

EURAFSWA



Reader

NOVEMBER 2015 VOLUME 2 ISSUE 11



HONORING
ALL
WHO
SERVED



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EURAFSWA READER VOLUME 2 ISSUE No. 11 - NOVEMBER 2015
 "VETERANS DAY"

REGION EURAFSWA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Lt. Cmdr. Robert Johnson

CONTRIBUTORS

Rear Adm. Jack Scorby
 Capt. Larry Vasquez
 CMDCM Gregory Vidaurri
 Tim McGough
 Lt. Adam Yarochowicz
 MC2 Luke Meineke

Capt. Geof Colpitts
 Cmdr. Charles William
 CMDCM Scott Martin
 Lt. Cmdr. Erik Wells
 MC1 Drae Parker

Capt. Michael R. Moore
 Cmdr. James R. Bird
 CMDCM Kurtis Szyzka
 Jacky Fisher
 Heather Judkins
 MC2 Jeff Benson

Capt. Christopher J. Dennis
 Cmdr. Charles G. McKinney II
 CMDCM Michael Kaszubowski
 Lt. Paul Newell
 MC1 Tony D. Curtis
 MC3 Ramon Go
 Alberto Lunettav
 Nicole Ybarra

Capt. Cory R. Howes
 Cmdr. Steven Williams
 CMDCM Steve Timmons
 Scott Ghiringelli
 MC2 John Benson

Capt. William A. Garren
 Cmdr. Angel Santiago
 CSCS Raymond Dean
 Lt Dan Day

Capt. Greg Pekari
 Cmdr. Neil Hoffman
 CMDCM Delbert Terrell Jr.
 Lt. David Carter
 MC1 Brian Dietrick
 MC2 Grant Wamack

Capt. Douglas Carpenter
 Cmdr. Jay Driskell
 CMDCM Ashley R. Drake
 Lt. j.g. Alexander Perrien
 Chaplain Don Biadog

REGION COMMANDER'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Friends and Families,

I would like to begin this month's installment by highlighting that November is Military Family Month. Military service is, unequivocally, a family affair. It is an investment in the future of our nation made possible by the service, sacrifice, and enduring support we receive from our family members. Behind each service member stands a parent, a sibling, a child, a spouse -- proud family members who may not wear the cloth of the nation, but who serve nonetheless. I salute each of them, and thank them for the courage, strength, and devotion that enable our military and civilian workforce to focus their considerable talents on our missions and objectives.

With that in mind, I also remind you that November 11th is Veterans Day; a day when we remember the valor and sacrifice of our nation's sons and daughters whose service has shaped our history and our way of life. Through the generations since we boldly took the steps to self-determination and freedom from oppression, America's men and women in uniform have answered the call of duty with courage and determination to preserve our nation "of the people, by the people, and for the people." On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to those who have served in our Armed Forces. As we reflect upon the service of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, we must never forget that the defense of our republic and the values upon which it was built has been accompanied by



great loss and sacrifice by its people. This Veterans Day, give thanks to those who have served this noble cause and keep in your prayers those who accepted this responsibility and never returned home.

I want to thank all of you for the efforts put forth in October to support an unusually busy schedule. First, we had three important leaders of our military come through and visit various installations. Vice Adm. Bill Moran, Chief of Naval Personnel visited Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, NSA Bahrain and Naval Air Station Sigonella where he held All-hands Calls and re-enlisted Sailors. Many of you were also able get answers, direct from the expert, on issues such as maternity leave and retirement. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) John Richardson, on his first trip overseas as CNO, visited NSA Bahrain and NSA Naples. In Naples, many of our families were also able to speak with the CNO as he held a call with spouses and family members. Sigonella also welcomed Secretary of Defense Ash Carter who took the time to thank our military and civilians, speak with our personnel, and answer questions. A rather busy month, but these visits by our

leadership shows the fundamental importance of what we are doing here in Region EURAFSWA.

Looking forward, we are in a full sprint until the end of the calendar year. Among our many competing requirements, the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Facility in Romania, Naval Support Facility Deveselu remains our top priority. November will be a critical month as we push to finish the housing and dining facility that will significantly improve the quality of life for our Sailors. However, other military construction projects are coming to fruition and critical security and electronic systems are scheduled to come online. I deeply appreciate the efforts so many of you are making to support the construction of the Navy's newest overseas base. Keep charging!

For many of us, November marks the beginning of the holiday season when we celebrate Thanksgiving. Declared a national day of thanks by President Abraham Lincoln over 150 years ago, it is a day for Americans to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. Despite the joy that accompanies the holidays, this time of year can be difficult for those of you who are serving away from your loved ones, particularly for the first time. Please look out for one another and remember that no matter how far from home you feel, you are never far from people who are willing and able to help you. As always, take care of yourself, take care of your shipmates and take care of your families!

Rear Adm. Jack Scorby
Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia

Veterans Day

By Tim McGough
Region EURAFSWA Public Affairs

What does the military owe Johnny?

If anything, Johnny owes the military.

His military service has given him so much. It has provided a good life for him and his family, a secure job, training, and the privilege to serve his country. He was always told by his father who was a veteran that you have to earn it. That nothing is going to just be given to you. So, he went out and earned it – in the U. S. Armed Forces. Like his dad, Johnny earned the right to be called a veteran.

He served his country. If you served, you are a veteran too. You have earned that right and everything that goes along with it.

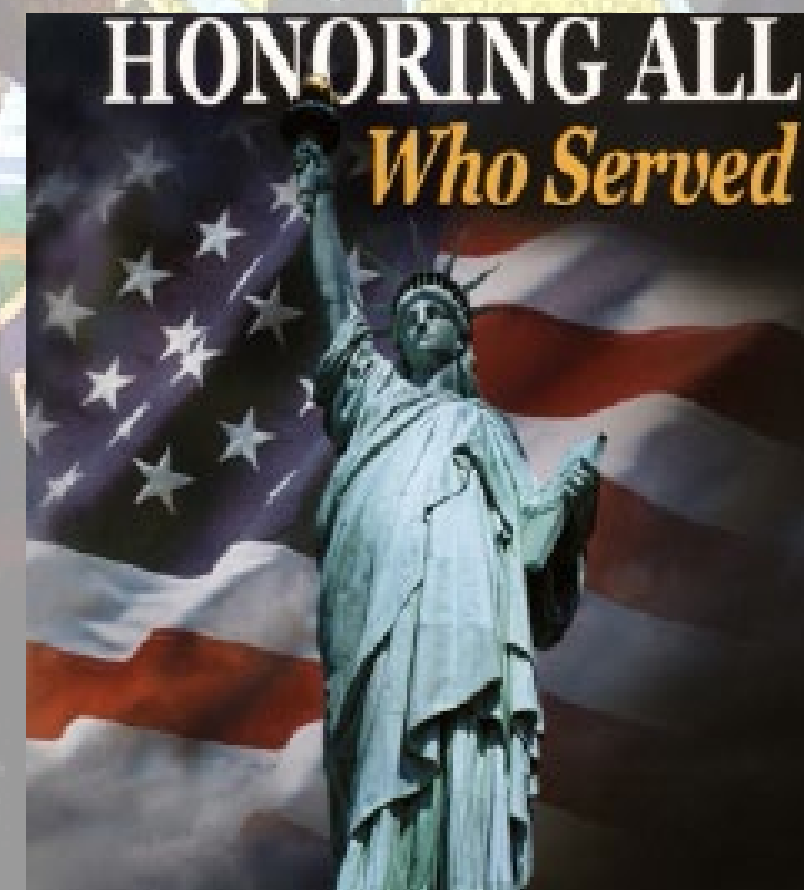
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 21.8 million veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces as of 2014, approximately 10 percent of whom are women. Broken down by gender, 20.2 million veterans are men and 1.6 million are women.. That's a lot of veterans to thank on Veteran's Day. Veteran's Day – a day for us to stop and thank e which is a day that each American offers a But what is the history of Veterans Day?

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs webpage, President Woodrow Wilson commemorated the end of World War I in 1919 with Armistice Day. This was to recognize the veterans of the Great War. Then in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name of Armistice to Veterans Day to recognize all veterans



who have served in the armed forces. Eisenhower designated Administrator of Veterans Affairs Harvey V. Higley as the Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

On October 8, 1954, Eisenhower issued a Veterans Day proclamation: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and



which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

Today, Veterans Day ceremonies and memorials can be witnessed at military installations world-wide and arguably in every town and city in America.

It is a day to recognize and remember all American veterans who are serving and have served their country. It is a day to thank veterans for their sacrifices and even the sacrifices that their families make to support them so they can protect the freedoms of American citizens. Families serve too ...

The extremes of combat, the long deployments, and separations from loved ones veterans share a common bond, of service and sacrifice. Most veterans can tell a tale of missing births, holidays, and anniversaries. The easiest way to explain what being a veteran is two words: service and sacrifice.

Military veterans have served and sacrificed for their country and are proud of it. They may be humbly proud, yet they're still proud of their commitment to protecting the constitution, American citizens, and our country's way of life.

Happy Veterans Day!

NAVY BALL 2015

NSA BAHRAIN





NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BAHRAIN – Navy Chaplain Lt. Haneef Mubarak, stationed at NSA Bahrain, spoke to high school students at Al Raja School in Bahrain about personal confidence on Oct. 5, 2015.



NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BAHRAIN – USS Hurricane (PC 3) hosted 21 children from the Al Sanabel Orphanage a tour of the ship on Oct. 10, 2015. The tour of the ship included the common areas, bridge, weather decks, and galley, where the children were provided lunch.



NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BAHRAIN – The NSA Bahrain Fire Department visited the Modern Knowledge School, a local Pre K-12 private school, in support of National Fire Prevention Week on Oct. 8, 2015. Sparky the dog and a fire fighter dressed in full gear interacted with the audience comprised of more than 200 local students ranging from ages 3-6 years old.



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NAVY BALL 2015

CAMP LEMONNIER



Camp Lemonnier Change-of-Command Ceremony



NAVY BALL 2015

FIRST!

NSF DEVESELU

NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY DEVESELU, Romania – Sailors serving at Naval Support Facility (NSF) Deveselu, Romania, celebrated the 240th Birthday of the Navy Oct. 16, during the command's first formal Navy Ball since the installation's establishment in October 2014.

Sharing in this tradition were their Romanian counterparts of the 99th Military Base. The installation is co-located with the 99th Military Base. Guest Speaker, Romanian Navy Command Master Chief Ionel Burtica of the 99th Military Base, spoke on the importance of recognizing and celebrating national military history as well as the friendships that have developed between the two militaries over the past year.

“Together with the American [Sailors] I feel a lot of confidence, admiration and joy. And I hope in the future to be together like the great master chief said one team one fight one winner,” said Burtica. “Knowing the American professional military was very powerful and helpful, we are very proud we could work together. Our cooperation was not just professional work, it was a friendship too.”

As the first time that this honored event has taken place at Deveselu, the command wanted to ensure that - like the base – the celebration was a combined event with the 99th Military. The theme for this year's birthday celebration is, “Ready Then. Ready Now. Ready Always.”

“We are pioneers of our times, beginning a new chapter of strong partnership with our hosts and long lasting friendships,” said NSF Deveselu Commanding Officer, Capt. Bill Garren. “This is evident here today as we stand joining forces with Romania, standing by to answer the call. It has been a daunting journey to get where we are, and we continue to make great progress. By the end of this year, the Romanian and American team in Deveselu is scheduled to stand up the most sophisticated missile defense system known to mankind. We will stand ready to defend our nation and our allies.”

The Navy Ball is a tradition that arguably dates back as long as the Navy. Additionally, it is an event held at installations around the world as an occasion to mark the Navy's birthday of Oct. 13, 1775.

As the first Navy shore installation commissioned since Everett, Washington, in 1987, NSF Deveselu is located in south-central Romania within the Romanian 99th Military Base. When completed, its mission will be to provide installation facilities, resources, and services to support and enable the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System (AAMDS).

AAMDS is part of Phase II of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) to ballistic-missile defense in Europe and is scheduled to become fully operational later this year. Utilizing the U.S. Navy's proven at-sea missile defense capability adapted for shore application, the plan for EPAA builds on the Standard Missile-3 now deployed around the world.



CELEBRITY CHEFS visit

MISSILE DEFENSE FACILITY

in ROMANIA

Congested inside a temporary galley, constructed within two conex boxes, John Conley leaned as close as possible to the stove top, allowing his fellow chef "Panini" Pete Blohme to get by him.

Conley reached to his side, pulled out a Ziploc bag full of red spices and began pouring them into a simmering pot. "I have a suitcase full of habaneros, ghost peppers, chipotle, New Mexico chili powder," said Conley, detailing the ingredients he brought with him.

As he mixed the spices into the dish, fellow chef Pete continued to run back and forth in the kitchen, cutting and frying tortillas, chopping vegetables and jesting with Conley. Pete adds to Conley's list of ingredients they brought. "I (brought) some self-rising flour, some baking powder and baking soda. No issues though," he states referring to bringing the ingredients from the U.S. to Romania, "(Customs) even put a little sign in the suitcase." He then jokingly adds, "Those big bags of white powder, I guess they were a little concerned."

Pete and Conley are both cooking professionals. Both own restaurants and they have been featured on television networks such as Spike, Bravo and Food Network. The two came to Naval Support Facility (NSF) Deveselu, Oct. 6-7, as part of Navy Entertainment's Celebrity Chef Tour, "Messlords." This is the first visit to Romania

for the chef's as well as Navy Entertainment. The base was established one year ago, and construction on the installation continues to progress.

As the permanent dining facility is not yet completed, these chefs had to improvise a little, doing their best to cook in temporary facilities. Facilities much smaller than the larger, professional kitchens they are used to. "It's like a little trailer," said Pete. "I wonder if a few months ago whether there were Toyota's being shipped in this," added Conley. This joking and friendly banter between the chefs appeared as much of a part of the cooking process as the ingredients, as the chefs gave their all to prepare the meals.

Arriving in the early afternoon Oct. 6, and departing around the same time the next day, the chefs prepared a total of four meals, all in less than 24 hours. A whirlwind of cooking, chatting with Sailors and serving up dishes, the chefs said that this is all part of the service they love to bring.

"It's to just, to just be of service," said Conley. "And to be asked to take our trade on the road and be of service to the men and women who are keeping the bad guys out. That's a blessing, and I don't ever want to take that for granted. I won't ever take that for granted."

Assisting the chefs in the kitchen were Romanian contractors, who provide daily food services at the installation, as well as a few volunteer Sailors who wanted to see these professionals work up-close; one or two also hoping to get some culinary tips.

"It was really fun. I helped them out with grilling," said Petty Officer Second Class Anna Ecalnir. "I really wanted to know what they put in the burgers that made them taste so good, but I didn't get the recipe. The guys were amazing though, and it was a great time as we haven't had any visits like this here."

As the chef's brought food from the kitchen to the dining area, NSF Sailors and civilians were already lined up for the meal--a mix of the extremely famished as well as those desiring to get the first taste of the meal prepared by these widely talked about visitors. Conley and Pete then stepped behind the serving line and served up the dishes. All the while, they spoke with NSF Sailors and civilians and thanked each person for their service.

"Fortunately, we cook well enough to be able to come out and do this," said Pete. "It's an amazing, amazing privilege

NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY DEVESELU (Oct. 7, 2015) - Chefs "Panini" Pete Blohme and John Conley prepare lunch for personnel stationed aboard Naval Support Facility (NSF) Deveselu with the assistance from Sailors. Navy Entertainment's Celebrity Chef Tour "Messlords" visited Naval Support Facility (NSF) Deveselu Oct. 7, 2015. The chefs were able to prepare four meals for the Sailors and civilians stationed here. This was the first Navy Entertainment visit to the installation since the base's establishment in October 2014.



for us to come out and not to just give back, but to look in, to see your lives and how hard you all work: the commitment, the dedication."

As the first Navy shore installation since Everett, Washington, in 1987, NSF Deveselu was established Oct. 10, 2014, in south-central Romania. When completed, its mission will be to provide installation facilities, resources and services to support and enable the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System (AAMDS).

AAMDS is part of Phase II of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) to ballistic-missile defense in Europe and is scheduled to become fully operational later this year. Utilizing the U.S. Navy's proven at-sea missile defense capability adapted for shore application, the plan for EPAA builds on the Standard Missile-3 now deployed around the world.

Construction on a second AAMDF in Poland is expected to begin soon, with operational status scheduled in 2018.

NAVY BALL 2015

NAVSTA ROTA



NCTAMS Spreads Cyber Security Awareness in Rota



By MC2 Grant Wamack
NAVAL STATION ROTA,
Spain (Oct. 19, 2015) -
Six Sailors work around
the clock ensuring all
the computers located
throughout Naval Station
Rota are secure and
virus-free. These hard-
working men and women
make up the Cyber
Security Division at
Naval Computer and
Telecommunications Area
Master Station (NCTAMS)
Atlantic Detachment Rota.

"We monitor everybody
to make sure they're
doing what they're
supposed to be doing,"
said Information Systems
Technician 2nd Class
Martin Gasca, the
information systems

security officer. "We
don't want them to cause
harm to our equipment or
information systems."

There are a variety of
threats online, but
according to Gasca, the
biggest one is over-
sharing. He believes
people give out too much
personal information
on social media and
this can end up having
harmful consequences.

Another big threat
are vulnerabilities
like viruses, such as
the Heartbleed Bug or
catfishing, which is
luring someone in with a
fictional profile, which
affects many pre-teens
and teens.

month and October's is
"Stop. Think. Connect!"
NCTAMS has been sending
out weekly informational
e-mails such as how to
protect your community
and families while always
being connected. Sailors
have also gone out and
set up informational
booths outside the Navy
Exchange to personally
talk to people interested
in learning more
about cyber security.
Additionally, they have
been going to David
Farragut Glasgow schools
to teach students about
cyber security risk and
protection methods.

October is National Cyber

**National Cyber Security
Awareness Month
October 2015**

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Security Awareness Month
and the entire division
has been putting a larger
focus on informing
the public, but Gasca
believes people should be
vigilant every month.

"All year round cyber
security is very
important," said Gasca.

the Internet and computers."

One of the biggest challenges
the division faces is spreading
awareness about the potential
dangers online and how to
protect computers, but many
of these proactive steps are
easier than people think.

"Everyone connects online
if they have Facebook or
not. Some of the older
generations may not use
the Internet as much, but
they still connect. It's
very important to stay
secure online or people
could potentially steal
your information. We're
in the digital age where
even the younger kids use

"I think the most important
steps people could take are
the common sense steps, which
would be having your anti-virus
updated and not overly sharing
too much," said Gasca. "Keep
your social media accounts
locked so only your friends can
see your information. Make sure
you watch what you're doing
online. Something as small as
locking up your Facebook can
help you out a lot."

Recycling:

Easiest Way to Preserve the Environment

By Lt. Adam Yarochowicz
CNREURAFSWA Public Affairs

Installations throughout Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (CNREURAFSWA) work closely with their host nations to reduce the impact on the environment. Base recycling programs are an important part of the relationships with host nations, working together to ensure the betterment of the environment but also reducing the installation environmental affect in those countries.

“Recycling fills a vital role in our environmental programs within EURAFSWA,” said Joe Vinch,

Environmental Engineer, Regional Environmental Compliance Coordinator for Naval Facilities (NAVFAC) Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia. “Our recycling efforts throughout the region have a huge impact on reducing the amount of trash that is sent to our host nation landfills.”

Each base conducts recycling of everyday items, like cans and bottles, but also of solid waste and hazardous materials that play a part in saving the environment but also dollars. “Recycling efforts across the AOR help conserve raw materials, protect the environment, and save a considerable amount of money by diverting recyclables away from limited landfill space,” said Vinch.

The recycling of these materials are taken care of by host nation contractors, the job of the base is to ensure all the items are properly separated. This is a crucial step and is the one that comes down to every person working and living on installations. It is everyone’s job to separate their own items to maintain the environment of these countries. Out in town, individuals can be fined for not properly separating their items.

In conjunction with the local contractors CNREURAFSWA closely monitors recycling efforts. Just recently a data call was issued to check on current effectiveness. Naval Support Station (NSA) Naples is recycling at 89 percent; solid waste of 30 percent; and 60 percent of hazardous waste. Since the installation’s efforts have been so effective, they’re focusing on Carney Park (recreation area).

Naval Air Station (NAS) NAS Sigonella is currently recycling at 65 percent but that is a significant increase from the previous year. While these numbers are good, there is always room for improvement.

“By following the Three R’s of Sustainability - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle; we’re helping preserve and protect the environment for future generations,” said Vinch.

For more information on Recycling at your installation, contact your local Recycling representative.



NAVY BALL 2015

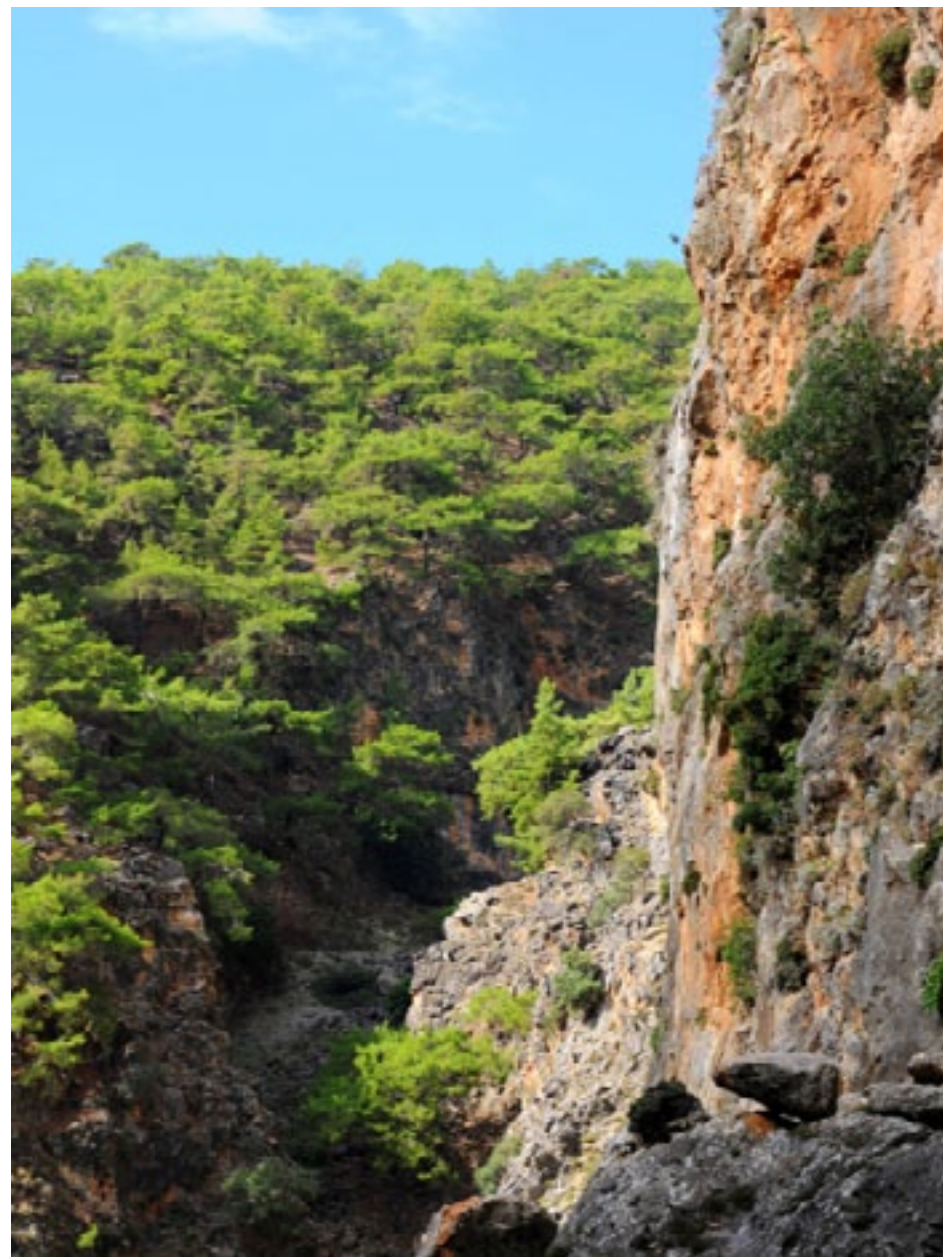
NSA SOUDA BAY



Adventures in Pink Hiking Boots by Heather Judkins

I suppose I should start with this caveat: “I am not an outdoorsman.” I am quite the opposite, in fact. I like cute shoes and frequently make poor choices based on how they look versus the purpose for which I am wearing them. With that said, I prepared for this hike the best way I knew how; I bought pink hiking boots. In my defense, I did read the email sent about the gorge from the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC). The gorge itself is amazingly beautiful and, according to the information sent by OAC prior to our trip, just one of many gorges the island of Crete has to offer.

According to OAC, “some of the most spectacular features of Crete are the more than 250 gorges. The province of Sfakia has 12 of the



best known gorges to include Samaria, Imbros, Irini, and Aradena. The gorge of Aradena lies in the beautiful and wild region of Sfakia on the southern coast of Crete. The gorge begins inland in the abandoned village of Aradena (close to Anopolis) and ends some 5.5 km (two hours) later at Marmara beach. Marmara beach has many beautiful caves of smooth, white, marble like limestone that reflects the turquoise colored waters of the Libyan sea in which you can swim. From Marmara, our path heads east on a trail above the cliffs through the village of Likos, past the ancient site of Finikas, to the beautiful seaside village of Loutro.”

The total hike is around 8.5 km in distance. The terrain covered is not overly challenging, but takes a little patience and attention in some places. If you do decide to go on a hike with the OAC, make sure to check out the list of

suggested items to pack (shoe types are, indeed, one of those items). Also, be sure to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge about our area offered by the staff. Part of the joy of going on a tour is the wealth of “insider information” provided. Think ‘the inside scoop on great scenery, great history and awesome food!’

As Sailors, you have the unique opportunity to be stationed in some amazing places, so make the most of each duty station to which you transfer. It’s too easy to become complacent in the day to day routines. The Liberty Center, MWR, Kriti Info and the Outdoor Adventure Center give you an “easy button” to get out and do something fun while stationed here in Souda Bay.



COMMANDER, US TRANSCOM, VISITS SOUDA BAY

Photos by NSA Souda Bay Public Affairs



Souda Bay, Greece (October 19, 2015) - Top Left - Gen. Darren W. McDew, Commander, U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), is greeted by Capt. Mike R. Moore, Commander, U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, during his visit to the installation. Top Right and bottom left - Commanding Officer of the Marathi NATO Fuel Depot, Capt. Konstantinos Mousonis briefs Gen. McDew during a visit to Marathi NATO Fuel Depot.



NSA Souda Bay’s mission is to provide support and security to U.S. and allied ships as well as aircraft transiting or operating in the eastern Mediterranean region.

Souda Bay, Greece (October 19, 2015) - Navy Munitions Command Detachment Souda Bay Officer in Charge, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Slack briefs Gen. McDew during a visit to Marathi NATO Pier Facilities (right) .



Founding Principle: The First Freedom

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Story by Lt. Cmdr. Robert Johnson
CNREURAFSWA Public Affairs

First Amendment Part 1

The Constitution says little about God or religion. Of course, there are hints that America is a Christian nation (e.g., a pocket veto occurs 10 days after a bill is passed by Congress, Sundays excepted), but these seem to be more than balanced by Article VI's prohibition of religious tests for federal offices. The only specific mention of God is found in the date the Constitution was written: "in the Year of our Lord 1787."

Some have argued that America began as a Christian country but, the authors of the Constitution recognized that this was not a good thing, and so, they created in the words of Isaac Kramnick and R. Laurence Moore, a "Godless Constitution." To reinforce this point, the Founders added the First Amendment to the Constitution, which begins "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...."

There is a central reason why the Constitution appears to be "Godless." Simply put, the Founders were creating a national government for a very few limited purposes—notably those enumerated in Article I, Section 8. There was almost universal agreement that if there was to be legislation on religious or moral matters, it should be done by state and local governments.

In fact, states remained active in this business well into the 20th century. The last state church was disestablished in 1832, but many states retained religious tests for public office, had laws aimed at restricting vice, required prayer in schools, and so forth. Because the federal government was not to be concerned with these issues, they were not addressed in the Constitution. The First Amendment merely reinforced this understanding with respect to the faith—i.e., Congress has no power to establish a national church or restrict the free exercise of religion.

In 1802, Thomas Jefferson penned a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association in which he famously suggested that the First Amendment created a "wall of separation between Church & State." This metaphor lay dormant with respect to the Supreme Court's Establishment Clause jurisprudence until 1947, when Justice Hugo Black seized upon it as the definitive statement of the Founders' views on church-state relations.

As appealing as the wall metaphor is to contemporary advocates of the strict separation of church and state, it obscures far more than it illuminates. Jefferson issued calls for prayer and fasting as governor of Virginia, and in his revision of Virginia's statutes, he drafted bills

stipulating when the governor could appoint "days of public fasting and humiliation, or thanksgiving" and to punish "Disturbers of Religious Worship and Sabbath Breakers." And two days after completing his letter to the Danbury Baptists, he attended church services in the U.S. Capitol, where he heard John Leland, the great Baptist minister and opponent of religious establishments, preach.

I am not arguing that Christianity was the only significant influence on America's Founders or that it influenced each Founder in the exact same manner. Clearly there were a variety of different, but often

overlapping, intellectual influences in the era. The Founders were also informed by the Anglo-American political-legal tradition and their own political experience, and like all humans, they were motivated to varying degrees by self, class, or state interests. Orthodox Christianity had a very significant influence on America's Founders but this influence is a fact.

What does this fact mean for Americans who embrace non-Christian faiths or no faith at all? How is it played out in American society?

[Founding Principle: The First Right continues in the December EURAFSWA Reader]



NAVY BALL 2015

NSA NAPLES



Red Poppy Flower: Symbol of Sacrifice and Freedom

By Chaplain Don Biadog Jr.

Springtime in southern Italy is one of my favorite times of the year.

Perennial plants that have been quiescent during winter months begin to feel the warmth of the spring weather. Various varieties of beautiful and colorful flowers begin to bloom. Bulb plants launch above the ground ready to face the blue sky. Native European and migratory birds sing and enjoy the rising of the sun and the flowers all around the meadows and mountains.

Almost overnight new leaves appear in the Italian cherry tree, a common spring flowering tree of the garden. Beautiful flowers of countless colors begin to bloom.

The red poppy is one of the easily recognizable floras adorning the fields and the roadsides throughout southern Italy and beyond around May-June. The red poppy is not just an ordinary variety of flower. The red poppy (Scientific classification as "Papaver rhoeas") known as common poppy, corn poppy, corn rose, field poppy, and Flanders poppy, decorates the Italian landscapes.

For me the red poppy has a patriotic meaning and spiritual symbol. Red symbolizes the blood of warriors who fought for freedom from the ancient era to modern times. Thirty minutes from Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Support Site is a place called "Capua." Rome's Coliseum was modeled after the arena in Capua, the training ground of the famed Thracian gladiator Spartacus who together with fellow gladiators fought for their freedom against the slave-owning oligarchy during the Roman period. World War I, the "War to End All Wars," claimed the lives of nine million combatants and seven million civilians. A hundred years ago the red poppies adorned the war-torn areas all over Europe including France. Honoring and remembering his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer who was killed during WWI on May 2, 1915 near Ypres, France, Doctor, Poet, and Artillery Commander Major John McCrae wrote a poem: "In Flanders fields"

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.



We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Every time I see each red poppy, it represents a precious soul of warrior/veteran who sheds his or her blood for freedom sake. We must never forget their sacrifices for freedom's sake.

Today, hundreds of thousands of our troops serve in the home front and around the globe. All gave some, and some gave all. They fought for flag, family, and faith. As we celebrate Veterans Day, on foreign soil, let us always be mindful of the warriors who left America's shores and never return. Seven thousand sixty-one are buried and 3,095 names of Missing in Action are etched on the memorial walls at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, about a three-hour drive from Naples. As we celebrate our veterans, let's pause a moment of silence and say a prayer of thanks for their service. Remember America's veterans and may God Bless the United States of America.



NAVY BALL 2015

NAS SIGONELLA



Celebrating 240 Years of Naval History

By MC2 Ramon Go

CATANIA, Sicily – On Oct. 2, NAS Sigonella hosted its annual celebration of the U.S. Navy’s birthday, paying homage to 240 years of naval history and pride. The 2015 Navy Ball was coordinated by Chaplains Lt. Brian Myers and Lt. Adam Bayer, co-chairs of the Navy Ball Committee, in partnership with other organizations who contributed to the event’s success at the Sheraton Hotel in Catania, Sicily.

“I didn’t realize how much time goes into coordinating this event and I couldn’t have done it without the overwhelming support I received,” said Myers. “This event is and always will be a big deal and I couldn’t be happier to be a part of the Navy tradition and to celebrate its 240th birthday.”

During the event, Sailors paid tribute to POWs and fallen comrades, honoring their sacrifice and vowing to never forget. “Oct. 13, 2015 marks the 240th anniversary of the date the Continental Congress commissioned our U.S. Navy and, today, we are the heir of that Navy and much of our Navy today reflects the preference and sensibilities of these founding plank owners; the plank owners of all plank owners,” said NAS Sigonella Commanding Officer Capt. Christopher Dennis. “From the Great White Fleet to the height of struggle against fascism, our Navy culture persists in each and every one of us today.”

Following his remarks, Capt. Dennis introduced the event’s guest speaker, Rear Adm. Cathal S. O’Connor, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy, Resources and Plan, who had much to say about his time in Sigonella 26 years ago. He reflected on the significant accomplishments of the Navy during his tour of the base and surrounding community.

“We are a part of a long line of patriots and warriors who have answered a noble calling, the calling that is greater than ourselves,” said O’Connor. “Since the birth of the U.S. Navy, we have been ready to sail out and answer the nation’s call when it matters and where it matters, while the backbone of all the efforts have been the people who have made up the team: the service members, their families and government contractors.”

Continuing with O’Connor’s speech, he quoted remarks by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson during his address to the U.S. Navy Fleet on the occasion of his change of command ceremony.

“The Navy must be at sea, underway. We must be present in key areas of the world protecting American interest - enabling access to international markets and trade, responding to crisis and providing security,” said Richardson.

In closing, O’Connor remarked, “If that’s not what NAS Sigonella does every day, I don’t know what is.”



Secretary of Defense & Chief of Naval Personnel Visits to Naval Air Station Sigonella

BY NICOLE YBARRA



NAS SIGONELLA, Sicily – On Oct. 6, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and his wife Stephanie visited Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella as part of a five-day trip to Europe. During the 3.5 hour visit, Secretary Carter met with Col. Vincenzo Sicuso, Commander of the Italian Air Force 41st Stormo; the Italian Minister of Defense; and visited the NATO facilities.

Mrs. Carter toured the facilities on NAS 1, including the DoDDS school, the newly renovated Memorial Park, the Midtown Morale, Welfare, and Recreation complex and chapel before hosting a meet and greet with family members of the Sigonella community. During this time, Mrs. Carter engaged in an active discussion with the participants concerning base life and the challenges and rewards of living abroad. The dialogue provided a valuable opportunity for participants to exchange views, discuss things that were going well, and opportunities for improvement.

After meetings with NAS Sigonella leadership, Secretary Carter hosted a town hall in the Global Hawk Hangar with approximately 250 Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, fielding questions on a variety of topics ranging from cyber warfare, the Russian presence, and women in combat roles.

Before concluding his visit, Secretary Carter expressed his gratitude, and that of the American people, for the tireless efforts of the service members in their defense of the U.S. and its interests. Against a backdrop of unpredictable threats posed from Russia, China, and North Korea, he underscored the importance of maintaining and strengthening ties with partner nations, such as Italy, and reflected on the centrality of this part of the world. “The ‘Hub of the Med’ is more than just a slogan. This is an assignment that has always been important, but whose importance has only grown steadily over the last few years,” remarked Secretary Carter. “It is a reflection of the importance of what you are doing. You are not only the Hub of the Med -- You are the hub of the change in mission sets,” concluded Secretary Carter.

NAS Sigonella Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Dennis, echoed the defense secretary’s praise, remarking on how once again the community had come together to host yet another impressive high-level DV visit. “Don’t just take my word for it,” Dennis said. “The secretary of defense, our ambassador, Rear Admiral Scorby, and all the staff involved praise your efforts. Every one of our members directly or indirectly contributed to a very successful day.”

Following his visit to NAS Sigonella, Defense Secretary Carter attended the NATO Defense Ministerial Conference in Brussels and met with counterparts in the United Kingdom.



NAS SIGONELLA, Sicily – Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran visited Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella, Oct. 15, as part of a scheduled trip to Europe, during which time he reenlisted 10 Sailors and hosted two All Hands Calls.

Reflecting on the beginning of his own Naval career, which started at NAS Sigonella, Moran remarked on the incredible amount of operational tempo supported out of NAS Sigonella and the 6th Fleet area of operations and underscored the strategic importance of this part of the world.

“History has a way of resembling itself if you give it enough time, which is why we should never leave this place. We should always be part of Sicily and Sigonella, and I would argue you guys are in the transformation phase of what this base is going to be like for the next 30 years,” Moran said.

Moran spoke on relevant topics such as potential changes in retirement benefits and advised that any potential revisions would not take effect



until 2018 at which time Sailors would have the choice to opt in to the new model. He also spoke to advancement opportunities, current recruitment levels, changes to the physical readiness, and the Meritorious Advance Program (MAP).

Following his remarks, Moran along with Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Fleet Master Chief April Beldo, fielded questions regarding potential cuts to dual-military Basic Allowance for Housing, changes to the maternity leave policy, improvements in training delivery and other concerns raised by the Sailors.

Before concluding, Moran and Beldo thanked the Sailors for their feedback, pledging to bring their concerns back to Washington. “Above all else, thanks for your service. Thanks for what you do wearing this uniform for our country and our Navy every single day. You are making a difference out here in a big way,” stated Moran.

NAS Sigonella: “The Hub of the Med,” is a U.S. Navy installation and an Italian Air Force base in Sicily, Italy. NAS Sigonella is the Navy’s second largest security command, second only to that located at Naval Support Activity Bahrain.

Because of its location near the center of the Mediterranean Sea, NASSIG is well placed to support operations by the U.S. 6th Fleet, other U.S. military units, and U.S. allies and coalition partners.

For more news from Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnre/.

REGION VOICES

What does Veterans Day Mean to me?



**HN Erick Chapa, Victoria, Texas
NAS Sigonella**
For me, Veterans Day is one of the most important American holidays we celebrate. What makes it great is the observance of our military; who serve and have served.



**MM2 Deron Davis
NSA Souda Bay**
At first it started off as just another day off of work, but when I joined the Navy, and I became part of the traditions, I understood the significance of why we honor those who've come before us to serve in America's Armed Forces.



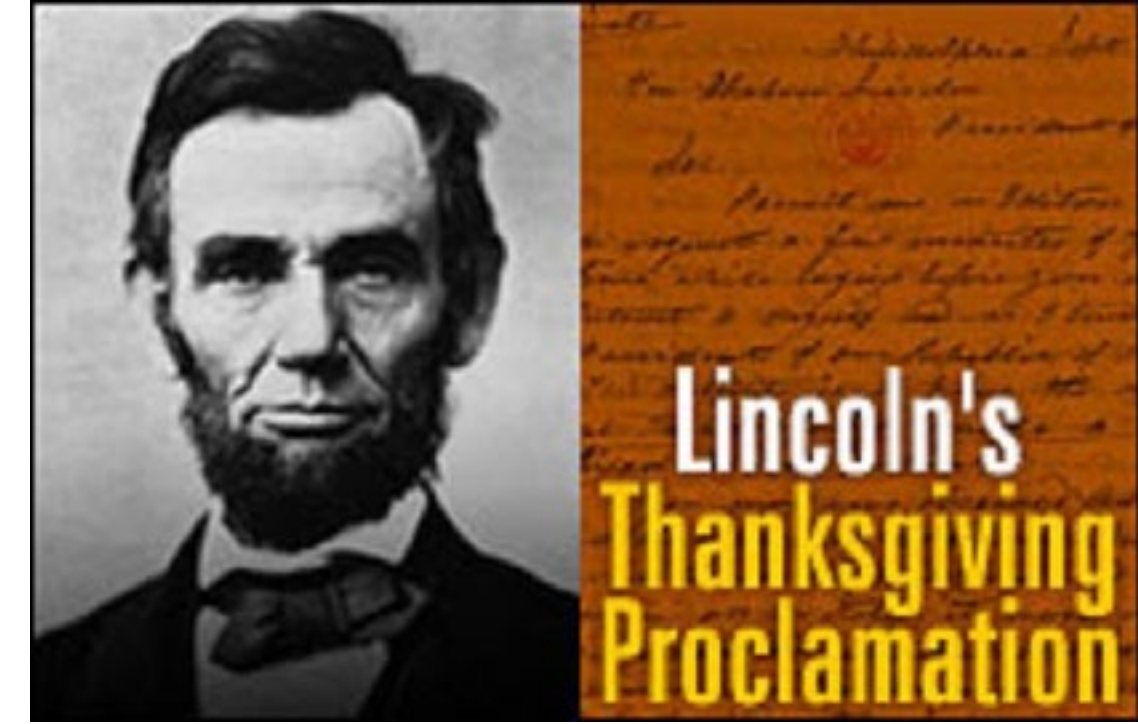
**BU1 Andrew Kraus
Camp Lemonnier**
To celebrate, honor, and remember the courageous men and women and family members who willingly defended and still defend our great nation. It is a day to reflect on the great accomplishments that my brothers and sisters next to me and before me have done and will continue to do. I am a veteran.



**CS1 Leon Brown
NSA Naples**
To me, it's a chance to give respect to our fallen service members, those who came before us, and those in the service right now.



**ATC1 Arturo Novela
NAVSTA Rota**
Veterans Day is a day to honor those who served and still are serving, and it remind us of the sacrifices they make every day to protect our freedoms and way of life.



October 3, 1863

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years, with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

A. Lincoln

