

ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

MARCH 1998



Sixth Fleet

Forward ...
From the Med

Plus
Warfare pin
rules change

It's not your
grandmother's
Navy

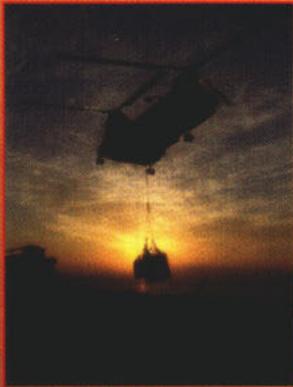
Smart tax tips

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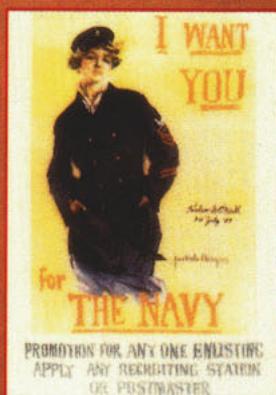
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Search and Rescue swimmer Petty Officer 2nd Class Juan Caro of Humacao, Puerto Rico, gives the A-OK sign signaling he is ready to be hoisted back aboard USS *John Rogers* (DD 983) following a successful recovery during exercise *Reliant Mermaid*. Photo by PH2 Brett Siegel.

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Sixth Fleet

Forward ... From the Med

Story by JO1 Thomas E. Jones Jr. and PH2 Brett Siegel

The United States' naval experience in the Mediterranean began as early as 1801. Commodore Richard Dale was placed in command of four ships with orders to patrol the Mediterranean and prevent the navies and pirates of the Barbary Coast from interfering with and seizing American merchant shipping. Dale and subsequent commanders of American fleets in the Mediterranean quickly found out what it took to assemble a fleet and fight so far from American shores.

Today's 6th Fleet carries on American naval presence in the Mediterranean — to maintain peace and stability in this vital area of the world. The U.S. presence in the Mediterranean Sea is now a fundamental element of U.S. and



NATO defense strategies.

The Cold War occupied much of the fleet's attention until the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Sailors and Marines of the 6th Fleet, along with other U.S. air and land forces, worked with America's NATO allies to counter a substantial Soviet threat to the stability of the Mediterranean region.

The end of the Cold War didn't bring an end to the 6th Fleet's mission. The threat from the Soviet Union was replaced by threats from

► An SH-3 is directed to land by ABH3 Nicole Todd, the landing signals enlisted on the flight deck of USS *LaSalle* (AGF 3).

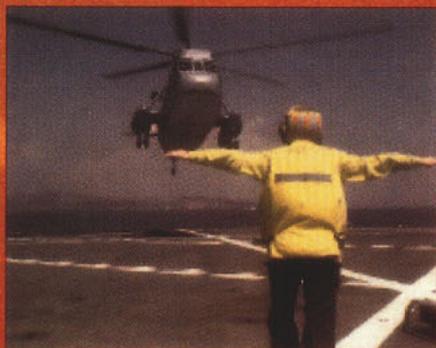


Photo by PH2 Brett Siegel



Photo by PH2 Brett Siegel

◀ Sailors and Marines stationed on board USS *Nashville* (LPD 13) come to the aid of 51 Americans fleeing Albania during Operation *Silver Wake*.



U.S. Navy photo

▲ A Navy F-14 *Tomcat* fighter launches to take part in one of 6th Fleet's 100-plus exercises and operations.



Photo by O1A Ritchie Frost



Photo by PH2 Brett Siegel

▲ Members of USS *Mitscher's* (DDG 57) Command-in-Control Center watch team monitor air and surface traffic in the vicinity of a NATO live-fire missile exercise.

◀ An SM-2 BLK III Surface to Air Missile, fired from USS *Mitscher* (DDG 57), exits its launcher tube on its way to meet an incoming German *Kormoran* antiship missile during a live fire exercise held near the coast of Crete. The exercise was comprised of naval surface ships and aircraft from Germany, Italy and the United States.

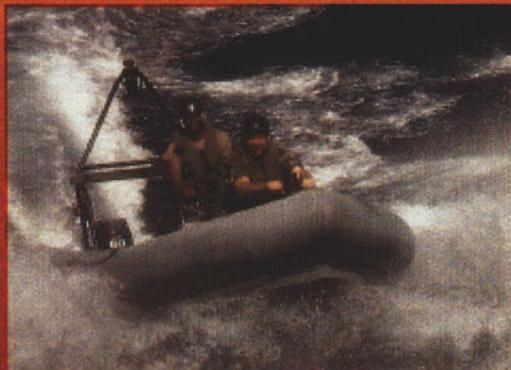
civil and ethnic wars in the Balkans, Middle East and on the African continent. According to 6th Fleet officials, 80 percent of the contingencies the United States responded to since the breakup of the Soviet Union have taken place in the 6th Fleet's area of responsibility.

Many of the news headlines during the past few years have included 6th Fleet elements. For instance, in June 1995, U.S. Marines embarked on board USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) conducted a daring rescue of Air Force pilot Lt.

Scott O'Grady from deep inside the hostile confines of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Three months later, NATO called upon U.S. naval seapower to conduct sustained air raids and to use *Tomahawk* cruise missiles, to bring the warring parties in the Balkans to the peace table.

The 6th Fleet continues to provide assistance to NATO through enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina and the enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Serbia

photo by PH1 Jim Hampshire



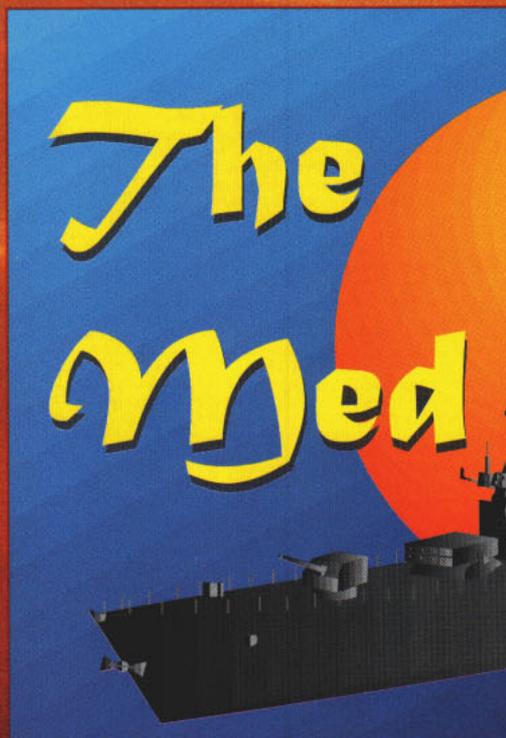
▲ Two Sailors from USS *Cyclone* (PC 1) conduct training in the Mediterranean on board a RHIB assault craft.

Photo by Brian Ault



▲ USS *Ramage* (DDG 61) an Arleigh Burke destroyer, provide forward presence from the Mediterranean during a recent deployment.

Photo by James Williams



and Montenegro.

During a three-year span, from June 1995 to present, 6th Fleet units were involved in the noncombatant evacuations of civilians from life-endangering situations in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Albania and the Congo (formerly Zaire).

While "forward presence" demands a force capable of deterring would-be aggressors, other more subtle factors are at work in 6th Fleet.

The 6th Fleet conducts Navy-to-navy meetings between the United States and other Mediterranean maritime forces to increase understanding and gain an appreciation of each other's capabilities and interests. Furthermore, the 6th Fleet carries out more than 80 joint and combined exercises each year, plans more than 1,000 port visits a year and provides officer exchanges with Mediterranean and Black Sea area nations.

The 6th Fleet's area of responsibility encompasses some of the most significant threats to world stability. Fortunately, the fleet is on call and on hand as a "Power for Peace."

Sixth Fleet Team

The U.S. 6th Fleet is operationally organized into task forces. Each task force is responsible to the 6th Fleet Commander for specific functions related to assigned units.

Task Force 60/Battle Force 6th Fleet — Composed of one or more aircraft carriers, each with a complement of approximately six cruisers and destroyers. On board the aircraft carrier is an air wing of 65 to 85 aircraft.

Task Force 61/Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group (MARG) — Composed of approximately three amphibious ships and their embarked landing craft.

Task Force 62 — Composed of a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) of approximately 1,800 Marines.

Task Force 63/Logistics Force 6th Fleet — Composed of oilers, provision ships, and repair ships. Its mission is to deliver supplies





Illustration by JOI Siegfried Brunner



Photo by James Williams

▲ Two Navy F-14 *Tomcats* conduct training while on deployment to the Mediterranean.



Photo by PH2 Joseph Gander

▲ A shell ejects from a 9mm pistol fired by ENS Dan Ruhl of Madison, Miss., during small arms qualification on USS *LaSalle's* flight deck.

at sea and make repairs to other ships and equipment of the fleet.

Task Force 66/69 — Responsible for planning and coordinating area submarine and antisubmarine warfare operations in the Mediterranean.

Task Force 67 — Composed of land-based maritime patrol aircraft. These aircraft operate over the waters of the Mediterranean in antisubmarine, reconnaissance, surveillance and mining roles.

Wearing different hats

Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet is responsible for commanding Navy ships in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Black Seas. But the vice admiral-in-charge-of-the fleet also wears another important hat — Commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe (STRIKFOR SOUTH).

This NATO position places the 6th Fleet commander in charge of a staff of 50 allied personnel, as well as NATO

Task Force 502 (carrier forces), Task Force 503 (amphibious forces), and Task Force 504 (landing forces).

Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe is a subordinate command of Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), headquartered in Naples, Italy. †



Photo by PH2 Brett Siegel

▲ VADM Steve Abbot (COMSTRIKFOR SOUTH), ADM Lopez (CNE, AFSOUTH) and Army Gen. Wesley Clark (EUCOM/SACEUR) arrive on a Navy ship for a NATO operations briefing.

Sixth Fleet at a glance



#	OPERATION	#	EXERCISE	97 DATES
1.	SILVER WAKE (Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) Albania)	1.	DISTANT THUNDER	04/29 - 05/09
2.	GUARDIAN ASSISTANCE* (contributed assets NEO Zaire)	2.	LINKED SEAS	05/05 - 05/19
3.	GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL* (contributed assets NEO Sierra Leone)	3.	ALCUDRA	05/26 - 06/14
	* Not shown	4.	NADOR	05/27 - 05/31
4.	BALTOPS 97	5.	BETACOM	05/28 - 06/06
		6.	US-FRENCH DACT	06/01 - 06/15
		7.	AVIS	06/07 - 06/16
		8.	ALEXANDER THE GREAT	06/12 - 06/20
		9.	COOPERATIVE PARTNER	06/22 - 07/05
		10.	CSAR	06/26 - 06/26

 Operation
  Exercise
  NATO Exercise



#	EXERCISE	97 DATES	#	EXERCISE	97 DATES
11.	ARIADNE 97	06/30 - 07/11	21.	TAPON 97	09/12 - 09/21
12.	C6F INVITEX	07/10 - 07/18	22.	DAMSEL FAIR 97	09/12 - 10/05
13.	US-FRENCH EODEX	07/15 - 07/18	23.	MOROCCAN BILAT	09/22 - 09/24
14.	TUNISIA EODEX	07/15 - 07/26	24.	SALVAGE / DIVEX	09/18 - 09/25
15.	ATLAS HINGE	07/21 - 07/27	25.	SPANISH DIVEX	09/23 - 09/30
16.	NADOR	07/21 - 07/27	26.	DYNAMIC MIX 97	09/23 - 10/07
17.	RELIANT MERMAID	08/10 - 08/14	27.	BRIGHT STAR	10/21 - 11/01
18.	RESCUE EAGLE	08/13 - 08/20	28.	MARE NUOVA	11/10 - 11/20
19.	SEA BREEZE 97	08/23 - 08/31	29.	MINOR MANAR	12/01 - 12/12
20.	SPANISH MINEX	09/02 - 09/11			

The above map shows a sample of the more than 80 operations and exercises conducted by Sixth Fleet each year.

Off duty in the Mediterranean



Clockwise from right: Twilight settles on the Tiber River in Rome; the city's Trevi Fountain was made famous in the 1950's movie "Three Coins in a Fountain;" a Sailor and his wife visit Rome's Coliseum, where gladiators once fought to the death.

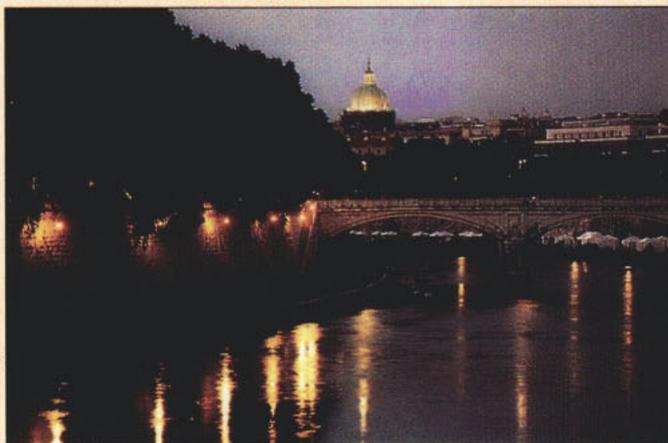


Photo by PHC Tom Howser



Best Ports of Call

Ranked by Sailors, here's a list of some of the Mediterranean's most entertaining spots to visit. Venice and Genoa, Italy; Augusta Bay, Sicily; Ankara, Antalya and Istanbul, Turkey; Rhodes, Corfu, Crete and Athens, Greece; Alexandria, Egypt; Tunis, Tunisia; Haifa, Israel; Cannes and Toulon, France; Valletta, Malta; Palma de Majorca, Barcelona, Benidorm and Torremolinos, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal; and Casablanca, Morocco.

Photo by PH2 Joseph Gunder

Photo by PH2 Tom Howser

Photo by PH2 Joseph Gunder

Clockwise from top: The sun sets over a Venice beach; a boy finds a flock of new friends in Old Rhodes, Greece; a man and his camel make their way past one of Egypt's pyramids; a gondola pilot navigates one of Venice's famous canals.

Photo by PH2 Brett Siegel



Destination...

Naples



Photo by PHC Tom Howser

Watch the sun set slowly behind the Coliseum in Rome or gaze at a 400-year-old painting at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. No, it's not a movie, but a normal weekend for the Sailors and families stationed at the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Italy.

The opportunity to travel for Sailors stationed at NSA is only a train ride away. Trains in Naples run to Rome every hour. Fares are very reasonable with a one way ticket as low as 10 dollars. From Naples you will be able to travel to other cities in Italy and Europe with ease.

