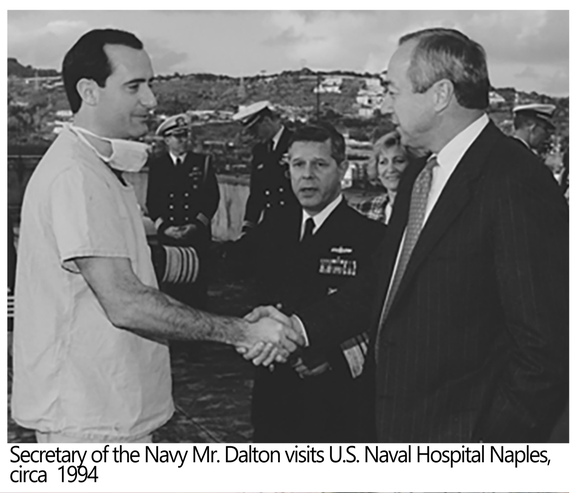
1990s

Command Colors, circa 1990

Change of Command for CAPT Ghiselli, circa 1993



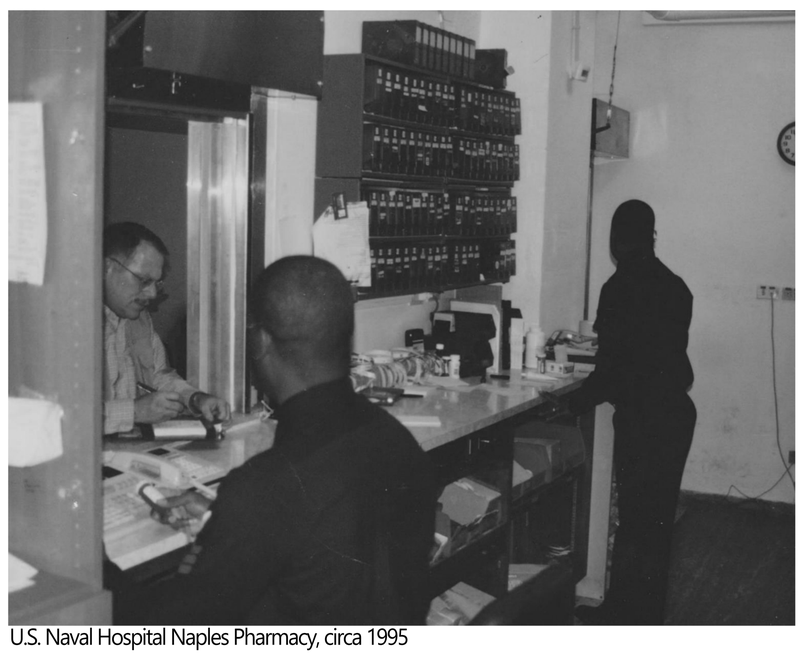
Secretary of the Navy Mr. Dalton visits U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, circa 1994

Commanding Officer CAPT Spier breaking ground for the Capoduchino Branch Clinic, circa 1999

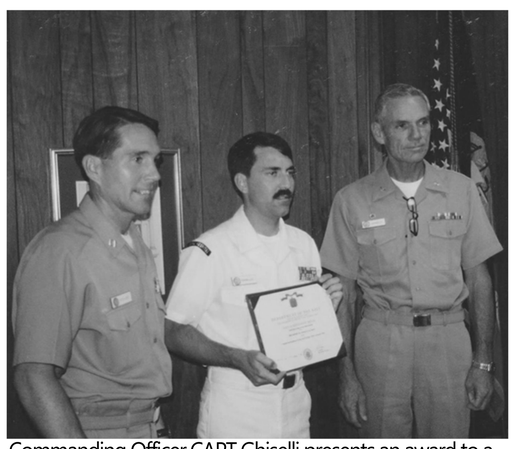
- In 1994, talks started of moving both the hospital and tenant commands out of Agnano to a surrounding area in Naples in order increase security and decrease costs; the supporting commands were located in the Agnano area near the hospital, however each command leased land on different properties with various landlords; with each lease renewal, the rent gradually increased for each property, which became financially unsustainable.
- In 1996, U.S. Naval Hospital Naples established itself as a "center of excellence" as a result of the Joint Commission on Accreditation in Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The hospital earned a 97% score according to JCAHO's standards, including infection control and ambulance operations.
- Congressmen, engineers, and base leadership explored various areas to establish a Support Site, including Triflisco in Caserta, near Capua. They eventually settled on Gricignano di Aversa in 1997.
- In the middle of the night of May 5, 1998 a mudslide occurred from Mount Sarno and Pizzo Alvano. This mudslide buried five towns and resulted in 161 deaths and many injuries.
- U.S. Naval Hospital Naples supported Canadian forces engaged in "Operation Sarno", a clean up assistance effort backed by the Canadian government. U.S. Naval Hospital Naples provided medical support to these forces; in addition, the hospital assisted in moving any injured Canadian forces to the Mediterranean Clinic, an Italian facility, and then to their home nation of Canada.

