

U.S. Naval Activities Spain

Farewell Q&A with Capt. David Baird Page 12-13

COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL ACTIVITIES, SPAIN

HSM-79 Establishes New Spain Detachment Page 11

**USS Paul Ignatius Arrives to Rota** Page 3



-

Command Master Chief Kimberly Ferguson

tilt. I am personally looking forward to this year's American Flag

Raising Ceremony on June 30 in front of Bldg. 1 and our 4th

of July Celebration. Stay tuned for the great events MWR has

planned to include great food, entertainment, and fireworks.

both exciting and stressful between short-fused orders, pet

spots on the rotator, saying goodbye, as well as welcoming new friends and families to our great team. Your chain of command,

ombudsman network, FFSC, chaplains, and many more are

If you're a new spouse, check out Fleet and Family's spouse Meet and Greet held the third Monday of every month at Seaview Pines. It's a great opportunity to meet new people

Along the lines of PCS, it is time to say farewell to our

Commanding Officer, Capt. David Baird. He has been

standing by to assist so please don't hesitate to reach out.

and find out what's new and happening in our community.

Summer also means PCS season is in full swing which is

### Summer = PCS Season. Farewell Capt. Baird!

Team Rota. Summer is upon us and with it comes beautiful weather and sunflowers for miles. Activities are picking up here on base, I encourage you to pick up a Vamos magazine each month to see all the MWR happenings. Sports leagues are busy, the outdoor pool is open, and tours

are running full

a steadfast leader through COVID, homeport shifts, Operation Allies Welcome, and a number of other mission essential events. He ensured community communication and cohesiveness while providing top notch support to the fleet throughout his three-year tour.

As the CMC, it has been my honor to serve under someone of his caliber who trusts me to do my job and trusts in the Chief's Mess to lead and work together to carry out his vision. Due to his commitment and support to Chief's mess he was made an honorary member of the Rota Chief's Mess, May 5, 2022. Fair winds and Following Seas Skipper, you will be missed even though you still love the Yankees.

All my respect, CMC



Photo by MCC Nathan Carpenter

Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota Commanding Officer Capt. David Baird, receives his anchors from NAVSTA Rota Command Master Chief Kimberly Ferguson, left, and his wife Jill Baird, right, during a ceremony to make Baird an honorary chief, May 5, 2022.

## **On The Front Cover**



Commander, Naval Activities Spain and Commanding Officer for Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Capt. David Baird, poses for a photo in front of the command building at NAVSTA Rota, June 8, 2022. Baird will be departing Rota soon as he turns over the command to Capt. Teague Suarez, July 14, 2022. Read more on Capt. Baird's naval and Rota experience on pages 12-13. (Photo by MC2 John Owen)

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## USS Paul Ignatius, Newest FDNF-E Ship, Arrives in Homeport Rota, Spain

By MC2 Trey Fowler USS Paul Ignatius Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class guidedmissile destroyer USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) arrived in its new homeport of Naval Station Rota, Spain, as the U.S. Navy's newest Forward Deployed Naval Forces–Europe (FDNF-E) destroyer, June 17, 2022.

Prior to arriving in Rota, Paul Ignatius operated alongside British, Canadian, French, German, and Norwegian allies as part of exercises Cable Car and Green Light. The ship also conducted port visits in Ponta Delgada, Portugal and Bergen, Norway. In the Baltic Sea, Paul Ignatius integrated with the 2nd Marine Division and the Kearsarge Amphibious Readiness Group with embarked Amphibious Squadron Six and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. The ship



Sailors attached to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) greet their families after pulling into port to complete their homeport shift to Naval Station Rota, Spain, June 17, 2022.

also conducted interoperability exercises with the USS Sioux City (LCS 11) during the inaugural deployment of a Freedom Class Littoral Combat Ship to Fifth and Sixth Fleet areas of operation.

"We certainly met and exceeded our goals," said Cmdr. Aaron Arky, commanding officer of Paul Ignatius. "I couldn't be more proud of the team as they superbly conducted undersea, airdefense and expeditionary operations during this patrol."

Commissioned in 2019, Paul Ignatius is the second of eight Flight IIA "technology insertion" ships, bringing enhanced capability and technological advancements to U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Destroyer Squadron 60. The ship is the 67th Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, a class capable of conducting a variety of missions

from sea control and power projection to peacetime presence and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The ship's arrival in Rota brings substantial capabilities to the FDNF-E force already in place. Arriving to their new homeport also allows Paul Ignatius Sailors the opportunity to get acquainted with their new duty station and to reunite with their families, many of whom have already arrived in Rota.

"The uniqueness of this homecoming cannot be understated, as we are both returning to our families and arriving at our new homeport," said



Photos by MC2 John Owen

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) pulls into port, completing its homeport shift to Naval Station Rota, Spain, June 17, 2022.

Arky. "The tremendous support network established by Naval Station Rota and Destroyer Squadron 60 has immensely helped the families and Sailors alike. For that, we are grateful."

The ship's arrival to Rota is one of several scheduled homeport shifts to occur in support of the U.S. Navy's long-range plan to gradually rotate the Rota-based destroyers. The arrival also coincides with the arrival of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79, which will provide rotary-wing mission capabilities to the FDNF-E destroyers.

Paul Ignatius will operate under Commander, Task Force 65 and Destroyer Squadron 60 in support of NATO's Integrated Air Missile Defense architecture. These FDNF-E ships have the flexibility to operate throughout the waters of Europe and Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Arctic Circle, demonstrating their mastery of the maritime domain.

The ship is named after Paul Ignatius, who served as Secretary of the Navy under President Lyndon Johnson from 1967 to 1969. Ignatius had previously served as a commissioned lieutenant in the Navy during World War II.

For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.



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## Taking to the Road: DESRON 60 Teaches Spouses to Drive Manual

By Courtney Pollock NAVSTA Rota Public Affairs

While moving overseas typically includes a massive list of to do items, learning to drive a manual transmission vehicle may – or may not – make the list. For many, moving to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain brings this issue to the forefront due to the difficulty of finding affordable, automatic vehicles.

"One of the concerns spouses had was how expensive automatic vehicles were in Europe," explained Lt. Cmdr. Travis Gardner, chaplain for Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 60. "One story told to us was of a household that paid just over \$4,000 to rent an automatic vehicle until they could purchase one because they could not drive a stick shift."

This concern was brought up to CTF 65 / DESRON 60 Commodore Capt. Kyle Gantt, Command Master Chief Gary Rosenbaum, and Gardener during a focus group of DESRON 60 ombudsmen and family readiness group (FRG) members. Exacerbating the issue is the fact that Americans are only allowed to import one American specification vehicle per the agreement with the Kingdom of Spain.

"We know financial stress can quickly lead to operational stress in Sailor's lives," said Gantt. "Our driving course is an opportunity to meet a need in our community."

Gantt is referring to a course that was created as leadership brainstormed ways to address the issue. They hoped that by teaching the skills and building the driver's confidence, they could ultimately ease the financial and logistical burden on Sailors and their families.

The first class was held in early May,



Lt. Cmdr. Travis Gardner, chaplain for Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 60, talks about driving manual transmission vehicles to a group of spouses from the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) in front of the chapel, May 24, 2022.

and has quickly became routine with small groups meeting each week to work on the basics of driving manual transmission. The instructors are DESRON 60 Sailors looking to help their community by providing one-on-one instruction and a vehicle.

"I've been stationed overseas in unfamiliar places before, and the one thing that always made my transition easier were the members of local military community who took the time to explain the unique things needed in that area," said Senior Chief Fire Controlman Ginger Hansen, a volunteer instructor. "I always aim to pay it forward, and keep our military communities strong."

