

The Signature



**PHOTOS FROM
AROUND NASSIG**

Pages 6 -7

**SAINT AGATA
FESTIVAL IS BACK!**

◆
**NAVSUP Prepares Fleet Mail
Centers Across U.S. Naval Forces
Europe-Africa for Holiday Season**

Direct Line

Command Master Chief Randy Dickerson, NASSIG CMC

“Forged by the Sea” is the Navy’s current tag line. I think it is the best one yet. It speaks to what we do as a service. There have been many instances where Sailors join and at some point they end up on a ship thinking “I didn’t sign up for this”. Shipmate, I am not sure what you thought the Navy was about when you signed up, but “Navy” should have implied something to you.

“Forged” is defined as: to form or make, especially by concentrated effort. This process takes our whole career and we are constantly being “forged” throughout it. The path to becoming a Warfighter takes time and not a simple or quick task. Deployed aboard USS Ronald Reagan creates the perfect environment and sets conditions for that concentrated effort to take place. Becoming that fighting weapon that the Navy needs in the process. What better place to do this than at sea?

Step 1: Finding the rough materials for the project; Steel. Not everyone is cut out for the Navy. Some are born for it, maybe it was in their family for generations. Possibly, it has been something that has called to you. It could also be that curiosity got the best of you and it grew on you. Finding the right people to forge into Sailors is key.

Step 2: Turning those raw materials into a basically crafted weapon. It is still moldable, it still needs work, care, shaping, re-work even. This weapon has the basic form, looks like one in every facet, but is not lethal yet. Boot camp created this basically shaped Sailor with basic fundamentals to go out into the Navy and gain more lethality.

Step 3: Grinding the profile. This process refines the blade even more into a lethal weapon. It now has more defined edges and is beginning to look more like a sword than a large piece of steel. Being rated and beginning to learn your craft is this process. There are many types of swords for different purposes; just like there are many rates.

Step 4: Heat treatment: A sword needs to be strong so that in battle it doesn’t fail. Heat is the key to tempering that blade. Making it stronger, it may chip and nick, but it won’t fail. A Sailor needs to be tempered as well. The sea does that for Sailors. The sea is our battlefield, it’s where we are needed, what makes us stronger, and where we hone our skills to be an effective weapon.

Step 5: Polishing/Buffering. This is the upkeep of the weapon. The weapon requires attention even once it has been forged into a weapon. Even complete, it can always be better. As it is utilized it gets nicks, scratches, and divets. They have to be repaired. In doing so the blade is made sharper and more lethal. This ensures that the weapon is always ready for what is next. As Warfighting



Sailors we have to continue to hone our skills and make ourselves sharper and stronger. We have to be able to do more as we develop ourselves.

Step 6: Forge another blade: The last step is to forge another weapon. A weapon is dangerous and should be feared. An Army of weapons takes that to the next level. HSM-77 is an army within a greater force, CVW-5, PACFLT, US Navy. We need not only forge ourselves into stronger and more lethal weapons, but those around us.

In a sense we are all blacksmith’s trying to forge ourselves to be stronger, more durable, and overall lethal in our professions as well as forging those around us. The sea has all the tools necessary for us to do this with minimal distractions. We have the material and the basic form. Now is the time to continue to grind and polish by taking on those challenges, perfecting process’s, improving technique and forging those around us.

Throughout this discussion “lethal” was mentioned frequently and purposely. You can exchange that word for a lot of things to reflect on for yourself. Best, experienced, refined, skilled, superior, but lethal sums it up because at the end of the day when you are lethal who wants to mess with you?

Interactive Customer Evaluation

Comment Regarding Help With Landlord:

I need help with my landlord. What can Family Housing do to help?

