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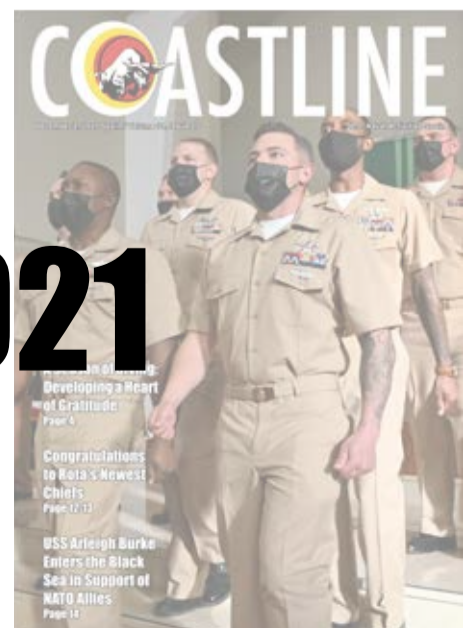
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Year in Review: 2021

Holiday Message

Naval Station (NAVSTA) Commanding Officer Capt. David Baird and NAVSTA Rota Command Master Chief Kimberly Ferguson met in early December to film their annual holiday greeting to the community. As usual, there were memories of the past year, laughs, and a few Christmas movie quotes!

CO: CMC, can you believe it's December already?

CMC: No, Sir. Where has the year gone?

CO: 2021 has certainly been an exciting year here at Naval Station Rota. We started the year under strict COVID protocols but we were still able to support a number of visiting ships while maintaining their bubbles.

CMC: Absolutely. We were also able to maintain in-person school throughout the year, as well as celebrate the return of in person for youth sports.

CO: It was great to see the kids get out and play!

We also dramatically improved the lives of 2,619 evacuees from Afghanistan while providing for their health, safety and comfort while awaiting further transportation to their ultimate destination.

CMC: Absolutely Sir. And we were able to do this while maintaining the mission. We've also had a number of advancements this year as well as qualifications and many,



many other hidden stories throughout the year.

CO: And who could forget the absolute best Navy Ball ever ... at El Puerto bull ring!

I hope you take the opportunity while spending quality time with family and friends to reflect on all your accomplishments this past year. Have a happy, safe and healthy holiday season. And maybe take in a classic Christmas movie like "A Christmas Story."

CMC: "I triple dog dare you, Sir!"

CO: "You'll shoot your eye out!"

CO/CMC: Happy Holidays!

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On The Front Cover



A collage of Coastline covers from throughout 2021 highlighting some of our big operations, events, and initiatives. We hope you enjoy this edition as the Coastline takes a look back at 2021. Happy holidays and best wishes for 2022! (Design by Courtney Pollock)

This edition includes photography from the following:

Lt. Lyndsi Gutierrez
MCC Nathan Carpenter
Staff Sgt. Brytani Musick
MC1 Benjamin Lewis
MC1 Caine Storino
MC1 Anna Van Nuys
MC2 Katie Cox

Sgt. Claudia Nix
MC2 Eduardo Otero Santos
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*In addition, there are several courtesy photos from various department, tenant commands and organizations around Rota without photo credit.

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Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79

The transition of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79 from San Diego, California to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain was not your typical homeport shift. Rather than move the whole squadron at once, a layered approach was utilized to allow for the support structure needed in Spain to solidify before it could be overwhelmed by the sudden influx of hundreds of Sailors, their families, and the requirements to operate and maintain a helicopter squadron. Little did anyone know what 2020 had in store when planning this years earlier!

Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Melissa Rhone arrived to Spain in late September 2020 with the first wave of HSM-79 Sailors ready to standup a new tenant command at NAVSTA Rota. Working out of temporary structures and with no aircraft yet to fly and maintain, Rhone was the leading petty officer and responsible for organizing the chaos. Everything from procuring furniture and tools to building workspaces and hangar

bays, the minutia of what goes into a functional aviation command had to literally be built from the ground up. All while smack dab in the middle of a global pandemic!

Rhone was the first person at the air terminal to greet the newly arriving Sailors in Spain. She would personally retrieve the growing cadre at "0-dark thirty" and get them fed and settled, ensuring the first impressions of the command were a positive one. Working through the obstacles of COVID, building a command and the restrictions of movement was a task no one was prepared for, and many would have given up. Her strength in leadership allowed the forward progression to continue.

In October 2020, HSM-79 received their first aircraft. Soon after, four more would follow. Due to travel restrictions, increasing the manning footprint was slow and painful. But the timelines set in motion were too late to alter and aircraft arrivals were on their way regardless. Rhone led a team of maintenance professionals in numbers designed to handle two MH-60R helicopters, by accepting, maintaining, and flying five.

HSM-79's first Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) detachment, "El Camino" successfully deployed aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Roosevelt (DDG 80), thanks in part to the hard work and perseverance of Rhone and the advance team of pilots, aircrew and maintenance



professionals.

After a short turnaround period, the Roosevelt was again scheduled to deploy. The command's leading petty officer assigned to deploy was selected for chief and had to be replaced on short notice. There was one person that came to everyone's mind: AT1 Rhone. Without hesitation, she volunteered for the position and with the commanding officer's blessing, took the reins of the detachment and prepared to deploy.

"It was a no-brainer," said Rhone when asked why she would volunteer

to take the very next detachment after having just returned. "This is what I signed up for. To see this through, all the hard work we put in, putting detachments to sea is what we've accomplished and I'm proud to be a part of that."

In 2022, HSM-79 will continue to grow its footprint at NAVSTA Rota with the addition of more aircraft and personnel. With Sailors like Rhone, Rota's squadron will continue to meet the mission and operational requirements of this region.



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NAVSTA Rota Air Operations: ET2 Martin Rodriguez

“Upon receiving the news that NAVSTA Rota would be involved in Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), I knew that I wanted to help and to be part of this operation,” said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Martin Rodriguez.

Rodriguez, from Nogales, Arizona, joined the Navy to gain work experience, knowledge, and to see the world. Following his first command on the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD-5) out of Norfolk, Virginia, Rodriguez took orders to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain, where he became an integral part of the recent OAW operation on board NAVSTA Rota.

Rodriguez immediately volunteered to assist the Red Cross in their initial setup and prepare living quarters for the incoming evacuees. He ensured the racks in the newly constructed tent city had adequate bedding, and rearranged the barracks as required in order to accommodate larger families. Once the setup was complete, Rodriguez volunteered to work as a resident advisor (RA) to assist evacuees.

RAs were the evacuees' first point of

contact for acquiring necessities ranging from clothes, diapers, and baby formula to phone chargers, laundry detergent, and Wi-Fi. Additionally, it was up to the RAs to guide them through the camp, and ensure they knew key locations such as the food tent, embassy tent, and medical tent. For many of these displaced travelers, their RAs became a primary means of reestablishing some sense of comfort and order in their chaotic lives.

“From the news, we had a slight idea of what they had been through in the last few days, but once I met the first family assigned to stay in my building, I realized the harsh reality that these people had gone through,” said Rodriguez. “You were able to see that they were extremely tired and concerned for their families, because they had no clue what the future held for them. They had just lost everything they had worked for in their entire lives, and they brought few-to-none of their belongings with them. But even after all the despair they had been through, they were always obliging and grateful to us.”

Over the next few weeks, Rodriguez and his team received a diverse group of people – ranging from infants to elders – and some having disabilities. He began making decisions to help minimize problems early by prioritizing the less mobile to the lower floors, and ensuring larger



families were able to stick together in larger, or adjacent, living areas.

While there were some difficulties throughout the process, not least of which was the language barrier, Rodriguez found the overall process rewarding.

“For me, the best part was working with the children,” he said. “For them, this whole experience of being in a foreign country was an adventure. There was just all this unknown territory for them to explore, and they had so much energy at first. There were some incidents, like when they would pull the fire alarm, but then we managed to get them toys and play movies. The activity that they enjoyed most was coloring. Just seeing them every morning coming up to me and requesting crayons and coloring books was great, and the best part was

that they would always give us a piece of art with a thank you note and we would proudly hang it on the walls of the lobby. Eventually, a Kid's Corner was created, and I was the first one to volunteer to be part of it.”

Moving forward, Rodriguez hopes to have a future in the aeronautics industry and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in aeronautics with a minor in unmanned aerial systems. He hopes to one day become an operations manager, or an aircraft maintenance supervisor.

Regardless of what the future holds however, it is unlikely that he will ever have another experience like his involvement in the evacuation operations. While most of NAVSTA Rota was involved in some manner or another, very few were as directly involved as he was.

NAVAL STATION ROTA OMBUDSMAN CONTACT LIST



NAVY FAMILY OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM



The Navy Family Ombudsman Program is designed to provide better and faster communication between Navy families and Navy leadership. Navy commands and all deploying units, including the reserves have an Ombudsman, typically a spouse of one of the command's active duty members. Ombudsmen are official, appointed, liaisons between commanding officers and families. They can expedite communication between the command and families. In addition, Ombudsmen provide information on services, upcoming events, and/or help in crisis situations. Air Force Key Spouses & Family Readiness Assistants are similar to Ombudsmen, support service members, their families, and command leadership. Contact your command's representative to be added to their distribution list.

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Navy Ball @ Puerto Bull Ring



This year, Naval Station Rota's Navy Ball was held at the Bull Ring in El Puerto de Santa Maria, Spain, for the first time ever. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell Smith delivered remarks as the guest of honor at the during the ball which commemorated the Navy's 246th Navy Birthday. The theme for the 246th birthday is "Resilient and Ready", which speaks to the Navy's history of rising above the most challenging crises, such as the loss of a ship or a global pandemic, and still maintain force lethality and preparedness.



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NAVSTA Rota Fire & Emergency Services

This year, for many, felt like an extension of last year with many people just hoping for the end of COVID-19 to come around and biding their time at minimal manning and teleworking. However Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) continued full steam ahead and working 24-hour shifts to keep NAVSTA Rota safe and protected throughout the year while maintaining measure to keep its crew safe during the pandemic.

Even through the pandemic, NAVSTA Rota F&ES managed to demonstrate their commitment to their mission and the resiliency of NAVSTA Rota personnel by pushing themselves to the limit and marking a number of both personal and departmental achievements throughout the past year.

"I am blessed to have the team that I have that truly understands the sacrifices that one must make in order to be a firefighter," said Fire Chief Shane Rayfield. "My team came to work each day during COVID, trained and did whatever was needed in order to continue with the mission and even took it up a notch during Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)."

This year it was announced Fire Chief Thomas Wiley was selected as the Department of Defense (DoD) Fire Instructor of the Year and the department overall was nominated and selected for the Navy Medium Fire Department of the Year award, reflecting their hard work and dedication to maintaining the highest of

standards and work ethic throughout even the most stressful times.

The first round for the awards is decided by the Region Fire Staff and the winners for EURAFCENT then compete at the Navy level. NAVSTA Rota F&ES won Region two years straight and last year won overall Navy. Categories like Fire Instructor of the year compete at the DoD level which is very difficult because you are competing with all entities of the Armed Forces. Winning fire instructor and fire department of the year was a huge accomplishment not only for the department but the command. The NAVSTA Rota F&ES team's extraordinary efforts to promote excellence in emergency response, public outreach, training and education, compliance and program management are vital to Rota Fire's ability to successfully carry out its mission.