Hansen and the other volunteer instructors stepping up to assist their community has ultimately led to spouses feeling more confident and empowered.

"The class was very helpful and beneficial to those new to Rota and driving manual," said a spouse who participated. "The instructors were very informative, patient, and reassuring. They created real life scenarios we would encounter while driving in Rota, such as approaching roundabouts, down shifting, and stopping for pedestrians. I feel confident now driving a manual around Rota!"

Each class begins with the instructor explaining the basics of driving manual transmission before moving on to practicing these skills in empty parking lots on the installation.

"They begin nervous and quite unsure, then the shift begins when they go from neutral to first gear for the first time," said Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Mathieu Portivent, a volunteer instructor. "You see them light up and gain a massive amount of confidence."

By the end of the class, Portivent says most are driving through roundabouts, accelerating and decelerating, and feeling confident in their abilities to continue practicing on their own."

Ultimately the command hopes that this added skill will help spouses get settled in their new duty station and create a positive ripple in their time in Spain.

"The course is part of a larger DESRON initiative called Families United (FUN)," said Gantt. "Through FUN, Chaplain Travis Gardner leads a fantastic program designed to support family connection across DESRON."



Photos by Courtney Pollock

A spouse from the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) learns to drive manual transmission during a class created by Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 60 at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, May 24, 2022. Based on findings from a focus group, DESRON 60 created the class to teach spouses how to drive manual transmission and improve opportunities to find affordable vehicles during their tour.

Supporting the family is a priority that Gardner reiterates and the inspiration behind FUN. He understands the challenges the spouses face such as solo parenting and managing the home due to the high operational tempo of the ships, and wants them to know the command is there to support them.

"They are not alone nor forgotten, but rather in the front of our minds," said Gardner.

He encourages DESRON 60 spouses

- as well as spouses of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 79 – to attend the monthly informal FUN chat for comradery, connection, and community. The meet-and-greet is held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Library Café. These meetings help spouses to meet and support each other as well as the command to hear their concerns and challenges. If you have additional questions, please email Gardner at travis. gardner@eu.navy.mil.



Senior Chief Ginger Hansen, left, Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Mathieu Portivent, center, and Lt. Cmdr. Travis Gardner, right, introduce themselves to a group of spouses from the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) in front of the chapel, May 24, 2022.







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## **MWR Cafes Reopen as Gourmet Bean**

**By Courtney Pollock** NAVSTA Rota Public Affairs

Rota Morale. Welfare and Recreation (MWR) recently re-opened their cafes as Gourmet Bean with expanded food and drink menus, June 13, 2022.

"Gourmet Bean is a CNIC (Commander, Navy Installations Command) developed concept that incorporates both food and coffee into café style service," said Sara Fine, food and beverage director for Rota MWR. "With the help of our CNIC culinary team in partnership with OLM Food Solutions, the menu includes new and fresh food offerings."

These new offerings include breakfast sandwiches/burritos, pastries, paninis, grab-and-go salads, and wraps. The cafes now have healthy to-go snacks such as vegetable sticks with hummus, fruit and yogurt parfaits, and whole fresh fruit, as well as fresh orange juice and fruit smoothies. For the coffee lovers, the cafes serve Starbucks espresso-based

drinks as a "We Proudly Serve" Starbucks location.

"What this means is that we not only use Starbucks espresso and coffee, we offer a large lineup of your favorite Starbucks espresso-based drinks, both hot and iced, utilizing the same recipes and syrups," said Fine.

The Rota community is enjoying the new offerings with iced caramel macchiatos being a local favorite.

"Our staff has joked that they dream of making iced caramel macchiato due to how many have been ordered in the first two weeks," said Fine.

At NAVSTA Rota, the cafés are open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., at two café locations - at the library and Fleet Landing. These two Gourmet Bean cafes join other Navy locations around the world including Bahrain and Guantanamo Bay.

Whether you stop by for a quick bite or to enjoy a coffee date with a friend, the staff at Gourmet Bean will be waiting with a smile and a taste of home here in Spain.







#### Photos from Rota MWR

Capt, David Baird, commanding officer of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, cuts the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony of the Gourmet Bean cafe concepts at NAVSTA Rota, June 13, 2022. Baird is accompanied by, from left to right, CNIC headquarters representative Andy McFadden, Rota MWR Food & Beverage Director Sara Fine, and Fleet Readiness Director Megan Ryan.



Gourmet Bean offers community members numerous coffee drinks, breakfast and lunch sandwiches, pastries, smoothies, healthy snacks, and more at their library and Fleet Landing locations.



Capt. David Baird, commanding officer of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, gives remarks during the grand opening ceremony of the Gourmet Bean cafe concepts at NAVSTA Rota, June 13, 2022.









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### AJEDREZ BEACH CLUB

The Ajedrez Beach Club, a nationally famous "Chiringuito" on the beautiful beach of Chipiona, is celebrating it's 40th anniversary this season. To mark this as a special year they have added the renowned Chef Paco Guzman to their warm and welcoming Ajedrez Beach Club family.

Chef Paco received his strongest culinary inspiration during his stay in Japan and afterward honed his skills while traveling throughout Asia. He brings to Ajedrez a new menu and offers daily new menu suggestions while still maintaining in the core menu the essence of some of the best Mediterranean and Asian dishes. Ajedrez is very proud to continue as a culinary reference in our area, in the province and beyond. They maintain impeccable service in a unique atmosphere.

At sunset can sound an aria of opera music. It is a magical moment, especially when accompanied by one of the delicious cocktails they prepare. The nights at Ajedrez Beach Club are enlivened by live music, one day Jazz, another Cuban music, another classical music quintets, yet another a club orchestra or possibly a piano or guitar soloist.

Ajedrez Beach Club wishes to thank their American family for the appreciated support they have received during these past 40 years. They ask that you join them for their 40th anniversary celebration with the renowned Chef Paco Guzman for an unforgettable lunch or dinner by the beach.

If you are in the mood for a special evening out, then please consider going and enjoying the authentic luxury of the Ajedrez Beach Club.

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## Read Beyond the Beaten Path: Rota Library Kicks off Summer Reading Program

**By Courtney Pollock** NAVSTA Rota Public Affairs

As a young child, I remember anxiously awaiting the start of summer break because that meant the start of the summer reading program. Once school was out, my mother would take me to our local library where I would register and receive my log sheet, select several books, and begin recording my reading for cool prizes.

Luckily, the children - and any community member - of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota can also experience this excitement as the base library kicked off this year's summer reading program, June 14, 2022.

This year's theme, Read Beyond the Beaten Path, pulls on the summer camp concept for the children activities by combining camp, adventure, and skill development. After signing up, each community member logs their reading on a form and receive prizes (varies by age).

To supplement the reading, the library staff has planned a variety of activities throughout the summer during their weekly



Tuesday events. From outdoors activities and s'mores to animal identification and arts and craft, these fun-filled activities will encourage kids to learn, try something new, and read!

Agar Fernandez-Palomero, librarian at the base library, emphasizes that summer reading is important because many children experience a regression during the break.

Summer reading is critical, not only for helping kids maintain learning while school is out, but also for fostering socialemotional development, discovering the joy of stories, and elevating the importance of lifelong learning," she said. "Educators and parents agree summer reading matters.'

For teens, Fernandez-Palomero explained that reading helps expand vocabulary, learn different writing styles, and different ways of thinking or problem solvina.

"The more teens read, the more information they pick up," she said. "This leads to a solid core of knowledge that is useful in a wide variety of classes.



#### Photos from Rota MWR

Rota Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Library kicks off its annual summer reading program with several activities for its younger readers, June 14, 2022. This year's theme is Read Beyond the Beaten Path and focuses on camp, adventures, skill developement through reading and activities.