Response:

While this is not ideal, off-base homes can at times need maintenance or repairs. Available home listings always meet Housing's minimum requirements but unfortunately this does not guarantee they will be free of maintenance during your tenancy. The impacts to your time, money and quality of life are frustrating. Responding to major/extraordinary maintenance is the landlord's responsibility, similar to CONUS off-base rentals. The Housing Office can help to communicate on your behalf with landlords and utility companies, but Housing staff do not confirm work dates or manage repair projects. Direct communication between tenant and landlord is the fastest way to communicate an issue, get advice, or schedule further investigations.

Additionally, when the amount of maintenance or landlord's repair approach does not align with your needs, advice in these situations is to consider terminating their lease with a 6-month notice to the Landlord. This can be done at any time and without a reason, but requires a specific letter to be prepared by the Housing Office. Housing staff will process the lease and utility contract terminations, coordinate loaner furniture/furnishings, and schedule your check-out. Per Italian law, chronic/severe maintenance problems on their own are not a justification to immediately terminate a lease contract.

The Housing Office's other roles are focused on maintaining available listings, showing units to interested personnel, supporting tenant communication through translation services, informing service members of OCONUS housing allowances, assisting personnel accessing available housing resources, supporting lease and utility contract processing, check-in/check-out services, coordinating loaner furniture and furnishings, and assisting personnel understand their housing options both before and during their tenancy. Your lease or utility contract are only between you and your landlord; not the Housing Office nor the Navy.

Comment Regarding Parking and Abandoned Cars:

Parking is a premium on both NAS I/II yet why do I see so many abandoned vehicles? I've seen some that are parked in the same spot for over 6 months. Why isn't anything

done about it?

Response:

If you believe a vehicle has been abandoned, report it to Security at 624-5225. Any vehicle that has been identified as possibly abandoned is ticketed with the owner having 72 hours to move it, lest it be towed. Security responds to all reports of alleged abandoned vehicles but also has been directed to look for vehicles during their regular patrols. Remember: posts on social media, especially unofficial groups, do not constitute an official report.

Comment Regarding the Post Office

The post office has sent out emails saying they're open from 8-12 on DONSA's but they didn't honor these hours. They sent an email stating I had packages for pickup but when I arrived, the doors were locked. When I called, they answered but stated they wouldn't allow anybody in as they were only there to sort mail. Why are they sending notifications to pick up mail if they won't honor these hours?

Response:

Depending on the holiday as listed in COMNAVREGEURAFCENTNOTE 5000 published 18 May 2022, the post office may have modified or closed hours, but the post office is ALWAYS closed on Saturdays and Sundays. There may be post office personnel present on these days to sort the mail as it is common practice for a mail truck to arrive on Saturday but they will not be accepting customers.

When the post office releases information regarding hours, note which hours apply to which days. The post office will be open for specific hours for DONSA's during the normal workweek. The post office is closed on weekends and federal holidays.

Comment Regarding NAS 2 Gym:

What is the possibility of providing the NAS 2 gym a face lift or adding some additional equipment. The function of the facility is met but its appearance and timeliness of repair could use some improvement.

Response:

The basketball court, flooring throughout the ground floor, broken mirror and paint are all issues being addressed by NAVFAC in response to the flood that occurred in November 2021. There is a repair project that was awarded in FY22 so we are just awaiting a design for the repairs. However,

"ICE" cont'd on Page 11

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.



In the Spotlight

Name: Louise A. Ramos

Command: NAS Sigonella

Department: Galley

By MC2 Kelsey Culbertson, *NAS Sigonella Public Affairs*

Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Louise Anne Ramos, from Bulacan, Philippines, joined the Navy January 19, 2021, for two reasons: to see the world, and to get her bachelor's degree.

"I'm about to go back to school, and hopefully get my degree," said Ramos. She is pursuing an associate's degree in business administration.

To Ramos, serving in the military pushes her out of her comfort zone, and while her place of duty isn't typical for an LS, she maintains a positive attitude as she orders gear, operates at Navy post offices, and maintains inventory databases.

"In the military, you may find that your job is not exactly what you are going to do like in the civilian world," Ramos said. "You need to be open-minded and flexible."

