCSI Public Affairs*

Capt. Kenneth S. Pickard, Commander Task Force 63/Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa (CTF-63/MSCEURAF), toured Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella's (NAVSUP FLCSI's) fleet mail center during his visit to Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, Feb. 9, 2022.

Pickard also visited with NAVSUP FLCSI's commanding officer, Capt. Douglas MacKenzie, and his leadership team to discuss how the logistics command supports U.S. Naval, joint, NATO warfighters operating across U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa.

"The working relationship between FLCSI and CTF63 is crucial to logistics support across Europe and Africa," said Cmdr. Gavan Aldridge, CTF-63 fleet sustainment officer. "CTF63 executes logistics lifts through their organic aircraft and ships and directs the movement of mail, cargo, fuel, provisions, personnel and high priority repair parts. FLC owns the last tactical mile and executes movement to the warfighter, and operates support equipment required to transfer and deliver these commodities. The brief provided by FLCSI to CTF-63/MSCEURAF highlighted how our partnership is a force multiplier and our synchronized efforts ensure that our fleet can meet all mission requirements."

Commander, Task Force 63 is the operational commander of all the U.S. Sixth Fleet air and sea logistics. Composed of oilers, provision ships, and repair ships, its mission is the delivery of supplies at sea, and effecting repairs to other ships and equipment of the Fleet.

Pickard assumed command of CTF-63/MSCEURAF

during a ceremony Jan. 21, 2022. Full story here: <https://www.c6f.navy.mil/Press-Room/News/News-Display/Article/2908735/ctf-63-welcomes-a-new-commodore/>

"As FLCSI's operational officer, my goal while briefing Commodore Pickard was to share NAVSUP FLC Sigonella's capabilities throughout the theater," said Cmdr. Treven Feleciano. "We look forward to our continued relationship with his team and CTF-63s overall success supporting the Naval and Marine warfighters operating in theater."

CTF 63 is the operational commander of all Sixth Fleet air and sea logistics. Military members from CTF 63 work side-by-side with civilians from Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa as one unified staff. While in theater, Military Sealift Command's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force and Special Mission ships report to CTF 63 along with cargo planes that support Sixth Fleet and U.S. European Command logistics missions.

U.S. Sixth Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.

FLCSI is one of NAVSUP's eight globally-positioned commands that provides for the full range of solutions for logistics, business and support services to the U.S. Naval, Joint, NATO and Allied Forces across 14 enduring and forward operating sites; forward contingency and cooperative security locations in 13 countries in Europe and Africa.





**MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SAILORS,
MARINES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

2021

NMCRS TEAM
Sigonella



4,402
VOLUNTEERED
HOURS

1



ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF

52



VOLUNTEERS

PROGRAMS

43



Clients were assisted in creating a budget to better manage their finances.

3,272



Purchases made at the Nearly New Thrift Shop.

27



Parents attended a Budget-for-Baby workshop to help them prepare for a new family member.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Interest-free Loans and Grants

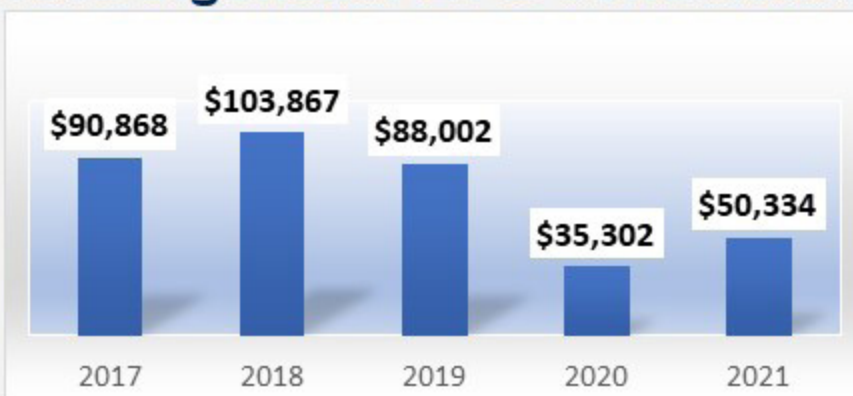


HOUSEHOLD SET-UP	\$26,807
BASIC LIVING EXPENSES (FOOD, LODGING)	\$32,339
TRANSPORTATION (CAR REPAIRS, INSURANCE, CAR PAYMENT, RENTAL)	\$6,730
FAMILY EMERGENCY	\$1,500
PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION (PCS, GAS)	\$14,532
TRANSPORTATION DUE TO FAMILY ILLNESS OR DEATH	\$1,985
OTHER	\$15,108

67 Clients received financial assistance

\$99,001

NAS Sigonella ADFD Contributions





Things to do
in your birth
month?