For both age groups, reading creates lifelong, confident and independent learners.

While reading may not be as academic for adults, it does broaden knowledge while reducing stress, providing relaxation, and helping understand other ways of thinking.

To date, over 170 community members of all ages have signed up for the summer reading program which is the largest group in recent years. If you haven't signed up yet, sign-ups are ongoing so

just head to the library and they'll get you started. After signing up, be sure to select a few books to start with.

While my summers may no longer be reading for the ultimate goal of winning prizes, it sure is a lot more enjoyable with a book in hand! Whatever your reason, this summer should include reading a book - or multiple books - and the friendly staff at the Rota Library are more than ready to assist you in finding books to suit vour interests.





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#### Rota Community Commemorates Fallen Heroes with Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony and 24-hour Walk

#### By Laura Peter USO Rota

USO Rota, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota leadership, and community members gathered to hold a Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony in honor of fallen heroes at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, May 26, 2022.

Commands from around the community gathered to pay tribute to service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice during a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which was built by Navy Munitions Command Battalion 11 in 2016. The ceremony began with the parading of the colors by David Glasgow Farragut Middle/High School Naval Junior Recruit Officers Training Command, while Petty Officer First Class Jenino Jao sang our National Anthem. NAVSTA Rota Command Master Chief Kim Ferguson served as the master of ceremonies; Command Chaplain Cmdr. Alan Cameron presented the invocation/ benediction; NAVSTA Rota Commanding Officer Capt. David Baird gave remarks, and guest speakers were retired Capt. Octavio Manduely and retired Chief Petty Officer Candice Star Leffingwell.

Near the end, "Taps" was performed on bagpipes by Oscar Liste Allegue, while the Chief Petty Officer Mess donated a beautiful wreath for the memorial. Rota Jewish Community Bet Januká shared the tradition and history of laying stones on the graves of loved ones and provided stones for those in attendance in an act of remembrance.

Following the ceremony, Baird and Ferguson escorted the U.S. and POW/



Photos from USO Rota

MIA flags to the base track to commence the 24-hour remembrance walk. The procession included bagpiper, Oscar Liste Allegue, playing "Amazing Grace," and many community members who attended the ceremony.

Over the 24-hour walk, NAVSTA Rota community members could pay their respects by signing up for 30-minute time slots. Over 100 members participated all through the night to pay their respects to those who have given us our freedom, and the Rota Girl Scouts decorated bags of tea lights to illuminate the track. Some walked for 30 minutes, some hours, and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 (NMCB 133) Command Master Chief Brian Bellefeuille walked an astounding 67 miles for 22 hours straight!

Regardless of time logged on the track, all walks were completed with the upmost respect in memory of those lost. Whether you walked alone, as a command, or with a friend, USO Rota is thankful for all who joined and helped connect our service members to family, home, and country.





## **HSM-79 Establishes New Spain Detachment**

By MC3 D.S. Randol

Naval Air Force Atlantic Public Affairs

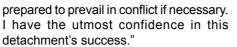
Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79 established a new detachment stationed at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain, June 16, 2022.

Rear Adm. John F. Meier, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, attended the ceremony along with Cmdr. Brett Elko, the commanding officer of HSM-79, and Cmdr. Nikolas Rongers, HSM-79's executive officer.

"The establishment of HSM-79's European presence exemplifies our commitment to our allies and partners and provides ready naval helicopter forces to support our collective defense in a vital region of the world," Meier said. "My charge to all of you is to sustain and strengthen deterrence, while being



Rear Adm. John F. Meier, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, meets with Sailors at the establishment ceremony for Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79 detachment, Rota, Spain, June 16, 2022.



This new detachment marks the first time an HSM squadron has been stationed at NAVSTA Rota. The 'Griffins' operate the MH-60R helicopter, which is capable of conducting various missions including anti-submarine warfare, antisurface warfare, vertical replenishment, search and rescue, humanitarian relief and medical evacuation operations.

The HSM squadron will augment Forward Deployed Naval Forces-Europe (FDNF-E), providing support to FDNF-E guided-missile destroyers stationed in Rota. The helicopter enhances the ships' capabilities by increasing range and mobility for anti-submarine warfare and search and rescue, while providing increased logistics and medivac capability, enabling Allied ships to maintain at-sea operations.



Sailors attend the establishment ceremony for Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79 detachment, Rota, Spain, June 16, 2022.



Photos by MCC Nathan Carpenter

Rear Adm. John F. Meier, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, stands with Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79 leadership at the establishment ceremony for HSM-79 detachment, Rota, Spain, June 16, 2022. Meier attended the ceremony along with Cmdr. Brett Elko, the commanding officer of HSM-79, and Cmdr. Nikolas Rongers, HSM-79's executive officer.

The FDNF-E destroyers, commanded by Commander, Task Force 65 and Destroyer Squadron 60, includes USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), USS Porter (DDG 78), USS Roosevelt (DDG 80), and USS Ross (DDG 71). USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) is scheduled to join the force in support of the U.S. Navy's long-range plan to gradually rotate the Rota-based destroyers.

The squadron adopted its name from two decommissioned Squadrons

that focused on aircraft carrier-based anti-submarine warfare: Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 9 'Sea Griffins' and the Sea Control Squadron (VS) 38 'Red Griffins'. The 'Griffins' have continued their legacy since 2016.

NAVSTA Rota is a strategically-located installation, providing operational and logistical support to all U.S. and NATO forces within the U.S. European Command area of responsibility and the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations.



### Capt. David Baird Looks Back on his time in the Navy and at NAVSTA Rota

As Capt. David Baird's time at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota comes to an end, we asked him about the his naval career and his tour in Rota. Throughout his three years here at NAVSTA Rota as commanding officer, we experienced a worldwide pandemic, hosted evacuees from Afghanistan as part of Operation Allies Welcome, held homeport swaps for the Forward-Deployed Naval Forces-Europe destroyers, established a helicopter squadron, built and opened numerous facilities, and much more. Baird was the constant throughout these trying times, operations and changes providing the NAVSTA Rota community with clear guidance, insight, and communications. Fair winds and following seas, Capt. David Baird ... For the duration!

#### What was your most memorable moment as NAVSTA Rota Skipper?

We have enjoyed lots of memorable moments, but the two that stand out as probably the most memorable are first, when the Spanish Admiral of the Base, Vice Adm. Ricardo Hernandez called me in March of 2020 to say that we were transitioning the base to minimum manning in response to the SARS CoV-2 outbreak and COVID-19 pandemic. The second was when the first aircraft carrying evacuees from Afghanistan arrived. These moments started two of the most challenging periods in our community's history, and yet our community met both challenges with incredible grace.

What were some of the unique challenges of being COMNAVACTS? For me, the biggest challenge was simply

that every day brought something new. While I always had a rough plan for each day, there was almost always something unexpected that would pop up, so staying agile and adaptable was always one of the most important things to consider.

#### Being on a Spanish base meant working closely with the Spanish Armada, what were some of the favorite things you worked with them on?

We are so lucky here in Rota because our Spanish hosts are so hospitable and helpful. There is not a single project or event that could happen without the help and support of the Spanish Navy. But easily my favorite event that we collaborated on was the premiere of TOPGUN: Maverick at the drive-in. complete with a fly-over from a Spanish Navy AV-8B Harrier. That was epic!



Baird gives a speech to U.S. and Spanish service members, civilian government employees, and community members during Naval Station Rota, Spain's change of command ceremony. June 18. 2019

Baird is piped ashore after Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain's change of command ceremony. Capt. David Baird assumed command from Capt. MacNicholl as commander. U.S. Naval Activities, Spain and commanding officer,



Capt. David Baird poses for a photo dressed as Captain America prior to NAVSTA Rota's Reverse Trick or Treat. Baird, Command Master Chief Kimberly Ferguson, NAVSTA Rota departments, USO Rota, and community volunteers tossed sweet treats to children as part of candy delivery teams.