Ramos has advice for her fellow service members and shipmates: "feel the fear but do it anyway!"

Ramos is currently working at Naval Air Station Sigonella's galley, Ristorante Bella Etna, as a cashier. Due to many of her responsibilities varying in level of importance, she does not have a structured daily routine.

"If I had to say an example of my work day, it would have me working either on department purchases, work contracts, inventory management and or serving at the line," Ramos said. While her duties improve her strength as an LS and a Sailor, she performs the duties of a culinary specialist as well.

Ramos also holds her department's Government Purchase Credit Card as her primary collateral duty. A GPC Holder can purchase supplies for their command.

"I am able to go out in town to purchase supplies for the galley," Ramos said.

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Delmesha Calloway stated that Ramos's always has a positive attitude, and

is always willing to go above and beyond of what's requested of her.

"Her work ethic is unmatched, and has the perfect mix of technical competence and professionalism," remarked Calloway, Ramos's leading petty officer at the galley. "She has left a mark working in Bella Etna's Galley and in different departments here on NAS Sigonella!"

Ramos' proudest moment while serving in the Navy at NAS Sigonella was assisting the base during Operation Allies Refuge, an event supporting the Department of State's mission to facilitate the safe relocation of U.S. citizens, Special Immigration Visa recipients, and other populations from Afghanistan.

"I helped initially set up the refugee's temporary quarters," Ramos said. "I then assisted in escorting the incoming refugees to their temporary living quarters."

Ramos has traveled around Europe since she got to NAS Sigonella.

"Ever since I got here, I have been to Romania, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Malta, Czech Republic and Germany," Ramos said. "All of them are equally majestic on their own, but Hungary actually stood out to me. I fell in love on how warm the people are, the food is good, and I like how they preserve their history and culture."

"Traveling around Europe is so easy and cheap," Ramos said. "Every time I go to a different country, I get to try or discover something new!"

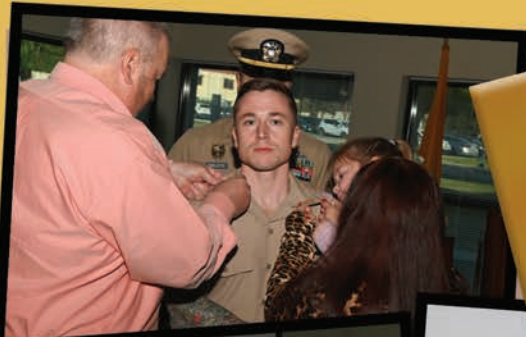
Ramos is planning on staying in the Navy, and hopes on going to San Diego or Japan as her next duty station.

Ramos' hobbies include learning how to cook new dishes for her friends, traveling around Sicily, and watching thriller or horror movies.

Sigonella's first baby of
2023
Coraline Jones
January 6



Congratulations to the Jones' family on your newest addition. Welcome to the Sigonella family, Coraline!

