

The Signature

SEABEES HELP
ARCHAEOLOGISTS
WITH WORLD
WAR II MIA DIG

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USO HONORS
VOLUNTEERS OF
THE QUARTER

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Direct Line

USO Center Manager, Brian Coyle

Ciao Sigonella! My name is Brian Coyle and I am the new center manager for the United Service Organizations (USO) here in Sigonella. My wife Sherrie and I lived in Norfolk before moving to Sicily in late August. We have been warmly welcomed and supported since arriving. In addition to myself, we have two other full-time staff and a number of dedicated volunteers without whom we could not provide the services we currently provide.

It is exciting to be here in Sicily delivering the USO mission to America’s service members and families! I am a retired U.S. Navy officer/pilot and started work with the USO nearly eleven years ago. It is an honor to be working for an organization that values service and seeks to serve others with hospitality and meaningful programs.

Many of you may know the USO from the more than 230 physical centers we have in 15 countries around the world, but you may not know that the USO began in 1941 as six different organizations. Even though we are chartered by the U.S. Congress and work in close partnership with the Department of Defense, the USO is not actually a part of the federal government or the DoD. We are a separate, non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen America’s military service members by keeping them (you!) connected to family, home and country, throughout your

service to the nation. We are the Force Behind the Forces®.

The USO center at NAS Sigonella recently opened in the fall of 2016 and is one of 20 locations in Europe. Located in the NAS II passenger terminal, the center always has hot coffee, drinks, and snacks for those visiting. Soon, popcorn will be added to the list! The center also has TVs and free WiFi to serve those PCSing to/ from Sigonella or transiting through on military flights.

In addition to supporting

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traveling service members, a large part of our mission is serving as a hub for outreach programs on NAS I, NAS II, and Marinai. All USO events and programs can be found on our Facebook page, by calling our center at DSN 624-6377 / COMM 095-86-6377, or by stopping by and visiting!

Every week we serve a free lunch out of the center, and monthly we host: Waffle Sunday on NAS I; spouse coffee with various themes,



typically on NAS I; a “Taste of Home” meal event for single and unaccompanied service members (usually at the NAS II Liberty Center); the Teddy Bear Club, a reading and crafts event for pre-school children and parents in Marinai; and a family game night in Umberto’s in Marinai.

On every holiday, USO staff and volunteers also deliver breakfast bags to watch standers on duty. Coming up this holiday season, we are also hosting a special holiday waffle brunch on Thanksgiving morning and in December, a limited seating lunch at a local winery, both for single and unaccompanied personnel.

We take efforts to continuously adapt to the needs and interest of our men and women in uniform and their families. To do that, we need and want input from you. Please let us know what we can do to better serve you!

Interactive Customer Evaluation

Comment Regarding Galley:

I have a few concerns about the galley menu and hours. The orange chicken is extremely over-cooked and I recommend that it be removed from the cycle menu. In addition, for the deployed personnel on this base, we frequently are rushing to make chow in the later part of the service hours. In an effort to end their work day early, the staff continuously puts away all the food/fresh vegetable options/salad bar before the end of the mealtime. So we are rushing through the line to get the remnants of the salad bar (which they also stopped restocking). And the serving line has no food in any of the trays 30 minutes before the end of the meal.

Response:

Thank you for making suggestions for how to improve your dining experience at Ristorante Bella Etna. We take pride in food quality and customer service, and your feedback is important to consistently meeting our high standards.

Regarding your comments on preparation of orange chicken, galley staff recently provided refresher training on proper food preparation and serving techniques to ensure quality and freshness. In addition, the galley conducts comprehensive menu review boards on a quarterly basis. This is a great opportunity to weigh in on desired menu changes and make any other galley recommendations. Please ensure to review your NASSIG all hands emails for announcement of details for the next board. Food items that are identified by galley customers as having low approval are considered for removal from the menu cycle.

Additionally, galley staff has

internally addressed the issue of prematurely breaking down the salad bar. This is never okay, and is not a standard operating procedure for our galley. The food service officer and I have directed that service lines should include enough items to accommodate all of our customers towards the end of the meal period in the same way we afford the same service to our first patrons. You should never see the salad bar, beverage line, and dessert bars be broken down any earlier than 15 minutes after the final patron is admitted. This should allow customers to return to these stations during their meal, even if they arrive near the end of serving hours.

Should you experience any substandard food products or service during any of your future visits, please do not hesitate to reach out to the watch captain on duty. If you do not receive a sufficient response, feel free to speak directly with either the Leading Culinary Specialist, CSC Benton, at DSN 624-2585 or Prince.Benton@eu.navy.mil, or the Food Service Officer, CWO4 Delacruz at DSN 624-5739 or jonathan.delacruz@eu.navy.mil.

Comment Regarding Hair Salon:

I have tried to get my child a haircut twice this week at the NAS I barber shop and both times, the barber was leaving for lunch. Not that big of deal if it was lunch time but this was at 3:25 p.m. Why doesn't the salon have multiple barbers or close during normal lunch hours? Families go out of their way with child care, school, and work to run errands in the afternoon for a reason—to get things done. Closing for lunch at

THE SIGNATURE

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Editorial submissions are welcomed from all Naval Air Station Sigonella departments, divisions and tenant commands. Editorial submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs Office via *thesig@eu.navy.mil*. All articles submitted by non-staff members will be considered contributing writers.

SIGONELLA SEABEES ASSIST IN WORLD WAR II ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

By Janine Scianna

NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

The island of Sicily is beautiful and serene, with the majestic Mount Etna towering on the horizon, surrounded by farmland as far as the eye can see. It can be hard to imagine that 76 years ago, this bucolic landscape was the frontier of war between the Allied and Axis Forces.