"Earning Medium Fire Department of the year is something that I take great pride in," said Aviation Boatswains Mate (Handling) (ABH) 2nd Class Spencer Clark. "Since my time here, I've had the opportunity to get involved with a lot of department programs, as well as military collaterals to keep things smooth on the military side. Seeing the effect that my work has put in as a whole is something I'm immensely proud of."

During an already stressful COVID pandemic not only did NAVSTA Rota F&ES manage to achieve several individual and departmental awards, they also played a



large role in supporting Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), an operation that couldn't have been successful without the support of the all of NAVSTA Rota personnel. NAVSTA Rota F&ES provided manning for the EOC, volunteered to distribute food and water to evacuees upon arrival, and inspected the temporary living facilities to ensure safety for the evacuees.

"When we received the evacuees here in NAVSTA Rota, I felt a great sense of duty while helping in the support of the operation," said ABH2 Jonathan Mendez. "Many of the Afghan evacuees took risks to support our military, civilians, and coalition forces personnel while in

Afghanistan, and by doing so, I believe it was our responsibility and duty to act on ensuring a safe evacuation and being there to greet them when they landed and supply them with food, water and other basic resources during their stay gave me great satisfaction."

NAVSTA Rota Fire and Emergency Services continues to operate at the highest levels to support the NAVSTA Rota mission 24 hours a day every day of the week, displaying their extremely high level of dedication to keeping our base safe in even the most trying of times and we look forward to even more of their future achievements.



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DONOVAN DENTIST

If you just arrived to Spain, everything can be overwhelming. Wondering where you are going to live, when will your car arrive, where will your kids go to school, and most importantly, who will my dentist be? Although many military members have the eligibility to see a dentist on base, there are times when not all services are available to everyone. Thankfully, there is a new dental clinic open in Rota that understands the challenges military families go through when arriving. Meet Dr. Sean Donovan and his wife, Dr. Sara Tocino Rodriguez who have recently opened Donovan Dental.

Dr. Donovan is a retired Navy Captain and dentist, as well as a board certified Orthodontist with 23 years of experience. His wife, Dr. Tocino, a native of Rota, is a talented provider with 15 years of experience with dental master degree's in Esthetic Dentistry, Comprehensive dentistry and Special Patients, and Expert in Periodontics. Together, they form a formidable team ready to give you the quality care you need and deserve; Donovan Dental, your dental clinic away from home.

Sara and Sara met in Rota over 20 years ago during his second military assignment. Upon completion of military service, it was their vision to return to Rota and open a dental clinic where families do not have the deal with challenges of a language barrier and feel confident that they are receiving quality care. After finding the right location, Sara's creative expertise went to work designing a clinic that's both professional in appearance and comfortable in style.

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NMCB 1: Three-year, \$8.3 Million Cliff Line Erosion Repair Project Completed by Seabees

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony signifying the completion of the cliff line erosion repair project on Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain, Nov. 5, 2021.

Started by Seabees in January 2018, the project is designed to stabilize the eroding cliff line along the NAVSTA Rota shoreline in order to protect base housing and critical infrastructure, which are vital to supporting the fleet.

NMCB 1, NMCB 11 and NMCB 133, rotationally deployed as Commander, Task Group 68.2, all worked on the project. Each battalion's Seabees used civil engineer support equipment to build a 32-foot high and 36-foot wide barrier constructed from 200,000 tons of stone along a one kilometer stretch of shoreline. The barrier prevents tidal erosion of the shoreline and stabilizes the adjacent cliff line to prevent further impacts to the base housing and critical infrastructure.

"I was there in 2018 during the start and it feels really good being here at

the end of the project," said Equipment Operator 3rd Class Nicholas Pisani, from Newburgh, N.Y. "We put so much work into this project and a lot of money was invested, so I'm glad to see it close out today."

In 1953, the U.S. and Spanish governments signed the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement, strengthening their military partnership, and began joint use of NAVSTA Rota. However, by 1963 the erosion along the base's cliff line was already a safety concern and required the base to demolish the base commanding officer's house due to risk of collapse.

Many projects over the years were unsuccessful in solving the erosion problem, but in 2016 the current project was designed and was estimated to cost \$11 million. The Seabees made a proposal to complete the project with \$8.3 million, so the project was given to the Seabees.

"It's really a phenomenal project that is leaving behind a lasting improvement of this critically strategic base," said Capt. Cameron Chen, commander, Task Force 68. "It demonstrates how our Seabees are capable of improving the resilience of our maritime infrastructure in this theater. This project aligns with how our construction forces clear, build, secure



Photo by MC1 Caine Storino

From left to right: Capt. David Baird, commanding officer, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain; Cmdr. Joseph Dunaway, public works officer, NAVSTA Rota; Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1; and Capt. Robert Stiles, commanding officer, NMCB 1; cut the ribbon to signify completion of the cliff erosion repair project on NAVSTA Rota, Spain, Nov. 5, 2021. Started by Seabees in January 2018, the project is designed to stabilize the installation's eroding cliff line and protect base housing and critical infrastructure, which are vital to supporting the fleet.

and protect on behalf of the combatant command."

It was a massive endeavor for the Seabees, but they were on time and on budget. Now complete, the hopes are this project will slow down the erosion for many decades to come.

"On behalf of the base, thank you to all three battalions that had a hand in completing this," said Capt. David Baird, commanding officer, NAVSTA Rota. "The housing and other critical pieces of infrastructure were in danger from the eroding cliff line, and this project should ensure the cliff line turns into a gradual and stable slope."

NMCB 1 is forward deployed to execute

construction, humanitarian assistance, and theater security cooperation in the U.S. Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Fleet areas of operation.

As a component of Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces, the Seabees provide the unique capabilities of general engineering support, bridging, expeditionary airfield damage repair and port damage repair. This provides mission-critical capabilities that ensure sustained logistics in a distributed maritime operations environment.

Article was first run on Commander Sixth Fleet website. Written by MC1 Caine Storino, NMCB 1 Public Affairs.








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NAVSTA Rota Port Operations: MM2 Kirsten Mason

During a normal year, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota port operations department is responsible for the harbor movements for all American naval assets, provides manpower and equipment to combat and clean oil spills, and maintains and ensures all harbor security boats are ready to accomplish all anti-terrorism force protection (ATFP) missions for Security department. Additionally, NAVSTA Rota port operations assist our Spanish and coalition forces. Ultimately, the department is vital in facilitating the safety and timeliness in all ship movements in and out of NAVSTA Rota.

This year has been record setting for the port operations team, completing over 260 ship movements. Their daily duties included driving small boats, moving harbor equipment, and completing maintenance and repairs on all equipment necessary for these operations. They continuously flexed their manpower to assist all national assets in accomplishing their missions.

One of the Sailors who helps port operations operate smoothly is Machinist Mate (MM) 2nd Class Kirsten Mason.

"I am the work center supervisor for port operations," said Mason. "I am responsible for maintenance planning and ensuring all preventive maintenance system(PMS) checks are accomplished within its maintenance periodicity."

Mason, who has been in Rota for a year, has made a tremendous impact on the port operations department.

She rapidly achieved her qualifications, and is critical in all the scheduling and maintenance conducted within the department. Her leadership recognized her for her attention to detail and initiative during the most recent and highly successful Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) inspection.

"MM2 Mason is the brains behind our small boat maintenance program," said Cmdr. Mark Krozel, port operations officer for NAVSTA Rota. "As the work center supervisor of the largest maintenance program onboard Naval Station Rota, she orchestrates the schedule for 13 small boats used by port operations and security."

As the work center supervisor, Mason managed the completion of over 485 maintenance checks on over 145 inspection items which led to the department excelling in all areas of not only INSURV but CNIC material inspection completed in August. The readiness of the equipment is paramount given the timeliness required for potential oil spill response.

Mason has also proved to be a highly effective team leader leading 40 personnel in identifying and reporting harbor security boats material conditions, demonstration of equipment, and ensuring the department's ability to perform the primary and secondary missions were complete. This dedication resulted in port operations receiving "excellent...fit for further service" for all of its vessels with



minimum discrepancies.

"I enjoy working within the maintenance and material management (3M) program and passing down my knowledge to new Sailors," said Mason. "My goal for the future is to be a 3MC of a command."

When the installation began receiving evacuees from Afghanistan as part of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), Mason stepped up by volunteering to help the evacuees as a resident advisor.

"I ensured a smooth transition for the evacuees into their assigned barracks rooms as well as making sure that their

needs were met during their time at NAVSTA Rota," she said. "I joined the Navy because of all the humanitarian aid we provide to the world. So when the opportunity to help arose, it was something I knew I needed to be a part of."

As the year comes to an end, Mason and the team at port operations will continue to flex and meet the mission here in Rota, while looking forward to 2022.

"Port operations is looking forward to the steady growth of ship movements, the welcoming of two ship's homeport shifts, and the start of our new port operations facility," said Krozel.



MCPON Russell Smith Visits NAVSTA Rota



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell Smith poses for a "selfie" with Command Master Chief Kimberly Ferguson, command master chief of Naval Station Rota, and Capt. David Baird, commanding officer of Naval Station Rota, during the base's Navy Ball which commemorated the Navy's 246th Navy Birthday.

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Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) Detachment Rota

While underway, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) suffered a catastrophic failure of one of its gas turbine motors (GTM). This resulted in significant damage to the compressor and turbine sections of the engine, thus significantly reducing the operational performance of the ship. It was deemed necessary to swap out both the power turbine and the gas generator.

To manage this new and unplanned requirement, Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) immediately sprang into action and coordinated with multiple agencies to complete the necessary repairs.

FDRMC Naples provided logistics support, while FDRMC Rota's engineering branch provided support in planning and

on board technical assistance during initial troubleshooting, the waterfront operations branch organized the pier movements, interference removal and temporary services, and the production department assumed overall responsibility for execution of the GTM replacement. Team Rota also worked with Spanish contractors ITE and Navantia for interference removal, crane support, and preservation work.

Arleigh Burke's maintenance team members organized contracts and equipment to be available throughout the evolution. Philadelphia-based In Service Engineering Agents (ISEA) worked to quickly get a properly equipped replacement engine to Rota. And lastly, Norfolk based Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center (MARMC) sent a top tier team of qualified technicians to assist in performance of the change out. This was a truly an international and cross ocean effort.

The team expertly worked through several unplanned issues throughout the process. During initial planning it was discovered the Bolted Equipment Removal Plate (BERP) was in fact welded. This added significant difficulty in planning the removal and re-installation of the plate. Additionally, during the removal of the initial piece, the gas generator, it was discovered the shipboard equipment removal rails were installed incorrectly 30+ years ago. This issue had potential to cause great risk to the schedule of work to be



done. Fortunately, the maintenance team documented, captured and recommended corrective action (via Departure from Specifications [DFS] process) to keep schedule.

FDRMC Rota was able to maintain their high speed and high quality performance without any injuries to team members. The process for changing out an LM2500 GTM can easily exceed 10 days depending on the condition of the engine and, more importantly, the type of support the technicians receive. The combined MARMC/FDRMC/NAVANTIA change out team was able to complete the replacement in 7 days after working late into most nights. Additionally, during the change out, all four Rota-based ships

were in port, which demanded a high level of effort from the entire command to keep the schedules of each ship's availability.