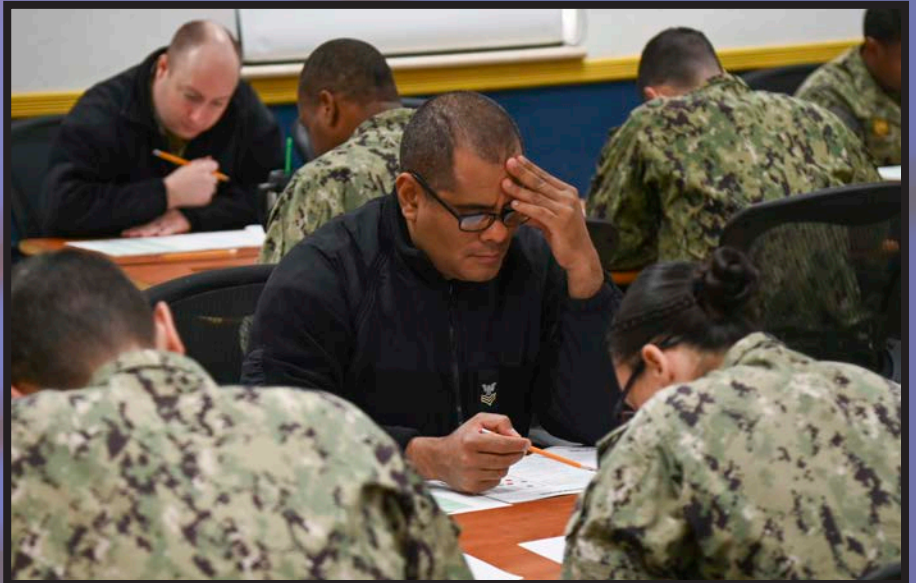


Congratulations
to the newly commissioned
Ensign
Terry Draper



Photos From Around NAS Sigonella

Photos by: MC1 Kegan E. Kay, MC1 Josh Coté and MC2 Kelsey Culbertson





Italian News

Sant'Agata Festival Back in Full After Pandemic Hiatus (Feb. 3-5)

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

After a two-year pandemic pause, Catania townspeople are ready to celebrate again the full-scale Saint Agatha Festival (La Festa di Sant'Agata), the third largest Catholic festival of the world. The festival, which is preceded by a month of preparatory events, features three days of massive festive processions and events that will take place from February 3 through 5 in the Catania historic heart.

"Semu divoti tutti? Cettu, Cettu, Citatini, viva Sant'Aita!" (Are we all devotees? Yes, of course, sure, Townspeople, long live St. Agata!) Devotees will scream those passionate words over and over during the processions until their voice is hoarse to publicly show their devotion to the beloved patroness. These celebrations, which mingle the sacred and profane, will involve hundreds of thousands of Catanians who will swarm the streets of the historic center to pay homage to the "Santuzza," or young saint (St. Agata's nickname given because of her young age).

Divoti (devotees) defy bad weather conditions just to see her while she's brought in procession. It happens only once a year, so it is must-see event.

According to an ancient tradition, St. Agata is considered a salvatrice (saviour), which means that she rescued Catania several times over the centuries, especially during earthquakes and lava eruptions.

Legend has it that her holy purple-colored veil (named "limpia" in Sicilian) has stopped two dangerous eruptions, the first one which occurred in 251 AD, a year after her martyrdom and the second one in 1886, when the lava threatened Nicolosi. In both cases, the veil was brought in procession to the eruption site, and the advancing lava flow miraculously stopped. According to history, Catania Cardinal Giuseppe Benedetto Dusmet, who is regarded as a saint and whose body is preserved inside the cathedral, led the 19th century procession.

The holy veil is 13 feet long by 20 inches large. Three golden threads decorate its extremities. According to legend, the veil, which was originally white, covered the head of St. Agata when she was rolled over live coals during her martyrdom. As a result of this torture, the "limpia" remained miraculously undamaged by the fire and turned red. From then on, the veil has been venerated as a defense against Etna eruptions.

Tradition and Devotion

Catanians have been celebrating this festival since 1519. For centuries, there has been a long-running controversy between Catania and Palermo over her birthplace but it looks like Catania got the better of Palermo.

Every year, a stream of devotees of all ages will crowd the streets of the historic center dressed in white tunics (green for the women even though it looks like many female devotees have been preferring to wear the white one as well) named in Sicilian "saccu," gloves, a handkerchief, and black skullcap (in Sicilian, "a scuzzitta"). According to tradition, the saccu symbolizes the nightdress that the Catanians wore when they welcomed the return from



Every year, from February 3 through 5, one of the largest religious festivals in the world returns to Catania with a spectacular three-day display of faith and colorful Sicilian folklore. Thousands of Catanians swarm the streets of the historic center to publicly show their lifelong devotion to their beloved and venerated patron saint with a must-see international festival featuring long processions during which devotees carry heavy wax candles, fireworks, music, exhibitions and arts and crafts. (Photo by Alberto Lunetta)

Turkey of the saint's relics on Aug. 17, 1126. Historic chronicles tell that it was a great feast for the Catania community whose residents waived white handkerchiefs to show their enthusiasm. Other historic accounts link the white tunic tradition to either the ancient Egyptian Goddess Isis or the penitential garment worn by priests.

