

NAPOLI NAVIGATOR

NAPLES IN THE KNOW

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
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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES, ITALY

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

By Capt. James Stewart
NSA Naples Commanding Officer

Happy Holidays, Team Naples! It is hard to believe 2020 is finally coming to a close. This year has been unexpected and unprecedented; however, amid the chaos, we have proven ourselves to be a strong and resilient community. We stayed at home - while staying connected - to keep our community safe and healthy. At work, we found innovative ways to physically distance and meet the mission. As this is my final column for the year, I would be remiss to not acknowledge and celebrate these achievements over the last 12 months onboard NSA Naples.

Notably, U.S. Naval Hospital Naples led the charge of protecting the health of our community. Medical professionals advised coronavirus spread mitigation policies, managed testing and tracking, and cared for the ill. Throughout the pandemic, the hospital coordinated with the air operations team in an endeavor called the "COVID Express" to streamline the testing process. Turn to "NSA Naples Continues Coordinated Fight Against COVID" on [Page 3](#) to read about the incredible efforts of hospital staff and flight crew members this year.

In keeping up with the changing times, especially in regard to the challenges newcomers face in moving and adjusting to a foreign home amid a pandemic, Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Naples revamped the NSA Naples welcome programming. FFSC worked to create



a [virtual area orientation](#) (AO) on the [NSA Naples website](#) to replace the weeklong, in-person arrangement. The FFSC AO coordinator team, Lt. Cmdr. Natasha Houston, Damage Controlman 2nd Class Nickolas Dehoyos, and Electronics Technician 2nd Class Matthew Robinson, collaborated with American Forces Network Naples to film presentations discussing pertinent information with NSA Naples departments and organizations. The team also worked with Ruggiero Scalzi, the regional FFSC information technology specialist, to format all videos and associated documentation online. For a smooth transition, they provided step-by-step guidance for newcomers, and the updated programming has already helped hundreds of recently arrived personnel and families. Additionally, while virtual AO was still under development, the AO coordinator team facilitated over 100 one-on-one orientations and personally ensured the readiness of incoming senior leadership.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Naples strived to give our community reasons to [#KeepOnSmiling](#) throughout the year. Spearheaded by Chris Kasperek, the MWR Naples Community Recreation Director, the [MWR Community Recreation Division](#) continually offered exceptional programming online and, occasionally, in person. Interactive social media activities included championship brackets, game show competitions for best friends, siblings, and couples, and threads for captioning iconic movie and TV scenes, as well as “The Chris and JoJo Show” and “Name That Tune” Facebook Live events. MWR recognized the successes of Naples Middle High School (NMHS) class of 2020 graduates in the “What’s Next” programming, which was so popular the NMHS class of 2021 requested this to continue for their students. As for holidays, almost 100 children received virtual visits from the Easter Bunny, and over 70 families participated in a remote Halloween celebration. On the Fourth of July, MWR hosted a socially-distanced “Festa Americana” for over 1,000 community members and set off fireworks for the first time at Support Site in over a decade. Flip to [Page 7](#) and [Page 4](#) to learn about the exciting activities MWR put on for Thanksgiving and December, respectively. Furthermore, the ongoing “Operation G.D.T.”, or “Get Down Tonight”, is an MWR lockdown specialty to provide weekly musical motivation for all to enjoy.

Thanks to excellent planning and execution on part of the public works department (PWD), our community received another morale boost with the development and early [opening of the outdoor Fit Park](#). This workout space is open 24/7 and is certainly a significant asset to help combat lockdown blues. Moreover, PWD built a new weight room, racquetball court and gym at the Fit Forum site. In total, PWD completed 266 facility improvement projects this year valued at approximately \$8 million, which is an 85% increase since 2019 and the largest number of construction improvements at Support Site since 2005. In addition to the aforementioned exercise amenities, these projects included renovations and painting at several buildings and the barracks, as well as new pavement at the fire station and in various parking lots. At the schools, PWD installed new blinds, cabinets and LED lights, added a new marquee, and connected a new surround sound and video presentation system in one of the gymnasiums. By the end of the year, PWD is also on track to finish furnishing the Navy Exchange and Commissary stores with brand new exterior doors.