The invasion of Sicily, also known as Operation Husky, was a critical step in the Allied Forces' gaining a foothold in occupied Europe. The operation was fought on two fronts—an amphibious assault along

the coast and paratroopers deployed behind enemy lines. After 38 days and over 14,000 lives lost from both sides, the operation was successful and the island was secured.

This November, Sigonella Public Works Sailors were physically reminded of the sacrifices made on Sicily during World War II. A team of researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago, in partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, conducted archaeological excavations as part of a long-term project to locate, unearth, and send home a U.S. service member who went

missing in action during Operation Husky. The Seabees helped supply extra labor to dig and sift through soil at the archaeological site and separate any artifacts that could be related to the missing service member.

Like most scientific research, the work of the DPAA is hugely important but also extremely deliberate. To bring home the remains of a single service member, a number of phases need to be executed. First, an investigation team researches archives in the host nation, investigates any leads in Last Known Alive cases, and obtains the oral history from host-nation officials and locals that may have broad information about a particular region or battle. If there are actionable leads, a survey team is then sent in to do exploratory archaeological work. And finally, if those initial excavations corroborate the research, a recovery team is sent in to uncover the missing service member.



Seabees assisted a University of Illinois at Chicago research team to help recover artifacts related to a World War II MIA. (U.S. Navy photo by Kyle Drummond)



Dr. Danielle Riebe, team leader from UIC, remarked on how important it is to dedicate so much time and effort to recovering even a single missing service member.

“It is important that we fulfill the promises that we made to these individuals when they signed up, and that we fulfill the promises we made to their family members who are still waiting to have that closure,” said Riebe. “It doesn’t matter if we’re looking for one person or 20.”

For this particular project, the archaeological work will continue well after this phase of the dig ends. Until DPAA is confident that they’ve achieved fullest possible recovery of the missing service member, they will continue to come back to excavate.

For now, they will follow leads as they develop. In an example of a missing pilot, that means looking for remnants of the cockpit or ammunition, which indicates that

they may be getting close to the remains of the service member.

All recovered material will be sent to DPAA’s laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska for analysis. There, forensic anthropologists analyze human remains and material evidence such as military uniforms, personal effects, and identification tags. Only when scientific techniques determine that the remains from an excavation site match the identity of the missing service member can they fully account for an MIA.

James Meierhoff, UIC PhD candidate and the lead archaeologist for the project, was grateful to have the extra helping hands of the Seabee volunteers.

“All the help is good,” said Meierhoff. “And it is also good for our undergraduate students to interact with a wide variety of people, including the military. It’s great to have military personnel be part of this process.”

“And it’s good for the Seabees as well, to be able to interact with us and see what we’re able to do altogether,” added Riebe.

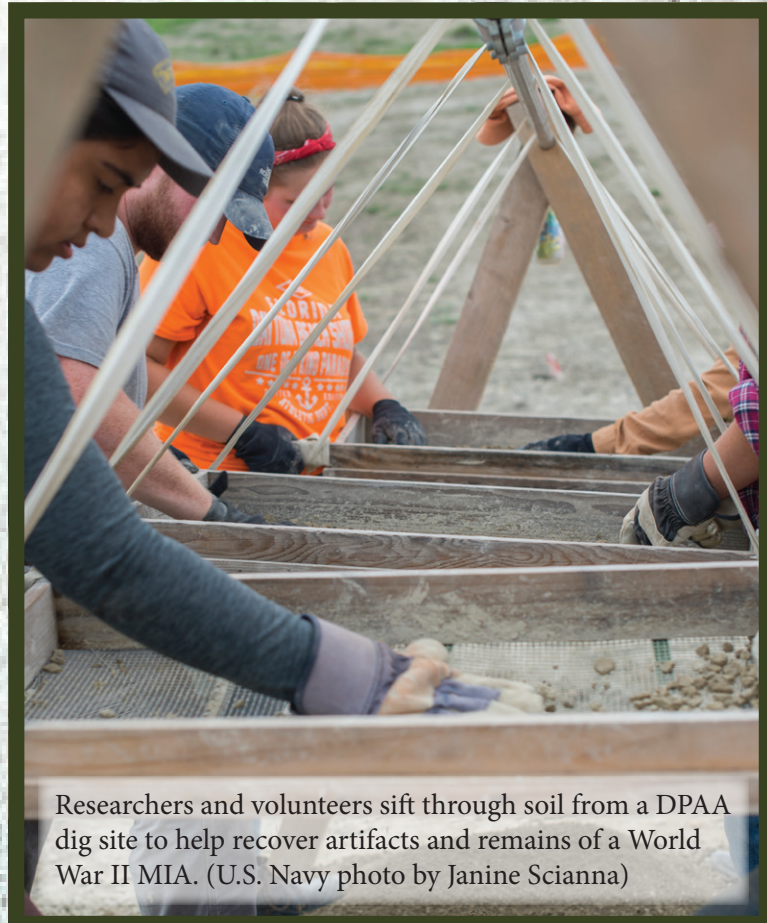
Builder Third Class Caleb Culberson, one of the Seabee volunteers and an avid World War II history buff, remarked on how sobering it was to participate in the excavation.

“You can listen to the stories all day, you can watch movies, read all these books, but you never actually know until you see it,” said Culberson. “This is what happened on this day to this person 76 years ago. It really sticks with you.”

While the work to send this particular service member home continues, one thing remains clear. The huge amounts of time and resources required to bring this MIA home pales in comparison to the unending sacrifice that they paid to our country.



Researchers and volunteers excavate a DPAA dig site to help recover artifacts and remains of a World War II MIA. (U.S. Navy photo by MR2 Kyle Drummond)



Researchers and volunteers sift through soil from a DPAA dig site to help recover artifacts and remains of a World War II MIA. (U.S. Navy photo by Janine Scianna)