

The Signature



**REGION
COMMANDER'S FIRST
VISIT TO NASSIG**

PAGES 6-7

**AUGUST FESTIVALS
IN SICILY**

— ◆ —
**NAMRU 3 HOLDS
CHANGE OF COMMAND**

Direct Line

Command Master Chief Anna Wood - Farewell Sigonella

Saluti!
 Sigonella family - my journey in Sicily has come to an end! I wanted take this opportunity to just say THANK YOU to everyone I have worked with and/or met while serving this awesome base. It's been quite an exciting adventure for the past two years and by far has been one of my favorite duty stations for many reasons. This is a unique forward operating base (very similar to the mission set of an aircraft carrier) that has been presented with many challenges over the last several years. From COVID restrictions and travel regulations to real world events like OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE/WELCOME, the flooding with the Medicane and many political events in our Area of Responsibility, this base has worked together to make miracles happen. BUT, it wasn't the operational tempo or the many first-time, high-level events that have made this a favorite job for me--it was the people. It was YOU!

I have met so many outstanding people here and it will be hard to say goodbye, so let's just call it a "see you later."

I started writing personal thank-you's and realized (on page four!) that I really have A LOT of gratitude and appreciation for A LOT of people, lol! So, in the spirit of conservation, I decided to keep it simple.

I was truly blessed to be the Command Master Chief of such an amazing group of leaders: American forces and foreign military, civilian, local nationals, contractor employees and all the wonderful families. I will cherish all of the memories made as we served our community. It has been an amazing ride!

I would like to leave you with some of my thoughts:

1- "Blossom where you are planted." You may have heard this once or twice before, but I want to you to pause and think about it and how it applies to you, whether you are military or not. In life, we are often told where to go, who can go with you, how to dress. Often times, we don't get our first pick for duty stations or work locations. We may not get the title or position once we arrive. We may not even get selected for the collateral duty of our choice. Success isn't a product of the most ideal jobs at the best locations; success is about a positive attitude, taking pride in your work, and blossoming where you are planted.

2- "Be where Chiefs are supposed to be!" Although this says "Chiefs", this can apply to any leader. It is easily understood that we should be present for the celebrations of promotions, reenlistments, awards, etc. Those are awesome events and we SHOULD be there, but we should be present for those tough times too. When our family, friends, and co-workers need us, that is where we are supposed to be. I know most of us would say, "call me at midnight any day and I will be there, just call me!" What I want to stress is that you don't have to wait for a phone call. Get to know your family and your military family and anticipate their struggles and help them through it.

3- "What's your trophy?...And should you change it?" We often associate success with promotions, high evaluations



marks (EP), and "of the Quarter" and officer program selections, etc. These are very proud moments when achieved, but I have witnessed some reactions of members when they are not achieved. Some are disappointed and sad, and some are downright angry and bitter. I ask that you reevaluate why you are doing what you do. Is it only for the trophies listed above? Now, I am not saying to disavow your desires to perform well and not set goals, that's not it at all. I absolutely want you to strive to be the best version of YOU! I also want you to find joy in what you do and find VIRTUOUS trophies that you can fully control--like how you are as a leader, a spouse, a parent. Run the race for quality characteristics like integrity, positive influence, empathy and you will find more joy in winning that trophy!

Special shout out to my family: Al-mazing, Alex, Mikayla, Madison and Melody! You are my true inspiration in life.

Thank you for all your support. Now, on to our next adventure in Virginia Beach!

Speaking of next adventure, I hope our paths cross again. My next duty is the Command Master Chief for the Navy Exchange (NEXCOM) in Virginia Beach, VA. Yes, I will be the voice of the people!!

See you all in the fleet!

I wish you all the best! God Bless!

Fair Winds and Following Seas



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: Kelly Williams

Command: NAS Sigonella

Department: Emergency Management



By MC1 Kegan E. Kay, *NAS Sigonella Public Affairs*

Stationed on a picturesque island with an active volcano offers ample opportunities to hike a variety of unique trails and for Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aircraft Handling) 2nd Kelly Williams, from Bend, Oregon, the chance to hike with his dog and explore some of the best hiking spots across Sicily and Europe is his favorite reason for being stationed here at Naval Air Station Sigonella.

Williams has been onboard for three years and is assigned to the Emergency Management department in the Emergency Operations Center.

