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SPECIAL Operation ALLIES REFUGE (OAR) EDITION

NAVSTA ROTA, Spain (Aug. 27, 2021) Equipment Operator 1st Class (EO1) Christopher Lindsey (left) and EO2 Christian Smith watch as the first flight of evacuees from Afghanistan lands Aug. 27, 2021. NAVSTA Rota is currently supporting the Department of State mission to facilitate the safe departure and relocation of U.S. citizens, Special Immigration Visa recipients, and vulnerable populations from Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Chanhan Lee)



Greetings NAVFAC EURAFCENT,

On August 30, U.S. forces concluded our military mission in Afghanistan. This brings an end to the two-decade mission that significantly degraded the threat posed by Al Qaeda and brought Osama bin Laden to justice. More than 800,000 U.S. Service members and 25,000 Department of Defense civilians served in Afghanistan since 2001. 2,461 U.S. service members and DoD civilians paid the ultimate price and more than 20,000 were injured. We will forever honor the sacrifices made by them and their families.

In August and September NAVFAC EURAFCENT supported Operation Allies Refuge, the largest non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) ever conducted by the U.S. military, assisting the transport and temporary housing of U.S. civilians and vulnerable Afghans seeking special immigrant visas. Thanks in part to your support, thousands of refugees are now on the path towards freedom and new lives in the United States.

Our Public Works Departments at NSA Bahrain, NAVSTA Rota, and NAS Sigonella with support from the Core and other PWDs all worked with their installation leadership, tenant commands, contractors and host nation partners to support movement of personnel out of the theater. This special edition of our monthly newsletter includes photos, statistics and information on just some of the activities our colleagues engaged in to support this effort.

September marks the official end of summer, the beginning of the school year, and the end of the fiscal year. It also commemorates many significant events and people in the history of our Nation. September 11th marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and reminds us to honor those who lost their lives while celebrating what they lived for. On September 17th, we honored the 81,000 service members currently unaccounted for from our past conflicts. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency operates around the world to provide the fullest possible accounting of our missing personnel to their families and the nation. September 26th marked Gold Star Mother's Day, honoring those who have lost sons or daughters in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces. Americans owe a debt of gratitude to those who gave their lives in service to this Nation and to their families who are forever changed.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for your tremendous efforts in completing a historic and successful Fiscal Year 2021! The last twelve months were marked by a record-breaking volume of work exceeding \$1 billion while overcoming financial system changes, resourcing challenges, COVID-19 lockdowns, and real-world contingency operations. I will send a separate message with more details on your accomplishments in early FY22. Stay safe and allow me to be the first to wish you a Happy New (Fiscal) Year!
Sincerely,

Capt. Joseph D. Harder III
Commanding Officer
NAVFAC EURAFCENT



Seabees “Can Do” Operation ALLIES REFUGE



“This has been an extraordinarily busy month, and your people stepped up to the challenge with ensuring proper tools were in place to execute work and with responding to contingency situation with OAR without hesitation. Your people did what they do best and I commend them for it.”

Rear Adm. Lore Aguoyo,
Commander
NAVFAC Atlantic

NSA ISA/Bahrain



Photo by A1C Kylie Barrow, U.S. CENTCOM Public Affairs

NAVSTA Rota



Courtesy Photo, NAS Rota

“Public Works Departments ISA/ROTA/SIGONELLA civilian staff and active duty personnel worked overtime, weekends, and holidays to meet an expanding requirement for sanitation, refuse removal, bathroom and shower facilities, climate control, lighting, fencing, and various other camp maintenance tasks supporting thousands of travelers as part of Operation Allies Refuge. Along with their families, many also supported sorting and distribution of donations that poured in,”

Capt. Joseph Harder
Commanding Officer
NAVFAC EURAFCENT

“Jason, (Cmdr. Christenson, PWO) Once again, kudos to your team for their unflinching efforts and contribution to the mission here at NAS Sigonella. Every week, you and your team execute a demanding schedule of preventative and planned maintenance that truly keeps all of us on track. It requires efforts big and small to keep things moving forward and the PWD team does it exceedingly well. Thank you! Best Regards, KP”

Capt. Kevin Pickard
Commanding Officer
NAS Sigonella

NAS Sigonella



Photo by PO2 Kaila Peters, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/
U.S. Sixth Fleet



OAR: ROTA, SPAIN



Construction Electrician Constructionman Orion Fischer and Utilitiesman 2nd Class Timothy Wilson repair air ducts for climate control in the temporary living facilities constructed for evacuees from Afghanistan at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota Aug. 27, 2021. (photo by Lt. Chanhan Lee)



Construction Electrician 1st Class Floyd Davis observes as a Spanish contractor delivers generators for use in the temporary living facilities constructed for evacuees from Afghanistan at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota Aug. 28, 2021. NAVSTA Rota is currently supporting the Department of State mission to facilitate the safe departure and relocation of U.S. citizens, Special Immigration Visa recipients, and vulnerable populations from Afghanistan. (photo by Lt. Chanhan Lee)

“This has been one of the most rewarding missions to execute in my entire career. It was incredibly motivating to be part of a team that came together when it really counted. People from across disparate organizations showed up and worked alongside one another to put together a facility and the processes to not only accomplish specified tasks, but to ensure that we were postured to do so in a compassionate and considerate way. We know this made a difference in the lives of thousands of people.”

