

# REGION STANDARD

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Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia

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## BEHIND NEPTUNE RESPONSE 2013

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# E S S E N T I A L C O M M S

## NAVY HONORS ASIAN AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER AND JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH

### Navy Embraces Inclusion During 2013 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Navy Office of Diversity and Inclusion Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy joins our nation in celebrating the contributions of generations of patriots during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month throughout May.

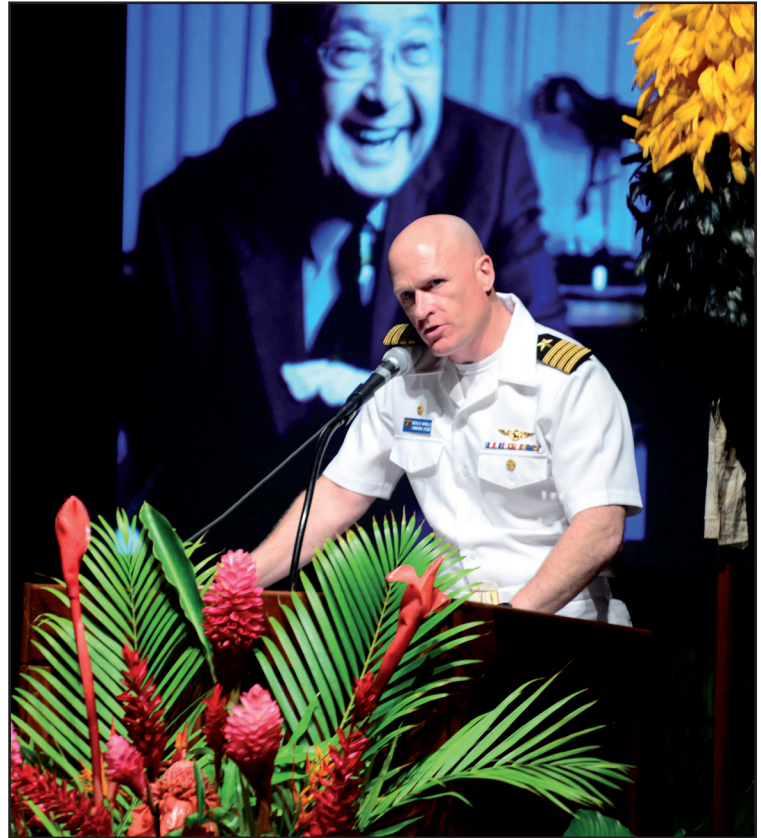
The Navy announced April 29 in NAVADMIN 115/13, this year's national theme is "Building Leadership: Embracing Cultural Values and Inclusion,"

Inclusion is a recognition that diversity of ideas, experiences, areas of expertise, and backgrounds contribute significantly to the Navy's ability to fulfill its variety of missions both today and in the future. USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) exem-

plified this year's theme of embracing cultural values and inclusion by utilizing the talents, language skills, and cultural backgrounds of three Sailors to further their mission in the US Navy's first bilateral anti-piracy exercise with China's People's Liberation Army (Navy) (PLA(N)).

In September 2012, USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) and the Chinese Frigate Yi Yang (FF 548) conducted visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) drills near the Horn of Africa to enhance cooperative anti-piracy efforts. During the exercise, three Churchill Sailors were utilized as translators.

Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Junwen Liang, Ship's Serviceman Seaman Qing Su, and Logistics Specialist 3rd



LIHUE, Hawaii (Dec. 28, 2012) Capt. Nicholas Mongillo, commanding officer of the Pacific Missile Range Facility, speaks during a memorial service honoring the late Senator Daniel Inouye. Hundreds attended a memorial service at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall to pay respect and bid farewell to Senator Daniel Inouye who died Dec. 17. (Photo by MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf/Released)

### Message from the Past: A Survivor's Tale of the Holocaust

By LT Amelia Lawton

The Reel Time Theater was a somber scene on May 14 as dozens gathered to hear Holocaust survivor Piero Terracina recount his story of his survival at Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Nazi Germany and the events leading up to the deportation of Italian Jews during the Holocaust.

Six Fleet's Multicultural Heritage Committee coordinated the event as a late observance of 2013 Holocaust Days of Remembrance; an event originally established by Congress in 1980 as the nation's annual commemoration of the tragedy.