"He was a key player during emergency operation center activations during Operation Allies Refuge, the 2021 base flooding, multiple scheduled protests and several unexplored ordinance transportation and disposal events," remarked Logistics Specialist 1st Class Acey Mateo, leading petty officer for emergency management.

When asked about his proudest accomplishment while in the Navy, Williams said Operation Allies Refuge and assisting all the people that came through Sigonella during it.

While emergency management doesn't directly correlate to his rate as an ABH, it does tie in directly to Williams's motivation to serve in the U.S. Navy, "to help those that are unable or unwilling to help themselves."

Williams's main responsibilities are updating and coordinating the mission essential listings and emergency action plans for all of NAS Sigonella and its tenant commands, updating different aspects of the installation's emergency management plan, conducting emergency management related trainings for command duty officers and incident management team members, and talking to new base personnel at command indoctrination regarding

emergency preparedness.

"His leadership and attention to detail in the EOC and as part of the Installation Training Team contributed to an overall score of 93% during the 2022 NAS Sigonella's command assessment of readiness training," added Mateo.

In addition to his normal tasks, Williams also holds several collateral duties such as the departmental career counselor, systems admin, Non-Combatant Evacuation Tracking System site manager and Installation Training Team member.

Despite how busy and the many responsibilities Williams has taken on at work, he has still been to find time to complete his associate's degree in Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle and is now working on his bachelor's degree.

Williams's favorite quote from "The Odyssey" by Homer is "Even his griefs are a joy long after one that remembers all that he wrought and endured."

This quote is a just a reflection of Williams's work ethic and beliefs, as for Williams it is all just part of life in Navy and what being a Sailor is about.

He explains what most people don't know about the Navy is "the amount of humanitarian work and community outreach the Navy, and the other branches as well, do to help not just their local community around the base but in communities across the world."

His stewardship, dedication and leadership are the qualities that drew his command to nominating him as NAS Sigonella's "In the Spotlight" selection.

"His leadership and experience has a made him a strong influence throughout the department and greatly relied upon for all critical tasks," concluded Mateo. "He consistently performs high above his paygrade."



NAMRU 3 HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

By Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Eggan, *NAMRU 3*

Capt. Marshall Monteville was relieved by Capt. Virginia Blackman as commanding officer of Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3), during a Change of Command ceremony held onboard Naval Air Station Sigonella on July 29, 2022.

Capt. William Deniston, commander, Naval Medical Research Center, presided over the ceremony and presented Monteville with the Legion of Merit (gold star in lieu of the third award).

“I have had the great pleasure of working with Capt. Monteville several times during my career. For the last year I have been lucky to have him serve as CO for one of the seven subordinate commands of Navy Medical Research Center. Getting to work with a three-time commanding officer has been reassuring and an honor,” said Deniston. To Capt. Blackman, Deniston stated that “I have no doubt with your background, enthusiasm, and intensity along with the incredible staff at NAMRU-3, that NAMRU-3 will be shaped for the future and will be poised to take on any new challenge.”

Monteville, a native of Honolulu, Hawaii received a bachelor of science degree in Biology and a bachelor of arts degree in Chemistry from Whitworth College in 1991. He received a master of science degree in Microbiology from Oregon State University in 1994, the same year he received a direct commission into the United States Navy. Under the Duty Under Instruction (DUINS) Program, he completed his doctor of philosophy degree in Microbiology at Washington State University in 2003. In addition to NAMRU-3, Monteville has served as the commanding officer for the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2 (NAMRU-2), and the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC).

In 2019, NAMRU-3 moved its headquarters to NAS Sigonella after approximately 75 years in Cairo, Egypt. Monteville credited his staff of Sailors and civilians for overcoming the many challenges associated with the transition and their commitment to continue moving the command’s research mission forward, despite those challenges.

“I thank all of you, and our partners, for collectively continuing to execute our mission of mitigating the threat of infectious disease both globally, and for the joint warfighters. During our transition and with the development of COVID-19 we needed to improvise, adapt, and overcome, and that’s exactly what we did. This team found creative ways to execute the mission and I have continually been impressed with your resiliency and ability to keep the ship afloat during turbulent times. I thank you all for what you do each and every day in the public eye, or behind the scene, to make NAMRU-3 a story of success.”

