

Bavarian News

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U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

July 2, 2008



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Commanders announce clinical changes sparked by Town Hall

by ANNE M. TORPHY
BMEDDAC PAO

Medical commanders from the Europe Regional Medical Command, including Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher, ERMC commander; U.S. Medical Activity Bavaria; the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr Health Clinics; Brig. Gen. David R. Hogg, commander, Joint Multinational Training Command; Brig. Gen. Stephen R. Lanza, deputy chief of staff, G-3, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany; and other senior leaders within the community listened and responded to questions from family members during a medical town hall held June 6 at the Vilseck Theater on Rose Barracks.

Issues included:

TRICARE Process

Family members expressed frustration with the TRICARE process.

The referral process itself can be time-consuming, with patients making an appointment to see TRICARE approximately nine days after the initial request for referral from the Vilseck Health Clinic. During that appointment, TRICARE schedules an appointment for the patient to see a German physician.

Col. Theresa M. Schneider, BMEDDAC commander, commented on the current appointment method.

"The process just doesn't make sense right now. Col. (Alfonso) Alarcon and I are looking to fix the problem so that it aligns with common sense. You shouldn't have to make an appointment to make an appointment," Schneider said.

Alarcon, U.S. Army Health Clinic Vilseck commander, added that the TRICARE referral process was evaluated by a managed care consultant to see if the "hassle factor" for the patient could be

decreased.

As a result, walk-in appointments for referrals will begin this month.

Vilseck Health Clinic Appointments

In the past, calling to get an appointment had been difficult, with long wait times and busy signals.

Alarcon said that the phone system's technical problem was recently fixed but that current wait times may be long during high volume calling periods.

An answer is on the horizon: Alarcon said that two more receptionists will be hired to make appointments in addition to the two already on staff, which should provide more people to answer the phones and alleviate the wait time.

Staffing of Health Clinics

The Vilseck Health Clinic currently has four and
See CHANGES Page 24



Photo by Ray Johnson

CAMP A.R.M.Y. CHALLENGE

Eighth-grader Alison Pallone, of Grafenwoehr, Germany, crosses a cable bridge during the outdoor adventure part of Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge's sports and fitness camp held at Bitburg, Germany, June 16-21. Camp A.R.M.Y. is geared toward the children of deployed servicemembers.

Schweinfurt unit takes on AER

by MARK HEETER
USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt collected \$58,431 during the Army Emergency Relief campaign that ended May 15. The USAG Heidelberg was the only community in Europe that topped Schweinfurt, according to Tony Davis, AER coordinator at the Army Community Service.

"The secret to our success was getting the word out to the commanders and their participation in letting the Soldiers know about the AER," Davis said. "It's their money. It benefits them."

While most units in Schweinfurt participated heavily in the program, which turns donations into loans and grants for Soldiers in need, Davis cited one unit as a shining example of the "Army taking care of its own."

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, raised \$10,400 through 100 percent participation, a rarity in which every Soldier in the company contributed to the AER.

"Some of my Soldiers have used AER, and most of them know someone who has used it for one reason or another. They like to think there is a support mechanism if they should run into unforeseen problems in their lives," said Capt. Bradley Kinser, HHC, 2-1 IN commander.

The key to the company's success was the careful selection of its AER coordinator, a choice that

See SCHWEINFURT Page 24

Graf preparations continue for 172nd influx

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr is preparing for an influx of troops as Schweinfurt's 172nd Infantry Division moves to the area. Garrison officials said more than 50 percent of the two battalions expected have already arrived.

USAG Grafenwoehr Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios said the troops, and their attached family members, have been moving to the Grafenwoehr community in phases, allowing services to adjust to the rising population number.

Berrios said staggering the moves has also allowed housing to fulfill the demand of homes by incoming families.

With more than 3,000 leased and government-owned units, Berrios said the garrison is prepared to accommodate the Soldiers and their dependents. "Everyone that is authorized to bring family to this location will have a house... the garrison, and our staff, will do everything in our power to accommodate every single family," he said.

Construction on the west side of Netzaberg, the planned community next to Grafenwoehr main post with more than 800 homes, a child care center,

and two schools, Berrios added, is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Ninety percent of homes in the 12-neighborhood community have already been filled or have been assigned to incoming families. The schools in the garrison, including the Netzaberg Elementary and Middle Schools, which will open to students in August, are 60 percent full, Berrios said.

"Right now, all the kids will be taken care of. We ask the community to be proactive and enroll their kids now... the sooner you register the better idea
See LOCAL Page 24

Hohenfels barracks receive unique wireless upgrade

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Soldiers living in the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment barracks in Hohenfels feel cut off. It's a long walk to the commissary.

On a cold or rainy day, the Warrior Hill shoppette doesn't seem close either. For most, the closest internet access is across post at the bowling alley or library. Calling home with a phone card is expensive. Soon, all that will change.

Construction is already underway to wire the barracks so every room will have access to wireless internet. Officials said they hope to have service up

and working sometime next week.

Hohenfels is one of the first garrisons in all of Europe to provide wireless internet service in the barracks, according to Booker Paige, operations manager for the Army Recreation Machine Program in Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr, and Garmisch.

The project is part of an Army-wide initiative to provide unofficial internet services where they are not currently available.

"It's a great program for Soldiers because they can carry the service with them," said Paige.

Any access that a Soldier purchases, for example a monthly plan, can be used anywhere there is service.

If a Soldier living in Hohenfels pays for a month of connection, then has a permanent change of station to Ft. Benning, Ga., his service will travel with him.

"Guys will be very excited about this," said Pvt. Chad Hill, who currently has to walk to the bowling alley to get online. "It's a better way to communicate with family; it makes you feel more at home."

Spc. Richard Haggerty said he is able to get a dial up connection from his room, though it costs him 60 euro a month.

Once the wireless is set up, Soldiers will be able

See WIRELESS Page 24

Q&A

Who do you think will **win** the European soccer **championship**?



Matthias Schmitt
(Ansbach)
"I think Italy will win because they had a great game yesterday -- they have good players."



Daniel Brush
(Ansbach)
"Portugal, because they have a strong squad."



Mandy Knight-Gerhart
(Ansbach)
"The Netherlands, because they are one of the top favorites and they are very good players."



Leo Zwicknplug
(Ansbach)
"Portugal, because they are the best players."



Chap. (Lt. Col.) Mike Yarman
(Ansbach)
"Germany, you have to support your home team, right?"



Charles Grandison
(Ansbach)
"If Germany does not win I'll be in the dog house. They have a good chance."



Don Ewoniuk
(Ansbach)
"Holland, if you watch the game you can see how they play, they're really fast runners, they have good ball control, and the main thing is they have good team work."



Will Godard
(Ansbach)
"The Netherlands. My No. 2 pick: Turkey, because they know how to rough the other team up and find ways to score!"

Army working to dispell stigma of receiving mental assistance

Mental Health Assistance

The signature "wound" for the Global War on Terrorism was recently described in a weekly periodical as traumatic brain injury.

Most of us have gone through required training and TBI was described to us as a concussion or series of concussions many times caused by exposure to improvised explosive devices or blasts.

We needed to be alert to the signs of TBI among ourselves and co-workers and encourage our co-worker to seek treatment if needed. As expected, however, we have stubborn Soldiers and many do not seek the required treatment because it may affect their career and advancement.

In order to combat this belief, the Army recently changed the application form for security clearances (SF-86). Question 21 now specifically excludes commenting on counseling related to marital, family, or grief issues and counseling for adjustments from service in a military combat environment.

This is positive news and will help take away the stigma from Soldiers and will encourage them to seek needed help. Now it is up to all of us: Army, civilians, and family members.

Know the signs and be sensitive to people's feelings, but strongly encourage getting mental help assistance as required.

Traffic Circle

The Grafenwoehr side of the community

has finally arrived as it has a traffic circle. Located next to the shoppette, it has been in use for more than six months.

We strongly believe it is a better means of traffic control than a series of traffic lights that cause long lines.

But, we need to once again review the rules of traffic circle use and signs.

Every entrance into the traffic circle has a yield sign. That means you yield to traffic in the circle -- not speed up as you approach to race ahead of on-coming cars.

In Germany, you don't use your traffic blinker until you are ready to depart the circle—but you have to use it.

Nothing drives users crazier than waiting for a car to come around the circle, only to have it exit prior to your location without using its indicator lights.

Again, we strongly believe traffic circles are the way to manage traffic but everyone has to use the circle correctly and respect the other drivers in and around you.

Don't speed up as you approach the circle, yield, and use your blinker as you depart.

Private Property and Respect

Most of the community understands that we manage three different types of homes-- on post, built to lease, and private rental--and that different rules apply as to repair and maintenance of the homes.

Built to lease homes are homes we rent for you on German territory and the rules that govern conduct in and around those homes are also subject to the rules of the town administering that area.

While I am using Netzaberg as an example, the same rules apply at other built to lease and private rental areas.



*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Military wives debate food protocol



Tanya Blank

One thing I've learned as a military wife, we ladies can eat. Or in military jargon, we can put away the chow.

We dig in at potlucks, buffets, sit-down dinners, picnics, meetings, play groups, barbecues, luncheons, and fundraisers. You name it and we've got a fork ready.

Which brings me to my dilemma: food protocol.

For example, if you stuff your face with Cheetos at the FRG meeting, do you then shake the extended hand of Command Sgt. Maj. So-and-So, knowing full well you will transfer orange film onto his palm?

Or do you choke down your Cheetos with orange soda, fumble for a napkin and mumble on and on about how Wet Wipes and Cheetos need to be marketed together and if they were, you wouldn't be in this predicament and you would be able to perform a simple greeting custom that dates back to ancient civilization?

Food, glorious food, brings us together in times of celebration and sorrow. In a country with a 24-hour cable channel dedicated to food (The Food Network) and festivals celebrating everything from the butterbean to the jalapeno, is it any wonder military gals love to nosh?

But in the food decorum department I've had more misfires than the World War II Tommy gun. Food can be a great conversation starter at parties. Unless I'm the one starting the conversation.

Me: "Holy Moly, that's good guacamole!"

Woman #1: "I don't eat green foods."

Me: "Wow! This is yummy chicken salad!"

Woman #2: "Uh, that's actually tuna salad."

Me: "Mmmmm... This lamb is delish!"

Woman #3: "That lamb had a mother."

Me: "These crackers are to die for!"

Woman #4: "They're Ritz, you idiot."

At this point I usually move on to the spiked punch.

My mother, also a military wife, had her own egad- meal-moment (must run in the family) many years ago at Fort Knox, Ky. It went like this:

Mom: "This is delicious, I must have the recipe!"

Snobby Lady with Attitude: "I...DO NOT...share...recipes."

Which brings up a good food protocol point: to share or not to share?

I posed that question to Lisa "Hungry Girl" Lillien, author of the recently-released "Hungry Girl" recipe book (www.hungry-girl.com).

Lisa is a Weight Watchers columnist and appears regularly on Extra! and in People's Style Watch. Lisa isn't a nutritionist or a chef, she's just hungry.

That qualifies her to be an honorary military spouse.

Me: "Is it ever okay NOT to share a recipe?"

Hungry Girl: "No! I don't believe in that. I have heard stories about people giving out recipes and leaving out key ingredients, but I don't understand that at all."

Perhaps the one exception to the share rule should be my Army wife friend Amy, who has been accused of being stingy with her recipes.

"I have some very old family ones that I make, but do not share," she said. "And the one time I did, I found it in the battalion cookbook under that person's name!"

Recipe scandals aside, I love to collect those recipe books sold as unit fundraisers.

Where else will you find Airborne Honey Bun Cake, Semper Fi Lemon Bars, DMZ Colcannon Irish Mashed Potatoes, Air Assault Artichoke Dip, and Army Green Jell-O Salad?

Which got me thinking about renaming an old Army staple...

Me: "You have lots of great, fun names for your recipes. Would you ever eat something called S.O.S. (S*** On a Shingle)? It's the military's creamed beef on toast, which is served in the mess halls and in my house every Christmas morning. In today's military, S.O.S. is a politically incorrect name, but Creamed Beef on Toast just doesn't have the same oomph. Do you have any snazzy name suggestions I can send up the flag pole?"

Hungry Girl: "I'm not sure creamed beef is an HG-friendly meal, but I'd try it for sure. I don't think it's the BEST name. Other potential names: Creamy-Beefy Toast, Open-Faced Beefy Surprise, Ooey Goey Beef Toast, "Creamy Beefy Crisps. Hmm, not sure any of these work. Maybe your name is best after all."

I had one last question -- a confession, actually, for Hungry Girl.

Me: "I once totally forgot I had to bring a dish to my husband's commander's house, so I placed tortilla chips on a fancy plate and dumped an already opened jar (yikes, it was newly opened, but still...) of salsa into a bowl, sprinkled some shredded cheese on top and placed it in the center of the chips plate and off we went. Should I be praised for my quick thinking or placed under house arrest for the next potluck?"

Hungry Girl: "Well, that depends. Was that pre-opened salsa jar involved in any double-dipping violations BEFORE it was dumped on the chips? If so, house arrest it is! If not, all is good."

Me: (uncomfortable silence) "I think I'll go stuff my face with Cheetos."

Tanya is a journalist and syndicated columnist with CinChouse.com. Tanya's book "Army Wives" is the basis for the Lifetime TV drama "Army Wives." As a journalist she has traveled around the world with troops. Tanya is an Army brat and Army wife. She is a frequent guest speaker on military-related issues.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Retiree information board goes up at Grafenwoehr PX

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Retirees in need of accurate, up-to-date information need to look no further than the Grafenwoehr Main Exchange.

Last month, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, along with the garrison Retiree Council, erected a retiree information board posted on the outside Bldg. 700, between the Army and Air Force Exchange Services Post Exchange and the Commissary.

The bulletin board will provide contact information, volunteer opportunities, and a range of program information to the more than 100,000 retirees living in the garrison's footprint.

"We cover an area that goes down into Austria and part of the Czech Republic," said retired Master Sgt. John Currie, the council's retiree services officer.

Council President James Federline, a retired master sergeant, explained that with such a large area, and with many of the retirees unable to access the internet, the board is essential to keep retirees and their surviving spouses informed of their benefits and any changes made to them.

Retired Sgt. Maj. Dave Stewart, a retiree council member who drives roughly an hour to visit the Grafenwoehr Commissary, said the location is convenient and accessible by the many retirees that visit the shopping complex.

Much like the board, the retiree council serves the retirees by providing accurate information and assistance when needed.

"We're kind of like a big brother... someone that can help them if they need assistance," Stewart said.

Federline added that the council is "an



Grafenwoehr Retiree Council member Dave Stewart, a retired sergeant major, posts information on the retiree information board located outside the Grafenwoehr Main Exchange.

extension of the commander's arm to support retirees and survivors of retirees in the garrison footprint."

The council, Currie said, is also "an avenue to resolve problems."

For more information on the USAG Grafenwoehr Retiree Council or information posted on the retiree information board, contact the RSO at DSN 475-8539, CIV 0964-83-8539.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Jennifer Hansen

What grade and subject do you teach? Third Grade

Hometown: Anacoco, La.

How long have you been a teacher? Nine years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching? Seeing the growth of children from the beginning of the school year to the end of the school year.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed? Read, read, read. They can not do anything if they can not read.

Customs outlines rules to holding yard sales

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

It has been said that one man's trash is another man's treasure.

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr who would like to give others the opportunity to buy their treasures through yard and garage sales, however, must adhere to policy.

The installation policy, said Virgil Bauer, Vilseck community custom's chief, was designed

to adhere to host nation laws.

"Everything you brought into the country is tax and duty free," he said. "If you go outside and sell it, there is no tax assessment on it."

To adhere to German tax laws, U.S. citizens are prohibited from selling items to German citizens, to include yard sales at their off-post residence, and at local flea markets.

Individuals wanting to hold a yard or garage sale on post must submit a request to the garrison installation coordinator and attend a custom's briefing.

For more information contact your garrison installation coordinator office, in Grafenwoehr phone DSN 475-1500, CIV 09641-83-1500.

Installation Yard/Garage Sale Policy

- Requests for sales must be submitted no later than 10 days prior to date of sale

- Sales are limited to U.S. ID card holders only, and items sold at yard sales may not be goods purchased specifically for resale

- Personnel living in on-post family housing may conduct yard sales in front of or immediately adjoining their assigned quarters

- Families residing off post may not hold a sale at the assigned quarters, buy may arrange to hold a yard sale at a resident's on-post housing quarters

- No yard sales can be conducted on Sundays

- Publicity for the sale can be by flier or announcement in the garrison media

- Fliers or announcements can not be placed on trees, telephone poles, walls, doors, windshields, windows, or on quarters whether on or off post

GARRISON SNAPSHOTS



Courtesy photo

VIPs cut the ribbon on new CYS

The new Netzaberg Child and Youth Services opened June 16 with laid back ceremony.