Assisted by a translator, the speech detailed the events that led up to the deportation of thousands of Jews from Italy to the concentration camps where many of them would spend their final days; beginning with the first law passed by the Italian Grand Council of Fascism that banned Jews from teaching or attending school.

As a survivor of the camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, he shared the chilling timeline of April 7, 1944, the night where his entire family was betrayed and "sold" to Nazi soldiers by a fellow Italian. Nine months later he would be freed by Soviet soldiers, and would be the only member of his family to escape from the camp. "I

didn't find any of my family, and at the age of seventeen I was left alone, terribly alone without the support of my family."

Although history of World War II and the Holocaust is oftentimes taught in school, some found the first-person narrative enlightening and an opportunity to learn more. "When you get the chance to hear the voice of a survivor, you come to realize how little you have learned," said Chiara Varriale Onyette,

a Region employee who attended the event. "None of us will ever have an idea of what the Holocaust really was; that's why we need to hear the survivors." "

Terracina concluded his presentation with a gentle reminder for the future: "The perpetrators of that massacre were completely normal people," he said. "We must never forget that what happened could happen again."

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## R E G I O N S P O T L I G H T

# Earthquake in Naples

## Behind the scenes of the Neptune Response exercise

Story and photos by MC2 (SCW) Christopher Carson

NAPLES, Italy- Aboard the Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy installation, in a room with no windows, known as the ROC (Regional Operations Center) sits a crisis team responding to an emergency scenario. A 4.7 earthquake has shaken Naples, causing damage to the area, including the base and immediate action must be taken.

The lights begin to flicker, an email is sent to the ROC, "Shaking and jolting felt across the entire base, possibly and earthquake." While the responders act hastily to the announcement, the Training Staff of the exercise stand in the back and watch closely. Phones are ringing; head counts demanded, emergency response coordinated, when a Navy Lieutenant stands up and makes an announcement. "Attention in the ROC, attention in the ROC, there has been another earthquake, a 7.0 in the Pozzuoli area," he said.

Although Neptune Response 2013, is an annual training exercise, that tests multiple commands in emergency response and communication, a room with no windows has a way of turning the imagination into a projected reality. "When you have lived through something like the earthquake in Japan, things come to light such as the safety and



**Above:** Capt. Dirk Foster, left, discusses Neptune Response procedures with Tracey Murdock, May 8.  
**Cover:** Cmdr. David Dye, right, acts as CAT chief during the Neptune Response exercise on May 8.

security of your people," said Capt. Eric Gardner Region Chief of Staff also former Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Atsugi Japan in reference to the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. "Then you have to ask: Can we still do our mission? What do we need to still operate? Who is hurt and what is damaged? How do we start doing things to get us back to where we need to be?"

The exercise has expanded every year, each year different from the last. During Neptune Response, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Naval Forces Europe, Region Europe Africa Southwest Asia come together and form a consequence management task force. The consequence management task force inside the ROC in Naples, is able to not only deal with natural disasters, but is also able to respond to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threats and incidents at installations. "In the past we trained for a chemical problem, but the

problem was that it doesn't require as much coordination with other agencies, and doesn't stress a training audience enough..." said Cowart. "We chose a natural disaster that would probably stress the unit as much as it could be stressed, and then we incorporated the chemical even within that."

Region Exercise Director Tracey Murdock, and Region Exercise Planner, Derick Cowart are the ones who created the environment for the simulated earthquake, along with their team of trained staff and subject experts. They serve in a number of key roles such as training directors, planners, developers and assessors. The planning of the exercise can take more than nine months, and the Command Post Exercise itself lasts only four days and can involve a number of commands from around the region and abroad. The Training Director must bring a level of organization, creativity and most of all people skills to an exercise

like Neptune Response. "You really need people skills to work with them (exercise players), to bring them into planning," said Tracy Murdock. Murdock was not always in the director's chair. She has also seen the other side while working in Emergency Management as a problem solver. Now she is the one who finds problems to test the players of the exercise.

As has been done in the past after a successful overall exercise, all lessons learned will be discussed in the final discussion on the exercise and will be used to enhance the training for next year and any unseen real time events in the future.

In an already busy week, the commands and personnel involved in Neptune Response must push aside most of their normal daily work and come together to successfully carry out the crucial training. Considering the alternative, in a real-time event of an earthquake, there would be no other option.

