Vol. 39 No. 20

The

<u>opolline</u>

MCPON VISITS NAS SIGONELLA

Pages 6 -7

ST. BARBARA FESTIVAL RETURNS TO PATERNO DECA NEWS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Direct Line A Proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month, 2022

During National Native American Heritage Month, we celebrate Indigenous peoples past and present and rededicate ourselves to honoring Tribal sovereignty, promoting Tribal self-determination, and upholding the United States' solemn trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations.

America has not always delivered on its promise of equal dignity and respect for Native Americans. For centuries, broken treaties, dispossession of ancestral lands, and policies of assimilation and termination sought to decimate Native populations and their ways of life. But despite this painful history, Indigenous peoples, their governments, and their communities have persevered and flourished. As teachers and scholars, scientists and doctors, writers and artists, business leaders and elected officials, heroes in uniform, and so much more, they have made immeasurable contributions to our country's progress.

We must do more to ensure that Native Americans have every opportunity to succeed and that their expertise informs our Federal policy-making. That is why my Administration is engaging in meaningful consultation with Tribal leaders, particularly when it comes to treaty rights, reserved rights, management and stewardship of Federal lands, consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, and other policies that affect Native peoples. That is also why I appointed Secretary Deb Haaland to be the first-ever Native American Cabinet Secretary, and why more than 50 Native Americans now serve in significant roles across the executive branch.

Meanwhile, we are creating new jobs in Native American communities and bolstering infrastructure in Tribal areas. My Administration's American Rescue plan made the largest-ever investment in Indian Country to help Tribal Nations combat the COVID-19 pandemic and to support Tribal economic recovery. My Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law secured more than \$13 billion exclusively for Native communities to deliver high-speed internet to Tribal lands, build safer roads and bridges, modernize sanitation systems, and provide clean drinking water — all while putting people to work. Through the Inflation Reduction Act, we are lowering the price of health care coverage and capping drug costs for Indigenous families. We are empowering Tribes to fight drought, improve fisheries, and transition to clean energy as part of the most significant climate investment this Nation has ever made. Those investments include climate adaptation planning and community-led relocation efforts, funding a Tribal Electrification Program to provide power to unelectrified homes, making Environmental Justice Block Grants available to help alleviate legacy pollution, bolstering conservation programs across the country, and restoring protections for treasured lands that Indigenous peoples have tirelessly stewarded, such as Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

We are also helping Native communities heal from intergenerational trauma caused by past policies. Last year, the Department of the Interior launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to shed light on the harmful history of forced cultural assimilation at these academic institutions. We are investing in Tribal language revitalization, protecting Tribal voting rights, and working with Tribal partners to tackle the crisis of missing or murdered Indigenous people.

As we look ahead, my Administration will continue to write a new and better chapter in the story of our Nation-to-Nation relationships. We will defend Tribal sovereignty, self-government, self-determination, and the homelands of Tribal Nations. We will support Tribal economies, recognizing that Tribal governments provide a vast array of physical infrastructure, social services, and good-paying jobs that benefit their citizens and surrounding communities. We will keep fighting for better health care, child care, education, and housing in Tribal communities. We will always honor the profound impact Native Americans continue to have in shaping our Nation and bringing us closer to the more perfect Union we know we can and must be.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2022 as National Native American Heritage Month. I urge all Americans, as well as their elected representatives at the Federal, State, and local levels, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to celebrate November 25, 2022, as Native American Heritage Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR. President of the United States of America

October 17, 2022

Interactive Customer Evaluation

Comment Regarding Speeding:

Is it possible to get more security posted on Halsey road before and after school? The cars that drive down that road are driving very fast and many are not stopping for people in the crosswalks. Children, parents and teachers walk down this road daily and someone is going to get hurt. Perhaps even a speed sign to remind people that the speed limit is 20 kmph. Also, can the crosswalks be repainted? They are very dull and hard to see. Thank you!

Response:

Security regularly has personnel posted at the 4-way during peak school loading/unloading hours and plans to increase their safety presence to include usage of the speed sign. 1st LT division has been notified about the crosswalk condition and added it to their work order queue.

Comment Regarding 205:

The streets at 205 housing are in poor condition and continuing to get worse. My car did not have suspension issues until I moved into 205 then issues occurred due to the treacherous terrain that are the streets. The streets need paved properly just have they are on marinai.

Response:

205 is not managed by NAS Sigonella Housing Department or any other department on NAS Sigonella.

Comment Regarding Waiting at Front Desk

Waited for over 15 minutes just to be seen by a front desk employee. I was the only one in the office at the time just no employees bothered to be at the front desk.

