

NAS Sigonella Named Energy Biggest Loser in Navy Region EURAFSWA Competition

Second Annual Competition Pits Bases in Energy Reduction Battle

NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS)

Sigonella won top prize at the 2015 Energy Biggest Loser (EBL) competition hosted by Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (EURAFSWA).

Competing installations in the region were challenged to reduce their energy consumption for the month of July 2015 in the EBL competition. While each installation rivaled another

also award cash prizes of \$50,000 and \$30,000 respectively.

Overall, the goal of the EBL competition is to reduce energy regionally by five percent. The region exceeded that goal by achieving a 5.6 percent reduction, which corresponds to nearly a quarter of a million dollars—easily recouping the prize money awarded.

“Base Energy Monitors, Public Affairs Officers (PAO), Public Works Officers, and Installation Commanding Officers all used a variety of communication vehicles to get the word out about the competition, share tips on what each member of the installation could do to contribute, and educate members about hidden energy waste,” PAO

NAS Sigonella recorded the largest reduction to win the competition and prize money of \$70,000 towards base improvements.

for victory, actual reductions were compared to each base’s own energy consumption baseline (from the same period last year). NAS Sigonella recorded the largest reduction—11.6 percent for the month—to win the competition and prize money of \$70,000 towards base improvements. Last year’s inaugural winner, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain logged an 8.3 percent reduction to earn second place while third place finisher, NSA Souda Bay trimmed energy consumption by 7.5 percent. Second and third place “losers” were

Six EURAFSWA bases participated in the 2015 competition:

1. NSA Bahrain, Bahrain
2. Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti
3. NSA Naples, Italy
4. Naval Station Rota, Spain
5. NAS Sigonella, Sicily, Italy
6. NSA Souda Bay, Crete, Greece

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Deveselu, Romania did not compete in the 2015 EBL competition but did join in the awareness campaign.

Cam Betz of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) EURAFSWA explained.

The region also sponsored a poster and video contest to encourage wide participation among base personnel. NSA Bahrain won the poster contest and the region selected Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti as the winner of the one-minute video competition. (You can view this video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zr4Oy7W1Eso>.) EURAFSWA and its commands shared energy saving tips throughout



Navy Region EURAFSWA's 2015 EBL competition included seals for each participating command.



Konstantinos Kavis is the Installation Energy Manager at NSA Souda Bay and the "founder" of Navy Region EURAFSWA's EBL competition.

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—Konstantinos Kavis

July on their individual social media accounts to follow on base. Tips ranged from closing blinds, disconnecting unused electronics, and operating washing machines and dishwashers with full loads.

The region calculated the individual energy consumption by using a remote, real-time Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. Results were tabulated weekly via the AMI system and posted on EURAFSWA's social media channels so competing bases could gauge their progress and rank throughout the competition.

This "smart" meter system provided an ideal method to quantify each installation's usage and create an energy profile and baseline per consumer. The AMI system served as the inspiration for the competition upon its installation in January 2014. Konstantinos Kavis, Installation Energy Manager at Public Works Department Souda Bay recognized the utility of this system and decided to put the idea into practice by creating a competition focused on trimming energy usage among the region's bases. He noted that providing such data raised awareness that translated into a 12 to 15 percent energy savings.

The Association of Energy Engineers recently named Kavis as the 2015 Western Europe Region Energy Manager of the Year due to his contributions in the region and Souda Bay. Kavis explained his motivation for creating the competition. "The intent of the competition was to develop an energy awareness culture and change the way users think about energy consumption," he explained. "This competency-based approach on energy conservation involves teaching people how to adjust their daily behavior to reduce their energy usage and make them contributors to the Navy's overall energy program."