# M E M O R I A L D A Y H O N O R E D



MU2 Lucas Swanson salutes after playing "Taps." Service members from the United States and Italy participated in a ceremony honoring the 7,861 service members buried at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno, Italy on May 27. (Photo by MC1 Christopher B. Stoltz/Released)

## SAILORS PAY TRIBUTE TO HEROES

By MC1 Christopher Stoltz, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet Public Affairs

NETTUNO, Italy (NNS) -- United States and Italian service members came together during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial, May 27.

Adm. Bruce W. Clingan, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples, described how inspiring the actions of the fallen heroes at the cemetery were and how they should be remembered.

"The nearly 8,000 men and women buried in this beautiful cemetery and thousands more like them believed in, fought for, and died for ideals that we still cherish today," said Clingan. "Their actions, some heroic, some mundane, all selfless, achieved a victorious end to the horrific battles of World War II."

David Thorne, U.S. Ambassador to Italy, encouraged the attendees to remember not just the sacrifices, but the reasons for

their sacrifices.

"On memorial day, we remember those we have lost, not only for what they fought for but who they were, proud Americans, often far-too-young, guided by deep and abiding love for their families, for each other, and their country," said Thorne. "Our debt to them is one we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice and strive to be a nation equal to their example."

Adm. Clingan joined Italian and U.S. dignitaries in a wreath-laying ceremony, honoring the 7,861 buried and the 3,095

still missing.

"Let us never forget those who have given and those who are given to the noblest of causes," said Clingan. "May their sacrifices and heroism continue to inspire us to rise up in the face of adversity, to act boldly in times of need and to give selflessly in the pursuit of enduring freedom."

For more news from Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet, visit [www.navy.mil/local/naveur/](http://www.navy.mil/local/naveur/).



Sailors from U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa present a wreath during a Memorial Day ceremony on May 27. (Photo by MC1 Christopher B. Stoltz)

# A R O U N D T H E R E G I O N

## NAVSTA Rota, Moron Air Base Receive Diverted Military Flights

By MC1 (SW) Paul Cage, Naval Station Rota, Spain, Public Affairs

ROTA, Spain (NNS) -- Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain, and Moron Air Base absorbed many U.S. military flights diverted from Northern European Routes due to ash being spewed from the Iceland volcanic eruption April 16-19.

Rota typically averages about eight to 13 flights a day but saw double that amount throughout the weekend.

Moron Air Base, which is about an hours drive north of NAVSTA Rota, averages one or two flights a day. Throughout the weekend, it had about 10 times that amount.

Cmdr. Tom Eberhard, NAVSTA Rota's executive officer, expressed complete confidence in NAVSTA personnel to handle the challenge.

"Because of the incredible teamwork between our Navy and Air Force personnel here at NAVSTA Rota, we are able to meet this increased demand," said Eber-

hard. "We have some of the best Sailors and Airmen in the world. They are always focused on accomplishing the mission."

Volcanic ash creates a cloud that is hazardous to engines. When absorbed into the engine, it can cause the engine to flame out. Air Mobility Command (AMC) flights that usually traverse the northern European air route were diverted to the southern, Mediterranean route via NAVSTA Rota and Moron Air Base to avoid the hazard.

AMC has a fixed route infrastructure to handle its aircraft and although it is a fixed route it is very flexible, said Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Cannon, 521st Air Mobility Operations Group's deputy commander.

"We are meeting U.S. Transportation Command requirements by flexing our capability to our fixed locations to handle the air flow," said Cannon. "The men and women here at the 725th Air Mobility Squadron have adapted to meet the work load by increasing the work shifts and duty hours to handle the increase in traffic."



File photo (April 10, 2010) Aircraft assigned to the U.S. Air Force Mobility Command are on the flight line at NSA Rota. (Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Meyers/Released)

A team of mechanics, from other bases not affected by the ash cloud, was sent to Moron in conjunction with the 496th Air Base Squadron to work on planes as they transit from Europe and the United States.

"We love it when there are a lot of tails on the ramp," said Cannon. "Air Mobility professionals take a lot of pride in the fact they are pushing a lot of cargo and men through the system to the fight and back to the states. The work load has doubled; we rolled up our sleeves and did the work."