Cmdr. Joe Dunaway
Public Works Officer,
Public Works Department, Rota, Spain
Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK



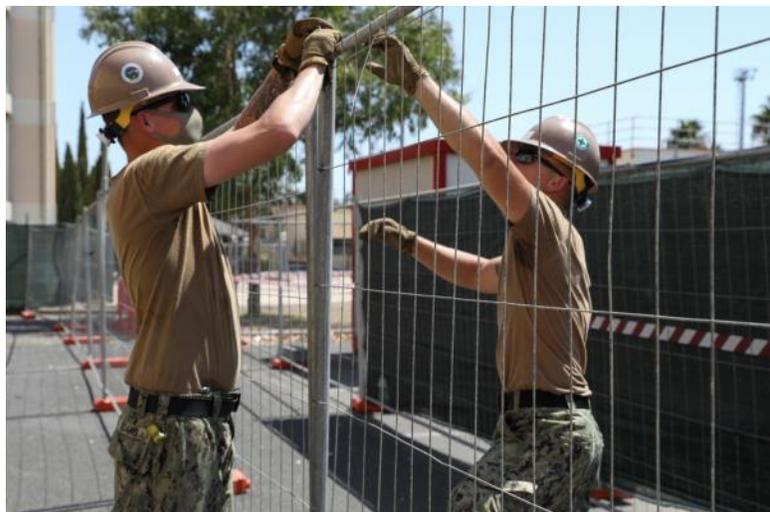
Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Joseph Bergan repairs an environment control unit (ECU) supporting the living facilities constructed for evacuees from Afghanistan at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Aug. 29, 2021. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Chanhan Lee)



Lt. Chanhan Lee, Assistant Public Works Officer at Public Works Department (PWD) Rota is seen here conducting oversight of tent assemblies that would be used to support the living, dining, prayer, and other miscellaneous facilities constructed for evacuees from Afghanistan at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota Aug. 29, 2021. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 1st Class Floyd Davis)



OAD: SIGONELLA, ITALY



Equipment Operator Constructionman Apprentice Timothy Adams, left, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE, and Utilitiesman Constructionman Jake Reiter, assigned to NAVFAC PWD Sigonella, erect fencing Aug. 24, to provide a safe area for evacuees to stay. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Claire DuBois)



Seabees, assigned to NAVFAC PWD Sigonella, set up tents in support of the Department of Defense mission to facilitate the safe departure and relocation of U.S. citizens, Special Immigration Visa recipients, and vulnerable Afghan populations from Afghanistan, Aug. 19, 2021. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Josh Cote)



Seabees, assigned to NAS Sigonella PWD, install dividers in a hangar to create a multi-operation space. (U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Kegan E. Kay)

"CEC Officers and Seabees came together at the very beginning of an unknown event that is arguably singular in its significance. All personnel at the PWD rose to the occasion and provided outstanding engineering and logistical support for tenant leadership. "Dynamic and fluid" was the mantra for the first days and nothing was too difficult for this PWD. Our supporting brothers and sisters from NMCB ONE multiplied our force improving our lateral support and functions. No Seabee was prepared to perform like this. They exercised brilliance in the basics, using their experience and motivation to succeed in the midst of chaos. I was proud to see everyone come together and acknowledge our strengths, double down and help where needed at anytime, anyplace doing anything! We all became stronger in the last few weeks,"

EOCS (SCW/EXW) Aaron Nagel,
PWD Sigonella
Hometown: Crystal River, Fla



OAR: ISA/BAHRAIN



A U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) task force established Aug. 19 is assisting the safe evacuation of personnel from Afghanistan.

More than 700 U.S. military personnel stood up Task Force 58 from units operating in the U.S. 5th Fleet region. U.S. Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen are working alongside their U.S. Embassy and Bahraini counterparts to facilitate the safe departure of U.S. citizens and evacuees from Afghanistan through Bahrain

"It was rewarding to see our PWD personnel use every available tool to execute OAR alongside the local commands we typically support. This mission touched our Sailors and DoD Civilians in a unique way, it was evident from the moment that families emerged out of the first C-17 we received from Kabul. The team's focus remained steadfast and resolute throughout the mission. Words cannot express how proud I am of our team in Bahrain, who worked tirelessly to help those who have supported us for so many years in Afghanistan."