Monteville has served as the commanding officer of NAMRU-3 since July 2019. Monteville’s command tour at NAMRU-3 strengthened strategic partnerships and led to the resurgence of research projects throughout eight Command priority countries in Africa. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his command’s unique skillsets proved to be a center of gravity in supporting U.S. Naval Forces Africa and U.S. Naval Forces Europe’s COVID-19 posture. NAMRU-3 deployed multiple active duty staff to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, to establish and operate the deployed risk reduction program in the Horn of Africa, developing a testing program in support of Operation Octave Quartz force movements. Additionally, they provided integral team members to support evacuees from Afghanistan during Operation Allies Refuge onboard NAS Sigonella.

Blackman is originally from rural upstate New York and was commissioned in 1995 through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship program upon graduation from Georgetown University, Washington, DC. She holds a master of science and a doctor of philosophy degree in Critical Care and Trauma Nursing from the University of California-San Francisco. She comes to NAMRU-3 from NAMRU-2, where she served as executive officer since 2020.

Blackman highlighted the storied history of NAMRU-3, thanked friends and family that joined the ceremony, and said she looked forward to being a part of the NAMRU-3 team, and helping to write the next chapter of its contributions.

“We build our greatest successes through partnerships and teamwork, and strong teams are built on strong relationships. As I join the NAMRU-3 team, I look forward to continuing to build on the strong relationships that already exist, and working with you to develop new partnerships,” said Blackman. “I am truly excited to be here and be part of this mission.”

NAMRU-3, a command under the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, is headquartered on NAS Sigonella with research detachments in Accra, Ghana, and Cairo, Egypt, and a forward deployed laboratory on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. NAMRU-3’s mission is to study, monitor, and detect emerging biological threats of military and public health importance, and develop mitigation strategies, in partnership with host nations, as well as international and U.S. agencies throughout U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) and U.S. European Command (USEUCOM).

For more news from NAMRU-3 follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/USNAMRU3>.



Rear Adm. Collins Visits NAS Sigonella



Italian News

August Festivals in Sicily

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

Medieval Festival in Motta (Aug. 9/13)

Bring the whole family for a trip back in time! The Motta Feste Medievali (Medieval Festivals) bring to life the customs and spirit of the Middle Ages. Travel back in time to revel in the atmosphere of medieval Sicily when this sunny island was under the Norman, Spanish and Muslim rules! Every summer, Motta is turned into a medieval village to honor an old tradition celebrating its past.

The festivals take place within the three city Rioni (districts): Panzera (located along via Vittorio Emanuele and around piazza Umberto, southern part of the town), Vecchia Matrice, (castle area) and Giovani Maestri (upper part of Motta).

Each district has its own proud tradition and schedule of events that include medieval plays and performances. This year's festival runs from Aug. 9 - 17 featuring a plethora of events such as medieval cooking, craft displays, music, jousting, jesters, minstrels and other street entertainers.

For more information and detailed schedules visit the following websites: <https://www.facebook.com/sbandieratori.rionegioanimaestri>

<https://www.facebook.com/festemedievalicasanormanna>

<https://www.facebook.com/rionepanzera>

Norman Palio in Piazza Armerina (Aug. 12/13/14)

Since 1952, Piazza Armerina, an enchanting town in the Enna province, has been hosting the oldest medieval festival in Southern Italy, which takes place every year from Aug. 12-14 to pay tribute to Madonna Maria SS. Delle Vittorie, the town's patroness saint. The event features a spectacular reenactment of the 1060 conquering of Sicily by the Normans led by King Roger of Altavilla which ended 150 years of Arab rule on the island. At the end of the event, the whole procession parades through the main streets, triumphantly displaying the city flag along with its winners. The prize given to the winning District is actually the Banner of the Madonna. Highlights include spectacular jousting, period costume parades and medieval banqueting. The big highlight of this year's celebration will be the presence of American actor Ronn Moss who is famous of his iconic role that he portrayed for 25 years of Ridge Forrester for the CBS Daytime drama, "The Bold And The Beautiful." Moss will be taking part in the historic parade dressed as King Roger. For more information and detailed schedules visit <https://www.facebook.com/paliodeinormannipiazzaarmerina>

Onion Festival in Giarratana (Aug. 14)

Here is a great chance for you to sample the savory sweet



Medieval Jousting is among the highlights of the Piazza Armerina Palio dei Normanni, a must-see mid-August medieval festival that is one of the several exciting, family-fun events held in Sicily during month of August. This year, American actor Ronn Moss will take part in the parade impersonating medieval King Roger. (Photo by Piazza Armerina Tourism Chairman Ettore Messina)