Response:

We've notified Security of the issue but without amplifying information, we cannot pinpoint the issue to resolve it. Make sure to include the "who, what, when, where & why". Also, you can leave your name and contact information in ICE complaints for a response from management confirming your issue was correctly addressed.

Comment Regarding Reckless Driving:

This morning while commuting to NAS 2 from motta at approximately 0700 the ******* with plate number ****** was recklessly driving, speeding passing in blind curves, and following too closely. After arriving on NAS 2 the sailor was confronted but did not want to provide his chain of command nor his name and disobediently continued to the flight line.

Response:

The Sailor was reprimanded and counseled for their actions yet it is possible for more to be done. Reminder that when reporting reckless driving to ICE or Security department, you can leave your name and contact information for Security to follow up and file an official report.

Remember to drive safe and be respectful of other drivers. Driving is a privilege, not a right!

Comment Regarding MVRO:

The system is nowadays terribly terrible. Too long and too complicated, we reach this point that now, it is easier to buy a weapon than a car. Honestly it makes everybody's life miserable, and I am wondering who like all these bureaucratic procedures when they can be easily avoid.

Response:

The process set up for purchasing a car in Italy are dictated by the local magistrate. While we appreciate any advice on improving our MVRO process, we'd like to remind the Sigonella community that it is the city of Catania that dictates the bureaucratic process of vehicle registration with them. We can help as best as we can but we also must respect host nation laws and regulations.

Bravo Zulu

BZ to Senior Chief Aldrich, Post Office:

We'd like to thank Senior Chief for his services at the post office. It was visibly hectic before. Under his tutelage, it has progressively gotten better. We enjoy his company and services during our visits to NAS II for pick up. Thank you Senior for the help.

BZ to Galley

I appreciate the many options available to me to decide day-to-day which foods I would like to enjoy.

My experience at the Galley is always a positive one. Many enjoyable food options for me and courteous staff. I had a brief encounter with CSSC McClair who was understanding of my inquiry/need and professional in providing me with the direction I was seeking. I look forward to dining there for the upcoming holiday meal.

BZ to Melissa, Bowling Alley

I just want to give a shout out to Melissa, the bowling center manager. We had a party planned at Midtown Theaters, and the day of the party no one showed up at the theater to open it for a party. We had to scramble at the last minute to accommodate ourguests who had already arrived. Melissa helped us out so much by allowing us three lanes to bowl and she accommodated our party without skipping a beat. We were so so grateful and we could not thank her enough. I hope she receives the recognition that she deserves.

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.



By MC1 Josh Coté, NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

Most of the people who work on Naval Air Station Sigonella put in a couple of years before they rotate out for new people. What many don't see are the locals who have worked at Sigonella for years to keep everything running smoothly throughout all these transitions.

For the Motor Vehicle Registration Office at Sigonella, that person is Antonina Cuscuna, known to most as Nuccia. Nuccia has been working on base for almost 27 years. She initially started back in the 1980s as a fill-in for someone on maternity leave. She worked for almost two years before she left for a 10 year hiatus from NAS Sigonella. When the then director of MVRO had a spot open up, they reached out to Nuccia, familiar with the type of work she did, and she has been here ever since.

For most people, when they think of MVRO, all they think of is registering their cars, but there is a lot more that goes on in a day's work of an employee there.

"With customers we deal with vehicle registration mostly," said Nuccia. "Registering a vehicle isn't just putting the info into the computers. We also assist people who want to buy a vehicle from a local national and not just locally here in Sicily. We help with customers also buying vehicles in Italy such as Rome. On top of that we work with the Carabinieri dealing with lost or stolen plates and stolen vehicles. We also assist with vehicle disposal for cars that have been in accidents." No matter who is in charge at MVRO, Nuccia always stands out in a positive light.

"Nuccia is an exceptional hard working person who always displays a positive attitude towards her duties as an MVRO clerk," said Chief Master-at-Arms John Vautour, leading chief petty officer of MVRO. "She cares deeply about the mission and the personnel she serves on a daily basis whether it be by email, phone call, or in person. Nuccia goes above and beyond to help all customers registering, denationalizing vehicles, or simply assisting them with any other needs they may have from MVRO. She always shows the utmost respect to everyone and is extremely knowledgeable when it comes to the performance of her duties. Nuccia is without a doubt a great asset to the entire Sigonella community."

While Nuccia is not at work she takes full advantage of her time off, whether it is enjoying some time in the pool or spending time with family.