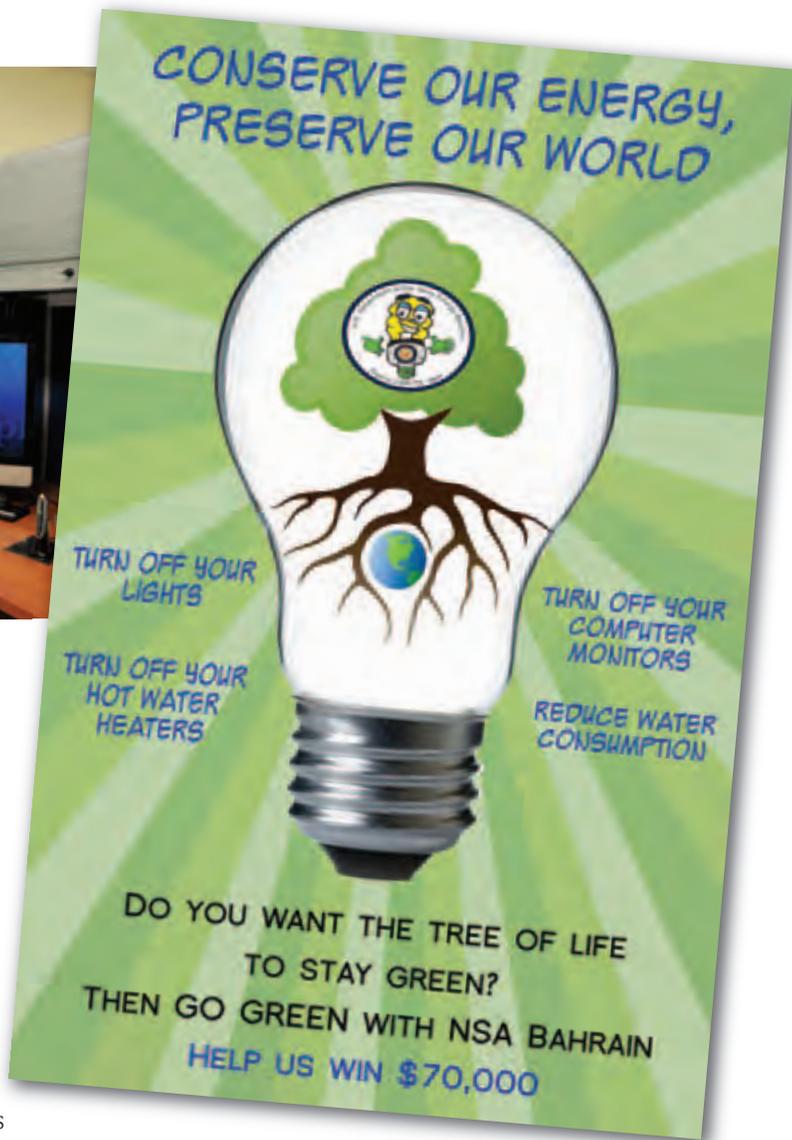
EURAFSWA Commander, Rear Admiral John Scorby released a video kicking off the competition stressing the importance of conserving energy, citing energy costs as the largest expenditure for shore facilities. (You can view



Navy Brite served as the mascot for the EBL competition to remind personnel to enforce energy saving practices such as turning off monitors and unplugging electronics.

this video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvgawd4POJ4>.) “Currently, energy constitutes nearly 30 percent of the Navy’s budget per shore installations. Through friendly competition, we can find ways to reduce that consumption, improve our mission effectiveness, and enable investments in alternative energy sources that reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.” At the conclusion of the competition, Rear Admiral Scorby congratulated NAS Sigonella and stated, “We raised awareness through a variety of media outlets including some extremely creative videos and posters. With your leadership, energy is at the forefront of our community’s minds.”

NAS Sigonella attributes their win to a combination of teamwork and cooperation. “We have an incredibly tight-knit community who care for one another and the resources we’ve been gifted with,” Sigonella Installation Energy Manager Antonio Piluso explained. “When I say it was a community effort that helped us save big and win, I really mean it. In addition to the leadership provided by Capt. Christopher Dennis and Cdr. Deanna Carpenter, special acknowledgement goes to our leaders from Public Works, Public Affairs, Air Forces Network (AFN), and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, all of whom put forth a lot of effort to advertise and create community awareness for this competition. It took the entire community to pull off the win,” Piluso acknowledged.



NSA Bahrain won the poster contest associated with Navy Region EURAFSWA’s 2015 EBL competition.

Sigonella’s Commanding Officer Capt. Christopher Dennis helped instill this energy culture at the installation from the start of his leadership in 2013. Previously, Capt. Dennis served as a Strategy and Policy military professor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI. There, he founded the college’s energy security course. He was instrumental in drumming up support for the competition through three AFN radio addresses providing energy tips to apply throughout the month. In an address, Capt. Dennis congratulated his command and extended his gratitude in stating, “Thank you again for your commitment to Sigonella citizenship and our responsibility to be better stewards of our resources while rejecting wastefulness. Your efforts really made the difference.”

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—Rear Admiral John Scorby



Rear Admiral Jack Scorby (right) presents the EBL award for 2015 to the commanding officer of NAS Sigonella Capt. Christopher J. Dennis. The awards were presented at the CNREURAFSWA Executive Steering Committee held at NSA Naples, Italy. For the last two years during the month of July, EBL pitted each installation in the region to see who could reduce energy consumption the most.

Tim McGough



Rear Admiral Jack Scorby (right) presents the EBL award for 2014 to the commanding officer of NSA Bahrain Capt. Cory R. Howes.

Tim McGough

While the prize money created an incentive to curtail energy usage, the intent of the competition was to instill behavioral changes throughout the year.

Daniel Lougen, NAVFAC EURAFSWA Regional Energy Manager explained, “The hype of the event certainly spiked energy conservation for the month of July. But as people hear of the importance of saving energy and are provided with methods to achieve these savings, they will become permanent habits.”

Capt. Dennis is already soliciting ideas from the community for how to best utilize the prize money.

The competition has attracted the attention of other naval commands that seek creative ways to reduce consumption and involve base personnel. Modeled after the EURAFSWA event, Naval District Washington hosted their own EBL competition for the month of November 2015 directly following Energy Action Month. [📍](#)

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