#### NAVSTA Rota has seen several VIPs come through during your time here. Who was a memorable visitor for you? I really enjoyed meeting nearly the entire chain of command, but hosting our CNO, Adm. Michael Gilday in January 2021 was definitely memorable. It was a great visit, but the day was even more memorable because it also happened to be the day the very first COVID vaccines arrived on base!

#### What do you hope others will remember from your time here?

I hope they remember that even during a global pandemic, and while supporting the largest air evacuation of non-combatants in history, our community supported one another, leaned on one another, and respected one another no matter what the challenge

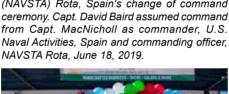
#### How do you think you pushed the installation forward?

I think world events solidified Naval Station Rota as a key strategic location for our military, and I think our community proved we are capable of anything. This installation will continue to grow in terms of force posture, but more importantly I think the installation will continue to grow in terms of resiliency and quality of life.

During your tour you had to navigate NAVSTA Rota community through the COVID-19 pandemic. What was your guiding principle for leading this community through an unprecedented worldwide pandemic?

The health, safety, and well-being of our entire community has always been our number one priority. Keeping that at the forefront made many of the decisions we had to make a little easier. As our knowledge of the SARS-CoV-2 virus

































and the COVID disease evolved, we were able to adapt our posture while still keeping the health, safety, and well-being of the community on top of our priorities. Through incredible work by literally every member of the community, we were still able to meet every single operational task that was given to our deployable forces.

#### Throughout the lockdown, you posted daily updates which the community came to look forward to each day. Why did you start it? How did it evolve over the months?

My wife Jill gets credit for encouraging me to start the posts. She reminded me early on that everyone (herself included) craved information during uncertain times. We wanted to share every piece of reliable information we could as quickly as possible, but we also wanted to ensure we were always as accurate as possible with what we shared. So we started by just posting the latest government verified COVID numbers in terms of new cases. While that was well received, when we started adding perspective to the numbers through analogies from some of my life experiences, that really seemed to draw interest. In just a few days, it became something that drew the community (virtually) together for a few minutes each afternoon, and it became a great way for me to collect my thoughts and try to keep a good perspective.

#### There were a few daily updates that were really popular with the community. Did you have a favorite one?

The Star Wars "May the Fourth Be With You" posts were always fun to write, but my favorites were the Mother's Day and Father's Day posts, because I got to write about the two people who have influenced me most.

#### NAVSTA Rota also played a crucial

role in the DoD's mission Operation Allies Welcome. Is there a particular moment that sticks out from those several weeks?

Looking back, those eight weeks really felt like one exceptionally long day. But one of the moments that stands out for me was when we received a beautifully written thank you note from one of the evacuees, thanking the community for treating them so well. I read that note at several events after the end of the Operation. I didn't have the foresight to articulate clear guidance for what I wanted our community to achieve through our part of Operation Allies Welcome, but if I had it would have read just like that thank you note. The beauty of that is our community didn't need any guidance. We knew what to do instinctively.

How did it make you feel leading a team of military, civilians, and volunteers who dedicated hours to ensure the health and well-being of the evacuees? It was easily the most fulfilling, rewarding, and humbling work of my career. As I said then, I'll never be able to fully express the gratitude I have for each member of our community, and the sacrifices they made to support the operation, while still keeping normal operations at full speed. But really, the best gratitude was found in the eves of the evacuees, as they discovered Rota to be a place of safety, compassion, and hospitality.

#### You were there greeting and assisting evacuees off the aircraft, seen within the camp, and at the departures. How did you feel being able to contribute to this big operation?

In 2001, I flew combat missions from USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) during the initial phase of Operation Enduring Freedom. That was a period of national unity within the United States, and we knew we were fighting the good fight against Al Qaeda. Twenty years later, being able to assist with the evacuation of so many people from Afghanistan, many of whom

fought alongside our U.S., NATO, and coalition forces brought everything full circle. Having the opportunity to assist so many people who auickly fled their homes was difficult to be sure. But as we got to know the evacuees more and more, it became clear that they would soon build a great new life in the United States.

#### As you prepare

for retirement and look back over your career, what are some of the moments from your naval service that stand out? There are so many different types of moments. Fun ones like squadron softball games, hails and farewells, and movie nights in the ready room. Scary ones like night landings in bad weather on the ship, aircraft emergencies, and near misses. Sad ones like losing friends and shipmates. But for me, the most memorable moments will always be the homecomings after deployment. Those memories are the best.

#### What was your hardest tour? Best tour?

This tour was both the hardest and the best. We had some legitimately challenging times, and some very long days, but our community prevailed.

#### Do you miss flying F/A-18s?

A little, but mostly I miss the camaraderie of being in a squadron, and the relationships between every member of the squadron. I loved the conversations with Sailors on the flight deck before and after a flight, or in the hangar bay late at night. That's when we truly get to know one another,



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell Smith poses for a "selfie with Command Master Chief Kim Ferguson, command master chief of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, and Capt. David Baird, commanding officer of NAVSTA Rota, during the base's Navy Ball at El Puerto de Santa Maria bull ring to commemorate the Navy's 246th Navy Birthday, Oct. 7, 2021.

and that's what makes those relationships ironclad.

#### What did you learn from the Spanish that you hope to implement into your daily life back in the States?

I love the later hours of the Spanish schedule. I've never been a morning person, so later meals and later nights fit with my preferences. But more importantly, the Spanish have taught me what true hospitality looks like.

#### What will you miss the most from your time here in Spain?

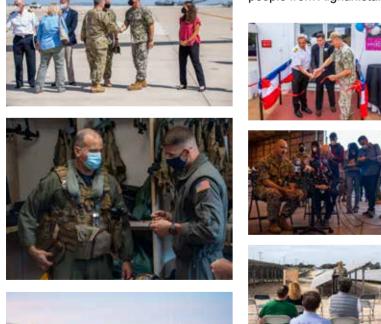
Easy question. Our community. Every single one of you. Nothing else comes close.

#### What advice would you give to those stationed here in Rota to make the most of their time here?

Live your best life in Southern Spain, and if there is something impeding you from doing that, let COMNAVACTS know!

#### Is there anything you care to add?

Please joining us at the Change of Command on July 14th at 0900 in front of Bldg. One. I would like to say thank you in person to all of you.









Photos from throughout the article by Lt. Lyndsi Gutierrez, MCC Nathan Carpenter, MC1 Benjamin Lewis, MC1 Anna Van Nuys, MC2 Eduardo Otero, MC2 John Owen, and Courtney Pollock.

# his or That

We asked Capt. Baird to tell us his favorites

café con leche or café manchado ensaladilla or gambas alijo Semana Santa or Feria ramen or **gazpacho** fútbol or football (Especially DGF Admirals!) Barcelona or Madrid Yoda or Grogu beach or mountains Both in Cadiz province! tostada or churros Maverick or Ice Man sherry wine or sangria Picasso or Dali jamon or chorizo Mount Fuji or El Torreon Seville or Granada paella or tortilla española "Living Your Best Life" or "For the Duration" picos or olives flamenco or sevillanas Capt. America or Winter Soldier

## **USS Arleigh Burke Begins Second FDNF-E Patrol**

#### By MC2 Austin Collins USS Arleigh Burke Public Affairs

Forward-deployed Naval Forces-Europe (FDNF-E) Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) departed Naval Station Rota, Spain to begin its second (FDNF-E) patrol, June 1, 2022.