Giarratana onion that can weigh up to nine pounds! The annual Sagra della Cipolla (Onion's Festival) takes place on Aug. 14 in the town's historic heart. Festival goers will get a chance to try this tasty bulb the way the Sicilians do and have some local vino. In this beautiful town of the Ragusa province, onions are usually grilled and dressed with oil, salt and vinegar. Onions are also used to stuff the scacce (sandwiches of pizza crust folded over spinach, ricotta cheese, broccoli, tomatoes or eggplants) or just to make fresh salads. For the ones with a sweet tooth, there is also the torrone bianco (Sicilian variety of nougat with pistachios and almonds), another local specialty. An amazing fireworks show will end the festival. For more info visit, <https://www.facebook.com/comunedigiarratana>

A "Vara" Feast of the Assumption in Randazzo (Aug. 15)

On Aug. 15, the community of Randazzo will pay homage to its co-patron saint, Maria SS. Assunta (Our Lady of the Assumption), through a spectacular religious festival. The highlight of the celebrations is the afternoon "Vara" parade. The Vara is a majestic three-tiered allegoric 65-foot-tall float depicting the dogmas relating to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It carries about 30 boys and girls dressed as angels, saints and the Holy Family, and is held in the historic center. This Festa dates back to the 16th century. The parade, which starts around 3:30 p.m., leaves from the back of the Chiesa Madre (Main Church) located in piazza della Basilica. For more information contact visit <https://www.facebook.com/comunedirandazzo>

Summer Festival of St. Agata in Catania (Aug. 17)

The Catania Dioceses gave the green light for the celebration of the summer edition of the St. Agata Festival that will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 17. The summer festival (held in February) is a low-key version of the breathtaking three-day festival, whose origin dates back to 1519. Even though it's a smaller festival, the event nevertheless draws thousands of devotees and tourists of all ages who swarm the streets of the historic center to pay tribute to their beloved patroness and see the procession of its relics which starts around 8:30 p.m. The summer festival remembers the return from Turkey of the Saint's relics that took place on the night of Aug. 17, 1126. According to an ancient tradition, Saint Agata is considered a "salvatrice" (savior) because she has 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) stopped two particularly 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.

St. Conrad Festival in Noto (Aug 28)

The annual "Festa di San Corrado" or St. Conrad Festival will return to Noto on Sunday, Aug. 28. Noto is one of the most beautiful Baroque towns in Sicily. The town is part of UNESCO World Heritage List. The summer feast honoring St. Conrad is one of the four traditional yearly celebrations celebrating the town's patron saint. St. Conrad has been venerated in Noto since the 16th century. In 1515, Pope Leo X permitted the town of Noto to annually celebrate a San Corrado festival on the anniversary of his death. Hundred and fifteen years later, Pope Urban VIII proclaimed him a saint.

The strong devotion and gratitude shown to San Corrado by the Noto community is due to the intercessions that he granted them on several occasions throughout the centuries.

One of them concerns the miracle that San Corrado worked in 1855 when Noto residents summoned him to protect the town against a deadly cholera epidemic. According to tradition, San Corrado interceded and the city was spared by the illness. Tradition also holds that, in 1943, World War II bombings spared Noto as granted through the intercession of San Corrado. The mayor of the time also promised he would offer a candle every year to thank him.

According to legend, Corrado Confalonieri, a wealthy aristocrat, was born in Piacenza in 1290. Corrado loved hunting but one day in 1313, an episode changed his life. During his usual pastime, Corrado ordered his attendants to set fire to some bushes to flush out game. A prevailing wind caused the flames to spread rapidly, devastating nearby fields, forests, towns and villages. Corrado fled panicking. An innocent peasant was accused of being the arsonist. Thus, he was tortured to confess a crime he did not commit, and eventually he was sentenced to death. As the poor man was

ready to be executed, Conrad was stricken with remorse and confessed his guilt, saving the poor man's life. Because of his noble origins, Corrado was spared the death penalty, but he had to sell all his possessions to pay off the damaged property. Thus, Corrado became poor and retired as a Franciscan monk to a lonely hermitage near Piacenza, while his wife entered the Order of Poor Clares. Later, he went to Rome to meet with the Pope and eventually to Sicily. There, he settled in the Noto Valley where he led a penitential life for thirty years, using a cave for meditation.