Giorgio Maniace, a Byzantine general, stole the relics as a war trophy and took them to Constantinople (the ancient Istanbul) in 1040. Devotees take part in the festival bringing on procession the "Cannalori," and the "Vara."

Cannalori are tall wax candles surrounded by a heavy (up to 1,500 pounds) candelabrum-shaped gilded wooden structure. They are decorated with statues depicting angels, saints, pennons and flowers. Scenes from the St. Agata martyrdom are also carved on their sides. Each Cannalora represent a city's guild such as butchers, greengrocers, fishmongers, pasta makers, bakers and more. In the past, they illuminated the passage of the procession but through the centuries, their dimensions became so large that a person alone could not carry their weight anymore. Today, there are 11 Cannalori that take part in the procession.

Each one is carried on the shoulders of eight to 12 people. During the processions, Cannalori stop every once in a while and "compete" with one another by performing a kind of dance named "Annacata" consisting of a series of swaying moves.

The "Vara" is a 16-foot long richly decorated silver float on which the bust depicting St. Agata and several crystal and silver caskets containing her relics (legs, arms and



other bones) carried in procession. Giovanni di Bartolo, a goldsmith from Siena, made the bust in the 14th century. The bust, which also contains part of the relics (the skull and part of the thorax), is made of enameled silver. It lies on a magnificent pedestal, and its cut just under the waist. Hundreds precious jewels cover the statue, most coming from donations of devotees. The magnificent golden crown studded with gems donated by the English King Richard “The Lionhearted” in 1190 during his visit to Sicily on his way to a crusade, is undoubtedly the best piece of the collection.

One who attends the festival remains impressed by the huge candles that devotees carry on their shoulders while they perform the processions.

Every year, Catania wax shops sell hundreds of *ceri* (tall wax candles). Devotees carry those bulky candles “per grazia ricevuta,” which means that a saint has granted them a miracle they have been asking for. The miracle could be invoked for a pregnancy that is in serious danger or if someone is suffering from an incurable disease or after one has survived a traffic accident. Usually, it is up to the devotee to decide how heavy the candle should be and for how long they would carry it. According to Catania wax dealers, the most requested candle is the one that weighs approximately 85 pounds but some also request candles that can weigh up to 350 pounds. Carrying *ceri* in procession is usually a lifelong practice. If one devotee is too old or sick to carry a heavy candle, another person such as a son or a relative could continue to participate in the procession instead of them.

Life of Sant’Agata

According to tradition, Agata came from a rich family. Her virtues and her beauty drew the attention of Quintianus, a local Roman governor who actively and brutally persecuted Christians.

Agata, who already consecrated herself to God, refused his advances. Therefore, Quintianus decided to punish her by having her locked up in a brothel where Aphrodisia, a wicked woman, tried to corrupt Agata’s virtue and faith by playing wiles and stratagems. Agata never wavered and resisted to all her attempts. Therefore, Quintianus, miffed by Agata’s firmness, had her undergo terrible tortures such as cutting off her breast. This detail was often depicted in the Christian medieval paintings as a peculiar characteristic of St. Agata.

Tradition also tells about prodigious events that occurred while Agata was in prison such as the apparition of St. Peter who comforted and healed all her wounds. Eventually, after repeated tortures Quintianus had Agata condemned to the stake but while she was burning alive, a violent earthquake struck Catania. This natural disaster was welcomed by the Catanians as a sign of God who wanted the tortures inflicted to Agata to be over. Thus, a riot broke out in the city forcing Quintianus to stop the infamous execution. Agata was then brought back to her prison where she died soon after on Feb. 5, 251 AD. Later on the same day, the evil Quintianus, who was fleeing because he feared the riot, drowned in the river Simeto.