The VIPs in this ceremony were the children who would be part of the CYS, and they held the honors of getting to cut the ribbon on their new facility.

The official ribbon cutting took place in April when the building was completed.



Sing it, Cowboy!

Country music star Brian Stace plays a concert June 23 at the Grafenwoehr Field House.

The show, complete with two-stepping by the front man himself with audience members and line dancing, was a family-friendly event hosted by MWR.

Photo by Mary Markos

Fuel card training DVD now available

IMCOM-Europe news release

In an effort to continue to educate drivers about the Germany fuel ration program, the U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe is distributing DVD copies of its online training modules to leaders and installations throughout U.S. Army Europe and to U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

The DVDs are now available at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

Although a planned effort from the outset, the distribution of the training DVDs also closely follows recent man-on-the-street interviews conducted at various garrisons that yielded a surprising statistic that only 10 percent of survey participants were aware of the new rationed fuel program.

Dave Mattingly, Germany Fuel Ration Card Development program lead for IMCOM-Europe, said he believed that people living in a constant hi-op tempo found it tough to get wrapped up in something in the future. But that future is NOW.

The robust attempt by fuel program officials

to provide information to customers and set the conditions for people to be prepared by pushing information on TV, radio, newspapers, and Web sites resulted in marginal success, said Mattingly.

"The lack of awareness isn't anyone's fault or about someone not doing their job. This seems to be about people being busy, people being wrapped up in things, and people not fully grasping the reality of this change," he said. "Making information available and people actually taking in the information are two different things. So, we are reaching out 'closer to home' by providing leaders and agencies at the local level with information they can provide to members of their communities."

The garrisons will soon have sufficient copies for units and organizations to sign out from garrison community libraries. A stack of DVDs will also be mailed to the USAFE Public Affairs Office.

Mattingly said advantages for training from the DVDs include:

- Sharper video quality for large screen projection;

- Ability for training session leaders to have immediate access rather than wait through download time;

- Easier stop-and-go control;

- Portability of training

The training modules cover all aspects of receiving a fuel card, activating the card and using the card.

The modules most users will probably want to key on, said Mattingly, will be Module 7. It's the longest of the training modules – clocking in at 6 minutes, 18 seconds – and covers how to use the fuel card at an Esso station.

"There is anecdotal data that indicates card users are confused about using the card at an Esso station versus an AAFES station. There is a difference. Module 6 covers using the card at an AAFES station, while Module 7 covers using it at an Esso station," said Mattingly. "Module 7 is longer and covers a variety of topics dealing with proper use of the card and potential problems users may encounter at an Esso station. People need to be aware of the show-stoppers."

For example, if a driver does not have the registration along with the card, an Esso station

attendant will refuse the transaction. Also, any conflicting data between the registration, the card and the information entered in the automated system will result in a refused transaction.

"Many of the mistakes we've observed during the first weeks of the fuel card usage have been due to human error. We strongly encourage people to put their minds in first gear, take your time registering your vehicle and activating your cards. Make sure you track your transactions, whether you use the card at AAFES or at an Esso," said Mattingly. "A good way to make sure you are prepared for using the fuel card is to view the training modules."

While, Modules 1-7 pertain to all drivers, Module 8 pertains to using a government vehicle fuel card. Anyone intending to put aside time to watch Modules 1-7 should block off approximately about 21 minutes.

People interested in signing out a DVD may contact their garrison library.

The online link to the IMCOM-Europe fuel ration card training page: http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/news/fuelcard_training.asp.



Photo by Mary Markos

Savusa speaks at Academy ceremony

U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa shares a moment with Brig. Gen. David Hogg, Joint Multinational Training Command commander, June 18 at the noncommissioned officer academy graduation ceremony in Grafenwoehr. Savusa spoke at the ceremony in his last act as USAREUR command sergeant major.

Savusa, who is now serving as the command sergeant major of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, held a change of command ceremony in Heidelberg later that day.

Stryker Soldier grieved by Vilseck community

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS

Bavarian News

With heavy hearts, friends and family of Staff Sgt. Du H. Tran gathered at the Rose Barracks Chapel in Vilseck June 27.

Tran, a member of C Battery, Fires Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment, died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom June 20 while conducting a foot patrol near Baquba, Iraq.

The 30-year-old Vietnam native was described by Lt. Col. Thomas Rickard, regimental rear detachment commander, as a "superb noncommissioned officer, a dedicated leader, and a compassionate man who was well-respected and beloved by Soldiers, peers, and senior leaders."

Tran, who was serving his third deployment to Iraq in five years, demonstrated, Rickard said, "the rare blend of courage and compassion that we seek in our very best leaders."

Maj. Carl Bartle, squadron rear detachment commander, spoke of his fallen comrade with



Tran

The memorial ceremony for Staff Sgt. Du H. Tran was held June 27 at the Rose Barracks Chapel in Vilseck.

For information on estates claims for this Soldier, turn to page 12.

affection.

"He could always make light of a difficult situation," he said. "He is a man whose strength others turned to. He put a smile on everyone's face."

Tran is survived by his wife Lien and his daughter Michelle.



USAG Grafenwoehr safety office hosts Amnesty Day to gather ammunitions

by MARY MARKOS

Bavarian News

Hand grenades, artillery rounds, mortar rounds... "we'll take anything people can get to us," said Bob McGaffin, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr safety and occupational health specialist.

USAG Grafenwoehr will host Amnesty Day July 10 from 1 p.m.-6 p.m. on Range 118 in the Grafenwoehr training area to collect ammunition.

"Amnesty Day is an opportunity for persons possessing legal and illegal explosives and ammunition to dispose of these items in a safe, environmentally conscious way without question or repercussion," McGaffin said.

The amnesty program is open to all Department of Defense and U.S. contract personnel and their families in the garrison community.

Sgt. 1st Class John Bonar, 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, said amnesty programs are important, as explosives become unstable over time.

"It is due to moisture," he said. "(The explosives) could dry out and deteriorate."

"You can have ordnance that you move around 100 times. It may be the 101st time that it detonates," he said.

With a nearly 100-year history of training, the Grafenwoehr ranges are home to a variety of old ammunition that Soldiers find and keep, not realizing the hazards, according to McGaffin.

"It is amazing what people find and take home for souvenirs," he added.

McGaffin also said Amnesty Day serves as a wonderful opportunity for hunters, or anyone with older ammunition, to dispose of it.

He warns, however, that proper

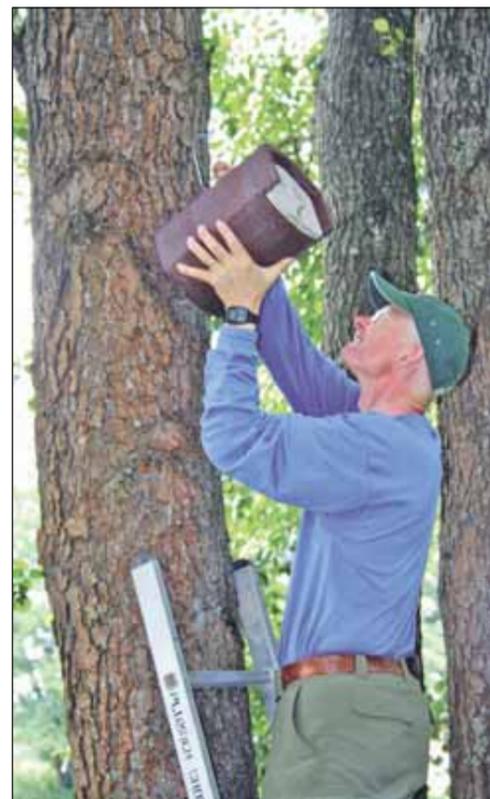
care must be taken in moving the explosives.

"Handle the items with care. You don't want things rattling around in the car. Use common sense when transporting them... pad it so it can't contact anything else," McGaffin said.

McGaffin added that individuals uncertain of the proper handling procedure should contact the 702nd EOD Company, DSN 475-8332 or CIV 09641-83-8332, for assistance.

Items collected that contain explosive materials will be destroyed. Non-explosive items will be recycled.

Individuals unable to participate in the Amnesty Day program have the option of using the anonymous Amnesty Box located off highway 2166 which runs between Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, following the ammunition supply point, or ASP1, sign.



Home for birds, bats

Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders from all over Europe gathered at Dickhaeuter Lake in the Grafenwoehr Training Area June 18 to receive training from the Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division. This year's project was building and installing nest boxes for many common animals including bats, sparrows, and woodpeckers. The scouts will do the same project later in the year.

Courtesy photo

Buering reflects on 40 years of service

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

There's a black and white panoramic photograph on the wall in Angelika Buering's housing office showing the new Breitenau living area on Artillery Kaserne.

"This picture was taken in 1956," said Buering. "I remember it because when I was a little girl, I had permission to go through the area on my way to school. I wore a pass around my neck."

Buering, who was born in Garmisch and marked 40 years as an employee of the U.S. Army in Garmisch May 31, reminisced about her time on the clock and her first experiences with the strange new Americans in town.

Her initial experiences involved a competition between the American moms in the Breitenau housing to "fatten her up." She was a skinny little German girl who spoke no English, walking through the American enclave on her way to school, and every day she was invited to eat at different quarters.

"It was the first time I had Hershey's chocolate," she said, echoing a comment often heard from people who grew up in postwar Germany.

A few years later as a teenager at school, Buering took five years of English lessons that didn't pay off initially.

"My first job was a motor pool clerk in Berchtesgaden," said Buering, who worked that job from the summer of 1965 through the winter of 1966. "I translated job order requests."

While at Berchtesgaden, Buering caddied on weekends for extra money. Being a caddy then was a good way to make tip money. She was chosen to caddy for King Leopold III of Belgium because she was a polite young lady and the young male caddies were a bit too coarse for his majesty.

She worked for the U.S. Army, but her job had nothing to do with Americans. Although her job involved a lot of English reading, she was immersed in a German-speaking shop with colleagues who didn't speak English.

"Then in December 1968, I started to work in the (Garmisch) warehouse as a supply clerk buying material on the local market," said Buering. "I had nothing to do with the Americans again because I bought material for the German

craftsmen who made the repairs."

Not long after starting in Garmisch she and her husband Michael had their first child, a daughter they named Bibiane.

From 1970 to 1976 she was the chief administrator for the Directorate of Public Works, where yet again she couldn't practice her English because she worked with a large German staff.

"We had 396 local national employees, not counting transportation and housing. It was a very interesting job doing all the personnel work," said Buering.

It was about then her second child was born. They named him Florian.

"In November of 1976 after the birth of my son, the DPW established a part-time position in the housing office because I wanted to stop working and my boss convinced me to remain," said Buering.

When she moved to housing she finally got to use her English.

"My English was very rusty by then because I lost a lot," said Buering. "It was completely different talking to all of the Americans."

She shared a group photo from about 20 years ago, indicating some employees who were still working for the garrison, some who retired, and some who passed away.

In the summer of 1992, the work load had increased and her job was changed to full-time. As employees left the housing office and were not replaced she took on more and more additional work and responsibilities.

For a while her office was on Sheridan Barracks in a former stable converted to an office after the war. Sheridan, like Artillery, was a kaserne designed for the men and pack animals of Germany's elite mountain troops.

Today her office is in what was originally a stable, and then was an upholstery shop, clock repair shop, and typewriter repair that is now the Artillery Kaserne garrison headquarters building. Buering is still very busy, but she and her family get together to sail their catamaran or she practices reverse glass painting, a tricky form of art where the artist has to construct the painting backwards on one side of glass to reveal the picture on the other side.

In Germany retirement starts at age 65, and Buering expects to complete 45 years of service before she clocks out.

"When I started in December of 1968 working



It took eight years of working for the U.S. Army before Angelika Buering finally got to put her English language education to work 32 years ago. Buering witnessed many changes to the garrison in her 40 years of service.

for the U.S. government in Garmisch I said to myself: 'just for two years to improve my English.' Now it is 40 years and I have always enjoyed working for the U.S.," she said.

Buering has seen junior officers go on to be generals and has a lot of good memories in her 40 year career.

"There are so many little things to tell in all those years, but one I will always remember," said Buering. "It was still in the days of boiler firemen. One of the fireman, a Greek man, had taken his dentures out and placed them on a stash of racy magazines. His supervisor discovered the magazines and before anyone could stop him he threw them, along with the dentures, into the

furnace!"

Buering had to keep a straight face while the toothless fireman mumbled his predicament to her.

There is one last twist to the story of passing through Breitenau about a fast, aggressive Doberman Pincer just west of the kaserne. Every day, the dog, like the American moms waiting to feed Buering, knew the times she'd go by and waited to intercept her. Buering ran as fast as she could to escape, and from her description the dog was more interested in chasing her for sport than catching her.

"He never caught me," said Buering with a smile.

GARRISON SNAPSHOTS



Photo by John Reese

Principal graduates last class

Susan K. Ussery receives the Civilian Achievement Medal from U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Manager Karin H. Santos at the last school assembly and graduation of her career after 25 years.

Ussery provided leadership at Garmisch Elementary and Middle School for the past two years. She began government service with Department of Defense Dependent Schools in 1983, entering school administration in 1996 and holding administrative positions in Spangdahlem Elementary and Middle Schools before assuming the principalship at Garmisch EMS in 2007.

She and her husband Ray will be returning to San Antonio, Texas.



Photo by Karlheinz Wedhorn

Mullen visits Marshall Center

U.S. Navy Admiral Mike Mullen (front left), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Dr. John P. Rose, Director of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, exchange a few words on the way from the Center's helipad to the plenary hall June 25.

The admiral spoke to participants in the Marshall Center's Program in Advanced Security Studies and Program on Terrorism and Security Studies, a total of 180 military officers and civilian officials from 50 countries.

Admiral Mullen stopped at the Marshall Center as part of a trip to various bases within the U.S. European Command.

Submit your classified ad today! Log on to www.milcom.de to get more information.

Team Cherokee on way to Afghanistan

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Hohenfels' 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment has deployed yet another company to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Amidst hugs and tears from family and friends, Team Cherokee departed Hohenfels June 22 to continue operations in Zabul province that the battalion has continuously supported since July 2006.

"My goal is to deploy, do our job the best we can, and redeploy with all the personnel I have and return them safely to their families," said Capt. Terry Howell, C Co. commander.

"Task Force Zabul, to include 1-4 Infantry company team operations, have had a positive impact on improving the safety and security of the Afghan citizens living in Zabul Province," said Lt. Col. John Lange, battalion commander.

Lange said Team Cherokee has been preparing for deployment since fall 2007, with intensive training beginning in January.

Part of their training included participation in the 30th Mountain Battalion deployment training exercise in Romania.

While in Afghanistan, Cherokee will serve under the operational control of the 30th Mountain Battalion of the Romanian Army. They will support Task Force Zabul and the International Security Assistance Force, the NATO-led security and development mission, manned by troops from more than 40 countries.

Cherokee will be occupying forward operating bases in Zabul province after taking over for the 1-4 troops there now with Team Dragon.

Howell said that knowing the troops his team will be relieving, as well as being familiar with



Photo by Troy Darr

Spc. Tristan Brown spends a few last moments with his wife Merrillynn and daughter Madilyn before boarding the buses that took him and his fellow Soldiers to Ramstein Air Base, and eventually on to Afghanistan with Team Cherokee. Team Cherokee is the latest team to deploy from 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

their equipment, should make the transition a smooth one.

Team Apache, deployed prior to Team Dragon, shared insight and lessons learned from

their time in Afghanistan with the Cherokee leadership when they returned in February.

Lange said this unique aspect of the 1-4 mission in support of Task Force Zabul brings

distinct advantages.

"In a way, unlike other battalions in the U.S. Army, 1-4 has maintained consistent responsibility for the same area of operations in Zabul Province for the last two-plus years. Additionally, because many of our Soldiers volunteer to deploy with another company team in the course of their assignment to 1-4, we maintain a unique consistency of experience across deployments that other units cannot maintain. There are significant, subjective advantages to this kind of unique consistency of experience," he said.

Yet for many family members, this will be a completely new experience.

Family Readiness Group leader Corrine Howell said this will be the first deployment for a significant number of spouses.

"It's about half and half," she said. "There have been so many new Soldiers added even in the last few weeks, and some got married over block leave, so I am still trying to get a final count."

She said that spouses new to deployments, along with the potential added stress of being in a foreign country, will mean the FRG needs to make extra efforts to ensure families are getting the information and support they need.

Members received a deployment handbook, a more than 100-page booklet provided by the Hohenfels Army Community Service mobilization and deployment program, filled with numbers, procedures, checklists, and tips on weathering a deployment.

Howell also said she is planning day trips for families once every few weeks to keep families busy and encourage people to get out and explore the advantages being in Europe during a deployment can bring.