While on patrol, Arleigh Burke and her crew will sail alongside regional partners and allies throughout the U.S. Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) area of operations.

"Patrol number two is shaping up to provide the crew of Arleigh Burke the opportunity to show our ability to operate with our NATO allies and partners across Europe and flex the lethality that is inherent in the most capable ship in the fleet," said Lt. Cmdr. Tyrchra Bowman, executive officer of Arleigh Burke. "The crew will put into action the training they have gained and of course, just as important, visit the countries and experience the culture of many of our partner nations."

Bowman and the Arleigh Burke crew quickly moved into joint operations as soon as their patrol began.

"We started our patrol by sailing with the Spanish and will quickly find ourselves operating throughout the NAVEUR area of operations," said Bowman. "Arleigh Burke will certainly be provided the opportunity to show that it is 'America's Lead Destroyer'."

Arleigh Burke completed its first FDNF-E patrol in December of 2021, establishing the ship as a critical component of the FDNF-E force. The ship shifted homeports to Rota from Naval Station Norfolk in April 2021.

"Our crew has been stationed in the European area of operations for over a year now and being forward-deployed has prepared us for the seas that we sail here," said Command Master Chief Rafael Barney, the senior enlisted leader of Arleigh Burke. "Since returning from our







#### Photos by MC2 Austin Collins

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) departs Naval Station Rota, Spain, June 1, 2021. Arleigh Burke, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations, employed by U.S. Sixth Fleet, to defend U.S., allied and partner interests

first patrol this past December, our Sailors have been eager to get this patrol started. This is a great place to be homeported

as we have so many powerful partnerships here."

Four U.S. Navy Arleigh Burkeclass guided missile destroyers are based in Rota, Spain and are assigned to Commander, Task Force 65 in support of NATO's Integrated Air Missile Defense architecture. These FDNF-E ships have the flexibility to operate throughout the waters of Europe and Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Arctic Circle, demonstrating their mastery of the maritime domain.

For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with our allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

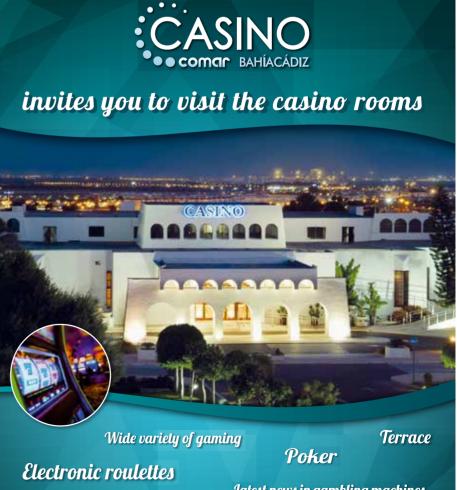
Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.



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Unfurnished: 3 nice size bedrooms with 3 large, professionally finished, built-in closets and lots of other storage as well. 2 ½ baths; Master bath has massage jets; Designer kitchen, fully equipped. Laundry room with washer & dryer and lots of storage. Terrace, Porch & small private yard; community pool. Phone, high speed fiber internet, Heat & A/C, screens on windows, garage parking and storage room.

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## **USS Porter Embarks German Navy Chaplain during BALTOPS 22**

By MC2 Almagissel Schuring USS Porter Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class guidedmissile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) embarked a German Navy chaplain as part of exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS22) in the Baltic Sea, June 6, 2022.

Throughout the BALTOPS22, Chaplains from eight nations had the opportunity to further their cross-cultural study by spending time on participating warships as an exchange, shadowing their chaplain counterparts and interacting with Sailors. Porter welcomed Dr. Katja Bruns, a German navy chaplain for one day before she embarked a helicopter to her next destination, the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3).

During her visit, Dr. Bruns had the opportunity to further the comradery initiated in Sweden with Lt. Milo Curtis, the Porter's Command Chaplain.

"Having Chaplain Bruns aboard USS Porter was a tremendous opportunity for us to practice collaborative ministry while at sea," said Curtis. "Chaplain Bruns brought a pastoral presence that was refreshing and well received by the entire crew."

Dr. Bruns' ministry was on display as she walked the ship, meeting and interacting with the Sailors, and when she led a liturgical service in the evening.

"I've only been in the Navy for a few

years," said Lt. j.g. Anna Kukelhan. "But this is the first time I've seen this kind of collaboration within the Chaplain Corps. It's gratifying to know that our wellbeing as forward-deployed Sailors is being thoughtfully discussed and put at such a premium."

This is the first time BALTOPS has incorporated a Religious and Spiritual Support Interoperability Initiative (RSSII). This initiative is focused on support during times of crisis in the challenging maritime domain.

"It was a joy to compare notes and learn that many of the same issues and obstacles Dr. Bruns' crew must overcome are the same ones we must overcome," said Curtis. "Having her on board was a great chance to learn from one another on how to best meet the needs of our Sailors."

BALTOPS22 is the premier maritimefocused exercise in the Baltic Region. The exercise, led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and executed by Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, provides a unique training opportunity to strengthen the combined response capabilities critical to preserving freedom of navigation and security in the Baltic Sea.

For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with our Allies and Partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values



#### Photo by MC2 Almagissel Schuring

Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78), attend a Liturgical Service led by German Navy Chaplain Dr. Katja Bruns, June 6, 2022, during BALTOPS22. BALTOPS22 is the premier maritime-focused exercise in the Baltic Region. The exercise, led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and executed by Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, provides a unique training opportunity to strengthen combined response capabilities critical to preserving freedom of navigation and security in the Baltic Sea.

to preserve security and stability.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.

STRIKFORNATO, headquartered in Oeiras, Portugal, is Supreme Allied Commander Europe's (SACEUR) premier, rapidly deployable and flexible, maritime power projection Headquarters, capable of planning and executing full spectrum joint maritime operations.

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## **Lasting Mine Countermeasures Partnerships Built during BALTOPS 22**

#### By MCC Heidi Cheek

U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Public Affairs

Service members from 11 nations participated in the exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS 22) at the Swedish Naval Warfare Centre in Ravlunda, Sweden, June 5-17, 2022.

BALTOPS 22 was conducted primarily at-sea with some elements conducted ashore, such as amphibious operations and logistics. The BALTOPS Mine Countermeasures Task Group (MCM TG) served as command and control in Ravlunda, facilitating training for the task units in mine countermeasures operations.

Service members from participating nations exercised a myriad of capabilities, such as explosive ordinance disposal (EOD), amphibious landing, and mine clearance. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 8 (EODMU 8), deployed out of Rota, Spain, led a team of approximately 190 personnel from five different nations, providing scenarios in which participants were evaluated as they searched for, exploited, or disposed of mines both underwater and ashore.

In Ravlunda, other MCM TG personnel coordinated multinational ships at sea to facilitate small boat and diving operations. To assist in searching for mines, service members employed the use of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) that travel underwater with a preprogrammed course. The AUVs use sonar to search the sea floor for objects, which divers later inspect and identify for possible mine neutralization and recovery. Experimentation on new types of unmanned underwater vehicles were also tested off the coast of Bornholm Island, Denmark during the exercise.

"The use of these modern systems from different countries is the future for mine countermeasures," said Royal Netherlands Navy Commander Peter Baars, chief of staff of the MCM TG during BALTOPS 22. "The cooperation of all the different countries working together is what makes the NATO team so successful during BALTOPS 22."

Joint training with ally and partner nations also included EOD surface scenarios. The training included forensics to study how explosive devices operate with the goal of quickly and efficiently updating battlefield commanders and sharing across participating nations.

Unique to BALTOPS 22 was Sweden's role in hosting several training events, to include the training at Ravlunda. The entire exercise involved participation from 16 nations. The 14 NATO ally and 2 partner nations provided over 45 ships, more than 75 aircraft, and 7,000 personnel.

