

NAVAL AIR STATION, SIGONELLA, ITALY PROMOTES MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Motor vehicle safety is a priority for the Navy in and around U. S. Naval Air Station, Sigonella (NASSIG) Italy. A command initiative was implemented in 1999 to promote motor vehicle safety at NASSIG. The



NASSIG Autoport mechanic performing safety inspection

program is an element of the Allied Forces Italy (AFI) commitment to ensure that automobiles that belong to United States military and Department of Defense civilians at NASSIG pass a safety inspection to ensure their road worthiness before they are licensed to be driven in Italy. A certified mechanic at the military base's Autoport inspects each automobile before issuing or renewing an AFI license plate. Each motor

vehicle must meet AFI inspection standards before an AFI license plate is issued, and the vehicle must pass an annual inspection to have the license plate renewed.

Privately owned automobiles must be inspected at the NASSIG Autoport before Department of Defense military or civilian employees at NASSIG can obtain AFI license plates or base passes for their vehicles. The NASSIG



NASSIG employee checks in at Autoport for vehicle inspection

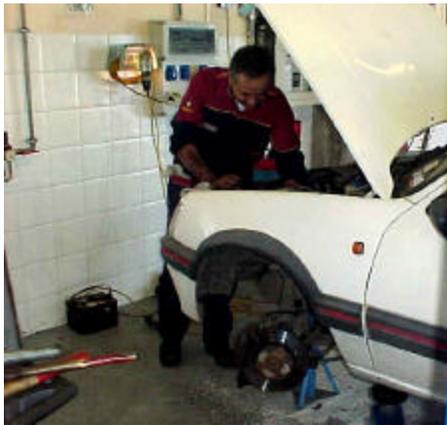


NASSIG Autoport mechanics, trained to Italian standards, use a safety checklist during vehicle inspections

Autoport is a full-service gas station and garage that is located on the military base. Its automotive mechanics are trained and certified to Italian standards. The mechanics use a checklist to ensure that all vehicles that belong to Americans on the base meet minimum acceptability standards based on criteria established by the Security and Safety Departments. The checklist is used during vehicle inspections to ensure that every vehicle has

adequately functioning safety equipment, including headlights, taillights, turn signals, and horn. The inspectors also use the checklist to identify damaged or defective brakes, worn tires, and damaged seat restraint systems, and to ensure that those defective items are repaired or replaced.

If a vehicle fails the Autoport inspection, its owner does not qualify for AFI license plates. An automobile that has failed the Autoport inspection may not be operated anywhere in



Autoport mechanic checks under hood during safety inspection

Italy. Cars that fail the AFI inspection may not be stored on

NASSIG property or sold off base. In addition, the U. S. and Italian Governments have signed an agreement stating that a vehicle entered into the AFI system can never be transferred to an Italian entity. Selling the car to another U. S. service member is not an option either. The owner of a vehicle that has failed the Autoport inspection must choose one of two options; have the vehicle repaired to meet AFI inspection criteria, or give the vehicle to the NASSIG Defense Reutilization and

Marketing Office for disposal as scrap. Most owners authorize the Autoport mechanics to repair deficiencies noted in the inspection process.

Once a vehicle passes inspection, its owner turns in the passed checklist for processing into the vehicle registration database. In addition to being able to operate their vehicles on Italian roads, owners of vehicles that pass inspection receive authorization to buy gasoline coupons on base. Only American automobile owners with AFI license plates are authorized to buy gasoline on a U. S. military base in Italy. The coupons allow the purchase of gasoline at a discounted rate.



Inspected items include brakes, tires, lights, turn signals, seat belts, and horns



Owners of vehicles that pass inspection are entitled to buy discounted gasoline coupons for use on base

Through proper automobile maintenance and repair, NASSIG is committed to protecting its military and civilian population and the host nation community in Italy from mishaps and injuries. The NASSIG Autoport vehicle inspection system ensures the safety of vehicles owned and operated by U.S. Navy and Marine Corps military and civilian personnel and their families in Italy.



**Thorough safety inspections
prevent mishaps and injuries**