Command sergeant major hands off responsibility

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

After 18 months as the senior noncommissioned officer of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Akuna is leaving. Akuna handed over responsibility of 1-4 to Sgt. Maj. Shane Austen during a ceremony at Warrior Field June 5.

"The command sergeant major of a battalion is the moral and professional center of gravity for the unit. What he does, how he does it, and the standards he sets and enforces and the personal example he projects to all establish the personality of the organization as a whole," said Lt. Col. John Lange, battalion commander.

"Because of the breadth, scope, and multitude of missions this battalion executes on any given

day, the CSM of this battalion plays a crucial role far more difficult than most."

Lange said that over the past 18 months, the battalion has supported the combat preparation of seven U.S. brigade combat teams, two U.S. functional brigades, two brigades from the United Kingdom, and countless U.S., NATO, and coalition partner units, along with deploying and redeploying four company teams to Afghanistan and two quick reaction force platoons to Kosovo.

Lange said that it was in large part Akuna's hard work that made "this seemingly mission impossible possible."

"I knew from my first day on the ground that my Ranger buddy and I would be a perfect fit," he said.

Akuna, a native of Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, entered the Army in 1985 and completed Basic

Combat Training and Infantry Advanced Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

He holds an associate's degree in general education and criminal justice through Troy State University, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice through Troy State University.

Akuna and his wife Kimberly have three children, Patrick III, Kimberlee, and Kiana.

His next assignment will be as command sergeant major of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, in Grafenwoehr.

Though he said he is sad to see his "Ranger buddy" go, Lange said he is looking forward to working with Austen.

Austen said he has received considerable support from Akuna, who has reminded him more than once that he is only a phone call

away.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Akuna was a great leader, I want to continue a lot of the things he did," said Austen.

He said he also wants to increase focus on physical training and shooting skills, as well as instilling even more history and pride into the battalion's leaders.

Austen is a native of Mission Viejo, Calif. He entered the Army in 1989 and attended training at Fort Knox, Ky.

He is currently working towards a college degree and is enrolled in the Sergeants Major Academy.

He and his wife Christine, a native of Heidelberg, Germany, have two boys, Dominic and Christian. This is their third time stationed in Germany.

Technology allows wife to attend husband's promotion

by Pfc. JERRY WILSON

Joint Task Force-East Public Affairs Office

Master Sgt. John Teagarden is no stranger to deployments. The anti-tank platoon sergeant assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, has deployed multiple times to Iraq as well as Afghanistan.

As a result of his globe-trotting schedule, Teagarden's wife, Astrid, has never been able to see her husband promoted.

When Teagarden's sequence number for promotion to master sergeant came up during his five-month deployment to Romania, it looked as

if Astrid would miss another promotion.

That all changed June 4 when Joint Task Force-East staff and staff from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels arranged for her to attend the promotion ceremony via teleconference.

"I really loved being able to see the ceremony," she said. "It really meant a lot to me since I wasn't able to participate in his promotion ceremony to sergeant first class due to him being deployed; this way at least I got to see it."

"This was a really big thing for me," Teagarden said. "I met my wife as a staff sergeant, and since then all she has been able to do is see me leave

and come back."

To Astrid, this was also a very special moment.

"It's still not the same as being there, but it was very close," she said. "I got to see and hear everything as well as talk to him. It's almost as if I was there."

"I was so proud of him," she added, "and very happy to be a part of it."

Teagarden describes his promotion as one of the final steps in a very memorable career. One of the most memorable moments occurred in 1993 at Fort Benning, Ga. Upon graduation from airborne school, Teagarden was pinned

with the same wings once worn by his uncle, William Stagner, whom Teagarden describes as his military role model.

"That was a big day for me," he said. "One of my goals in my Army career, aside from going to school, was to outrank my uncle."

Teagarden has now achieved both goals, by being promoted to master sergeant and obtaining a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Teagarden has some simple words of advice for younger Soldiers.

"Stay in for as long as you can," he said, "and take advantage of every opportunity the Army has to offer you."

Red Cross project makes Warrior Transition Unit barracks home

by KRISTIN BRADLEY

Bavarian News

Most people are familiar with giving trees that go up around the winter holidays, but when a Christmas tree appeared in the PX in the middle of May, some were probably understandably curious.

The tags on this tree were lined with yellow, not red and green, and a small yellow ribbon was printed in the corner of each. The idea was the same: pick a gift tag from the tree, purchase the item listed, and return to a specific organization by a certain date.

This time though, the recipients were not needy families or homeless children, they were a group of Soldiers wounded in service to their country, stationed at Hohenfels with the task of getting themselves well again.

In 2004 the Army announced the creation of a program designed to meet the unique needs of wounded Soldiers and their families.

When Hohenfels created its own Warrior Transition Unit in November 2007 that included

the opening of a WTU barracks in April 2008, the facilities were good, but somewhat lacking in comfort and personality. There was a common room, but no rugs or pictures. There was a common eating area, but no cooking utensils or supplies.

"The barracks were so new they looked like a hospital corridor," said Sgt. Antron Howell who is assigned to the WTU and who lives in and is in charge of the WTU barracks located in Bldg. 21 behind the blowing alley.

That is where the Hohenfels Red Cross came in.

Red Cross stations have been given additional funds and encouraged by the American Red Cross Headquarters to support the WTU program to help meet Soldiers' needs, said Jason Marshall, Grafenwoehr Red Cross assistant station manager.

Maryl Neff, Hohenfels assistant station manager, had heard of Soldiers coming to the WTU barracks and trying to furnish them from scratch. They needed to buy bedding, bath towels, fans, trashcans, everything outside of the basic

furniture already in the rooms. So she decided to do something about it, setting up a giving tree to help Soldiers furnish their rooms.

"I thought it was an amazing idea when she first came to me," said Christina Love, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Soldier and Family Assistance Center specialist, who is in charge of the WTU. "It is yet another way for the community to help with our single Soldiers."

Neff, who is currently deployed to Iraq with Red Cross, began working on the idea in March, finally submitting the written proposal in April. Along with volunteers Dawn Eldred and Heike Brown, the tree was up and ready for giving by May 6.

By the time the tree came down May 16, most of the items on the list had been donated.

"There was an excellent turnout; people were very generous," said Brown.

Through the giving tree, each room will be provided with a trash can, 110v and 220v extension cords, a transformer, hangers, and other necessities. With their own funds, the Hohenfels Red Cross bought each room a set of towels, bath

mats, and a complete set of bedding.

"The Soldiers were very grateful. Sometimes Soldiers need to see people care about them and their well-being and this project did just that because it was a community effort," said Love.

"I was amazed at how much support people were willing to give and provide. And the Red Cross people just jumped right in," said Howell.

Of the six Soldiers currently assigned to the WTU, two are living in the barracks.

Each Soldier also received a welcome basket, a laundry basket filled with items like cleaning supplies, paper towels, and laundry detergent.

The Girl Scouts provided the first two. Various other organizations have volunteered to provide a welcome basket on a rotating basis each time a new Soldier moves in.

The American Red Cross Vilseck complex is still accepting framed posters, used DVDs, and new area rugs for the rooms. Anyone interested in donating an item should contact Heike Brown, temporary Hohenfels assistant station manager, at CIV 09472-83-1760.

Falcon Team hosts SAS airfield trip

by Maj. MICHEAL D. BROPHY
JMRC Falcon Team

The Joint Multinational Readiness Center Aviation Detachment, also known as the Falcon Team, gave nine little visitors from Hohenfels School Age Services the grand tour of the Hohenfels Army Airfield during a SAS field trip in April.

The class of 5- to 7-year-old children arrived at the airfield probably expecting a repeat of previous visits, but this time they were in for some surprises.

Team Falcon gave students the chance to sit in one of the UH-1 helicopters and talk with some of the pilots and crew chiefs. Pilots answered questions about the helicopter, aviation equipment, and what it is like to be a pilot.

The first surprise was a visit to the Hohenfels Army Airfield air traffic control tower.

The SAS visitors got a chance to climb into the control cab at the top of the tower to see things as an air traffic controller does and talk with some of the controllers on duty.

After the tower visit, the kids got to see a UH-1 Huey helicopter. Falcon team members helped the children get on and off the aircraft and answer their many questions.

Chief Warrant Officer Beorn Whetstone, a Falcon Team pilot, said

the children were all well-mannered and very interested in the aircraft.

"I was happy to be able to show the kids around the aircraft and answer their questions," said Whetstone. "You could really see it in their faces that they were genuinely interested and impressed."

Normally that would have been the end of the visit, but this time there was more. After the UH-1 tour, the children walked across the airfield and received a special tour of the Merlin, a British search and rescue helicopter.

The Merlin and its crew were part of a British contingent of soldiers conducting training at Hohenfels.

The team graciously agreed to allow the little visitors to tour their aircraft. Mary Helbling, lead child and youth program assistant at the Hohenfels SAS, said the students and the staff enjoyed their Falcon visit.

She said both the SAS staff members and Falcon Team personnel helped keep the kindergarteners safe throughout the event.

"The children totally enjoyed themselves along with the staff," Helbling said. "The Falcons were very prepared for them."

The two-hour visit went by quickly and before they knew it, it was time for the children to return to SAS. But before they left each child received a special sticker making them "Honorary Falcons."



Photo by Spc. Alex Godinez

Children from Hohenfels School Age Services are shown the historical UH-1 helicopter by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Craig Mowitz, a Falcon Observer Controller with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. The JMRC Aviation Detachment gave the children a tour of the Hohenfels Army Airfield and air traffic control tower during a SAS fieldtrip April 10.

'KING OF CRUNK' TAKES ON HOHENFELS



Photo by Kristin Bradley

Rapper Lil' Jon brought his style of southern hip-hop to the Hohenfels Community Activities Center June 22.

More than 500 people attended the Army Entertainment event. After the concert, 60 people were chosen at random to meet Lil' Jon backstage, take a picture with him, and get his autograph.

Pictures were uploaded onto the post Web page, www.hohenfels.army.mil, for free download.



The following publications are available at the JMRC CALL Detachment:
Handbook 08-28: Republic of Iraq District Government Field Manual
Handbook 08-15: Battle Staff NCO
Newsletter 08-05: COIN Organization
Newsletter 08-17: The BSTB



To get your copies come to the JMRC CALL Detachment at Building 1224 Camp Albertshof, Hohenfels or contact MAJ Cardon or Mr. Reinick to have them mailed to you. Organizational addresses only.
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The next MSF Rider Coach Preparation Course will be held at USAG Grafenwoehr from 11-22 August 2008.

To Register, go to www.usaggrafenwoehr.army.mil. For more information, contact Dana Stewart, dana.stewart@usaggrafenwoehr.army.mil

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

General officer announcement

The Army chief of staff announces the assignment of the following general officer: Maj. Gen. Byron S. Bagby, commandant, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., to chief of staff, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

ACAP lists services

The Army Career and Alumni Program assists Soldiers and their family members in transitioning from the military into the civilian workforce. Pre-separation briefings are conducted at the ACAP Center in Vilseck every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-10:30 a.m.

ACAP also offers the DOL Transition Assistance Program Workshop once a month. Topics such as goal setting, resume and cover letter writing, job search techniques, interview techniques, and salary negotiation skills are covered. The next TAP Workshop is scheduled for July 15-17.

Resume Writing Lab provides an opportunity to have individual and group assistance with writing your resume. The next resume class is July 23 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Federal Resume Writing Lab is a class designed to give on completing a Resumix Resume, which is required for federal employment. The next federal resume class will be July 24 from 9 a.m.-noon.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the ACAP office at DSN 476-2055 or CIV 09662-83-2055.

Border patrol recruiting

The U.S. Border Patrol will be in the Grafenwoehr Digital Training Facility, Bldg. 3144 July 10-11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an informational session about becoming a U.S. Border Patrol Agent. U.S. Citizens between the ages of 18-39 who can pass a background inspection are welcome.

Estates claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Staff Sgt. Du Hai Tran of Fires Squadron, 2 SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, Capt. Roberto Herrera at DSN 475-6911 or e-mail roberto.herrera4@eur.army.mil.

Gastric bypass group

Group for Graf/Vilseck/Hohenfels meets from 5:30 to 7 p.m. every third

Thursday at the Grafenwoehr Library - third floor. The purpose of the group is to assist and support those who have undergone gastric bypass or similar surgical weight loss procedure and to help answer questions for those who are contemplating a surgical weight loss procedure. Typical questions include what to eat before and after, how much weight you can lose, problems and complications after surgery, and questions regarding administrative details prior to and after the surgery. For more information, call Don Prater, DSN 475-7553, CIV 09641-83-7553 at the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic.

Get dental care now

The Vilseck Dental Clinic would like to remind the community to seek your dental care now, appointments are available now and into early fall. Access may be limited for non-military personnel during late fall due to operational commitments.

Vehicle registration changes

Vilseck vehicle registration has new office hours. Effective July 8, the office will be open Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. This includes services for registering a new vehicle, non-operational registration, renewal, transfer of title, deregistration, and PCS or ETS clearing. No temporary plates will be issued in Vilseck, and no cash can be taken. For more information, call 476-2626 or CIV 09662-83-2626.

Tours for expectant mothers

Are you expecting and wonder, "Where do we go to deliver our baby?" "What do I bring to the hospital?" "Do I need my own towels and P.J.s?" "Can I get an epidural?"

Get the answers to these questions and many more! New Parent Education and Support Program invites you to join us on hospital tours offered just for our American service members and their families.

The tours are given in each of the three hospitals, Klinikum St. Marien, in Amberg, St. Anna Krankenhaus, in Sulzbach and Klinikum Weiden. All tours are given in English by the knowledgeable klinikum obstetric staff.

These tours are designed to help families feel more comfortable and become familiar with the unique experiences offered by each of the hospitals. Participants are encouraged to come with questions to ask throughout the tour.

Tours meet in the lobby of each hospital 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time. Dates and times for these tours are available through ACS and occur approximately every two to three months.

Call CIV 09662-83-2650 or CIV 09641-83-8371 for information or to register for a tour.

Is your life affected by someone's drinking?

Al-Anon is an anonymous fellowship of family and friends of alcoholics. The Lois & Company Al-Anon Family Group meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Grafenwoehr, Bldg. 206 and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in Vilseck, Bldg. 322. POC Ann CIV 09662-702-575 or CIV 01511-590-5090.

Hohenfels Briefs

KONTAKT Club events

Today: Bowling at Lane 17 at 7 p.m.

Friday: Stammtisch at Inan Pizzeria Adler in Hohenfels at 7 p.m.

July 12: Mexican cooking class at the school kitchen in Velburg at 2 p.m.

July 16: Stammtisch at Josef's in Hohenfels at 7 p.m.

July 20: Brunch at Sammueller in Neumarkt (costs 3 to 5 Euro) Deadline to RSVP for this event is July 14.

For directions to the events or more information call the Public Affairs Office at DSN 466-4294.

Summer lunch series

Through July 29: Come one, come all, to the PWOC Summer Lunch Series. The group meets on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hilltop Chapel Center, Bldg. 6. Join the group for Bible Studies on Demand featuring a different women's speaker on DVD each week and a great time of fellowship.

DVD lessons are independent of each other so feel free to pop in any time and check it out. If you're new to Hohenfels, consider making PWOC your new home.

Bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. Childcare on-site is free for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, and older children are welcome to join the group for the videos.

For more information, contact Kathy Wood at kathywood1@hotmail.com.

Bowl Your Brains Out

Starting in July: Bowl Your Brains Out at Lane 17 every Monday from 5-9 p.m. Bowl as many games as you want for just \$7 with shoe rental included.

CPR, First Aid Class

Saturday: The Adult, Infant and Child CPR and First Aid class is from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CPR certification is good for a year, and first aid certification is good for three years.

Cost is \$35 per person. Call Red Cross at DSN 466-1760 for more information or stop by Bldg. 335 to reserve your slot and pay for this class.

Flea market in Beratzhausen

Sunday: The Flea Market will be at the Festplatz down town Beratzhausen from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call CIV 0173-7051964 or visit the Web site at www.troedelmaerktefranken.de.

YS summer camps

July 7-18: Flag Football for 8-11 year olds / Bowling for 12-15 year olds.

July 21 to Aug. 1: Soccer for 8-11 year olds / Golf for 12-15 year olds.

Aug. 4-15: Basketball for 8-11 year olds / Baseball for 12-15 year olds.

YS field trips

July 18: Canoeing down the Naab River.

Aug. 1: Tour of Olympic Park in Munich.

Aug. 15: Ropes course.

Camp cost: \$30, field trip cost: \$25, camp & field trip cost: \$50. Enrollment begins June 2 at CLEOS, Bldg. 10A. There is no additional cost for sports camps for children enrolled in SAS summer camp during the weeks of the camp.

All children that wish to participate in summer sporting camps and field trips must be registered CYS members. For more information on the summer youth sports camps, call Youth Sports at DSN 466-2558.