Finally, we also welcomed this digital newsletter, the *Napoli Navigator*, in July. Since its introduction, the newsletter has shared stories about our community activities and news of upcoming events. I hope you continue reading each month and stay in touch with NSA Naples happenings here and on our [Facebook page](#) over the course of 2021.

This year-in-review is just a sampling of all the hard work we accomplished in 2020. *Bravo Zulu* to all who put in time and effort toward bettering our installation and life for Team Naples as we navigated this trying year. I am proud to be part of such a dedicated community. Until next time, enjoy some well-earned and relaxing vacation time. *Buone feste e tanti auguri!* ✨

NSA NAPLES CONTINUES COORDINATED FIGHT AGAINST COVID

By Alicia McNeely, NSA Naples Public Affairs | Dec. 8, 2020

Over the course of 2020, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples has undergone many changes, from planned milestones, such as welcoming a new commanding officer, to the unforeseen and unpredictable consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic alone has been a turbulent ride for community members, first with a total, nationwide lockdown in Italy in March to a less restrictive, socially-distanced summer under the “new normal”.

Despite the turmoil of the year, one factor has remained constant since spring: teams onboard NSA Naples are working diligently to protect community members and support the host nation in mitigating COVID-19 spread.

These efforts on the part of NSA Naples personnel and its tenant commands span the distance – from hospital labs to the skies – and this coordination begins in virtual conference rooms.

“Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, USNH Naples has partnered with numerous entities to ensure the health and safety of the community,” said Christina Clarke, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Naples public affairs officer. “Most notably, hospital and base leadership have had daily meetings to sync their information and updates.”

The hospital also founded a COVID-19 public health response team which works around the clock to educate and advise the NSA Naples community and decision makers. The team conducts training on spread prevention, monitors the health of those in quarantine, and performs contact tracing if necessary.

“The COVID public health team worked closely with [Department of Defense Education Activity] schools at NSA Naples to make the changes that safely opened our schools,” said Clarke. “We also have strong connections with our host nation health care network to ensure that we are aligned with Italian law when it comes to contact tracing, quarantine, and reporting.”

To further this alliance and enable Italian health officials to focus their time and resources on their own citizens, NSA Naples maintains the responsibility of testing, tracking, and caring for its community members.

When members of the community have questions or concerns regarding the coronavirus, they are able to contact the COVID-19 public health response team at NSA Naples by phone or email. For anyone who does not feel well, a health care professional at the hospital or clinic determines if the patient needs a COVID-19 nasal swab test using a series of clinical parameters. Should a patient receive this test, the USNH Naples laboratory is able to process results for a number of swabs.

However, the effort to detect and defeat COVID-19 is truly a collaborative endeavor, and the hospital shares this burden with the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Ramstein, Germany.

Since the spring, air operations teams at NSA Naples have been transporting COVID-19 test samples between Italy and Germany on an essential flight mission coined the “COVID Express”. The COVID Express flies two or three times per week, depending on need. As USNH Naples medical staff test and monitor the health of community members, flights are scheduled for times when the demand for processing and diagnosing results surpasses on-site capabilities. Throughout all evolutions, the COVID Express continually meets the mission.

“We have conducted over 50 missions to deliver samples in support of the testing and contact tracing effort,” said Lt. Cmdr. VJ Omundson, the NSA Naples assistant operations officer. “All tests that needed to be delivered by air have been delivered, resulting in 100% mission completion rate to date.”

While the COVID Express efficiently provides testing results for potentially ill NSA Naples community members, the flights also assist the

Italian health system.

"These evolutions have benefited the community by reducing the workload of the host nation," Omundson said. "If we did not conduct our own tests and have the capacity to fly COVID samples to other military testing facilities, the host nation would have the additional burden of testing patients from the base. Instead our coordinated effort allows the host nation to focus its own testing capacity on host nation citizens."

In accordance with Navy and Italian regulations, patients who have been tested for COVID-19 go into quarantine - along with members of their household - in order to prevent potential spread while waiting for test results. They also identify close contacts, people with whom they were closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes per day.

Should a patient's results come back as positive for COVID-19, public health officials conduct

contact tracing to determine who may have been exposed and needs to be tested. Regardless of these test results, close contact individuals are recommended to self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone who is positive for COVID-19 must also quarantine for at least 14 days, and sometimes up to 21 days.