Naples is a seaport city that lies just above the "heel" on the west coast of the Italian peninsula.

To make your tour of duty

enjoyable, be sure to pack your positive attitude and be prepared to adjust to a new life. You will immediately be struck by the beauty of Naples. And if you experience some difficulty in overcoming some of the cultural differences, the people of Naples will help you in any way possible. Italy has a reputation for being a friendly country, and the people of Naples are no exception.

Neapolitans are enthusiastic hosts and most will go out of their way to make you feel welcome.

The key to having a good tour of duty is to learn the language. Neapolitans are delighted when you make an attempt to learn even the most basic phrases. It's recommended that you buy a small Italian dictionary before



U.S. Navy photo

▲ Naples is only a quick train ride away from away from Roman-era landmarks, like the Coliseum and The Sant'Angelo Bridge, in Rome.

arriving and learn some basic words and phrases. Once you arrive in Naples, there are Italian language courses offered on base to military and DoD personnel.

Naples is currently undergoing the largest ever European quality-of-life improvement project called the Naples Improvement Initiative. New government quarters



U.S. Navy photo



◀ Roadside vendors are common around Naples. Fresh fruit, vegetables and seafood are sold from trucks, carts and stands.



Photo by PH1 Jim Hampshire

▲ Thanks to the Naples Improvement Initiative, a sign and a happy dog welcome Sailors stationed at NSA Naples to their new homes.

are being built, as well as a new elementary and high school, commissary and exchange.

The most important thing to remember about living in a foreign country is that it isn't the United States. Every day items Americans take for granted — from houses to basic utilities to transportation — work differently in Naples. A willingness to learn and adapt is vital to a successful tour. †

Information compiled by JO2 Jeremy Allen, a staff journalist assigned to All Hands, JO3 Christopher Sherwood, USNR, JOCS Bob Hansen USNR and Chris Ingalls, Naples public affairs office.

At a glance

Major Commands:

Commander Fleet Air Mediterranean, Commander Maritime Surveillance Reconnaissance Forces, Commander Maritime Air Force Mediterranean, U.S. Naval Hospital, Commander Submarine Group 8, U.S. Naval Dental Center, U.S. Naval Legal Service Office, Naval Security Group Activity and Personnel Support Detachment

Facilities Available:

Internet/email: www.naples.navy.mil/nsa@naples.navy.mil
 Population: 10,000
 Housing: Government and community housing
 Temporary housing: Yes
 Commissary: Large
 Exchange: Large
 Public schools: 1 elementary, 1 high school,
 Private schools: 1 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high school
 American colleges: 5 fully accredited (see Gaeta)
 Family service center: Full Service
 Child care: Full Service
 Health care: U.S. Naval Hospital, Naples
 Insurance: Auto insurance is extremely high. Enlisted personnel should set aside \$1,500 to cover one year.
 Recreation facilities: Golf course, swimming pools, bowling alley, softball fields, a football field, soccer, tennis, batting cages, picnic sites, hobby shops.
 Other Facilities:
 Navy Federal Credit Union., Barber/Beauty Shop, Chapel, Enlisted Club, Shopette, Travel Office

Allowances:

MIHA: Move In Housing Allowance is a one-time, \$900 to \$1,000 allowance to help defray the cost of moving on the economy.
 OHA: Overseas Housing allowance
 COLA: Cost of living allowance fluctuates with the Lire.
 Gas coupons: Allows tax-free fuel to be purchased by military personnel stationed in Italy.

Cultural attractions:

The Archaeological Museum, The Capodimonte Museum, The Royal Palace Museum, The National Library and The Bellini Theater



Destination...

Gaeta

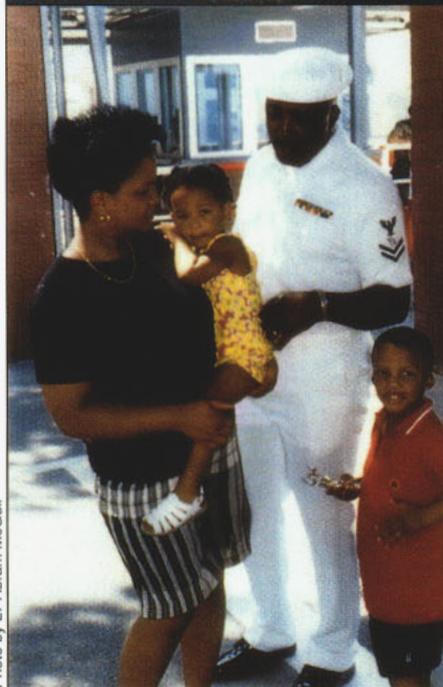
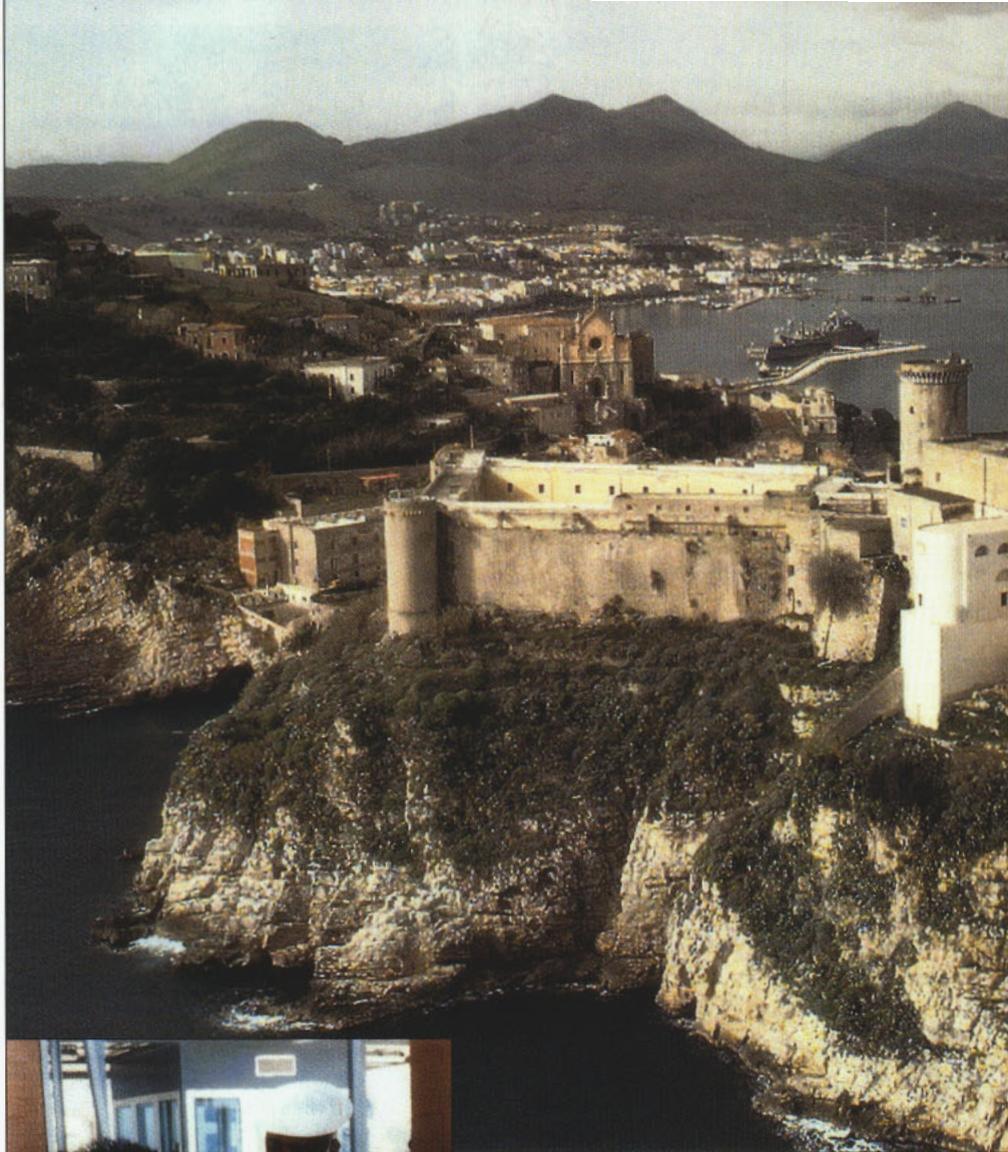


Photo by LT Abram McGull

▲ OS2 Van Arnold of Chicago, takes a moment out of his guard duties at the Italian dock in Gaeta, Italy, where his ship, USS *La Salle* (AGF 3) is homeported to say hello to his wife Lisa and his two children, Isaiah and Ivanna. His family had just arrived in Italy.

It's a city full of history, culture and excitement — a small peninsula within a peninsula, surrounded by the Tyrrhenian Sea. Its warm beaches and picturesque mountains were a summer haven to many Roman emperors. Welcome to Gaeta, Italy.

Situated between Rome and Naples, Gaeta is home to the U.S. 6th Fleet's flagship USS *La Salle* (AGF 3).

Gaeta is a tranquil town during the mild winter and a tourist hot spot in the steamy summer. Because of its position on the water the winds give a slight



Photo by PR2 Brett Siegel

▲ Aerial view of Old Gaeta, Italy, with USS LaSalle in the background

relief on summer nights.

Originally, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Gaeta was a detachment of NSA Naples. But in January 1994 NSA officially separated and is now located on Monte Orlando overlooking the Gulf of Gaeta. Now NSA Gaeta's primary mission is to support 6th Fleet staff operations.

Most Americans stationed in Gaeta, live in apartments or houses in town because military housing is very limited.

Gaeta is a European seaside resort, and prices tend to be steep.

At a glance

Major Commands:

Commander 6th Fleet; USS La Salle (AGF 3); NATO Communications School

Facilities Available:

Internet: www.naples.navy.mil/c6f/home.htm

Navy Family Services Center: Full Service

Bowling lanes: Yes

American Colleges: Central Texas College, City College of Chicago, Univ. of Maryland University, Bowie State University and University of Oklahoma in Naples

Schools: Day Care, DODDS Gaeta American School: K-8 (special ed. classes available) DODDS High School - Boarding at Rome, London or Naples

Spouse Employment: Spouse employment Assistance Program, Gaeta; Resource Office, Naples.

Commissary: NEX Mart, full commissary and exchange

Credit Union: NFCU

Library: Yes

Military Clinic: Branch Medical Clinic

Military Hospitals: Naval Hospital Naples

Dental Clinic: limited service in Gaeta, full service at Naples (no orthodontics)

MWR Office: full service

Housing: community 10-12 month waiting list for two and three bedrooms.

Pets: no quarantine but dogs and cats must have rabies vaccinations current. No veterinarian services on base.

Cultural Attractions

Annunziata Church/Golden Chapel - (14th century)

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception was contemplated in the Golden Chapel by Pope Pius IX in 1848.

Tomb of Munazio Planco - (1st century A.D.)

One of Augustus Caesar's generals is buried in this mausoleum, considered to be the best preserved in all of Italy.

Church of St. Francis - (19th century)

The youngest church in Gaeta (only 150 years old)

Split Mountain - According to its legend this mountain split upon the death of Jesus Christ.

Centro Storico Culturale - The museum was the home of Cardinal de Vio. It contains frescoes and many artifacts.

It's recommended that you bring a major credit card for traveling, because its safe and widely accepted wherever you travel.

Whether stationed onboard *La Salle*, with 6th Fleet staff or just passing through, Gaeta is a very friendly place to enjoy the sights or raise a family. †

Information compiled by JO2 Jeremy Allen, a staff writer assigned to All Hands and JOSN Charles A. Gasque, USNR.



Photo by LT Abram McGull

▲ Fresh fruit stands are as much a part of the historic landscape as the cobblestone streets. The fruit merchant (center) selects the best plums under the watchful eyes of his patrons.



Destination...

Souda Bay

Photo by PH2 Patricia Findley



If you're looking for an island full of fun, warmth, hospitality and vitality, then look no further than enticing Souda Bay, Crete, Greece.

Crete is the largest of Greece's southern island and the fourth largest island in the Mediterranean. It is located just above Africa and below Turkey. Crete is divided into four prefectures, each with its own capital - Chania (Hania), Rethymnon (Rethimno), Iraklio (Herakleon) and Agios Nikolaos.

Crete has it all, from snow-capped Mount Ida and the gorges of West Crete to picturesque villages and lovely coastal resorts. There is also a wealth of beaches around the entire island, particularly at Malia and along the northwest coast.

On this exotic and exciting island sits a little-known secret called Naval Support Activity (NSA), Souda Bay, Crete. It's located on the Hellenic (Greek) air force base near the village of Mouzouras, 10 miles east of the city of Hania.

NSA Souda Bay was first created as a detachment of NAS, Sicily in May 1969. It then became a full Naval Support Activity in 1980. It now occupies 110 acres on the north side of the air base. The airfield also serves as the civilian airport for the Hania region of Crete.

NSA Souda Bay's mission is to provide, operate, and maintain facilities and services to support and enhance the readiness of U.S. and allied forces operating in or transiting through the 6th Fleet area. This includes ships, aircraft, detachments

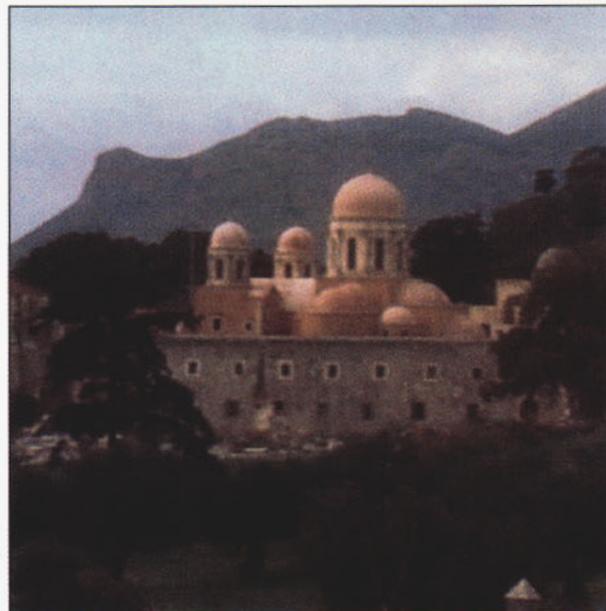
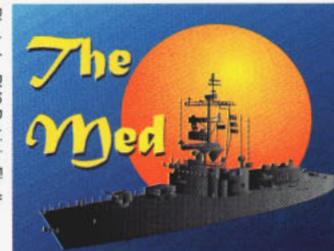


Photo by PH2 Patricia Findley



◀ Agia Triada Monastery is only a 5 minute drive from NSA and overlooks a grove of olive trees.