"Twice a week I like to spend time in the swimming pool," said Nuccia. "I also enjoy taking care of my family, because I have a very big family. I have three daughters, now they are old enough to live on their own but they still live close to me."

Another one of Nuccia's hobbies is traveling; she has not been able to travel for a while now but finally has a trip to Budapest for the upcoming long weekend. One of her last trip was to England, which is one of her favorite places to travel to here in Europe.

October 17, 2022

DeCA News for

New, Lower Prices – Worldwide

By Kevin L. Robinson, DeCA public affairs specialist Just in time for the holidays, commissary customers worldwide are now seeing new lower prices on popular items across store inventories to help them achieve at least 25 percent savings compared to off-post grocers.

The price reductions also include an updated version of the "Your Everyday Savings" (YES!) Program, which now also goes to overseas customers. DeCA is broadening price reductions thanks to the Department of Defense's recent "Taking Care of Service Members and Families" initiative.

DOD's increase of commissary funding allows the agency to reduce prices across its product assortment, especially on food staples such as milk, eggs, butter, ground beef, baby products and more, said DeCA Director and CEO Bill Moore.

"We're slashing prices on the items that families need every day and increasing their overall commissary savings across the enterprise to at least 25 percent against commercial stores outside the gate," he said. "With these savings, we're improving the economic security of our customers; for example, they can save at least \$50 on a \$200 grocery bill if, and only if, they shop their commissary."

Blue signage points the way to lower prices throughout the store, while orange signs highlight specific savings on core items that commercial retailers often reduce through periodic sales promotions. The price on YES! items in the commissary are on sale over the course of the year.

As commissaries lower their prices, it's vital that all eligible patrons are aware of their benefit and its gateway to savings and healthy options, said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director.

"A lot of people don't really understand that the commissary benefit is congressionally mandated and regulated by the National Defense Authorization Act," Saucedo said. "I run into people every day – disabled veterans and active duty service members alike – who just don't know that they have earned these savings.

"My job as the director's senior enlisted advisor is to help promote benefit awareness, and that's critical, especially now for our younger service members and their families," he added. "They're experiencing the challenges of inflation, and the commissaries' savings are a great way to help these families out."

With the approaching holidays, DeCA continues to execute a transformation game plan to lower prices on the items that matter most, improve a supply chain still beset with tremendous labor challenges and improve customer service.

"It's a vitally important benefit, probably more important now than ever in these days of unprecedented inflation," Moore said. "Getting this benefit as good as we can get it, enabling as much savings as resources allow is vitally important for our patrons as they deal with food and economic insecurities.

he Community

Mobile App Gives Shoppers Convenient Access to Commissary CLICK2GO, Sales Flyer, Recipes and More

By DeCA Corporate Communications

Customers can now download a mobile app to access the Defense Commissary Agency's (DeCA) website programs such as Commissary CLICK2GO online payment and curbside pickup, digital coupons, the sales flyer, dietitian-approved recipes and much more.

Available free for download via the Google Play and Apple app stores for Android and Apple devices respectively, the mobile app gives commissary shoppers access to a variety of DeCA's online functions on their smart phones and tablets.

"We've tested our mobile app for several months and received good reviews on its ability to connect users with many of the agency's popular website programs," said Willie Watkins, the Defense Commissary Agency's director of eCommerce. "Now through these apps, our patrons have more convenience and flexibility when they use their commissary benefit."

DeCA's mobile app will allow customers easy access to online functions like the following on DeCA's website, https:// commissaries.com:

• One-click access to Commissary CLICK2GO online ordering and payment features (account information, order history with saved items and lists, digital receipts and more)

• Healthy Living resources such as "Thinking Outside the Box" recipes, nutritional information on healthier living, product dietitian-approved recipes listed on the website's meal solutions page and more

• Savings Center for the Commissary Sale Flyer, information on Commissary Store Brands, digital coupons on the Commissary Rewards Card and more

"A lot of commissary customers love the convenience of using online features to boost their physical shopping experience," Watkins said. "And, with our mobile app, they have even more options at their fingertips – wherever they are – with their personal devices."



The Signature

James M. Honea Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy







The Signature

Italian News Saint Barbara Festival Returns to Paternò After Pandemic Hiatus (Dec. 3-5)

By Dr. Alberto Lunetta, NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

The annual Santa Barbara Festival (Festa di Santa Barbara) is back to Paternò in all its splendor from December 3 through 5, after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Festa will be again featuring its full schedule of religious processions, solemn holy masses, arts and crafts and music entertainment.