From the moment the engine change out was decided to successful operational testing, FDRMC had 45 days to plan, move equipment, and execute the job. Their diligence and level of expertise enabled USS Arleigh Burke to keep her scheduled training and maintenance availability dates with no extensions required or loss of operational availability, all while executing other scheduled maintenance requirements on USS Ross and USS Roosevelt. Thanks to the hard work of all members involved, FDRMC exemplifies exactly what a Regional Maintenance Center is capable of.

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NAVSTA Rota Security Department: MA2 Christina Turnquist

"I have been in the service for eleven years serving on many platforms, arduous duty locations, and an instructor billet before coming to Rota," said Master-at-Arms (MA) 2nd Class Christina Turnquist, explaining her experience prior to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota in the midst of a global pandemic. "Within this supportive community, I have seen many changes throughout the year. People coming together to assemble programs, events, and work side-by-side to tackle one of the base's greatest challenges; all while working to maintain COVID guidelines in hopes that this duty station can operate back to normalcy."

Turnquist works at NAVSTA Rota security department where she states the department leads by example regarding the current standards of operating procedure and safety regulations of the base.

Naval Security Forces sets the tone with pre-staging and accountability, along with a ready-to-respond attitude. She explains that security personnel do not get many opportunities to host special events but are usually seen ensuring safety of others, controlling access points to the events, or coordinating traffic. This made Turnquist's ability to participate in a community event hold an even greater importance.

"One event, that I had the pleasure to participate in was a Cub Scout meeting where MA2 Shyanne Webb, local fire fighters and myself represented base first responders to educated the scouts on the importance of our duties," said Turnquist. "We did this by performing demonstrations and answering questions from the young citizens. It is nice to see Rota Naval base, with the help of command associations and MWR, work hard to create these events and other

special functions. Attempting to make the environment fun and family-oriented, while retaining some form of normalcy during these trying times."

NAVSTA Rota security department is comprised of many moving pieces that work together to provide operational support and security in many forms. One of those integral branches are the handlers who work alongside military working dogs (MWD).

One of the dog handlers, MA1 Allen Cady, along with military working dog Gina, was deployed to the horn of Africa, from August 2020 to June 2021. As an extension of Rota support, he assisted 27 tenant commands of more than 5,000 people conducting sweeps of commercial vehicles entering the installation, tug and pilot boats utilized to bring ships to pier.

Cady recalls the job as "rewarding." While working along multiple U.S. National Guard units, he was able to discuss the differences in branches while simultaneously accomplishing tasks and working towards the same goal.

This is just one of the branches within NAVSTA Rota security which works as a part to make the unit whole. In addition to the MWD program, security has an excellent training program which despite the added challenges of COVID, everyone takes part in training and completing the drills together.

With being on a Spanish naval base, the host nation security force is one group that NAVSTA Rota security personnel engage with on a variety of trainings, drills, and daily operations.



Selfie taken by Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Christina Turnquist with her coworker during patrols of the temporary living facility during Operation Allies Welcome at Naval Station Rota, Spain.

"Not only do we come together for drills, but we work jointly with one another in responding to calls and standing posts on a day-to-day basis," said Turnquist. "Fortunately, the opportunity to perform these joint tasks comes with being stationed in NAVSTA Rota, Spain."

These joint tasks not only include their Spanish counterparts, but also other branches of the Department of Defense.

In August 2021, NAVSTA Rota set-up and managed a temporary living facility camp for evacuees from Afghanistan. During Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), security personnel worked side-by-side with Army security personnel providing overall security and controlling access to the camp.

As the camp population quickly grew, security personnel were there to assist in everything from arrivals to camp management and departures. Turnquist expressed relief that she and her coworkers felt when they saw evacuees who had to abruptly leave their homes with a bittersweet feeling knowing their lives would be forever changed.

The community – comprised of active duty, civilians, and volunteers – that she saw who also showed up to support the evacuees is just one example that highlighted the way NAVSTA Rota came together and

worked as a unit.

"Being a part of the command's success in this humanitarian effort was a first for me in eleven years of service," said Turnquist. "And that is what makes this year, for me, one for the books."

While her journey to Rota may have started with headaches and red tape from the global pandemic, Turnquist has found her first year to be a remarkable one.

"The comradery here is incomparable to many commands I have been to before, unique in its own way, and it embodies the reason I joined the Navy," she said. "This sense of accomplishment has me re-engaged for what the future may bring."



Photo above and right: Photo of Master-at-Arms 1st Class Allen Cady with his military working dog Gina during deployment.



Master-at-Arms (MA) 2nd Class Christina Turnquist and MA2 Shyanne Webb participated in a Cub Scouts meeting highlighting the work of the installation's first responders.




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Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) / Public Works Department Rota

Public Works Department (PWD) Rota's Asset Management Branch Head, Jordan Kass, plays a pivotal role – both visible and behind-the-scenes – in ensuring the shore readiness and mission accomplishment of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota.

Kass and his team of planners manage the site approval and space management process, develop and submit centrally-managed project requests such as military construction (MILCON), and develop airfield safety waivers. They curate the installation development plan, perform basic facility requirements and asset evaluations, and lead the Congressionally-directed installation real property audit process.

Kass regularly meets with facility stakeholders as well as other PWD Rota offices such as environmental, utilities, or the requirements branch to assess space requirements. One way he achieves this is through the Installation Integration Group (IIG).

"The purpose of the IIG is to identify and maintain awareness of shore requirements and to shape and integrate facility planning and investment policies and efforts to meet those requirements," explained Kass.

This meeting, facilitated by Kass, is a forum for base leadership, departments, and commands to submit and present their mission requirements for facilities.

"Public works facilitates these meetings and is responsible for preparing and presenting all topics and materials," said Kass. "Our objective is to propose and pursue facility solutions to meet these

requirements, and track progress until completion."

Working with the facility management specialists, Kass collects inputs from stakeholders then spearheads the effort to classify, rank, and provide options to meet these requirements. This year, he submitted 23 projects worth over \$100M to the regional mission integration group (RMIG).

In August of this year, Kass also took on the role of camp architect for Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) at NAVSTA Rota. In this role, he was omnipresent in developing the master plan for the camp layout and providing innovative and timely solutions to the requirements of key stakeholders such as Rota departments, tenant commands, U.S. Embassy, and Department of Homeland Security. His hard work ensured safe and livable space for the evacuees that passed through Rota.

Kass described his role in OAW as one of his most rewarding experiences in 2021.

"I felt very fortunate that I had the opportunity to play a role in OAW," said Kass. "It was an amazing experience that gave me the chance to work with everyone from the base in a totally different capacity, especially the military."

Some of Kass's other 2021 achievements include coordination with the Intermediate Maintenance Agency (IMA) to identify storage space for the towed array sonar system, identifying usable space for Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella-Rota within facilities previously occupied by the Naval Computer and



Telecommunications Area Master Station (NCTAMS) for a \$245K renovation project thus avoiding a \$12 Million MILCON to build a new facility, and finding new workspaces for numerous commands aboard the installation.

Prior to arriving to NAVSTA Rota, Kass worked in private sector and the Marine Corps. In 2017, he became a senior planner in the asset management business line with Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Europe, Africa, Central (EURAFCENT) in Naples, Italy. During his time there, he updated the Region EURAFCENT Regional Master Plan (RMP), through spearheading the evaluation of facilities readiness in contingency planning, as well as the

U.S. Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) Theater Logistics and Munitions Plan, European Defense Initiative (EDI) project development, including special feasibility projects such as the new secondary runway in Camp Lemonnier Djibouti runway.

"Jordan is one of the key personnel that embodies and represents Public Works Department's importance in NAVSTA Rota and how we support the installation and its tenant commands' mission every day," said Cmdr. Joseph Dunaway, public works officer for NAVSTA Rota. "Our installation is able to continue to function and prepare for the future thanks to the tireless efforts of him and rest of the PWD Rota team."

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Naval Station Rota Command Religious Program

2021 was a year of transformation for the Naval Station Rota Command Religious Program. During an already an already stressful year with the ongoing pandemic the Chapel went through a number of personnel changes as well as having to relocate services to meet COVID requirements. They went above to support the base requirements in facilitating trainings, ceremonies, religious services and helping those in need displaying their tremendous passion and dedication to their mission.

The Chapel was utilized several times past year for events such as all hand gatherings for training, the Chief Petty Officer pinning and ceremonies like the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Remembrance, and the annual POW/MIA ceremony. They started off the year having services in the Chapel with limited capacity due to COVID mitigation protocols. Once weather permitted they transitioned to Sea View Pines, where they could hold outdoor services, in order to accommodate more people and to meet the need of more individuals than could be done indoors with COVID restrictions in effect.

One of the biggest challenges the chapel faced over this year was the loss of personnel. As the main support in the community for religious needs as well as the counseling they provide for service members, losing personnel in an already small department was definitely an enormous obstacle for them to overcome to continue their mission.

"The biggest challenge that the RMT (Religious Ministry Team) faced this

year was the loss of personnel," said Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Rice, a chaplain for NAVSTA Rota. "The loss of personnel has caused the team to prioritize the needs of the community while still being able to provide confidential counseling to those in need. The loss of manpower and turnover was deeply felt within our community but through collaboration and experience, the team was able to overcome the challenges and provide for our community."

The Rota Command Religious Program continued to maintain their high level of dedication to the base and supporting base personnel this year during the most trying times and went even further during Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) displaying their dedication to their mission and supporting everyone in need no matter where they come from.

During OAW, the Religious Ministry Team (RMT) worked with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), the Red Cross, and USO to help the evacuees and service members who provided care for them. The Chapel facility was transformed into a collection point for donations and supplies for OAW and helped with the collecting of over 150,000 items that were donated from the local community to provide for the evacuees.

They provided constant support during this time even while losing two of their members in leadership positions with the transfer of two chaplains, Command Chaplain Capt. Robert Moore and Father Lt. Tomek Maka. Rice praised the work and support of everyone involved during



this time and said that all of it was only possible with the help of the community coming together during these trying times.

"It was a herculean effort by the volunteers and staff of NMCRS, the Chapel, and the Red Cross for collecting, sorting, and delivery of items to the evacuees," said Rice. "It was a huge feat and during times with our personnel transferring, we could not have done it without their help, especially the help from a few Navy Reservists and some of the TAD Sailors."

Although it's been a tough year for everyone Rice has nothing but praise as he says he's seen the community here at NAVSTA Rota come together like never before. The support of everyone working together has had tremendous effect on them and allowed them to continue to support the religious ministry programs mission.

"We have had some key volunteers that have helped fill in for some of the gaps in support of the religious ministry program," said Rice. "It is incredible when people of a chapel, with many different faiths, help each other to care for the needs of the people. The religious communities have really come together to help and care for the needs of the community."

Rice said that the people of NAVSTA Rota and its tenant commands have been amazing to work alongside during these past few years, and while his time here has been trying it's a time he will never forget.

"Even though the year has been challenging, all the experiences have been rewarding," said Rice. "Rota will always be a special place for my family and I and we will cherish our time here, especially the friends and colleagues we have met."

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USO Rota

USO Rota's mission for 2021 was simple: to deliver happiness. As the entire community moved into the new year, there was a feeling of hope that people's lives could move back into a sense of normalcy. Hope that community members could see one another again, participate in group activities, and get back to doing some of the fun and impactful things they used to do...even if they looked a little different.