On Feb. 3, the first day of the celebrations begin with a holy mass celebrated at the Cathedral at 7:30 and

a 10 a.m. Later at noon, the solemn “Processione per l’offerta della cera” (Offering of the Wax Procession) leaves from the Church of St. Agata “Alla Fornace” toward the cathedral.

Eleven Cannalori representing some local guilds head the procession. Parades of the city’s banners followed by the historic “Carrozzi du Sinatu” (18th century Catania Senate Carriages that are permanently on view at the city hall in Piazza Duomo) also follow the procession. All Catania civilian and military authorities take part in the procession. A half-hour later, Catania Fire Brigade officials offer a floral gift to the saint. A religious hymn will be performed at the cathedral.

The celebration day will end in the evening with spectacular fireworks show in piazza Duomo called “I fuochi da Sira o’ tri” or the fireworks performed on the evening of February 3rd.

Feb. 4, the second day of the festival, begins with the traditional “Messa dell’Aurora” (Dawn Holy Mass) at 6 a.m. at the Cathedral. It is one among the most intense and moments of the festival. The “Cammaredda,” the small room located inside the Cathedral, where the relics and the Saint Agata simulacrum are permanently kept, is opened before a crowd of moved and applauding devotees.

Later, a procession, called “Processione per il Giro esterno,” during which the St. Agata bust and relics tour throughout the city, starts at 7 a.m. It leaves from Porta Uzeda (in Italian, Uzeda gate) in piazza Duomo where the Catania Archbishop performs the offering of a candle before the icon of the Madonna della Lettera. Right after, the procession proceeds through via Dusmet, via Cali, piazza Cutelli, via Vittorio Emanuele, piazza dei Martiri, via VI Aprile, piazza Giovanni XXIII (train station), viale della Libertà, piazza Iolanda, via Umberto, via Grotte Bianche, piazza Carlo Alberto (Catania outdoor market) and then piazza Stesicoro where devotees who pull the carriage show their skills performing the challenging “Capuccini slope.” It consists in running while dragging the heavy float, up to the Church of Saint Agata “La Vetere,” located in piazza San Domenico. There, the procession stops for a couple of hours to allow devotees to rest.

In the late afternoon at 6 p.m., the tour starts again from piazza San Domenico through via Plebiscito, via Vittorio Emanuele, piazza Risorgimento, piazza Palestro, via Garibaldi, via Plebiscito, via Dusmet and eventually back again to piazza Duomo through Porta Uzeda.

Feb. 5 is the main festival’s day. A solemn holy mass is celebrated at the Cathedral at 10:15 a.m. Archbishop Giuseppe Baturi, the Archbishop of Cagliari presides over the holy mass jointly with local priests and Sicily’s highest-ranking bishops. During the mass, the “Cappella Musicale del Duomo” (the Cathedral Cantata Choir) sings a magnificent High Mass. In the afternoon, another Sicilian bishop celebrates a holy mass at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral.

Later, the most spectacular Saint Agata’s relics procession, called “Processione per il Giro interno,” starts from Piazza Duomo at 5 p.m. Crossing via Etnea it moves ahead up to Piazza Cavour. The procession, which goes on all night long, reaches its climax when it arrives at the

NAVSUP Prepares Fleet Mail Centers Across U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa for Holiday Season

By Joe Yanik, *Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella*

Every year, hundreds of postal professionals assigned to Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella (NAVSUP FLCSI) process approximately 13 million pounds of mail at fleet mail centers located across Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-AF) for ashore and afloat Navy warfighters, DOD personnel, and their family members.

Of that volume, more than a million pounds of mail and packages on average are processed during the holiday season alone.

“In order for our postal teams to effectively manage the sharp increase in mail and packages during the holiday season, good planning is critical,” said Vic Gonzalez, NAVSUP FLCSI’s postal program manager.

