



Region EURAFSWA Selects Sailor of the Year

Story by Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia

NAPLES, Italy—Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (CNREURAFSWA) selected Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW/AW) Johnny Ortiz as its 2009 Sailor of the Year during a ceremony at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Italy, Jan. 29.

“I feel blessed,” said Ortiz. “It is an honor and a privilege to not only representing NAS Sigonella but also the region as the Sailor of the Year.”

Ortiz, who is currently the operations department leading petty office of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella, Sicily, beat out four other Sailors from throughout the European, African and Southwest Asian regions to earn this award.

Chief Master-at-Arms Juan Cardona said his leadership, guiding and mentoring of his peers and junior Sailors are what make him an exceptional Sailor.

“MA1 Ortiz's work ethics, leadership and personal and professional development made him very competitive for the Sailor of the Year program,” said Cardona, Ortiz's leading chief petty officer.

Ortiz feels his ability to work and lead with a ‘team first’ attitude is what helped him reach this achievement.

“It's important to realize that every challenge I have faced has been a team effort,” said Ortiz. “Without the cohesiveness and comradery of the team we could have never completed our goals and the mission successfully and I would have not been successful here.”

Ortiz added that Sailors should also better understand what sailorization and leadership mean to them as well as believe in the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment if they would like to follow in his footsteps.

During the ceremony, Ortiz received a chief petty officer's cutlass and a gift certificate for the Navy Exchange. After the ceremony concluded, Ortiz told CNREURAFSWA Command Master Chief Robert L. White that his goal is to become a chief petty officer, but he “also as aspirations of someday being selected to the security limited duty officer program.”

Cardona said he feels that Ortiz will be strong competition for anyone contending for the Naval Shore Activities' Sailor of the Year.

“MA1 is equally as competitive as the other outstanding Sailors nominated for the CNIC SOY,” said Cardona. “He is a proven performer and has displayed nothing but outstanding leadership.”

Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia is responsible for providing efficient and effective shore service support to U.S. and allied forces operating at our installations. For more information about Navy Region Europe, visit <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/europe>.