While there were challenges and restrictions, USO Rota made it their mission this year to find creative ways to continue to support the community and spread happiness. None of it would have been possible without the dedication and support of volunteers to spread smiles, laughter, and goodness around base.

"I love being able to go out in the Rota community and interact with the

service members and their families," said volunteer Meg Hanley. "Being able to bring a smile and a laugh to their faces is the best feeling! Getting responses like, 'you guys just made my day!' keeps the smile on my own face as well!"

USO Rota dove into 2021 by supporting U.S. Naval Hospital Rota's vaccination program and all of the hardworking hospital staff members working around the clock. Daily, USO Rota delivered freshly brewed coffee, liquid IV packets, and tons of sweet and salty snacks to keep the crew going as they swiftly vaccinated the Rota community.

USO Rota also found creative ways to support and engage deployed service members through portable "Program in a Box" deliveries. These boxes featured all of the supplies necessary for commands to facilitate their own morale-boosting programming. With little-to-no port visits, or liberty opportunities, USO Rota saw this as a vital way to support deployed service members with programs such as water sports events, tie dye nights, and ice cream socials.

"As a retired service member and now a dependent I can fully attest to how important it is for service members and their families to feel connected especially when so far from home," said volunteer Beverly Litz. "USO Rota does an amazing job all year long engaging with the Rota community. The USO also offers an incredible chance for people to

find friendship, fun, and create amazing memories through volunteering."

USO Rota took advantage as restrictions loosened by supporting commands with in-person programming such as bingo nights, painting events, and sports activities.

"Bingo and trivia nights at the Navy Lodge were a new spin on classic events that also provided the opportunity for the community to feel the normalcy in events again by being in person while also providing a great opportunity to introduce new families to the Rota community," said volunteer Jennifer Anderson.

The team also began "drive-through" style events in front of the air terminal and NEX/Commissary as a fun and engaging way to connect with the community. USO Rota became more mobile and more visible, which ultimately helped touch more lives.

As Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) commenced in Rota, USO Rota was right there with volunteers, food, and beverage support to serve as a "force behind the forces" for the military and community. Volunteers supported flights at all hours of the day with many putting in 15+ hours a day. Despite the challenging situation, they continued to show up and make it their mission to support those supporting

the operation: finding ways to make others smile, boost morale, and provide them with some caffeine to keep going.

For the holiday season, USO Rota is back with many of their annual classics like the annual Turkey Brigade, the 12 Days of Christmas, and Operation Cookie Drop.

"I really enjoy handing out turkeys at Thanksgiving," said Beth Balliet, a volunteer who has reached over 1,000 hours in support of USO Rota. "It's so nice to see everyone so happy to get a free turkey, especially when it's a family holiday and they're so far away from home."

USO Rota will close out the year with several notable achievements such as free pier side Wi-Fi, the establishment of an unmanned center at Moron Air Base, and the creation of the USO Rota Youth Advisory Council. None of these programs, centers, and initiatives would be possible without the hard work and dedication from community volunteers.

"To all of the USO Rota volunteers dedicating their time and passion to serving the community: thank you," said Kayla Clark, center manager for USO Rota. "The world is a better place because of you!"



Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Rota: Alicia Dalloo

This past year was another year of transition as restrictions lessened and programs were again able to return. Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) programs began to return while continuing to meet safety protocols. Additionally, similar to the community that the team serves, FFSC Rota had several personnel changes throughout the year.

One of the newest additions to the FFSC team is Alicia Dalloo as a work and family life consultant. Dalloo, a Navy veteran and military spouse, brings with her a wealth of knowledge from experience with FFSC Bahrain and Sigonella.

When asked what her favorite FFSC program, Dalloo responded the Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

"TAP is near and dear to me, and there is a backstory as to why," she said. "Roughly 11 years ago, I separated from the Navy and was cycled through a TAP workshop where I endured endless PowerPoint presentations that left me extremely confused about what I wanted to do with my life after the military. Minimum emphasis was placed on supporting and building resilience to address the array of challenges that military members commonly face during their transition to civilian life."

Dalloo said she felt ill-prepared for the transition but dove into the civilian

sector, completed graduate school, and transitioned fairly well.

Approximately four years later, her active duty husband received orders to Bahrain so she began her job search and was offered the role as Transition Assistance Manager at FFSC Bahrain. She was pleased to see that the TAP curriculum had evolved emphasizing employment, benefits, and education.

"While I genuinely believed that these areas are essential to ensure a successful transition, this narrow focus ignored the multi-layered and dynamic elements present in military to civilian transition process," she explained. "I felt a personal responsibility to enlighten each service member on how to navigate the loss of military culture, camaraderie and build their support system."

This experience – as both the service provider and recipient – helped Dalloo realize her professional purpose by maintaining connection with the military through helping them. While she no longer facilitates TAP program, she is quick to point out that the program now offers a more holistic approach "where resiliency and coping strategies post-separation are heavily discussed."

Throughout her time at three different overseas FFSC, Dalloo has made a big impact in the communities she supports. She considers her greatest

accomplishment being assisting spouses and dependents in employment guidance and resume assistance, despite obstacles that spouses have to overcome in an overseas environment with limited jobs.

"Though spouse/dependent employment can be elusive, I often remind myself to focus on the many chances I've had to assist my clients in securing employment in our sparse overseas job market," she said.

Another one of her opportunities to assist the community is via DoD Skillbridge program.

"This program allows active-duty personnel from all four branches to spend their last 180 days of their military service interning at a civilian job with one of more than 500 industry partners," she said. Service members continue to receive their military pay and benefits, and many times the internship leads to post-military employment, references, or opportunities.

Dalloo has been able to assist over 150 service members stationed overseas to participate in the Skillbridge program which she considers a success. She will continue to try to assist active duty and community members in developing job skills.

"Rota stands out as one of the most close-knit communities that I have been a part of, and I can honestly say that this leads back to the stellar leadership



onboard NAVSTA Rota," she said. "Additionally, the dedication from the tenant commands to work together to support the mission and the needs of the community has stood out to me more than any other stateside or overseas command that I've been a part of."

And this is what NAVSTA Rota, its tenants and FFSC will continue to do: work together to meet the mission and the needs of the community. For Dalloo in particular, she's excited for the return of additional in-person courses and programs.

Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Rota

Quality-of-life initiatives are always important, but even more when stationed overseas as it helps the community live their best lives while in Rota, Spain by providing something from home. Rota Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) continues to be forward thinking in ways to improve the quality-of-life onboard Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota.

On what was almost the one year anniversary to NAVSTA Rota installation and Kingdom of Spain entering into a lockdown due to the global pandemic, a small group gathered in front of the new El Patio complex for its grand opening, March 12, 2021.

The El Patio complex is operated by MWR and features Bombers Fresh Mex quick-service restaurant, adults-only Tower Pub with southern BBQ menu, and Flix Theater with two 71-seat state-of-the-art cinemas.

Since opening, NAVSTA Rota community members continue to enjoy Bombers Fresh Mex and Tower Pub while

enjoying drinks, food and visiting with family and friends on the outdoor patio space – making it a town center.

MWR Food & Beverage programs aboard NAVSTA Rota have managed to make adjustments as needed over this past year brought by many challenges our MWR facilities faced, including the opening of El Patio Complex, COVID-19 measures and shut downs to support the Operation Allies Welcome mission.

“Through this changing dynamic, we have focused on aligning operational hours at facilities, updating menus and offering menu specials such as Pizza of the Month or our Tower Pub Chicken Tender Limited Time Offer (LTO),” explained Sara Fine, Rota MWR food and beverage manager, “Also, expanding our seating at Flix Theater to accommodate more guests.”

As the year comes to an end, Rota MWR’s new town center came to a close with its first community event, Team Rota Appreciation Day, which was attended by



over 800 members from the community and included live entertainment, free movies, games, food and activities for all ages.

“As we move into the New Year, MWR Food & Beverage aims at continuing to evolve with the changing demand and ensure our operations meet the need of

our community” said Fine.

“I hope that we have been able to provide our local NAVSTA Rota community with an overall sense of well-being, community and improved the quality-of-life while in Rota, Spain,” said Amy Hutyra, MWR Marketing and Commercial Sponsorship Director.



School Liaison Office

As Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota expanded services throughout 2021, the school liaison began to return to in-person events throughout the installation.

“One of the largest events was the Back 2 School Resource Fair, which took place for the first time inside the Navy Exchange (NEX),” said Randy Lambert, NAVSTA Rota school liaison officer. “Together with Health Promotions, NEX, and the school liaison over 20 community and school organizations participated in providing information and recruiting volunteers to support their organizations.”

Community organizations – Red Cross, Navy & Marine Corps Relief Society and both schools’ parents and teacher organizations – passed out information, recruited potential volunteers, and highlighted vacancies. Youth-focused clubs like the Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts were also able to recruit new members. Installation departments such as Fleet & Family Support Center, Child & Youth Programs, Health Promotions, Fire Department, and NEX School Student Meal Program provided helpful information. The informational tables were placed throughout the main NEX’s floor providing a comfortable air-conditioned space for customers to find out about school-related resources.

In June of this year, just over 30 seniors graduated from David Glasgow Farragut (DGF) Middle High School during a graduation ceremony at Fleet Landing. With U.S. and Spanish ships in the background, these seniors crossed the stage to receive their diplomas and begin the next chapter in their life. The graduates planned to attend college, join the military, or work.

Both on base schools continued with



in-person instruction for school year 21-22. In fact, the Rota Elementary School never went back to remote learning once in-person instruction was approved in October 2020, highlighting the diligence and perseverance of leadership, teachers, and students. Throughout the spring, there was the reintroduction of normal events such as the health & wellness fair, Read Across DoDEA, and the annual feria dance celebration.

Lambert continued efforts to prepare families and youth in a variety of school-related topics. He flew to Mayport, Florida to prepare USS Arleigh Burke families for their homeport swap to Rota, Spain. Over the year, Lambert provided workshops, resources and support for college readiness, financial aid, special needs, and deployment. He also recruited volunteers to work in the schools as well as coaching opportunities, youth sponsorship, and other opportunities.

If you are a sponsor and supporting an incoming family, please reach out early to the School Liaison. In addition, PCSing families should reach out to the school liaison to help put you in touch with the SL in your new duty station. Have a wonderful 2022!

Winter Wonderland 2021



NAVSTA Rota Housing Department

Navy Housing is a 24/7 job in the best of times with oversight of family housing, unaccompanied housing, and assisting personnel in off-base housing options. During Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), the Housing Department had to quickly shift directions and move from housing active duty personnel to evacuees from Afghanistan enroute to their final destination of the United States.

“Upon notification of OAW, the Unaccompanied Housing (UH) team launched a full scale check-out of all Roosevelt and Porter Sailors from the three barracks,” said Vernon Nelson, director of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota Housing.

The UH team also began to coordinate the tasks that would be required to execute the turnover from unaccompanied housing to temporary living quarters for evacuees. This included inventorying and verifying all furnishings within the barracks, completing any required maintenance, cutting new keys for rooms, issuing master keys to camp directors and resident advisors, and submitting requests for deep cleaning of rooms.

As evacuees began to arrive in late August, UH expanded to five barracks buildings for evacuees, of which four were used to house families. Storage areas were converted to offices or storage facilities for linens, supplies, and amenities such as diapers, formula,

clothing and toiletries.