Staff meeting, circa 1990

Providing care for a patient, circa 1995

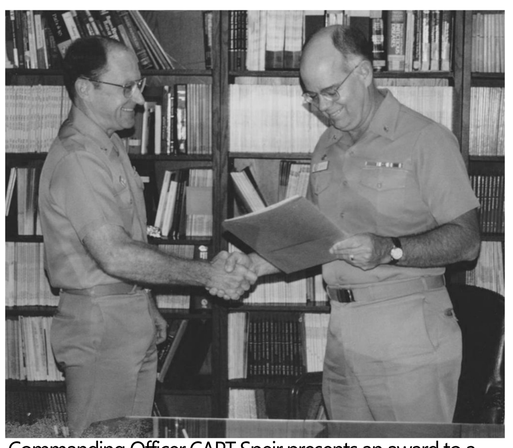


U.S. Naval Hospital Naples Pharmacy, circa 1995



Commanding Officer CAPT Ghiselli presents an award to a sailor, circa 1994

Commanding Officer CAPT Ghiselli shakes hand witha fellow officer, circa 1994



Commanding Officer CAPT Speir presents an award to a fellow officer, circa 1998

Italian Town Mourns Dead: Rescuers Keep Searching

By VANIA GRANDI
Associated Press Writer

SARNO, Italy (AP) — The hard mud in southern Italy yielded more landslide victims today, raising the death toll a day after thousands of mourners wept and prayed at a mass funeral for most of the dead.

Of the 135 bodies found so far — including 16 today — 113 were in Sarno, an agricultural town about 20 miles inland from Naples. Other victims were found in nearby towns.

Italians united today in a day of mourning.

Six days after torrential rains sent rivers of mud barreling down Mount Sarno, destroying everything in their path, rescue workers kept up their grim task: Digging through layer after layer of hardened mud and debris to search for the dozens still feared buried.

The death toll has tapped a geyser of anger.

Sarno residents have accused the mayor of failing to advise them to leave their homes when the mud slides began Tuesday. They blamed regional and national politicians for failing to stop the common practice — blamed mostly on organized crime — of illegally building homes in areas known to be at risk of slides.

"Why didn't our mayor warn us?" cried Maria Esposito, a 28-year-old mother of three who lost cousins and neighbors. "It wouldn't have mattered if we had lost our homes, but all this unnecessary loss of life makes me so angry."

Sarno's mayor today declared the town's tap water unfit to drink after it poured out cloudy from faucets. The ban on drinking water came on day were temperatures reached 79 degrees and dust from the sun-baked mud made the air choking.

Loaded on the back of army trucks, 83 flower-laden coffins moved in a funeral procession Sunday to and the outdoor soccer stadium where Sarno's bishop celebrated mass. Among them was the tiny white coffin of Sarno's youngest victim, just 3 months old.

Mourners wailed and clutched at the passing bodies of loved ones. The victims had to be buried in the town's newer cemetery because the old one lies under 13 feet of sludge.

Thirteen other victims were buried Sunday in ceremonies separate from the mass funeral.

Italian Premier Romano Prodi and President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro kept silent during the funeral service

But Prodi later pledged that the government would work "not only to help you recover from this tragedy but also to create work and guarantee a future for your youth."

Prodi was to meet later today with the president of the Campania region, where the tragedy occurred, to map out a plan to assist the families of the dead and the nearly 2,000 left homeless.

Unemployment runs higher than 20 percent in the region south of Naples.

Deafening applause went up when Bishop Giovanni Illiano recalled Sarno's "miracle" survivor, 22-year-old Roberto Robustelli, who held out for three days before rescuers found him buried in mud at the bottom of a well.

"Roberto was given back to us by God as a symbol of prayer and hope," the bishop said. "He lives because he wanted to live."

