

NAS SIGONELLA AND NSA NAPLES PRESENTED SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD BY ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS (AIAS)

The prestigious Italian Award for Safety Excellence was presented by the Italian safety organization *Associazione Italiana Addetti Alla Sicurezza* (AIAS) to two United States Navy bases in Italy. AIAS is an independent, private institute and represents the only organized safety and health association in Italy. AIAS is the certifying body and regional authority for all safety issues in Italy. AIAS consists of 20 regional divisions with 30 scientific working groups, including the Armed Forces Committee. AIAS also partners with other professional organizations that represent European occupational safety, industrial hygiene, and fire protection specialists.

AIAS president, Dr. Giancarlo Bianchi, presented the award to Captain Ken Bitar, Executive Officer of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella and to Captain David Frederick, Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples. Their commands were honored for successfully integrating the U.S. Navy's *Process Review and Measurement System* (PR&MS)



At NSA Naples, confined spaces are certified free of harmful gases before entry.

Italian occupational safety and health program requirements.

In her letter of commendation, Ms. DeWitte stated, "The degree of professionalism and the drive to excel on the part of your safety staff, and the cooperation between them and their Italian counterparts is unsurpassed. These PR&MS initiatives, coupled with your ongoing improvements, further demonstrate that your safety programs are world class." [\[Read the letter\]](#)



Dr. Giancarlo Bianchi presents AIAS Award for Safety Excellence to CAPT Ken Bitar, XO NAS Sigonella.

requirements with the legal requirements of Italian Legislative Decree 626.

The AIAS award marked the first time that the U.S. Navy had won a safety award from a foreign Professional Safety Association. Ms. Connie DeWitte, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety, praised the NAS Sigonella and NSA Naples teams of safety professionals, Italian civilian employees, American civilian workers, and military who partnered with line managers to successfully integrate U. S. Navy and

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) Branch sponsored the development of PR&MS in 1998 to promote consistent risk management decisions to protect Navy workers and property. The PR&MS protects workers and avoids property losses by defining key NAVOSH processes that improve Navy Readiness and reduce the expenses of lost productivity and damage to property and equipment. The PR&MS also enables the Navy to measure its success in protecting sailors and civilian employees from occupational injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and fatalities.



Use of pressurized hand spray tools at NAS Sigonella requires proper ventilation and eye, face, skin, and hearing protection.

Italian Legislative Decree 626 stipulates minimum requirements for safety management systems in all places of employment throughout Italy, including U. S. military bases. Safety managers at the U.S. Navy, Army, and Air Force bases in Italy faced the seemingly overwhelming task of organizing a safety program that incorporated the requirements of Italian law with U. S. military and regulatory agency standards. The safety, occupational health, environmental, and legal departments at U. S. military bases in Italy and their leaders collaborated to meet both Italian and American requirements.



Safety requirements for metalworking at NAS Sigonella include eye and face protection.

The Naval Air Station Sigonella Safety Department was the first to identify similarities between the Italian law and the PR&MS and the first to consolidate the two management systems under one heading; The Accident and Injury Prevention Plan. NSA Naples partnered with NAS Sigonella to apply the combined program and incorporate innovations based on host nation and U.S. legislation. These efforts were noted by officials representing the AIAS and merits of

the plan were highlighted at the award ceremony. Dr. Bianchi stated, “The accident prevention plan is an advanced safety management tool that minimizes compliance efforts and enhances prevention and protection initiatives.”

A forum to discuss the similarities between the PR&MS and the Italian safety laws was organized by Commander Naval Forces Europe (CNE) and held in Naples in November 2000. Safety directors and local national specialists from Naval bases throughout Italy attended. A team effort among the bases ensued, and additional meetings were held to discuss progress and methods of integrating PR&MS and Italian Legislative Decree 626. It was clear that the new Italian

legislation and PR&MS both focused on safety processes rather on regulatory compliance. This method provides a more modernistic, proactive approach to safety and is preventative in nature versus reactive. There were additional concerns such as obtaining Italian credentials for Italian Occupational Health



Filling gasoline tanks at NAS Sigonella requires hazardous material handling safety precautions.

physicians employed by the U. S. government and designation of the American officials who were specifically responsible for the safety of military and civilian workers on U. S. military bases in Italy.

CNE placed a high priority on compliance with local laws and worked with safety managers from NAS Sigonella and NSA Naples to train Navy managers and worker representatives and their Italian work force. They took the lead in sending Italian civilian safety specialists to

training on understanding and implementing Italian Law 626. The Italian safety specialists educated their U.S. Navy civilian and military counterparts at NAS Sigonella and NSA Naples who worked diligently to master Italian Law 626 requirements and responsibilities and to incorporate them into their respective PR&MS programs. The NAS Sigonella and NSA Naples safety specialists also received assistance from Colonel Paolo Grassi of the Italian Air Force. Colonel Grassi served as the consultant for the U.S Navy and liaison with the AIAS on matters pertaining to Italian Law 626.

The U. S. Army and Air Force adapted the Navy's plan, after which the three services formed an inter-agency working group to integrate U. S. and Italian workplace safety requirements on all U. S. military bases in Italy. Mr. Nino Russo, NAS Sigonella, who first recognized the significance of Italian Law 626 on U. S. government entities in Italy, also briefed the U.S. Embassy, Department of Defense, the Naval Oversight Inspection Unit /Inspector General, and other U. S. military organizations that conduct business in Italy.

Subsequent to the successful integration of PR&MS and Italian Law 626, Colonel Grassi nominated NAS Sigonella and NSA Naples for the AIAS Award for Safety Excellence. In addition to earning the most prestigious safety award in Italy and recognition by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety, this award gave the NAS Sigonella & NSA Naples safety teams an opportunity to work hand in hand with Italian safety experts to promote the U. S. Navy's global endeavor to protect our most valuable resource, our people.

Point of Contact: Mr. Jim Walter, CNE/CNRE Safety and Fire Program Manager
Telephone: DSN: 44-207-514-4742
Email: cnen46ps@navetur.navy.mil



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

23 September 2002

SUBJ: DASN (Safety) Comments for Italian Safety Conference regarding Italian Award for Safety Excellence presented to NAS Sigonella and NSA Naples on 26 September 2002:

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Captain Tim Davison, the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella and Captain David Frederick, the Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, for winning the Italian Award for Safety Excellence, presented by the Italian safety organization Associazione Italiana Addetti Alla Sicurezza. This is a direct result of your diligent efforts to apply and integrate the U.S. Navy's Process Review and Measurement System (PR&MS) with Italian Legislative Decree 626. For the second time this year since June, I am proud to provide special recognition to the NAS Sigonella safety team who first identified the similarities between Italian legislative Decree 626 and the PR&MS process. With NSA Naples's aggressive application of this integration, as well as implementing changes of their own, safety on the U.S. Navy bases in Italy has vastly improved. Winning this prestigious award is a first for any U.S. Navy activity by a Host Nation organization overseas, and demonstrates the superb effort from your safety professionals, local nationals, American civilians and military who teamed with your line managers to successfully integrate this process with Italian legislative Decree 626.

The degree of professionalism and the drive to excel on the part of your safety staff, and the cooperation between them and their Italian counterparts is unsurpassed. These PR&MS initiatives, coupled with your ongoing improvements further demonstrate that your safety programs are world class. The value I place on your efforts to keep NAS Sigonella and NSA Naples safe for all Navy employees is immeasurable, and I am extremely proud to personally congratulate the U.S. Navy safety teams in Italy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie K. DeWitte".

Connie K. DeWitte
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Safety)