Craft Club

July 9: Get together with the girls and chat while working on your favorite crafts. Bring in any portable project and even get help from your new friends. This month the club members will discuss ways to craft for the community and what future aspirations for the club will be. 9:30-11 a.m.

2008 Summer Golf Classic

July 11: The USAG Hohenfels 2008

Summer Golf Classic at the Lauterhofen Golf Course continues an exciting, warm-weather golf season. Team and registration info: four-person teams (ABCD composition preferred); 35 Euro green fee (green fee will be waived for club members) and free lunch courtesy of the tournament sponsors; 7 a.m. check-in, 8 a.m. shotgun start; registration deadline is July 8.

For more information or to register, contact MWR Sports and Fitness at dml-wr@hohenfelsports@eur.army.mil. Register now, no entry fee will be charged, and only 18 team slots are available.

Lane 17 Old School/Retro Night with DJ MCM

July 12: Come out and sport those old school moves to music from the 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's with special guest DJ MCM. Only \$1.50 per game from 8-11 p.m.

Beginning Crochet

July 12: There are many techniques and styles in crochet. Come to this class and learn how to begin.

The class will make a Granny Square and, if time permits, a dish cloth. Come back later to add skills or get help on your project.

Class fee is \$10 plus supplies. Bring your own hooks and yarn if you have them. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Black Violin

July 16: Army Entertainment presents Black Violin. Watch this unique duo of classically trained musicians as they show their amazing synergy between classical and hip-hop music at 7 p.m. in the CAC, Bldg. 40.

This is an all ages show and admission is free. For more information on Black Violin, check out their Web site at www.blackviolin.net.

Independence Bingo

July 18: Come join the fun starting at 6:30 p.m. Bingo packets are \$25 sold before 3 p.m. on Friday and \$30 sold at the door. There will also be a surprise patriotic giveaway.

USAG Hohenfels 1,000 Pound Club

July 19: Show your strength and lift your way into the USAG Hohenfels 1,000 Pound Club. Complete any combination of three events (bench press, squat, dead lift) totaling more than 1,000 pounds.

All participants that successfully join the 1,000 Pound Club will receive a T-shirt and bragging rights. Competition is free and open to all U.S. ID card holders.

Olympia Fitness Center, Bldg. 47 starting at 11 a.m.

Three Castle Tour bus trip

July 19: Germany is famous for its castles and Bavaria offers the biggest and best of them all.

A building frenzy was initiated by King Ludwig II during his short reign. The castles are a lasting testimony to whimsy and fairy tales.

First, go to Oberammergau and Linderhof, then tour the world famous Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau castles.

Cost is \$45 per adult, \$25 for children ages 3-12 and entry to each castle is approximately 10 Euro per person. Trip departs Hohenfels at 6 a.m.

For more information or to reserve your seat, contact the Community Activities Center at DSN 466-2670/2840.

Framing

July 19: Doing your own custom framing is a great way to personalize your art and awards while saving money.

You will learn how to measure and mat your pictures as well as how to cut and put together frames.

Then finish it off for a professional look every time.

\$30 class fee includes supplies to frame a 5x7 picture. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please make sure to pre-register and pay at least three days before any class.

This guarantees your spot and lets the Arts and Crafts Center ensure they have enough materials on hand.

Babysitter's Training Class

July 19: The next Babysitter's Training Class for youth ages 11-15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$25.

After taking the class, teens ages 13 and older may join the CYS Babysitter Referral Program with parental consent.

Call Red Cross at DSN 466-1760 for more information or stop by Bldg. 335 to reserve your slot and pay for the class.

Marriage Retreat

July 27-29: The Hohenfels Family Life Chaplain will be providing a Marriage Retreat at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch.

This retreat is for Soldiers and their spouses from Hohenfels. The retreat is paid for by Strong Bonds funds, and provides for transportation, lodging and meals (except for lunches).

Unfortunately, child care for children under the age of 5 cannot be provided because of limited openings at Garmisch's CDC. Sign up will be on a first come, first served basis.

To sign up call the Family Life Coordinator, Dawn Glynn, at DSN 466-3473.

USAG Grafenwoehr Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) is a comprehensive network of social, recreational and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers, their Families, civilian employees, military retirees and other eligible participants. FMWR strives to deliver the highest quality recreation, entertainment and community support services.

FMWR is currently looking for applicants to fill the following positions:

MWR JOBS

Recreation Assistants (Part time)

Heart and Home Arts and Crafts Center
Grafenwoehr Outdoor Recreation
Vilseck Outdoor Recreation
Grafenwoehr Auto Skills Center
Vilseck Bowling Center
Grafenwoehr Bowling Center
Grafenwoehr Post Fitness Center, Sports

Cook (Full time)
Netzaberg Teen Center

Assistant Director (Full time)
Netzaberg Child Development Center

Bowling Equipment Worker (Part time)

Child and Youth Program Assistants (Flexible)

Lead Child and Youth Program Assistants (Full time)
All facilities

Food and Beverage Attendants (Flexible)

Java Café
Grafenwoehr Bowling Center

Child and Youth Services Trainer (Full time)

Child and Youth Administrators (Full time)
Child Development Center
Youth Program



For more info, contact the Non-Appropriated Fund Personnel (NAF) Office in Bldg. 244, Grafenwoehr at CIV: 09641-83-6886. Details can also be found on line at <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/employment/index.htm>.

German-American Volksfest August 1-3

Join the Fun!

- Traditional Beer Tent
- Delicious Food
- Carnival Rides
- Daily Live Bands
- Car Show
- Static Military Display
- Much More!

**Opening Ceremony
Fri at 11 a.m.**

**Fri & Sat, Aug 1 & 2
11 a.m. to midnight**

**Sun, Aug 3
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.**

Grafenwoehr, Germany

What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Diesel fuel available

Diesel fuel is now available at the Barton Barracks transportation motor pool. Diesel fuel keys are issued daily from 8 a.m. to noon. However, all outstanding fuel coupons need to be used before the issue of diesel fuel keys.

For more information, call Mr. Tomes or Mr. Hanitzsch at DSN 468-7755 or CIV 0981-183755.

King of the court canceled

The garrison's Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation division and Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers planned three on three Basketball Tournament is canceled.

Tax assistance year round

Soldiers returning from deployments have at least a 180 days plus the number of days missed during tax filing season to file their taxes. During this extension period, everything is at a stand still—the clock stops running.

No interest or penalties accrue on amounts owed. But why wait if you don't have to? Both the Ansbach and Illesheim Tax Centers provide tax assistance service throughout the year.

For more information, call DSN 467-2324 or CIV 09802-832-424 for the Tax Center at Katterbach, for the Illesheim Tax Center call DSN 467-4511 or CIV 09841-834-511.

Ansbach ACAP Office moves

The Ansbach Army Career and Alumni Program Office is moving, but not too far.

Currently located on Katterbach in Bldg. 5818 on the third floor with the in-processing Training Center, the office will move downstairs to room 109.

For more information, call DSN 467-3312 or CIV 09802-83-3312.

Talent Show

The Ansbach military community hosts the 2008 IMCOM Europe "Best of the Best" talent show at the Katterbach Fitness Center, July 19 to 20.

The show features the best youth and adult talent throughout IMCOM-Europe. Competitors will be judged by IMCOM-E representatives. Youth will perform and compete July 19, beginning at 2 p.m. and at 6 p.m. adult talent, followed by the Black Violins.

The 20th begins at 2 p.m. with band competition, followed by the band Custom Made.

For more information or to sign up call Jenny Sullivan at DSN 467-2925 or e-mail jenny.a.sullivan@eur.army.mil.

At the libraries

It's time to catch the reading bug again at the libraries at Storck Barracks and Bleidorn.

The program runs through July 24 and offers special events including, crafts, games, book readings, and a variety of other surprises. The program is open to children and youth from kindergarten to ninth grade.

For more information, call the library at Storck Barracks at DSN 467-4675 or CIV 09841-834675 or at Bleidorn at DSN 468-1740 or CIV 0981-183740.

July 4 celebration

The Ansbach military community hosts its Fourth of July celebration Friday, from 3 to 10:30 p.m. at hangar 2 in Katterbach.

The event includes contests and competitions like beautiful baby, rock band and American Idol, soccer shoot-out, water balloon toss, pie eating contest and much more. The event ends with fireworks at 10:30 p.m.

For more information, e-mail the garrison's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation division at ans-mwer@eur.army.mil.

Free trip to fest

Take a free one-day trip with the Outdoor Recreation Center to the Kiliani Volksfest in Wuerzburg July 12. A bus will depart from ODR in Katterbach and the theater at Storck Barracks. For more information or to sign up for the trip, call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3325.

Become a dental assistant

The Ansbach American Red Cross and the dental clinics at Katterbach and Storck barracks offer the opportunity to become a dental assistant. The course is

a combination of self-study, classroom, and chair side experience. The program is offered free of charge with exception of the book fees.

Applicant's must complete an American Red Cross volunteer application, attend a volunteer orientation, and complete the dental assistant application, and hold a current American Red Cross CPR certification, as well as certain immunizations.

Applications must be submitted by July 10.

For more information and application packets, call the Katterbach Red Cross at DSN 467-1760 or CIV 09802-832-136 or the Katterbach Dental Clinic at DSN 467-2223 or CIV 09802-832-223.

Fall registration

Child and Youth Services fall sports registration is ongoing. Parents with children age 3 to 15 can register for soccer, cheerleading, and football at Central Registration. For more information call DSN 468-7866 or CIV 0981-183833.

Help with a career

The USAG Ansbach Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program provides career development and planning support to all community members.

Employment assistance offered includes: resume writing support, understanding the federal job application process, local national application information, local community jobs and information, educational support services, job searching, walk-in services, appointments and group classes.

The office is located on Katterbach in the ACS building, Bldg. 5817-A, and is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more, call Erika Turner at DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-83-2883.

Hearts Apart

Hearts Apart is a monthly program designed to help families cope with separation. The program provides spouses with a chance to network, talk to other spouses and tap into the resources Army Community Services provides.

Meetings alternate monthly between Illesheim and the Katterbach chapel Fellowship Hall. On Tuesday, the program starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Illesheim chapel Fellowship Hall and ends around 11 a.m. The topic will be "Exercises and Nutrition; refresh your mind and body."

For more information on Hearts Apart, call ACS at DSN 467-2553 or CIV 09802-83-2553 or the Family Life Chaplain at DSN 467-2235 or CIV 09802-83-2235.

Retiree Appreciation Day

On Aug. 2 at 8 p.m., there will be a Retirees Appreciation Day at the Katterbach fitness center. The RAD is open to all retirees, spouses of retirees, and widows and is conducted by installation Retirement Service Officers to keep retired Soldiers and their families up-to-date on changes in their retirement rights, benefits, and privileges, and to foster goodwill between the retired and active duty communities. Sign up and register on-site at the RAD Aug. 2. POC Mr. William Godard at DSN 467-3301 or e-mail at william.godard@EUR.ARMY.MIL.

Change in clinic hours

To support the communities health care needs better, the Katterbach Health Clinic has changed their training hours on Thursdays.

On Thursdays, the clinic will open from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for appointments. This way, sick call will be the same hours during the rest of the week.

In addition, the clinic will remain open on the Thursday afternoons before four-day weekends (Aug. 28 and Oct. 9 this year).

Illesheim Health Clinic news

Tricare Prime patients, usually Soldiers and their family members, are the primary focus of health care at USAHC Illesheim and those patients will receive priority treatment. Soldiers and family members should call CIV 09841-83-4512/DSN 314-467-4512 to schedule an appointment.

Allow about two to three weeks to be seen for routine care, such as well visits.

For TRICARE Prime Patients, same-day appointments are available for acute care medical issues, and can call beginning at 9 a.m.

TRICARE Standard patients, primarily retirees and DoDDS employees, will be seen on a space-available basis. A very

limited number of space available appointments are made beginning at 10:00 a.m. each day for TRICARE Standard; call DSN 314-467-4512.

TRICARE Standard patients are highly encouraged to find a physician in their local German community to ensure continuity of care.

The TRICARE office in Illesheim at CIV 09841-83-4349/DSN 314-467-4349 can provide lists of physicians in your community; or go online to <http://www.europe.tricare.osd.mil/>.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Celebrate the Freedom Fest

Come join the Schweinfurt community with your family as we celebrate our July 4 Freedom Fest on Kessler Field beginning at noon and ending at 10 p.m. Food and drinks will be served.

Musical performances as well as entertainment and activities for the younger crowd will also be on hand. Sevendust will hit the stage at 8 p.m. The night will end with a flag parade and fireworks display.

Several fun sports and fitness events are planned in conjunction with the Freedom Festival, beginning at 9 a.m. with an Independence Day fun run. Sign-ups will begin at Kessler Fitness Center at 7:30 a.m., and the run begins at 9 a.m.

At 1 p.m., a One-Pitch Softball tournament will be held at the Kessler Softball Field. Competition is limited to the first four teams to sign up. Teams are limited to 12 players. Also at 1 p.m., a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and a singles tennis tournament will be held simultaneously at the Kessler Basketball and Tennis Courts outside. The first eight teams or players to register will be allowed to compete. Sign-ups for both begin at 12:30 p.m.

At 3 p.m., a Dodgeball tournament will begin on the basketball courts. The first eight teams of up to six players will be allowed to compete. Sign-ups begin at 2:30 p.m. The celebration is open to U.S. ID card holders and their guests. No glass containers will be permitted.

Ready to be employed?

Do you want to learn how to make a positive first impression during an interview? Maybe even work on and improve your resume? The Army Community Service center in Schweinfurt is offering an employment readiness program, which emphasizes the importance of first impressions. This class takes place at the ACS building on Ledward barracks, July 31 from 2-4 p.m. For more information, or to sign up call ACS at DSN 354-6933, or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Improve baseball skills

Boys and Girls Club of America and Child and Youth Services invites youth from first to 12th-grade to participate in the youth baseball skills clinic. A clinic for 1st through fifth-graders will be held beginning Monday and through to Aug. 1. A clinic for the older children will begin Tuesday, and run through Aug. 7. Special guest Great Britain senior national team's head coach Ralph Rago

will help participants hone their skills. For more information call CYS sports and leisure DSN 354-6822, or CIV 09721-96-6822.

Reading throughout summer

The Schweinfurt Ledward Library encourages youth and families to catch the reading bug this summer. Families are invited to meet at the library every Wednesday in July from 1 to 2 p.m. where they will be offered special programs and activities to encourage youth to keep up their reading skills in a fun environment. For more information call the library at DSN 354-1740 or CIV 09721-96-6732.

Play Halo 3

Are you a Soldier who enjoys playing Halo 3/Slayer XBOX 360 hours upon end? Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers has a great event for you! A tournament will be held at the Finney Recreation Center on Conn Barracks July 10 beginning at 6 p.m. and continuing until a winner is declared. The newly-renovated Rec Center is conveniently located right next to Ramon's restaurant above the Finney Fitness Center. First place winner will receive an XBOX 360 elite version, second receives a \$250 Best Buy gift card, and third receives a \$100 Best Buy gift card. For more information or to pre-register call DSN 353-8476 or CIV 09721-96-8476.

Enjoy the Lt. Dan Band

The Morale Welfare Recreation's Summer of Concerts continues with Monday with the musical stylings of Gary Sinise and the Lieutenant Dan Band. The band covers a diverse set of music that is pleasing to most audiences. They will be performing in Schweinfurt on Kessler Field, right next to Ledward Barracks beginning at 7 p.m. Monday. The concert is free to U.S. ID card holders.

Get to know Schweinfurt

The Ledward Army Community Service Center is offering a Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses all next week. SNAPS helps spouses to get acquainted with the Schweinfurt area by both on and off post. Monday through Thursday classes run from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Friday begins at 8:30 a.m., includes a trip by train, and ends around 5 p.m. For more information or to sign up call ACS 354-6933.

Travel with the Arts and Crafts studio

The Arts and Crafts Studio in Schweinfurt invites the whole family partake in some of the summer field trips. Monday holds a trip to Sickendorf and Lauterbach, a flea market and Heimat Museum, and July 16 has a trip to Erlangen and Buttenheim in store. This trip includes a flea market and a trip to the Levi Strauss museum. All trips leave from the Crafts studio at 8 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. For more information call the Crafts Studio DSN 354-6903 or CIV 09721-966903.

Saturday respite care

Sign up now for Child and Youth Services' Super Saturday Respite Care July 12. Children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade will be cared for from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Care at the Child Development Center costs \$16 and the School Age Services fee is \$12. The program includes one meal. Children must be registered with CYS and also have current immunizations. Reservation deadline is one week prior to event. Call CYS central registration to sign up or for more information at DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-96-6414.