"May all the ones who will come here to see my relics receive healing through Your grace." This popular prayer, which is dedicated to Paternò beloved patroness Santa Barbara (St. Barbara), explains how important it is to respect and venerate the cult of saints. In the Catholic tradition, saints are indeed petitioned for help and are considered role models. Devotees believe that just touching the human remains of saints and praying in front them will grant them an intercession with God if they'd ever need protection from an illness or to prevent a disaster.

The town's devotion to St. Barbara originated in 1576 when she saved the town from a terrible plague epidemic. Legend has it that St. Barbara had appeared in a dream to a nun promising to save the town if townspeople would proclaim her as the patron saint. The nun disclosed the dream to the community, who hailed her as the Santa Patrona (patroness saint) right away. A few days later, the plague ended, so St. Barbara became the official protector of the Paternò community and a cathedral was constructed to honor her.

According to legend St. Barbara also intervened to stop a terrible Etna eruption in 1780. The "miracle" occurred after Paternò townspeople carried her relics in procession near the town of Ragalna on the slopes of the volcano. St. Barbara is still invoked to grant safety from lightning, thunderstorms, and fires. Since the Middle Age, she has been regarded as the patron saint of those who are in danger of fire or explosions. She is also associated with artillerymen, fire



The Paternò long-standing and traditional religious festival honoring Santa Barbara (Saint Barbara), the town's patron saint, makes a return after the pandemic hiatus from December 3 thru 5. Townspeople and hundreds of tourists look forward the coming of this festa in order to take part in the processions, go to holy masses or simply to watch them from squares and balconies. A vibrant and colorful event, it features religious celebrations live music, arts & crafts, fireworks and entertainment. (Photo by www. paternocultura.it)

fighters and ordnance disposal personnel. Historically her image was placed on arsenals and powder magazines. In Italian, the ammunition magazine on a war ship is still called "Santabarbara."

As reported by Catholic.org, the Spanish word "santabárbara," the corresponding Italian word Santa Barbara, and the obsolete French Sainte-Barbe signify the powder magazine of a ship or fortress. It was customary to have a statue of St. Barbara at the magazine to protect the ship or fortress from suddenly exploding. She is the patron of the Italian Navy.

St. Barbara's Day, December 4, is also celebrated by other military forces across the world including the British (Royal Artillery, RAF Armorers, Royal Engineers), Australian (Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, RAAF Armorers), Canadian (Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians (EOD), Canadian Air Force Armorers, Royal Canadian Artillery, Canadian Military Field

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Engineers, Royal Canadian Navy Weapons Engineering Technicians), New Zealand (RNZAF Armorers, RNZA, RNZN Gunners Branch) armed forces. Additionally, it is celebrated by Irish Defence Forces Artillery Regiments. Norwegian Armed Forces Artillery Battalion, United States Army and Marine Corps Field and Air Defense Artillery, many Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians, and other artillery formations. The units and sub-units celebrate the day with church parades, sports days, guest nights, cocktail parties, dinners and other activities. Several mining institutions also celebrate it, such as some branches of the Australian

Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. The West Australian Mining Club celebrate St. Barbara's Day and use it to remember those people who have died working in the mining industry during the year. Although they do not celebrate her saint's day, she is also the patron saint of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnancemen.

FestivalScheduleHighlights

On December 3, blank cannon shots announce the beginning of the festival at 8 a.m. Then, 30 minutes later, the relics on the saint are put on public display. A parade of the local civilian and military authorities, which is traditionally attended by a Naval Air Station Sigonella delegation as well, leaves from piazza della Regione to piazza Barbara where there will be a wreath-laying ceremony honoring the fallen of all wars.

A solemn Holy Mass is celebrated at 11 a.m. by an Italian Navy chaplain. In the evening, the holy procession featuring the saint's relics kicks off at 7 p.m. leaving from the Chiesa Matrice (the one located on the hill near the Norman castle) and reaching piazza. S. Barbara.

Later, a children's choir will sing traditional religious chants (Cantate delle corporazioni cittadine) by the "Mulinari" and "Muratori" religious clubs in piazza Indipendenza at 9 p.m. A firework and music show will follow at the end of the celebrations. The highlight of the festival is on December 4. Celebrations will begin early in the morning with 21 cannon shots and bell ringing at dawn. Later, the statue depicting the saint and her holy relics will be unveiled at 7:30 a.m. (Svelata del Simulacro di S. Barbara). Later at 10 a.m., the statue depicting the saint will be carried out in procession throughout the town center, among bell rings and a spectacular fireworks' show, leaving from via S. Caterina and reaching the Church of Idria (Uscita del Simulacro e delle Reliquie di S. Barbara).