◀ Horse Drawn carriage tours are available in the ancient city of Hania, Souda Bay.

Information compiled by JO2 Jeremy Allen, a staff writer for All Hands. PH2 Patricia Findley, USNR, is a photojournalist assigned to NROI Det. 220.

and personnel.

Today, the NSA is comprised of 13 officers, approximately 227 enlisted personnel, 165 U.S. and local national civilians; and 18 tenant commands.

The approval of the new Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement with the Hellenic Republic is an aggressive five year construction program with some 509 projects. The cost is more than \$37 million dollars and it's going to make Souda Bay one of the Navy's major "growth industries" despite drawdowns in other areas.

Whether you enjoy going to the beautiful mountains to get away from it all, kicking back on the sandy beaches or learning the language from the friendly Grecians, Souda Bay is the place to be. †

At a glance

Major Commands:

USNAVDET, Souda Bay: Mobile Mine Assembly Group DET SIX; Naval Communication Station, Greece Detachment; Naval Inshore Warfare Task Unit, Europe; and Naval Weather Service Environmental Detachment.

Facilities Available:

Medical/Dental: Very limited.

NEX/Commissary: Very limited.

ON/OFF Base Housing: Limited BEQ/off-base E-5 and above.

Automoblies. Authorized for 12-month or longer tour.

Pets: No quarantine needed. Members pay transportation and pets must have validated shots. Closest military veterinarian is NAS Sigonella.

Credit Unions/Banks: None.

Uniforms: Not readily available.

Morale Calls: Authorized for permanent party only.

Recreation: Current facilities on base are for softball, soccer, basketball, tennis, swimming, ping-pong, volleyball, sailing, mountain bikes, racquetball, weight lifting and bowling.

Educational Opportunities: Limited. GED, CLEP tests and DANTES tests are available periodically from NAS Sigonella. University of Maryland offers an Associates of Arts (AA) degree.

Environmental and Morale Leave: Personnel on a one year unaccompanied tour at Souda are eligible for two EML trips per year to Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom or CONUS.

Extension Benefits: Three options: \$85.00 per month for 12 months, an additional 30 days leave, or a ticket from Hania to port of entry in CONUS and return, plus 15 days leave.

Spouse Employment: Very limited.

School: No DODDS schools, only home schooling. Closest high school is Athens or London.

Child Care: No facilities on base.



Destination...

La Maddalena



Photos by Basim Shamiyeh

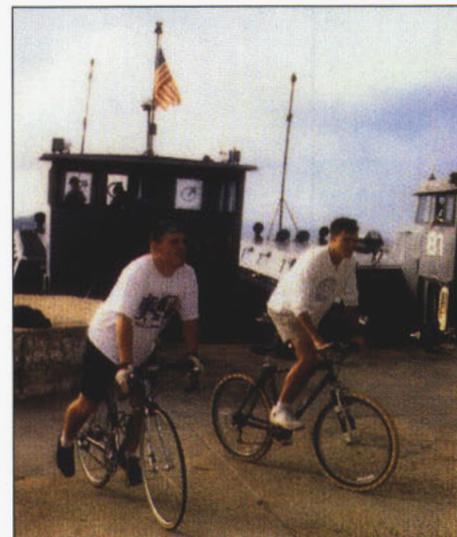
Often referred to as the land of the beautiful beaches, sunrises and campsites, La Maddalena, a remote duty station located off the coast of Sardinia in the Straits of Bonifacio, Italy, is home to approximately 3,500 military members and their families.

This tiny, isolated island, once controlled by pirates, also serves as home port for Submarine Squadron 22 and USS *Simon Lake* (AS 33), the only forward-deployed submarine tender in the Mediterranean. Along with Naval Support Activity Gaeta, they provide mobile repair, weapons handling and logistic support for fast-attack submarines and a wide range of fleet support.

Because the Mediterranean is considered one of the strategic keys to Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, the base allows the Navy to monitor all shipping in the northern Mediterranean.

But the water isn't the only

▲ Shadows settle on La Maddalena's marina.



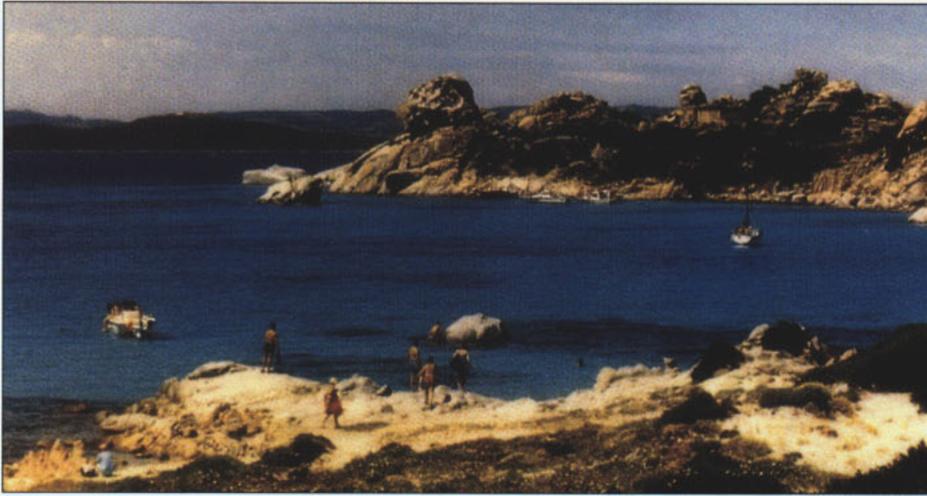
▲ Bicycles are a great mode of transportation around the island.

place where activity is going on.

For Sailors who choose to explore their new, exciting surroundings, or for those who prefer to take another direction, the adventure is only a flight or a ferry away.

La Maddalena's base activities are coordinated in conjunction with three surrounding islands, connected only by boat.

Sailors can reach the pictur-



▲ Summers attract tourists from around the world. The population swells from 17,000 to as much as 75,000 in mid-season.

esque Bay of Naples by catching an inexpensive over-night ferry or a one-hour military flight. An hour's drive from there will land you in the old seaport town of Gaeta, or Sailors can reach Sigonella by catching an hour flight into Catania.

Whatever your fancy, be it recreation, social or plain old R&R, La Maddalena or one of the nearby islands can provide it.

Sailors stationed on La Maddalena will still have to make a few adjustments to adapt to their new environment. Perhaps the greatest barrier and challenge for most will be the language. Italian is the predominant language spoken on La Maddalena, but outsiders can learn to speak it with a bit of practice and by keeping a small dictionary on hand.

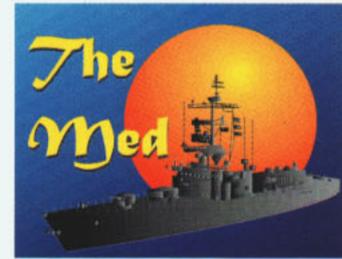
Other customs are also slightly different. Handshaking, for instance, is the American greeting Sailors are used to. Italians often greet each other with kisses to both cheeks.

Sailors will also have to get

used to the shops closing daily from 1 to 4 p.m. for *riposo*. It's the time of day locals eat lunch and take an often-needed break. But remember, for the military it's business as usual.

Houses and apartments are smaller than those stateside so Sailors are encouraged to leave oversized furniture in storage.

Students in grades Kindergarten through 8 attend La Maddalena American School. Ninth-through 12th-graders attend high school out of the area in one of



the two accredited Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DODDS) in London or Rome. Some parents prefer to home school. Information on home schooling can be obtained from the school officer at the family service center.

For Sailors stationed at La Maddalena, it could be a dream tour if you're willing to learn the culture. Plan to attend a workshop before transferring to ease the move and become familiar with the customs. Soon you will be basking in the sun or enjoying the beautiful tropical views, crystal-clear waters and fabulous sunsets. †

Story by Patricia Oladeinde, a staff writer for All Hands.

Major Commands

Naval Support Activity La Maddalena;
Submarine Squadron 22; USS *Simon Lake* (AS 33)

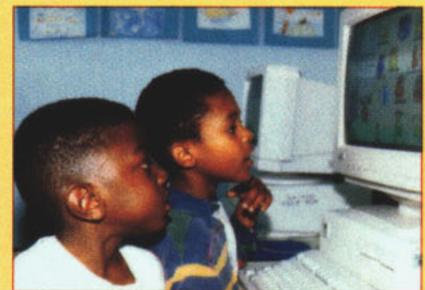
Facilities

Commissary: Full Service
Exchange: Limited
Medical: Branch Clinic
Dental: Branch Clinic
Movie Theater: Yes
Shoppette: Yes
Banks and Credit Unions: Yes
Elementary/Middle School: DODDS La Maddalena American School
High School: DODDS London or Rome

Population: 3,200

Helpful travel hints:

- * Service members MUST wear civilian clothing while traveling to Italy.
- * Avoid T-shirts with American slogans or derogatory remarks.
- * Do not mention you are military. The threat of terrorism exists throughout the world.
- * Remove American stickers from baggage and use only your last name on luggage tags.





Destination...

Rota



Photo by PH2 Brett Siegel

The city's fortress offers a lovely view of the bay.

If you're the type of Sailor who dreams of traveling to exotic and unforgettable liberty ports, then you're in luck. Naval Station Rota, Spain, is just the set of orders you've been looking for. After an exciting tour of duty in Europe's "Gateway to the Med," you'll be sure to leave with fond memories and a deep longing to return as soon as possible.

The naval base, located on the Bay of Cadiz in the southwestern part of the Iberian peninsula, overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and is strategically positioned near the Straits of Gibraltar. Its primary mission is to service the 6th Fleet by keeping fuel, ammunition and spare parts flowing to U.S. Naval Forces operating in the region.

But you probably won't be thinking about how important Rota is strategically when you're



U.S. Navy photo

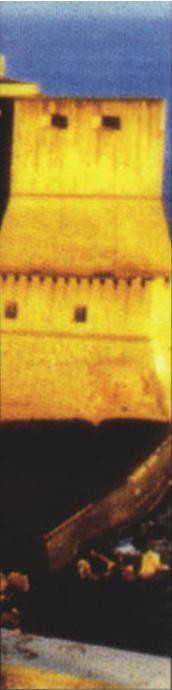
A bull stands amid a field of sunflowers near Rota.

out running, swimming or just relaxing on one of the area's many white, sandy beaches. It probably won't cross your mind when you're out in town talking to the locals and learning the Spanish culture and language that Rota is one of the Mediterranean's busiest ports.

You'll find that Spaniards are a very friendly people. As long as you're courteous, adventurous and open to new living, dining and social experiences, they will go out of their way to help you acclimate to their culture.

Not long after showing up, you'll

ALL HANDS



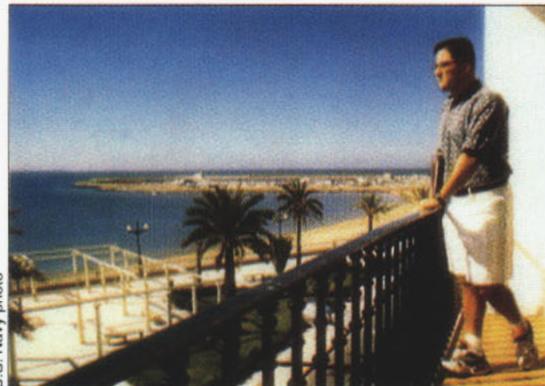
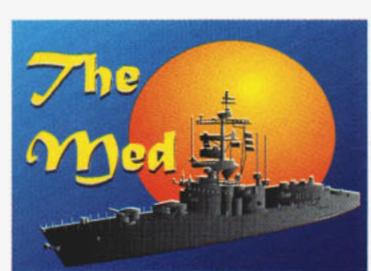
U.S. Navy photo



U.S. Navy photo

◀ The playground at Rota's Child Development Center offers toddlers and young children a lot to do.

▼ A Rota Sailor enjoys the scenery from his apartment balcony.



quickly catch on to the fact that there always seems to be something to celebrate in Spain. Religious festivals, for example, play a major role in Spanish life. Each city and region has its own special fiesta in honor of a patron saint. There are colorful processions, singing, dancing, bullfights, fireworks and local delicacies like *churros* (sugary sweetbread).

One cultural extravaganza is Carnival (the Spanish equivalent of Mardi Gras) where feasting and revelry are everywhere you turn. Celebrations include masquerade dances, parades, pinatas, costume contests street-singing parties and elections of kings.

If you're in search of a duty station with warm weather, friendly people and a great quality of life, look no further. Rota, Spain is that exotic, unforgettable liberty port you've been dreaming of. †

Information compiled by JO2 Jason Thompson, a staff writer for All Hands and JO2 Cindy Alvarez, USNR.

At a glance

Major Commands

Naval Station Rota; Naval Computer and Telecommunication Area Master Station, Mediterranean Detachment (NCTAMS Med Det.); Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 2; Naval Hospital; Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA); Tactical Support Center (TSC); Air Mobility Support Squadron 625 (AMSS 625); Naval European Meteorology and Oceanography Center (NEMOC); Company 'F' Marine Support Battalion; Marine Corps Security Force Company (MCSFCO).

Population - 8,000

Facilities

Banking: Navy Federal Credit Union
Commissary: Full service (5 days/week)
Dental: U.S. Naval Dental Center, Europe Branch Medical Clinic, Rota
Exchange: Full complex, Navy Lodge
Family Service Center: Full

service

Legal: Full service

Medical: U.S. Naval Hospital, Rota (Exceptional Family Member Program available)

MWR: full service

Base housing: Limited - 806 units comprised of two-, three- and four-bedroom units

Personnel Support Detachment: Full service

Religious Activities: full service

Spouse employment: Limited - but check DODD Schools, Human Resources Office, MWR and Navy Exchange. There is also an MWR Home Care Provider program.

Education: DODDS K-12; Air Force services for Exceptional Children (ages 3 to 21)

Navy Campus: full service

American Colleges/Universities:

Central Texas College; City Colleges of Chicago; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Rota Community College; University of Maryland's University College



Destination...

Sigonella

Photo by PH2(AW) Kristopher G. Sheets



You know you're living the good life when you get orders to a duty station where the Welcome Aboard web site has a page entitled "Sunny Sigonella: Getting Used to Warm Summers and Cool Winters." Located on the island of Sicily, the area enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate and averages 300 days of sunshine a year.

Great weather means great opportunities for Sailors and their families stationed at Sigonella. It's a

chance to see many of the island's breathtakingly-beautiful, historic sights, most of which are within an hour's drive of the base. While

you're out there you can meet the kind and very hospitable Sicilians and experience their diverse cultural heritage.