Vacation with Bible School

The Schweinfurt Ledward Chapel holds its annual Vacation Bible School camp during summer. This year's theme is "The Pirates Who Don't do Anything!" from the popular children's Veggie Tales movie. This program is designed for children ages 4 to 10 years old. Volunteers of all ages still needed! For more information or to sign up as a volunteer call DSN 354-6860, CIV 09721-966860, or e-mail at vbsschweinfurt@yahoo.com.

Donate to Polish mission

The Schweinfurt Youth Center will continue to accept donations for the Elim Christian Mission in Poland through Monday. The soup kitchen in the facility feeds nearly 100 people per day and would appreciate any donations of pasta, beans, canned corn, or rice. Drop off donations at the Ledward Chapel or the youth center, Bldg. 241.

Enjoy chapel performance

The Schweinfurt Chapel presents two dramatization performances. "The Man from Aldersgate," and "The Confession of St. Patrick." The performances will take place at the Schweinfurt Ledward Chapel July 9 and 10 beginning at 7 p.m., which include award-winning actor Roger Nelson playing roles written with a strong message for today's church. For more information call the Ledward chapel DSN 354-1570, CIV 09721-961570.

Middle School computer class

The Ledward Army Community Service will offer computer classes for students in grades 6 through 8 next week. Monday's class covers computer basics and Windows XP. Tuesday covers Basic Word, Wednesday is an overview of basic Web design, and Thursday offers students a chance to learn PowerPoint. All classes begin at 8 a.m. and end at 12:50 p.m. Location is subject to change, so contact ACS for information and to pre-register by calling DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Bamberg Briefs

Estates Claim

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. James M. Finley of STB, 173d ABCT, in Bamberg, Germany, must contact the Summary Court Martial Officer, Capt. Diane Collver at DSN 314-469-8875, or e-mail at diane.collver@eur.army.mil.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Pfc. Andrew J. Shields of STB, 173d ABCT, in Bamberg, Germany, must contact the Summary Court Martial Officer, Capt. Diane Collver at DSN:314-469-8875, or e-mail at diane.collver@eur.army.mil.



**July 4th
FREEDOM FESTIVAL
12-10 P.M.**

BANDS



Sevendust

Entertainment

- Fire Breathers
- Jugglers
- Face Painting
- Balloon Artists
- Clowns

BANDS



Denny Vox



Salsa Fever



Rob Ryan

Activities

- Aero Trim
- Bungee Trampoline
- Mechanical Bull
- Surf Simulator
- Dolphin Slide
- Ski Jump Slide
- Climbing Mountain

BANDS

Highlights

- Parade of Flags
- Fireworks

Bring your lawn chairs, canopies or blanket and arrive early for the best spot on the ground



The Magic Kingdom Castle is the center of the entire park and continually welcomes the crowd in.



A parade of all the Disney characters takes place within the park. Ursula, the "Sea Witch" from the Disney movie "The Little Mermaid," rides the villains' float.



At left, the cast of "The Lion King" participate in the characters parade down Main Street USA.

At right, Lumiere, the candelabrum from the movie "Beauty and the Beast," is one of the model characters to celebrate 15 years at Disneyland Paris.



Disneyland Paris

Rediscover your inner child while enjoying the sophistication of one of Europe's most renowned downtowns

Story and photos by
LINDSEY COLE
Bavarian News

To many, Disneyland is a place in California or Florida. Many are unaware of the park located in Paris, France, even though it's been open for business for over 15 years, with an international aura that caters to many cultures.

Disneyland Resort Paris is conveniently located about 30 minutes from the Eiffel tower and downtown Paris. The city's vast public transportation system includes a train station near the entrance gate, which makes it easy to buy a ticket and travel into the city and explore.

My mother, aunt, and I took a bus tour that dropped us off at the park entrance two hours prior to opening time. The waiting area outside the entrance was practically empty.

Unfamiliar with the area, we began to explore. The stores and restaurants located just outside the park are pleasant and convenient, and while the phrase "Paris is expensive" is extremely true, the experience seemed worth it.

After a little while, we decided we would try to get to the big city. We purchased round-trip tickets to the city and back to the park for around 30 euro. The train we rode was more of a subway, which built up our anticipation of the Paris views we might see once above-ground again.

Approximately 30 minutes later, we arrived at our final stop, which was located a surprisingly short three blocks from the Eiffel Tower, clearly visible in the near distance.

We stared in awe at the world-famous landmark, then took pictures, bought souvenirs, and were back on the train to Disneyland. The entire trip to the Eiffel Tower took an hour and a half, which killed all of our extra time.

After we purchased our tickets, we entered "The Magic Kingdom" Euro style! I've been to the Disneyland California and Disneyworld Florida in the U.S., and all three parks are very similar.

Throughout the park little things were different, like the location of rides, and some attractions that are in the other parks are missing. Either way, it was still a marvelous experience.

As you enter the park, you walk down "Main Street USA." Several Disney characters on the street were swamped with young children trying to get hugs, pictures, and autographs. In all my trips to Disney theme parks, I've never seen a character become impatient with a child, and Euro Disney is no different.

The park contains hundreds of attractions divided into five "Lands": Main Street USA, Discoveryland, Frontierland, Adventureland, and Fantasyland. Each land has

attractions supporting its name.

My personal favorites include Discoveryland and Adventureland. Discoveryland has a futurist theme and is appropriate for all ages.

My favorite ride is included here, Space Mountain: Mission 2. The space-age thrill of the ride is incredible, with many turns, neon lights, and a very authentic space-trip feel through it all. The exciting and head-pounding ride is great for thrill-seekers like me and my mom.

My aunt, however, wasn't too thrilled about all the shaking and pounding that your head experiences in that ride.

"My boys are grown. I don't have to do these kind of rides anymore!" my aunt said.

Other rides in that land include Star Tours and Buzz Lightyear's Laser Blast. The Lion King show, also located here, was truly amazing. The performers dance, sing, and interact with the audience with flair and professionalism worthy of Broadway. There is also an opportunity to dine during the show, a welcome break for park-goers.

Adventureland can be enjoyed by anyone who enjoys the thrills of Indiana Jones or Pirates of the Caribbean. Indiana Jones and the Temple of Peril is a roller coaster thrill designed for an older crowd.

Pirates of the Caribbean, a boat ride, is suitable for all ages and takes you through many adventures and the life of pirates. The land is also enjoyable for the young children with activities like Aladdin's Passage and La Cabane des Robinson (the hut of the Robinsons).

Fantasyland is designed for the younger patrons, but can be fun for the whole family. This land includes the "It's a Small World" ride, which we all agreed that this was the best out of all the Disney theme parks.

Frontierland gives you a feel for the old West, and includes the thrill ride Big Thunder Mountain, and moderate rides such as Phantom Manor and the Mark Twain Boat.

Whenever I go in this area, there are usually soldiers practicing their shot at the Rustler Roundup Shootin' Gallery.

Throughout the day we ate the best ice cream we'd ever had, enjoyed fantastic parades, shopped till we dropped, and soaked up the enchantment of Disney and Paris.

Our day ended there with a hug from the characters and we said our "au revoir's". Our trip home was spent reflecting on a well-spent day of sightseeing and fun.

This is a place that is surrounded with culture and fascination for all ages. Whether you're a five-year-old child who wants to say "bonjour" to Mickey Mouse, or an adult who desires to explore the city of Paris. I would recommend this location for anyone who wants to enjoy a fun experience.

Rear detachment hosts sports day

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

Rear detachment Soldiers of the 2-159th Aviation Regiment got together and organized a sports day June 14.

The day was set up to provide families of deployed Soldiers a break from the hardship they endure while their loved ones are deployed.

"We are here today to give the spouses and children of those who are forward, a break and relax a bit from the trying year, to blow off some steam and enjoy themselves, and provide a break from the realities of deployment," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Murray Jones of the 2-159 AVN, coordinator of the sports day.

The event included soccer, football, kickball, volleyball, an inflatable castle for the younger children, a barbecue, and a large sprinkler for everyone to cool off.

The date of the event, one day before Father's Day, was set deliberately.

"This is bringing up the kid's morale since their fathers cannot be here for Father's Day; getting them out and interacting and playing with some of the male Soldiers—providing a father-figure type of aspect for them and giving

back to the kids since their fathers have been gone for a while," explained Sgt. Marcus Bass of 2-149 AVN who helped with announcements and music.

"This day illustrates unity for our forward troops and their families back here, and shows support and what we can do in the rear while they are out there working hard 24-7, just before Father's Day. Whether we are there forward or back here, we are all together as a team," Jones said.

During the course of the day, a video area was set up for children to record electronic messages to their parent.

The rear detachment will forward those messages to the respective deployed parent via CD and e-mail.

The efforts the Soldiers put forth by organizing the event hit home.

"It is one day less from a long deployment," said Denisa Thomas, a family member who attended the event.

"It is good for me to get out of the house, socialize, and meet new friends, but it is also good for the kids to get out, exercise, run around, stay active, and have a social life too. It just breaks up the routine a little bit," added Aurora Gollmyer, whose husband is currently deployed.



1st Lt. Robert Tippets records a digital video greeting of Kailee and Dakota Jacobson, 2-159 AVN family members, for their dad just before Father's Day at the 2-159 AVN family day event June 14. Video greetings were sent downrange to Soldiers via e-mail or CD.

Girl Scouts bridge to higher levels at ceremony

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

Girl Scouts of the Ansbach Chapter rose to a new stage of scouting during the annual bridging ceremony at the Terrace Playhouse in Ansbach June 2.

Bridging for Girl Scouts is the time when the younger scouts, Daises, Brownies, and Juniors, bridge over to the next level of being a Girl Scout.

Symbolizing the bridging at the ceremony, each Girl Scout walked over a small bridge while her name was announced.

"The bridging is the opportunity for the girls in public to say 'I'm moving (up) from one age

level program, I'm no longer a little girl in third grade, I'm now a bigger girl in fourth grade.' It is all about the girls being with kindred groups, and this is their opportunity to say 'I'm moving to the next step'—like a mini-graduation," said Carol Rhan, Director of Membership and Marketing for the USA Girl Scouts Overseas, North Atlantic Region and a Girl Scout in her own right.

"The bridging ceremony is the reward for the girls of a year of hard work. This is our way of giving the girls a pat on the back for working hard," added Rynne Christon, bridging coordinator.

The ceremony is not all about moving to the next hierarchy of the Girl Scouts, however.

"This is also a time for recognition of the girls, who have done special things to prepare themselves to do the work of the next level of being a Girl Scout, badges, attending new troop meetings. It is all about the leadership experience, which is our mission in Girl Scouts—to build girls of courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place," Rhan said.

Emphasizing the opportunities USA Girl Scouts have in Europe, Rhan encourages the Scouts to interact with Girl Scouts of other countries.

"Everything is the same for Girl Scouts in Europe as it is in the States, but what is unique here is the experience these girls have, to work

with other girls in similar type programs, the German or Turkish Girl Guides, or wherever they may be stationed. We strongly encourage our local girls to meet and interact with them. We are part of the world association of Girl Guides/Girl Scouts, which accompanies 181 represented countries," Rhan said.

The participating scouts enjoy scouting and are proud of who they are and what they achieved.

"Being a cadet Girl Scout you meet friends, learn new things, and have fun. It is important to bridge so you learn those new things from one stage to another," said Justine Herring, a cadet with Troop 584.

GARRISON SNAPSHOTS



Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

Dancin' up a storm!

Members of the Seattle Sonic Dance Team perform at the Katterbach School Age Service Gymnasium June 19. The Sonics have been to Kuwait and Iraq bases and are currently touring Germany.

Dancing coach Sabrina, Chaudhry, who has been a professional dancer for eight years and a Sonics coach for two, said "AKA productions asked us to do this tour and share the dancer's passion for dancing and be able to touch the Soldier's and their families lives—it is a moral booster for them...and us."



Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

Run for fun!

Heinz Hassenhauer approaches the finish line during a fun run June 21 at Katterbach. Hassenhauer made first place mastering the five kilometer run in the male category age group 51 and up. Fifty-plus runners--Soldiers and family members--came out to the Katterbach Fitness Center for a fun run set up by the garrison's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division. The fun run was U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Commander Col. Christopher Hickey's first community event since he assumed command June 20.

"This is great and a well run event and Morale Welfare and Recreation did a perfect job. It is interesting to see the community spirit and also encouraging family fitness. It is interesting to see parents out running with their kids and encouraging them—it's also a beautiful day," said Hickey.

Supported by the health and fitness coordinator and a massage therapist, the event featured a stretching station and a barbecue sponsored by FMWR and the Commissary.

Hickey assumes garrison command

McKenna relinquishes command to Hickey, reflects on time spent at Ansbach

by **RABIA NOMBAMBA**
Bavarian News

Soldiers, civilians, family members, and host nation representatives bid farewell to Lt. Col. Tammy S. McKenna and welcomed Col. Christopher M. Hickey during a change of command ceremony June 20 at Barton Barracks.

McKenna relinquished command of the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach to Hickey in the ceremony presided over by Diane Devens, Installation Management Command Europe director.

During her remarks, McKenna acknowledged the efforts put forth by the garrison's staff and Soldiers serving the Ansbach military community, facing various tasks as deploying and redeploying Soldiers, planning and overseeing major construction projects, or standing up a Military Personnel Division.

"What made this one (duty assignment) so special is having been given the opportunity to work with so many outstanding people and to really make a difference in improving the quality of life of so many Soldiers and families. Someone said 'if I ever rise above the crowd it's because I'm standing on the shoulders of giants.' So if I ever rise above the crowd, I will not forget that it was because I was standing on the shoulders of the giants of the United States Army Garrison Ansbach," she said.

In addition, McKenna expressed her appreciation to her fellow commanders, the garrison command sergeant major, and to the community's families.

McKenna will serve the Army Chief of Staff at the Pentagon during her next assignment.

After the ceremonial passing of the garrison's colors, initiated by Command Sgt. Maj. James Esters, Devens recognized McKenna's accomplishments and welcomed Hickey.

"I consider myself lucky because it's a privilege to be able to attend and to pay my own

tribute to Lt. Col. McKenna and welcome Col. Hickey to a great command. Thanks to what's already been accomplished here under Lt. Col. McKenna's leadership, (U.S. Army Europe) is now a tighter, more mobile force, forward deployed," she said.

Devens expressed her confidence in the new commander to lead the garrison successfully.

"Lt. Col. McKenna clearly leaves behind a strong legacy to carry forward. Yet, I know that her very accomplished and capable replacement, Col. Christopher Hickey, will step in with the outstanding leadership qualities that he has demonstrated throughout an impressive Army career," said Devens.

While Hickey is new to the garrison command, he is no stranger to the community.

"Coming to Ansbach is a homecoming to me. This is my third time I have had the privilege to live in this community. My first was over four decades ago when I was a toddler living in Illesheim. My family feels personally grateful to aviators who flew my expecting mother from Stork Barracks to Nuremberg hospital and landed with an additional passenger, my sister. My second tour was over two decades ago as a young single officer living in downtown Ansbach serving in a tank battalion in the 1st Armored Division at Bismarck Kaserne. This past weekend I began my third assignment," he said.

Hickey has served the Army for 22 years, most recently as commander of the 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment that he led through two deployments in Iraq.

Now Hickey is looking forward to applying his commanding experiences to serve the community.

"I hope that my perspective living in both the Illesheim and Ansbach communities, as a dependent, a single officer, and now with my family, with the experience of commanding for multiple combat tours in Iraq, enables me to serve this community with the highest quality of service possible," said Hickey.



The U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach color guard posts the colors at the change of command ceremony that saw Col. Christopher M. Hickey assume command of the garrison from Lt. Col. Tammy S. McKenna June 20 on Barton Barracks in Ansbach.

Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

Battlemind trains Soldiers, families for reunion

Redeployment class eases transition from battle zone to life back at home

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

While approaching the end of a 15-month deployment for many units of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, the garrison is increasing its efforts to prepare spouses and Soldiers for a smooth reunion.

Part of the reintegration process is the Battlemind training that is conducted separately for spouses and for Soldiers.

The spouses' end of the program is headed by Pamela Thomas, Army Community Service program support assistant and interim mobilization and deployment program manager.

"The purpose of the Spouses' Battlemind Training is to help spouses be aware and educate them that change has occurred in themselves as

well as in their redeploying service member," said Thomas. "The training is a means of education for some; reemphasizing already known information for others."

The program teaches spouses how to recognize the symbolic mental red flags and assists them with identifying certain types of behaviors.

Thomas further explained that the Army does not want its returning Soldiers who seek counseling to have a negative stigma and Spousal Battlemind hopes to avoid that.

"It's an Army-wide concern with the garrison and is a pre-established program from Walter Reed (Army Medical Center) with the purpose to help spouses understand certain kinds of behaviors or warning signs from their returning service member during transition.