11 May 1998 edition *The Durant Daily Democrat* of Durant, Oklahoma, discusses the landslide in Sarno, Italy, outside Naples

U.S. Naval Hospital Naples Earns Solid National Accreditation

Story and photo by
JO1 Mark K. Hollis

U.S. Naval Hospital Naples has established itself as a "center of excellence" in the wake of a November 1995 inspection conducted by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), according to Capt. Charlene R. Johnston, director of nursing services at the hospital.

"The number of phone calls I answer from Rota and Sigonella asking for assistance or advice has increased exponentially since the inspection results came out," said Johnston. "But that's O.K. We're going to be here and we're going to continue to strive for excellence."

Naples' standard of healthcare excellence solidified itself in a 97 percent score on the JCAHO's close scrutiny of environmental safety, infection control, hazardous waste disposal, ambulance operations and other critical services and processes. The national average for DoD hospitals is between 91 and 92 percent.

"I was confident we would pass," said Capt. Robert G. Ghiselli, U.S. Naval Hospital Naples commanding officer. "But I was surprised at how well we did." Ghiselli's shock should come as no surprise in light of the 11 pages of recommendations that the last JCAHO inspection produced in November 1992. The majority of these discrepancies pinpointed life and fire safety deficiencies inherent in the hospital's structure.

The hospital building meets local safety standards, but not the more stringent statewide criteria used by JCAHO. "The Navy made the decision to upgrade the building from a safety standpoint," Ghiselli explained. Nearly two million dollars were invested in renovation of the wards, brand new generators, a fire alarm, and a fire sprinkler system. An upgraded potable water reservoir system is being installed.

Nonetheless, Ghiselli credits his staff's "can do" teamwork for the hospital's solid seal of approval. "This was a team effort," he said. "We used a multi-disciplinary TQL approach to utilize the best ideas from all sources. Above and beyond improvements to the facilities and structure, the staff deserves enormous credit for innovative approaches in patient care, process management and solid organizational skills.

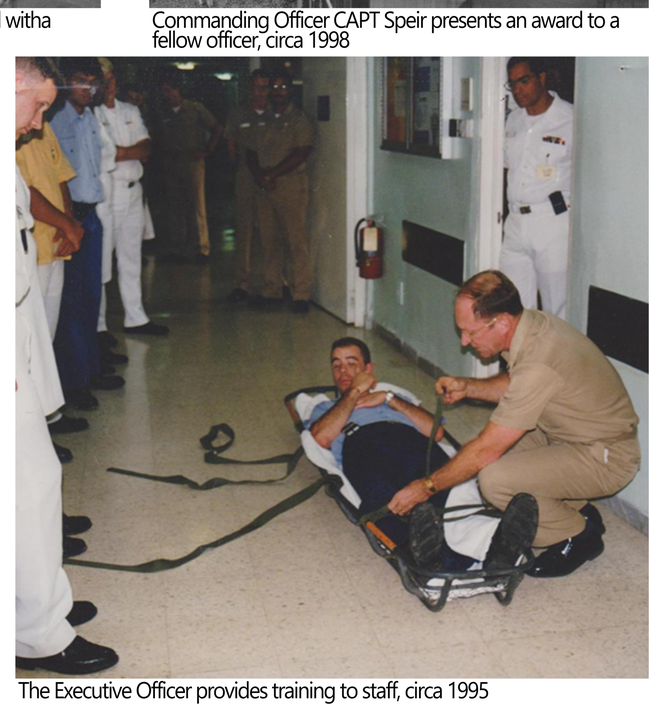
One example of ingenuity that really got noticed was a proactive infant safety plan called "Code Pink." Code Pink, developed by ward nurses to prevent infant abduction, has been recognized by the surgeon general as a benchmark program and model for all DoD hospitals.

Ghiselli's personal yard sign of excellence is the Patient Satisfaction Survey. The hospital has chartered a same-day surgery QMB to look at ways of streamlining the same-day surgery check-in process based upon suggestions voiced in Patient Satisfaction Surveys.

"We continue to emphasize compassionate, patient-focused care," Ghiselli said. "People can accept the fact that we can't offer certain services locally and medical evacuations are sometimes necessary, but they will never have to settle for less than the best of what we do offer."

Capt. Robert G. Ghiselli, Naval Hospital Naples commanding officer

23 February 1996 edition of the *Panorama* highlights the acheivements of U.S. Naval Hospital Naples



The Executive Officer provides training to staff, circa 1995

Commanding Officer CAPT Ghiselli at U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, circa 1995

Commanding Officer CAPT Ghiselli in the command suite, circa 1995

Laboratory technician hard at work, circa 1995

Local National Staff, October 1993