In addition to providing lodging to evacuees, UH also providing services to the numerous deployed units to NAVSTA Rota to assist in OAW. A barracks building at the Seabee’s Camp Mitchell was transitioned to house deployed forces.

“At Camp Mitchell, one building was used to house transitional operational support forces of approximately 125 U.S. Army soldiers,” explained Nelson. “This group provided security and mission oriented duties in support of NAVSTA Rota.”

Following the final departures of evacuees from NAVSTA Rota in October, the Housing Department had to quickly transition the barracks from family-use back to single Sailors. Similar to turning over a house from renter to renter, moving brings about a similar process, but this had to be done at a commercial scale.

First, a walk through with the UH team and key stakeholders such as NAVFAC, Preventive Medicine, Fire Department, NGIS, and Safety identified any damages and discrepancies. The damages and discrepancies were annotated, sorted by level of expertise, and tasked for repair.

The next several weeks were a flurry of activity as the barracks were painted and prepared for Sailors.

“All resources and remaining assets were utilized to ensure a total revitalization and reconciliation of all furnishing,”



said Nelson. “The installation NAVFAC prioritized the overall painting project, which helped significantly in helping UH meet their goal of putting Sailors back in the barrack prior to the Christmas holidays.”

The hard work and dedication of UH and NAVSTA Rota stakeholders led to the barracks completing all final inspections and being ready for Sailors, as planned.

“On Dec. 1, the Unaccompanied Housing Team officially returned the barracks back to Single Sailors,” said Nelson. “We checked in approximately 77 Roosevelt Sailors, which is an outstanding job, and a great quality of life initiative.”

Nelson was proud that his team was able to meet their mission and daily operations while simultaneously providing lodging to the evacuees and deployed units. He emphasized their willingness to go above and beyond to ensure that everyone – NAVSTA Rota Sailors, deployed units and evacuees – received the service they needed highlights what makes this community great.

“We would like to thank all the stakeholders that helped to make this return of the barracks back to the Sailors a success,” he said. “It truly was a team effort.”



American Red Cross: Rota

For 2021, the face of American Red Cross Rota would be the face of our volunteers.

In August of this year, the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated quickly and within days, thousands were fleeing their homeland. By the end of the month, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota received evacuees as part of the Operation Allies Welcome (OAW). Many of the evacuees came with nothing more than the clothes on their back.

Supporting the evacuees was a colossal job. Even after mobilizing every possible Sailor, Marine and Airman, the base had more work than

they could handle. A call was put out to the Rota community to support in the efforts.

The community answered.

During the first 48 hours, Red Cross, USO and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society signed on over 400 new volunteers.

The volunteer work started at the flight line. Eager volunteers passed out blankets, snacks and toys to arriving evacuees. USO volunteers distributed meals to active duty service members and civilians working long hours on the flight line. Soon Red Cross volunteers were serving meals in the camp, helping with medical paperwork, or guiding refugees through the processing stations. NMCRS volunteers worked around-the-clock sorting hundreds of boxes of donations. Over 2,000 bags of clothing were hand-sorted and delivered to the evacuees.

Even with all that assistance, the base needed more help. They asked for more volunteers.

Once again, the community answered.

Volunteers took over clothing distribution, the baby supply center, and kept food and coffee 24/7 inside the camp’s command center. All told, 70,000 meals were served by volunteers.

The volunteers’ own experience varied as well as their reasons for helping out.



Some volunteers came from families who had also been refugees and were welcomed to the United States. Now those volunteers could repay those who assisted them by helping others.

Other volunteers had supported communities in the U.S. that were devastated by hurricanes or tornadoes. Now they were doing similar work for the Rota community.

A few volunteers had done mission work in Africa and South America, and they were putting those skills to work here.

The vast majority of the volunteers had never done anything like this before and were eager to learn. They worked long hours, impacted thousands of lives, and are ready to help again if the

community needs them.

So does Rota have a face? Yes. The face of our community is our volunteers.



Reflections of Camp Operations

Director: Lt. j.g. Emily Oneschuk

I've always felt that people are fundamentally good, and I'm more certain of that than ever before. As operations director of the camp, I want to express my wholehearted thanks to the local community, but also to show some respect for the community we built in the camp and the people who formed it. Everyone I saw take part in the camp, active duty or civilian, despite the inevitable exhaustion and frustration that accompanied Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), always treated people with kindness and dignity. When you're faced with the heavy reality that people are relying on you for literally everything, you can step up to that responsibility or choose to just get by. If you're made of the right stuff, you step up and that's what I saw here again and again. The "right stuff" shined through in our community, and it brought me so much pride to be a part of it.

As many people can attest to, the work on the camp wasn't always glamorous and a lot of it wasn't fun, but this didn't stop anyone from doing their part with compassion and heart. On top of that, the work could be pretty heavy, adding an emotional level to already long, hard days. Those who had a chance to work closely with people on the camp shared a lot of heartache with residents. Stories of fleeing their homes and leaving families behind in Afghanistan amidst the sadness of feeling nationless were not just common, they were universal. I know this left a lot of feeling helpless, myself included, but these same feelings kept us motivated to help in any way we could and pushed us to keep going when we hit unexpected roadblocks.

My time on the camp completely adjusted my expectations for what we

as people and parents are capable of. Leaving everything behind and entering a situation like this takes some serious guts and to do it graciously speaks to a huge depth of character and inner strength. I saw countless families arrive with toddlers, infants and pregnant moms and went on to see them live in tents for weeks, not knowing when they'd be leaving or where they'd be going. They never complained and were hesitant to ask for anything even when they had nothing. I amusingly compared this to my uncle who, after traveling cross country with his two kids, made it out to be the second rendition of the Odyssey. It may be a silly metaphor but seeing how the residents conducted themselves through this time forced me to take a hard look at my own perspective.

The creation and sustainment of the camp brought out some best aspects of the military. We didn't just look at this like a logistical problem that needed to be solved, though there was some incredible logistical work done to construct and maintain the camp (thank you Seabees, NAVFAC and Housing!). We saw that people needed us in a big way and aimed to help from a human perspective. When you are powerless, even the little decisions made by those above you can have huge effects on your life. This is a basic tenant of leadership and power that I think we often lose sight of. This responsibility feels much heavier when you see the immediate outcomes of your decisions on people's lives every day, and I'm happy to say we did our best to never lose sight of this.

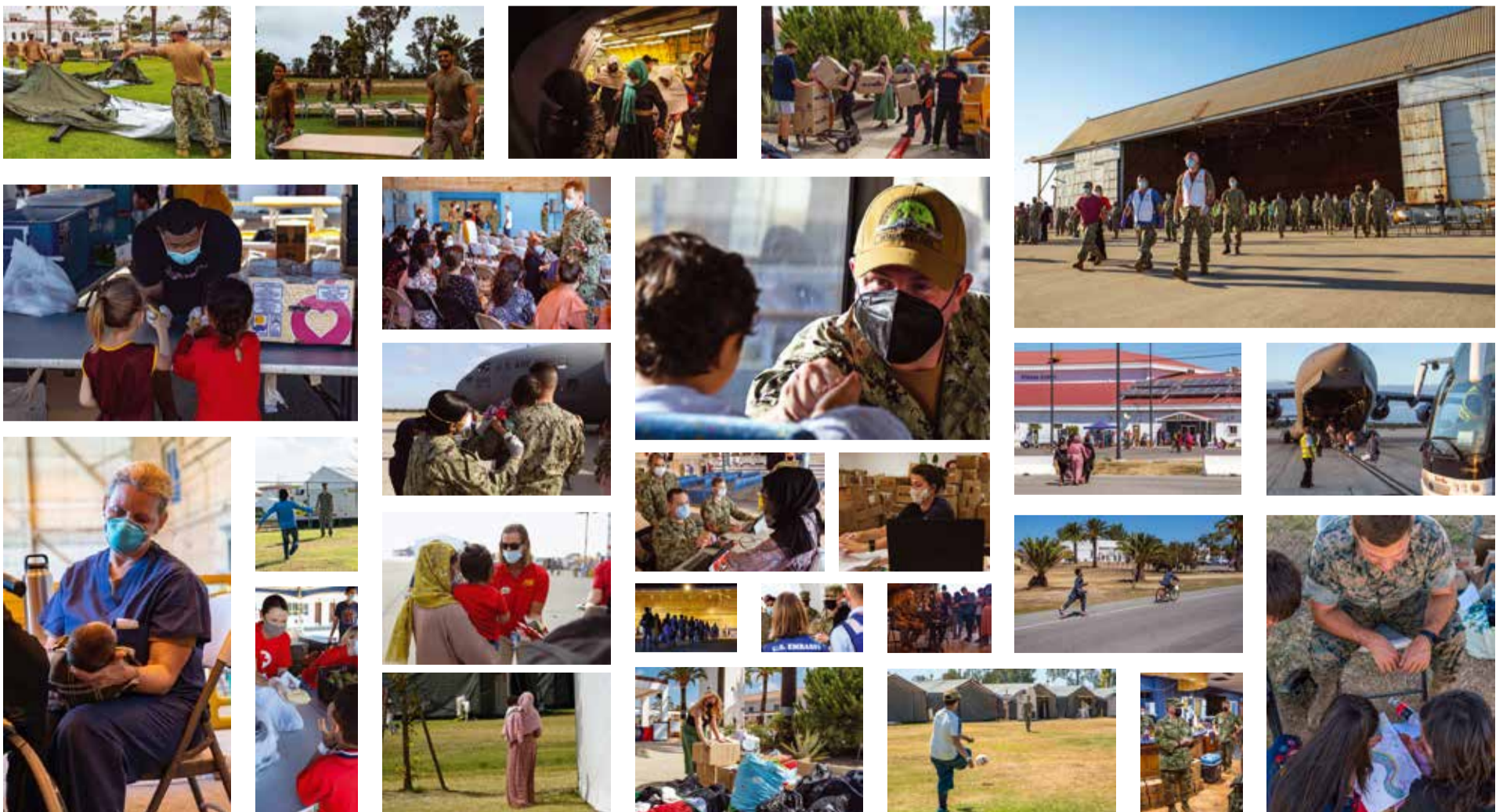
With the overwhelming volunteer and community support, we put things in motion that helped the camp thrive beyond what anyone had expected. There were



so many examples of stellar compassion and problem solving, I could write a book. The thought and massive effort that went into clothing distribution, the innovation behind providing appropriate medical care, the tireless efforts of the Food Service Officer Mr. Nolley to get the food "just right," the community efforts to throw cookouts, dance parties and English classes, people sleeping on the floors of their offices to make sure the work got done (I'm looking at you, Red Cross), and most importantly the actual powerhouse of volunteers and servicemembers that banded together overnight that literally kept a small city running... these are just the waveltops of the things I want to cheerlead. People threw themselves into this effort with all they had, and it's completely readjusted my expectations for what we as a community and force are capable of. The care that was poured into this was felt by so many and will be remembered for a long, long time to come. The community we built here carried over to the States where many of our residents have banded together and proudly call themselves "the Spanish group" in their new camp.