That heritage stems from Sicily's rich history, much of which was spent under foreign occupation — dating all the way back to the Greek Empire. That's why you can still find Greek temples, ancient catacombs,



Photo by PH2(AW) Kristopher G. Sheets

▲ Near to NAS Sigonella, is the town of Catania. Catania has many sights to see such as this 17th century statue of a pope in front of the St. Agata Cathedral.

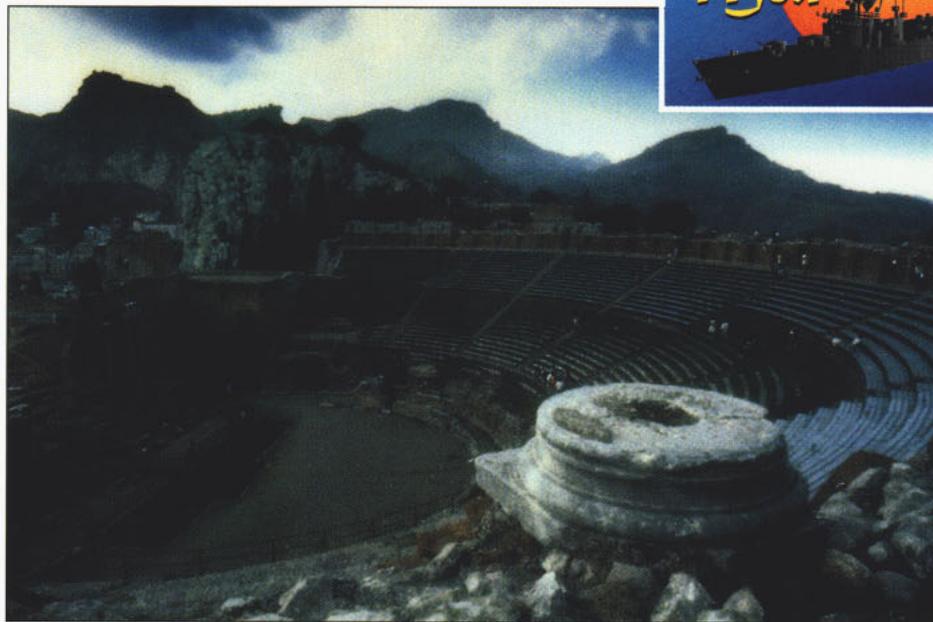


Photo by PH2(AW) Christopher G. Sheets

◀ ▲ Within an hour's drive of NAS Sigonella, you can be in the beautiful city of Taormina and visit many attractions, like the Greek amphitheater (above) or you can just stop and look at the view of the eastern shoreline of Sicily.



Photo by PHC(AW) Timothy Bloodworth

▲ The Greek amphitheater in Taormina with Mt. Etna in the background, less than an hours drive from NAS Sigonella.

Roman amphitheaters, Norman castles and Arabian baths throughout the island's modern cities.

Whether actively supporting

6th Fleet operations or playing frisbee on one of the island's soft, white-sand beaches, "Sunny Sigonella" is a dream tour. †

Information compiled by JO2 Jason Thompson, a staff writer for *All Hands*, and JO2 Marcy Kelley, USNR.

At a glance

Major Commands:

Naval Hospital, Sigonella; HCS 4.

Facilities Available:

E-mail: welcom@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

INTERNET: <http://www.sicily.navy.mil/>

Commissary: Main and satellite commissaries; two 7-Day Stores (mini-marts)

Dental: Full service for active-duty military and their family members

Exchange: Full service

Family Service Center: Full service

Legal: Full service

Medical: U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella and Flight Line Clinic

MWR: Full service

Personnel Support Detachment: Full service

Spouse Employment: Limited - predominantly MWR and Navy Exchange opportunities; spouse employment assistance program available.

Veterinarian: Full service (limited availability)

Schools: K-12 at DODDS Stephen Decatur School

Navy Campus: Full service

American Colleges: Central Texas College; City

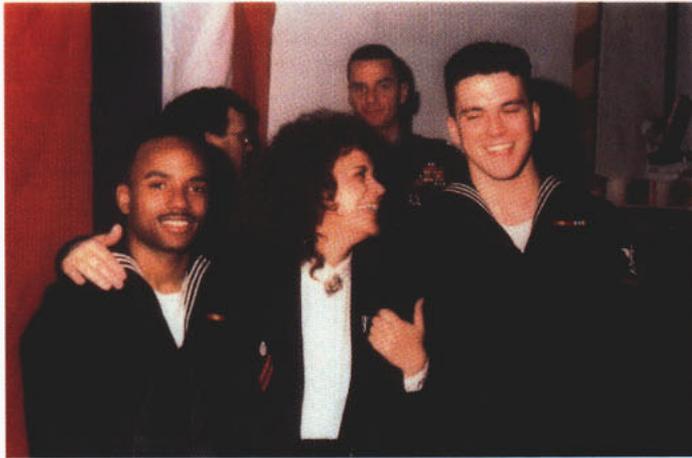
Colleges of Chicago; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; University of Maryland University College; University of Oklahoma

Special Education: Limited to mild handicaps in speech and learning disabilities

On-base housing:

BEQ - 725 units, 15 to 24 month waiting list

BOQ - 200 units, 18 to 24 month waiting list



Gilla Gerzon makes two of her "children" feel at home.

Story by PH2 Brett Siegel, photos courtesy of USO-Israel

She looked around her upstairs office at the United Service Organizations (USO)-Israel, located in the northern port city of Haifa, and remarked that it looked as if burglars had ransacked the place. Hundreds of binders and photo albums were strewn haphazardly about; thousands of loose photos and handwritten letters covered nearly every inch of exposed furniture and floor.

The clock approached 6 a.m. For the last 12 hours, Gilla Gerzon had run the gamut of her emotions. Her tears flowed freely as she remembered days long gone by while pouring over pictures and letters sent to her

from Sailors, Marines, husbands and wives, mothers and children. She would frequently pause to kiss the pictures dearest to her heart.

Nearly every Sailor and Marine who has served in the Mediterranean since 1980

either knows the name or the face of Gilla Gerzon, affectionately called the "Mother of the 6th Fleet."

Since formally establishing the Haifa USO and becoming its director in 1981, Gerzon and USO-Israel have provided support for more than 3.5 million service members.



Photo courtesy of USO-Israel. Image enhancement by Brett Siegel

Gilla Gerzon

Gerzon fondly refers to every Sailor and Marine who deploys to the Mediterranean as "her children." Sailors and Marines call her "Mom" and never forget to give her a good-bye hug as they return to their ships.

Recalling how nice and generous Americans were to her and her eldest daughter Gallit, Gerzon

Gilla Gerzon: Mother of the



Secretary of the Navy John Dalton visits with Gilla Gerzon.



The USO uses a liberty launch to greet Sailors.



Sailors and Marines escort Israeli military women during a USO fashion show.

said. "We came to America, not speaking any English. The nurses, they would sit in the room and

teach us. They even let me stay in their houses."

Gerzon first became familiar with the U.S. Navy in the late 1970s when she worked as the public relations director at the Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa.

"I saw all these American women and children in the hotel," said Gerzon. "I asked them, 'Why are you in Haifa?' and they [would] tell me about meeting a Navy ship here for Christmas. I never knew the U.S. ships came [to Haifa] but I thought, 'How wonderful.'"

She soon found herself arranging the first of what would become many Christmas parties and tours of the Holy Land for Navy families. She realized this was the ideal way for her to repay the American people for all the warmth and comfort she and her daughter had received while in the United States.

A year later, members of the Navy Chaplain Corps, who had made previous visits to Haifa, asked the USO to hire Gerzon and establish a full-time office there.

Making Sailors feel comfortable in unfamiliar places is a primary concern of the USO.

Sailors and Marines arriving routinely receive long-stem roses from Gerzon and her staff. The refrigerator in the USO is always stocked for Sailors on shore patrol and sometimes Sailors are invited to celebrate a bar mitzvah or to visit a kibbutz while they are in port..

Gerzon and her family have gone out of their way to make Israel, and their own homes, a home away from home for service members. In the late 1980s she bought 60 mattresses and several oversized, commercial washing machines out of her own pocket so Sailors and Marines who missed the last bus or found themselves stranded ashore could sleep at her house.

Some say Gerzon is an angel, but she's quick to point out that she is caring for angels. Coincidentally, the words "Sailor" and "angel" are phonetically the same in Hebrew. †

Siegel is assigned to the 6th Fleet public affairs office.



Sixth Fleet

Not Your Grand



Photo illustration by JO2 Jason D. Thompson and PHAN Lena Gonzalez

mother's Navy

Story by PHAN Lena Gonzalez

Women in the Navy have come a long way since the first WAVES' movement in the early 1900s. Today they are forward deployed aboard combat ships, stationed overseas in high-risk areas and serving in nearly every rating the Navy has to offer.

Starting with the first 20 women to enlist in the Navy nurse corps (known as the "Sacred Twenty") women began by serving in "traditional jobs" like yeoman, storekeeper and hospital corpsman.

"When we went in, we didn't try to be equal with the men," recalled Florence Morkus, a first class communications specialist during World War II. "Our [mission] was to relieve the men. So when they went off to war, we took their jobs here in the States."

Whether it was running carbon copies and taking dictation during strategic-planning meetings or comforting Sailors wounded in combat, women proudly served their country any way they could.

As the years went by, women became a more and more integral part of the military community. Like men, they went off to war and left families behind.

During World War II, duties like sending and receiving coded radio messages to our Allied forces, rigging parachutes and testing equipment proved to be an invaluable part of the war effort.

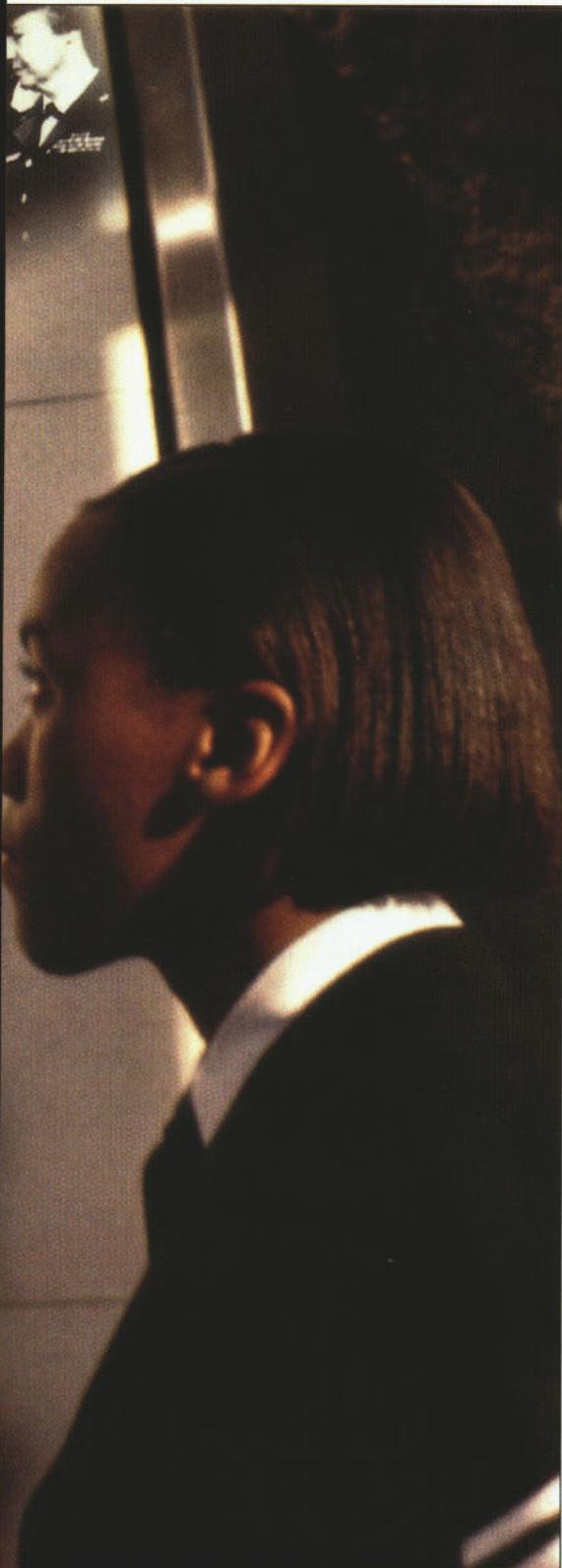
Even though women weren't allowed to serve in combat zones, they played key support roles as aviation mechanics, gunnery instructors and translators. Women in highly technical ratings even helped design and manufacture weapons.

To be sure, the Honor, Courage and Commitment these early women demonstrated has paved the way for today's



Frieda Mae Hardin, 101 years old, was a Navy yeoman during World War I and spoke at the dedication of the Women's Memorial.

Photo by SMSGT Marnie M. Burke, OCSJCS Photographer





▲ AC2 Jamie Bradley works with CATCC (Carrier Air Traffic Control Center) on board USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63). *Kitty Hawk*'s battle group is currently en route to the Arabian Gulf as part of a scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf.



▲ A flight deck crewmember carries aircraft tie down chains during flight operations on USS *Nimitz*.



Navy women.

“Without their service and dedication, the rest of us would not have followed,” said retired Navy CAPT Kathleen Bruyere, who now resides in Baltimore. “Today someone can say she wants to become an astronaut and nobody would blink an eye. But in 1966 women could not even fly. It was much different then.”

Because of the sacrifices and hardships endured by every woman who has ever put on a uniform, Navy women have now taken their place alongside their brethren Sailors.

Seaman Apprentice Valerie Mason, a 19-year-old Sailor from Hazelhurst, Miss., who performed in the Ceremonial Honor Guard detail at the unveiling of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C. said, “I never realized how different the Navy was back then. At least I know now that I have as a good a chance as anyone to make it.” †

Gonzalez is a photographer for All Hands.



▲ Posters like these were designed to attract women for critical roles deemed appropriate for their gender.



On a four-acre site at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., stands the Women in the Military Service for America Memorial. It was built to honor the more than 1.8 million American women who have served, or are serving, in the Armed Forces, beginning with the women of the Revolutionary War. The 21.5 million-dollar memorial designed by New York architects Ms. Marion Gail Weiss and Mr. Michael Manfredi was dedicated Oct. 18, 1997. The memorial consists of a reflecting pool, a curved gateway and an arc of glass tablets etched with quotations by and about women who have served in the Armed Forces. Four staircases pass through a hemicycle wall allowing visitors a panoramic view of Arlington National Cemetery with the Washington's Monument in the distance.

