

SIGONELLA OPENS COMPUTER ASSISTED TESTING SERVICE

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NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily - Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily (NASSIG), recently opened the Computer Assisted Testing Service (CATS) test center to help aviation and communications Sailors in the Mediterranean region gain certifications and licenses needed to further their careers.

CATS is located at the NASSIG Base Education and Training Department (BETD) and will use the department's Advanced Electronic Classroom (AEC) facilities to support individual testing for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Federal Communication Commission (FCC) certification and licensing programs.

Exams in areas such as recreational and private pilot licenses, flight engineer, parachute rigger, and airframes and power plants (A&P) will be offered.

“While still voluntary, this effort is directly in line with the goals of the Revolution in Navy Training. We're helping all Sailors get not only the tools, but the opportunities to excel in their careers in the Navy,” said Mike Sloane, the Naval Personnel Development Commands Mediterranean Region Regional Training Authority. “Licenses and certifications not only give Sailors a leg up while in the Navy, but those such as the A&P cert allow Sailors to go out into the civilian world and be more competitive for the best jobs.”

The idea for the CATS center stemmed from a desire to start a flying club at Sigonella by AM1 John Childers of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4). “[The CATS center] is just one of the building blocks because of the testing required by the FAA for a pilot licence,” he said.

“This has been a goal of mine for years; we can save our shipmates from not only the cost of having to drive or fly to another location here in Europe to test, but they can also save some money by making the exams available at domestic cost.”

Other non aviation courses such as Microsoft and FCC certifications will be offered at the CATS center as well. Personnel from other bases in the region will also be able to take advantage of the services provided by the facility, again saving Sailors both time and money.

For more information on such voluntary civilian certifications, visit Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil and click on your Learning Center.