"Our community does not exist in a vacuum; we are fighting this pandemic alongside our host nation partners," said Clarke. "When members of the NSA Naples community follow COVID-19 mitigation measures, it helps prevent the spread both on and off base."

Every day, personnel throughout NSA Naples continue to work together to combat COVID-19, as they have for the past nine months. USNH Naples medical experts, the COVID Express air operations team and base leadership are united alongside Italy with a common purpose: to protect the health of the NSA Naples community and host nation residents. ✨

MWR NAPLES SPREADS YULETIDE JOY

By Alicia McNeely, NSA Naples Public Affairs | Dec. 16, 2020

NAPLES, Italy - Holiday cheer is sprinkled - virtually - all around Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples. With online programming throughout December, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Naples department is working to bring community members together during the most wonderful time of the year.

The month commenced with a holiday card decorating contest and several month-long social media campaigns.

"MWR had eight entries in this year's card decorating contest," said Chris Kasperek, the MWR Naples community recreation director. "The top five will each receive a plaque in recognition of their accomplishment."

The competition was a masterstroke with the Naples Tiger Sharks swim team securing first place. Their card featured a Santa hat-clad shark and at-the-ready swimmer "wishing you a merry and bite 2021". Other base organizations

and individuals participated, as well, and a Girl Scouts troop took second place for their "merry COVID Christmas" design.

Every day, the MWR community recreation division Facebook page features a photo and accompanying anecdote of a beloved holiday ornament. For these "Warming Our Hearts" posts, community members are encouraged to submit their favorite decoration and the story behind the dangle. The first of the month showcased a miniature post office ornament and reminisced on times past when sending snail mail was the only way to keep in touch with family and friends during deployments or separations.

"In 2020 there is no such thing as normal," said Kasperek. "So MWR is trying hard to continue to warm hearts and keep on smiling through various online programming, in hopes of getting back to the 'new normal' in 2021. We are able to impact spirit through our actions, programs,

our spirit and most of all by our smiles.... and reminding our community that we are a special community with much love and much to be thankful for."

In keeping with a COVID quarantine custom, the MWR community recreation division Facebook page is also holding a movie showdown. This time, holiday films from the last 70 years battle it out for the winning spot, announced on Christmas Day. Community members are able to vote each day on one of the 16 preselected films, up until the semi-final round when they may write in their own favorite flicks.

Amid the polling, on Dec. 22, MWR is putting on the annual "It's a Wonderful Life" viewing party. While personnel and families are snuggled up at home watching the 1940s classic, Kasperek and his family will be live on Facebook giving away prizes for trivia questions and participation.

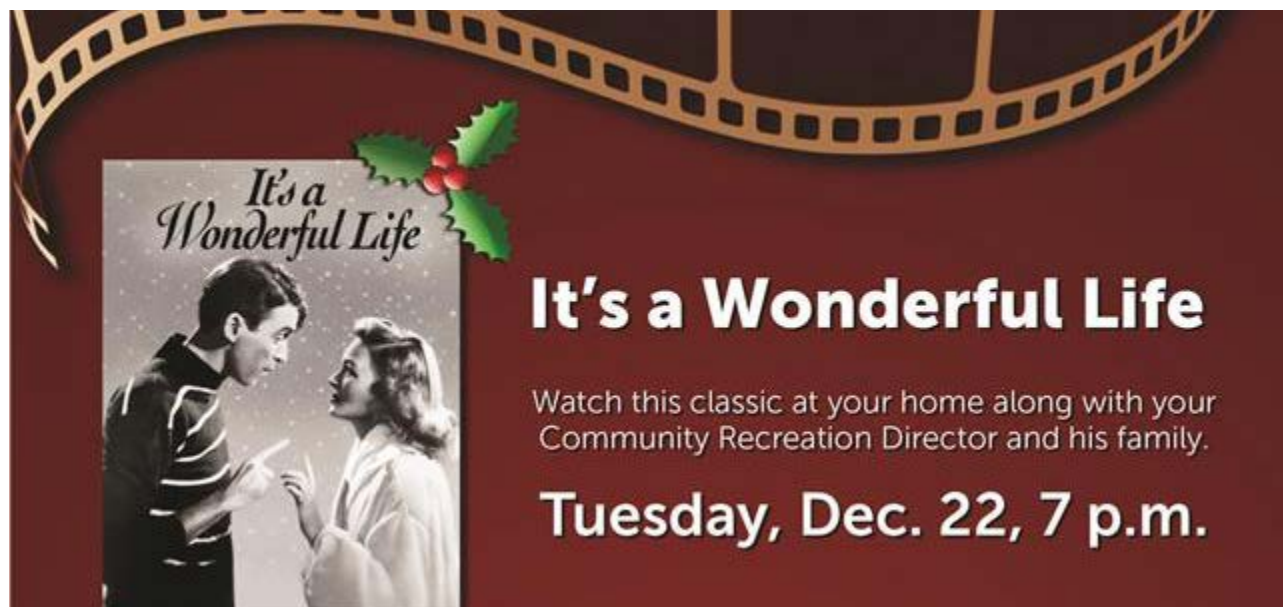
Though the setting is not the same as in years past - traditionally the event was held at the base movie theater - it will be festive nonetheless. NSA Naples personnel and families on and off base have been decking the halls in preparation of the MWR house, balcony, and front porch decorating contest. Community members will be able to vote on photos of the outdoor spaces to choose the top entries to win six prizes.

Private residences are not the only areas adorned with snowflakes and holly. The towering holiday tree, set in the center of the Support Site Village Forum courtyard, is the yuletide centerpiece onboard NSA Naples. Although MWR was not able to host the annual tree-lighting ceremony in person, Kasperek donned his winter onesie for a virtual affair. In a short film debuted on Facebook, Santa Claus came alongside Kasperek and base leadership to flip the switch and illuminate the red- and gold-bauble Tannenbaum.

Throughout December, Santa will also make appearances in the homes of over 100 NSA Naples families. With the MWR virtual Santa visits, more than 200 children will meet with "Jolly Old St. Nick" on video chat to discuss their wish lists and share in a bit of his holiday cheer.

"The holidays are different this year, but Chris Kasperek and his team at MWR have gone above and beyond to give our community something to look forward to and be a part of each day," said Capt. James Stewart, NSA Naples commanding officer. "The programming is festive and fun - and thanks to Chris' dedication and ingenuity - our NSA Naples traditions have gone online, so we can all enjoy the season together."

For more information on holiday programming, visit the MWR community recreation division [Facebook](#) page or navymwrnaples.com. ✨



TERESA'S ITALIAN TREASURES: NEAPOLITAN HOLIDAY TREATS

By Teresa Merola, NSA Naples Public Affairs | Dec. 16, 2020

The holidays in Italy are a celebration of family, flavors, scents, lights, and above all, culinary delicacies. In light of COVID-19, Christmas – a season normally full of gatherings and travel – will be different without hugs and kisses among families and friends. Despite the restrictions, pastry shops and home bakers in Naples will not be giving up their tasty delights.

Gli struffoli: This treat is a mound of little, fried dough balls, drizzled with honey and decorated with brightly colored sprinkles, candied fruits, and dragées. Ancient Greeks brought an early version of this dish to Naples nearly 3,000 years ago.

I roccocò: These doughnut-shaped cookies are similar to biscotti. They are normally hard, rather than soft. The dough is spiced with nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon, and mixed with chopped almonds. They are perfect dunked in coffee (or mulled wine!) on a chilly winter day.

I raffioli: With a sponge cake as the base, the simplest form of this oval-shaped treat is covered in a white-sugar glaze. In the 17th century, nuns at San Gregorio Armeno church created a bite-sized version of “una cassata” stuffed with marmalade and pistachios. Another “**raffioli ripieni**” is filled with a layer of ricotta cheese with chocolate chips and a layer of green pistachio paste or dried fruit.

I mostaccioli: These diamond-shaped cookies are made of honey and candied fruit dough – usually spiced with nutmeg, lemon zest, cinnamon, cloves and cocoa powder – and dunked in either dark or white chocolate. Pope Pius V famously enjoyed these cookies at an ecclesiastic luncheon in 1567. Today, they are often enjoyed with an after-dinner digestive, such as limoncello or grappa.

I susamielli: In the 17th century, cloistered nuns across Naples combined honey and sesame to create these s-shaped treats whose name literally means sesame (“susa”) and honey (“miele”).

Le paste di mandorle: These sweets, also known as “**la pasta reale**,” are shaped and painted to look like real fruit and are made out of almond paste and sugar glass. It is said the Bourbon King Ferdinand IV of Naples visited nuns at the convent of San Gregorio Armeno and was presented with a scrumptious feast of fruits, lobster and fish. When he declined to dine because he had recently eaten lunch, the nuns urged him to have a taste. When he did, he was surprised to realize the entire feast consisted of sweets that were sculpted and painted by hand. Outside of Naples, Sicily is also famous for making these desserts.

Il panettone: This sweet bread originated in Milan and has become a common holiday dessert throughout all of Italy. Typically, the tall, domed loaf contains candied citrus fruits and raisins, but some versions have chocolate and other flavorings. It is usually cut into vertical slices and served with a sparkling wine, “un spumante,” during Christmas or New Year’s celebrations.

Il pandoro: This sweet loaf of yeasted bread originated in Verona and has a base shaped like an eight-pointed star.

La pastiera: This pie filled with a soft mixture of cooked grains and eggs is flavored with orange flower water, ricotta cheese, and candied citrus fruits. The pastry was probably invented in a Neapolitan convent and is often enjoyed at Easter, as well as Christmas.

THANKS FOR GIVING: TURKEY DAY GENEROSITY ONBOARD NSA NAPLES

By Alicia McNeely, NSA Naples Public Affairs | Dec. 3, 2020

Even while being stationed in a country where pairing sweet potatoes and marshmallows may be a culinary enigma, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples community members typically enjoy coming together for a Thanksgiving feast. This year, although gatherings were restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Thanksgiving meal in the spirit of giving was still in order for single service members, watchstanders and community members in temporary lodging.

As a collaborative project, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Naples, the USO Naples and the Navy Exchange (NEX) Naples hosted a Single Service Member Thanksgiving event on Nov. 26.

The celebration commenced in the NEX food court on Support Site around lunchtime with words of gratitude and grace. Adm. Robert Burke, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples; Rear Adm. Scott Gray, commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central; and Capt. James Stewart, NSA Naples commanding officer, shared the honor of carving the turkey. Then, alongside their spouses, base leaders and USO volunteers, they served complimentary takeaway meals for single service members residing in unaccompanied housing. The traditional hot menu included turkey and ham, mashed and sweet potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, and rolls, as well as apple and pumpkin pie.

If those desserts were not enough, the USO also delivered ready-made pies and homemade cupcakes to single Sailors earlier in the day.

"Being stationed overseas during the holidays can be hard, especially for those who are stationed here alone," said Julia Killough, USO Naples center manager. "The holidays are a time of gathering and with the recent restrictions, a holiday spent with friends is not even permitted. This event allows the USO and single Sailors to connect in a safe way and provide a comfort meal to those who may not have plans to celebrate

the Thanksgiving holiday. It allows us to still bring the sense of comfort, camaraderie, and care that each service member should feel on Thanksgiving, whether they are accompanied or not. It is the USO's mission to connect our service members to home and country, especially as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic."

In order to keep the community safe and mitigate coronavirus spread, all participants wore masks for the entire duration of the event, physical distancing markers were in place, food handlers wore appropriate protective gear, and eating on site was not permitted.

Although dining was not in person, attendees certainly did not leave empty handed. Along with their packed lunches, many also walked away with USO door prizes of mini Christmas trees and stuffed animals. Giveaways continued into the afternoon as the NEX raffled off gift cards and the opportunity to purchase a brand-new video game system. Although usually closed on Thanksgiving Day, the store opened for single service members to enjoy a special two-hour shopping block.

"It's not easy being away from loved ones during the holidays," said Lisa Brennan, NEX Naples Complex general manager. "Opening on Thanksgiving Day to give Sailors something to do, something to eat and spread a little holiday cheer is the least we can do for these warfighters. At the NEX, we remain truly grateful for their continued sacrifice and are always here for them as a safe space to get away."

For this exclusive shopping window, as well as the "Navy Blue Friday" sales, the NEX implemented several COVID-19 spread mitigation measures. Patronage was limited, sanitizing stations were placed throughout for hands and shopping carts, and crew members were continually disinfecting all frequently touched surfaces.

"Customer and associate safety is our number one priority this holiday season," said retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, NEX Service

Command chief executive officer. "We know this holiday season will be like no other we've ever experienced. To that end, we have created several initiatives so customers can shop smarter, safer and earlier this year. We are balancing that safety while still offering the festive holiday spirit and the great deals on key brands and products our customers have come to expect from their NEX."

Organizing and orchestrating the day was truly a cooperative endeavor. The USO purchased and donated all food items from the Commissary, which ensured the timely arrival of an abundance of Thanksgiving fare. MWR prepared and cooked the meals with Spinz restaurant staff. The NEX team provided the venue, opened their store and ensured continual cleanliness, as well as contributed prizes alongside the USO.

"This year has not been easy for our Sailors overseas, so I'm thankful that NEX Naples, MWR and the USO can come together to provide some holiday cheer," said Brennan. "The mission of the NEX is to serve our Sailors and military families, no matter where the Navy sends them. We always strive to bring a bit of home to wherever a Sailor is stationed, especially around the holiday season when our Navy's warfighters need it most."

In addition to the single service member event, personnel and families residing in temporary lodging were able to preorder a to-go Thanksgiving meal for a fee, and those in quarantine on base were offered delivery. The NSA Naples religious programs department also donated funds to provide lunch for Thanksgiving Day watchstanders.

"The holidays are here, and I encourage everyone to look for ways to bless others, be it

money, food, gifts, or random acts of kindness," said Cmdr. Gary Foshee, NSA Naples chaplain. "Acts 20:35 says, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone. Numerous people have been isolated from friends and family and have experience financial hardships and stress like never before. Although times may be tough and money tight, the power of kindness is free. Be kind and leave a lasting effect others will remember and cherish."

This spirit of generosity even flowed off the installation. Nearby Support Site, the Hotel Tulip Inn Naples Airport held a free Thanksgiving luncheon for those staying there in temporary lodging. The owners and staff all pitched in, following dish recommendations from past and present clients, to prepare an American spread and safely serve around 70 NSA Naples community members.

"We are always looking for ways to strengthen our bond and commitment to the American community," said Antonio Zaccariello, the American liaison at Hotel Tulip Inn Naples Airport. "We hope that this Thanksgiving meal might serve as a way to further that commitment. Years from now, perhaps our new American friends might look back on this Thanksgiving as one of their favorites - even if it was a bit unconventional. This year has certainly been trying, but hopefully we can all work together to make it the best it can be."

Thanks to the efforts of groups on and off base, and even amid a stressful pandemic in a foreign country, NSA Naples community members were able to experience a little taste of home this holiday season. This Thanksgiving recipe was simple: equal parts teamwork and turkey, mixed with a dash of physical distancing and a heaping cup of kindness. ✨

Italian Phrase of the Month

essere buono come il pane

Literal translation: *to be good like bread*

English equivalent: *to have a heart of gold*

NSA NAPLES PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



A Naval Support Activity Naples community member takes a photo of the command Christmas tree in the Support Site Village Forum, Dec. 9, 2020. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Andrea Rumple)



The Naval Support Activity Naples command Christmas tree stands in the Support Site Village Forum, Dec. 9, 2020. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Andrea Rumple)

USNS YUMA COMPLETES FIRST-EVER REFUELING BY EPF IN GAETA, HIGHLIGHTING U.S., ITALIAN PARTNERSHIP

By Travis Weger, Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa Public Affairs | Nov. 6, 2020

Source: <https://dvidshub.net/r/pen4e2>

In a partnership between U.S. and Italian navies, Military Sealift Command (MSC) Spearhead-class Expeditionary Fast Transport USNS Yuma (T-EPF 8) completed the first-ever refueling by an EPF at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Gaeta, Italy, Nov. 6.

NSA Gaeta, home of Blue Ridge-class command and control ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20), had been looking to expand the capabilities of the base and the team saw the opportunity to refuel Yuma while they were in port for a routine port visit.