Planning for the 2022 holiday season, in part, meant that NAVSUP FLCSI’s postal teams augmented their workforce with volunteers and reservists on active duty orders who assisted with unloading mail trucks, sorting mail and delivering packages to customers.

“Our postal personnel are not normally able to take leave during the months of November and December because of the increased mail volume,” Gonzalez said. “Even with a fully staffed postal workforce, there is still a need for additional help, and our Reserve Component and post office volunteers definitely helped make a difference.”

Besides augmenting their FMC workforce, another way NAVSUP FLCSI postal teams prepared for the 2022 holiday mail season was to perform a continuous process improvement (CPI) review in early December with the command’s mail control activity (MCA) team operating at Rome Fiumicino International Airport.

“Our major goals during the CPI self-assessment review were to empower our MCA Rome team to identify barriers to productivity and fix problems at the lowest level using proven problem-solving tools” said Antonio Fiorini, NAVSUP FLCSI CPI manager. “Our command’s CPI efforts demonstrate our command’s ongoing commitment to “Get Real Get Better”

by fostering exceptional performance and increasing mission readiness in all of our mission sets, especially fleet mail center operations.”

Another way NAVSUP FLCSI’s postal teams prepared for the 2022 holiday season is by communicating to its customer base with announcements through NAVEUR-AF’s public affairs offices. Announcements pertained to recommended mailing dates and resources for using the military postal service, such as knowing how to correctly complete the mail customs forms.

“To be effective with communicating important information to our postal customer base about using the military postal system, we needed to be early, accurate and clear with our messaging,” Gonzalez said.

“As it is for every holiday season, our goal this year is to serve each of our postal customers with the highest level of professionalism and expediency,” said Capt. Douglas S. MacKenzie, NAVSUP FLCSI commanding officer. “We are dedicated to ensuring our customers’ packages arrive securely to their destinations in a timely fashion. This what our customers expect and we are committed to exceeding those expectations. It’s a quality-of-life service we take to heart and we are committed to getting it right this year.”

NAVSUP FLC Sigonella is a geographically-diverse command whose FMCs and fleet mail activities support afloat and ashore Naval Warfighters operating in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas, as well as across in locations like Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom and Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.

NAVSUP FLCSI is one of eight FLCs under Commander, NAVSUP. Headquartered in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, NAVSUP employs a diverse, worldwide workforce of more than 25,000 military and civilian personnel. NAVSUP and the Navy Supply Corps conduct and enable supply chain, acquisition, operational logistics and Sailor & family care activities with our mission partners to generate readiness and sustain naval forces worldwide to prevent and decisively win wars.



“ICE” cont’d from Page 4

there is not a timeline available for this.

Regarding concerns that are within MWR control, they’re looking at the dumbbell weight rack and the smith machine now. They have already ordered a new cable for the cable cross machine and will repair this as soon as it arrives. They have previously looked into stair climbers but do not have enough height clearance to utilize this piece of equipment at the NAS 2 gym. Additionally, due to lack of space and the higher demand for equipment already located in the NAS 2 Gym, there are no plans to purchase a decline barbell bench, additional machines, or more rowers to add to the current 8.

We appreciate your feedback as we are always looking for ways that we can continuously improve our fitness facilities. If you have any additional comments or questions or would like to sit down to discuss these items in person, I would encourage you to contact our Fitness leadership directly. You can reach our Fitness Director, Elizabeth Leonard at 624-0504 or elizabeth.m.leonard10.naf@us.navy.mil. You can also reach our Fitness Coordinator, Lio Nieto at 624-4301 or rosalia.c.nieto.naf@us.navy.mil.

Comment Regarding PCS Entitlements:

I’ve been advised to make a payment in order to make a correction for a mishap that was issued to me on my itinerary per my PCS. It does not include my stop for leave, taking three weeks before my report date. The destination, rather than home with my family, is my duty station instead. I do not understand why the necessity or accountability in which comes from my pockets due to incorrectly sending me somewhere without my consent or my family in mind.

Response:

The Navy is responsible for per diem and any other associated entitlements in traveling from the old permanent duty station to

the new permanent duty station. Any leave taken in route is not covered under any associated entitlements as it is at the service member’s discretion whether or not they decide to take leave in route. The orders only dictate the number of days authorized.

Under no circumstances is a service member required to pay to change their PCS orders. However, they may need to pay the difference in changing a government issued commercial flight if it is outside of the official routing to their new permanent duty station. SATO can make changes but there may be a change price that the service member will need to pay out of pocket and is not reimbursable.

Make sure you discuss with your command’s administration department well in advance of your plans for your PCS.

Bravo Zulu**BZ to Ms. Nuccia:**

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING STAFF!!!!!! Ms Nuccia was ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!!! So extremely helpful and kind and I couldn’t be more thankful for her help during my appointment. There was some misunderstanding between phone conversations with other staffing and she helped me out and assisted with everything and MORE! She went above and beyond and i couldnt be anymore thankful. You are so amazing and i want to extend my gratitude towards you and your staffing. You are AMAZING! Thank you!!!!

BZ to Subway:

Subway at NAS 2 on Jan 12th at 12pm. The young man that worked there was the only one working during a lunch rush and he did an amazing job. Keep him employed I’m pretty sure he’s the reason that facility runs smoothly.

“Italian News” cont’d from Page 9

slope of via San Giuliano on its way back to Piazza Duomo in the morning on Feb. 6. Running fast, devotees pull the Saint’s float up to via San Giuliano. It is a spectacular and dangerous proof of physical strength and resistance that could only be performed by the strongest devotees as the Vara weighs several tons. Driven by pure devotion, thousands of people stay up until dawn to participate in this unique moment. At the end of the hard climb, the crowd releases the tension with a liberating thunderous applause.

Another special and moving moment of the procession is the stop at the Church of San Benedetto in via Crociferi at dawn when the Benedictine contemplative nuns sing to Saint Agata in front of a huge crowd that remains silent, enchanted by their celestial voices honoring the patron saint. Eventually, the saint is brought back to the Cathedral.

Traditional Sweets

During the St. Agatha festival you can also satisfy your sweet tooth. Make sure you visit the Catania pasticceria (pastry shops) or panifici (bakeries). You’ll get a chance to sample the delicious “Olivette di Sant’Agata”(Saint’Agata’s small olives) and torrone (nougat), which are two traditional marzipan and almond-based St.Agata-related sweets, as well as are the mouthwatering Cassatine (small breast-shaped cassate pastries which remind the torture underwent by St. Agata) filled with ricotta cheese, covered by sugar glaze, with a candied cherry on top.

Olivette (Olive-shaped and green marzipan sweets) are related to a legend telling an episode of the saint’s life. Tradition has it that when Agata was on her way to stand trial before Quintianus, she bent to tie her sandal. As she did that, an olive three miraculously sprouted where she had stepped. After St. Agata’s death, these olives were preserved as relics. Olivette are also available in the chocolate covered version.

“Torrone” or nougat is made with sugar, honey, egg whites, almonds and hazelnuts.

As tradition says, it was first prepared for the wedding banquet of Bianca Maria Visconti and the duke of Milan, Francesco Sforza that took place in Cremona in 1441. Historic sources tell that the chefs shaped the Torrone as the 13th century tower, which still flanks Cremona’s cathedral, because it was included in bride’s dowry. The tower was named “Torrione” (in Italian, big tower), thus the dessert was given the name “Torrone.” Historic sources say the guests of the wedding banquet, who came from every part of Italy and Europe, were so impressed by the savory taste of Torrone that they praised its delicacy as they went back home. Therefore, Torrone earned a worldwide reputation.

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; chocolate and also frosted with lemon, pistachio or orange icings.

For more information and festival’s details, visit the following web sites: www.festadisantagata.it; www.circolosantagata.it; <https://www.facebook.com/festadisantagatact/> and www.cattedralecatania.it

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