"You have to give your spouse that adjustment

period to come back, not only to the garrison, but to home life and to re-acclimatize to being a spouse, be with the children, and life in general," said Thomas.

According to the leader's Battlemind training module for Soldiers, "Battlemind is the Soldier's inner strength to face fear and adversity in combat with courage. If you respond at home the same way you respond in combat, you're going to have problems. You must take your Battlemind skills and adapt them so that they are just as effective at home as they were in combat."

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Mike Yarman, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach chaplain, conducts the Soldier's end of the training. He said their education is about recognition and transition.

"For the Soldiers, it is getting their attention and saying to them that, 'less than 72 or 96 hours

ago I was in a combat environment, but now I am not. I'm home and life here is much different than on the battlefield,' and that change is a crucial turning point.

"We are trying to click-click, this light; and bring all these issues to the surface for them to identify with. We want to enable our Soldiers to identify what the issues are they may be dealing with and to attack a very real problem—we do not want them to hurt themselves or anyone else during the transition phase. It is taking lessons learned and applying intervention," Yarman said.

For more information and resources on the full Battlemind training, log on to www.battlemind.army.mil or contact the garrison Religious Support office at DSN 467-2785 or CIV 09802-832-785.

Army, Navy chaplains team up on suicide prevention plans

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

Suicide intervention is taken serious in the Ansbach military community, so the garrison's Religious Support Office teamed up with the Navy's Spiritual Fitness Division in Naples, Italy, to conduct a suicide intervention workshop.

"What the program attempts to do is to come in contact with afflicted parties, intervene and stabilize that person, to get them to the professional help that they need," said Army Chap. (Col.) David Root, garrison chaplain.

"Once the workshop participants complete the course, they are like the eyes and ears of and for the community to intervene and prevent potential suicides," he said.

According to Root, all major commands are required to have a suicide intervention trainer and conduct workshops.

Root explained that it is up to each command as to when and how often they conduct the

workshops.

The number of workshops offered depends on the number of available trainers and each workshop should be conducted by two trainers, Root said.

The garrison asked Navy Chap. (Cmdr.) Bruce Mentzer, Director of Spiritual Fitness Division in Naples, Italy, to assist with the workshop.

"This is one of the most (influential) programs we have. We want people to feel the same way about someone they come across that is suicidal, as they do with someone who has had a heart attack, and perform First Aid/CPR on them--get them into the hospital, so to speak," said Mentzer.

Part of the program is to restore personal relationships that will help take care of potential suicides and to restore long term activities that

bring back light to their lives according to Mentzer.

"We want to get their heart pumping again and get them back to life. It is suicide first aid," said Mentzer.

As units of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade are getting ready to redeploy, the timing for suicide

intervention workshops couldn't be better. Mentzer explained that Soldiers who return from the intensive environment downrange often start to review and reevaluate life.

"Sometimes one forgets the things that really

bring them life, which might be going for a run in the morning or to connect with mom and dad. Maybe you have been away for six months and you have forgotten how important it is to come back to that and combat is so intensive that it sometimes can actually get you distracted from those normal everyday things you can do," Mentzer said.

Metzner also explained the importance of trained suicide intervention personnel.

"As with someone who is hurt and you don't know what to do it is like a deer in headlights. These participants are not going to be deer in headlights, they'll know what to do--intervene and prevent because they have had the training. They are like first responders," he said.

The next suicide intervention workshop is scheduled for Aug. 19 and 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Von Steuben Community Recreation Center on Bismarck Kaserne in Katterbach. For more information, call Root at DSN 467-2785 or CIV 09802-832-785.

“ We want to get their heart pumping again and get them back to life. It is suicide first aid. ”

Navy Chap. (Cmdr.) Bruce Mentzer
Director, Spiritual Fitness Division, Naples

JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge takes over Grafenwoehr Training Area

by **KATIE COOPER**
and **CHANTEA LEOTA**
JMTC Summer Hire Interns

The Grafenwoehr Training Area hosted 118 youth from Germany, Italy, and Belgium for an 11-day JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge June 15-25.

The students participated in the ropes course, obstacle course and land navigation at various GTA sites.

Cadets were challenged. The GTA has 57,000 acres of ranges and training areas that provide the U.S. military and troops from partner nations the capability of training soldiers for real-world combat.

The past two weeks the cadets trained on these same ranges.

"I thought that I was going to do bad, because I don't know anything about the military. But, with a little help I gained confidence," said Yuli Shober Wienecke of Heidelberg High School, a first year JROTC student.

Wienecke said that she was happy to be at camp, but she was also worried she wouldn't do well at the physical challenges.

JROTC is a program that prepares

students to become leaders, makes them aware of their rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens, and helps motivate students to graduate from high school.

Another student, Alex Adams from Aviano, Italy served as a squad leader at the camp.

"I really like the people you meet at camp. You spend 18 hours a day for 11 days with them, and you feel like you've known them forever," said Adams.

His challenge, "I had to be above the standard, while serving as a leader."

The students completed their physical training test on the final day of training prior to graduation. It was hot.

They stood at parade rest. One by one each cadet was graded on push-ups and sit-ups and a one-mile run, much like those taken by active-duty Soldiers, but many may never see the ranks.

"The camp happens once a year, after the school year ends. The students have to show an interest. They have to want to come," said Lt. Col. Felix Pedraza, camp commander. "It keeps the youth busy, many have deployed parents, and it creates a distraction. It's something we can do to support the military family."

On June 25, the Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge held a graduation ceremony.

"For the past 11 days, you, cadets have had the opportunity to experience a variety of activities and tasks that forced all of you to reach inside for physical toughness and stamina," said Brig. Gen. David Hogg, commanding general of the Joint Multinational Training Command.

The command is responsible for the GTA training areas.

"All of you got to experience what your military parents had to accomplish in their careers, such as drown proofing, jumping from a 10 meter board into the water, and learning basic rappelling operations, but most importantly, this fantastic program has made you all a better person, a better leader, and has given you all a life experience and new friends that you will always remember — and that is absolutely priceless," he said.



Photo by Jerry David Hall III

Air Force Cadet Jordan Weum, Aviano HS; Army Cadet Teresa Trevino, Vilseck HS; and Air Force Cadet Ariel Niznik, Aviano HS; check the safety lines while observing another cadet climbing a 30 foot pole at the High Ropes Course in Taennesberg, Germany.



Photo by David Schwab

Army Cadets Viary Quinones, Ansbach HS, and John Bradley, Mannheim HS, cross a bridge 30 feet off the ground at the high ropes course.



Photo by David Schwab

Army Cadets Clinton Carbaugh, Baumholder HS, and Katelyn Bronell, Hohenfels HS, negotiate white water on a curve on the River Wiesent near Pottenstein, Germany. The cadets are attending the 2008 DoDDS-Europe Army JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Vilseck

- Friday: Fireworks at Little Mike softball field, 10:30 p.m.
- Texas Hold 'em Tournament at The Zone, 11 p.m.

Grafenwoehr

- Friday: Fireworks at Grafenwoehr Tower Theater parking lot, 10:30 p.m.
- Saturday: Sevendust gives a free rock concert at Grafenwoehr Field House, 8 p.m.
- Sunday: Lt. Dan Band gives a free USO concert at Grafenwoehr Field House, 8 p.m.

4th of July, 2008

USAG Grafenwoehr

Looking to buy or sell something? Check out our classified ads!

Montano named 2008 Youth of the Year

Story and photo by LINDSEY COLE

Bavarian News

For years, the Boys and Girls Club of America has held a Youth of the Year contest to recognize one individual for his dedication to and involvement with the community. This year Stefanie Montano, a graduate in the Wuerzburg American High School class of 2008, earned the honor for U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt.

In addition to being an active member in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, playing sports, and keeping a high grade-point average, Montano also shouldered the role of the USAG Schweinfurt youth representative.

Montano attended meetings throughout the school year which included the youth advisory council, communicated through e-mail and phone conferences with other youth representatives on problem-solving tasks, and participated in live European teen panels.

Her intense community involvement made Montano a likely YOY winner, however, like all the candidates, she had to complete the rigorous application process. Essays addressing subjects such as school, family, the community, and involvement with the BGCA were just the beginning.

"I thought the application process was long but fun and interesting. It made me realize I

had accomplished more than I thought and appreciate others around me for helping me in life," Montano said.

As she walked across the stage to receive the last diploma ever awarded by WAHS, she was congratulated and hugged by Principal Walt Seely.

Montano will attend the University of Hawaii with her sister Kelli, who is also a 2008 WAHS graduate.

"I'm really going to miss Schweinfurt. The opportunities and the people I've met have given me a great experience. I hope the next representative for this community will enjoy the experience as much as I did," Montano said.



Stefanie Montano, a 2008 WAHS graduate, was named Youth of the Year for USAG Schweinfurt.

Alumni attend Wuerzburg graduation, closing

Story and photo by LINDSEY COLE

Bavarian News

Closures are often a chance for remembrance. June 5 and 6, four Wuerzburg American High School alumni from the classes of 1967-1969 attended the graduation and closing ceremonies.

Bill Suzuki, brothers Michael and Henry Chiasson, and Jackie Hall attended WAHS when the school was relatively new.

During that time era, they agreed, Leighton Barracks looked very different. There were no fences around the post and people from the economy could walk in and out as they pleased.

"Being in Wuerzburg was the best time of my life. It was a rich cultural experience that we didn't appreciate as

much as we should have. But it created an experience for us, and we just can't let go of it," Henry said.

Both Michael and Henry live in Florida and came back specifically for the graduation and closing ceremony.

Before the Wuerzburg alumni Web site was made, the only way previous graduates could stay in contact was by the postal service, and some didn't stay in contact at all.

"If it weren't for Bob Manwaring (founder of the alumni association) and the internet, we never would've gotten together," Michael said. Now past graduates have the opportunity to reestablish contact with one another.

Hall moved back to Germany in 1972 and has lived here ever since.

"I think the only thing that really makes me American is going to this high school, the experience itself," Hall said.



Wuerzburg American High School alumni, from left, Michael Chiasson, Bill Suzuki, Jackie Hall, and Henry Chiasson attended WAHS' final graduation and closing ceremonies.

Middle school, youth center team up in 'Power Hour'

by LINDSEY COLE

Bavarian News

For students who attend Schweinfurt Middle School, academic achievement is encouraged. At the Child and Youth Services Youth Center, high achievers are rewarded for all their hard work.

The Youth Center hosts Power Hour, a partnership with the SMS aimed at building student enthusiasm for academics. This is accomplished using a variety of prizes, ranging from school supplies to iPod Shuffles.

Debra Brock is in charge of Power Hour, which she feels encourages kids to keep achieving the best they can, even if they don't

win prizes during the program.

For those that do, the prizes are motivation to keep working hard. Three students in particular attend the program and are an example for all their peers.

Seventh grader Kiersten Cade achieved outstanding accomplishments this school year. She was named student of the month, student of the semester, made the principal's list for making straight A's, earned achievement certificates in math and the language arts health adventure education junior leadership society.

Cade is also a member of student council, National Junior Honor Society and is heavily involved with CYS and softball.

"I'm very proud of my daughter, and I'm glad she's participating in this program. It motivates kids to achieve more and creates good study habits. Instead of a Power Hour, they should make it a Power Hour and a Half!" said Janet O'Brien, Cade's mom.

Eighth-grader Austin Eubanks has achieved awards for Spanish, presidential academics, student of the month, and student of the semester. His clubs and extra curricular activities include being student council president, the NJHS, MathCounts, soccer, and basketball for CYS sports.

"It's pretty difficult for kids to focus on their work with all the video games nowadays. I love

video games but I know that I have to get my priorities straight because playing video games aren't going to get me into college in the future," Eubanks said.

Sixth-grader Khayree Files has always been involved with school and achieving high academics. He's received many certificates for classes such as band, math, science, being a volunteer at school and community, and receiving two SMS success cards.

He's also taken a roll in the NJHS, and the honor roll. Files is also a strong advocate in helping his peers.

"If any of my friends needed help I would help them as best as I could," Files said.

Youth Sports launches Olympic summer

Story and photo by MARK HEETER

USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

Something magical is happening with Youth Services sports this summer. Frisbees will become discs, softballs will become shots for the shot put, and pool noodles will become javelins.

"It's kid-friendly Olympic events to introduce them to (sports)," and to prepare the children for a Olympic-style tournament at the end of the summer, said Daniel Jones, YS sports director.

Jones joins his staff on near-daily trips to destinations throughout the

Schweinfurt community, bringing sports to kids of all ages.

"We're trying to offer facility-based programs, so we get out into the programs and (interact) with the youth at their location - bringing sports to them," said Adio Toliver, YS sports program associate.

"We're just trying to expand our reach and get out into the community," Toliver said.

YS sports looks forward to an action-packed summer, with game and activities for local youth at the child development center, school age services, and Middle School Zone and teen center.

From the Olympic preparation at

the SAS, to the Start Smart kits at the CDC and weight lifting in the teen center, Jones and his team have one goal: get kids involved.

"We're trying to build life skills and include sports into summertime activities utilizing new and improved methods of teaching," Jones said.

And the teaching works, according to Jones. A girl at the SAS who had never ridden a bicycle was cruising around the SAS area within two hours June 17.

"We taught them the basics, started with safety, so when they leave SAS they can actually use those life skills," he said.

The summer YS sports programs present another opportunity, according to Toliver.

"This also gives us the opportunity for kids that don't participate in our regular programs involved. There are still a lot of youth out there who are not active," he said.

"Hopefully, with all the transition going on, we want to make sure that we're still providing the same services to those youth that are here. So we need to go out and get them where they are, we will do that," Toliver said.

YS sports is also bringing in experts for coaching clinics in baseball and basketball. And Olympians Nathalie Bartleson and Buddy Lee will visit the SAS Wednesday for a motivational visit to the children.

Enrollment in summer YS sports activities continue on a rolling basis. For details, call DSN 354-6822 or CIV 09721-96-6822.

Veterinary appointments limited, clinic requests customer cooperation

by Kimberly Gearhart

Bavarian News

Making and keeping doctor's appointments are important parts of being a responsible patient in military communities, where resources are often tight. This is no less true of four-legged patients and their caretakers.

The Schweinfurt Veterinary Treatment Facility is currently operating with a short staff consisting of only one veterinarian and her assistants.

"We have two military veterinarians coming from Bamberg and Ansbach a few days each month, but appointments will be fewer than before," said Staff Sgt. Catherine Betts, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Schweinfurt VTF.

Additionally, the Leighton clinic has been reduced to a one-day-per-week schedule, open Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. only.

"Most of the Wuerzburg appointments (until the July 9 clinic closure) have been booked," Betts said.

These appointments are generally for health certificates only, and pet

owners with additional needs must turn to the Schweinfurt clinic. Owners are asked to call well in advance of their move dates in order to be sure to secure an appointment for their pets' health certificates.

The Schweinfurt clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., including most training holidays, except for the last day of the month, when inventory is conducted.

However, reduced staffing and high demand for move-related health certificates means that many pet owners may be referred to veterinarians on the economy to get care, particularly in emergency cases.

"We have a comprehensive list of (English-speaking) providers at the clinic," Betts said. She further advises pet owners to take a value-added tax exemption form to appointments.

The staff at the Schweinfurt VTF asks that owners cancel appointments no less than 24 hours in advance so that the slot can be offered to others. With such a tightly packed schedule, every appointment counts.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call DSN 353-8359 or DSN 350-7429.



From left, Kristen Gearhart, Tierney Houston, Brandon Stockdill, and Alexandria Richardson hone their map reading skills during a land navigation activity with the SAS June 19.

WTU promotes, returns Soldiers to duty

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Soldiers in need of complex medical care and those facing medical separation or Military Occupational Specialty reclassification due to their health or physical status can now find the support their need within Warrior Transition Units throughout the United States and Germany.

Far from being a place for "broken" Soldiers to go, WTUs offer Soldiers an opportunity to focus on their primary mission of healing, while still maintaining Army discipline and standards.

"This is a real Army unit. We will promote you. We will demote you. We will send you to the board," said Capt. Michael Weisman, Bavaria WTU company commander.

And the WTU will, if possible, help Soldiers return to duty.

Soldiers like Sgt. Scott Lombardi, a 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Soldier who was injured during a night mission.

"I fell from a cliff in Afghanistan," he explained. Lombardi tumbled nearly 60 feet, suffering multiple injuries that required his evacuation from theater.

He is awaiting orders that will reassign him back to 1-91 CAV now that he's been cleared to RTD.

"I actually want to try out for Special Forces," Lombardi said.

Spc. Angel Gomez was injured in Iraq in April 2007 while serving with the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. During a combat-related Bradley accident, Gomez suffered whiplash and traumatic brain injury. Gomez reenlisted for four years, and will complete a permanent change of station move to Fort Benning, Ga., soon.