## Building Interoperability With Eurasia Partnership

By D.L. "Paul" Farley, U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece

SOUDA BAY, Greece (NNS) -- Multinational military personnel completed a week-long course of instruction at the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operation Training Center (NMIOTC) as part of the U.S. Navy's Eurasia Partnership (EP) program, April 26.

The course, which included training in ship boarding, search techniques and maritime interdiction operations, gave the participants a chance to work hands-on with fellow NATO and Partnership for Peace (PfP) members.

"The purpose of this course is to build the participants' interoperability and familiarity with NATO procedures and standards" said Lt. Joshua Aisen, U.S. Naval Forces Europe's regional engagement officer and director of the EP program. "Every time we operate in a naval coalition, we bring forces together that speak different languages and use different equipment and platforms. As part of their mission, they have to operate together."

The participants in the training course included representatives from the armed



Multinational military personnel practice ship boarding and search techniques during Eurasia Partnership training at the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operation Training Center. (Photo by Paul Farley/Released)

forces of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine.

"We conduct this event, and events like this under the Eurasia Partnership program, primarily to expose forces to some of the difficulties associated with multinational operations, so they can start addressing those difficulties and work to overcome them," said Aisen.

Aisen also said he hopes courses like this lead to greater interoperability now and in the future.

"The biggest impact we see from these events is building personal relationships. The participants are senior NCOs and

mid-level officers who, when they come together and work together, they remember the connections they made here," said Aisen. "Later, down the road, when they are more senior, they have that familiarity with their counterparts in different countries. They're comfortable with each other and those personal relationships really go a long way towards ensuring operational effectiveness."

"This training was very valuable to us because we didn't have any previous experience working in international waters with multinational units," said a participant from the Azerbaijani navy. "It was a benefit for us to see the different tactics presented, some similar with our own but some slightly different. Now we will take back to our country what we have learned and share with other personnel in our units."

Sponsored by the U.S. Navy, Eurasia Partnership aims to increase maritime safety and security through training, seminars and sharing of information between partner nations.

# B I G N A V Y N E W S

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month *continued from page 1*

Class Guo Rui Liu, all Chinese immigrants, played an integral role in the success of the exercise by bridging both the language and the cultural gaps between the two crews.

Liang, who immigrated to the United States from China at age 20, said he came to America speaking almost no English and joined the Navy after pursuing further education in New York. During the exercise, Liang performed as translator for Cmdr. Chris D. Stone, commanding officer of USS Winston S. Churchill.

"This is a unique opportunity to use both my native and adopted languages in service of my country," said Liang. According to Stone, "On-site translation and briefing on customs helped ensure solid communication between U.S. Navy and PLA(N) Sailors, along with aiding us in understanding the cultural nuances that help both sides better understand each other."

"My opportunity to take part in this exchange, and in the Navy itself, reminds me that I serve a country that accepts people from many different parts of the world," said Liang. "No matter where and how I serve, I'm still serving for my freedom and my country."

Asians and Pacific Islanders of various nationalities and ancestry have been serving in our Navy since the early 19th century. Asians and Pacific Islanders have continued to be at the forefront as leaders in every aspect of American life, including Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii's first Congressman and the first Japanese American to serve in Congress. Having enlisted in the US Army at age 17 and serving during the Second World War, Senator Inouye was a great champion of all the armed forces throughout his career. He received the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism and indomitable leadership during an engagement in World War II. On Dec 17, 2012 Senator Inouye passed away, leaving behind a noted legacy of leadership and a drive to enhance inclusion in our Armed Forces and across our

country.

In 2013, Sailors of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage comprise 6.5 percent of our active duty Naval force. Over 20,000 active duty Sailors, 4,000 Reservists, and 18,900 Navy civilian employees identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander, including 10 flag officers, 9 members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), and 176 master chief petty officers. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders encompass over 50 ethnic and language groups, representing a vast array of cultures, nationalities, and historical roots.

Directed by Congress in 1978 and established by Presidential Proclamation in 1979, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week was first observed the week of May 4, 1979. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush expanded the observance to encompass the entire month, and in 1992, Congress passed a law permanently designating May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.



## Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention is Not Just the Name of a Month

### MCPON directs Chiefs Mess to get involved now

*By Defense Media Activity, Navy*

The conversation regarding the prevention of sexual assault is not losing its voice. The vice chief of naval operations (VCNO) and the master chief petty officer of the Navy, along with other senior military leaders, recently met with the president to discuss the topic.