The memorial's Education Center houses the Hall of Honor, which contains many exhibits displaying the progress of women in the military, as well as numerous artifacts like old uniforms, official orders and military ID cards used by past generations of service women.

Any military woman may register with the memorial at any time.

Donations and registrations of service women can be sent to: Women in the Military Service Memorial, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C. 20042-0560, or you can call toll free at 1-800-4-Salute. WIMSA can be located on the Internet at wimsa@aol.com.

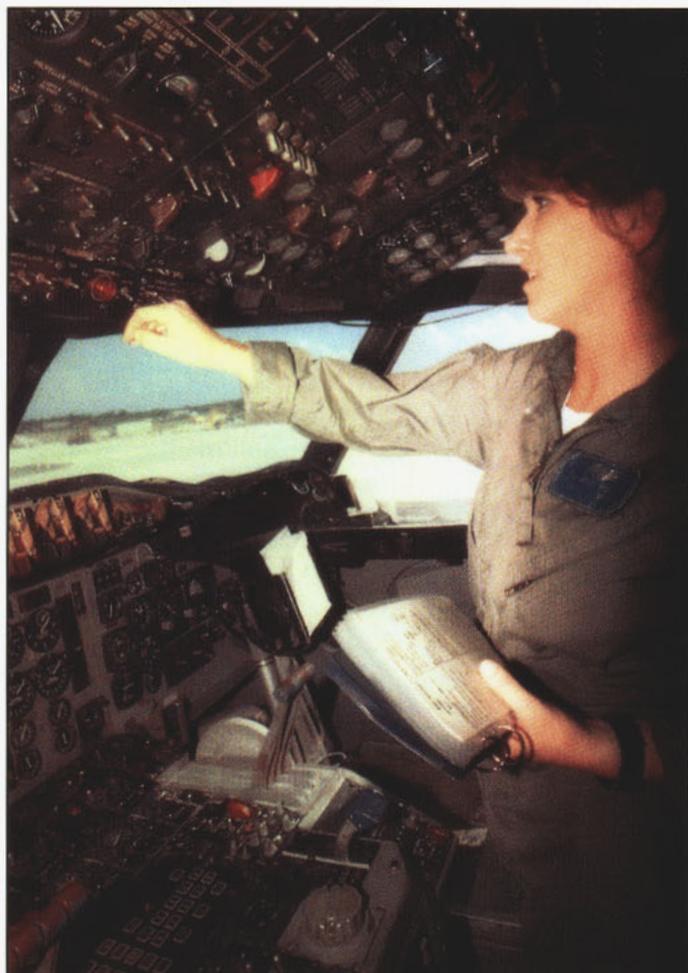


Photo by PHAN Laurie L. Wood

◀ PH1 Candice M. Pratt checks navigational flight equipment during an auxiliary power unit startup. Pratt is assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 26, Brunswick, Maine, in support of Joint Interagency Task Force East.

Y2K

The Year 2000

The challenge is on!

Story by JOCS Steve Burghardt

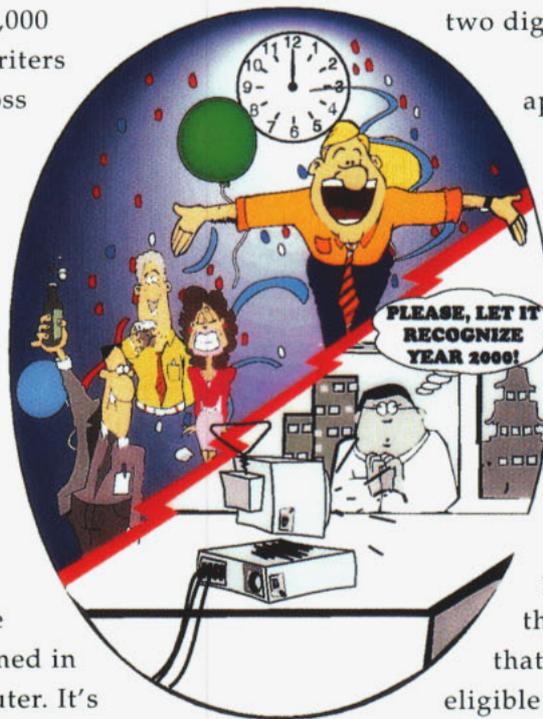
Jan. 1, 2000. What a pain! Supermarket tabloids print dire predictions while politicians drone on about fresh starts and new beginnings.

Groups of "millennialists" and "futurists" are springing up everywhere and developing plans for humanity during the next 1,000 years. Closer to home, check writers will have to make sure they cross out that little "19" on the date line. Award certificates will have to be revised and re-printed to accommodate the change. Come to think of it, almost every dated form we fill out will become obsolete.

But it's not just inconveniences the world is concerned about when it comes to the Year 2000, or Y2K as it is called. Some of the hazards posed by the new millennia are being felt today and are contained in that magic box we call a computer. It's the "millennia bug" and we're all about to catch it.

To understand the problem, it's necessary to revisit a little computer history. Back in the early

days of the computer boom, memory was expensive and the processing speeds of the venerable Intel 8086 chip were at a snail's pace. To save memory and storage space, as well as speed calculations, programmers opted to represent years by their last two digits. Thus, 1975 became 75.



The use of dates in many applications is essential. Some use dates for sorting data while others use dates for calculating the passage of time. For instance, a person born Jan. 1, 1970, is now 28 years old (1998 minus 1970 equals 28). A computer might see this problem as 98 minus 70 and get the same result. However, in 2000 the calculation changes to 00 minus 70 and ends up with a result of negative 70-years-old! For those applications that ignore the negative number, that person is now 70 years old and eligible for mandatory retirement, Social Security, etc. If the "negative" age remains, then the poor individual is some 69 years, 3 months away from conception.

Compounding the problem of Y2K is the fact that

some systems do not accurately compensate for leap years, of which 2000 is one. This inability to change the numbers of day in a year (366 vice 365) could be felt in any number of ways, from pay and interest calculations to inventory control and logistic systems.

The computer is to modern society what fire was to prehistoric times — indispensable. To the Navy, the computer is the centerpiece of most everything Sailors do. A deck seaman may not need a computer to paint the hull, but it was probably a computer that told someone it was time for some preventative maintenance and ordered the paint. Computers are now integrated into all Navy aircraft and into shipboard systems for fire and damage control. Even air conditioning systems and traffic lights are potentially at risk when Y2K rolls in.

As dark and foreboding as the prospects may seem, the Navy is already at work eliminating the problem worldwide. While individual commands and organizations work to eliminate the Y2K bug from their “mission critical” and “mission support” systems, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) N-6 staff is pursuing ways to integrate and share Navy efforts more completely, from targeting systems to pay.

Integration is essential in today’s digital environment. Shipboard computer networks routinely send and receive data from other ships and shore-based support facilities. One ship may be Y2K ready, but it can still catch the “bug” if it receives data from another ship or shore system which is not. Once “infected” data is brought into the system, the ship’s network could potentially be

corrupted and damaged, and possibly affect the ship’s ability to fight. With the profusion of e-mail transmitting data worldwide, the potential for sending incorrect information is multiplied many fold.

The Navy’s Y2K management plan consists of a five-phase approach to address the problem and involves all Navy personnel from the most senior leadership to the deckplates.

The initial phase, **awareness**, is aimed at making sure everyone in the Navy — military and civilian — are aware of the nature of the Y2K “bug.”

Follow-on phases include **assessment** (finding faulty systems and software); **renovation** (installing upgrades to systems and software, or finding replacements for those which cannot be upgraded economically); **validation** (testing and verifying the upgrades and replacements); and **implementation** (deploying the upgrades or new systems and making sure all interrelated systems work together).

The Navy’s plan calls for all “mission critical” systems to have implemented by Dec. 31, 1998, one year from the absolute deadline of Dec. 31, 1999. “Mission support” systems must be implemented by Mar. 31, 1999.

According to CDR Jim Gillcrist, the CNO N-6 Y2K action officer, “The Y2K problem is an enterprise-wide issue that requires participation by the entire chain of command.”

Yes, Y2K could be a big pain. It’s a problem that won’t go away. The clock’s ticking. ... †



Test your home PC

Not sure if your home computer is ready for Y2K? Try this simple test.

Step 1: Change you computer’s clock to 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31, 1999. Let the clock run into the “next” year. Check it and see if it displays “1 Jan. 2000.”

Step 2: Now, shut down your computer and then power back up. Check the clock again. It will probably accurately display the correct time, but what about the date? Is it still 1 Jan. 2000...or 1 Jan. 1980 or 1900?

Step 3: Check a Windows application. After you rebooted your system, create a file with notepad and save it. Now open File Manager (or Explorer if you use Win95) and look at the details of the file you just created. Also look at the file’s location. Is it at the top as the newest document created? Or is it at the bottom, next to the oldest?

Don’t assume your computer is ready for Year 2000. If you find that you might have problems, contact the manufacturer about ways to fix them now.

Burghardt is the assistant editor of All Hands.



New rules set for ESWS program

Story by JO2 Robert W. Garnand

Recently, Sailors from the Atlantic and Pacific Surface Fleets gathered at Naval Station San Diego to start working on improvements to the Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification (ESWS) program.

The San Diego workshop was one of many Navy-wide workshops being conducted this year to support the CNO's initiative to improve the Navy's enlisted warfare qualifications programs. The workshops are producing ship type, airframe and mission specific PQS packaged that will streamline the requalification process and be an integral part of the Sailors' initial warfare qualification.

"The changing times is the driving force behind these changes," said Master Chief Yeoman Manuel Rodriguez, the Force Master Chief for Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "The MCPON, along with the fleet and force master chiefs, got together and made a recommendation to the CNO that we were due for a change in our qualification program."

Master Chief Machinist's Mate Bob Hallstein, the Force Master Chief for Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, added, "In our Navy, we're streamlining our warfighting capability; we're modernizing it, and I think it's the right time to take all of our warfare programs and look at how we do them, what they give the Sailor, how they improve our warfighting capability and how they connect to mission readiness."

For Sailors in senior enlisted leadership to play a role in the primary mission of their ship, they must be warfare qualified and keep their qualification current. This is the major emphasis of the changes to the warfare qualification programs.

One significant change is the establishment of a common core Personal Qualification Standard (PQS). The PQS will be the foundation of the enlisted warfare qualifications. In the ESWS community, this common core PQS will center around five major areas common to most shipboard environments: combat systems,

deck, engineering, operations and supply.

Additionally, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) policy mandates that all Sailors assigned Type 2 or 4 sea duty be qualified in a unit's primary warfare mission and common core PQS prior to advancement to E-6 or higher.

"We're not rewriting the warfare program because it's mandatory for advancement," said Hallstein. "Being mandatory for advancement is a requirement placed under the advancement system — not the enlisted warfare programs. Our goal is to help them become better Sailors — better educated, better warriors."

For the initial qualification, Sailors must complete the PQS prerequisites, a written exam and an oral board. In most cases, for following tours of duty, Sailors requalify by completing ship/unit specific PQS and demonstrating the basic knowledge every Sailor should know.

The focus of requalifying "is the continuous improvement of the Sailor," says Hallstein. "We want to make every Sailor understand what's going on and how to fight his or her ship."

The workshops consisted of enlisted Sailors, E-6 through E-9, who are subject matter experts in their rate on the platform of interest, from both the Atlantic and Pacific surface fleets.

"The changes being made are by Sailors wearing the ESWS warfare device," Hallstein said.

Individual ship type and airframe-specific PQS packages are being developed by working groups composed of subject-matter experts, TYCOM, OPNAV and BUPERS representatives as well as NETPDEC PQS format specialists.

The PQS required to initiate the program, as well as the new OPNAV instruction is nearing completion and should reach the fleet by this summer. †

Garnand is assigned to Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor.

'Tis the Season ... for

Paying taxes is a time-honored tradition in America. Everyone pays - even Sailors.

As always there are changes to the filing procedure this year. Some of the 1997 changes won't take effect until the 1998 tax year that began Jan. 1, 1998, but Sailors should know about them now. To lessen the hassles of tax forms and filing procedures, Sailors can get help from a number of sources.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides these helpful tips for active-duty military personnel to remember:

When to file:

- The deadline for filing is April 15, 1998, for most people. You have to apply to the IRS, using IRS Form 4868 for an extension.

- Military members living overseas can qualify for an automatic extension to June 15, 1998, without filing Form 4868.

Remember: Having an extension to file your taxes does not mean you have an extension to pay any tax due. You do not have to send in any tax payment after you estimate your tax due on Form 4868. But, if you pay the tax after the original due date, you will be charged interest from the original due date to the date when the tax is paid.

You will also have to pay a late payment penalty unless

you pay at least 90 percent of your tax liability by the original due date of the return.

- An additional two-month filing extension of Aug. 15, 1998, will be granted if Form 4868 is filed by April 15 (CONUS), or June 15, if you are (OCONUS). If you need time past Aug. 15, an additional extension request can be made by using IRS Form 2688. For more information, pick up a copy of IRS Publication 3, *The Armed Forces' Tax Guide*.



W-2s and you:

Beginning last year, W-2s included Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) and Basic Allowance for Substance (BAS) totals in a separate block for use in computing Earned Income Credit (EIC) eligibility. Sailors should have received their tax instruction booklets and W-2s in the mail in January. If you've moved, the package may arrive after the filing deadline. To get forms and instructions mailed to you, contact the IRS at 1-800-829-3676, or visit their website at www.irs.gov. Check with your local legal service for more information. IRS forms and instructions may be available through your community library.