According to tradition, Corrado worked several miracles during his long hermitage. A legend tells that the most famous miracle occurred when the Siracusa Bishop visited Corrado in his humble home. When the bishop asked Corrado if he had anything to offer to his guests, the hermit replied he would check in his cell.

Right after, he came back bringing some fresh bread out of the oven. Therefore, the bishop became convinced that Corrado was a saint.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, the Festival starts with a solemn Holy Mass celebrated by the Noto Bishop at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral. Later, in the evening, the Arca, a silver urn containing the saint remains, is carried shoulder-high along the streets of Noto historic center. The procession begins at 7 p.m. from the Cathedral and proceeds throughout the historic heart of the city until the Crocifisso Church. A spectacular firework with music show will be held in piazza Municipio around 10 p.m.

The magnificent Arca is a priceless piece of art Giovanni Manuella, a Sicilian architect, designed in 1525. Throughout the centuries, several generations of Sicilian goldsmiths and silversmiths added fine decorations to the original model. The urn was eventually completed in 1848. The Arca is 6.2 feet tall and 24 inches wide. It weighs 880 pounds. It contains the saint's body and it is usually kept inside the Noto cathedral. After the 1990 earthquake, the Arca was moved to the nearby Church of San Carlo al Corso as the cathedral was damaged by the tremors. It will be preserved there until the cathedral is restored. Members from the local Confraternite (Confraternities) bring the traditional Cili and banners in procession while they are dressed in traditional costumes. A continuous stream of more than 4,000 people follow the procession. Cili are decorated iron bowls supported by a tall wooden stick, which contains a candle. They have been symbolizing the devotion shown to the saint after the fulfillment of a vow or pledge since the 1500s. Some fervent devotees still perform the traditional Viaggio Scausu or "Barefoot Itinerary" both on the night before the festival and during the procession. As real proof of devotion and physical resistance, it consists of following the main procession barefoot and walking for miles from the surrounding towns to the cathedral. Some residents, leaving from the surrounding cities, walk up to 15 miles to reach Noto and take part in the procession. For more information, visit <http://www.comune.noto.sr.it/>

NAVSUP, mission partners in Europe support Kearsarge ARG'S logistics and maintenance periods

By Joe Yanik, *NAVSUP FLC Sigonella Public Affairs* and photo by MC1 John Bellino, *USS Kearsarge (LHD 3)*

Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella's (NAVSUP FLCSI) logisticians and contracting specialists, along with their mission partners, coordinated the maintenance scheduling and procurement and delivery of repair parts for several ships assigned to the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), in July 2022.