At 12:30 p.m., the fercolo (carriage carrying the reliquary and the statue) will make its triumphant entry in piazza Vittorio Veneto. After that, an amazing firework show will be performed in piazza Vittorio Veneto.

In the afternoon at 5 p.m., the holy relics of the saint will be brought in procession throughout the historic center for several hours. The procession will leave from the Church of St. Antonio Abate and reaches piazza S. Barbara. A firework show will be performed at the end of this procession in front of the Church of St. Biagio.

At 11:30 p.m., a spectacular fireworks show will take place in piazza Santa Barbara. The carriage of the saint will return to its church.

On the last day of the festival (December 5), at 11 a.m., the Catania Archbishop Luigi Renna will celebrate a solemn holy mass at the church of Saint Barbara.

In the afternoon at 5 p.m., the saint relics will again be carried on the devotees 'shoulders throughout the town's historic heart. A group of about ten varette (baroque styled carts containing a tall wax candle (cerei) decorated with lights, small flags and statues depicting angels, saints and flowers) will join the procession around 9:30 p.m.

Around midnight, the afternoon procession will return to the Church of St. Barbara and breathtaking fireworks show by the medieval castle will then end the festival.

Formoreinformation and detailed schedule visit www.parrocchiasantabarbara.org

NAVAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND

FLEET LOGISTICS CENTER SIGONELLA



Obtain the appropriate customs declaration forms using the convenient online methods below:

 USPS Customs Forms <u>https://www.usps.com/interna</u> <u>tional/customs-forms.htm</u>

USPS partner systems (e.g. Stamps.com, pirateship.com)

PS Form 2976-R, Customs Declaration and Dispatch Note.

Click <u>here</u> to view tips for packaging and a list of prohibited items. Or go here: <u>https://youtu.be/61URFM2JVGo</u>

Contact your installation's post office for more information about sending and receiving your holiday mail.

The Signature

2022 Recommended Holiday Mailing Dates

November 8, 2022

USNAVEUR/AF military postal service customer,

Below are our recommended "not-later-than" mailing dates for shipping inbound and outbound holiday mail for this upcoming holiday season.

The recommended dates are tailored to each location, based on current mail transit times and anticipated increase of holiday mail volume.

	RETAIL	PRIORITY &
INSTALLATION	<u>GROUND</u>	FIRST CLASS
ATHENS- 09241	19 NOV 22	09 DEC 22
NSA SOUDA BAY - 09266	19 NOV 22	06 DEC 22
U.S. EMBASSY ROME - 09608	19 NOV 22	06 DEC 22
NSA GAETA - 09609	19 NOV 22	06 DEC 22
*SUPP SITE NAPLES - 09618	19 NOV 22	06 DEC 22
JFC NAPLES - 09620	19 NOV 22	06 DEC 22
*NSA NAPLES (CAPO) - 09622	19 NOV 22	06 DEC 22
NAS 1 SIGONELLA - 09623	19 NOV 22	02 DEC 22
NAS 2 SIGONELLA – 09627	19 NOV 22	02 DEC 22
*NAVSTA ROTA – 09645	19 NOV 22	09 DEC 22
NSE VALENCIA – 09648	19 NOV 22	09 DEC 22
NSE MADRID – 09649	19 NOV 22	09 DEC 22
NSF DEVESELU – 09712	19 NOV 22	02 DEC 22
NSE LISBON – 09729	19 NOV 22	09 DEC 22
NSF REDZIKOWO - 09761	19 NOV 22	02 DEC 22
CLDJ DJIBOUTI – 09902	19 NOV 22	02 DEC 22

* Asterisked locations offer Express Mail (PMEMS) service. The recommended mailing date for this service is not later than 12 DEC 22.

Customers may view alternate "USPS" recommended mailing dates at :

https://about.usps.com/newsroom/nationalreleases/2022/1006-usps-announces-holiday-mailingdeadlines.htm



Fingers crossed on bring home another Capt. Edward F. Ney Award! Best of luck to our Ristorante Bella Etna Galley!



TITLED SPONSOR



DEC 2 TREE LIGHTING 4:30-7 PM

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Holiday Carols by School Students • Holiday Train Ride • Hot Chocolate • Roasted Chestnuts Letters to Santa • A Christmas Market and an appearance from Santa & Mrs. Claus!

DEC 3 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 7:30 AM - 1 PM

Photos with Santa • Kids Crafts • Letters to Santa • A Christmas Market and Live Music! Registration required at Community Recreation.

NAS I - MIDTOWN