Gross Income:

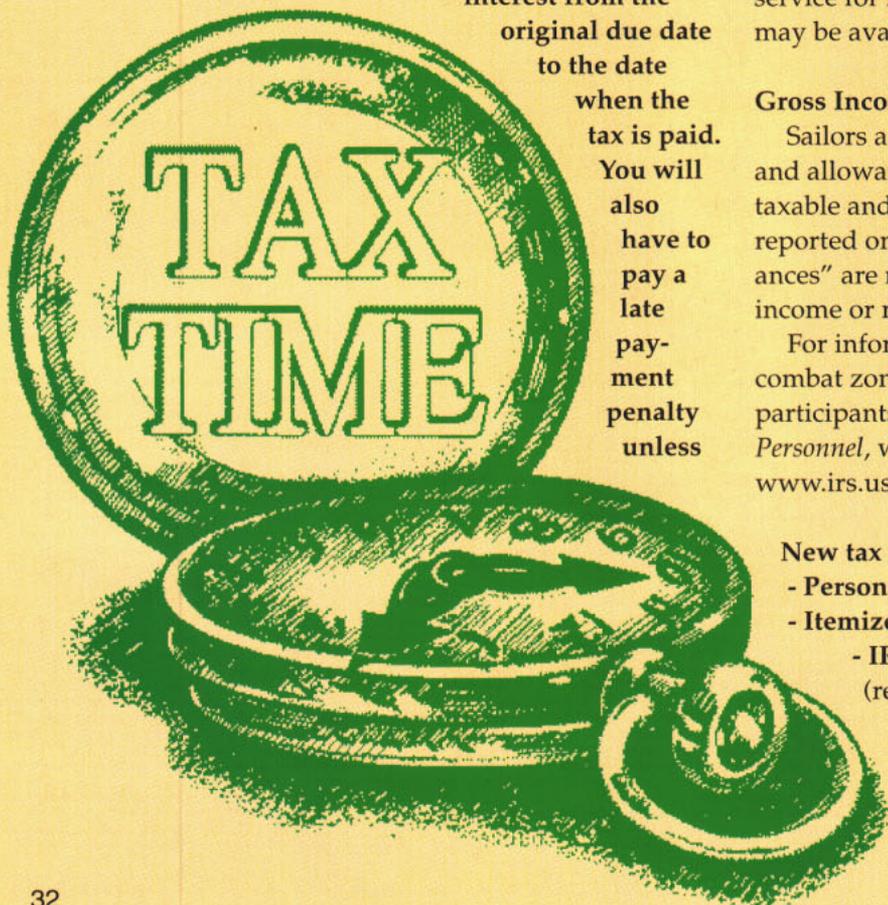
Sailors around the world receive different types of pay and allowances. In general, items identified as pay are taxable and included in gross income. All income must be reported on your tax returns. Items identified as "allowances" are not taxable and are not included in gross income or reported on your tax return.

For information on the exclusion of pay for service in a combat zone and other tax benefits for combat zone participants, see *Publication 3, Tax Information for Military Personnel*, which can be downloaded at www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms_pubs/index.html.

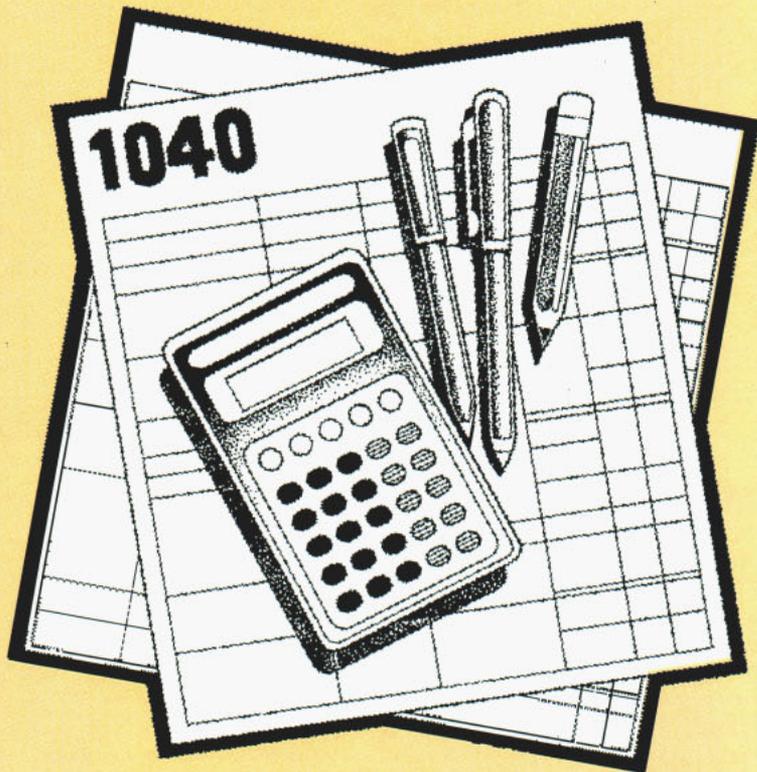
New tax laws — changes for 1997:

- **Personal exemption:** increased to \$2,650
- **Itemized deductions:** increased to \$121,200
- **IRA limits:** \$2,000 per spouse, \$4,000 total, (regardless if both spouses work).

- **Earned Income Credit (EIC):** Every family member claimed as a dependent must have a Social Security Number (SSN) for 1997, regardless of when they were born. If



or filing taxes



an SSN is falsified, EIC will be denied for the next 10 years.

- **New EIC limit:** no children, \$9,770; one child, \$25,760; two or more children, \$29,290. Persons with investment income of more than \$2,250, may not claim EIC.

- **Capital gains distributions** must be reported on Schedule D.

- **Capital gains rates:** long-term capital gains rates reduced to 20 percent (10 percent for taxpayers in 15 percent tax bracket).

- **Capital assets holding periods:** May 7, 1997, to July 28, 1997, lower rate applies to assets held more than 12 months. July 29, 1997, and later, lower rate applies to assets held more than 18 months. Capital gains assets held less than 18 months are taxed at 28 percent.

- **Sale or exchange of principle residence:** Before May 6, 1997, subject to old rules; May 6, 1997, to Aug. 5, 1997, transition period (choose old or new). After Aug. 5, 1997, first \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing joint) of capital gain on the sale of a principle residence is not taxed. †

Compiled by JO2 Jeremy Allen, a staff journalist assigned to All Hands.

Filing Shortcuts

During 1998, 139 legal service offices, family service centers, ships and individual shore commands will offer free tax preparation assistance, including electronic tax filing. This is the fourth year the Navy has offered this service to Sailors and Marines.

Have you waited too long

For Sailors who don't have time to fill out the 1040 (long) form, there's is now a better, faster, more efficient another option — the electronic filing system (ELF) gives Sailors the option of filing their taxes electronically.

The office of Navy Judge Advocate General says you should look into ELF for quick returns and refunds. ELF reduces the number of tax-related problems encountered by Sailors. Best of all, Sailors pay no fee for preparing or transmitting ELF's.

All ELF returns are transmitted electronically via modem to a stateside transmitter, then retransmitted to the IRS. ELF returns are generally accepted by the IRS within 24 hours of the time you send them to the stateside transmitter. The accuracy rate is 99.5 percent. Sailors who use ELF reduce many tax-related problems.

With ELF on 45 ships this year, Sailors can file electronically during extended at-sea operations and have their refund electronically deposited in their bank account about nine days later.

ELF has saved Sailors more than \$100 per return on average. Last year, almost 92,000 Sailors took advantage of the Navy's ELF services. This figure doesn't include the value of assistance provided to Sailors filing paper federal and state returns, which numbered more than 30,000 last year.

Electronic tax filing will be available at most CONUS shore installations and at 19 overseas shore installations. It's expected that 45 ships will offer ELF services. See Page34 for a list of confirmed ELF sites.



Afloat Legal Office Sites:

USS Independence (CV 62)
 USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63)
 USS Constellation (CV 64)
 USS Enterprise (CVN 65)
 USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67)
 USS Nimitz (CVN 68)
 USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69)
 USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)
 USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)
 USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)
 USS George Washington (CVN 73)
 USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74)
 PCU Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)
 USS Mount Hood (AE 29)
 USS Seattle (AOE 3)
 USS Detroit (AOE 4)
 USS Simon Lake (AS 33)
 USS Frank Cable (AS 40)
 USS McKee (AS 41)
 USS Vincennes (CG 49)
 USS Antietam (CG 54)
 USS San Jacinto (CG 56)
 USS Princeton (CG 59)
 USS Cowpens (CG 63)
 USS Shiloh (CG 67)
 USS Elliott (DD 967)
 USS Oldendorf (DD 972)
 USS John Young (DD 973)
 USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51)
 USS Stethem (DDG 63)
 USS Benfold (DDG 65)
 USS George Philip (FFG 12)
 USS John A. Moore (FFG 19)
 USS Simpson (FFG 56)
 USS Tarawa (LHA 1)
 USS Nassau (LHA 4)
 USS Peleliu (LHA 5)
 USS Wasp (LHD 1)

USS Boxer (LHD 4)
 USS Portland (LSD 37)
 USS Mt. Vernon (LSD 39)
 COMSIXFLT, embarked on USS LaSalle (AGF 3)
 COMSEVENFLT, embarked on USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19)
 COMPHIBRON 5, embarked on USS Essex (LHD 2)
 SUBRON 6, embarked on USS Emory S. Land (AS 39)

Navy Legal Service Centers

Naval Legal Service Branch Office (NLSO), Bahrain
 NLSO Det., LeMoore, Calif.
 NLSO Southwest, San Diego
 NLSO Northeast, Groton, Conn.
 NLSO Det., Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
 NLSO London, England
 NLSO Southeast, Jacksonville, Fla.
 NLSO Southeast Det., Mayport, Fla.
 NLSO Southeast Det., Cecil Field, Fla.
 NLSO Central, Fla.
 CSS Panama City, Fla.
 NAS Whiting Field, Fla.
 NTTC Corry Station, Fla.
 NLSO Det. SE, Kings Bay, Ga.
 NLSO Det., Guam
 NLSO Mid Pacific, Pearl Harbor
 NLSO Mid Europe and Southwest, Naples, Italy
 NLSO Great Lakes, Sicily
 NLSO Sasebo, Japan
 NLSO Northwest Pacific, Yokosuka, Japan
 NLSO Brunswick, Maine
 NAS Patuxent Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
 NLSO Det., Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
 NLSO Det., Newport, R.I.
 NLSO Det. SE, Charleston, SC
 NLSO Det., Rota, Spain
 NLSO Det., NAS Memphis, Tenn.
 NLSO Corpus Christi, Texas
 NLSO Mid Atlantic, Norfolk
 NLSO Northwest, Wash.
 NLSO Det., Wash.
 NLSO National Capitol Region, Washington, D.C.

Family Service Centers/Other sites

CINCPACREP, Australia/Japan
 U.S. DAO, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 FSC China Lake, Calif.
 FHIBCB 1 (ACB 1) Coronado, Calif.
 Naval Air Reserve Santa Clara, Moffett Field, Calif.
 NAWC Point Mugu FSC, Point Mugu, Calif.
 FSC Port Hueneme, Calif.
 Sub Training Facility, San Diego
 Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Calif.
 U.S. NAMRU-3 Cairo, Egypt
 FSC Key West, Fla.
 Barking Sands Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kekaha, Hawaii
 NAWC Aircraft Division, Indianapolis
 FSC Gaeta, Italy
 FSC LaMaddalena, Sardinia, Italy
 COMFLEACT Chinhae, Korea
 FSC NSA New Orleans
 NCTS Cutler, Maine
 NSGA Winter Harbor, Maine
 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md
 NAVEODTECHDIV Indian Head, Md.
 NFSC Gautier, Miss.
 FSC Gulfport, Miss.
 COMNAVMETOCOM, Stennis Space Center, Miss.
 Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N.H.
 FSC Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, N.J.
 FSC Lakehurst, N.J.
 STRATCOM WING 1, Tinker AFB, Okla.
 FSC, Ingleside, Texas
 NSGA Medina, San Antonio
 NFSC, NW NSGA-NW Chesapeake, Va.
 NFSC Dahlgren, Va.
 NFSC Little Creek, Norfolk
 NFSC NAS Oceana, Va.
 FSC Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va.
 Trident Training Facility Bangor, Silverdale, Wash.
 FSC, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.
 NSGA Sugar Grove, Sugar Grove, W. Va.
 Legal Assistance Division (JAG 36), Alexandria, Va.
 Naval Support Force Chalet, McMurdo Station, Antarctica
 Navy Post Graduate School, Monterey, Calif.
 COMNAVSURFPAC, San Diego
 Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia
 CINCUSNAVUR NSA, Souda Bay, Greece
 NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii
 Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific, Pearl Harbor
 NAS Keflavik, Iceland
 NAF Atsugi, Japan
 NS Annapolis, Md.
 NAS Meridian, Miss.
 NAS Fallon, Nev.
 Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, N.Y.
 NASU Christchurch, New Zealand
 NAS Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas
 NAS Kingsville, Texas
 COMNAVCRRUITCOM, Arlington, Va.
 CINCLANTFLT, Norfolk
 Special Boat Squadron 2, Norfolk
 Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command,
 Washington, D.C.

Source: Office of the Judge Advocate General

Tax changes coming for 1998 tax season:

- Dependent child credit
- Education benefits: hope credit, lifetime learning credit, education IRAs, student loan interest
- IRA changes, spouses covered by employer plan, ROTH IRA, penalty-free distributions
- Increased standard deductions for dependents
- Foreign earned income exclusion increase
- Estimated tax penalty relaxed (no penalty unless owed \$1,000 or more in '98, up from \$500 in '97)



CyberSailor

Solving a taxing problem

Every year it's the same thing. While I'm waiting for the Navy to deliver my W-2 forms, I have every intention of getting my taxes done and in the mail by the first of February. Well, so much for good intentions! I don't think I've ever gotten it done before mid-March (usually it's in the mail by the April 15th deadline).

In spite of good intentions, this is how it works. I run to the post office to find all the forms, schedules and instructions I need. Then I run to the library because all the forms, schedules and instructions I need weren't at the post office. Once I've found all the paperwork (can I claim the mileage as part of "tax preparation" expenses?), it's time for a quiet and relaxing evening of reading the newest version of the IRS tax instructions, restrictions, computations ... and contradictions! Oh, how I look forward to that ... my eyes end up taking on that "not really here" look and my head begins rocking slowly, but forcibly, against the nearest wall.

But this is 1998! We have a new ally in the fight against time and bureaucratic double-talk! It's our friend, the Internet!

OK, we have to file tax returns. There's no way around it. So let's make it as easy as possible. First stop, the trusty and ever-present search engine.

I searched for "taxes" and got a lengthy list of levy links (Yeah, I know, I have too much time on my hands). I found one that intrigued me entitled "Essential Links - Taxes." You can find that site at www.el.com/links/taxes/ and be treated to pages and pages of useful references. Everything from major tax sites to state tax pages to the actual U.S. tax code is listed.

Although all the links listed at this site are good, some of the best are worth mentioning below —

For all-around tax information, tips and hints, forms, and links to state tax sites, you might want to check out 1040.COM (www.1040.com), Taxweb (www.taxweb.com) or Ernst & Young's Tax Services (www.ey.com/tax). All three offer articles and frequently asked questions (FAQs) on federal and state tax laws and filing requirements.

They also have lists of web addresses for state tax boards where you can download forms, instructions, etc.

If, while digging through all this "taxing" terminology, you want a little break, try the "Tax Toons" page at the Ernst & Young site. If you've ever suffered from the illusion that accountants don't have a sense of humor, you'll find you're wrong. They do have a sense of humor ... it's just a bit different.

