

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SANTA ROSA NAVY COMPOUND AND THE CINCNAV BUILDING

The Santa Rosa Navy compound, with an extension of about 160 ha, was built in 1939 in order to host the Navy “Main Transmitting Radio Station”, that reached the Full Operational Capability during the 2nd World War but suddenly, because of its location and its features, it became one of the most important Navy bases in Italy.



As a matter of fact, from February 1943 until the Second World War Armistice, it hosted “the SUPERMARINA HQ” and during the period of Cold War the OHQ of the Italian Navy General Staff and the NATO Commander, Central Mediterranean Area (COMEDCENT), normally based in Naples, from 1954 to 1971.

The 1st of April 1971, upon the Italian Navy decision to move definitely COMEDCENT HQ from Naples to Santa Rosa, followed in 1972 by the Command in Chief of the Fleet (CINCNAV), the “Quartier Generale Marina” (QuartGenMarina) was officially established as single command to manage the base and provide the required support.



Today, the QuartGenMarina is one of the seven CINCNAV co-located subordinate Commands based in Santa Rosa. 144 personnel manned, commanded by a navy Captain, it provides the defense of the compound as well as the logistic, administrative and technical support to the Commander in Chief and the other entities of the base.

The Headquarters of the Italian Navy Fleet Command (CINCNAV) was formerly arranged in a complex of open-air and sheltered infrastructures as well as prefabricated buildings located in the lower part of S. Rosa district (Valletta area).

In July 1999, following the Italian Navy General Staff reorganization process, the High Command's responsibilities were considerably enhanced, improving the organizational structure, the number of personnel, and more powerful and new command support systems. According to the mission statement assigned to CINCNAV (*to prepare and permanently employ air-naval and amphibious forces, contributing to build up the Maritime Situational Awareness of the national interest's areas and to guarantee projection capability both on the sea and from the sea*), this reorganization centralized the duties relevant to operational activity management, training, efficiency control and war preparation of the Forces in CINCNAV.

It was then clear the need for an infrastructural development plan of the area aimed at achieving a deep upgrading and extension of the pre-existing structures which were no longer able to meet the High Command's general requirements in terms of spaces, functionality and working environment quality.

At the end of the 90s, the idea to create a new open-air structure was put forward. Therefore, the new Italian Navy Operational Headquarters was set up, hosting the European Maritime Component Command Ashore (EU MCC Ashore) as well. The laying of the foundation stone of the new building took place on September the 28th, 2006.

The new building consists of an above ground four-storey main body and a triangular construction followed by a three-storey semi-circular avant-corps. The main body is subdivided as follows to host:

- on the ground floor, the Navy Surveillance Centre, the System for Integrated Interagency Maritime Surveillance (SIIMS) room, the Virtual-Regional Maritime Traffic Centre (V-RMTC) room and the main meeting room (VTC);
- on the first floor, the Maritime Operational Centre (MOC) and the Maritime Component Command Operational Centre, for the management of any maritime operations under the European Union;
- on the second floor, the decision-making room and the Command areas;
- on the third floor, the area designated for the European Maritime Component Command Ashore offices.

Staff offices are in the remaining areas, in particular in the northern wing of the structure.