The camp left a big mark on me, as I'm sure it did on many of you. For some of us, this was the first "real thing" we did in the military. It was for me and I'm so grateful I got a chance to be a part of it. A big shoutout to Capt. David Baird and Cmdr. Tony Myers for trusting a hodgepodge of JOs (junior officers) to run this "like it was WWII." Letting us make decisions and have agency in something so monumental is what we all hope for in our leadership and is exactly the kind of experience I was seeking when I joined the Navy. I've always hoped to do something that mattered, to solve important problems, and really help people because that's what serving means to me. I'm incredibly grateful to you both for helping me and others realize this.

To the almost 2,700 people that passed through the camp, this community was all they had, and we stepped up to exceed everyone's expectations. I am so proud to have been a part of this and to know all the incredible people that helped make it happen. Your care, heart, and hard work have left a mark on me and many others. I'm excited to see what we can all do next.



People of Team Rota: Why I Supported OAW



"I use to be a firefighter before the Navy. One of the things I enjoyed about my job was that on one of the worst days of someone life, I got to be the guy that made it better. This situation is similar. Some of these people have been through the worst days of their lives and I get to be the piece of the puzzle that makes their day better. This is what I joined for!"

MA2 Joseph Wesolowski
NAVSTA Rota Harbor Patrol



"It's been a wonderful experience to be able to be here and able to help out. Seeing everyone come off the plane, providing a hand whether it's a medical emergency or handing out stickers or toy, and seeing everyone smile. That's it, being able to put a smile on someone's face. That's the best thing for me."

ABH2 Jose Flores
NAVSTA Rota Fire Department



"It's completely heartwarming to see all these faces. You can't even imagine the small things we do like giving them a piece of fruit or kicking a ball with them. Just being able to see them smile, you really get the feeling that they haven't been this happy or smiled in a really long time. It's feels really, really good."

Desiree Romero
Volunteer



"I just like to be involved in any way I can help. If there's people who need help, I'm here. Specifically with this cause, they are leaving with nothing and I want to be able to bring some sort of comfort for them."

Laura Peters
Volunteer



"It has been an honor to be able to work alongside military, civilians, and volunteers and seeing everything our community has done to help these evacuees at their time of need. I feel very privileged to be here."

Christina Rodriguez
Rota Child & Youth Programs



"Personally, there's nothing more rewarding than seeing when they are first off the plane, they get clothes, they get a shower, and there's relief on their faces. The smiles on their face. No feeling in the world like that!"

Senior Airman Daniel Wymer
U.S. Air Force



"I'm glad to be a part of this operation because I like to help people. It's good to see we're making a difference and a big impact on evacuees' lives."

FC1 Jonathan Yount
NAVSTA Rota Security



"It's been incredibly fulfilling. It's been so nice to be a part of helping these evacuee get to the United States. To be part of this community and all we're doing to support."

Cathy Knapp
Rota Child & Youth Programs

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Behind the Lens: Favorite Photos from OAW

Throughout Operation Allies Welcome, the public affairs team was there every step of the way documenting preparations, evacuees' arrivals, daily life in the temporary living facilities, behind-the-scenes operations, and departures – all from “behind the lens.” Here are our favorite images captured from throughout the operation at Naval Station Rota, Spain.



Photo by SSgt Brytani Musick

This is my favorite because seeing the kids' faces as they walked to the plane so excited and amazed, and the peace on parents' faces knowing they were headed for the U.S. was something I'll never forget. Taking this particular photo with the the sun is both a bright light for them headed to a new start and a sunset closing the last, likely awful, chapter of their lives. And in the midst of all that, normal U.S. military operations were still happening with flights taking off from Rota's flightline. Making a difference near and far.

Staff Sgt. Brytani Musick
U.S. Marine Forces Europe and Africa



Photo by SSgt Brytani Musick

I selected this photo because I was there when the man in the picture arrived to Naval Station Rota. He was the first evacuee off the aircraft arrival I was documenting. To see a coworker capture this photo of him on the aircraft heading to the United States to begin his next journey to the United States was pretty emotional for me.

Courtney Pollock
Naval Station Rota, Spain



Photo by MCC Nathan Carpenter

I selected this photo because I liked the traditional vibrant colors and the pure innocence of a new baby which seemed to signify the new beginnings that this operation allowed for the many evacuees who transitted Naval Station Rota.

Lt. Lyndsi Gutierrez
Naval Station Rota, Spain



Photo by MC2 John Owen

I choose this photo because it captures a great moment with some of the younger evacuees playing in the camp. It highlights the importance of what we did for these children and their families.

MC2 John Owen
Naval Station Rota, Spain



Photo by Sgt. Claudia Nix

I took this photo on the last day I supported Operation Allies Welcome and to me it signifies the new beginning for families and individuals leaving Afghanistan and the long journey they face ahead.

Sgt. Claudia Nix
U.S. Marine Forces Europe and Africa



Photo by MCC Nathan Carpenter

I selected this photo because it shows a new dawn for these evacuees as they begin their lives away from the chaos and danger they are leaving behind.

MCC Nathan Carpenter
Naval Station Rota, Spain



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Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella (FLCSI) Site Rota

Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella (FLCSI) Site Rota had a challenging yet highly successful year of supporting the fleet and multiple branches of the Department of Defense. With its personnel of 183 military, civilians and host nation employees meeting the continued challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and playing a vital role in the success of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), thus ensuring operations at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota continued their mission uninterrupted.

During OAW, NAVSUP FLCSI-Site Rota was the center of logistics support services while providing oversight and accountability on inventory and distribution of sustainment material to the evacuee camp housing for over 2,600 evacuees from Afghanistan. The aviation fuel branch issued 128,442 gallons of JP-8 to over 20 aircraft, and provided over 9,000 gallons of diesel fuel to support power generation at the camp. Fleet performed receipt, inventory, and delivery of 142 line items of material to include toiletries, linens, and water, directly impacting the welfare of the evacuees.

“Our contracting specialists initially provided the heavy lift for OAW by assisting the installation and its tenant commands with defining requirements and executing contracting actions that procured essential quality-of-life products and services,” said Cmdr. Bert Phillips, NAVSUP FLCSI Rota site director.

NAVSUP FLCSI Rota Contracting executed 13 contracts valued at \$4.3M in support of OAW with most contracts awarded within 24 hours from receipt of requirement. These contracting actions enabled NAVSTA Rota to provide essential services such as shelter, clean linens, prayer tents, hygiene facilities, meals, trash services and interpreters for the relocated personnel.

The FLC Enterprise mobilized its

Global Emergency Logistics Response Team (ELRT) comprising of 17 Sailors and 2 Contracting Officers from FLC Norfolk, FLC Jacksonville, FLC Pearl Harbor, FLC San Diego, FLCSI-Site Souda Bay, Greece, and FLC Yokosuka, Japan. Site Rota's Transportation division expedited State Department's requirements of additional NEO tracking system kits from stateside greatly increasing the speed in which the evacuees were in-processed.

“The ELRT Sailors' assistance was paramount to our success meeting our high-tempo responsibilities for OAW, and for maintaining all normal mission support functions at NAVSTA Rota with zero deficiencies,” Phillips said. “The combined capability of FLCSI's Site Rota team and the ELRT enabled the NAVSUP Enterprise to show its value and speed during an urgent humanitarian operation.”

While OAW provided NAVSUP FLCSI Site Rota a unique opportunity to flex its know-how and capabilities to meet the mission, there are numerous other departmental highlights from throughout the year:

FLEET MAIL CENTER

In addition to meeting their day to day mission of processing mail in support of military members and their families, deployed forces, tenant commands, and other installations across Spain, the NAVSTA Rota Fleet Mail Center stepped outside of their usual mail processes. The team in Madrid directly supported the delivery of an estimated \$1.2M Battle Space Simulator for the U.S. Air Force at the Tactical War Preparation Center in Albacete and continues to remain the logistical arm for outgoing mail movement to the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) assuring end-to-end Navy Supply Chain Postal Support.

“The team here at the Rota Post Office and our detachments in Madrid and Lisbon have worked tremendously

hard this past year towards maintaining optimal operations and improving our customer service to the [communities we serve],” said Hector Rivera, postal officer at NAVSTA Rota.

FUELS

The NAVSUP FLCSI-Site Rota Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) implemented the first and only hot pit refueling in the AOR for the newly home stationed Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79. This new capability both decreases ground time and increases operational capability for the SH-60R aircraft. The fuels team also oversaw the installation of four new Marine Loading Arms on Pier 3 in order to support USNS and commercial tanker requirements.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT CENTER

The team at Logistics Support Center (LSC) laid the groundwork and partnered with NAVSTA Rota United Service Organization (USO) and Telefonica Spanish Telecommunications Company to establish permanent pier Wi-Fi services for visiting units enabling the crew to connect with family and friends. The team also hosted the first ever visit of an expeditionary sea based unit to NAVSTA Rota during USS Hershel “Woody” Williams (ESB-4) port visit and was instrumental in providing logistics and quality of life services to the crew of USS



Iwo Jima during her high visibility port visit, earning them a Bravo Zulu from the Chief of the Supply Corps and high praises from 6th Fleet's logistics deputy director, IWO Jima's commanding officer and base leadership.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SHIPPING OFFICE

The Personal Property Shipping Office (PPSO) had a busy year once again facing the challenges still imposed by COVID-19. PPSO flawlessly executed the second Forward Deployed Naval Forces homeport change, this time between USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) and USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51). In coordination with the Vehicle Processing Center (VPC), PPSO took a different approach to privately owned vehicles (POVs) shipments, Donald Cook Sailors were able to ship their vehicles directly to Naval Station Mayport instead of having to drive to VPC facilities in Atlanta, Georgia and Orlando, Florida to reclaim their vehicle. This added convenience to the Sailors additionally resulted in a \$130K cost savings.

USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51)

2021 was a momentous year for Rota's newest ship, USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51). After spending nearly 30 years based in Norfolk, Virginia, the original Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer shifted homeports to Rota, Spain, joining USS Ross (DDG 71), USS Porter (DDG 78), and USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) as part of Destroyer Squadron 60. In a year that began with uncertainty and COVID restrictions, Arleigh Burke continually rose to the occasion and finished 2021 having completed her inaugural patrol as a member of U.S. Sixth Fleet's Forward Deployed Naval Forces.

Damage Controlman (DC) Second Class Louis Robins was there for every step of the way. Robins hails from Houston, Texas and reported to Arleigh Burke as a DCFN in August 2018. Known for his positive attitude and enthusiasm, by January 2021, he had already established himself as a trusted member of Arleigh Burke's engineering repair division and earned the title of work center supervisor.

Robins remembers the challenges that he and his shipmates faced throughout the year, most notably being Arleigh Burke's move from Norfolk to Rota. For

many Sailors like himself, 2021 meant packing up, moving out, and sailing across the Atlantic. This challenge goes hand in hand with what Robins identified as Arleigh Burke's greatest achievement of 2021: adapting to life in Spain and thriving in their new homeport. Once in Spain, Sailors and their families had to adjust to life in a new country, while abiding by strict COVID protocols and simultaneously balancing a demanding underway schedule that had them operating in the Barents, Baltic, and Black Seas, and conducting port calls in Estonia, Finland, Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey.

2021 was also filled with personal achievements for Robins as he became the president of Arleigh Burke's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD), an organization dedicated to providing mentorship for junior Sailors and outreach to the community. With Robins at the helm, CSADD grew exponentially, hosting morale boosting events like comedy shows, singing competitions, and game nights. But it's not just fun and games onboard the ship, CSADD created a designated driver program for Arleigh

Burke Sailors, and was heavily involved in the community, donating school supplies to elementary schools and collecting toys for children's hospitals.