There's one place I haven't mentioned up to this

PRINTED DAILY AND IT'S FREE! DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY Presenting The Fastest, Easiest INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE Tax Publication On The Planet AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO RECYCLE!

THE DIGITAL DAILY

FASTER THAN A SPEED/DIG 1040-EZ ... JAN 27, 1998 (79 DAYS UNTIL APRIL 15TH)

[Text Only Version]

IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Employment Opportunities

IRS WANTS YOU

IRS Problem Solving Day
Relief From The Symptoms Of Long Standing Tax Problems.

TAX PRO'S Corner

Surprised Sailor Finds IRS TaxFax Service Waiting In Every Port

AGANA, GUAM When Seaman Barry Barkentine needed a few extra Federal Income Tax Forms he thought he would have to wait until his parents could mail them from home. Hard to tell how long that might take, you see, Barry was somewhere near 15 degrees

Get your 1040 electronically

When you visit the Internal Revenue Service's web site, you'll be able to download all the forms, publications and instructions you'll need to file your income tax this year. Need forms or publications from previous years? Not to worry, because the IRS has kindly included all the paperwork for 1992 to 1996 as well.

There are a number of formats these files come in, but I've found that the easiest for most of us to use is the PDF file format. This format is generated by Adobe's Acrobat software and is used by many organizations to distribute news, information and forms. Navy News Service, for instance, is distributed this way and allows ships to download news already laid out and ready for copying.

Yep, PDF files are very handy and are becoming the common way to distribute documents at some sites. But you need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to use them. No, it's not another corporate plot to make you buy more software — the program is F-R-E-E! What does that mean to you? It means you'll have to download and install the program on your computer.

Before you start complaining of headaches and assorted other reasons to avoid downloading the program, let me tell that it's easy. Here's how:

Step 1: Head over to the Adobe web site (www.adobe.com). There's even a link to it from the IRS's forms page.

Step 2: Find and click on the yellow "Get Acrobat Reader" button.

Step 3: Follow the link to register. Hey, like most software company's who give away programs, Adobe wants to know who's getting it. They don't ask for credit card numbers, just name and some information about yourself and your computer.

Step 4: Choose your desired software program (Acrobat Reader 3.01), platform (Windows 95, Mac, Unix, etc.), and language (English)

Step 5: Select download. You will probably be asked whether you wish to run the program or save it to disk. I recommend you save it to a temporary folder and make sure you use your antivirus program to scan the file before proceeding.

Step 6: Close all your programs and run the program. If you need specific instructions, there's an installation guide available.

There now, you're done and ready to get those 1040s from the IRS. Acrobat Reader will allow you to view and print the forms. Sorry, but you'll need to purchase more software (*Adobe Acrobat*) to change the files you have downloaded.

point. We all know it — those three letters that conjure up images of lightning over a darkened landscape, of people in drab suits carrying briefcases and calculators — the I-R-S!

I went to the IRS website! No, I'm not crazy! What I found was probably the coolest and most informative site out there. Each day, the IRS publishes *The Digital Daily* (www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/cover.html) filled with tax info, news and, of course, forms. Through this site, you can download most of the IRS publications like *Publication 3: Armed Forces' Tax*



Guide. I have just one hint on downloading the forms and publications: all are available in a number of formats, but the .PDF format is by far the easiest and most convenient to download and print. There's even a link to Adobe to download the free (yes, I said FREE) Acrobat Reader you'll need

to view and print the .PDF files.

This is truly a taxing time of year. But the Internet can make it an easier and, perhaps, more profitable time. So, what are you waiting for? Get connected to the electronic tax man! †

Eye on the Fleet



► Lookouts aboard USS *Salt Lake City* (SSN 716) keep a watchful eye on the busy shipping lanes as they steam toward their homeport in San Diego.

Photo by PH2 H. Wolfgang Porter



Photo by PH3 Mike Larson

◀ An SH-60B *Sea Hawk* attached to Light Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HSL) 44 assesses battle damage after launching an AGM-114 *Hellfire* air-to-ground missile at a training target during *Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFX) 98-1*.

▼ AN Mirna Gonzales from Tularosa, N.M., updates a flight deck status board while coordinating placement of aircraft during fueling operations on board USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68).



Photo by PH3 Cynthia R. Zarate



Photo by PHAN Benjamin F. Story

▲ AC2 Mark McDaniel, from Cleveland, keeps tabs on strike fighter and support aircraft around the aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68).



Photo by PHC Larry Nixon

▲ A Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) backloads equipment and personnel to the amphibious assault ship USS *Peleliu* (LHA 5) following the amphibious exercise *Eager Mace '98* off the coast of Kuwait. The amphibious readiness group is currently deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation *Southern Watch*.

Eye on the Fleet

● AO2 Edgar Corley from Hubert, N.C., performs a systems check on an SH-60B *Seahawk* from Anti-Submarine Helicopter Squadron (HS) 11 aboard USS *George Washington* (CVN 73).



Photo by PH3 Sammy Dallal



Photo by PHAN Joe Hennessey

▲ A hose team from a repair locker forms up during a mass conflagration drill on board the aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* (CVN 73).



Photo by PH2 Keith W. Deviney

▲ BT3 Cook, control center supervisor at Naval Station Rota, Spain's brig facility, monitors the whereabouts of all personnel within the building and controls access to the secured spaces.



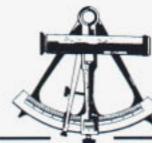


Photo by PH3 Joseph Hendricks

▲ A pilot from Fighter Squadron (VF) 102 gives his F-14B *Tomcat* a pre-flight inspection. USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) and its embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1 are operating in the Arabian Gulf to support U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Around the Fleet

FHTNC reaches milestone

NORFOLK — The Fleet Home Town News Center (FHTNC) reached a milestone in 1997 by releasing more than 1 million hometown news stories about Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen stationed around the world.

Releases were sent to almost 12,000 newspapers and radio stations throughout the United States and its territories. The Norfolk-based center produced releases on personnel from six carrier battle groups, six amphibious ready groups, seven Mideast Force deployment groups, 45 commands based overseas and 40 special operations.

In addition to unit specific stories, FHTNC produced thousands of individual releases on personal awards, promotions and retirements, as well as acknowledging numerous graduations from recruit training, service schools and civilian colleges.

The key to this achievement was the Sailors and Marines who elected to be part of this program. For information on how your command can participate in this voluntary public affairs program, call DSN 564-2221/4346 or (757) 444-2221/4346. E-mail can be sent to dlee@fhtnc.spear.navy.mil. †



Houses in the Nimitz Hill housing area near Naval Station Marianas, Guam, sit crumpled by super typhoon *Paka*. The typhoon hit the island with sustained winds of 175 mph.

Seabees assist Typhoon *Paka* victims

PORT HUENEME, Calif. — Super-typhoon *Paka* roared across the island of Guam, Dec. 16, unleashing torrential rains and record wind gusts up to 190 mph. The storm damaged or destroyed about half the homes on the island.

In response, several commands from Construction Battalion Center (CBC), Port Hueneme, Calif., teamed up to load two C-5 aircraft headed for the island with needed equipment such as generators and flatbed trailers.

Seabee commands participating in the humanitarian effort were — 31st Naval Construction Regiment, construction mechanics and equipment operators from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 3 and 4, technicians from Mobile Utilities Support Equipment Department and CBC's Construction Equipment Department. †



▲ Seabees stationed at Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, Calif., load equipment aboard a C-5 aircraft headed for Guam in support of humanitarian efforts on the typhoon-devastated island.

◀ In the aftermath of super typhoon *Paka*, five-year-old Stephanie Naystatt, plays her part in humanitarian relief efforts by using her wagon to transport potable water.



MCPON suggests Sailors read naval history

WASHINGTON — Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Master Chief Electronics Technician (SW) John Hagan strongly recommends Sailors read about naval history. History books give Sailors an insight into the experiences of their predecessors and help develop charac-

ter.

Hagan said that honor, courage, commitment, dedication, integrity, discipline loyalty have not changed in the U.S. Navy's 222-year history. "We realize we have a proud heritage only because those values prevailed in our past," said Hagan. "We have a great deal to learn from the way Sailors of the past displayed today's Core Values of Honor,

Courage and Commitment, and lived up to their obligation."

Ship and station libraries carry many of the books on MCPON's reading list. Here is just a sample of the hundreds of books available on naval history:

1) *We Will Stand By You - Serving in the Pawnee, 1942-1945* by Theodore C. Mason

2) *Crossing the Line: A Bluejacket's World War II*

Odyssey by Alvin Kernan

3) *Brave Ship, Brave Men* by Arnold S. Lott

4) *Proudly We Served: The Men of USS Mason* by Mary Pat Kelly

5) *Good Night, Officially* by William M McBride

6) *Blood on the Sea* by Robert Sinclair Parkin

7) *The Last Patrol* by Harry Holmes

8) *The Ship That Held The Line* by Lisle A. Rose †

30,000 Sailors, Marines train in JTFEX 98-1

NORFOLK — The USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) Carrier Battle Group (CVBG), with embarked Carrier Air Wing 7, and the USS *Wasp* (LHD 1) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), with embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, recently completed Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 98-1.

The three-week exercise included participation by more than 30,000 service members from all branches of the Armed Forces and provided quality, realistic, intensive training to fully prepare U.S. forces for joint operations. JTFEX 98-1 featured the latest advances in technology and demonstrated a wide range of capabilities that may be needed in various geographic areas where forces serve on deployment.

Ships and submarines of *John C. Stennis's* CVBG participating in JTFEX 98-1 included USS *Monterey*



Photo by PH3 Ken Pace

A Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) transports Marines from the 26th MEU and its equipment on board the amphibious assault ship USS *Wasp* (LHD 1) during the onload phase of JTFEX 98-1.

(CG 61), USS *San Jacinto* (CG 56), USS *Cole* (DDG 67), USS *Laboon* (DDG 58), USS *Caron* (DD 970), USS *Santa Barbara* (AE 28), USS *Providence* (SSN 719) and USS *Minneapolis-St. Paul* (SSN 708).

Ships of the *Wasp* ARG included USS *Trenton* (LPD 14) and USS *Portland* (LSD 37). †

Around the Fleet

Singapore to open to larger Navy ships in the future

SINGAPORE — The United States and Singapore announced a new agreement for U.S. aircraft carriers, submarines and other warships to use a planned \$35 million naval base in Singapore for port visits and maintenance beginning in the year 2000.

The announcement at a joint press conference drew praise from visiting U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen, who called it further evidence of the desire by both countries for the American military to help maintain security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cruisers and smaller U.S. Navy ships already use limited facilities in Singapore for port calls, but giant aircraft carriers are forced to anchor offshore and cannot dock at this strategically located city-state between the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca.

"I think it sends a very strong signal once again for the long-term security relationship in this region," said Cohen. †

Exercise *Reliant Mermaid* ends

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN — USS *John Rodgers* (DD 983) with Commander, Destroyer Squadron



As part of shipboard team training, Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Independence* (CV 62) conduct realistic firefighting techniques on a mock jet.

Sailors learn teamwork is key to survival

PENSACOLA — Choking smoke, burning jet fuel, hot ordnance, flames leaping into the air licking the sky ... it's all in a day's training at Aviation Boatswain's Mate Aircraft Handler School located at the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC), NAS Pensacola, Fla.

Three courses are taught at the center: Basic "A" school, Advanced "C" school for E-5s and above, and Aircraft Firefighting Shipboard Team Trainer course.

Each successive course builds upon previously learned techniques and concepts to bring Sailors to a more complete understanding of what it takes to battle one of the worst nightmares for any Sailor — fire aboard ship — and win.

The shipboard team trainer is where this firefighting training is put to the

ultimate test as personnel from all types of ships come together to learn how to combat all type of fire in a real-life training environment.

"The course is designed to take crash and salvage crews from ships and teach them concepts in firefighting," said Chief Warrant Officer Rick Dawdy.

Sailors going through the course can come from just about any rate that works on the deck of an aircraft carrier. Crews practice on a mock-up aircraft that has jet fuel pumped to it to feed the practice fires.

Personnel also learn handling and salvage techniques for moving and lifting aircraft that may land with a collapsed landing gear.

The school trains about 500 "A" and "C" school students every year. An additional 200 or so go through the shipboard team training course. ‡

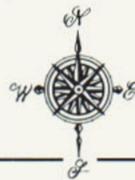
(COMDESRON) 14 embarked, recently participated in Exercise *Reliant Mermaid* near Haifa, Israel. Elements of the Turkish and Israeli navies also participated in the humanitarian search and rescue (SAR) exercise in the

international waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

The scenario of the exercise simulated three sinking civilian sailboats. Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 46, Det. 6 aircraft from *John Rodgers* located the sinking vessels

and directed Navy ships to the area.

"Our SAR training certainly paid off," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Juan R. Caro, a rescue swimmer aboard *John Rodgers*. There's no question if the ship does



receive a distress call, we're ready to respond. John Rodgers really operated as a team."

Reliant Mermaid was the first exercise of this type by the three nations.

USS Comstock crew visits India

PORT BLAIR, INDIA (NWS) — USS *Comstock* (LSD 45) visited Port

Blair, India in January to enhance relations between the United States and the Indian military. *Comstock* became the first U.S. Navy ship to visit Port Blair, located in the Eastern Bay of Bengal.

Comstock crew members gave tours to more than 1,000 Indian natives. For some Indians, this was the first time they had ever seen Americans.

"Being a tour guide was a great experience," said Personnelman 2nd Class Mae L. Purganan, from Bellview, Wash. "Everyone was enthusiastic and attentive because they had never seen a U.S. naval warship before."

"The visit to Port Blair was thrill for the ship," said *Comstock's* commanding officer, CDR Gregg S.

Jackson. "Not only was it a unique cultural experience, but it was an opportunity to show off the United States Navy-Marine Corps team and increase understanding between the Indian and United States militaries. It was a visit that none of us will soon forget." †

Duty station showcase



Photo courtesy of Tourism Halifax

Halifax harbors healthy haven

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA — Famous liberty port; assembly point of merchant convoys in World War II; and home of Commander Undersea Surveillance (CUS) Det., Halifax.

This little-known duty station is a once in a lifetime opportunity to enjoy one of the most beautiful and "best-kept secret" duty stations the Navy has to offer. "The Halifax area is a great place to live and raise a family," said Sonar Technician (Geographic) 1st Class William V. Carone of CUS Det. Halifax. "My children enjoy the schools and activities after school at the community centers. My wife has made many friends while living here. Working in Maritime Atlantic Command, Intelligence Division, has allowed me to expand my skills, not only as an acoustician, but as a Sailor, too" Carone added.