"Sweden was a great host and proved to be a continued outstanding partner with the professionalism and enthusiasm we have come to expect from our teammates in this theater," said U.S. Navy Capt. Sam Brasfield, commander of the MCM TG. "We look to continue our collaboration with them going forward."

BALTOPS, which began in 1972 and



#### Photos by MC1 Richard Hoffner

Service members of partner nations detonate explosives during Swedish explosive familiarization training while at exercise BALTOPS 22, June 7, 2022. BALTOPS 22 is the premier maritime-focused exercise in the Baltic Region. The exercise, led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and executed by Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, provides a unique training opportunity to strengthen combined response capabilities critical to preserving freedom of navigation and security in the Baltic Sea.

is now in its 51st iteration, continues to be an excellent opportunity for NATO and regional partners to strengthen interoperability through a series of combined tactical maneuvers and scenarios.

BALTOPS 22 is the premier maritimefocused exercise in the Baltic Region. The exercise, led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and executed by Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, provides a unique training opportunity to strengthen the combined response capability critical to preserving the freedom of navigation and security in the Baltic Sea. For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with our Allies and Partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.



#### COASTLINE | June 30, 2022 17

### **NEPMU 7 Holds Change of Charge Ceremony**

Photos by MC2 John Owen

Cmdr. Chadwick Y Yasuda relieved Capt. Tammy E Servies as officer-in-charge of Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit (NEPMU) 7, June 10, 2022, Fair winds and following seas Capt. Servies! Welcome to NEPMU-7 Cmdr. Yasuda!

The mission of NEPMU-7 is to protect and preserve force health readiness through provision of theater-wide preventive medicine support to Navy and Marine Corps forces, joint military operations and allied governments when directed.









# Direworks ROA

FIREWORKS are often used to mark special events and holidays. The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend a professional show. With many professional firework shows being canceled this year, it is important to know that **fireworks are not safe** in the hands of consumers. Fireworks cause thousands of injuries each year.

#### A few ideas to get into the patriotic spirit, without fireworks:

- 1. Use glow sticks, they glow in the dark and are a safe alternative to a sparkler. Fun for all ages.
- 2. Loud and proud. Noise makers are sure to make a statement. They can be found at local party supply stores or make your own. **FACTS**
- 3. Outdoor movie night. Set up a screen and projector. Don't forget the bugspray!
- 4. Red, white and blue silly string...fun for all ages.
- 5. Make a patriotic craft with the family.
- 6. Throw a birthday party for the USA, and don't forget



leading information

### More than 19,500 reported fires are started by fireworks annually. Burns account for 44% of the 9,100 injuries treated in emergency rooms seen in the month around July 4. Half of the fireworks injuries seen at emergency rooms were extremities: hand, finger, or leg. One-third were to the eye or other parts of the head.

- Other parts of the head.
   Children ages 10–14 had the highest rate of fireworks injury, with more than one-third (36%) of the victims of fireworks injuries under age 15.
- () Sparklers account for roughly one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety (CPSC) 2018 Fireworks Annual Report





### I W.I.S.H. Project: Equity, Access & Mindset Community Initiative at Rota DGF Schools

By Genevieve Chavez & Marla Echols Rota DGE Schools

During the school year 2021-2022, teachers at the DGF Rota School Complex, Marla Echols (Elementary School) and Genevieve Chavez (Middle/High School), spearheaded a professional development book study of Cornelius Minor's "We Got This: The Quest to be What Our Students Need Us to Be," that centered around equity, access, and mindset, with the goal of transitioning from theory to applicable practices. Throughout the course, teacher participants were asked to reflect on their mindsets, current curriculum, to look deeply at what students need to flourish. but most of all, to put a plan of action into place to encourage and facilitate change.

The book study led to a catalyst for elevating and empowering elementary school (ES) and middle/high school (MHS) stakeholders and the Naval Station Rota community in the form of a project called I W.I.S.H. (World Citizen, Ideal School, Safety for All, and Healthy Living) for an ideal school. Stakeholders were given an opportunity to share what they

felt would be an ideal school. This project was one way to empower and elevate community voices, as well as encourage students to exercise what equity and access looks like to them.

The book study group met weekly to share practices and strategies centered around equity, access, and mindset.

The cohort of teachers from Rota identified, analyzed, and implemented practices to support the school community. Response to the chapter, Show Kids That You Hear Them. initiated ideas to create a forum to elevate student voices. Students presented and communicated their responses and ideas for I W.I.S.H. through various mediums such as film shorts, skits, poems, formal writing, and art projects. Alongside local administration, district, headquarter, and local base support, the book study team has been able to identify and recommend implementations from the responses that continue to move our schools forward in ways that directly impact students and stakeholders. Here are some wishes that our ES and MHS students have wished for



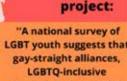
Clockwise from left: Kallie Black and Lilly Briseno (Grade 2) present their wishes for a science special. to make their own books to have available for others to check out, and to have gardening club on a different day than Girl Scout meetings. Taryn Bader (Grade 2) wishes for reading groups with snacks and friends. Noah Caceres and Logan Smith (Grade 2) present their wishes for more after school clubs for all grades, no homework, and parents can come back to school. Ruth Lukemire (Grade 2) presents her wishes for recycling in the lunchroom, field trips, monthly all school field days and a see-saw on the playground. Gabriel Lourenco (Grade 2) presents his wishes for option to bring their tablets, longer snack recess, and free popcorn.

Why Our School Should Have A Cooking Class By: Victoria Borton and Jade Smith	
Facts and 5 A transmission one per a series of the series of the series of the reverse of the series of the series of the series of the series of the series of the series of the series of the series of the series of th	• Heart Sti M. Service on a P. Marine of a Milly Lease • An and the State of the State • An and State of the State of the State • An and State of the State of the State • State of the State of the State of the State • State of the State of the State of the State of the State • State of the Stat

Victoria Horton and Jade Smith (Grade 7), as well as other students, wish for a cooking class or club. DGF used to have a Home Ec class and they want to bring it back. The students researched facts, statistics, expert opinions, and interviewed other students to create a presentation to present their findings



Henry Hoff (Grade 2) wishes for an after-school soccer club. This is just one of the many clubs ES students wished for. Other clubs suggestions were a computer club, STEM, another robotics club, and typing club.



My LGBTQ+ **Class I WISH** 

curriculum, supportive staff, and comprehensive anti-bullying policies can promote positive school climate."

"Learning about LGBTQ allows LGBTQ people youth feel less isolated."



One 7th grader researched why a class about LGBTQ+ history, facts, statistics, and issues is important to have in schools. She created a poster showcasing her research. This is one part of the poster that she felt was important to showcase.



This elementary school student wishes for a reading competition. A collaboration for a schoolwide reading incentive program is in the works for next school year!

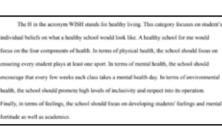


Ariana Greer (Grade 2) wishes for dessert with lunch and another students asked for a cookie on Fridays with lunch.



thy, many students are not satisfied with the heach entions available at the (the options don't seem particularly healthy, and others are not appealing to stration should look into. On a less important note, I think

ate it if the actual he



s along those lines. I feel that the em

able the military can be. To help me be my

g that only I can control: it is up to me on how well I study or how well I

nt of the school is

od better matched the menu which is

Photo. top: Lexi Rice and Brandon Luna (Grade 7) created a news report video after researching their wish to return to JAMS during lunch time (similar to pre-COVID). Photo, middle and bottom: Dyler Mercado (Grade 6) created a news report video showcasing why 1:1 technology is vital for students in school, and wishing for 1:1 technology at DGF MHS. He thoroughly researched his topic and interviewed various teachers at DGF for their expert opinions. Other students at the elementary school also wish for 1:1 technology. Photos. at right: Snippets of essays that high school students submitted for their I WISH projects

....



Art Club members Landon Vandergrift, Sienna Metzger, and Juliauna Meehan create the "EYE" of "I WISH" for a mural installation, pictured above. English-Language Arts (ELA) 6 students shared their wishes, and it hangs in the MHS stairwell for all to read. Photos courtesy of Linda White.



A high school student created a stop-motion video / silent film wishing for a gender-neutral bathroom. This wish was granted but it didn't happen overnight! Student Council had been working diligently with the administration to grant



This elementary school student wishes for no masks, and more field trips. Now that masks are optional, one of this student's wishes has been granted! Field trips are also accessible again and there are plans for them to start 2022-2023 school year.

Partnering with the NEX to add a dessertwould be a great win; but outside policies prevent it so this is one of the few wishes not granted. However, local administration is looking into the policy about having a daily side salad as an option during lunch as well as breakfast.



Emerson Balch (Grade 2) wishes for a reading club at lunchtime! Manv other ES students wished for various clubs, so there is now a plan in place to identify student interest in the current clubs and receive suggestions for clubs that interest students. This will be done by students completing a feedback form. Hopefully this will offer more choice and variety throughout the school year based on input from the students and sponsor availability.



Jaslene Brown and Dahlia Wertz (Grade 6) created a presentation on why DGF MHS should have Popcorn Wednesdays like the Elementary School, after researching facts and statistics on why healthy snacks are important for students to have throughout the school day

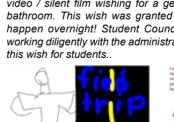


Kash Lindsey and Mark Orlowski (Grade 3) wish to bring back the milk bin in the cafeteria, and other students wish to bring back recycling bins and bio-utensils in the cafeteria.





Acelynn Gemaehlich (Grade 2) wishes for no more masks. Now that masks are optional. this student's wish has been aranted!





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3 months. All programs and guaranties are indigent to terms and con red continues of the Excitogie and NEXXXM. Mittary AucOstans is an else Grannelly for Despite Andromolities) and Forth vehicles. This advertise longe, NEXXXM, 000 components, or the Federal Seconsecut and is not



### Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Rota: The BIG Thrift Shop Move

#### By McKallah Blanton NMCRS Rota

Since 1953, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota has been supporting more than 4,000 American service members and their families. In the year 1973, the commander of that rotation, requested for an established office for a Navy Relief Auxiliary office in support of their mission, with an agreement of supplying the necessary offices and general equipment. Approximately one year later, March 4, 1974, the official opening of the Navy Relief Society was opened and ran by one executive director and 39 volunteers.

Over the years, the non-profit organization has been reestablished as the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), while still supporting our service members, and their families, for 46 years. Part of that support to the community is the Rota NMCRS Thrift Shop.

Over the course of 46 years, the Rota Thrift Shop has been relocated from Bldg. 268 to 575 and is currently being operated out of Bldg. 222. As many of you may already know, the Rota Thrift Shop will once again move locations to Bldg. 3432, formerly the Spanish bank near the chapel and aquatics center. With the help of our community, base leadership, and volunteers, the Thrift Shop will now be more centrally located to better serve our service members and their families.

The original plan for the new Thrift Shop location, was taking the space of the old dog kennels, but the base leadership had NMCRS in mind. In May 2022, the NMCRS Rota Director Katherine McCarthy worked to officially sign over the ownership of the new location, Bldg. 3432, to NMCRS Headquarters (HQ).

"Our goal is to make it easy to navigate," said McCarthy. "To make it so much more open and for the volunteers to relax and take a moment."

She continues, "We will have a designated uniform area, HQ is working with us on credit card sales, and eventually we hope to have a built-in 24-hour drop box".

With more than 500 hours of donated time from our volunteers since May 2022, the new Thrift Shop is well on its way



#### Photos from NMCRS Rota

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Rota is relocating the Thrift Shop from Bldg. 222 to a more central location at Bldg. 3432. The building was formerly the Spanish bank near the aquatics center and chapel. The plan is for the new Thrift Shop to open in fall 2022.

for a grand opening. Although the grand opening projection is not until the fall of 2022, it is the current director's hope of opening up the uniform shop in July 2022. The plan is to have the uniform shop available to active duty service members, by appointment, through the NMCRS office.

The organization will be putting together a working parties, to include our community, for the big move. In preparation of this move, the Thrift Shop will have a big clearance sale. So it may be a good idea to stay tuned into the 'Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society - Rota' Facebook page and Instagram for more updates and community events. If you would like to join the Rota NMCRS Team, visit our local Facebook, or e-mail: rota@ nmcrs.org!

"Thank you Naval Station Rota commands and community for your support in this move," said McCarthy.



## **NAVAL STATION ROTA COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

#### **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS**

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings are scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays at 19:00 (7 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall at the Chapel. All meetings are closed meetings except the last Tuesday of each month. All meetings, in person or Zoom, are for people with a problem with alcohol or a desire to stop drinking. Trainings such as for DAPA can only attend open meetings. For information on meetings in person or information on Zoom meetings, contact Joe B. at +34 649-23-95-63.

**AA off base**: "Rota Drydocker" Every Saturday, 16:00 (4 p.m.) by Zoom only. For information on how to join the Zoom session, contact Joe G. at +34 629-27-13-12 or +34 649-23-95-63.

#### **AL-ANON MEETINGS**

Have you been affected by another person's drinking? If so, please join us every Wednesday at 16:00 (4 p.m.) at the base Chapel nursery for an Al-Anon meeting. The only requirement for Al-Anon membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend. For info on meetings, please contact Amy at +34 624 285 125.

#### AMERICAN RED CROSS

Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to stop by the office and CPR courses are now being offered. Days and times of the courses will be posted on our FB page. For more information, call us during business hours at 956-82-2333, or visit our Facebook page, @RedCrossRota. AMERICAN RED CROSS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Red Cross Emergency Messages services operate 24/7. If you have a family emergency during business hours, call us immediately at DSN 314-727-2333 or +34 956-82-2333. After hours or on weekends, our national call center can be reached at +1 (877) 272-7337. Messages can also be initiated online, at https://www.redcross.org/military-emergency-communication.html

#### **ROTA EDUCATION CENTER**

Central Texas College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Maryland Global Campus, and University of Oklahoma offices are open and able to assist you in reaching your education goals. The Rota Education Center is located on the second floor of the Community Services Building (Bldg. 3293).

#### NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

When you are having trouble meeting urgent financial needs, NMCRS may be able to provide an interest-free loan or grant. Through financial counseling, we will also help you plan for better financial stability. Our services are completely confidential. If you are approved for a loan or grant, you will receive funds immediately. There is no application fee and the appointment is completely free. If you need \$1,000 or less, you may be eligible for our Quick

#### Assist Loan.

Mon - Fri: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Bldg. 3293) **Upcoming Closures: July 1 & 4** First Floor of the Community Support Building (Bldg. 3293) Office DSN: 727-1614 Office COMM: +34 956 821 614 After Hours: +34 660 984 511 Emergency Assistance After Hours: +1 (877) 272-7337 Email: rota@nmcrs.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/nmcrsrota

The **NMCRS Lactation Room** is OPEN in the Community Support Building from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you are in need of a private space to nurse your child, pump, meet with our Visiting Nurse, or just relax with your little ones, visit our office for access to the room.