Not all WTU Soldiers were injured downrange, however. Sgt. Aaron Henry, for example, joined the WTU after being diagnosed with a hernia.

"The healing process was going to take time, no matter what," Henry said. Once he is officially back in 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, Henry hopes to lead Soldiers again.

And although not all Soldiers in the WTU will RTD, many need only the time and resources to help them heal, and the determination to remain in the Army--like Spc. Jacob Brock, a 9th Engineer Soldier.

Brock, who was injured by an explosively formed projectile while attached to 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry in Iraq in June of 2007, was facing medical separation for his injuries, which include a finger that he can not fully bend.

"He told them to cut it off, if that was all that was keeping him back," said WTU 1st Sgt. Ron Quinn.

"I told them to send me RTD. I need to get back on the line, get back in the unit," Brock said. Brock reenlisted in Iraq for six years, and will PCS to Fort Campbell, Ky., to the 101st Airborne once his orders process.

Soldiers looking to continue their Army career while in the WTU, like Brock, Henry, Lombardi, and Gomez, are given every opportunity and resource to succeed, said Weisman.

Brock and Spc. Jonathan Cassidy, a 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Soldier who just came to the WTU in March, went to the Bavaria Medical Department Activity Soldier of the Month board. Cassidy won the board.

"He did so well, I was asked why he wasn't going to the promotion board," said Quinn. Cassidy and Brock both attended the subsequent board, and are now promotable.

"The WTU encourages us to do anything we can to advance ourselves," Cassidy said.



Capt. Michael Wiseman, right, gives Spc. Angel Gomez the oath of re-enlistment. Gomez, a WTU Soldier, is being returned to duty and will PCS to Fort Benning, Ga.

Leighton community says goodbye to retired veteran

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. **JOHN QUEEN**
69th ADA Public Affairs Office

The jaunty yet sorrow melody of "A Scottish Soldier" filled the air around Leighton Barracks chapel in Wuerzburg June 7 as a small group from the community attended a memorial service for Robert J. Frank, a retired U.S. Army major, and a longtime resident of Wuerzburg that passed away May 28. He was 80-years-old.

Frank, who originally hailed from Williamsport, Pa., retired from the Army in 1977 and began working as a food and beverage broker to the Defense Commissary Agency. He also used his new-found spare time to become an active member with Veterans organizations in Germany and to pursue one of his foremost passions -- history. His love of history made him a superb docent for the 3rd Infantry Division Museum, which would later become the 1st Infantry Division's Museum on Leighton Barracks.

He was remembered during the service as a husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, a friend, but most of all a Soldier.

Frank had a lustrous career in the service that began in early years that followed World War

II when he enlisted in the Army and served in "occupied" Germany. Years later, as a corporal with the 24th Infantry Division, he saw action in the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor. His exemplary service throughout the conflict earned him a commission that led to serving in numerous positions within various infantry units.

In October 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis came to a boiling point and Frank was once again placed on the tip of the Army's spear when he was made responsible for displacing a Fort Lee, Va., logistical command to Florida in the event of a possible invasion of Cuba.

The crisis resolved, and Frank would later serve three tours of duty in Vietnam, each with an advisory command. In between his first and second tour he was assigned to his future home of Wuerzburg as Inspector General for the 3rd Infantry Division's headquarters.

After Vietnam, Frank returned to the U.S. Army, Europe ranks several times and ended his career as the area club manager for the Wuerzburg area club system.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years Anna; daughter, Babette, her husband Paul; and two grandsons, Robert and Jack.



An old friend renders a salute as he says goodbye and pays tribute Robert Frank during a memorial at Leighton Barracks Chapel in Wuerzburg June 7.

Holocaust survivor shares her story with Schweinfurt

Story and photo by **LINDSEY COLE**
Bavarian News

The Holocaust was a time of grief and anguish for the world. One woman travels internationally to tell her story of struggling for survival during that time.

Eva Geiringer Schloss, a survivor of the Holocaust, has visited Schweinfurt three times in the past and participated in the play "And Then They Came for Me" written by James Stills in 1996. This play shows the dynamics of families who struggled with the atrocities of the Holocaust, specifically what went on for Anne Frank's, and Schloss's, family. They were childhood acquaintances.

Initially the play was created to teach about the Holocaust, and is presented using a multimedia interactive format.

"I've been the director of the play for three years. Eva as a person is a very interesting lady, she's very accepting of people, not into judging people at all. I'm sure it's because of her experiences," said Garland Travis, entertainment director for U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, who plans to continue directing the play in the future.

The play shows Frank and Schloss as young children and how they were discriminated against under the Nazis. It began with wearing the Jewish star and ended with life in the concentration camps, or "death camp." Frank and her family, as well as Schloss's family, did not survive the concentration camps.

After the play itself, Schloss invited the audience to voice questions they may have about her life or anything regarding the Holocaust.

"My family was killed at a very young age. What's rewarding to me is sharing my story with many audiences who can know the truth. It makes me know that my family's spirit has not died, we're all a big link in a chain that cannot be broken," Schloss said.

Another purpose of this play is to speak up against discrimination. By being active in sharing her story, Schloss believes it could be an eye-opener.



Eva Schloss and "young Eva" played by Addison Potter Stevens, take a bow for closing night of the play.

"People do not realize how dangerous things can be without speaking up against discrimination, hatred, and bigotry," she said.

The nine-character cast consists of Schweinfurt community volunteers. For two years, Addison Potter Stevens has played the role of young Eva. She believes that the play is necessary to spread the word about what happened during this time and could possibly aid in making sure this doesn't happen again.

"Before I began, I knew a little bit about the World War II but I didn't know any details. When I began the play last year I learned so much ... Partaking in this makes me grateful for my own problems, because they're nothing compared to what the people had to go through," Potter-Stevens said.

Looking for something to do this Fourth of July holiday? Turn to page 13 for a list of activities in your area, or check out what neighboring garrisons are doing!

255th Medical holds rebasing ceremony

Story and photo by ANNE M. TORPHY
BMEDDAC PAO

The 255th Medical Detachment, Preventive Medicine, held its rebasing ceremony May 30 in Grafenwoehr.

The 255th, set to rebase to its new home in Fort Lewis, Wash., was originally constituted in 1944 at Camp Grant, Ill.

During World War II, the 255th Medical Detachment received credits for the Northern France Campaign, Rhineland, and Central Europe. In 1951, it was redesignated as the 255th Medical Gas Detachment and reactivated to the Panama Canal Zone, but inactivated in 1962.

It was reactivated in Germany July 16, 1994, and deployed to Bosnia in 1996, where it received the Army Superior Unit Award.

Since then, the detachment has participated in numerous operations in locations to include Macedonia, Kosovo, the United Kingdom, Southern European Task Force, Norway, Slovakia, Moldova, and Guinea.

The 255th Medical Detachment later deployed in 2003 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom I

and once again for Operation Iraqi Freedom III. It was assigned to the 421st Multifunctional Medical Command Battalion in 2006.

During the rebasing ceremony, Lt. Col. Jonathan C. Fristoe, 421st MMB commander, commended Lt. Col. Robert S. Richards, 255th commander, and the 255th Medical Detachment on their commitment to service.

"You and your Soldiers have done an amazing job of taking care of equipment and personnel, culminating in today's ceremony. Thank you as well to all the past and present members of the 255th for your services to U.S. Forces Overseas," Fristoe said.

"Lt. Col. Richards and Sgt. 1st Class John P. Castillo will proudly carry the guidon to Fort Lewis, Wash., where an activation ceremony will be conducted in July and a new chapter will begin in the unit's storied history."

Lt. Col. Jonathan Fristoe, 421st MMB commander, and Lt. Col. Robert Richards, 255th commander, case the unit's colors during the rebasing ceremony May 30.



AFN Openline focuses on treating Soldiers, families

ERMC news release

While keeping Soldiers mission-ready is their primary mission, Europe's senior Army dental leaders went on the air June 4 during a live AFN Openline talk show to discuss how they are meeting those mission requirements while still providing a substantial amount of space-available care to family members across Europe.

In Europe, dental treatment facilities fall under the command of a regional commander and two area commanders, all of whom were available on the air: Col. Randall Ball, commander of the Europe Regional Dental Command and the Heidelberg Dental Activity; Col. John Etzenbach, Bavaria Dental Activity, and Col. Roger Fiedler, Landstuhl Dental Activity.

Since families rely on the TRICARE Dental Plan to pay for visits to host nation providers, the TRICARE Dental representative, Dr. George Schad, also appeared on the show.

"Our primary mission is to ensure the dental

readiness, wellness, and deployability of the force," Ball said, answering a question on the availability of space-available care. Although our other than active duty beneficiaries, for the most part, our active duty family members, are afforded access to care in our facilities across Europe, such access can only be provided on a space-available basis. Depending on mission requirements, such access may vary by both time and location, he added.

He went on to say that space availability largely depends on the overall dental readiness of our supported organizations and the individual needs of our Soldiers, both before and after deployments. Deployments of dental staff may also be a factor in determining space availability.

"We continue to do the best we can for all of our available beneficiaries; however, we must limit space-available care if mission dictates," Ball said.

He pointed out that those eligible for space-

available care should stay in touch with the facility in their area to find out when periods might occur when more space-available appointments might be open.

He added, "it is strongly encouraged that our families enroll in or maintain their TRICARE Dental Plan to ensure a user-friendly alternative to access to care in our facilities."

Ball did ask for assistance from the audience in making more appointments available to all by addressing the appointment no-show rates in Europe's military dental facilities.

"I would like our beneficiaries to help us help you by taking the time to call to cancel or reschedule when you can't make an appointment," Ball said. During April 2008 alone, he said, there were 1,994 failed appointments. Of those, he said, 819 (41 percent) were appointments to see family members.

"Please don't be a no-show...calling or stopping by your servicing clinic to cancel or reschedule an appointment is an easy fix, and it

gives someone else a chance to get the care they need," he added.

The key point in the TRICARE arena was a recent expansion in the number of preferred providers – host nation dentists who will accept TRICARE-Dental payments – through an increased "recruiting" effort by TRICARE Dental. The preferred provider network continues to expand across Germany and Italy.

"Before we enter into an agreement with a host-nation provider, we visit their offices and ensure that the care our Soldiers and families receive there meets the same standards we have for dentists in the U.S.," Schad said.

The list is available from the TRICARE-Dental Web site at www.tricaredentalprogram.com. To get onto the list, an off-post provider must be qualified and use the latest techniques and materials when providing care.

The program is available at <http://www.afneurope.net/DynamicMenu/Radio/AFNOpenline/tabid/701/Default.aspx>.



Bagby bids farewell to 561st

Photo by Mary Markos

Lt. Col. Shane Bagby handed over control of the 561st Medical Company to Lt. Col. James Turonis in a change of command ceremony at the Grafenwoehr parade field June 12.

The new commander has not arrived yet, so Capt. Michael Mansell is currently serving as commander of the 561st.

'Eye Care About You'

Explore history of contact lenses

by Capt. KYLE SMITH
Katterbach Optometrist

Leonardo da Vinci was a busy man. He was an artist, a scientist, apparently part of a conspiracy against the Roman Catholic Church (at least according to The Da Vinci Code), and was a prolific inventor. In fact, in 1508, he was the first person to conceive of what we recognize today as contact lenses.

Rene Descartes followed a century later with his own design. These lenses may have corrected your vision but would require you to walk around with a test tube type device sticking out of your eyelids!

An English astronomer came up with a more practical design in 1823, which he described as "some transparent animal jelly contained in a spherical capsule of glass applied to the surface of the eye." Hmm...animal jelly. No thanks.

The first "modern" contact lenses were made of blown glass (yes, glass!) and were huge – they covered nearly the entire eyeball and were very uncomfortable.

Nearly 10,000 pairs of these lenses were sold to incredibly motivated people. Most of these lenses were produced right here in Germany thanks to their superb optical engineering.

The first plastic contact lenses were produced in 1936. The inspiration for these lenses?

Airplane cockpit covers!

The plastic lenses were still enormous but could be custom designed – the doctor would take a mold of the front of the patient's eye using a dental mold, then fashion the plastic lens to be a perfect fit.

Thankfully, soft lenses eventually arrived on the scene in 1962, invented by an innovative Czech polymer chemist.

Soft lenses have been improving ever since. Today's soft contact lenses can accommodate nearly any prescription and the material the lenses are made from is constantly being improved.

Today's lenses are more resistant to drying out, let more oxygen through to the eye, and are incredibly comfortable.

Today 125 million people around the world regularly wear contact lenses. One thing to remember is that contact lenses are a medical device and must be carefully fit to your eye, which requires a trip to the eye doctor (don't worry, no dental molds involved!), and there are special considerations for military personnel.

Contacts must be cleaned and cared for properly to minimize the risk of eye infections or other complications.

However, it's great to have the option of wearing contact lenses – thanks to the innovation of brilliant people over many centuries.

“Truth, Beauty, and Contact Lenses are in the eye of the beholder.”

Lawrence J. Peter
Author

Have a story idea? Let us know! Send an e-mail to usaggnews@eur.army.mil with your suggestion and contact information and we will follow up.

Changes based on patient suggestions

Continued From Page 1

a half full-time equivalent primary care providers for the current population of 4,500 and plans to receive three more by the end of the summer when the community population will return to around 8,000.

The Army staffing model is one provider for about 1,178 patients.

"In combination with the host nation network, the health clinic can cover down on surges. When the clinic runs low on appointments, family members can be seen downtown quickly," Alarcon said.

Currently, the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic has four full-time primary care providers and three more arriving in the near future. A pediatrician will be one of the new hires for the current population of 6,800.

Lt. Col. Telita Crosland, Grafenwoehr Health Clinic commander, said that the clinic often utilizes Eschenbach for overflow of acute care during busy periods.

The clinics are capable of providing acute care for minor illness, routine care for chronic illness, and wellness examinations such as physicals. In addition to the primary care providers, both clinics also have physical therapy, optometry, audiology, and behavioral health services.

Reimbursement for Travel

TRICARE Prime Patients will be reimbursed for certain travel expenses if they are referred for care outside their health clinic. BMEDDAC appreciates that there is confusion on the reimbursement process for mileage to German hospitals or medical temporary duty for U.S. hospitals.

There are specific procedures to receive your reimbursement for your costs when you travel to and from appointments that are off post. Medical reimbursement regulations for active duty and family members have different requirements and processes.

BMEDDAC is working with ERMC to design an information brochure that will be available at health clinics and online for each community.

There was a request for some sort of public transportation to and from local hospitals – the Vilseck Health Clinic and U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr will review the idea and report on the viability of the request.

For patients who do not have access to transportation, Schneider said that family members should try to work as a team and reach out to help each other with appointments.

Pediatrics and Well-Baby Exams

There is currently one pediatrician, Dr. Renata Lukezic, on staff at the Vilseck Health Clinic. According to Crosland, the clinic does not currently have a pediatrician on staff, but is working on having one in the near future.

Crosland said that the distribution of pediatricians is based on the number of babies delivered at the military treatment facility, and with no deliveries taking place at the health clinics it is difficult to request one of 30 pediatricians in the worldwide Army medical system.

However, according to Alarcon and Crosland, there are 10 pediatrician providers in the Vilseck footprint and seven in Grafenwoehr. Crosland said that the German pediatricians speak English and are excellent caregivers. Your TRICARE specialists can assist in selecting the pediatrician who is right for your family, and don't be afraid to ask for credentials, said Alarcon.

Family members at the medical town hall requested the return of Well-Baby Wednesdays to ensure immunizations are done at the proper time for children. Alarcon said that families should stop into Vilseck Health Clinic for Well-Baby Wednesdays, which start back up today.

Schneider and the clinic commanders will be reviewing a pediatric physical therapy clinic in the local German community, per the recommendation of a family member at the town hall, and BMEDDAC will move to add those pediatric therapists to the Preferred Provider Network.

EDIS

The goal of Educational and Developmental Intervention Services is to make sure that all children are ready to learn when they reach school age by providing services and support to eligible families who have concerns about their child's development.

Developmental screenings are provided for all children under the age of three. Evaluation and treatment is provided for all children who qualify.

School age children are referred for physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychological

evaluations, and social work through the Department of Defense Dependents Schools' special education process.

Recognizing the growing concerns of the community, BMEDDAC worked with Medical Command on a recently completed staff-assisted visit of the EDIS program in Europe, including the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr communities, to identify needs and potential resources.

As a result of the evaluation, an additional Early Childhood Special Educator will arrive in July, and a speech language pathologist has been approved and is in the hiring process.

Allergy/Dermatology Appointments

Currently, the allergist from Landstuhl makes an annual visit to the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr communities. Lt. Col. Henry Spring, deputy chief of clinical services for BMEDDAC, explained that German physicians have different brands and types of allergy medications than American physicians.