"We would like to make Gaeta the greatest one-stop-shop for EPFs in this theater," said Master Logistics Support Representative Sebastian Guercia, Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Gaeta. "It is safe and cost-effective. This is a tremendous opportunity for the EPFs."

It took several meetings and high-level coordination between both U.S. and Italian navies for the refueling to happen. Since this was the first time this had ever been completed with an EPF, safety was the top priority and all factors had to be taken into play.

"Today's mission was successful thanks to the teamwork displayed by both the Marina Militare Italiana and the United States Navy," said Comandante di Corvetta Francesco Brengola, Installation Base Commander. "Our goal now is to increase our capabilities here, not only for this class of vessel and the USS Mount Whitney, but other US and NATO ships as well."

EPFs are aluminum-hulled ships and require special consideration and equipment for mooring to the pier. The refueling pier, having different configuration than typical piers, needed to be tested before the ship could berth alongside.

Guercia asked the master of USNS Trenton (T-EPF 5), the last ship to stop in Gaeta, to slowly sail by the pier as an initial test to see if an EPF would fit. As the ship exited the harbor, Guercia confirmed it would based on an approximate measurement and began making arrangements with the master of Yuma to refuel at the pier during the ship's next visit.

Discovering that mooring at the pier was a possibility, the team in Gaeta began working with the Italian navy for the requirements for Yuma to refuel.

"I talked to Capt. Cook from USNS Yuma, and he was more than happy to try it out," said Guercia. "Long story short, the ship is here and berthed perfectly."

Local Sailors from the Italian navy were on station to receive lines and tie up the ship. Once Yuma moored to the pier, MSC civil service mariners began working with the Italian team to deliver the fuel.

"This means they can really extend their capacity and provide all sorts of services, not just to this vessel but potentially with NATO as well," said Protocol Officer Joe Maddock, NSA Gaeta. "For us, this is a big deal."

Availability of a port that has capabilities for refueling and maintenance an hour north of U.S. Sixth Fleet headquarters, where MSC Europe and Africa's staff is located, opens opportunities for local access. This gives engineers and staff availability to drive to the ship from the office, if needed.

"We still have a few more things we need, such as dredging, shore power and to restore some of the fuel lines, but once we have those, NSA Gaeta will be the greatest one-stop-shop," said Guercia. "Everything today went off without a hitch; it is one for the history books."

After the refueling, Commodore, MSC Europe and Africa and Commander, Task Force 63 Capt. Frank Okata presented the Maritime Excellence Award over video chat for Yuma's outstanding work in the Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility for 2019. The award was given for Yuma's operations and exercises in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, including Austere Challenge, Neptune Falcon, Agile Spirit and Sea Breeze.

The celebration was during a changeover of masters, with Capt. Christopher Cook and Capt. David Gommo both present to receive the plaque and pennant.

"This is a huge day for both the United States and Italian navies," said Okata. "We are honored to not only recognize Yuma's crew for the great work throughout the year but to also highlight the partnership between our two great nations. I would like to also personally thank Comandante di Corvetta Francesco Brengola for taking care of our personnel in Gaeta."

MSC operates approximately 125 naval auxiliary civilian-crewed ships, replenishes U.S. Navy ships, strategically prepositions combat cargo at sea and moves military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners around the world.

U.S. Sixth Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national security interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.✱



Chief Engineer Galen Gouzoulis aboard USNS Yuma (T-EPF 8) checks fuel using a "clear and bright" test in Gaeta, Italy, which marks the first-ever refueling by an expeditionary fast transport vessel at the refueling pier at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Gaeta, Italy, Nov. 6. The team at NSA Gaeta had been looking to expand the capabilities of the base and saw the opportunity to refuel Yuma while they were in port for a routine port visit. Discovering that mooring at the pier was a possibility, the team in Gaeta began working with the Italian Navy to use the pier. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Weger)

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LET'S TALK!



Mental Health Resources for the NSA Naples Community

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Fleet and Family Support Center

FFSC services are open to all U.S. military personnel, civilians, contractors and family members. Counseling is available for individuals (adult and adolescents), couples and families.