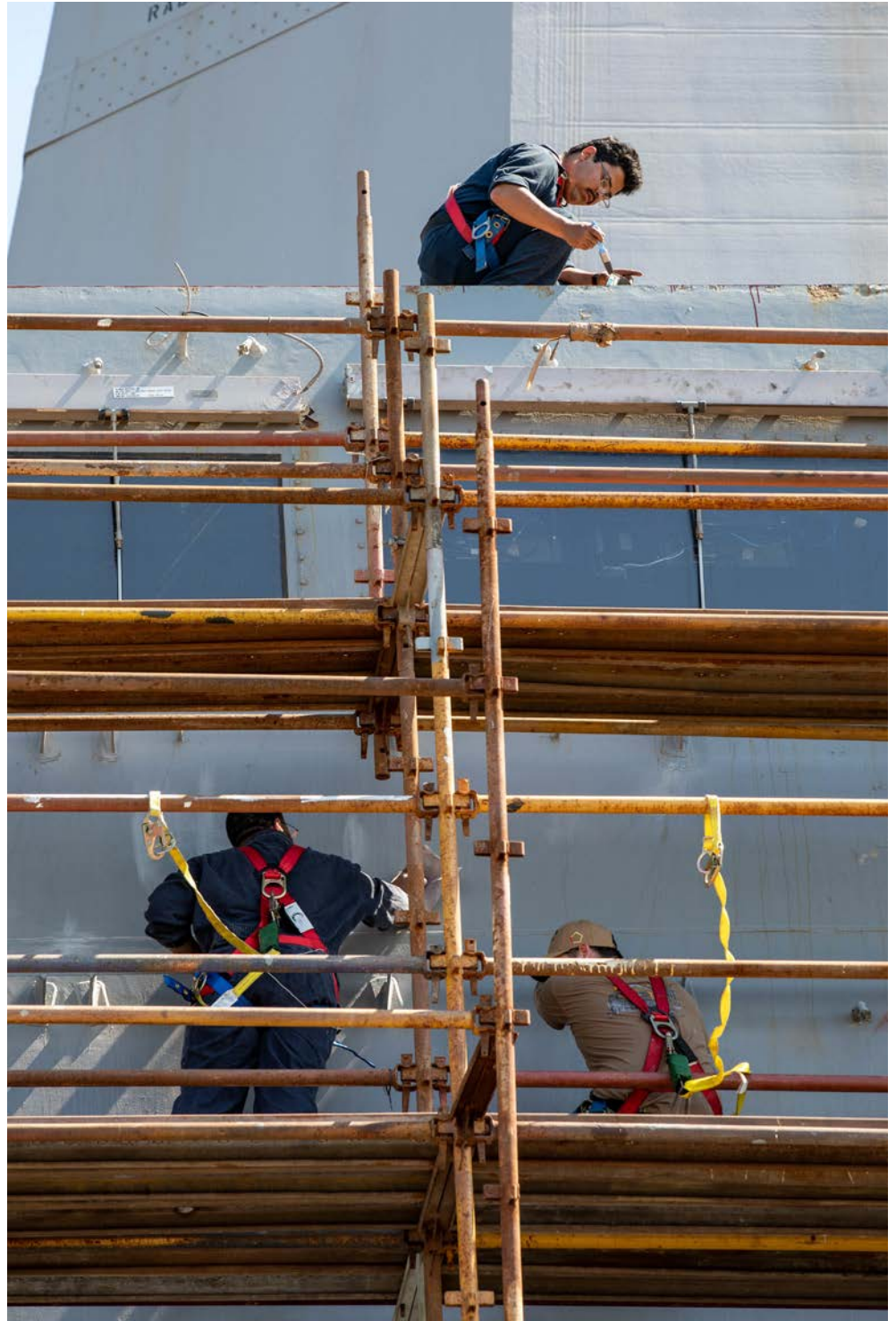
The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) completed a logistics and maintenance period in Brest, France, while Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) and San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS Arlington (LPD 24) underwent mid-deployment voyage repair (MDVR) periods in Copenhagen, Denmark and Rijeka, Croatia, respectively.

An MDVR is a maintenance period that allows U.S. ships to complete corrective and preventative maintenance that cannot be accomplished at sea. MDVRs involve performing repairs so that ships remains fully mission capable throughout their deployment.

In preparation for Gunston Hall's and Arlington's MDVRs, NAVSUP FLCSI's Ship Repair Division (Code 200) procured repair parts that were critical to ensuring the on-time completion of the maintenance efforts conducted for the ships. A part of the command's contracting department (Code 200), the Ship Repair Division's mission is to support repairs for ships that are homeported in, and currently deployed to, the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations.

"Successfully procuring repair parts and services for the MDVRs was the result of the close working relationship between NAVSUP FLCSI's Ship Repair Division and Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center, our key mission partner while supporting ship maintenance periods," said Marie Hahn, NAVSUP FLCSI's Ship Repair Division director.

The process of procuring ship repair parts and hiring expert ship maintainers begins when Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) develops a requirement in



conjunction with the ship's needs, and then sends it to Hahn.

Hahn's team ensures the packages include the necessary documentation and develops the solicitation so industry can respond to the requirement.

"After we receive quotes from industry, my team and our FDRMC mission partners evaluate the proposal and

create the necessary documentation to facilitate an award,” Hahn said. “Subsequently, our team awards the contract to the vendor who meet the requirements outlined in the solicitation. This collaborative ‘behind the scenes’ effort of awarding contracts is the vital first step to getting industry mission partners involved so the repairs and maintenance can be performed successfully.”

While undergoing maintenance and repairs, Arlington, Gunston Hall and Kearsarge also received mail, provisions and mission-related cargo. To ensure these materials were delivered and loaded onto the ships on schedule, NAVSUP FLCSI deployed logistics support representatives (LSRs) and a transportation officer (TO) to establish an on-site presence at each port. These personnel engaged directly with the ships’ supply departments and host nation representatives to ensure the timely and effective delivery of material.

Charles Tanner is a NAVSUP FLCSI logistics support officer who supported Arlington’s crew in Rijeka, Croatia.