CUS Det. Halifax is part of "Trinity," the Canadian Forces Integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS) Center, established in 1995 to take on the responsibilities once assigned to Naval Facility Argentia, Newfoundland, and Canadian Forces Station Shelbourne, Nova



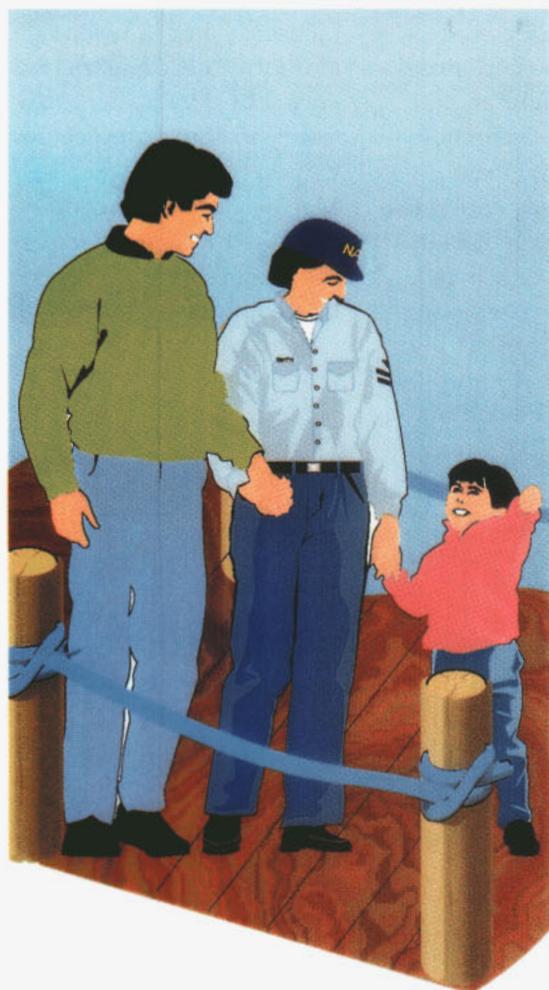
Live musicians are a common site on the Halifax waterfront during the summer.

Scotia. Since the base closings in Argentia and Shelbourne, a small Navy detachment of approximately 30 enlisted personnel and officers has played an integral role in supporting joint Canadian/U.S. undersea surveillance.

According to CUS Det. Officer In Charge LCDR Selena Hernandez-Haines, "Traditionally, most overseas IUSS commands were in places like Keflavik, Iceland, and on Midway Island. To be situated downtown in a city that is the cultural center of the region is a wonderful change."

Though a small part of the crew at Trinity, the U.S. Navy detachment will continue to provide dedicated IUSS support to both Canadian and U.S. fleets. And they will definitely continue to enjoy the beautiful and vibrant city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. †

Charthouse



BUPERS emphasizes need for family care plans

All Navy personnel on active duty or in the Ready Reserve who have a military spouse or who are single parents are required to have a current family care certificate on file with their command.

Recently, BUPERS reiterated this policy in NAVADMIN 296/97, emphasizing the need for service members to have a detailed plan to ensure they can fulfill military duties, including deployment, normal and extended work hours, temporary additional duty assignment (TAD), weekend duty, etc. The Navy Family Care Plan can be found in OPNAVINST 1740.4A.

Service members must submit a new or updated family care plan when reporting to a new duty station or when they have a change in caregiver circumstances or in personal or family circumstances (birth or adoption of a child, assuming sole care for an elderly or disabled family member, etc.). Commands must verify the plans when they are received prior to reenlistment or extension of obligated service, and prior to the service member moving under permanent change of station (PCS) orders.

BUPERS point of contact is LCDR Jim Hogan at DSN 224-6862 or (703) 614-6862. (BUPERS) †

Qualified Sailors needed for Linguist rating

Sailors who are proficient in a foreign language have the opportunity to become Navy linguists.

The Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) (CTI), rating, offers excellent advancement opportunity: E-4 at 100 percent, E-5 at 32 percent and E-6 at 34 percent on the last exam cycle; the rating is in Career Reenlistment Objectives (CREO) Group 1. Other benefits include Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) Zone A levels up to 5.5 (depending on language), and special language proficiency pay, as discussed in NAVADMIN 293/97.

BUPERS is specifically looking for Sailors, E-2 through E-5, who can speak proficiently (native or



near native), read, and/or write Spanish, French, Arabic, Persian-Farsi, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Serbian, Croatian and Russian.

Sailors who are accepted for conversion to CTI will receive up to 63 weeks of foreign language training at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., with follow-on technical training at Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

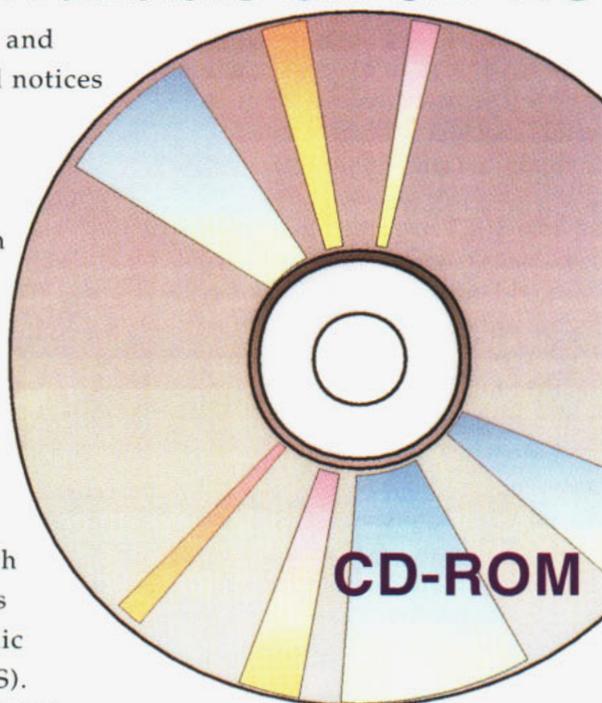
NAVADMIN 293/97 contains specific information on entry and test score requirements. Interested Sailors can contact CDR Perlberg at DSN 225-3380 or (703) 695-3380, or CTICS Harris at DSN 225-6363 or (703) 695-6363. (BUPERS) †



SECNAV, OPNAV instructions and notices now available on CD-ROM, Internet

Unclassified SECNAV and OPNAV instructions and notices are now available for Sailors on CD-ROM in a collection of five disks. They're also available on the Internet at <www.dodssp.daps.mil/usndirs.htm> in Portable Document Format (pdf) with an easy-to-install Acrobat Reader package included.

The entire system, both CD-ROM and Internet, is called the Navy Electronic Directives System (NEDS). NEDS will increase availability and improve delivery of the directives. Since the web site is updated weekly and the CD is updated quarterly, the task of maintaining binders, entering



changes and keeping directive libraries up-to-date will be eliminated, saving valuable time and space.

"I can research things in a

timely manner and at the same time know they [the directives] are all there," said Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Richard Kowalczyk, assigned to the Navy and Marine Corps Center in Wilmington, Del.

All Navy activities listed on the Standard Navy Distribution List will receive a set of the CD-ROMs quarterly. If more than one set is needed, an order may be placed for a minimal cost with the Defense Automated Printing Service Office in Philadelphia. Ordering information and forms are available on the web and on the CDs. (Navy Wire Service) †



Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society assumes Red Cross financial help to Sailors



When Sailors, Marines and their eligible family members go to the American Red Cross for financial assistance, the funds will now come from the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS).

Effective Jan. 1, the Red Cross discontinued direct funding of financial assistance to service members and their families. However, Red Cross emergency communications services and

disaster relief support remain unaffected by the change.

The nearest NMCRS office should continue to be the first stop for Sailors, Marines and their eligible family members in need of financial help. If a need arises and a shipboard or shore NMCRS office worldwide cannot be contacted, the nearest Red Cross office should be reached. (Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society) †

Shipmates



Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 1st Class (Aviation Warfare) Steven Winter stationed at Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 41, was named the squadron's Aircrew Instructor of the Year for 1997. The Circleville, Ohio, native was selected for this honor by his fellow instructors after demonstrating imaginative teaching techniques, dynamic leadership and outstanding professionalism.



Scott Miserendino, an employee of the Military Sealift Command, was selected to receive a Copernicus Award by the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute. Miserendino headed a project allowing MSC ships to receive messages on desktop computers instead of through satellite connections. The cost saving is approximately \$3 million a year.



Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Constance Zeno was named Selected Reserve Sailor of the Quarter, for Naval Reserve Medical/Dental 0276, Point Mugu, Calif. The Ridgecrest, Calif., resident was chosen for her hands-on leadership to accuracy as the unit's acting leading chief petty officer. Additionally, under her direction and guidance, the unit received invaluable training during their recent annual training.



Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Daniel D. Burke was recently selected as the FY97 Recruiter Support Person of the Year for Navy Recruiting Command. Burke, a native of Blue Springs, Mo., is assigned to Navy Recruiting District, Kansas City. Aside from his everyday administrative work and career counselor responsibilities, Burke also provided dozens of referrals for recruiters throughout the district.



Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (Aviation Warfare) Wiley Lee Portis was selected Naval Air Station Pensacola's 1997 Sailor of the Year. Portis was recognized as the command crime prevention coordinator. He also performed the duties of career counselor, small arms instructor/range and safety officer, disaster preparedness officer and physical readiness coordinator.



Your shipmate's face could be here! Does your command have a Sailor, civilian employee or family member whose accomplishments deserve recognition? Send a short write-up and full-face color print or slide to: *All Hands* magazine, Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, NAVSTA Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819.



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All Hands (USPS 372-970; ISSN 0002-5577) (Number 971) is published monthly by Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, Naval Station Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819. Periodical-class postage is paid at Washington, D.C. 20374 and additional mailing offices.

Subscriptions: For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or call (202) 512-1800.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *All Hands* magazine, Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, Naval Station Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819.

Editorial Offices: Send submissions and correspondence to: Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, ATTN: Editor, Naval Station Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819. Phone (202) 433-4171 or DSN 288-4171. Fax (202) 433-4747 or DSN 288-4747. E-mail: allhands@mediacen.navy.mil Message: NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC //32//

Authorization: The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Committee. ClipArt Images from CorelDraw 6.0 were used to prepare this magazine.

Any Day in the Navy 1998

Any day of the week May 4-10 is a typical day in the Navy. That's why it's so important to us.

Wanted are quality photographs that capture Sailors, Marines, Navy civilians, Naval Reservists and family members performing daily tasks, interacting with each other and/or otherwise contributing to mission accomplishment. The shoot has been extended to encompass an entire week to allow commands more flexibility. Selected photos will be published in the October 1998 issue of *All Hands*.

Photographs taken should reflect the diversity of both people and capabilities in the U.S. Navy and must be shot during the week of Monday, May 4 through Sunday, May 10, 1998. Photos depicting safety or uniform violations will not be considered. The best shots tend to be candid and unrehearsed, displaying the imagination and creativity of the photographer.

Submissions must include full credit and outline information, including: full name, rank, duty station and phone number of the photographer; the names and hometowns of identifiable people in the

photos; details on what's happening and where the photos were taken. Captions must be attached individually to each photo or each slide.

Photos must be processed and received (not post-marked) by *All Hands* by May 30, 1998. Photos will not be

returned. Submit processed and mounted color slides, or quality color prints, either 5X7 or 8X10. Digital images will also be accepted. Just mail a zip disk containing the high resolution JPEG images with cutlines and photo credits embedded. Zip disks will not be returned. You may also download high resolution JPEG images directly to the News Photo Division of CHINFO by dialing (703) 521-1370 or (703) 521-1713. Mark all images as "Any Day Submissions."

Mail submissions to:
Naval Media Center,
Publishing Division,
ATTN: *All Hands*, Photo Editor, NAVSTA Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819.

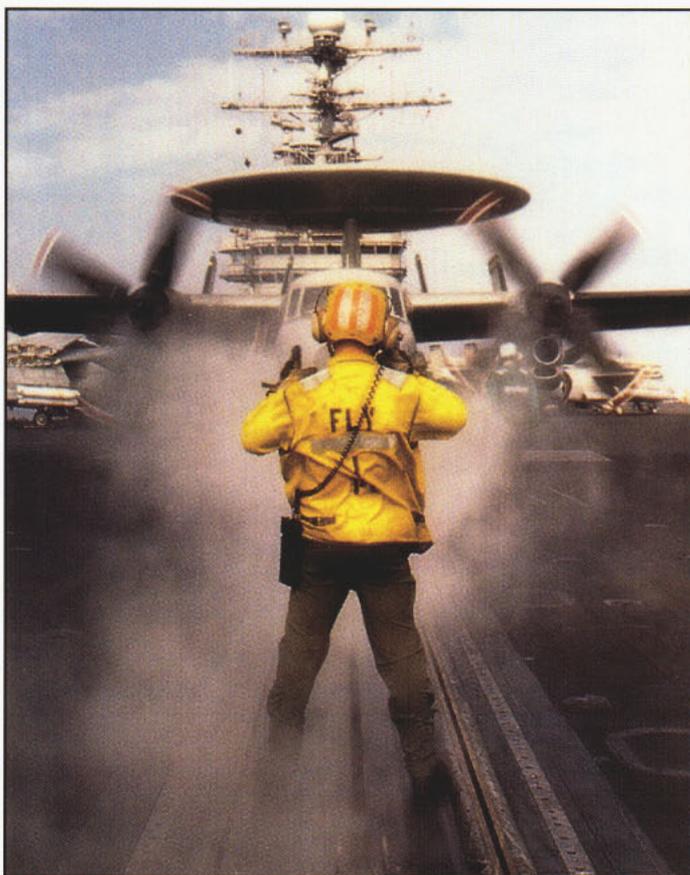


Photo by PH2 James Watson

Photocopy this form and attach a completed copy to each photo you submit.

Photographer:

Full name: _____

Rank: _____

Duty station (including mailing address and phone number): _____

Photograph:

Where photograph was shot: _____

Caption (what the photo depicts): _____

People in the photo (include first and last names, ranks/ratings, warfare designators and hometowns): _____



Photos by PH1(AW) Don Bray

NAME: HM1 Dawn G. Walker

ASSIGNED TO: Naval Submarine Training Center, Pacific

HOMETOWN: Cleveland

HOBBIES: Hiking, listening to music

BEST PART OF THE JOB: "Enjoying the work that I do and providing an invaluable service to the submarine community."

KEYS TO SUCCESS: "Maintaining a positive attitude, setting high standards."