REMINDER

**MAKE DENTIST
APPOINTMENT**

PRODUCED BY THE DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY



Things you
shouldn't use
your teeth for

DON'T USE TEETH TO:

**OPEN PACKAGES
OR BOTTLES**

PRODUCED BY THE DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY

"Italian News" cont'd from Page 8

back to the 16th century, according to the first written record of Carnevale celebrations held in Sicily. Sicilians used to celebrate "Carnalivari" (carnival in Sicilian) through dance festivals throughout the streets. Drums and trumpets accompanied performers.

Masked revelers from different social classes used Carnevale as an excuse to mingle in masks. The "jardinara," (gardeners), "briganti" (bandits), "baruni" (barons) and "abbati" (abbots) were among the most popular masks. During the festivals, aristocrats and politicians were publicly mocked. Revelers also staged "battles" throwing rotten eggs and vegetables at one another. This practice was popular in 17th century Acireale, a city that boasts one among the best celebrations in Italy. In 1612, local authorities forbade it because it caused damages to property and injured people.

By the 18th century, celebrations became less violent and turned into comedic plays that were performed by jokers named "abbatazzi." Under the bishop's authorization, they made fun of nobles and priests, pretending to read jokes from a big book and taking part in prank competitions.

In the 19th century, celebrations included the "casariata," a parade of flower-decorated carriages, named "landò," that toured the historic center. Local nobles paraded on the carriages wearing masks and threw colored sugar-coated almonds and coins at the crowd.

Today, people throw the "lighter" confetti. Foam spraying is also a popular "sport" during Carnevale. So don't get mad if you get hit; it's just a prank!

In the 1930s, artisans in Acireale started to create huge allegorical floats called "carri" with papier-mâché depicting animated figures of politicians, animals and other fantastic subjects that are mounted on a mobile platform and driven in parades. Since then, the Carnevale carri have become much more elaborate and spectacular.

Highlights typically include six magnificent papier-mâché allegorical and flower-decorated floats and 21 smaller floats

which parade throughout the day in piazza duomo (main square) and the historic center. Music shows are performed in piazza duomo.

Sicilian Carnevale Food

While you attend Carnevale, don't forget to taste the scrumptious traditional food that is sure to please your palate!

The "maccarruni setti puttusa co' ragù ri sasizza" (tubular pasta with seven holes dressed with a savory pork ragù) is a specialty that everyone loves to sample, but the most popular Carnevale foods are the sweets.

If you want to indulge in some typical Sicilian treats, Carnevale is the best time for doing so.

Sicilian ethnographer, Giuseppe Pitrè, an expert in Sicilian popular traditions wrote that cannolo (fried pastry filled with creamy fillings) is the "crown of the carnival lunch." The "frittelle," the delicious Carnevale fritters, are also sure to whet your appetite.

Tempt your taste buds with the crunchy and flaky "chiacchiere" (gossip) also known as nastrini (ribbons) or bugie (lies) and cenci (rags). They are delicious stripe-shaped fritters, deep-fried in lard and covered with powdered sugar or chocolate, pistachio or white chocolate. Their origin dates back to Roman times when they were called "frictilia." These sweets are named lies or gossip to remember what the Carnevale motto says: "during carnival every prank or joke is accepted!"

Pignolata or pignocata is another traditional must-eat Carnevale dessert from Messina that you should try. It is a light, egg dough that is fried and half-covered in a chocolate glaze and half in a lemon glaze that is served in mounds.

Of course, we can't forget the fried sweet ravioli with ricotta and "teste di Turco" (Turk's head) which is a turban-shaped puff pastry filled with cream flavored with lemon and cinnamon zest.

MARCH
19

11 AM - 4 PM
NAS II TURF FIELD

FREE FESTIVAL



Shenanigans

MUSIC * KIDS' ACTIVITIES * MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT CELTIC GAMES

BEER TENTS * FOOD STANDS * PHOTO OPS

SIGONELLA WILL BE SEEING GREEN!

EXTRA
EVENT

7.2 Mile Challenge Run with Professional Obstacles

COST: \$40 (REGISTRATION FEE, MEDAL, TSHIRT FOR THE FIRST 100 PARTICIPANTS) AGES 14+

For more information and to register: sigshenanigans.eventbrite.it

Base mandated masks will be required for all participants when not actively running.
For anyone attending the festival portion of the event, a Super Green Pass will be required.

GET MORE DETAILS ON
WWW.NAVYMWRSIGONELLA.COM



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