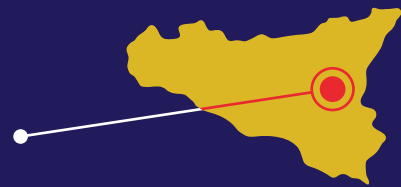


NAS



# Sigonella, Italy



**Q My family is coming later than me. Will I be assigned to military family housing before they arrive?**

**A** Yes. You may be assigned to a unit 60 days before your family's arrival. Please note that you must provide the Housing Service Center (HSC) with your family's flight itinerary. Also, contact your sponsor or request one to [sicilysponsor@eu.navy.mil](mailto:sicilysponsor@eu.navy.mil) to arrange a "Door-to-Door" assignment which allows a direct move to your new home immediately upon arrival. Thanks to this program, if you provide sponsors with a Power of Attorney, they can accept the offered unit on your behalf and arrange the delivery of your loaner furniture provided by housing so that you can move into your new home any time of the day or night upon arrival. Then, you shall report to housing within 48 hours of arrival to complete the check-in process. Please be reminded that linens are not provided, so it's essential to have them upon arrival or shipped to the sponsor in advance.

Please note that if you are collecting BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing) for your family in the States, you need to stop it to be assigned to a unit or wait until your family arrives. In such a case, you will be authorized to stay in TLA for the time being.

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**Q My family is coming earlier than me. Can they be assigned housing before I arrive?**

**A** Yes, if you have an Advance Travel of Dependents authorization. Your spouse must check in to the HSC upon their arrival with all the required documentation and valid power of attorney, allowing them to accept housing on your behalf. Also, contact your sponsor or request one to [sicilysponsor@eu.navy.mil](mailto:sicilysponsor@eu.navy.mil) to arrange a "Door-to-Door" assignment that allows your family to move to your new home immediately upon arrival. Thanks to this program, if you provide sponsors with a Power of Attorney, they can accept the offered unit on your behalf and arrange the delivery of your loaner furniture provided by Housing so that your family can move into your new home at any time of the day or night upon arrival. Then, your spouse shall report to Housing within 48 hours of arrival to complete the check-in process. Spouses need a power of attorney to act on behalf of the entitled service member. Please, be reminded that linens are not provided, so it's essential to have them upon arrival or shipped to the sponsor in advance.

If your family arrives without an approved Advance Travel of Dependents, they are not entitled to any housing or temporary lodging allowances. Also, they will not be eligible for housing referral services and furnishings support.



## **Q** What type of electrical service is used?

**A** All Italian electricity is 220 volts, 50HZ. Therefore, you will need a transformer to convert electricity for stateside appliances and adapters for Italian outlets, which are round-pronged. An important point to remember is that heat generated by a 60 Hz motor operating on 50 Hz can be a safety hazard.

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## **Q** What is housing like in the surrounding community?

**A** Italian buildings and homes are pretty different from the American ones. Do not expect to find skyscrapers or cottage houses like in the states. The houses are located in the Catania area and surroundings and can be apartments, duplexes, townhouses, or single villas. The size and the type depend on the location. In the town centers you will find more apartments in complexes or single buildings while if you go to the boroughs and countryside, villas are more common. All houses are made of concrete, so they need more ventilation to prevent condensation and mold. All our trusted landlords are required to meet the Italian law and CNIC standards to ensure safety, security, and comfort to our valued customers. When selecting a house, the size, distance to the base, and surroundings must be considered to prevent a wrong choice. A house too big requires more utilities, more maintenance, and more cleaning. Utilities are very expensive in Italy! Roads in Sicily are not well maintained, so commuting may wear your vehicles faster. There are no banned areas in Catania because the Housing office selects only houses located in safe environments. Nevertheless, like any other place in the world, you need to secure your house and cars and sign in for renters' insurance to cover unexpected expenses.

Once you sign a lease for an Italian home, you will find it hard to break. Italian law requires you to notify your landlord six months in advance to break the lease. The Housing counselors will assist in the process and any negotiation. A 15-day notice should be provided to the landlord only if the military clause applies. The contract is a binding, legal agreement between the landlord and the tenant. Housing is not part of it but acts as a facilitator and negotiator on behalf of the service members and cannot easily be revoked without serious justification. Tenants' responsibilities are the same as in other countries: paying the rent on time, paying the utility bills in time to avoid interruption of service, performing cleaning and minor maintenance, or reporting to the landlords for their actions. Our landlords are very proactive and understand that their tenants may not have a point of contact for plumbing, electrical, or other issues, so they are always ready to assist.



## **Q Do homes have central heat and air conditioning?**

**A** At least one (1) A/C unit and an independent heating system. Other amenities can be negotiated during the commitment appointment when all the lease terms are discussed and approved by both parties. Electricity and gas are very expensive in Italy, so A/C and heating must be used wisely to prevent high bills.

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## **Q If I have too much furniture, will the government store it for me?**

**A** NAS Sigonella does not have temporary or long-term storage available.

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## **Q Should I bring my own major appliances?**

**A** No, don't ship your appliances. The Housing Furnishings program provides major appliances (washer, dryer, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher) in government and economy housing. Also, transformers for other minor devices are loaned for the entire duration of the tour, together with furnishings items. A complete list of items that can be requested is available in the e-Welcome Aboard Package that can be requested before arrival via email at [NASSIG-HousingHelpDesk@eu.navy.mil](mailto:NASSIG-HousingHelpDesk@eu.navy.mil).

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## **Q How can I find housing in the community if I don't speak the language?**

**A** The HSC's counselors are bilingual and very knowledgeable. They are your main point of contact and will assist with the language barrier. They will serve as facilitator, negotiator, and translator. They will provide insight and knowledge of what's available in the community. The main resource to find a house is [www.homes.mil](http://www.homes.mil) for Sigonella. All the properties listed on the website have been previously inspected and approved by the housing counselors and are immediately available - even if the dates may not be updated in the system. You can provide your "wish list" of selected units and have one or more "showing tours" scheduled by the HSC with a housing counselor. There is no limit on the number of tours, and you can schedule as many as you want until you find your home. Our mission is to provide safe, affordable, and suitable houses to all customers, and to do so, we also partner with some approved real estate agencies that have proved to meet our requirements. All pertinent information is provided during the mandatory Economy Housing Brief that newly arrived customers have to attend as soon as they report to Sigonella.