LCDR Marcus Knoll, PWD Bahrain, APWO - Isa Air Base, Task Force 58.4 Liaison Officer for OAR.
Responsibilities: Planning and coordination of infrastructure development, contract actions and service delivery in support of OAR.
Hometown: East Aurora, NY.



U.S. Navy personnel construct tents in a hanger in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations for use during efforts to support the safe transit of U.S. citizens and evacuees from Afghanistan. (photo by MCS Andy Anderson)



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THIS MISSION?

“I, and my team, felt honored. The people that were coming from Afghanistan were people that had risked their lives to help the United States in it’s mission in Afghanistan and were fleeing Afghanistan for fear of reprisal for helping us. The U.S. promised to keep them safe in return for helping us and we were grateful that we could help support in what little ways we could to make sure that we could keep that promise as best we could. It was a genuine honor.”
 Victor Guerro
 PWD Rota
 Hometown: Falls Church, VA

Helping out refugees was one of the most rewarding moments in life as we all know each and every person's life on earth is precious. We had to stop our regular work to focus on the mission which was to provide safety, food, water and shelter, which are the things we take for granted, but is the most priceless gift in the world of a refugee.”
 Mr. Matt Inducil
 PWD Bahrain, Isa Airbase Bahraini.
 Hometown: Santiago, Isabela, Philippines

“I felt a sense of urgency, empathy, camaraderie, and ultimately...pride for what we all were able to accomplish in a short timeframe.”
 Jordan Kass
 PWD Rota
 Hometown: San Diego, CA



“I felt extremely humble, and useful. This was the most impactful work that I have ever done. Doing direct support and being hands on was very motivating and helped push through the long hours. I felt a new sense of camaraderie working with other people within the command and felt everyone really clicked together. Even though we worked strenuous hours and did a lot of stuff no one would ever want to do, everyone still was interactive with each other and had a positive attitude. It was an awesome experience.”
 EO2 Alexander Randolph,
 PWD Rota
 Hometown: Myrtle Beach, S.C.

“I was happy to help out other Seabees on watch maintaining the evacuee camp. It was an humbling experience to help families, see children playing, and making a safe haven for the Afghan evacuees.”
 CE2 (SCW) Michael Mapanao,
 PWD Rota
 Hometown: Seattle, WA

“All the long hours and hard work was worth it to see them all happy and safe. The most rewarding part of the operation was working and supporting something bigger than myself. I will never forget how so many families were thankful for all the base has done to make them feel safe.”
 SWCN Samuel Peters,
 PWD, Sigonella
 Hometown: York, PA



SAILORS OF THE QUARTER ANNOUNCED:

The Sailor of the Quarter program was established to recognize the superior performance of enlisted personnel and emphasize outstanding achievement, exemplary personal conduct, exceptional military bearing, and superb initiative. Each quarter NAVFAC EURAFCENT HQ calls for nominations across the enterprise from both Sea and Shore duty components to compete for Sailor of the Quarter. The following Sailors have been selected Sailor of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter:

Blue Jacket of the Quarter:

BU3 Amanda Hartjes - PWD Naples

Junior Sailor of the Quarter:

CE2 Arthur Bernal - PWD Rota

Sailor of the Quarter:

EA1 Raymond Young - PWD Bahrain

Capt. Joe Harder, Commanding Officer, presented Lauren Phillips with the Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal at a courtyard ceremony held Sept. 28. Lauren had been an integral member of the Design and Construction team since June 2020. Her achievements included completing a request for proposals for a \$60 million project in Somalia in less than 2 months. Lauren is relocating with her active duty husband to a follow on assignment at Naval Support Activity Bahrain.



Capt. Joe Harder, Commanding Officer, presented the Civilian Service Commendation Medal to Mr. David Donald, Associate Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Sept. 21. Mr. Donald's achievements include taking on significantly more tasks as a result of 50% office staffing. In addition to his responsibilities for acquisitions in Djibouti and leasing in other locations, he assumed duties for Bahrain as well as the entire leasing portfolio.



Capt. Joe Harder, Commanding Officer, presented the Civilian Service Commendation Medal to Sam Hill, Associate Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Sept. 21. Mr. Hill's achievements include the additional workload related to COVID-19 and its associated impacts. He was responsible for interpreting varying and often conflicting restrictions across the entire NAVFAC area of responsibility along with a myriad of additional legal tasks that arose during the pandemic.