Robins' efforts did not go unnoticed. Arleigh Burke Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Patrick Chapman, recently awarded Robins a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his hard work as CSADD president, and Arleigh Burke's CSADD program also gained recognition from Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, Vice Adm. Eugene Black. For Robins, however, it is not about the recognition. He is focused on CSADD's mission of providing a positive community for his fellow shipmates.

Looking forward to 2022, Robins stated that he is committed to helping Sailors achieve their goals both as a leader in engineering department

and as CSADD president. On the personal side, he plans to take advantage of his new homeport by traveling around Europe while also preparing for his eventual dream of attending college to study music and business. In the meantime, he plans to get a head start on his future career by releasing his very own R&B and pop music.

The sky is the limit for Robins and USS Arleigh Burke. Their achievements of 2021 highlights the hard work and dedication of Sailors like Robins and gives a sneak peek of the great things to come in 2022.



NAVSTA Rota Administration Department

The Administration Department and Command Career Counselor's (CCC) office was essential to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota's mission success throughout 2021. The coronavirus as well as the Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) brought many administrative challenges in addition to the normal workload of the administrative and CCC departments.

Despite shifting to minimal manning in response to OAW, Team Admin stayed in the fight working diligently rotating small teams in the office while others worked in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In order to release messages, Admin had to keep the EOC manned around the clock to meet mission needs and support the installation's most valuable assets: the Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, and Airmen.

Demonstrating exceptional flexibility, the admin department was able to tackle every new challenge and was always willing to support despite being undermanned. While admin was supporting OAW, they were still able to manage the intake of

administrative paperwork for military members and civilians alike.

"Whether it's pandemic-related correspondence or any other standard correspondence, awards or evaluations, your NAVSTA Rota Administration Department is up for the job any and every day," said Lt. Dylan Blanton, NAVSTA Rota administration officer. "Admin work never stops and neither do we!"

The CCC office did the same continuing to provide support throughout the OAW. Navy counselors continued to conduct pre-separation counseling during the Transition Assistance Program Course (TAPS), and recruited over 40% of separating members to Reserve affiliation, all while maintaining appropriate social distancing and ensuring that safety precautions were in place to combat the coronavirus.

Even with unexpected guests and being spread thin, admin's number one priority was still customer service and completing the mission's needs.

By the Numbers

Admin:

- 1,575 Vaccination letters
- 1,979 correspondences
- 1,064 ROM letters
- 8,276 curfew letters
- 854 essential movement letters
- 310 passport applications
- 69 PCS Waivers
- 97 processed TPU sailors
- 432 Evals/Fitreps
- 89 TAD/Leave waivers
- 84 Transfers/Separations
- 22 Gains

Command Career Counseling:

- 7 PRESEP counseling and TGPS Reserve Affiliation briefs for over 153 Sailors, Marines and Airman across 18 tenant
- Aided in two NC conversions, one LN conversion
- 66 reenlistments with \$820k in SRB and with an overall 81.3% retention rate
- Recruited 40% of separating Sailors to Reserve Affiliation
- 123 personnel correspondence
- 68 OTEIP approvals
- 45 ORMOS and PRD adjustments.
- Over 262 Correspondences
- Three exam cycles with advancement for E4-E6 above Navy average

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Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Rota: Margaret Becker

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Rota provides a variety of programs to the Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain community. One vital program to this community is the NMCRS Visiting Nurse Program. Nurse Margaret Becker joined the team in March 2021 and in her time here, she's led the way in providing parents with information and resources to assist in those early months as well as creating a community for parents.

Becker is a huge advocate for creating a community to support parents. According to her, one of the most formative and isolating times in a person's life is the early days of parenthood. Research shows that parental mental health disorders are on the rise and, now more than ever, families are alone and receive minimal familial and community support during this critical period. Isolation and lack of support is one of the greatest risk factors for mothers' experiencing perinatal mood and anxiety

disorders (PMADS). Statistics show that suicidal thoughts and psychosis among mothers increased by up to 20 percent in 2020. Overseas military families are at an even greater risk of experiencing this isolation due to the high-pace military operations, lack of family members in close proximity, and decreased access to resources.

Add in a global pandemic and Becker had plenty of obstacles to overcome with the Visiting Nurse Program, but she considers "the level of isolation and limited resources or connection to those resources" as one of her greatest challenges for the year.

"I will do a home visit and have families much more isolated and nervous to do group or community activities, understandably," said Becker. "It has been difficult for family back home to visit and with collective struggle many people have been on their own. It has been

slower to build support group attendance because of isolation and difficulty getting the word out for newcomers to Rota."

She also describes the level of caution within the community to gather in groups has made it harder for families to connect.

To counter the isolation, provide relief to growing families and educate on available resources, Becker re-initiated and now hosts a number of monthly community support groups from pregnancy and postpartum to active duty maternal support and perinatal grief support. Adequate support and socialization – oftentimes with those in a similar stage in life – are vital for improving mental health and wellness within the community.

Since March, over 165 individuals have attended NMCRS Rota community support groups. Becker has collaborated with other base resources, including FFSC, EDIS, CREDO, and more, to build



a support community, provide education, and create a safe space for the perinatal population at NAVSTA Rota.

"I am so thankful to do this work," said Becker. "I truly believe (and it's backed up by years of public health data) perinatal home visits improve quality of life and health outcomes. Families need personalized support and community... now more than ever."

If you are interested in speaking with the NMCRS Rota Visiting Nurse, or attending one of the Community Support Groups, please email rota@nmcrs.org or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nmcrsrota> for more information. Come build your community at NMCRS Rota!



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Navy Environmental & Preventive Medicine Unit (NEPMU) 7

As one of four Navy Environmental & Preventive Medicine Units (NEPMU) around the world, NEPMU-7 stands its post at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain. Its mission is to protect and preserve force health readiness through provisions of theater wide preventive medicine support to Navy & Marine Corps forces, joint and combined military operations, and allied governments when directed by higher authority. NEPMU-7's functions and tasks include but are not limited to safety and occupational health, environmental health, integrated pest management, disease control and prevention, education and training, health promotion and wellness programs.

In 2021, NEPMU-7 continued its critical role of providing COVID-19 data analysis and policy recommendations to combatant commanders and theater medical personnel at NMRTC Rota (also known as U.S. Naval Hospital Rota), and throughout European Command (EUCOM), Africa Command (AFRICOM)

and Central Command (CENTCOM). NEPMU-7 provided more than 100 daily and weekly reports to inform the communities of the latest COVID-19 trends, potential outcomes, and mitigation options.

Despite being a small team of 19 personnel, NEPMU-7 is empowered with scientists, physicians, health care administrators, and corpsmen standing by to answer the call when public health emergencies arise. One of their corpsmen, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class DeCory Blackwell, is an example of how NEPMU-7 provides its expertise to assist and support the fleet.

Blackwell's participation in NEPMU-7 missions and NAVSTA Rota efforts and operations earned him the Armed Forces Service Medal and Humanitarian Service Medal. As a preventive medicine technician (PMT), Blackwell was not only the go-to for most administrative functions, but he continued to participate in NEPMU-7 PMT missions.

When asked how he felt when received the medal, Blackwell responded, "I felt like I was a part of something bigger than myself and that I really made a difference with my team."

As the Command Pay & Personnel Administrator (CPPA) and the unit's government purchase card purchasing agent,



he enabled NEPMU-7 to provide preventive medicine support to 90 operational units and 110,000 forward-deployed DoD personnel across three combatant commands and two fleets. Simultaneously, he also participated and contributed on seven missions (six Shipboard Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate evaluations and one Global Health Engagement team visit to Tunisia). As CPPA, Blackwell oversaw the timely completion of 60 transaction online processing system (TOPS) submissions to PSD Rota, including over 30 awards, two enlistment extensions, and two frocking ceremonies. His attention to detail ensured all personnel at NEPMU-7 are ready for missions.

The year was not without challenges as well. Blackwell described a few challenges he experienced, "Adjusting to the new normal at work and not being able to travel to customers in the AOR."

In August, NAVSTA Rota was tasked with the Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) and every team member of NEPMU-7 was involved in some capacity. Whether providing direct support to the base evacuee temporary living facilities as a preventive medicine officer, preventive medicine technician (PMT), environmental health officer, industrial hygiene officer, or entomologist; providing leadership as a camp commandant; serving at the evacuee vaccination clinic; or volunteering with NMCRS, American Red Cross, and other local support organizations. In all, unit members contributed hundreds of hours of direct and indirect service to over 2,600 evacuees from Afghanistan who came through NAVSTA Rota.

The challenges of 2022 may be unknown, but one can be certain that NEPMU-7 will be there to prepare, protect, and respond to any challenge that may arise.



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Commander, Task Force 65 (CTF-65)

The United States has no shortage of allies and partners in the European Theater, and subsequently Commander, Task Force 65 (CTF-65) has no shortage of potential for cooperative work throughout the 6th Fleet area of operations. Participating in nearly 20 named exercises and over 60 unnamed passing exercises, the Forward Deployed Naval Forces to Europe (FDNF-E) had a tight schedule throughout 2021.

From Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) focused Exercise Black Toro in the North Atlantic, to the "Break in to the Baltic" themed Exercise BALTOPS 50, to the largest ever Exercise Sea Breeze in the Black Sea boasting over 30 participant countries, the FDNF-E ships of CTF-65 were working in overdrive to maximize operations with allies and partners around Europe while increasing warfighting capability across all domains of naval expertise.

The annual CTF-65 led, U.S.-Ukraine co-hosted exercise Sea Breeze exemplifies the value that we stand to gain through international cooperation with allies and partners. With Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) leading the way as the flagship of the Strike task group, the participation of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, and Commodore Capt. Kyle Gantt present in Odessa to direct the Maritime Operations Center, Exercise

Sea Breeze brought 32 nations together to demonstrate the joint resolve of allies and partners both within the Black Sea, and around the globe. In addition to strengthening security in the Black Sea Region through maritime exercises, Sea Breeze provided important diplomatic opportunities during Distinguished Visitor (DV) day on July 4. Marking the Ukrainian Navy Day, American Independence Day, and the Sea Breeze Naval exercise, DV day included a meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and Ms. Kristina Kvien, U.S. Chargé d'Affairs onboard USS Ross. The meeting underscored both countries' strategic partnership and commitment to deterring aggression in the Black Sea Region.

At home, CTF-65 began 2021 with lofty ambitions for itself as it set out to both create and fulfill the new standard for FDNF task force certification. Ordinarily, a staff will undergo the training and certification process known as Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX) in order to certify as a combat-ready naval force capable of conducting a full-spectrum of integrated maritime, joint, and combined operations. Under the forward deployed model however, CTF-65 and other forward deployed staffs never have the opportunity to execute COMPTUEX training. CTF-65 sets out to bridge this gap in formal qualification by creating a standard that all forward deployed staffs



could follow.

Leveraging virtual teleconference (VTC) capabilities, the staff at CTF-65 was able to coordinate and attend classes taught by Tactical Training Group Atlantic (TTGL) on topics across warfare areas such as anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and anti-air warfare. Later in the spring, CTF-65 resumed work with TTGL to learn, and practice the Navy Planning Process (NPP) in scenarios similar to the ones involved in COMPTUEX. The staff worked together to execute missions in a high-end tactical scenario by implementing the lessons from their tactical training as well as the NPP workshops. The training was not just classroom-focused however, CTF-65 staff

spent a combined six weeks embarked and operating from FDNF DDGs during 2021, and gained invaluable experience leading a surface action group from the scene of action. These combined efforts resulting in CTF-65 achieving the first ever CTF Certification.