- Duty phone: (+39) 331-691-8268
- Office phone: DSN 314-629-6372, (+39) 081-811-6372

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- Duty phone: (+39) 366-680-5972
- Office phone: Capodichino DSN 314-626-3535, (+39) 081-568-3535 and Support Site DSN 314-629-4600, (+39) 081-811-4600

Military & Family Life Counselors

Military & Family Life Counselors focus on children and youth up to 18 years old. The services are available only to active-duty military and family members, as well as DODEA and Child and Youth Programs staff.

- Elementary School: (+39) 348-816-3128, (+39) 342-702-9989 or (+39) 0823-178-3045
- Middle School: (+39) 0823-178-3047
- High School: (+39) 0823-178-3046 or (+39) 0823-178-3049

U.S. Naval Hospital Behavioral Health

Adult services are available upon referral from a primary care manager. Services are open to all military personnel and adult family members. Limited services are available for adult civilians and contractors.

- DSN 314-629-6306, (+39) 081-811-6306

Military OneSource Counseling

Services are open to all U.S. military personnel and family members.

- 24/7 Worldwide toll-free: 00-800-342-9647
- 24/7 Worldwide collect: 001-703-253-7599
- 24/7 Telecom Italia: 800-172-405
- 24/7 Online chat <https://livechat.militaryonesourceconnect.org/chat>



Scan for access on your smart phone



NSA Naples Calendar Highlights

Date	Event	Host
Thursday, Dec. 17	Golden Ticket Sweepstakes	USO
Thursday, Dec. 17	'Tis the Season	MWR Liberty
Friday, Dec. 18	Hot Dog Friday	USO
Friday, Dec. 18	Italian Cake Night	MWR Liberty
Saturday, Dec. 19	'Tis the Season	MWR Liberty
Tuesday, Dec. 22	Christmas Craft Kits	USO
Thursday, Dec. 24	Cookie Decorating Kits	USO
Friday, Dec. 25	Taste of Home	USO
Friday, Jan. 8	Hot Dog Friday	USO
Friday, Jan. 15	Hot Dog Friday	USO

Every Tuesday and Thursday: [USO Traveling Troop Lunch](#) – service members are invited to swing by the Capodichino Air Terminal from 11 a.m. to noon to grab a to-go lunch.

All calendar highlights listed above are free, in-person activities for NSA Naples personnel or families. For more information, and to learn about other upcoming and virtual events, please contact the following organizations:

For USO services and programs, call DSN 626-5713 or 629-4903, or +39-081-568-5713 or +39-081-811-4903, or email usonaples@uso.org. Follow the USO on [Facebook](#).

For [Morale, Welfare and Recreation](#) (MWR) services and programs, call DSN 629-4459 or +39-081-811-4459. Follow MWR at facebook.com/mwrnaples and facebook.com/ITTNAPLES.

For Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) services and programs, call DSN 629-6372 or +39-081-811-6372, or email ffscnsanaplesitaly@eu.navy.mil. Follow FFSC on [Facebook](#).

For weekly updates on NSA Naples events and important dates, be sure to check out our PAO Notes. You can subscribe by sending an email to PAO_naples@eu.navy.mil.



NAPLES PUBLIC HEALTH EVALUATION – PUBLIC OUTREACH MESSAGE

How familiar are you with our health awareness website?

The U.S. Navy is committed to ensuring families are safe while serving at home or overseas. This message aligns with the NSA Naples commitment to promote awareness of important health information.

A comprehensive public health evaluation completed for NSA Naples in 2011 identified potential public health risks at some off-base housing locations, and implemented a number of “Enduring Processes” to reduce or eliminate potential public health risks.

Several of the most important Enduring Processes relate to maintaining effective and transparent communication of health-related information with U.S. personnel and their families.

The NSA Naples Public Health Awareness website shares a wealth of NPHE information, including maps, reports, fact sheets, FAQs and points of contact.

Check it out at: www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnreurfcent/installations/nsa_naples/about/health_awareness.html.

If you have personal environmental health questions, contact the Preventive Medicine team at DSN 314-626-5486 or Comm. 081-568-5486.

For questions about protective measures implemented for off-base housing in the local community, contact the NSA Naples Housing team at DSN 314-629-4410 or Comm. 081-811-4410.



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