“LSRs must have a deep knowledge of ship movements in and out of the theater, as well as having firsthand knowledge of all of U.S. Sixth Fleet points of contact,” Tanner said. “This knowledge proves invaluable in getting timely answers to questions from the ships’ supply teams or from any of our mission partners. Personal interaction with the ship’s supply team, in particular, increases the comfort factor that the support is happening correctly.”

NAVSUP FLCSI also supported resupplying the ships from strategic locations in the United Kingdom and Italy. The command’s regional postal and transportation teams at NAVSUP FLCSI’s Sites Crombie, Scotland, and Sigonella, Sicily, moved a total of 66,000 pounds of mail to personnel aboard all three ships.

The geographic diversity and near-simultaneous nature of the three maintenance periods presented the NAVSUP FLCSI team with an opportunity to test their capabilities in supporting units and personnel throughout the U.S. Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) area of operations.

“Our ability to support the ARG’s logistics and maintenance requirements at various strategic locations across USNAVEUR attests to NAVSUP’s agility and expertise in delivering readiness to the Fleet where and when our Warfighters need it,” said Capt. Douglas S. MacKenzie, NAVSUP FLCSI commanding officer.

NAVSUP FLCSI supported the ships’ maintenance periods in cooperation and coordination with its U.S. and allied mission partners. Successfully performing customs clearance actions are a prime example of such coordination.

To facilitate movement of cargo and mail within or throughout the European theater, the command’s LSRs and TOs are skilled in screening the cargo manifest for any high priority parts and consumable items needed for ship repairs. Customs procedures may change on a daily basis, so they must have a fluent understanding of customs clearance processes, rules and documentation in order to ensure the materials in transit comply with the customs regulations of countries through which the materials pass.

“Our host nation partners provide indispensable knowledge of local customs laws and regulations allowing for speedy customs clearance for both inbound and outbound movements,” said Alan Wilkinson, NAVSUP FLCSI transportation manager who supported Kearsarge in Brest, France. “Having boots on the ground allows me to bolster and create new relationships with local customs offices and military officials, strengthening the ties between our countries.”

Besides FDRMC and the ships’ supply teams, NAVSUP FLCSI’s mission partners for ships’ logistics maintenance periods include Command Task Force 63, aircraft loadmasters, warehouse cargo loaders and air traffic control personnel.

“Our U.S. and Allied logistics partners play a key role in how U.S. Navy and Marine Corps-sponsored cargo move throughout the USNAVEUR area of operations,” Wilkinson said. “They schedule flight and truck movements bringing supplies, mail, and food to any location necessary.”

The sustained support of NAVSUP FLCSI, FDRMC and ship’s force, working alongside various U.S. interagency and Allied partners, ensured the success of these maintenance periods. The ability to conduct multiple maintenance availabilities and MDVRs throughout the European theater is a testament to the capability and capacity that this combined team brings to NAVEUR and to the Navy-Marine Corps team. It also sets the stage for continued refinement and improvement in maintenance and logistics support.

Kearsarge ARG is under the command and control of Task Force 61/2. Embarked commands with the ARG include Amphibious Squadron SIX, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Fleet Surgical Team 2, Fleet Surgical Team 4, Tactical Air Control Squadron 22, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28, Assault Craft Unit 2, Assault Craft Unit 4, Naval Beach Group 2, and Beach Master Unit 2.

The Kearsarge ARG and embarked 22nd MEU has been operating and participating in bilateral exercises throughout Europe and Africa. During Hedgehog 22, BALTOPS22 and NATO vigilance activity Neptune Shield 22, ARG ships conducted port visits in Tromsø, Norway; Helsinki, Finland; Tallinn, Estonia; and Stockholm, Sweden. Arlington has also participated in exercises with Greece, Turkey and North African countries in support of Alexander the Great, EFES, and African Lion, respectively.

FDRMC is a field activity of Naval Sea Systems Command and was established to provide emergent, intermediate and depot-level maintenance and modernization support for U.S. Navy ships throughout U.S. Fifth and Sixth Fleet areas of responsibilities.

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.

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A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.



Based upon "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and
"Through the Looking Glass" by Lewis Carroll

Music by
David W. Simmons

Lyrics by
Lewis Carroll,
William Shakespeare and
David W. Simmons

Staging by
Don Kukla

Audition

August 8, 2022 | 10 am - 12 pm

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