The FDNF-E ships and staff at CTF-65 made full use of the myriad events and multi-national exercises across the European Theater; they took knowledge from the classroom directly to the forefront and practiced it in real world tactical situations. With more operational commitment and fulfillment than seems possible for just four ships, the FDNF-E sailors embody the CTF-65 motto, "Vigilant and Bold."



Following the first year of adapting to operating under COVID restrictions, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 60 was well-versed and better prepared to execute their mission of ensuring our ships remain optimally manned, trained and equipped more than ever in 2021, while still learning to overcome a few lingering COVID-related challenges. Two iterations of Fleet Operational Sea Training (FOST) and the implementation of Damage Control – Industrial (DC-I) certification were outstanding examples of DESRON 60's success in providing training to the forward-deployed ships stationed in Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain.

The Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) ships maintain their operational tempo and level of material readiness

through regular maintenance availabilities when off-patrol. While the repairs and outfitting conducted are of high importance, a crucial enabling factor to a successful maintenance availability is integration of fire safety and damage control resources. Reaching far outside the lifelines, each of the four FDNF DDGs conducted what is called an "8010" fire drill. Governed by the Industrial Ship Safety Manual for Fire Prevention and Response, the 8010 fire drill starts with the ship and requires close coordination with tenant commands across NAVSTA Rota such as the U.S. Naval Hospital Rota, Security, Fire, and the Regional Maintenance Center.

As part of preparations for their maintenance availabilities, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers

Commander, Destroyer Squadron 60 (DESRON 60)

USS Ross (DDG 71) and USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) participated in the pilot program of damage control-industrial (DC-I). Targeted to occur before the beginning of the availability, DC-I brings inspectors from afloat training group (ATG) to the ship with the focus of inspecting damage control programs and administration, conducting classroom and hands-on training for the in-port emergency teams, and finally the damage control certification. The inspectors base their training and certification events conducted on the requirements set out in instruction, but they also heavily focus on lessons learned from past certifications and actual events across the fleet. This approach allows the ships across the fleet to improve each other through shared experience and knowledge and to improve together as a whole, not just in their individual experience.

Outside of NAVSTA Rota, DESRON 60 leveraged international relationships and the regained ability to conduct in-person training with our allies as USS Ross and USS Porter (DDG 78) took part in FOST, led by the British Royal Navy. Participating in May and September respectively, Ross and Porter each spent nearly a month at sea training and certifying across multiple warfare areas with their British

counterparts as well as the U.S. Navy's Afloat Training Group, Norfolk.

"FOST is an outstanding opportunity for our FDNF-E ships to get advanced training in a variety of warfare areas, and simultaneously improve our valuable relationships with our allies," said Fire Controlman Chief Petty Officer Virginia Hansen. "The ability to train with the U.K. in this manner while developing and improving valuable inter-operational skills is something unique to our Rota ships, and goes a long way to having a warfighting ready force that can and will meet the demands of the European Theater."

FOST allows for FDNF-E ships to receive the same level of training and certification as the continental United States-deployed ships receive during their pre-deployment cycle, without sacrificing the high level of operational readiness required of our forward-deployed assets.





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521st Air Mobility Operations Group 725th Air Mobility Squadron

In 2021, the Airmen of 521st Air Mobility Operations Group (AMOG) participated in the largest airlift for noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO) in U.S. Air Force history, all while maintaining operational requirements and overcoming the challenges associated with the ongoing pandemic.

In April 2021, 521st AMOG 8th and 5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadrons (EAMS), at Al Udeid Air Base (AB), Qatar and Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait respectively, began ramping up operations to accelerate the troop retrograde in Afghanistan to meet the President's goal of complete withdrawal by Sept. 11, 2021. Despite the extreme summer heat, these Airmen increased aircraft generation and aerial port operations to heights unseen in the previous decade, providing airworthy aircraft at triple their normal operational standard and sustaining this tempo for a two month surge. Their 63,000 maintenance actions in high-stress conditions led to the successful transfer of nearly 36 million pounds of cargo, which achieved U.S. Central Command's objective two days ahead of timeline.

By the height of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), Airmen of the 521 AMOG were supporting the movement of passengers from Afghanistan through Qatar and Kuwait, then onward to three European operating locations, where the vast majority of passengers would then be transported to the United States.

During the 17-day NEO surge, each day included the launch and recovery of roughly 47 aircraft and the reception and bed down of over 3,800 passengers. Together with their host installation teams and, more importantly, the teamwork and

support of their host nations, the Airmen of the 521 AMOG assisted in evacuating approximately 71,000 American citizens, other country nationals, and vulnerable Afghans.

At the tactical level, the success of these operations resulted directly from the creativity, teamwork, determination, and grit of the Airmen of the 521 AMOG. However, just as no building can stand very long without a strong foundation, no tenant can enjoy success without the strength, cohesion, and professionalism of our allies and partners nor without that of our installation hosts. Indeed, the success of these operations, spanning more than 5,000 miles, was made possible by the strong foundation of trust and friendship with our Spanish hosts and the outstanding teamwork with our Navy hosts. The leadership and personnel of 521 AMOG find it a perpetual source of pride to be part of this amazing NAVSTA Rota team.

521 AMOG is comprised of four Air Mobility Squadrons (AMS) and seven operating locations spanning 5,100 miles, including Egypt, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Oman, Spain, Turkey, and Qatar. With almost 1,000 Airmen, the 521 AMOG continuously executes three primary tasks as part of Air Mobility Command's (AMC) Global Air Mobility Support System: enroute aircraft maintenance, aerial port operations, and air mobility command and control. These airmen generate over 6,000 aircraft sorties per year in order to deploy and sustain the Joint force, enabling them to maintain the initiative in operations across Africa, Europe, and Asia.

In 2021, Airmen of the Air Force's 725th Air Mobility Squadron (AMS) continued to execute the ever present Air Mobility mission at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain alongside their Navy partners and Louis Berger contractor.

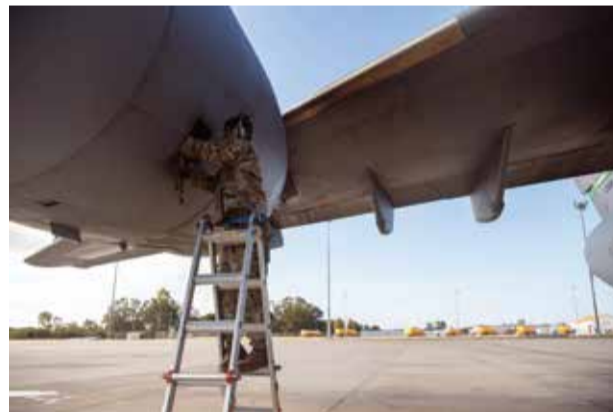
The 725 AMS consists of 186 multidisciplinary Airmen across nine core functions working together to ensure Air Mobility aircraft move rapidly across the globe. The Air Force squadron operates three locations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella, Italy, Moron Air Base (AB), Spain, and NAVSTA Rota, Spain executing U.S. Transportation Command missions in support of Joint requirements.

This year proved to be a historical one for 725 AMS. Throughout the year, the Airmen supported the closing of military operations and the evacuation of civilians from Afghanistan, the rescue of hostages in Africa, and the impromptu support of tanker operations, as well as countless other missions. The most significant of these events was the support for evacuation operations of civilians from Afghanistan during Operation Allies Welcome (OAW).

During these operations, the 725 AMS supported air mobility missions at NAVSTA Rota while deploying 12 members to various locations within the European and Central Commands areas of operation. The integration of AMC Airmen with our Navy partners at both Sigonella and Rota allowed the U.S. Air Force to leverage unique air mobility experience in support of the Navy teams tasked with supporting evacuees.

During this time, like everyone at NAVSTA Rota and NAS Sigonella, the squadron put in the extra hours and time to make sure the planes continued to move as well as the evacuees were supported on the ground. Airmen and their families at both locations volunteered countless hours ensuring our partners completed this leg of their journey with dignity and respect providing another reason to have hope in the future.

Overall, the Airmen from the 725th AMS with their Navy counterparts at both NAS Sigonella and NAVSTA Rota moved more than 6,846 travelers from Afghanistan to the United States and other coalition partner countries.



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18th DECEMBER

- HUGE CHILDREN'S GAMES
- 11:30am. Angustias Square and North public Market.
- CHRISTMAS SWEETS, WORKSHOP AND CONTEST
- 11am. Central public Market
- LIVING NATIVITY SCENE
- From 6pm to 8pm. España Square
- MUNICIPAL THEATER. BAND CONCERT "NAZARENO BROTHERHOOD"
- 8pm. Municipal Theater "Alcalde Felipe Benítez"

19th. DECEMBER

- MUNICIPAL THEATER. BAND CONCERT "NAZARENO BROTHERHOOD"
- 12pm. Municipal Theater "Alcalde Felipe Benítez"

22nd. DECEMBER

- SANTA CLAUS PARADE. COLLECTING OF THE LETTERBOXES
- 4:30pm

23rd. DECEMBER

- MUNICIPAL THEATER: ZAMBOMBA "OFELIA MARQUEZ"
- 7pm. Municipal Theater "Alcalde Felipe Benítez"
- CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE STREET
- 6:30pm. San Roque Square, Castelar Street, Isaac Peral Street, Andalucía Square, Charco Street.

27th. DECEMBER

- ESCAPE ROOM HARRY POTTER
- Luna Castle from 6pm to 9pm.

28th. DECEMBER

- ESCAPE ROOM HARRY POTTER
- Luna Castle from 6pm to 9pm.
- MUNICIPAL THEATER. PUPPET FESTIVAL
- 6:30pm. Municipal Theater "Alcalde Felipe Benítez"

29th. DECEMBER

- MUNICIPAL THEATER. PUPPET FESTIVAL
- 6:30pm Municipal Theater "Alcalde Felipe Benítez"

30th. DECEMBER

- MAPPING
- Bartolomé Pérez Square

31st. DECEMBER

- NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WITH JARANDDA MUSIC BAND
- 11:30 pm. España Square

2nd. JANUARY

- ROYAL POSTMAN PARADE
- 4:30pm
- SPECULUM ROTAE CONCERT (CLASICAL MUSIC)
- 1 pm. Luna Castle

3rd. JANUARY

- ROYAL POSTMAN - LUNA CASTLE
- from 6 to 9pm. Luna Castle, Cultural Room
- DISNEY MUSIC CONCERT
- 6pm. Bulevar Bahía de Cádiz.

4th. JANUARY

- ROYAL POSTMAN - LUNA CASTLE
- from 6 to 9pm. Luna Castle, Cultural Room

5th. JANUARY

- GREAT WELCOME AND PARADE OF THE THREE WISE MEN AT THE ROTA'S MARINA
- 5pm. - THREE WISE MEN GREAT PARADE

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WEEKDAYS SAN JUAN BOSCO 1 - ROTA
09:30-20:00 info@miguelrentacar.com



WEEKENDS
10:00-14:00