**VOLUNTEER WITH US!** Are you interested in volunteering in the NMCRS Office or Thrift Shop? We have several opportunities to grow your resume while contributing to our community! We also reimburse for childcare and mileage! Apply to volunteer online at http://linktr.ee/nmcrsrota and join us for a monthly volunteer orientation. Orientation details sent to prospective volunteers after an online application is completed.

#### NMCRS THRIFT STORE \*\*CLOSED UNTIL NATIONAL THRIFT SHOP WEEK IN AUGUST\*\*

**New Building:** The Thrift Shop will be closed for the month of July and part of August to complete the move from Bldg. 222 to Bldg. 3432. Please be patient with us as we shift into the new location. Updates will be posted here and via Facebook.

#### THRIFT SHOP DONATION BOX HOURS

The donation drop box at Bldg. 222 is PERMANENTLY CLOSED and will not reopen. Donation times at the new building will resume in July (date TBD) and be announced as soon as possible.

#### UPCOMING NMCRS FINANCIAL CLASSES:

**Budget for Baby:** Are you a new or prospective parent? Join us in-person or virtually to learn important budgeting skills for your new addition! Parents will learn about military pay fluctuations, baby expenses, consumer pressures targeting new parents, and entitlements available through government and private sources. This class is now open to both active duty and government civilian families. All participants will receive a layette and a hand-made baby blanket. Active duty families will also receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. To register, visit http://linktr.ee/nmcrsrota and select the desired class and date.

**Command Classes:** We offer financial classes for groups and commands. Our caseworkers can come to you, or we can hold the classes in our classroom. We currently offer Budgeting Boot Camp and How to Read Your LES for any command or department requesting. Call or email our office to schedule.

## UPCOMING NMCRS AND HOSPITAL MATERNAL PROGRAMS AND CLASSES:

The Visiting Nurse Program includes home and virtual visits, classes, and community support groups for Active Duty, Retirees, and their families. The Visiting Nurse provides health education, resource referral, and support for prenatal and postpartum, newborn care, breastfeeding, pediatric, adult, and geriatric health concerns. Please contact the Rota office for more information on the Visiting Nurse Program. The Visiting Nurse Program supports the following classes and support groups:

**Pregnancy and Postpartum Support Group**: This group will continue as a community-led support group until a new Visiting Nurse is hired. Held the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel Fellowship Hall or Chapel Nursery. Grow your support community by connecting with other moms and learning about local resources for you and your baby.

**Prenatal Series**: Learn the basics of what to expect after your baby is born, including techniques to successfully feed your newborn child. Registration is required for all classes. Reserve your spot by calling the Naval Hospital Rota OBGYN Clinic at DSN 727-3511 or commercial, +34 956-82-3511.

## PRESCHOOL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Child Find for children three to five years of age is an ongoing outreach program that locates and identifies children who may have developmental delays or educational disabilities and need special services. If you have concerns regarding your child's development, please contact 727-4185 or 727-4435.

#### **USO ROTA**

For all USO Rota events and more, follow "USO Rota" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USORota

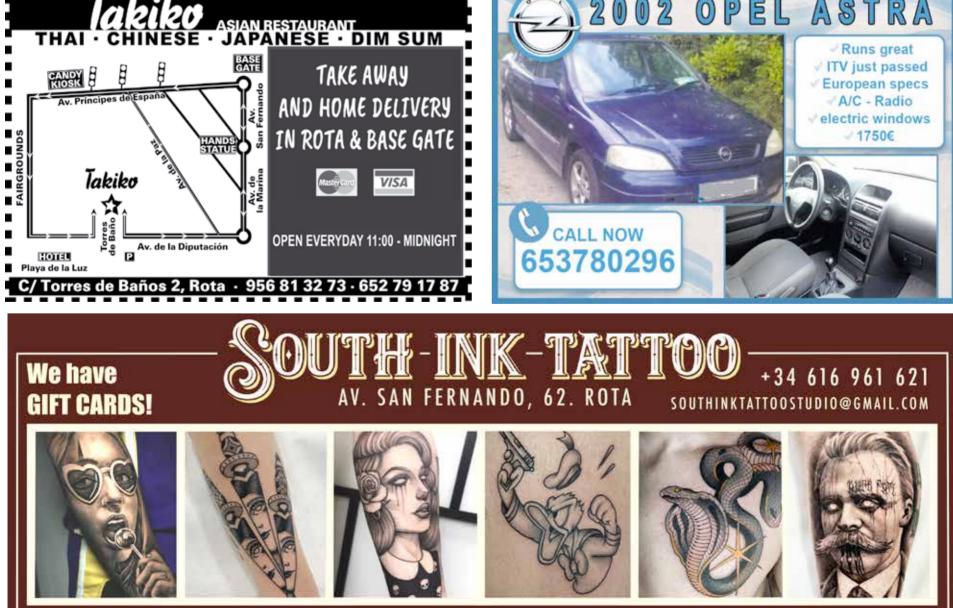
#### WIC OVERSEAS

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Overseas is a nutrition education and supplemental food program that aims to improve the overall health and wellness of families for active duty service members and their dependents, DoD civilian employees and their dependents, DoD contractors and their dependents. Basic nutrition and health screenings, drafts to be redeemed for nutritious foods, access to resources & tips that help you and your family lead healthier lives, healthier birth weights for babies, reduced anemia rates for children, breastfeeding support, breast pump loan program, breastfeeding/ pumping room open to everyone. Call DSN 727-2921 for more information.



22 June 30, 2022 | COASTLINE





#### Health Promotion Corner: Men's Health is Not a Game

**By Lt. Cmdr.Elyse Braxton** U.S. Naval Hospital Rota

The Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center focuses on men's health every June. Rightly fitting as Americans honor father figures during this month. In Catholic countries, such as Spain, Father's Day is called St. Joseph's Day, celebrated on March 19.

As children, we played board games like Chutes and Ladders, checkers and chess, and the Game of Life. We had fun navigating the game pieces and declaring "king me!" in a heated battle of checkers with father figures who sometimes let us win. We may play these games with the little ones in our lives right now. As you recall, the strategy behind each game was to make smarter choices to win the game. One false move and you'd lose your money, slide to the bottom, or get taken out

Men's Health – Investing in

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the Future is Not a Game

of the game. Like board games, one wrong move in life choices can lead to a cascade of poor health effects. Unlike board games, we may not always get a "do-over" when we make the wrong move.

As they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words;" the corresponding infographic highlights, in great detail, the importance of making healthy choices. I encourage you to play this game and share it with the men and young men in your life to generate conversations about health, including mental and sexual health.

There are numerous resources at U.S. Naval Hospital Rota (dietitian, tobacco cessation and weight management classes, and psychological counseling) at your fingertips. Talk to your healthcare provider if you want more information on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to learn more about eligibility and required screenings.

MEN 24%

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This data was self-reported by active duty males who completed the 2015 Fleet and Marine Corps Health Risl Assessment (HRA).

Stats on Men's Health - Investing in the Future is Not a (

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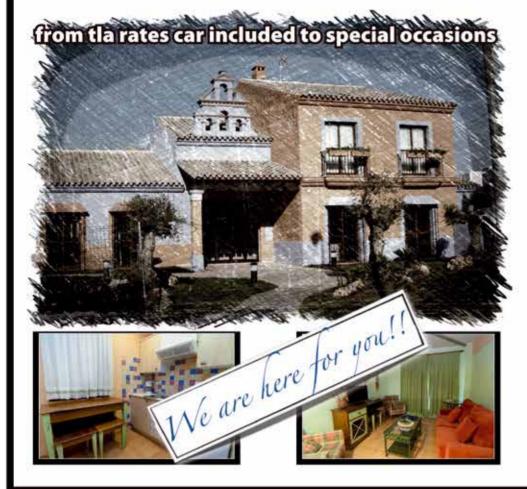


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