Training has been conducted, campaigns have been launched and commands have invested time and energy into promoting sexual assault awareness and prevention. But despite the proposed solutions, the Navy, and subsequently the military, is still losing to the problem.

So much so that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has recently ordered the services to retrain, re-credential and rescreen all sexual assault prevention and response personnel and military recruiters. To help get to the left of this problem, MCPON Mike Stevens released an email to senior en-

listed leadership hoping to course correct for the way ahead.

"When we are functioning at our best, we are family. And when that bond is violated because of something like sexual assault, we are broken," said MCPON Mike Stevens. "I still find it hard to understand why someone would be willing to lay down their life for their shipmate and then turn around and violate that shipmate in such a horrible way."

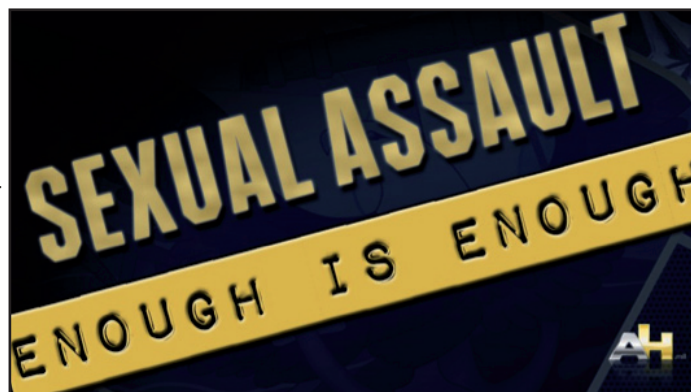
The MCPON admits to not having all the answers, but is calling on his Chiefs Mess to change the tide.

"During my nearly 30 years of service

the one thing that has always stood out to me is that whenever the chiefs mess makes the decision to get after something we always make a difference," said Stevens.

In this case, MCPON wants his mess to get after sexual assault. He is directing his chiefs to continue the conversation each and every day - to talk to Sailors specifically about sexual harassment, assault, and sexist behavior. By making a commitment to the health and safety of Sailors, MCPON hopes Sailors will in turn make the same commitment.

"People deeply desire to serve our country and they should be able to serve with the dignity and respect that you and I know our Sailors share," said Stevens. "This isn't a high profile program and doesn't cost a bunch of money. This is good old fashioned Chief Petty Officer leadership. We are in this together. It is our duty."



# T H E M O N T H I N P H O T O S



Military and civilian personnel from various commands who are deployed to Djibouti as well as local Djiboutians competed in the Camp Lemonnier World Cup Soccer tournament on May 5. (Photo by MC1 Jerome W. Mapp/Released)



Chief of Staff Captain Eric Gardner joins his staff for a command bowling party sponsored by the Region Recreational Committee. (Photo by MA2 Donyelle Davis/Released)



Sgt. William Mullen demonstrates a self-defense technique on Cpl. Jacob Shellenberger, both assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command, at a Coalition of Service Members Against Destructive Decisions sponsored Self-Defense Training Seminar, May 20. (Photo by MC1 David R. Krigbaum/Released)



The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) departs Souda harbor after a routine port visit on May 24. Florida, homeported in Kings Bay, Ga., is deployed conducting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. (Photo by Peggy Bebb/Released)



Above: Elementary school is celebrating May as career month by hosting "Careers on Wheels," May 3 at NAS Sigonella. (Photo by MC3 Cameron Bramham/Released)

Left: The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) departs Souda harbor after a routine port visit on May 24. Florida, homeported in Kings Bay, Ga., is deployed conducting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. (Photo by Peggy Bebb/Released)



Guided missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) arrives in Souda Bay on May 22. Barry is currently deployed conducting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. (Photo by Paul Farley/Released)



Commander, Navy Installations Command Vice Adm. William D. French receives a brief from Rota's Public Works Department General Maintenance Foreman Larry Smith at the installation's water treatment facility. (Photo by MC2 Travis Alston/Released)



Pierro Terracina speaks at the Holocaust Days of Remembrance ceremony May 14, 2013 in the Capo Reel Times Theater. Terracina is a survivor of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. (Photo by LT Amelia Lawton/Released)