Referring current allergy patients to the local community may mean that the patient needs to start from an assessment phase with a new physician. BMEDDAC has one dermatologist to support Bavaria who visits all the clinics in the footprint, but will soon be headed for a deployment.

Alarcon said that he will request American specialists for allergies and dermatology visit the communities on a more frequent basis so that current patients can continue with their treatment and will contact patients on dates when the specialist will be in town.

Translation of Records, Lab Results

Several family members were concerned that their German medical records were taking longer than the standard of four weeks to translate. The physician's office sends a report to the health clinic, which the health clinic then sends for medical translation.

The translated clinical note is then scanned into your electronic medical record. Alarcon said the clinic is looking into average turnaround time; and if the process can be improved.

Another family member asked if lab tests could be conducted in the local community and results sent back to the health clinic in order to eliminate the waiting time when sent to Heidelberg, Landstuhl, or Walter Reed for

analysis. The chief of laboratory services for BMEDDAC has been working with the ERMC laboratory consultant and host nation partners to investigate options with medical laboratory facilities in the local communities of Germany.

Patient Liaisons

Look for the clinics' patient liaisons to play an even bigger role in your relationship with German hospitals, as PL staff has recently doubled. If you are in the hospital, the patient liaisons make daily rounds and are available by phone.

Both Alarcon and Crosland are looking into having patient liaisons assist you during your discharge from the hospital so that you understand instructions from the doctor and have proper medication for your time at home.

Hospital tours conducted by the patient liaisons are also in the works.

Adverse Medical Events

Schneider said that if you are concerned about treatment that you received in the local German community, or at a U.S. Army Health Clinic, contact your health clinic commander or the patient advocate. The command team is responsible for facilitating care between patients and German partners.

"We need to hear your concerns in order to address them. We will make an inquiry and respond to you," Alarcon said.

Schneider reminded attendees at the town hall that BMEDDAC headquarters is in the process of moving to Vilseck and will be located in Bldg. 700 by early August.

"That means that you have a host of experts and resources at your fingertips. Don't be afraid to contact us," she said.

Communications

BMEDDAC is committed to providing you with all the information you need to make good medical decisions. The clinics' Web sites have been recently updated at https://t-ermc.detrick.army.mil/MTFs/Bavaria/Bavaria_MEDDAC.html and some medical information is now available on the USAG Grafenwoehr Web site at <http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/>. Also look for regular updates on the issues discussed in this article in upcoming editions of Bavarian News.

Clinic commanders often speak about current issues live on AFN radio; dates and times will be announced.

Local agencies taking arrival of 172nd in stride

Continued From Page 1

we'll have regarding equipment needed," he said.

Tony Frazier, USAG Grafenwoehr installation coordinator, said the garrison is prepared and will continue to adjust as individuals move to the area.

"There are going to be a few challenges, everybody will be adjusting based on use," Frazier said.

Grafenwoehr Post Exchange

The Army and Air Force Exchange Services Post Exchange began adjusting to the influx of new troops in January when the store saw a jump in sales, said Stephanie Burns, Grafenwoehr main store manager.

"We saw a huge increase (in sales) in the February/March timeframe and they've been increasing since then," she said.

To accommodate the rise in demand, the store more than doubled its stock in hard-hit areas like linen and clothing.

Burns said linen was increased by 40 percent, while the clothing profile was more than doubled.

Clothing, she explained, is ordered a year in advance based on previous sales, expected sales, and trends.

With sales surpassing expectations since the store opened in September, Burns said it has been a challenge to keep up with customer demand.

"When sales exceed the expectations, you're going to have shortages," she said. "That was the case this year. But now that we have adjusted,

we're doing a much better job of staying in stock."

Since opening, the PX has received more than \$400,000 in merchandise from neighboring AAFES stores to satisfy demand. Burns expects that number to drop dramatically in the coming months as the new clothing profile arrives.

"What is really exciting for us is that this is the first profile that we've been able to commit dollars based on the sales that we now have, and the projected sales," Burns said.

"Last year we had \$1 million, seven... and this year we have \$3 million, five of clothing and shoes," she added.

To accommodate previous stock shortages, the store, which averages 38,000 transactions a month and had more than \$4 million in sales during the fiscal month of May, established a customer order program.

The program averaged over 400 orders a month, but has already seen a decrease in demand as more merchandise has been stocked. Currently, the store averages 90 percent in stock.

Burns said the store is also preparing for back to school shopping. With 97 percent of its customers coming from within the garrison footprint, the store worked with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools to ensure they will be able to accommodate the needs of every student.

"We know we're going to have additional family members," Burns said. "So what we've done is received the expected enrollment for the various schools, the number of kids for each grade, and the school supply list for that grade...

and we increased that by 40 percent, and we made a one time buy on that."

Burns added that the store has also ordered thousands of backpacks, and additional items needed such as non-skid shoes and white t-shirts for art classes.

To expedite the check-out process, three additional registers will be added at the front of the store.

"We're doing everything we can to stay in stock... and we'll make adjustments to ensure customer satisfaction," Burns said.

Commissary

The Grafenwoehr Commissary, according to Defense Commissary Agency Europe Public Affairs Officer Gerri Young, is also making adjustments to ensure customer satisfaction.

"The present store was built in anticipation of the expansion of the Grafenwoehr community," Young said.

The store, which opened in September, is a total of more than 47,000 square feet, 27,337 of which is devoted to the sales floor.

To aid in customer service, store managers expect an additional 15 employees to be added to its current staff of 79 by Aug. 1. The store currently has four self checkouts and six in-lane, or traditional registers.

"When customer count is higher (usually weekends and paydays), all six registers are open to provide service. We watch this carefully and adjust as needed in order to speed the checkout process for our customers," Young said.

With 36,000 transactions a month, the store

averages \$1,186,100 in sales a month, with a 97-98 percent in-stock rate.

"To help maintain that in-stock rate, truck deliveries from our distributions center will increase by two each week. Re-supply is never more than one day away as long as the products have arrived from the U.S.," Young said.

"The commissary staff places replenishment orders every day and receives stock every day. As the business continues to increase, order quantities will be continually adjusted as a normal part of commissary operations," she added.

To further accommodate the increase in customer traffic, the commissary will become a seven-day operation with extended hours as of July 1.

"That equates to 68 hours of full operation a week with an additional 12 hours of grab 'n' go service. This is a big increase over the previous 57 full operation hours," Young said.

"According to Randy Eller, zone manager for the area, we have anticipated the large influx of personnel and adjusted our staffing, our delivery schedules, and our hours of operation to accommodate this increased demand. We will continue to monitor sales in all departments to ensure the proper stock levels are maintained to provide our customers the outstanding service they deserve," she said.

Berrios, however, asks community members to be patient.

"Be flexible, we (will) ensure everybody receives all the services they are entitled to receive in a timely manner," he said.

Schweinfurt AER brings in \$58,431

Continued From Page 1

pointed Kinser directly to Sgt. Christopher Morrow. "He took the task to heart and coordinated with the platoon sergeants to collect and track all of the Soldiers in the company who contributed, and who did not, without violating their confidentiality," Kinser said.

"He personally took time to meet and talk with those who had not yet contributed in private to prevent embarrassment or guilt trips in order to get Soldiers to contribute," he added.

"A lot of us Soldiers take AER very seriously," Morrow said, noting that come confusion about

the program almost prevented some Soldiers from contributing.

"Some people confuse the AER with the (Combined Federal Campaign) and say, 'Oh, I gave already,'" Morrow said, adding that clarification helped him in his quest of obtaining 100 percent participation.

"Once the bigger majority of the group was giving, it helped," he said.

Davis said a request for a guidon streamer for the unit is in the works, following their exceptional performance in the AER campaign.

"My first sergeant and I are privileged to have such dedicated Soldiers," Kinser said.

Wireless network keeps Soldiers in touch with family, friends

Continued From Page 1

to purchase access at \$3.50 per hour, \$9.50 per day, \$24.50 per week, or \$39 per month.

Rates through providers off post start around 40 euro per month.

To access the service, Soldiers must have wireless modem capabilities on their computer. Once the computer recognizes the network and the Soldier tries to access the internet, he will be prompted to purchase a plan.

Paige said Hohenfels is one of the first posts to implement this initiative because Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, pushed the project because he knew it was something the Soldiers wanted.

Lt. Col. John Lange, 1-4 battalion commander, said he and former Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Akuna relayed the Soldiers' concerns about their lack of internet access in the barracks to Bloomberg, who began researching ways to make it happen.

First CYS track, field season big hit

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS

Bavarian News

The crowd held their breath as the high jump bar was raised. One by one, members of the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Child and Youth Services track team sailed over the bar. The determination of the children was matched only by the pride their parents felt as medals and trophies were awarded.

CYS Youth Sports and Fitness offered track and field for the first time this year. The track meet held June 12 at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center was an accumulation of the skills that more than 60 children who participated in the program learned and perfected over two months of practice.

While only 21 children participated in the meet, CYS Youth Sports and Fitness Director Dan Fraizer said he was pleased with the season.

"We've got a really great group of kids, and we're hoping to build on this and make it a bigger event and include more communities when we do this again," he said.

Fraizer, who participated in track and field programs in his youth, said offering the program was important to allow children the experience of something besides traditional team sports.

"I wanted to make sure the kids had the opportunity to try different things other than our

basic basketball, baseball, and soccer," he said.

"It is something that I have a passion for... I just wanted to make sure these kids had an opportunity to at least give it a shot and see if they like it too. I was extremely pleased with the number of kids that signed up."

Wendy Thompson, assistant director of the youth sports and fitness program, was also pleased with the participation level.

"We had more interest this season than we expected to... we're hoping that the kids who did track this season will take this back to their friends and spread the word a little bit, so we can promote this program a little more for the spring, and hopefully engage a few more numbers," Thompson said.

Participants of the program learned and had the option to compete in the long jump, the high jump, running events, and relays.

"With track, there are so many different events that can be taught, and that can be competed in," Thompson said. "Those events need specialized coaches."

"If we had more coaches... we could have a distance team, a throwing team, a hurdling team, and a jumping team," Thompson added.

Fraizer echoed the thought.

"We always need volunteers to coach the specific aspect of track and field, like proper running form," he said.



Tyree Matthews, 11, jumps for the long pit at the Child and Youth Services track and field meet June 12. This season was the first track and field was offered with USAG Grafenwoehr CYS.

Black Hawks win five in a row for top place

Special to the Bavarian News

The German Football League 2 season began with much promise. A pre-season victory over German Football League 1 opponent, the Munich Cowboys, and a road victory at Saarbrücken over the Saarland Hurricanes had the Black Hawks flying high.

Week two, the Black Hawks stumbled at Wiesbaden enroute to a 28-28 tie. When last reported, the Black Hawks were preparing for another long road trip, this time to Stuttgart where the Black Hawks were set to face the undefeated Stuttgart Silver Arrows.

Stuttgart proposed many challenges to the Black Hawks. Standout quarterback J.D. Lindsey had led them the previous weekend to a 42-0 shutout of the last place Koningsbrunn Ants, and the defense had just held the Ants to almost zero yards.

"I knew coming into the game that we had to put pressure on to J.D. Lindsey," said Black Hawks Coach Jason Olive. "I faced (Lindsey) while I was the special teams coordinator at Vilseck High School, and he carved us up for more than 400 yards and four (touchdowns) that Saturday afternoon at Patch."

Lindsey's Silver Arrows did not fare so well versus the Black Hawks, losing 55-6. It was the Adam Hazel Show starring Andrew Blakely and Florian Starzengruber as Hazel threw for more than 340 yards, five touchdowns, and one interception.



Photo courtesy of www.westerwald-fotografie.de

Black Hawk wide receiver Sammy Farghali paints up for war against Montabaur June 1. The Black Hawks won the game 30-0.

Blakey and Starzengruber accounted for more than 250 of those yards and three touchdowns.

The defense was equally stingy giving up a touchdown on its first possession, but pitching a shutout the remaining 44 minutes of the game.

Week four was the Black Hawks first home game of the season against pre-season GFL2 favorites, the Franken Knights.

"We had a huge offseason with recruiting, the only team that had done a better job was the Franken Knights," said Olive.

Add to that the fact that Franken was the GFL2 runner-up last season and it was fairly simple to see why the Knights were the pre-season favorites. The Knights jumped out to an early 17-3 lead, and looked as if they were going to run away with the game.

The Black Hawks responded outscoring the Knights 39 - 7 before a last minute touchdown made the score 42-32.

Hazel completed 63 percent of his passes for more than 300 yards and five touchdowns, while Starzengruber and Sammy Farghali paced the wide receivers with more than 200 yards receiving and four touchdowns.

"This was a total team effort," said Olive. "The defense started really slow, and we kept shooting ourselves in the foot with stupid penalties. I challenged the team at halftime and they responded."

Fresh off the victory over the Knights, the Black Hawks were again on the road at Montabaur to play the GFL2 newcomers.

"Although this team was new to the GFL2, they came into the season with very high expectations," said Olive.

Coming into the game, Montabaur was one of the top offensive teams in the league, and featured probably the best young German quarterback Kevin Bruengel.

"(Bruengel) is one of those players that is amazing to watch as a fan, and frustrating to defend as a coordinator," said Olive.

On this day, the offense was clicking on all cylinders, and the defense posted its first shut-out of the season. The Black Hawks left Montabaur with a 30-0 victory and a tight hold on first place.

Stars of the game were Hazel, who threw for more than 380 yards and three touchdowns, and wide receivers

Blakely and Farghali, who accounted for more than 340 yards of receiving and two of those touchdowns.

On defense, Kenneth Telfair Jr. and Toure Butler set the pace with 10 and seven tackles respectively.

Mention the name Kirchdorf Wildcats in Plattling and a lot of words come to mind, none of them good.

Army - Navy, Auburn - Alabama, Michigan - Ohio State are three of the top rivalries in college football; Plattling versus Kirchdorf is probably the premiere rivalry in the GFL2, according to Olive.

This year's edition looked to be a lopsided contest. Plattling was atop the GFL2 South, and Kirchdorf was in sixth place sporting two victories over the seventh place Silver Arrows and eighth place Ants. As rivalries normally go, throw out the records and settle it on the field.

The Black Hawks endured probably their toughest test of the season with a close 21-6 victory in Kirchdorf. Two second half rushing touchdowns by Black Hawks running back Jan Pav, and a brilliant punt return for touchdown by Butler spelled doom for the pesky Wildcats.

The defense played another brilliant game anchored by the play of Telfair with nine tackles, three for loss, and Andreas Schreiner with eight tackles including two for loss.

The fifth victory came over the last place Ants 48-0 in Koningsbrunn.

"Koningsbrunn has endured several setbacks heading into the season, the most significant being the loss of their long-time head coach to the GFL1 Munich cowboys just prior to the season beginning. Couple that with their loss of players, and you get a team that is probably playing at a level too high for their ability," said Olive.

Hazel was again efficient connecting for five touchdowns, including two to Dutch national tight end Bob Van der Meij. Andreas and Butler led all tacklers with eight tackles apiece in the second shutout of the season.

At the halfway point, the Black Hawks sport the No. 1 scoring offense and defense in the GFL2.

Not far behind is the Wiesbaden Phantoms, who the Black Hawks faced June 29 at home for what appears to be the championship game for the GFL2.

"The winner of this game will hold essentially a two-game lead for the championship considering the tie-breaker, and neither of these teams should lose two of their last six games," said Olive.

The next home game for the Black Hawks is Saturday in Plattling.

For more information, visit our team Web site at www.black-hawks-football.de or e-mail Olive personally at weagle_34@yahoo.com.

Mountain bikers tackle Hohenfels heights



Staff report

Touted as the toughest track in U.S. Army Europe, Hohenfels' mountain bike trail challenged 29 enthusiasts who dared the Hohenfels portion of the U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Championship Series June 21.

Winners in the Race

- Men's Civilian Open
- 1. Jeff Address

Obed Garcia pushes hard on his second lap of four during the Hohenfels portion of the U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Championship Series. Garcia is with Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, stationed in Hohenfels.

Photos by Troy Darr

- Men's Military Open
- 1. James Sharp
- Men's Senior Civilian
- 1. Kareem Braightwaite
- 2. Jeff Heagerty
- 3. Corry Tims
- Men's Senior Military
- 1. Seth Linniger
- 2. Hector Rodriguez
- 3. Eric Fitzpatrick
- Men's Master Civilian
- 1. Jay Dana
- 2. Leigh Plowman
- 3. Daniel Hoeh
- Men's Masters Military
- 1. Christopher Koch
- 2. Andrew Overfield
- 3. Jeff Dubinok

More to Come

Six more races are planned with the final event of the series scheduled to be held in Garmisch Sept. 27-28.

For more information about upcoming races call Steven Bocek at DSN 467-2925.



Craig Cardon struggles up the most difficult section of the "toughest track in U.S. Army Europe" during the U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Championship Series. Cardon is with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels.