

Bavarian News

Vol 4. Nr. 16

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

August 20, 2008

GARMISCH

NAVY VET RIGHT MAN FOR JOB

'Freddy O' takes the helm of EEO.

PAGE 6



HOHENFELS

FORCE PROTECTION

Simulated car bomb kicks off exercise.

PAGE 8

ANSBACH

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
MPs offer reward for doing the right thing.

PAGE 18

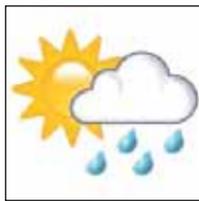
SCHWEINFURT

BEST OF THE BEST

Finney Recreation Center named best in Army.

PAGE 24

WEEKEND FORECAST



High
71
Low
51

Today: Rain, with light rain again on Friday.

www.weather.com

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Sorenson takes garrison reins



Diane Devens, director of Installation Management Command-Europe, passes the guidon for U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr to Col. Nils "Chris" Sorenson Aug. 14.

New GC shares priorities, Boyle heads to IMCOM-E

Story and photos by
MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Col. Nils "Chris" Sorenson took command of U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Aug. 14 at a ceremony held on the Grafenwoehr parade field in front of a host of local German and U.S. military leaders.

Sorenson, a qualified Ranger and Special Forces Operator with 24 years of active duty service in a variety of tactical and joint duty experiences, comes to Grafenwoehr from the United States Northern Command.

The outgoing commander, Col. Brian T. Boyle, came to Grafenwoehr in July 2005, and will move to Heidelberg, Germany, in for his new assignment as Deputy Regional Director, Installation Management Command-Europe.

During her remarks at the ceremony Diane Devens, IMCOM-E director, stated how Boyle was successful in making the garrison, which is at the forefront of the Army Transformation, a home for Soldiers and families.

"The many improvements

See BOYLE Page 26

Seen and Heard

The incoming and outgoing USAG Grafenwoehr garrison commanders and the IMCOM-E director spoke during the ceremony.

Devens of Sorenson As a career infantry officer, leader, and family man, I can't think of anyone who is a better advocate for the Soldier and the family ...

Devens of Boyle:

He's overseen an unprecedented level of investment that will make this community the Army's premiere facility outside the United States...



Sorenson on priorities: First ... is to ensure we accomplish the mission... Second, is that we focus on teamwork ... Third, but not least, is our people and their passion.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

JAG recruits junior officers

Special to the Bavarian News

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program.

Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 25 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense if funding permits.

Selected officers will attend law school beginning in the fall of 2009 and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility.

This program is open to commissioned

See ARMY PROGRAM Page 26

GOT TALENT?

AAFES offers \$500 shopping sprees for song

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is issuing a casting call for aspiring entertainers to perform a rap or jingle that could net them a \$500 shopping spree and a chance to be heard on the BX/PX's worldwide television and radio networks.

Open to authorized shoppers 18 years or older, AAFES' rap/jingle contest is a chance for every member of the military community to show off their talents by writing and performing an original jingle or rap song, up to 30 seconds in length.

Submissions to the rap/jingle contest can be about any one of the following four themes:

See AAFES Page 26

UNIT TRAINING

172nd medics test their medical know-how

■ Company C Soldiers evaluated during validation course, certified to the national registry

Story and photo by
KATIE COWART
Assistant Editor

Soldiers deploying with the medics of Company C, 172nd Infantry Brigade can rest a little easier knowing that the medics have been tested and certified to the national registry.

The testing is required every year and serves to make

sure medics stay up-to-date on their skills and practice with different equipment.

The medics are evaluated at several stations with unique scenarios designed to test their knowledge of everything from assessing a patient, proper airway treatment, and treatment of a traumatic injury to extracting the wounded from dangerous situations.

Spc. Katherine Lucier, who has put her health care knowledge to use downrange, said her most challenging scenario was being tested helping a

See 172ND Page 26



Pfc. Lorna Aldridge, a medic with C Co., 172nd Inf. Brigade, assesses a patient's breathing during the validation course.

BACK TO SCHOOL \ UPDATE

Some Vilseck students to move to Grafenwoehr

Special to the Bavarian News

In reviewing current enrollment numbers between Grafenwoehr Elementary School and Vilseck Elementary School, former U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle and Bavarian District Superintendent Michael Thompson agreed upon an adjustment for the 2008-2009 school year.

Those students residing in Kaltenbrunn, Mantel, Steinfels and Weiherhammer will attend Grafenwoehr Elementary School for the '08-'09 school

year. This change will be reviewed again for the next School Year '09-'10.

All student records, bus passes, and bus assignments will be transferred from Vilseck Elementary to Grafenwoehr Elementary.

For information, contact GES principal Crystal Bailey (09641-83-7133), VES principal Nancy Hammack (09662-83-2812), or Brent Marx from the School Transportation Office (0162-271-7583).

See Page 10 for more Back to School information.

What you're looking for

Command Message	2
Letters to Editor	3
What's Happening	14-15
Back to School	10
Features	12
AAFES	31
Travel	17
Medical	27
Sports	28-29
Movies	30

Locate previous articles by visiting the Bavarian News archive at www.milcom.de

Q&A

Why do *you* shop at the commissary on Artillery Kaserne?



Natalie Alvarado
(Munich)
"It's close to where I live. It's quite convenient that I can come down and get the American products that you can't get on the German economy."

Corp. Paul Ingham
(British Army)

"It's a lot better than NAFFI (the UK equivalent of the commissary and PX) — a lot more choice. It's got everything you want, really."



Beth Wald
(Garmisch)
"It's a small commissary, but it has or will get everything I need."



Freddy Osorio
(Garmisch)

"I like it because it brings me close to home — it has products I enjoyed back in New York."



Nancy van Hamme
(Garmisch)
"This commissary doesn't have everything, but they have a nice variety of what they do offer, and their fruits and vegetables always look nice, and I very much like the staff here, too..."



Paul Dutro
(Garmisch)

"I like shopping when the manager is here, and she's always here!"



Petra Alvarado
(Munich)
"I like the variety, the freshness. It's just a very nice, cozy little commissary."



Brenda Briggs
(Garmisch)

"It's small, it's well organized, and the people are so friendly."



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sorenson promises, asks for more than 'good enough'

I would like to start out by saying thank you for the warm reception I have received.

From the moment I hit the ground (and I hit it running), I have been surrounded by a host of what I can tell is an extremely competent staff, people who are fast becoming good neighbors and friends, and the enthusiastic support of local German officials.



I'd like to ask that we continue to build on the overwhelming success that Col. Boyle has bestowed on this community, this garrison, and this workforce.

Overseeing a garrison that boasts a \$1.5 billion construction program has been no easy feat for Boyle and this community. And it's just the tip of the iceberg as we work toward wrapping up the historic construction efforts and deploy and redeploy brigades and support about 35,000 assigned and associated personnel at Garrison Grafenwoehr over the

next few years. That said, "to whom much is given, much is expected." I'd like to ask the Soldiers and our families take ownership of our new investments, and to assist our community in maintaining and improving what the citizens of our great nation have given us to execute our mission.

I'd like to ask my civilian leaders to properly lead and prepare those in their charge to create an environment of cooperation and high morale, acknowledging that it's not just the troops who daily forego creature comforts, conveniences, and personal safety for our nation. Without the continuity and expertise of our civilian workers, ... well, we simply could not accomplish the mission.

I'd like to ask the family members for their continued support. Family members do not always receive the respect and credit they deserve for being the rock-solid foundation from which every service member emerges. For as long as there are service members in the world, there must be dedicated families.

I'd like to ask the local national and civilian employee community to stay the course, focusing on teamwork—teamwork that requires relationships, diversity, and dialogue

outside traditional organizational structures.

I'd like to ask the local community for their continued support because without it, we would not be able to successfully accomplish our mission. We are without a doubt the most fortunate garrison in Europe to be surrounded by such a hospitable and helpful community.

In return, depend on me, my Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios, and our staff to support your endeavors, improve your quality of life, and foster an atmosphere of successful accomplishment.

A Special Operations mantra that is near and dear to my heart is "Good enough does not live here."

I promise you more than "good enough" and ask you to join me on this journey of improvement at the U.S. Army's premier installation in Europe.

Col. Chris Sorenson
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr

FINAL FAREWELL

Boyle bids fond farewell to garrison, thanks community for commitment

Due to our newspaper publisher's annual summer leave, my farewell column is appearing in today's Bavarian News instead of the unpublished Aug. 13 edition.

By the time you read this column, I will have already changed command, and I am sure Grafenwoehr is operating even more smoothly with Chris Sorenson in command.

Today I will break from my column tradition of discussing three topics, and opt for one big THANK YOU to the many men and women who made this a premier tour.

And a special thanks to Chris for letting me speak one more time to you about your community, because it is your community. I was fortunate enough to command the garrison for 37

months, but it is you—the people—who make up the community, so some thanks are in order:

■ Thanks to the people who took a plastic bag with them and cleaned up after their dogs' messes.

■ Thanks to those who sorted their trash, driving down the cost of rubbish removal.

■ Thanks for showing up at our big name entertainment events, ensuring we get more acts in the years to come.

■ Thanks for wearing a safety helmet when you rode anything

with wheels (and for telling those not wearing helmets that they should wear one also).

■ Thanks for reading this column, this newspaper, and the MWR's Bavarian American Magazine, and also for listening and watching the AFN radio and TV to find out what is going on in our community.

■ Thanks for allowing pedestrians the right of way in crosswalks, for following the rules in traffic circles, and for driving slow around our schools.

■ Thanks for keeping it quiet when you came back from the clubs so families could let their young children sleep.

■ Thanks for taking out a bag, policing up trash on the streets, and putting it in waste baskets to help keep our installation a little bit cleaner.

■ Thanks for understanding that we have to live through construction to get to that better endstate and for appreciating that we didn't want to close all the roads we had to get the construction done.

■ Thanks for attending town halls, senior spouses' round tables, and other community meetings to express yourself and give us feedback. That is the only we could act on your concerns and make the garrison operate better.

■ Thanks for understanding that as we grow, we needed new schools and a temporary middle

school was the best decision for everyone as we moved toward our final school status.

■ Thanks for understanding that Grafenwoehr's population is constantly getting bigger. There are more cars on the road, more traffic, and together we have to work to ensure we continue to make this a great place to live.

■ Thanks for dealing with the changes to the gates, travelling greater distances after 9 p.m. to get on and off post, and realizing that we made these inconvenient changes to save money and still provide force protection.

■ Thanks for tugging my leg in the commissary—for telling me there is just one thing I need to speak to you about—because it is that one thing that may make a difference for everyone.

Finally thanks for letting me and my family be a part of this

community for the past three years. Grafenwoehr truly is one of the Army's best kept secrets.

The German neighbors are amazing and I encourage you all to get out and immerse yourself in the culture.

Grafenwoehr is not the buildings we are constructing or the units we are moving in. Grafenwoehr is the people, the community, it's you who help make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

Our family will forever remember how great it was to live here with you.

Thank you!

Col. Brian T. Boyle
Deputy Regional Director,
7MCOM-E

Our family will forever remember how great it was to live here with you.

COMING SOON

Pick up the Sept. 3 issue of the Bavarian News to find out what U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios has on his mind.

Look for Berrios' column in each issue!



Bavarian News

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

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**
Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstr. 35 · 92637 Weiden · Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 11,300 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usaggnews@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

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Op-Ed page

Is it fair that my son can't 'play down' in tackle football?

Dear Editor,

I have two boys, 12 and 10 years old, who played Grafenwoehr CYS football last year and loved it.

Due to a number of injuries last season, IMCOM-E/CYS made adjustments to their football program. These adjustments include minimum weight limits.

For example, the minimum weight for my sons' age group is 75 lbs, and both my boys are slightly under that. They do, however, fall into the weight requirement for the age bracket below them, the 8-9 year olds.

Last week, IMCOM-E decided that they will not be allowed to play down in that age bracket. The minimum weight at that age is 45 lbs, and the majority of the players are still bigger than my boys.

The "X-Men" factor, which accommodates for boys that are heavier or overweight, begins at 93 lbs with no maximum weight restriction. In other word, a rather large child will be allowed to play, while a child slightly smaller for his size is being discriminated against.

Keep in mind, when my children played last year, there were no weight restrictions, and the boys that we know that were injured, were not small for their age as IMCOM-E would like us to believe.

While I appreciate their efforts and concern for my children, the adjustments have excluded them from the program altogether. I know my boys are not the only ones left heartbroken, unable to play their favorite sport. I don't understand why there are no options from this organization that, in their mission statement, and operating guidelines, states their purpose is to provide youth sports for ALL children, ages 3-18.

Living overseas, we do not have any other options for our boys; there is no PopWarner program available to them. They simply have been discriminated against because of their size, something they cannot help. What's next... basketball height minimums?

I suggest IMCOM-E/CYS offer another team for these children or a waiver for the parents. There is no reason these healthy boys should not be allowed to play.

Anna Vanzant



Decision based on operating guidance, safety, maturity

Dear Concerned Parent,

Tackle football, like all of our sports programs, operates within guidelines designed to develop skills and prevent serious injuries.

While we understand that parents and children are disappointed when children do not meet the requirements for a sport, we will follow the operating guidance as it is written.

Age and weight restrictions for tackle football programs are proven ways of providing a safe environment that reduces the risk and reality of injuries.

The eligibility requirements and operating guidelines were constructed by IMCOM Europe, United States Army garrison Youth Sports directors, then voted and agreed upon.

The guidelines are based on industry practices to protect the health and safety of youth in sports.

The Child and Youth Services program in Europe has fewer divisions available in the sport of tackle football making it a less flexible system in comparison to the Pop Warner system due to the amount of programs available and cross over of weights and age.

The decision to not allow players to "play down" (move from an older age division to a younger age division) is a standard practice in CYS, and not a practice recently imposed.

The practice of not moving children down is not so much an issue of a participant's weight, but of their maturity level.

Moving a 12-year-old down to play with 8-year-olds could place the younger children at risk and result in older children dominating the game.

**Child & Youth Services,
U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr**

IMCOM-E calls early meeting to discuss parents' concerns

Dear Concerned Parent,

Thank you for your input regarding the Installation Management Command Europe, Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness Program.

We are committed to supporting the sports and fitness interests and needs of youth.

Our customers concerns are important to us therefore we have called for an early meeting of the IMCOM Europe, United States Army garrison Youth Sports and Fitness directors (to be held the last week of September 2008).

This meeting will address the eligibility requirements and operating guidelines that have been constructed by IMCOM Europe, United States Army garrison Youth Sports directors, then voted and agreed upon.

Garrisons electing to offer tackle football will follow the IMCOM Europe Policy Letter for Tackle Football as well as the Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness Operating Guidelines. This action is necessary to mitigate the risk of serious injury to our children and youth that may have long term effects on future growth and development. The current weight and age divisions are as follows:

IMCOM Europe CYS:

Age/Weight Div.	Age	Certification Weight Range
IMCOM EUROPE CYS MINOR (X-Men 93lbs and over)	8-9	45 lbs Min, No Max Weight Limit
IMCOM EUROPE CYS BANTAM (X-Men 141lbs and over)	10-11-12	75 lbs Min, No Max Weight Limit
IMCOM EUROPE CYS JUNIOR (X-Men 171lbs and over)	13-14	95 lbs Min, No Max Weight Limit

The Child and Youth Services program in Europe has fewer divisions available in the sport of tackle football primarily due to population.

If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail Joseph Marton, Child and Youth Programs Specialist, IMCOM Europe at joseph.marton@eur.army.mil, CIV +49-6202-80-6458, DSN (314) 379-6458.

**Joseph Marton
IMCOM Europe Child and Youth Programs Specialist**

POINT OF VIEW

Even I, a single woman, can learn and grow at a marriage retreat

Take a poll of all the people you know of that have been to a chapel-sponsored marriage or deployed spouse retreat, and you're going to get mixed reviews.

Participants will either rave about how great it was, or they'll tell you how much of a wasted weekend it was.

I'm a raver, I admit it.

I recently attended a retreat for spouses of deployed Soldiers held in Garmisch and learned a whole lot more than I expected to.

Let's settle something right up front, though. I'm a single girl. I wondered what I could possibly take away from the sessions.

A lot. I learned a lot during the event. And if I, a Single Sally, can take away such valuable information from a spouse retreat, so can you ... and you, and you, and you.

Going into the whole experience with an open mind, despite my apprehensions, is what made it possible for me to learn so much.

If you're looking for a relationship fix-all or a sudden transformation of your marriage or partner, you'll be sorely disappointed. Or if you expect boring preachy lectures, you've just set the tone for your weekend and you probably won't get much out of it.



Retreats are not to be confused with seminars. Retreats are designed to give participants a "retreat" or mini vacation from the day-to-day chaos of life.

The first of the weekend's three sessions covered personality types and learning to communicate with your partner, most of whom have polar opposite personalities from their spouses.

The second session dealt with the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury. Participants could then choose from two different topics for their third session: Handling Daily Stress or Parenting During Deployment, depending on their personal situations.

Most of the information was an overview, meant to familiarize attendees with the topic and provide additional resources for continued study.

After sessions, we enjoyed free time, spent at our leisure. On the first night, I joined a few people in the Edelweiss lounge for casual conversation, loosening up and relaxing before going off to bed to make sure we were all at the session

on time in the morning.

I partnered with a larger group on the second night and went to a traditional Bavarian restaurant, followed by a visit to a local fest, which was good for laughs and camaraderie.

The majority of our free time was enjoyed on the second day, which is when I got the most out of the trip.

After gauging each other's personalities the night before, we could now effectively find something for our group to do, and tackle it. We decided going up the Alpspitze was a good idea.

Just so you know, I do not like heights—at all! Nor do I care much for enclosed spaces that I can't get out of, so taking a cable car (or three) up and down the side of the

country's tallest mountain range was a frightening concept for me.

I thought about it, though, and remembered that this trip was about learning and expanding your horizons. So I braved it. I made it back down, nothing broken or damaged, excluding my unfounded fear, and with some pretty cool pictures.

Lesson learned: Getting outside your comfort zone is a good thing! And if participating in a weekend retreat is not in your comfort zone, give it a try.

Enlist a few buddies to join you and take advantage of every opportunity you get while on the retreat. Have an open mind, and try to rest, relax, and grow on your own afterwards.

For me, that came in finding the bravery to go up that mountain. For you, it could be a relationship altering insight that could change the way you and your spouse live, and love!

“Have an open mind, and try to rest, relax, and grown on your own afterwards.”

International choir celebrates fifth year, open to new members

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

The Bavarian hills are alive with the sound of music as "The Encores," an international choir celebrates their fifth anniversary.

Through the sounds of a variety of songs, from gospel to pop arrangements, as well as German and American patriotic songs, the German-American Kontakt Club choir brings together communities and cultures.

"International groups like The Encores are so important," said American Catherine Winter, choir director, who is bilingual and traveled throughout the world singing with the Bach Academy in Stuttgart.

"This past Easter, we joined together with voices out of the chapel congregation to present an Easter Cantata. It was so moving to me to hear the German and American voices united and strong, and to have experienced the fun that we had in the rehearsal period."

The unity of the group, which performs at both German and American community events as well as weddings, is what bridges the gap between those of different backgrounds.

"We are all individually so different; Germans, Americans, Chinese, professionals, stay-at-home moms, and we would not otherwise know each other existed. I think that is really special," she added.

"We are a very mixed crew of females, and one male, all different age and nations," said Ingrid Knodt, a German citizen who joined the group in 2006.

"With this mixture, the rehearsals and also the performances are always fun," she said. You don't have to speak



Courtesy photo

The Encores, an international choir composed of German and American singers, is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year.

the second language to enjoy this group and join us for singing."

As the group celebrates their anniversary, they acknowledge it is not just about the songs.

"We are a social choir, but we also work very hard to sing our best, and to provide music and entertainment at events on post, in nursing homes, in churches, at weddings, at city festivals and celebrations," Winter said.

"I have always loved to sing," said American Jessi Dye, who joined the group last year. "Singing with these women has given me confidence that I don't think I would have gotten any other way," she added.

Renate Gradl, a German who has been with the singing group since it began, finds a unique opportunity to learn the English language as she meets new people.

"I meet more American ladies now than I did earlier. My English language capabilities grow slowly, but surely," she said.

Knodt explained that singing experience is not needed to join the 25 other members in the choir, and the group is always excited to expand and gain new members.

For information, visit www.encores.de.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Margaret Burkhart

What grade and subject do you teach?
Art K-5

Hometown:
Los Angeles, Calif.

How long have you been a teacher?
37 years

What do you enjoy most about teaching?
The spontaneity of my students.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed?
To attempt everything and not to be afraid of failure.

Soldiers hone second nature reaction with JMSC simulators

SIM training saving lives, millions of dollars

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

On July 17, more than 20 Soldiers were attacked.

An improvised explosive device destroyed the first Humvee in the convoy, leaving those trailing it to maneuver around the explosion, the palm trees, and the enemy fire that shattered the silence.

In a kill or be killed situation, a Soldier must react with precision and skill.

Soldiers learn those skills through computer simulation at the Joint Multinational Simulation Center.

"The big thing that we are responsible for is the Army's constructive simulations," said Lt. Col. J.D. Koch, JMSC director of operations. "It's a human controlling a constructive, or an icon within a computer, forcing it to move... Those computers all talk to each other, and there's an output from that computer that will force someone to make a decision."

Unlike the virtual simulators, which place Soldiers in a virtual environment, computer simulators at JMSC manipulate and react to a situation based on the actions of every individual computer in the group.

Real-time affect

The reactions of the Soldiers in the second Humvee, which avoided the wreckage, has a real-time affect on all Soldiers connected in the training.

This connectivity, Koch said, is essential in establishing procedures.

"We assist units with decision making processes within staffs, primarily if a unit, brigade, a division... or a joint task force is getting ready to go to war, they will come here and go through a simulation program that will help them flush out all of the standard operating procedures... about how they want to handle various events. We create scenarios on



Warrior Leader Course students train through computer simulation at the Joint Multinational Simulation Center at Grafenwoehr.

a computer and as part of the exercise that will force those kinds of problems to a commander and staff."

Keeping it real

The scenarios, said Jim Kirby, chief of audio and visual, are as realistic as possible.

"They're realistic from the palm trees down to the dust on the Humvees. If you're the driver, what you see on the computer is what you're going to see if you were the driver of that Humvee (at that location on a map)."

"It is geo-specific," Koch added. "If you point to a place on a map, you're going to get the same place in the computer... we can physically go into the computer and build a (3-dimensional) terrain."

The reality of the simulation is enhanced as JMSC programmers custom build scenarios for each individual until.

"Generally, we try to tone it to something that they're going to incur..." Koch said.

A medical unit with a humanitarian mission, for example, may encounter a disgruntled local leader.

"We're going to script it so that they have to go through the whole gamut of the humanitarian assistance piece by engaging the locals first... that is that dynamic scripting, and the story line will build and come to a climax," Koch said.

The scenario, and the reaction by the

command, is fed into the computer.

"They get the messages just like they would get them if they were actually out there doing this," he added.

The messages, which are sent over a variety of battle command systems, appear in real-time to the all those training.

"This is all the way down to a crew level in a Humvee," Koch said.

He explained that each Humvee is equipped with a box, much like the global positioning system available at stores.

"It's like a navigation computer in your car, on steroids. It tells you not only where you are on the map, but you can also send messages through it," said Koch.

Forced reaction

To increase the reality of the decisions, JMSC staff creates real-time video footage that appears over the in-house news channel, forcing a reaction by the command and those training.

"We build it into a news story using the footage that we have from the (Associated Press), or something that we've got from around here," Kirby explained. "We force the commanders to react."

The goal, said Tom Lasch, chief of modules and simulations branch, is that the reaction is accurate, precise, and becomes second nature.

"That's really the process we're trying to

spawn here is for those actions, or reactions, to become immediate... They know if they are riding down the road and an IED goes off, they know that this truck goes this way and that truck goes that way... it's natural," he said.

Kirby agreed. "It prepares them for when they go downrange," he said. "We can make it so realistic so when they do get down there, they see the same things, they react the same way they reacted here."

Worth its weight

The ability to create the training in a computer environment, he added, is invaluable.

"You don't waste live training time learning lessons," Lasch said. "You can learn a lesson over and over using the simulation in a short period of time, while you're not using live training resources... The overhead of making mistakes in a live training environment are much higher than they are in a simulated environment."

"(A Soldier is) learning here in a relatively risk free environment," Koch said. "He's going to know before he gets into combat what he's got to do."

JMSC, with a staff of 150, has trained more than 3,000 Soldiers on their campus located on the Grafenwoehr training area over the past year.

Global training

"While we may have 2,000 people here, there may be 10,000 worldwide that are part of the exercise," Koch said.

Worldwide exercises are possible as JMSC connects to six battle command training centers throughout Germany, as well as combined joint task force training on both land and sea.

Austere Challenge 08, which certified the 7th Army's Operational Command Post as a combined joint forces land component command, was headquartered from the USS Mount Whitney, a naval flagship in the Mediterranean and involved components of Soldiers, airmen, and Marines in the U.S., England, Germany, and Australia, as well as sailors at sea.

Working through computer simulation, the different components planned and executed large-scale, high intensity combat operations comparable to the initial U.S. operation in Iraq.

JMSC participates in other operations with more than a dozen countries and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Navy vet takes helm of EEO

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

While the garrison at Garmisch is Army operated and Army-centric, it is also an inter-service and multi-ethnic community. And Freddy Osorio, the new Equal Employment Opportunity officer, seems to be the right person for the job.

"Call me Freddy O," he said as way of introduction, his thick New York City accent immediately evident as he puts those he counsels at ease.

Osorio, who has been working in the EEO field for 28 years, including 23 years as a sailor, comes to Garmisch from the Army Material Command at Watervliet Arsenal in upstate New York.

He accepted the European position in part because he'll soon be a grandfather, and he wanted to be closer to his daughter, who lives in Holland.

Osorio is one of the few Navy chiefs who have worked EEO for the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines during his career. His extensive experience in working for leaders in all the services helped develop his counseling skill.

"My experience with service members from all the branches has humbled me, and humility is a good thing as it can only make you stronger," he said.

A retired Navy chief petty officer, he brings an impressive list of credentials to Garmisch. He was the first Navy chief to teach EEO at the service academies, and was handpicked to be one of the facilitators for President Bill Clinton's town hall meetings on race relations in America

during the 1990s.

Osorio was also an instructor and small group facilitator with the Secretary of Defense's Mobile Training team when he was assigned to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

In this capacity he trained EEO specialists in all branches of service, including EEO programs in South Africa, Central Africa, and Russia.

He was on the tip of the spear and one of a handful of trainers doing EEO when a series of sexual harassment scandals broke throughout the services during the 1990s. He has worked as an EEO investigator and diversity trainer for institutions of higher education, and for a time worked for a law firm investigating issues of discrimination for a well-known restaurant.

But to Osorio, the many achievements on his resume aren't as important as the people he serves.

"What are important are the people we meet daily," he said. "It is about our co-workers, colleagues, and associates."

Osorio said an EEO complaint is a serious matter, and he believes the chain of command must be used and the problem resolved as early on in the process as possible.

"Utilizing the chain of command ensures integrity. When there is a flood or fire onboard a U.S. Navy ship, the first thing we are all concerned about is watertight integrity. This is the ability of the ship to stay afloat despite the damage it has sustained," said Osorio, turning to his years aboard aircraft carriers as a metaphor.

"In the case of a fire or a flood the only way we will survive is if we ensure that all hatches are

dogged down and secured so we can minimize the damage.

"If not," he said, "we risk losing the ship and each other because we lost watertight integrity."

This is not to discourage those he counsels from pursuing an EEO complaint, he explained, but not all of complaints he receives fall under EEO.

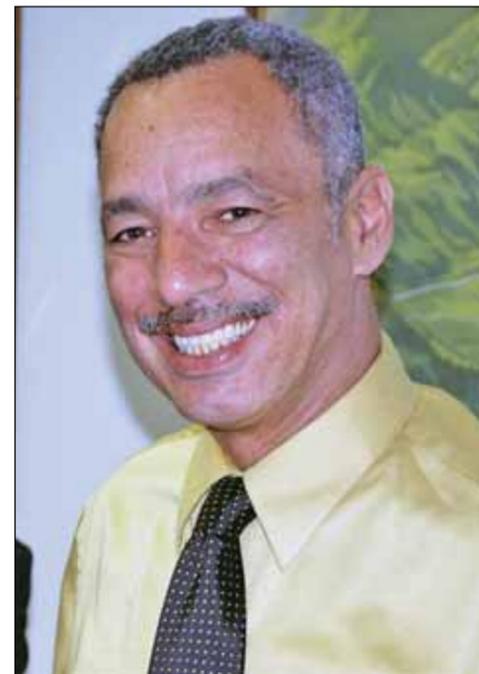
Osorio listens carefully to determine if he is the right kind of counsel to seek. A simple misunderstanding can be corrected using the chain of command. If the case merits EEO intervention, however, Osorio goes into action with the regulations and laws on his side.

"You must be loyal to your superiors, and everyone must be treated with dignity and respect," said Osorio. "I have this job today because sometimes people in leadership have forgotten or don't want to do their own job."

In summing up his job, Osorio likes to quote the words of Robert F. Kennedy, written after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King:

"When you teach a man to hate and fear his brother; when you teach that he is a lesser man because of his color or his beliefs or the policies he pursues, when you teach that those who differ from you threaten your freedom or your job or your family, then you also learn to confront others not as fellow citizens but as enemies, to be met not with cooperation but with conquest; to be subjugated and mastered. Yet we know what we must do. It is to achieve true justice among our fellow citizens. The question is not what programs we should seek to enact. The question is whether we can find in our own

midst and in our own hearts that leadership of humane purpose that will recognize the terrible truths of our existence."



Garmisch's new EEO officer, Freddy Osorio, served as a facilitator for President Clinton's town hall meetings on race relations.

Officials readied for catastrophic events

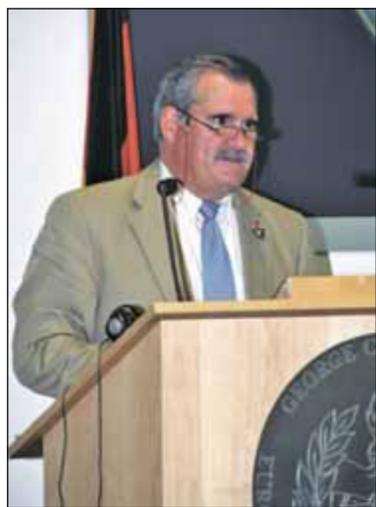


Photo by Karlheinz Wedhorn

Peter Verga, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense and America's Security Affairs, addresses the first class of Trans-Atlantic Civil Security at a July 30 graduation ceremony.

by ANNE FUGATE
George C. Marshall PAO

The first class of the Marshall Center's Seminar on Trans-Atlantic Civil Security graduated at Garmisch July 30.

Forty-two military and civilian emergency management officials from 25 countries completed the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies' new three-week course, which addresses how nations prevent, prepare for, and respond to catastrophic events.

STACS takes an all-hazards approach to the developing field of civil security, which includes civil defense, homeland security, civil emergency planning, and crisis and consequence management. Through lectures, case studies and practical exercises, participants examined the security implications of natural disasters, industrial accidents and pandemic disease, as well as terrorist attacks.

"For years many nations lacked a formal framework for the concept of civil security," said Peter Verga,

principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense and America's Security Affairs, in remarks at the graduation ceremony. "The increased threat of terrorism and regularly occurring natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world have given a renewed sense of urgency to this topic."

The efforts to fight the wildfires burning in California this month as STACS participants attended the course give a vivid example of the civil-military cooperation and international cooperation necessary to deal with catastrophic events, according to Verga.

The Department of Defense provided eight aircraft with firefighting capabilities, 12 helicopters, and about 3,000 National Guardsmen to combat the fires, Verga said, and more than 25,000 firefighters from 41 states and Canada, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico joined the effort. "[It is] a historic effort not only in magnitude but also in terms of international support to the United States during wildfires," Verga said.

Forums such as STACS are

critical to making such international cooperation possible, according to course participants.

"In my country, for example, we have a different approach to crisis management and consequence management. We have a different perception about these things and also about how to implement and manage these issues," said Lt. Rafiq Gurbanzada, chief officer of the International Activities Department of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Emergency Situations.

"But I came here to learn about western perspectives, to hear from western scholars and what they think about specific issues. It was very useful for me," said Gurbanzada.

With each country approaching civil security differently, emergency management officials need to be able to understand the perspectives of their international partners, according to Marine Lt. Col. Kevin Killea, who coordinates Defense Department resources that can be provided to civil authorities in a crisis.

"It can't be an instance where the loudest voice in the room wins,

because that is not the integration that you are looking for, that will not facilitate the partnership needed during a catastrophe," Killea said.

Course director Dr. John L. Clarke said that he has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants in the inaugural class, but expects to make changes for the second class based on their suggestions.

"We want to focus the course even more on some of the key mission areas of the civil security concept and the lessons learned from specific case studies," Clarke said. "We have already received a lot of input from our course participants on case studies that they think we ought to consider for future iterations of the program."

The second STACS class will take place in February 2009. STACS is one of five resident courses offered by the Marshall Center, a German-American defense and security studies institute.

Since the center's dedication in 1993, more than 6,100 military and civilian officials from more than 100 nations have graduated from resident courses.



on the mark

During a July 30 ceremony at Artillery Kaserne, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Allison, USAG-Garmisch Provost Marshal NCOIC, awarded Luftwaffe (German Air Force) Hauptfeldwebel Michael Meyer and Bundeswehr (German Army) soldiers Stabsgefreiter Robert Hüste (left), and Hauptgefreiter Eric Zuther with the Army weapons qualification badges for the M-16 rifle and M-9 pistol.

Meyer, the sergeant major for the NATO School in Oberammergau, then presented four U.S. Soldiers with the German Schutzenschnur for qualifying with the 7.62 MG3 and 9mm pistol. The weapons qualifications for American and German weapons took place July 1-2.

Photo by John Reese

Simulated car bomb kicks off exercise

Story and photo by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

If anyone was driving on post the morning of July 26, it might have seemed like Hohenfels was in the middle of a catastrophe.

Smoke rose above the Child Development Center as paramedics rushed in to save the children inside. Firemen wearing gas masks hurried to contain the fire caused by a car bomb next to the building that blew in one of the walls.

For a while it was impossible to enter post, at times difficult to even leave as military police tried to contain the scene.

This was not the aftermath of a tragic terrorist attack, but rather a Force Protection Exercise simulated to look like one.

The exercise is an annual requirement for U.S. installations in Europe, designed so personnel can assess and correct vulnerabilities, said Tom Janis, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels chief of operations.

Planning for the simulation started almost a year ago, in August 2007. The concept, aimed at testing previous improvements, was finalized in October with the final plan set by January.

When deciding on a scenario catalyst, this year it was a car bomb, planners took into consideration the installation's location, what vulnerabilities had been identified, and what threats are most likely, said Janis.

"From a planner's perspective it went well," said Janis, adding that the simulation and initial response went particularly well, though there will always be room for improvements.

To identify those improvements, evaluators patrolled the scene with clipboards and cameras, taking notes on every aspect of the exercise.

Afterwards, they held an after action review to summarize their findings, which were passed along to planners and each agency and organization involved, who then performed their own after action reports.

A significant number of the organizations involved were from surrounding host nation communities.

Fire departments from Hohenfels, Parsberg, Markstetten, and Raitenbuch responded. Four local doctors were at the scene observing, to see what it is like to deal with a multiple casualty situation, said Ed Rotay, garrison force protection officer.

Uwe Suchomel from the Bavarian Red Cross training school in Hohenfels coordinated volunteers to play the injured.

"Without this guy (Suchomel), we couldn't have done it," said Rotay. "We rely heavily on host nation support to do anything on post."

Guenter Stoeckl, a local national employed as the Garrison fire chief, acted as the incident commander.



A firefighter from the town of Hohenfels fire department, left, hands one of the "babies" he rescued to garrison firefighter Klaus Schlierf, middle, and Dr. Thomas Emmert, right, an emergency doctor from Neumarkt.

Teens spend summer vacation working on post

Story and photo by LAUREN SULLIVAN
Special to the Bavarian News

You've probably noticed the abundance of teenagers around post this summer, and most of them are not just hanging out in the sun.

This summer, 67 Hohenfels teens are working at paid positions through the Hohenfels Summer Hire Program.

The program gives high school aged youth the opportunity to work in various jobs around post for six weeks, while earning an hourly wage and gaining valuable job experience.

"We want to give a valuable work experience to the students and the organizations where they work," said Michele Wolff, Hohenfels school liaison officer, who oversees the program.

"We want to help orient the summer hires to the working world, teaching them skills such as how to dress professionally and how to act in a work environment."

The summer hires learned even more skills by attending training every Thursday morning from 8-10 a.m.

During this time most facilities were closed or in meetings, so the summer hires had a lull period, according to Wolff.

During that lull, all the summer hires worked with the Teen Center through a program called Career Launch, which gives them information

and job skills to use in the future.

"Financial readiness, dress for success, and resume building are just some of the training offered through the Career Launch Program," said Wolff. "We also had community members come and speak to the teens about these and other safety and employment topics."

Two summer hires spent their summer working for the Hohenfels chapels.

"They have been a really great help in beautifying the chapel areas, including cleaning and rearranging the pews," said chapel employee Naomi Evans.

The chapel's summer hires were an integral part of the Vacation Bible School program, setting up, breaking down, and helping wherever help was needed, according to Evans.

"They have really worked tirelessly this summer to make our chapel the best," said Allison Holland, a chapel employee who supervised the summer hires.

Manassas Greene, a 15-year-old who spent her summer working at the Post Gym, helped customers and answered phones.

"We cleaned equipment and handed out towels," said Greene. "We helped wherever we were needed."

The library also received summer hires. According to Nan Barker, director of Hohenfels Turnbull Memorial Library, their four summer

hires kept busy by organizing shelves, moving around the non-fiction area and checking out books to patrons.

"The summer hires have been very helpful, and we're very grateful to have them," said Barker. "We got a whole lot done this summer that we wouldn't have been able to do without them."

Summer hires were also employed at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Headquarters and Child and Youth Services.

A few summer hires even had the opportunity to spend their summer in the "box," the area on the Hohenfels training center where troops from all over the world come to train.

If you've been to the post mail room, chances are that you were helped by a summer hire. Nariah Sablan, 14, worked at the window getting customers their packages and distributing mail into the many boxes.

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club Thrift Shop made great use of their four summer hires.

"Summer is our busiest time of year," said Renee Stotz, thrift shop liaison. "The summer hires were great at sorting through the donated items, and putting consigned items out on the floor quickly so that they could sell."

"It's PCS season," she said. "Without the summer hires, it would have been chaos."



Summer hire Marlena Buchanan, 15, helps ready outdoor tents for Vacation Bible School. The summer hire program gives teens the opportunity to work at various locations on post while receiving wages and job experience.

Garrison celebrates 19th ammendment, urges women to get involved and vote

Story and photo by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

After years of struggle, women finally received the right to vote in the United States in 1920 with the passage of the 19th amendment, yet almost 90 years later, millions of women are still not exercising that right.

In the 2000 Presidential election, 22 million single women did not vote.

According to "One Vote," a film about women and voting shown during the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Equal Opportunity office's Women's Equality Celebration Aug. 5:

"Had they [single women] voted in the same numbers as married women, 6 million additional votes would have been cast.

"In Florida that would have meant over 200,000 additional votes would have been cast. The 2000 presidential election was decided by 537 votes in the state of Florida."

Guest speaker Diana Ohman, director of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, also stressed the importance of voting during her speech.

As the former Secretary of State of Wyoming, where she oversaw voting procedures for the state, voting is near to her heart, she said.

Ohman talked about the gains women have made in just the past 30 years, citing figures on professional and high school sports, business, and the military.

But she stressed that more improvements still need to come, and voting is the first step.

When asked if she could imagine a time when she would be prohibited from voting, let alone holding public office, she said:

"I am as overwhelmed by that thought as I'm sure they (the suffragettes) were by the thought of what they had to go through to get it. We are indebted to them; they didn't let go for over 150 years.

"We have warriors who defend our rights; we must have warriors and civilians who defend this right. We must vote for our representative form of government to continue."

Speaking to an audience of men and women of all ages, she spoke passionately about the importance of voting for all citizens, not just women.

After the speech she addressed a common excuse people give for not voting: that neither candidate fits their views.

"You still have a responsibility, not just a right, a responsibility, to choose whoever best fits your beliefs. Even husbands and wives know that never 100 percent of the time do you think somebody's perfect," she said.

"It is your responsibility to wade through the campaign material, make a decision, and go vote."

In conjunction with the theme, a voter registration booth was set up in the back of the garrison dining facility to encourage participants to register, which Ohman referred to throughout the celebration.

"If we all worked as hard as the suffragettes, there should be no reason why anyone who has the right to vote shouldn't.

"Talk to your neighbors, the person you sit next to at church, your friends. That's one thing you should be talking about."

For more information on how to register to vote, or obtain an absentee ballot, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.fvap.gov.

Sponsors welcome new Soldiers to Hohenfels

Special to the Bavarian News

The Army established the Total Army Sponsorship Program to assist Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members when they experience a permanent change of station.

When relocating to a small, somewhat remote post like Hohenfels, the program can be especially helpful.

"When you are PCSing overseas from the States you should receive a sponsor through S-Gate," the Sponsorship Gateway to Europe, an organization which supports the U.S. Army Europe sponsorship program, said Priscilla Tolbert, Army Community Service Relocation Readiness program coordinator at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels.

Staff Sgt. Donald Bufford, sponsorship program manager for 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, said that as a unit sponsorship program manager he looks on the S-Gate Web site to see which Soldiers his unit will receive, then assigns them a sponsor.

He said he can sometimes see as far out as a year who will need a sponsor, and he assigns sponsors so that the Soldiers have the same or similar rank and family situation.

"Every Soldier is supposed to go on the S-gate Web site for sponsorship training," he said.

"The primary means of sponsor training is thru S-Gate, but commanders may request additional training or other assistance from ACS," said Tolbert. "ACS provides training for unit sponsorship trainers or designated sponsors upon unit request, training for youth sponsors, and provides a welcome package for the sponsor to send before the transferee's arrival."

Both Tolbert and Bufford said sometimes a Soldier will arrive who has not already been assigned a sponsor.

In that case, said Bufford, the matter is worked in-house and the unit will quickly find an appropriate sponsor.

According to Bufford, a sponsor's primary responsibility is to assist the Soldier during their two weeks of in processing.

To find out more about the Total Army Sponsorship Program, visit the S-Gate Web site at www.sgate.hq-usareur.army.mil, contact your unit's sponsorship program manager, or contact Priscilla Tolbert at ACS at DSN 466-4860.

Area WTU at forefront of patient care

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Sgt. John Mendez has been in the Army for eleven years, long enough that he doesn't want to turn back now. But when he had to have surgery on his knees in 2007, he worried he might have to give up all the years he spent building his career and retire.

After the surgery, Mendez was assigned to the Hohenfels Warrior Transition Unit and given a temporary profile, an Army document restricting what he could do physically.

Luckily for Mendez, before he left, former Hohenfels WTU squad leader Sgt. 1st Class Troy Thorne began developing a process through which a Soldier may challenge his profile and have it changed to more accurately reflect what he feels he can do.

Though available to any WTU Soldier, challenging a profile has thus far not been widely used, said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Anderson, Hohenfels WTU squad leader.

"Soldiers could always do this, but a lot didn't know how. We have perfected it here in Bavaria," said Anderson, adding that the procedures honed at Hohenfels could greatly benefit other Soldiers across the Army if the practices were dispersed Army wide.

Mendez, who is the fifth Hohenfels Soldier

to challenge his profile, said his profile had been reviewed once before he started the challenge process.

According to Anderson, a Soldier's temporary profile is reviewed about once every 90 days. After four reviews, the Soldier's profile is stringently reviewed to see if the Soldier meets retention standards or needs to undergo a Medical Evaluation Board, a process which assesses a Soldier's medical condition and whether he can remain in his military occupational specialty or in the Army at all.

Mendez said at his first review, doctors felt that his physical activity should remain considerably restricted until about a year after the surgery. But before that year was up, Mendez felt, in conjunction with his medical team, he could do more than his profile specified.

So he challenged it.

Mendez was first cleared by his primary care manager to try to complete the functional activities listed on Army profile form DA 3349. Then, in one day he completed the activities, including a two-mile road march, constructing an individual fighting position (which involves digging, filling, and lifting sandbags), and doing three- to five-second rushes while under direct and indirect fire.

Between 24 and 72 hours later Mendez went back to see his PCM who re-evaluated his

condition.

WTU cadre videotaped Mendez completing his tasks as a sort of insurance policy. That way, if it was ever recommended for him to undergo a MEB, he would have proof of his success.

"The PT challenge was to see where I stood. If I were to complete it, it would change to benefit me. Now...I'm not 100 percent but I can do my job, which is where I needed to be," said Mendez.

"We use this for Soldiers that are at high risk for undergoing a MEB but where the Soldier would rather stay in the Army and/or in their current MOS," said Dr. (Capt.) Elizabeth Duque, the medical director for the Hohenfels health clinic and primary care manager for the WTU Soldiers at Hohenfels.

"The challenge allows the Soldier to prove to themselves, their medical team, and receiving units that they can do the basic soldiering tasks required by the Army without significant injury to themselves or deterioration of their medical condition."

Anderson says the challenge speeds up the WTU process.

"If you don't do it, Soldiers will stay in the WTU longer than intended," he said. "The regulations were always there; we're just trying to work them the way they should be."

"Thanks to the work done at the Bavaria East

WTU, Soldiers across Europe are evaluated in a similar manner before being returned to duty," said Lt. Col. Thomas P. Axtman, Europe Warrior Transition battalion commander.

Mendez now will be able to remain in his MOS. He is currently planning his move to his next duty station at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Mendez says that it was not just the ability to challenge his profile, but the WTU as a whole that helped him get back on his feet.

"The WTU helped me tremendously," he said. "The fact that I was able to make my doctor's appointments and physical therapy was a huge part of it."

Anderson said the WTU has radically changed the way the Army views its wounded warriors. Before its creation, Soldiers would remain in their regular unit, where they might not receive the healing time they needed and would often break their profiles in an attempt to keep up with the rest of the unit.

"Before the WTU there was no crossroads... now they have time to get back to where they need to be. If we can mentally put the Soldier in an environment to heal, then we can send them back out to be a productive Soldier," said Anderson, adding that if a Soldier does end up leaving, the WTU is designed to make sure he is ready and knows about all his benefits and options.

JMRC receives Europe's first mine detection system

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

There are only four in Iraq, two in Afghanistan, and now two in U.S. Army Europe.

The Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels recently acquired two vehicle mounted mine detection systems, or "Huskies," making it the only training center in Europe with the equipment.

The two Huskies, two spare wheel modules, and mine detection trailer will allow JMRC to more realistically train engineering units that use the equipment during deployments, said Maj. Damon Knarr, officer in charge of the JMRC Raptor team.

"Before, we were trying to replicate this piece of equipment (when conducting training), but it didn't smell like it, and it didn't taste like it," said Knarr. "Now, by no means is it the same as downrange, but it is still great training."

Two trainers from Critical Solutions International, the company that provides training and field support on the Huskies, accompanied the equipment to Hohenfels. Shawn Craig, a field services representative with CSI, said they came to teach two courses: one two-week operators' course that Knarr called a "train the trainer" course and a two-week maintenance course.

Sgt. Darren Fox, assigned to the 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade in Schweinfurt, attended the maintenance course. Fox, who plans to

deploy later this year, said his unit sent him to Hohenfels to learn maintenance tasks on the Husky so he can then teach others in his unit.

Knarr said about 50 percent of Raptor Soldiers have worked with the Huskies while deployed, including himself.

"When I was a company commander they were pretty effective. They are value added. When you do find something you have obviously taken that threat away," he said.

The purchase of the JMRC Huskies, which were completed in South Africa in March 2008, was funded by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, a Department of Defense organization whose goal is to assist military-wide efforts to "defeat IEDs as weapons of strategic influence," according to a JIEDDO mission statement.

According to Maj. John Fernas, Raptor observer/controller and officer in charge of the JMRC IED Academy, JIEDDO works with combat training centers to identify shortcomings and provide solutions.

Fernas said that JMRC and JIEDDO worked together to improve the training units receive at JMRC. Before the acquisition of the Huskies, Soldiers were not getting any hands-on experience with the equipment until they arrived in the deployed area, he said.

Now, they will be able to become familiar with the machines before they use them in theater, maximizing the machine's capabilities of finding IEDs and saving lives.



Spc. Nicholas Kanetomo (left) and Spc. Thomas Lomax, both from the 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, in Schweinfurt, work on one of the Huskies, a mine detection device the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels recently acquired to use in training. The JMRC Huskies are the first in Europe.

Hohenfels cadet named top grad at Europe-wide JROTC camp

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

As soon as school let out for the summer, when many of her peers were enjoying some well-deserved sleeping in, Emily Mittag and 150 other students from all around Europe were voluntarily up at 6 a.m. during a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps camp in Grafenwoehr.

"One morning I thought, 'we've already eaten breakfast, done PT, I'm in a pool, and it's only 7 a.m.," said Mittag, who will be a senior at Hohenfels High School this year.

But she didn't let the early mornings or busy schedule get to her.

Mittag, who has been in the JROTC program at HHS since her freshman year, was presented with the Honor Graduate Award at the camp, naming her the top graduate and appointing her commander of the JROTC troops during the camp graduation ceremony.

Each platoon nominated one of its members to be considered for the award.

The nominees then went before a board composed of the camp commander, the director of Army instruction for Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, and the camp

commandant.

The nominees were asked questions by board members on topics including ROTC knowledge and how they would conduct themselves when confronted with moral dilemmas.

The decision to select Mittag as the honor graduate was unanimous, said 1st Sgt. Bruce Andrews, camp commandant and JROTC instructor at Hohenfels.

"The questions were asked to cause a young person to think it through and deliver their response without the typical teenager 'ums' and 'yeahs,'" said Andrews. "One of the things she had going for her was she was a senior and one of the more mature cadets."

That maturity was also a factor when Andrews and Maj. Dan Parker, Hohenfels JROTC commander, decided to appoint Mittag battalion commander for the next school year.

"Just because someone is a senior and a fourth year cadet doesn't mean they will automatically be the BC," said Andrews. "We looked at all she's done. She's positive. She's a leader. She's done a lot for the battalion including honor guard, and color guard, and a lot of other extra-curriculars within the battalion."

Though she spends a considerable amount of

her time on ROTC activities, it is hardly the only organization Mittag is involved with.

She plays on the high school soccer, volleyball, and basketball teams. She plays in the band and was the first chair in Europe for the past three years, as well as the second chair at a national camp she received a scholarship to attend this summer at Southwest Oklahoma State University.

She is planning to take both Advanced Placement English and AP Chemistry.

She hopes to be the Class of 2009 president. Elections will be held at the beginning of the school year, but after being class president for the past two years her expectations are high.

Oh, and she still finds time to work at the post bowling alley.

She says most of the time she finds to spend with friends is during mutual activities.

"It's really hard to find time for everything. I have games on Saturday, Sunday is homework day, then the week starts all over again."

Though sometimes hectic, her super-involved status is a testament to how far she has come since moving to Hohenfels four years ago.

"It was really hard to move here," she said. "All these kids move every two to three years,

and I had never done that."

Now she says that coming to Hohenfels the summer before she started eighth grade was "the best thing that could have happened. Hohenfels is a nice place, a nice community, there are really nice people. I have had more opportunities at Hohenfels High School than I would have had at home. You have a personal relationship with your teachers. You have more opportunity to be who you want to be."

And who she wants to be seems to be... everything.

Andrews said he has confidence she can handle it all.

"She knows what she's going to have to do to juggle it all and keep everybody happy," he said. "And in such a small school the coaches and people understand that a lot of the kids are in many different things."

In addition to all that, Mittag also faces the same challenge of most seniors, choosing a college.

She says she hopes to either attend Texas A&M University on an ROTC scholarship, or Baylor University on a music scholarship, both Texas schools so she can be close to her family.

Back to School: Things you need to know

Parent/guardians things to check on before the first day:

- Is my student registered for school?
- Does my student have a lunch ticket with AAFES or have a packed lunch?
- Does my student have a bus pass?
- Does my student know what time school starts?
- Does my student know what time school is out?
- Does my student have supplies for school?

School Dates of Interest

First Day of School is Aug. 25 for all students EXCEPT kindergarten and PCSD which begins on Sept. 2. There is no school on Labor Day Sept. 1.

USAG Ansbach

Bus passes are being issued through Friday. Special Note: The USAG Ansbach School Bus Office will be issuing bus passes for the Ansbach area schools through Friday. Bus passes can be picked up from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. at the school.

Bus passes will be issued at the Bus Office in Rainbow Elementary School (Barton Barracks) or at Illesheim Elementary School today or Friday.

Children must be registered for school and a request for bus transportation must be filled out prior to a bus pass being issued. For more information, call DSN 468-7874 or CIV 0981-183874.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 - Illesheim ES New Student/Family Orientation 1145-1300

Thursday, Aug. 21 - Ansbach ES New Student/Family Orientation noon - 1 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 21 - Ansbach M/H School New Student/Family Orientation 1-2 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 22 - Ansbach ES Welcome Back BBQ 1-3 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 22 - Rainbow ES Welcome

Back BBQ 3-5 p.m.

Friday, August 22 - Elementary School Class Lists Will Be Posted at 3 p.m.

School Liaison Officer Mr. Derek Hyde at DSN 467-2098

USAG Bamberg

Bamberg Elementary School Orientation Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. 1300 at BES

BES First Day of School Aug. 25 dismissal at 11:15 a.m. (NO BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FOR OFF-POST STUDENTS). Parents are to pick their children up and return at 12:30 for "Lemonade on the Lawn" event for parents and students.

BES Principal's Welcome Coffee for New Parents Aug. 28 at 9 a.m. at BES

BES Open House Aug. 28 from 4-5 p.m. at BES

Bamberg Middle/High School S2S Welcome Week Aug. 18-21. Sign up at CYS Central Registration

BM/HS Orientation Aug. 22 1 p.m. at BM/HS

BM/HS Open House Aug. 28 6-8 p.m. at BM/HS

Contact the school liaison officer, Kim Kozel, at DSN 469-7891 for more information.

USAG Garmisch

Garmisch Elementary/Middle School Open House Aug. 26 from 4-7 p.m. at GEMS

GEMS Kindergarten Home Visits Aug. 25-28

Contact the chief of Child & Youth Services/school liaison officer, Ellen Harris, at DSN 440-2393 for more information.

USAG Grafenwoehr

Netzaberg Elementary & Middle School Grand Opening/Open House Ceremony Aug. 29 at noon (instruction will begin Aug. 25)

Vilseck High School New Student Orientation Aug. 21 at 11 a.m. at Vilseck High School

Vilseck Elementary School Open House Sept. 4 at 5 p.m. at Vilseck Elementary School

Grafenwoehr Elementary School Open House Sept. 4 at 6 p.m. at Grafenwoehr El-

ementary School

VES, GES, NES Kindergarten Home Visits Aug. 25-28

Contact the school liaison officer, Ann Bruennig, at DSN 475-1770 for more information.

USAG Hohenfels

Hohenfels High School:

Aug. 18: New Student & Parent Orientation, 9 a.m.

Aug. 25: 1st day, Middle School Students ONLY

Aug. 26: 1st day, High School Students ONLY

Aug. 27: ALL students

Sept. 10: Open House, 9-11 a.m.

Hohenfels Elementary School:

Aug. 22: Welcome Back to School Ice Cream Social, 1:30 p.m.

**One stop shopping for: classroom teachers, bus passes and free and reduced lunch

Aug. 25: 1st day, grades 1-6

Sept. 2: 1st day, Kindergarten

***For more info, call:

Hohenfels Elementary School DSN 466-2729

Hohenfels High School DSN 466-3162

School Liaison Officer Michele Wolff DSN 466-2783

USAG Schweinfurt

Schweinfurt Elementary School Kindergarten Orientation Aug. 22 at noon at Schweinfurt Elementary School

Schweinfurt Middle School Back to School Picnic Aug. 20 4 p.m. at the Sports Field

SMS Orientation Aug. 20 1-2 p.m. for 6th grade, 2-3 p.m. for 7th and 8th grades

SES Back to School Open House Sept. 4 4:30-6 p.m. at SES

SMS Open House Sept. 11 4:30-6 p.m. at Schweinfurt Middle School

School Liaison Officer Mr. Damon McGiboney DSN 354-6090

School Web sites

Ansbach Elementary School

<http://www.ansb-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Ansbach Middle High School

<http://www.ansb-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>

Bamberg Elementary School

<http://www.bamb-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Garmish Elementary Middle School

<http://www.garm-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Grafenwoehr Elementary School

<http://www.graf-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Hohenfels Elementary School

<http://www.hohe-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Hohenfels Middle/High School

<http://www.hohe-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>

Illesheim Elementary School

<http://www.ille-ems.eu.dodea.edu/>

Netzaberg Elementary School

<http://www.netz-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Netzaberg Middle School

<http://www.netz-ms.eu.dodea.edu/>

Rainbow Elementary

<http://www.ansb-ems.eu.dodea.edu/>

Schweinfurt Elementary School

<http://www.schw-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Schweinfurt Middle School

<http://www.schw-ms.eu.dodea.edu/>

Vilseck Elementary School

<http://www.vils-es.eu.dodea.edu/>

Vilseck High School

<http://www.vils-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>



20 Tips for a Successful School Year!

Compiled by DAMON MCGIBBONEY
USAG Schweinfurt

When summer is over and it is time to shop for school supplies, we know it is time for back to school once again. At the end of each school year or at the end of the summer, we always pledge to have a better school year next year, either because the kids were always forgetting homework assignments or oversleeping. Here are 20 ways that will ensure that your kids and YOU have a great school year.

1. Eat a good breakfast every morning, don't let them skip breakfast.
2. Wake them up early enough to get up on time so they are not tardy! Even if that means waking them up 15 or 30 minutes earlier than they used to wake up.
3. Be sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Turn in early.
4. Have them prepare all of their things the night before, including clothes or uniforms, socks, shoes, book sacks, homework assignments in book sacks, etc. down to the finest details, even hair accessories.
5. Children should keep their book sacks, desks and rooms organized so they can find what they need easily and nothing gets lost.
6. Praise your children, encourage them, use positive reinforcement, and work closely with them. Let them know that you are available to help if needed.
7. Create a study routine for your child. a good rule of thumb is to have them do their homework right when they get home.
8. Go over homework together.

9. Check their book sacks for notes, missed assignments, book orders, etc.

10. Promote healthy habits like healthy snacks, low in sugar, fresh fruits and vegetables.

11. Children should ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask questions. That is how we learn.

12. A stress free child is a happy child. A happy child will do better in school.

13. Children should start reviewing notes at least three days before a test. Don't wait until the night before or worse, the day of the test to study for it.

14. Children should write down their assignments carefully. Have the number of a few classmates in case you forget to write it down.

15. Parents, be a role model to your children. Your children learn from you. be positive and supportive of the school system and teachers.

16. Have your child read to you often and regularly.

17. Have them put all of their things in their room right when they get home. This will alleviate the chances of losing or misplacing something. More time is wasted looking for a lost shoe or where they put their book sack.

18. Children should take notes when the teacher repeats something, tells them to write it down or that is very important or it will be on a test, or if she writes it on the board.

19. Don't cheat, don't be lazy, do your projects and assignments like reports, ahead of time. Study and learn. You will be proud of yourself.

20. During tests, read all of the directions, follow directions, read the questions carefully, and double check your answers if you have time after you are done.

Soldier turns passion into career

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Many look at a blank canvas or sheet of paper, and see just that - a blank canvas or sheet of paper...

Spc. Jaime Rodriguez, a member of the Warrior Transition Unit, however, sees beyond the empty space and finds multiple images in bright, vibrant colors.

"When I look at a paper or canvas, I see a bunch of lines, and if I change where I'm standing, I see more objects," Rodriguez said. "I try to fit those objects that I see on the paper. Sometimes it seems like I'm repeating myself, but that's what I see, so that is what I paint or draw."

What Rodriguez draws is a mixture of smaller images combined on a single canvas to create one design. Many of his works of art, while they appear to have little in common, can be positioned next to each other to create a larger image.

After seven years of serving in the Army, Rodriguez is preparing to transition from a combat cameraman to an artist, with hopes of showing his art work in his home-state of Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley.

He understands, however, that art is always a personal preference, and many may not appreciate his unconventional style.

"Realistically, (most people) don't really understand it," he said.

Rodriguez said drawing and painting is a way for him to express himself, to communicate his experiences and thoughts to others.

"Every little piece I make is a little part of me. I think that... a true artist, that's what they're doing, they're putting their selves down because nobody really understands them. They can't express themselves any other way."

Breaking from the norm is what has allowed Rodriguez to

create and sell his work.

"There are a lot of people that will deny themselves certain things because they want to conform to certain standards. But, there's no landscape there. (My work) is not a portrait of somebody, it is just whatever pops in my head, whatever my hand is drawing, and that's okay. I'm not really seeking their judgment."

Rodriguez's wife of two years, Janine, said she has become accustomed to finding the meaning and the beauty within the work.

"Every time I look at his pictures... I have to take a step back and look at it, and see that there actually is a message in the figures and forms and colors," she said.

"I just like drawing," Rodriguez said. "It is a good way to express myself and to project what I'm thinking, since I



Spc. Jaime Rodriguez, a member of the Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Warrior Transition Unit, describes his artwork which he hopes to turn into a business after transitioning into the civilian world.

couldn't sometimes say what I wanted to say."

In his living room, surrounded by his unfinished projects and more than 20 finished pieces, Rodriguez explained the importance of his work and career transition.

"I think that the art right now is like a water faucet. I've turned it on and eventually the water is going to stop coming

out. So, it is important for me to project all that, to put as much of it as I can down before it goes away... not to say that it will, I don't know."

To other artists who may be afraid to paint the unusual, Rodriguez offers the following advice:

"Follow your heart."

art :

the conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects;

Bestselling author to visit libraries, encourages troops to tell their tales

IMCOM-E Public Affairs

The Installation Management Command-Europe Library Program is presenting critically acclaimed author Andrew Carroll as part of his What's Your Story? tour, a series of discussions and readings planned at nine locations throughout Germany.

The tour is supported by IMCOM-Europe MWR and through the National Endowment for the Arts' groundbreaking program - Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience - which has preserved stories of U.S. servicemembers and their families since 2004.

Carroll, 38, is the editor of the New York Times bestsellers "Behind the Lines" and "War Letters," which was made into a PBS documentary. Carroll is founder and director of the Legacy Project, a national, all-volunteer initiative that works to honor and remember U.S. servicemembers and veterans by preserving their wartime correspondence.

His efforts have been profiled on "Oprah," "NBC Nightly News," FOX News, CNN, The History Channel, C-Span, National Public Radio, "CBS Sunday Morning," "The Today Show," "Good Morning America" and "Nightline." Carroll is also a regular columnist for WORLD WAR II magazine.

The What's Your Story? tour includes stops at garrison libraries in Heidelberg, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Baumholder, Landstuhl, Schweinfurt, Bamberg and Grafenwoehr.

Carroll will discuss his involvement with NEA's Operation Homecoming, an unprec-

edented effort supported by Boeing Co. to send prominent writers to military installations, encouraging servicemembers and their families to write about their experiences and to share letters, e-mails, journals, short stories, poems and other writings.

To date, NEA has received more than 1,200 submissions, with approximately 100 of the most compelling works featured in the anthology Operation Homecoming: Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front, in the Words of U.S. Troops and Their Families.

The anthology, edited by Carroll, received critical acclaim and inspired a 2008 Oscar-nominated documentary.

This year, the NEA's Operation Homecoming program will host writing workshops for veterans and active-duty troops at 25 VA medical centers, military hospitals and affiliated centers in communities throughout the United States.

At every stop, Carroll will discuss his on-going travels around the world - including treks to Iraq and Afghanistan - to seek out and preserve wartime correspondence for the Legacy Project.

"Nobody can tell stories about life in the military better than our troops and their families can," Carroll said, "and I hope that Soldiers stationed at the bases I'll be visiting will attend the events to help us spread the word about them as well. I know many servicemembers and their loved ones feel that the 'real stories' about our armed forces are not being told. This will be a great opportunity to

share them."

Carroll invites attendees to the What's Your Story? programs to share their own writings.

He will hand out the NEA booklet Operation Homecoming: A Guide for Writers and discuss writing tips for those who want to begin writing their wartime experiences.

For more information, contact Christina Kruger, European Regional Library Support Center, at DSN 370-6678 or commercial 06221-57-6678, or visit the Web site <http://www.library.eur.army.mil>.

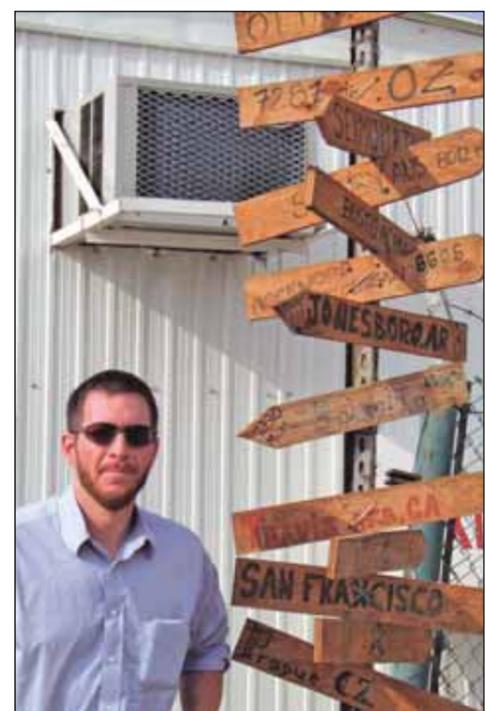
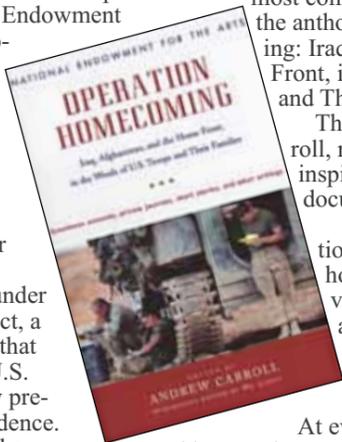
For more information on Andrew Carroll and the NEA Operation Homecoming program, visit <http://www.WarLetters.com> and <http://www.OperationHomecoming.gov>.

The events are free and open to U.S. servicemembers and their families.

Where and When

Places, times, and dates of events are:

- Heidelberg PHV Library, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 26;
- Wiesbaden Library, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 27;
- Stuttgart Patch Library, 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 28;
- Baumholder Library, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 2;
- Landstuhl Library, 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4;
- Schweinfurt Library, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9;
- Bamberg Library, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10;
- Grafenwoehr Library, 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11;
- IMCOM-Europe Headquarters, location to be determined, 3 p.m. Sept. 15.



Courtesy photo

Bestselling writer Andrew Carroll has visited troops deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait to preserve their stories. Carroll is touring Germany to encourage service members and families to write about their experiences and to share letters, e-mails, journals, short stories, poems, and other writings.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

MPD training announced

The Grafenwoehr Military Personnel Division will host an S-1 conference to provide training on MPD services, share information on current topics, and discuss our procedures; topics will include DIMHRS, TCS orders, ID cards, various personnel services, and how the MPD uses SharePoint to provide electronic distribution and sample DA 4187s. The conference will take place Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camp Aachen, Bldg. 1461. All HR specialists, S-1s, PAC clerks in the Bavaria Region are welcome to attend; attendees may also attend via VTC. Please RSVP not later than Sept. 12 to Carrie Meinzer at carrie.meinzer@eur.army.mil.

Graf holds CYS physicals

Grafenwoehr Health Clinic will be conducting CYS physicals Aug. 28 at the clinic. We are located in Bldg. 475. Appointments can be made by calling DSN 475-7251/8393 or CIV 09641-837251/8393.

German-American 'Stammtisch' in Weiden

The public is invited to attend the German-American "Stammtisch" Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the cafeteria of Volkshochschule, Sedanstrasse 13, in Weiden. Cost is 2 euro per person. This event will be held every Wednesday 8-9:30 p.m. after Sept. 19.

Drivers Training Testing

Do you require a translation of USA-REUR Drivers Licenses?

The USAREUR Vehicle registry is the only agency authorized to issue a translation in order to obtain a German Drivers license (USAREUR REGULATION 190-1, paragraph 2-11). Anyone wishing to apply for a translation must do so 60 days before losing logistical support should forward the following items:

- Copy of the Aufenthaltsgenehmigung (German residency permit) or Polizeiliche Anmeldung (German police registration)

- Statement showing when logistical support ceases (ETS orders, statement CPAC)

- Photocopy of USAREUR POV License
- 20 Euro or \$25 check or money order

All requests must be forwarded to the USAREUR Vehicle Registry
ATTN: Correspondence Section
Unit 29230

APO AE 09102
Or the German Address:
Registry of Motor Vehicles
Taylor Barracks
Havelland Str. Geb 335
68309 Manheim

If you have any questions contact us at Vilseck DSN 476-2886, CIV 09662-83-2886 or Grafenwoehr DSN 475-7214, CIV 09641-83-7214.

Volunteers needed

To organize the community Hispanic Heritage Month celebration events to be held in September. Please call Frank Melendez at DSN 475-6512 or CIV 0170-474-8140 or e-mail latinos@frank-melendez.com.

Se Necesitan Voluntarios

Para organizar los eventos de las festividades del mes latino las cuales se llevaran a cabo en Septiembre.

Favor llamar a Frank Melendez, DSN 475-6512, CIV 0170-474-8140, e-mail latinos@frank-melendez.com.

TMP closure

The 2008 annual works outing Aug. 29 will close all Garrison Transportation Motor Pool operations. No mass transit bus services will be available at either Grafenwoehr or Vilseck. Also other services such as courier and vehicle dispatches at the Dispatch Centers, and issuance of fuel coupons will be unavailable that date.

Need an international drivers license?

National requirements for liability insurance, customs documents, and drivers' licenses vary and are subject to change. The local military police customs field office or local drivers testing station can provide information on international driving requirements. Individuals are strongly encouraged to obtain an international drivers license before driving outside of Germany, especially when driving through countries such as Austria, Greece, Spain, and Turkey.

Documents needed for the International Drivers License:

- ID Card
- USAREUR Drivers License
- 2 Passport Photos
- Fee: about 18 Euros Cash (No check or money orders)

For assistance and questions contact us at Vilseck DTTS DSN 476-2886, CIV 09662-83-2886 or Grafenwoehr DTTS DSN 475-7214, CIV 09641-83-7214.

Vilseck offers parenting class

Social Work Services will be offering a six week parenting course using the Becoming a Love and Logic Parent curriculum. The classes will provide valuable advice to parents for raising self-confident, motivated, and responsible children. Parents will gain knowledge on how to establish healthy control without resorting to anger, threats, nagging, or exhausting power struggles. The class is free of charge and each participant will receive a workbook. Classes start Sept. 5 and will meet each Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 316 in Vilseck. To register for the class call DSN 476-2100.

Army medical blog online

The Army Medicine Web page has been updated with new features and valuable information; go to www.armymedicine.army.mil. Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoemaker, U.S. Army Surgeon General, has launched his own blog at <https://blog.amedd.army.mil/>. The blog is

available to read his postings and leave comments.

UMUC fall classes

University of Maryland University College Europe announces Fall Session 1 registration, Aug. 11-22. Students may learn more about admissions, registration, and schedules for undergraduate and graduate courses at www.ed.umuc.edu. On-site courses begin Aug. 24.

Need a training location?

Why not contact your local Joint Multinational Training Command, Digital Training Facility! All facilities have several air-conditioned classrooms with 16 multimedia computer workstations with Internet access and video teletraining capability.

These classrooms are also ideal for individuals seeking a quiet place to work on-line on self-development courses.

For more information, contact your local DTF manager at the following numbers:

Grafenwoehr DTF - DSN 474-2381 or CIV 09641-454-2381, Location: Bldg 3144 (Camp Normandy).

Vilseck DTF - DSN 476-3758, CIV 09662-83-3758, Location: Bldg 355.

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.

Military Family Life Consultants available

Military Family Life Consultants are available to help service members, DoD civilians, spouses, family members, and children. The staff is able to address: marriage and relationship issues, stress and anxiety, depression, grief and loss, and daily life issues. Confidentiality, unless duty to warn situation. You may schedule an appointment by calling CIV 0173-184-7209 or CIV 0152-0293-4290.

Hohenfels Briefs

German-American Sports Friendship Day

There will be something for everyone at the 2008 German-American Sports Friendship Day. Have fun and make new friends from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Schmidmuehlen Sportplatz. Activities include jumping castle, arts and crafts, horseback riding, soccer, baseball, face painting, Fear Factor challenges, and food. Open to all families and kids of all ages. For more information call the CYS Youth Sports office at DSN 466-2558/2488.

Olympic Bingo at the CAC

Come join the fun Friday 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 giveaway.

Back to School Ice Cream

Meet your teacher, find your room, drop off your supplies, sign up for community activities, and eat some delicious ice cream Friday from 1:30-4 p.m. If you have any questions call the Hohenfels Elementary School at DSN 466-2729.

Schedule of events:

1:30-1:45: Meet at the Hilltop Chapel Center for a welcome by the principal.

1:45-2: Walk back to the school for a ribbon cutting ceremony. Then find your child's teacher on the class lists outside the main door.

2-3: Drop off your supplies and meet your teacher.

3-4: Ice cream social and community events sign up.

Vet appointments available

The Veterinary Treatment Facility will have walk-in clinics for vaccinations and sick-call appointments Friday through Aug. 27. The 64th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service) will host the walk-in clinic for the Hohenfels Community. On the Aug. 23 the facility will have a clinic from 8 a.m. to noon for vaccinations only. The clinic will be on a walk-in basis, and you need to be signed in by 11:30 a.m. to be seen that day. On Aug. 24, the clinic will be closed as normal to re-open on Aug. 25 at 8 a.m. for walk-in appointments. If you will be PCS'ing and need health certificates for your pets, this is the prime opportunity to get your pet seen. The clinic hours for the weekdays will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Remember, health certificates cannot be older than ten days when you arrive in the states, so ensure you plan accordingly. For more information call DSN 466-3011/4560.

Wilderness First Aid

Aug. 23-24: The next Wilderness First Aid class will be held at the Vilseck Red Cross Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants must attend both course sessions. Cost is \$90 per person. Participants should be at least 15-years old and have an attitude mature enough to comprehend and pass the course. The certificate will be valid for three years and can serve as a First Aid certificate if needed. For more information call Grafenwoehr at DSN 475-1760, Vilseck at DSN 476-1760 or Hohenfels at DSN 466-1760 to reserve your slot.

Wood Shop Safety

In this class you will learn to safely use the machinery in the wood shop. Once you are certified you may come back for help on individual projects. \$10 class fee, no pre sign-up required. Wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing. Pre-register and pay at least three days before class, held Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

National Bowling Week Kicks off at Lane 17

Lane 17 is hosting the National

Bowling Week celebration Saturday through Aug. 30 to thank it's customers for helping to make bowling the nation's number one participatory sport. Check out the Hohenfels Hometown Happenings at www.hohenfels.army.mil for a list of the daily specials and events.

Hohenfels Book Club

Have you read a good book lately? Join the Hohenfels Book Club Monday and have a good book to read every month. The club meets at the library every last Monday of the month at 5 p.m. The book of the month for August is Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen. Pick up your copy today to get started.

The Hohenfels Book Club book for September will be The Shack by William P. Young. Unfortunately, European libraries do not carry the book, and it will have to be purchased by the reader. The meeting for the September book will be held Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. in the library. For more information call the library at DSN 466-1740.

Preschool Story Time, Lapsit Stories

The library's Preschool Story Hour will begin again after the summer hiatus Sept. 2 at 10 a.m. Every Tuesday, children age 3-5 and their parents are invited to come participate in the story and craft time hosted by Miss Vi. The library is also introducing a new story time for toddlers age 12 mos. - 3 years called Lapsit Stories. This is a shorter time geared to the attention span and interests of toddlers, including finger plays and songs also hosted by Miss Vi. Lapsit Stories will start Sept. 2 at 11 a.m. For more information please contact the library at DSN 466-1740.

Guys Read Book Club

Guys Read is a book club for boys age 12-16. It will meet monthly on Thursdays at the library at 4-5 p.m. The first Guys Read Book Club will meet at the library Sept. 4. The first book for September is Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card; following the first month, the group will choose the books themselves. We also are looking for an adult male to lead the group. For more information contact Nan at DSN 466-1740.

PWOC to hold first meeting after summer break

The Hohenfels Protestant Women of the Chapel's first meeting after the summer break is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. at the Hilltop Chapel Center, Bldg. 6. After the Sept. 3 meeting, the group will meet every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m. in the same building. Child care is always provided at no cost to you. The International PWOC theme for the year 2008-2009 is "At the Redeemer's Feet" based on Ruth 4:14-15a. Join the group for study and fellowship this fall as they learn to depend more on Christ and less on themselves or others. For more information about the Hohenfels PWOC or a PWOC event call the Hilltop Chapel Center at DSN 466-1570.

The Bavarian News is hiring!

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr newspaper, the Bavarian News, is accepting applications for two part-time contract journalist positions.

Job description: Two journalists (one for Grafenwoehr and one for the Vilseck installation) will conduct research and interviews, write articles and take photographs of assigned events and topics, ranging from changes of command to personality features. Journalist is required to have transportation as they will travel frequently to various sites on the installation and occasionally nearby locations off post. Journalists will also deliver the newspaper to the bins and offices at their respective installations upon publication - every other week except two times a year. The journalists will write from home and submit stories and photos via e-mail.

Hours: 20 per week (may work 15 one week and 25 the next, as needed). May include some night and weekend coverage (sporting events, community events, etc.).

Salary: Contract position, paying up to \$15 an hour. No additional benefits.

Experience: Preferred, but not required. Knowledge of pagination, layout and design, and photography a plus. As the journalist will be required to interact with a wide range of people and attend community functions, an outgoing personality is advantageous.

Contact: Please send a resume (and writing sample if you have one) to adriane.foss@eur.army.mil or call 475-7113 for more information.

USAG Grafenwoehr Celebrates
Women's Equality Day

Women's Equality Day, (26 August every year), commemorates the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, which gave women the right to vote. This occasion recognizes the continuing efforts toward full equality for women.

What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Holiday greetings!

Mark Sept. 13 on your calendar to take advantage of the opportunity to tape a holiday greeting to send back to all of your family in the U.S.

The Army and Air Force Hometown News Team will offer community members a chance to tape video messages to family members back in the U.S., its territories and also downrange if they have loved ones deployed, said Kris Grogan, team chief.

Times and locations of the tapings will be announced once they become available.

For more on the program, call Jim Hughes at DSN 468-7649 or CIV 0981-183-649.

Bazaar postponed

The Dog Days of Summer Bazaar originally scheduled for Aug. 29-31 has been postponed.

Officials are working to schedule new dates. The new dates will be released as soon as they become available.

Early bird shopping

The Ansbach Commissary is now open for early bird shopping. The commissary opens up for shoppers at 9 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Spouse education assistance

The Army Emergency Relief Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program is accepting applications for assistance for Term II college courses now until Sept. 29.

OSEAP is a need-based education assistance program designed to provide spouses residing with active duty Soldiers in overseas commands with financial assistance in pursuing educational goals.

The purpose of the program is to assist spouses in gaining the education required to allow them to qualify for increased occupational opportunities. Active duty military personnel are not eligible.

Financial assistance is awarded up to half the cost of tuition per term based on financial need, as evidenced by income, assets, family size, special financial obligations and circumstances, with a \$580 maximum per academic term. The academic year consists of five terms.

Application deadlines for the terms:
Term 2 – Sept. 29;
Term 3 – Dec. 22;
Term 4 – March 2, 2009; and
Term 5 – May 11, 2009.

People can apply online at http://aer-hq.org/AER_Spouse_Overseas/Downloads/08-09%20OSEAP%20Description.

pdf. For more on the program, call Sarah Tipple, USAG Ansbach AER officer, at DSN 467-2064 or CIV 09802-83-2064.

Low-score bowling

The Katterbach Bowling Center hosts a low-score tournament tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. The point of this tournament is to score as low as possible. However, officials warn, gutter balls count as strikes.

Entry fee for the tournament is \$15. For more, call the center at DSN 467-2638 or CIV 09802-83-2638.

PWOC fall kickoff

The Ansbach Protestant Women of the Chapel holds its fall kickoff Sept. 2 at the Katterbach Chapel Sanctuary from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Titled "At the Redeemers Feet," the event features guest speaker Jeanine Root and an introduction to the group's Bible study program.

For more on the event or the group, send an e-mail to Nicole Petersen at tioria88@yahoo.com.

Routine appointments

The U.S. Army Katterbach Health Clinic will be fully supporting the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's upcoming reintegration. Much of the health clinic staff will be focused on reintegration operations, which will limit the availability of appointments.

From the end of August to October, routine and wellness appointments will not be available. The health clinic will continue to provide sick-call coverage and will have limited same-day appointments for acute care issues.

Urgent and emergent care will continue to be provided by nearby host-nation medical facilities and providers. People with conditions that are not emergencies can call the health clinic to get a referral on the economy.

Patients on chronic medications are advised to get prescriptions refilled before the end of August. People due for Well Woman examinations should call the health clinic before the end of August to schedule the visit.

Families of Soldier's scheduled to PCS and currently enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program should get their records screened as soon as possible. Soldiers' permanent change of station orders cannot be processed until their EFMP screening has been updated.

For more information or to schedule appointments, call the clinic at DSN 467-3398 or CIV 09802-83-3398 and select the appropriate service from the menu.

Self-help hours change

The Illesheim Self-Help opening hours have changed.

Operating hours are Mondays-Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call DSN 467-4722 or CIV 09841-834722.

Customs hours

The U.S. Forces Customs-Europe Ansbach Field Office's hours are Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the office is closed on federal holidays.

For more, contact Juergen Hemberger at DSN 468-7842 or CIV 0981-183-842.

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. All outstanding fuel coupons need to be used before the issue of diesel fuel keys.

For more information, call DSN 468-7755 or CIV 0981-183-755.

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 standstill--the clock stops running. No interest or penalties accrue on amounts owed.

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 Katterbach Tax Center, and for the Illesheim Tax Center, call DSN 467-4511 or CIV 09841-834-511.

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 Kimela Dickerson at DSN 467-3272 or CIV 09802-83-3272.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Be on advisory committee

Schweinfurt Middle School's School Advisory Committee is accepting nominations for membership for the 2008-2009 school year. Please submit your name or the names of candidates that you wish to recommend to SMS front office.

Parent members of the SAC must have a child enrolled as a student at SMS. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month from 3 to 4 p.m. in the school's Information Center (library). The SAC advises the principal on matters related to the operation and management of the school, program, and

activities. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Community Update Forum

The Schweinfurt Community Update Forum will be held Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Schweinfurt Elementary School multipurpose room. The entire community is invited and encouraged to attend.

Sign up for a Saturday off

Want a Saturday off? Child and Youth Services is once again offering the super Saturday program, Sept. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The program includes one meal and is available for children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade.

School Aged Services children cost \$12, and Child Development Center children cost \$16. Children must be registered with CYS and also have current immunizations. Sign up deadline is Sept. 5. For more information, call central registration DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-966517.

Leighton Barracks restricted

Leighton Barracks in Wuerzburg is no longer accessible to I.D. card holders. Access is limited to the closure team and authorized personnel, whose primary function is the preparation of the installation for its return to the host nation, and the prevention of theft, vandalism, or dumping to or on government property.

Askren gate change

The John-F-Kennedy Ring gate to Askren Manor will be closed tomorrow and Friday, due to construction. The gate by the elementary school will be open 24 hours during this closure.

Register for college

Registration for University of Maryland University College Term 1 face-to-face and online courses runs through Friday, for classes beginning Monday. Stop by the Ledward Education center for help enrolling, applying for tuition assistance, or for more information call DSN 354-6383 or CIV 09721-966383.

Ladies' spa night, fellowship

The Schweinfurt Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all ladies to attend a pajama spa night at the Ledward Chapel, Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Come dressed in your PJs and enjoy pizza and fellowship. Free childcare available. For more information or to carpool call Sandra Wilson at CIV 0170-277-8980.

Go on a river adventure

Looking for something fun and adventurous to do for Labor day weekend? Come along on Schweinfurt's outdoor recreation trip to Austria for white river rafting, and exploring. The trip costs \$99 and covers transportation, rafting tour, hotel, and memorable pictures on a CD. Hurry and reserve your seat! Call outdoor recreation DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-968080.

Looking for a job?

Are you looking for a job? Army Community Service invites all employ-

ment seekers to attend the Employment Job Fair, at Kessler Fitness center Sept. 5, from 2 to 5:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to find out what kind of jobs are available in our community. For more information contact Lew Lewis DSN 354-6120, CIV 09721-966120 or Karla Lang DSN 354-6288, CIV 09721-966288.

Go on a lunch outing

Take an afternoon outing on the economy with Army Community Services monthly "Lunch Bunch" This is a budget and family oriented event that takes you on the economy with the help and guidance of an ACS local national staff member. For more information call ACS DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-966933.

Club Beyond resumes

Club Beyond will resume with its regular weekly meetings beginning when school starts. The high school group will meet Thursday's at the Bamberg chapel, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., the first meeting takes place Sept. 11. Middle school meets at the Ledward chapel every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m., the first meeting is September 9. For more information call Sara Doughty CIV 0160-332-1498, or Elizabeth Cable CIV 0175-666-3339.

Enjoy alternative rock band

The alternative rock group "Beautiful Generation" will be performing at Finney Fitness center on Conn barracks, Friday beginning at 7 p.m. This band has received much recognition in response to their morale-boosting performances downrange and their courageous efforts.

Automotive shop updates

The Schweinfurt Auto Crafts Shop has expanded its hours! The shop is now open on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free bay usage is offered every Tuesday, and free assistance is available to jump start autos that have been in storage during the deployment. For more information, call DSN 353-8224 or CIV 09721-968224.

Paintball for free

Outdoor recreation continues to offer free paintball every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Soldiers, civilians, and family members 12 and older can partake in paintball for free, including all equipment and 200 paintballs. This is a great opportunity for training and having fun! For more information call Outdoor Recreation DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-968080.

Bamberg Briefs

Estates Claim

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of SGT Connolly, Ryan J. of A Company, 173d, STB, 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.

Are you a Certified MSF RiderCoach living in Europe?

If the answer is yes, then we want to hear from you...

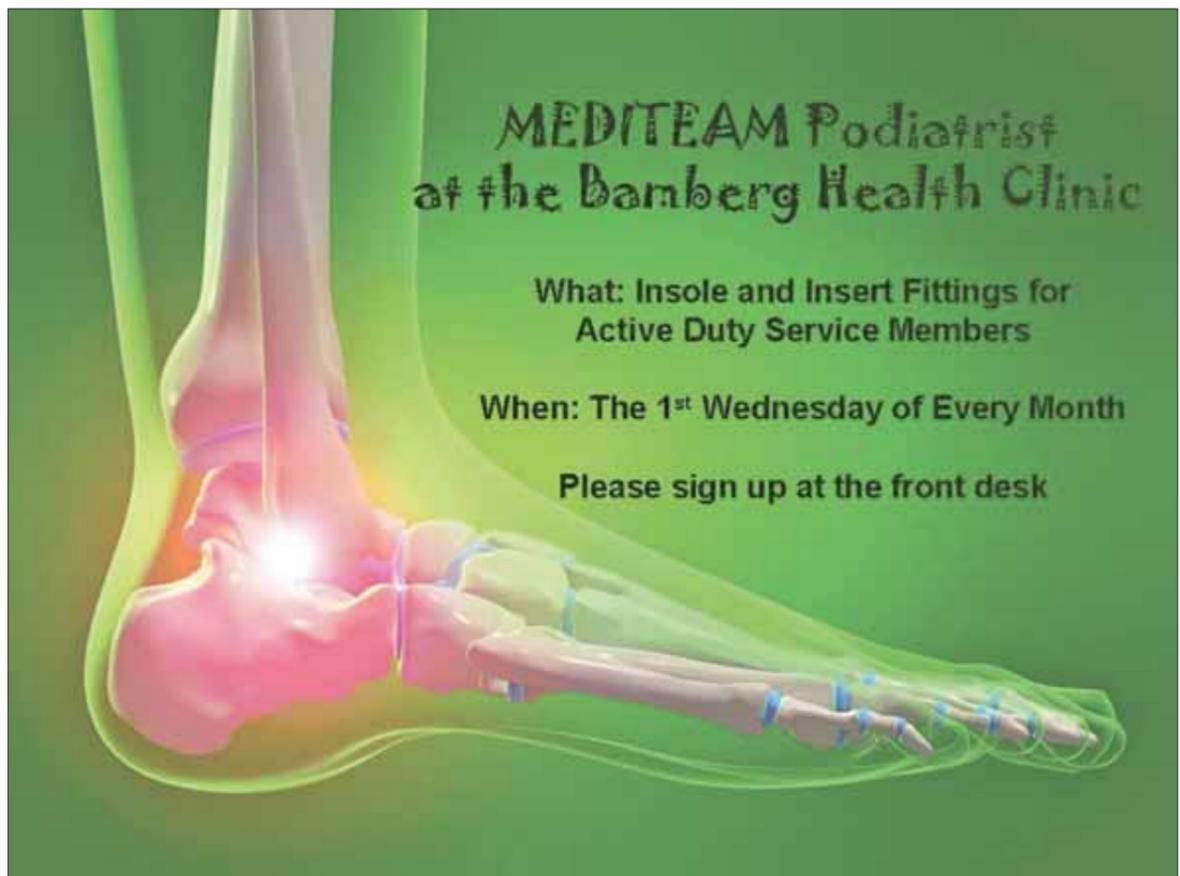
Contact: Dana Steward, dana.steward@eur.army.mil

MEDITEAM Podiatrist at the Bamberg Health Clinic

What: Insole and Insert Fittings for Active Duty Service Members

When: The 1st Wednesday of Every Month

Please sign up at the front desk



Surprise in store for Kinder egg mailers

by **ROBERT SZOSTEK**
USEUCOM Customs PAO

Don't be surprised if your "surprise eggs" don't make it State-side.

A community member in Vilseck, Germany, recently got a surprise letter from U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents who removed 18 chocolate eggs from a package she had mailed Stateside. The reason is that Kinder-brand chocolate eggs, and the like, are banned in the United States.

CBP will also take the eggs from your bags if you have them in your luggage at the airport.

While most people probably think the eggs are innocuous, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety

Commission believes the toy surprise hidden inside can pose choking and aspiration hazards to children younger than three years of age.

Kinder eggs are hollow milk chocolate eggs about the size of a large hen's egg in an orange, white, and blue foil wrapper.



Kinder eggs, a favorite children's candy in Germany, are banned in the United States.

The toy inside the egg is contained in an oval-shaped plastic capsule. The toys are relatively small, and some contain very small pieces that need to be put together; each egg contains a different toy.

The labeling can be in various languages and has a warning on the package that they are only suitable for ages 3 and up.

CPSC is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under

the agency's jurisdiction. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys - contributed significantly to the decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

For more information, visit www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUB/PREREL/prhtml06/06140.html or

contact your local customs office in Bamberg DSN: 469-7460, Garmisch DSN: 440-3601, Grafenwoehr DSN: 475-7249, Hohenfels DSN: 466-2012, Schweinfurt DSN: 354-6842 and Vilseck DSN: 476-2105, or visit our Web site <http://www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm>.

Garrison Customs Office Hours

Bamberg Bldg. 7011, Room 124 and 125
Phone: DSN 469-9312, CIV 0951-300-9312
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Garmisch
Bldg. 209 MP Station
Phone: DSN 440-3601, CIV 08821-750-3601
Tuesday-Friday 1-4 p.m.

Grafenwoehr
Bldg. 244, Room 240
Phone: DSN 475-7249, CIV 09641-83-7249
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m.

Hohenfels
Bldg. 10, Room 118
Phone: DSN 466-2012, CIV 09472-83-2012
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

Schweinfurt
Bldg. 289
Phone: DSN 354-6842, CIV 09721-96-6842
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Vilseck
Bldg. 161, Room 127
Phone: DSN 476-2105, CIV 09662-83-2105
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m.

USAREUR Vehicle Registry only agency authorized to issue drivers license translations. Call today!

Special to the Bavarian News

Do you require a translation of USAREUR drivers licenses?

The USAREUR Vehicle Registry is the only agency authorized to issue a translation in order to obtain a German drivers license (USAREUR REGULATION 190-1, paragraph 2-11). Anyone wishing to apply

for a translation must do so 60 days before losing logistical support should forward the following items:

- Copy of the Aufenthaltsgenehmigung (GERMAN RESIDENCY PERMIT), or
- Polizeiliche Anmeldung (GERMAN POLICE REGISTRATION)
- Statement showing when

logistical support ceases (ETS orders, statement CPAC)

- Photocopy of USAREUR POV License
- 20 Euro Or \$25 check or money order (Admin fee)

All requests must be forwarded to the USAREUR Vehicle Registry
ATTN: Correspondence Section
Unit 29230

APO AE 09102

Or the German address:
**Registry of Motor Vehicles
Taylor Barracks
Havelland Str. Geb 335
68309 Manheim**

For information, call Vilseck DSN 476-2886, CIV 09662-83-2886 or Grafenwoehr DSN 475-7214, CIV 09641-83-7214.

SAFETY MESSAGE: Anticipating situations keys to safe motorcycle driving

The end of summer is fast approaching in Bavaria. I am sure that most of you have noticed an increase in the numbers of motorcycles and mopeds.

Operators that have not driven a two-wheeled vehicle in years have re-discovered the sport due to the dramatic increases that we have seen in the cost of fuel and a general rise in the cost of living.

As discussed in previous articles, there is no substitute for experience.

The physical operation of a motorcycle/moped is easily remembered and most returning riders feel comfortable after a short acclimation period with their new machines. The mental skills needed to safely negotiate everyday traffic are another matter.

Recognizing potential hazards and anticipating dangerous situations are key skills that enhance the safety of the ride but need to be relearned after any absence from riding.

As we approach several multi-day holiday weekends it is important to pay attention to the preparations that will ensure that you are ready

to deal with the congested traffic conditions in the local area and across Europe as this is the most popular vacation time for Europeans.

Being visible to other drivers, ensuring that your bike is in top mechanical condition and most importantly, adjusting speed for the road and traffic conditions are essential survival skills.

The mental skills are more difficult to define but include knowing your personal limitations and skill level, remaining rested and alert and investing in the best protective equipment that you can afford.

Smart drivers take advantage of every safety training available and mentor new riders to become safe operators.

Enjoy your hard earned time off but remember, "Safety is no accident".

**Bob McGaffin,
USAG Grafenwoehr Safety**

Deployed Grafenwoehr Soldier dies from non- combat related incident

Department of Defense News

The Department of Defense announced Aug. 7 the death of a Soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sgt. Errol M. James, 29, of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, died Aug. 4 at Forward Operating Base Torkham, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained in a non-combat related incident.

He was assigned to the 527th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, Grafenwoehr, Germany.

The incident is under investigation.



Grafenwoehr's Operation Walk 4 Freedom program approaches the finish line

by **TRACY SVALINA**
Health Promotion Coordinator

As we gear up for our deployed units to come home, it is time to check the map and see how close you are to your loved one.

With only three and a half more weeks until the finale 5K Walk - how far have you gone. Mile logs can still be turned in at the final assessments. You've done the work - now get the credit.

Final Assessments and Mile Log Round-Up:

- Sept. 4 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Rose Barracks Fitness Center
- Sept. 5 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center

If you haven't been turning in your miles - it's never too late! Just submit them at the final assessment.

Finale 5 K - Sept. 13 at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center.

The walk will begin at 9 a.m. No registration is required. Stroller friendly route will be designed and all are welcome. Registration for the Fun Run begins at 8 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m.

Courtesy photo



Photo by Paula Guzman

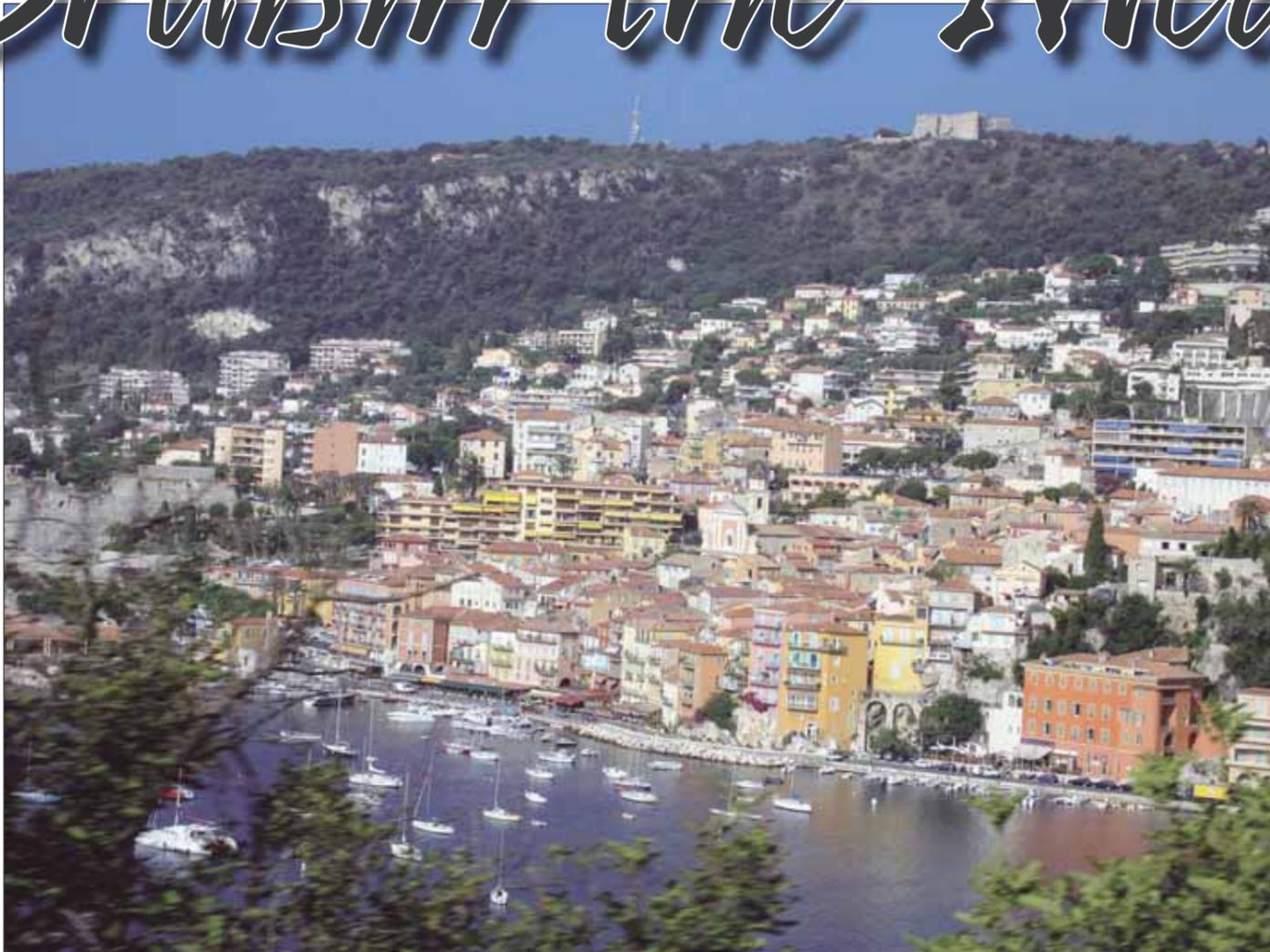
Mission accomplished

Eurana Rodriguez cried tears of joy as she took the oath of office at the Joint Multinational Training Command Headquarters Aug. 4. The emotional oath came after a long road of reaching her goal to join the Army Nurse Corps.

Rodriguez began her career in the Army in 1990 as a combat medic in Stuttgart and eventually attended the Licensed Practical Nurse course at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. She served as an LPN at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia, from 1995-1998. She served a tour in Korea before returning to Fort Gordon where she ETS'ed and started school as a full time student to become a registered nurse.

On Aug. 4 Rodriguez with her family - Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Rodriguez, the JMTC Deputy G6, and son Patrick, 15 - at her side joined the Army Nurse Corps as a second lieutenant. Brig. General David Hogg, JMTC commander, administered the oath.

Cruisin' the Med



LaCote d'Azur, on the French Riviera, offers a wonderful combination of old and new beauty.

Photos by Deborah Barrows

Float a vacation through the Mediterranean

by GARRY BARROWS
Special to the Bavarian News

The words “a 10-night cruise on the Mediterranean Sea” bring to mind a myriad of images, not least of which is the ancient history of numerous cultures to be explored.

Add to that the magnificent natural beauty and the comfort and luxury of being on a cruise ship, and you have the elements of a brilliant vacation.

Cruising is a popular and highly rated vacation, despite the fact that many people do not choose this vacation alternative—some simply because they have not had the opportunity and others who are reluctant.

My wife, Debi, and I recently took a 10-night Mediterranean cruise onboard the Holland America ship

MS Noordam.

Livorno

Our first stop was Livorno, Italy, an access point for the city of Florence as well as the region known as Tuscany.

We chose a tour that took us to Lucca, founded in about 180 BC. The city's wall, dating from the mid-1400s, remains in wonderful condition.

No tour of the area would be complete without a brief stop at the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Very impressive.

French Riviera

On Day 3, we visited Monaco and the LaCote d'Azur, the French Riviera including Nice, France, the brilliant coastline, and towns to the north.

Our tour took us to a wine and cheese tasting event in a small

restaurant near the flower and vegetable market, (so colorful and so traditionally European) in Nice.

All of the elements combined, including the wine and cheese tasting, provided a special atmosphere.

The trip along the Cormiches, a French word that means “travel way that overlooks a beautiful waterway,” was as spectacular as was a visit to Eze, a small town in the mountains overlooking the sea. Beautiful and historic, quaint and modern. Simply remarkable.

Day 4 was a day at sea, giving me time to attend an onboard art auction, wine tasting, and watch ESPN golf at the sports bar. Yes, there's no escaping sports, even with no land in sight.

My wife opted for the resort route, spending a considerable amount of time being pampered in the spa.

Barcelona

Day 5 was Sunday in Barcelona, where we enjoyed a Tapas tour of the city. Tapas are Spanish appetizers, a staple of some local restaurants. We visited to two Tapas restaurants and sampled several menu items and wine.

Our guide was incredibly committed to Barcelona as a city and a cultural wonder of the world. His excitement and passion was infectious as we visited the Church of the Sagrada Familia—the vision of architect Antoni Gaudi and the only cathedral in the world still under construction.

Day 6 was our last full sea day. My wife and I took advantage of the voyage across the Mediterranean, heading toward the North African coastal country of Tunisia and the small, densely populated island nation of Malta.

Tunisia

We enjoyed Day 7 in Tunisia. The ancient city of Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in the 9th century, was located there at one time, until the city came out on the wrong end of a disagreement with

the Romans and was leveled.

In Tunisia, we visited the famous Bardo Museum which features what is believed to be the most extensive collection of Roman mosaics in the world. It was interesting to see how the Romans viewed themselves and to see how they lived day-to-day.

The tour concluded with a visit to a glass blowing factory. Very colorful pieces were for sale at prices far below those in Venice, but the delicate nature of the Venetian glassware was missing here.

One of our Tunis highlights was a visit to the bazaar, where we found many unique items, including hand tooled copper, silver jewelry, leather goods, pottery, handmade carpets, and an interesting assortment of hookahs, or water pipes.

Malta

Day 8 was spent in the cultural melting pot of Malta, a seven-island archipelago about 93 kilometers south of Sicily.

This was our southernmost destination, but a stiff sea breeze kept the temperature bearable.

Palermo

We visited the Sicilian capitol, Palermo, on Day 9 with no scheduled tours, so we took the jump on/off sightseeing bus and discovered a large university botanical.

Naples, Pompeii

Day 10 was spent in Naples. We were very excited to visit the ancient city of Pompeii, which was completely buried over a two-day period in 79 AD during a catastrophic eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius.

The city and its 17,000 inhabitants was covered with 30 feet of ash—not surprising as half the mountain was blown away—and lost to memory for nearly 1,800 years.

It was amazing to see the intact ruins and home interiors of the excavated city. Visiting the ruins of an average home and entering the dining room with artwork still on the walls was an eye-opening insight into an ancient world.

Research Required

Several lines offer Mediterranean cruises and more than 40 different ports calls, making planning and research a must before deciding on a cruise line. It's up to you to do the research, based on your preferences and budget.

The military SATO Travel offices are a great first stop when planning a cruise. Their experts can provide clear, direct answers to your questions. SATO also offers very reasonably priced packages, as well as good comparison information should you decide to research online cruise companies on your own.

“MSC Lines offer several children-sail-free cruises during certain times of the year. That's really an excellent offer, but by no means your only cost-effective choice,” said Romana Widl, Hohenfels SATO branch manager.

Widl suggests giving yourself enough time for planning to secure the best rates. “The earlier the better,” she said, “and make sure you avoid the German holidays.”



Cruise Concerns

Among the top reservations people have about cruising are:

1 Will I get seasick? It is very unlikely. Most ships have stabilizers that reduce the motion of the sea to almost nil.

In addition, there are medications—over-the-counter and prescription—that are very effective in treating motion sickness. Scopolamine®, administered in patch form, can be obtained by prescription from your doctor.

The pill Bonine® is a highly recommended over-the-counter remedy while Sea Band®—a knitted elastic wrist band that operates by applying pressure to acupressure points—is a drug-free natural alternative.

2 What if I don't like the food? Also highly unlikely. One of the cornerstones of cruising is the mind boggling variety and quality of food. At the buffets, it is easy to find exactly what you want.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and french fries will be served up for kids and vacationers with simpler palates, and everything from lobster to New York Strip is available for those who are looking for more substantial fare.

And if you're a first time cruiser, continue to widen your horizons by making your dining experience an exploration. Order something you've never had before! If you do not like it, send it back and order something different. Table stewards are there to ensure guests enjoy the experience, and they are usually very willing to help diners find food they can enjoy!

3 What if I don't like the cruise ship environment? At the risk of sounding repetitive, this is also unlikely, especially since cruise lines offer so many activities.

Think of the ship as a floating hotel that travels to new and exciting locations every day. This means that one of the most difficult aspects of cruising is deciding which of the 10 or more excursion programs you should spend the day enjoying.

Most cruise lines offer numerous shore options, ranging from scuba diving and bungee jumping to guided land tours and extreme shopping, depending on your port location and sense of adventure.

And if you decide not to get your feet wet, onboard options are plentiful and varied. Spas, libraries, cooking demonstrations, fruit and ice carving demonstrations, casinos, and Las Vegas-style stage shows make staying aboard an entertaining option.

Antoni Gaudi's Sacred Family Cathedral is one of the most famous attractions in Barcelona. Construction began in 1877 and is not scheduled for completion until 2026.



MPs offer reward for 'doin' the right thing'

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

Youth on USAG Ansbach might get a pleasant surprise when pulled over by the military police—a reward for doing things right!

The garrison began the bicycle safety incentive reward program Aug. 9 to reward youth cyclists on the importance of safety and wearing a helmet while biking or operating other non-motorized wheeled vehicles.

Sgt. 1st Class Toby Hannah, senior military police sergeant, calls it "Doin' the right thing," while on patrol looking for children to reward while biking and wearing a helmet.

He says that the point is to be sure to let the kids know that their behaviors are the right ones. And rewarding those behaviors in front of their peers and parents drives that message home, and hopefully influences others to follow suit.

The program is giving out free bowling game tickets courtesy of Ansbach Morale, Welfare and Recreation, but officials would like to expand the reward program and are

open to others community agencies donating rewards, said Maj. Craig Schuh, USAG Ansbach Provost Marshall.

One of the first to receive a pat on the back was Shemar Banta on Katterbach Kaserne for wearing a helmet while on his bike.

Tiffany Banta, mother of Shemar, said it is all about the safety of her child. She said she tells him every time he goes out to ride his bike, "Make sure you have your helmet!"

"I would not want anything to happen to my son," she adds.

Shemar said he will continue to wear his helmet so he will not get hurt.

S c h u h said parental involvement is vital to the safety of the community's youth.

"It is important for parents to be involved—if parents aren't enforcing it, then the kids aren't going to do it on their own," he said.

"The program itself provides an incentive for the children to do the right thing," he said. "Hopefully it will catch on and become a norm—not just because they receive something, but because it is the right thing to do."

Hopefully it will catch on and become a norm...

Maj. Craig Schuh
USAG Ansbach Provost Marshall



Sgt. 1st Class Toby Hannah, senior military police sergeant, gives praise—and a free bowling ticket—to Shemar Banta as Shemar's mom, Tiffany, looks on, Aug. 9 in Katterbach housing.

Banta was one of the first to receive a good ticket from the MPs as part of a new program that lets kids know when they are doing things right while operating non-motorized vehicles.

Construction pains to result in a nicer home

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

All the construction going on within USAG Ansbach kasernes may be a pain, but there is a big payoff—making a better home for 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, garrison and tenant unit Soldiers, families, and employees.

While parking and driving can be challenging at times, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, according to Stephen Zeman, USAG Ansbach Department of Public Works and chief of the engineering division.

The garrison, until a short time ago in construction budgeting terms, was not an enduring installation, Zeman said, but it earned that status in recent years and the current projects were approved.

"The end goal is to overcome two decades of neglect and to bring the base up to the standards that most

people would expect if they were stationed in the U.S.," he said.

Once construction gets past this unpleasant part the community will see a lot of improvements, Zeman said.

"We are at the worst phase of the construction right now. It will be better," he said. "The temporary hiccups are painful and we understand that, but we are trying to minimize that pain as much as possible."

The USAG Ansbach community is currently undergoing \$190 million worth of construction when the Uras housing complex project is included, Zeman said.

The garrison is looking at about three years for all the current planned construction to be complete, based on funding, Zeman said.

"With any community, construction will never be finished, because of the annual reviews," he added.

The ongoing Katterbach construction was initially a sewer

project, but the garrison added a road project to it since the roads would be torn up anyway, Zeman said.

"So there are two projects going on at the same time—sewer and roads—and Bleidorn is the same way, but we added building renovations to that project."

For the short term, "the anticipated completion date for the sewers and roads in Katterbach is April 1," Zeman said. "The work is done in phases that last approximately two and a half months."

He said that the Katterbach exit gate project is going well and is actually ahead of schedule to reopen the end of September.

"Traffic will be able to cross the street again, for a while, but that is based more on physical security and not project based," he said. "In October, we expect to begin using the new entry gate at Katterbach."

However, during all phases of

construction, Zeman said that limited parking, road-blocks and road re-routing will continue, and he asked for people to be patient and to realize that eventually the work will benefit the community.

At Bismarck, the end-result will be a better flow of traffic and an added traffic circle between the security control tent and the AAFES garage.

At Barton Barracks, Zeman said the installation will have a new road built and the parking lot expanded. Construction is scheduled to start in September or early October.

The Barton project includes removing steel railings and replacing them with more trees for a more eye-pleasing look.

At Bleidorn, Zeman said that the current road phase for the housing area is mostly complete now—except for the road going to the Terrace Playhouse and some work on lower Bleidorn that will go on for about another year.

In addition to the current improvements on Bleidorn, Zeman said there are plans for a park with a playground that he expects to begin next spring or summer.

At Stork Barracks, the final stages of the first phase of the road and sewer project are being worked, he said.

Once this phase is complete, which is expected to be around September, the project will result in a pedestrian area around the Army Community Service building and surrounding buildings.

Zeman said DPW and garrison officials welcome questions on the projects and also ideas on how to do things better—directly or through unit chains of command.

"We are just like everyone else—we gather ideas from everyone around us," he said. "The more we get, the better the opportunity we'll find for it to work and the more pleasing it will be to people."

Children's combat camp takes stress off deployed families

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR. and JENNIFER SMITH**
Bavarian News

About 50 youth from the Stork Barracks community were put to the test by the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 159th AR rear detachments at the Children's Combat Camp July 28-30 in Illesheim.

Some of the stations that were set up included: obstacle course, first aid, tug-o-war competition, and rifle and marching drills.

Jennifer Smith, family readiness support assistant for the 2-159th said that the unit family readiness group conducted the event based on the success of Operation Better Half, also known as Spouse's Combat Day.

Spouse's Combat Day was such a great event that Lt. Col. Kevin Christensen, commander of the 2-159th who is currently deployed, suggested having one for the kids.

And the Children's Combat Camp lived up to expectations, said his wife, Amber Christensen.

"The CCC was a wonderful event! It provided the children with educational and exciting opportunities to see into the life of a Soldier," she said. "The 3-159 children had an exciting event to help relieve some of their sadness

over their parents leaving, while it provided a distraction to the 2-159th and 412th (Aviation Support Battalion) kids who are still anticipating their parents' return home."

Smith agreed, adding that events like these are important for the families, spouses and children, who naturally reflect their parents' mannerisms.

"Kids always want to emulate their parents and in the military you cannot take your kids to work daily because of the dangers involved in the job," Smith said. "However, that doesn't stop the hero worship or the desire to grow up and do what their parents do."

"An event like this gives kids a realistic chance to experience the type of training that their military family member receives in a safe environment."

Incorporating fun into the lives of all families during these trying times is important, Smith said.

"It's fun—for the kids, the parents and the Soldiers who are running the event," she added. "Good morale in a small community like ours is essential to a positive Army experience, especially at the time of the sister battalion's deployment and redeployment happening just days apart. Everyone had such a good time—I would love to see this become an annual event."

This event is a last "Hooah!" for the 2-159th rear detachment as the battalion is coming home from a 15 month deployment, Smith said.

It is also the first event for the 3-159th rear detachment as that unit is just days into its 15-month deployment.

"It's one unit training up another for the purpose of entertaining kids and keeping up community morale," Smith said.

For participating families, like Sgt. Mandy Weigert-Picart of the 2-159th, the event proved entertaining, she said.

"It was hilarious in my eyes, and gave the kids a taste of what their parents do," said Weigert-Picart.

To cap-off the event, lunch was provided at the Flight Line Inn Dining Facility at Stork.

Daniel Brice and Trevor Christensen duke it out with Puggle Sticks as Staff Sgt. Theodore Rodgers and Pfc. Nolan Dalton supervise the event at the Children's Combat Camp at Stork Barracks July 28-30.

photo by Jennifer Smith



Gunslingers ready to mount up

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class CHRIS SEATON
Task Force XII PAO

A quick stroll through the hangars and company areas of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment belies the experience of the unit.

Fourteen months into a 15-month deployment, you'd expect to see weathered company mascots and fading slogans adorning the makeshift plywood walls.

The company, after all, was among the first groups of Task Force XII Soldiers to inhabit the Army side of Joint Base Balad's airfield when the deployment began last June. But, like much of the battalion, if they hung their hat and called it home when they got here, they didn't leave it hung for long.

"The battalion's had Soldiers in Basra off and on from the time we've been here, same with Tallil," said Co. C 1st Sgt. William Anthony. "We started in Basra, moved to Tallil and jumped four times after that."

Flexibility has been the story of the deployment thus far for the flight companies of the 2-159th. The battalion flies the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter mission for Multi-National Corps-Iraq. It's a role that

has kept Soldiers busy—not to mention mobile.

"We had some guys from Bravo Company go to Kalsu and we started off with half our company in Basra," said Spc. Jeremy Freeman, an Apache crew chief from Los Angeles. "We've been to Tallil three times."

And while it's not exactly conducive to setting up house, it's a role they've gotten used to. Currently the battalion has two of three flight companies, Company A and B, operating from Basra; giving Company C the lead on missions at Balad.

"Sometimes we'd move with 24 hours notice," said Anthony, who hails from Wahiawa, Hawaii. "Guys would be getting ready to come to work for the day and I'd go tell them to pack their stuff and get ready to go."

The Soldiers say they understand the mission, so they don't mind the moves.

"If we don't launch the aircraft, they're not flying," said Freeman. "Our pilots were doing amazing stuff all over the country and we felt like a part of that every day. There's definitely a mission first mentality."

"There's a lot of pride in the fact that we've been all over the country and have supported missions all over



Spc. Jeremy Freeman, an AH-64 Apache crew chief in Company C, of 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, raises the tail end of an Apache helicopter July 20.

the place," added Sgt. Brandon Otter, a New Almelo, Kan., native. "Moving around from base to base is actually kind of a nice break—that way nothing really gets too old."

It seems like a lot to ask from the

crew chiefs of Charlie Company. The group is made up of 16 mostly first-time deployers whose average age is about 23. Even without the moves, their leaders freely admit the job is grueling.

"On the average we do 14 hours of maintenance for every one hour of flight time," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Cordle, a platoon sergeant. "They come out here and work in 120 degree heat and they don't get to fly with the aircraft."

"Their job starts two or three hours before the aircraft flies," he added. "And if it comes back broken, the work doesn't stop until it's fixed again."

The Soldiers insist that the multiple moves didn't affect the learning curve.

"The mission is usually the same," said Otter. "It's a different place and a different parking pad, but, as far as maintenance goes, it's the same wherever we go."

The deployment is nearly over for the Gunslingers. As their replacements start to filter in, the crew chiefs can't help but smile as they talk about the last in a series of moves—the one that takes them back to their home in Illesheim.

"I saw a lot come out of these guys that you wouldn't expect with the age and experience level they came in with," said Cordle. "We came in a little green, but we're coming out of here with a lot of guys who are ready to be NCOs."

Welcome home!



Photos by Jim Hughes

Above: Soldiers from the 2nd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment (Gunslingers) and 412th Aviation Support Battalion (Professionals) march into an aircraft hangar during a welcome home ceremony the night of Aug. 6 at Storck Barracks, Illesheim. About 170 Soldiers from the 2-159th ARB and 412th ASB returned home to U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach after a 15-month deployment to Iraq. This first large homecoming of 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers marks the beginning of the unit's trek home from Iraq, with more homecomings scheduled throughout August and September.

At right: Spc. Nathan Tester, 2nd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment (Gunslingers) gets a welcome home from son, Travis, 5 months, and wife, Sgt. Shelly Tester, also of the 2-159th, during the welcome home ceremony.



Remembering...

A Soldier renders a salute to a fallen comrade at the remembrance ceremony Aug. 12 at the Katterbach Chapel.

The ceremony honored the life and sacrifices of Sgt. Errol James, 527th Military Police Company.

Hundreds of Soldiers, Family members and friends from a wide range of communities, including Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr, Ansbach, Stuttgart, and Kaiserslautern attended the ceremony to remember the Soldier many called "Doc."

James died from injuries sustained in a non-combat incident in Afghanistan that is under investigation by Army officials.

James was a trauma specialist with the 527th. He is survived by his wife, Eva; son, Elijah; and mother, Jermaine.

Photo by Jim Hughes



16th SB assumes authority of COB Q-West

by Spc. ANTHONY HOOKER
215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 16th Sustainment Brigade, led by Col. Martin B. Pitts, assumed authority for Contingency Operating Base Q-West and sustainment operations in northern Iraq, during a transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 9.

The ceremony marked the end of a 15-month tour for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, a Fort Stewart, Ga., unit; and the arrival of the 16th SB from Bamberg. The 16th SB, on its first deployment, is the only U.S. Army sustainment brigade in Europe.

Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, commanding general, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and reviewing officer for the ceremony, reminded the audience of the 3rd SB's achievements; Lally also spoke of how important 16th SB's ability to maintain focus on the mission would be.

"Transitions of Authority mark the end of a challenging and successful mission," said Lally. "It's also a time to reflect on the gravity and breadth of your unit's impact on our success in Iraq. For the incoming unit, it's an official assumption of a vital mission and an important mental shift from a mindset of preparation to one of execution."

The 3rd SB, operating as the logistical headquarters for Multi-National Division-North, successfully supported 13 brigade-sized units with forces totaling over 70,000 service members, contractors, and Department of

Defense civilians.

The 3rd SB also drove over 3,700 combat logistical patrols, pushed nearly 134 million gallons of fuel from fuel farms at Q-West, Camp Marez, and COB Speicher.

After welcoming his "new best friends" from the 16th SB, Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander, 3rd SB, gave thanks to everyone in attendance as well as the "nameless" individuals who serve on all lines of the battlefield. He singled out Soldiers who lost their lives fighting on behalf of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Williams said in a separate interview that logistical support serves as an enabler to the successful transition of Iraq back to its citizens.

"Logistics helps this campaign in two ways," said Williams. "We are critical in assisting our fighting forces as they reposition themselves to the battlefield."

"We also are setting the condition for Iraqis to better themselves by training the Iraqis how to build and sustain supplies so they can support their military logistical forces better in the future," he said.

Pitts' speech emphasized his enthusiasm for the challenge ahead for his Soldiers. Pitts also expressed his regard for the outgoing unit's accomplishments and their hospitality.

"I am humbled and blessed by the opportunity to command this unit during combat operations and am honored by the opportunity we have been given to break new ground and forge the storied history of the 16th Sustainment Brigade."



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Col. Martin Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th SB, uncasing the unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, Aug. 9. The 16th SB, out of Bamberg, Germany, assumed authority for Q-West and for sustainment operations in northern Iraq from the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, Fort Stewart, Ga.



Photo by Jocelyn Bright-Smith

Time to Bond

Christina Delgado and daughter, Mila is among the many mothers who attend the Newborn Network with their children. The Newborn Network is an Army Community Service program designed to promote mother-and-baby bonding as well as promote interaction and socialization for the newborns. Newborn Network meets Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Program Bldg. 7487 and is open for children ages 0-12 months. FAP also offers Play Mornings for children ages 1-3 years on Fridays from 10-11:30 a.m.

Brigade processes through DPC enroute to Iraq July 19

by Sgt. Maj. CAMERON PORTER
21st TSC Public Affairs Office

The 16th Sustainment Brigade completed its final pre-deployment preparations at the Deployment Processing Center and departed from Ramstein Air Base enroute to the Iraqi theater July 19.

The brigade will be conducting sustainment operations there in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While at the DPC, the Soldiers from the 16th SB completed their final manifest validation, received their threat briefing from their commander, and measured and weighed their baggage and equipment for the flight.

"It's going to be a near full flight so if everyone brought their 400 pounds of authorized baggage and equipment, we're going to be close to being over the authorized cargo limit," said Capt. David Hudak, the deputy brigade operations officer. "That's why it's so important to check the baggage here at the DPC before heading over to the ramp at Ramstein."

Hudak said the entire process takes about six hours to complete. The first four hours are at the DPC on Rhine Ordnance Barracks, and the final two hours are on purple ramp at Ramstein Air Base waiting for the call forward.

"Some of the support the Soldiers receive at the DPC includes the use of recreational items like pool and ping pong tables, foosball, board games and televisions with DVD players. The USO also sets up a table to serve snacks and beverages free of charge, and the DPC furnishes ready-made

meals for the Soldiers to eat while they are waiting for the call forward," Hudak said.

Hudak noted that this is the first deployment for the brigade as a whole. The 16th SB activated in July 2007 as part of the Army's transformation in Europe. The 16th and the 7th Corps Support Groups combined and transformed into what is now the 16th SB. Oddly enough, the brigade inherited the unit crest of the 16th CSG, but took over the Unit Identification Code of the 7th CSG, Hudak said.

A lot of train up has gone into preparing the brigade for its first deployment.

A Mission Readiness Exercise was conducted in February of this year at Fort Knox, Ky., with what used to be the brigade's higher command headquarters – the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

Other sustainment brigades belonging to the 3rd ESC also participated in the MRX. In January the 16th SB certified its 391st Combat Service Support Battalion, and in April the brigade certified its 18th Combat Service Support Battalion.

"We've received a lot of new

equipment since we stood up last year," Hudak said. "These certifications provided good opportunities to test this equipment and use these new systems."

"I took part in convoy live fire training and Humvee Egress Assistance

These certifications provided good opportunities to test this equipment and use these new systems.

Capt. David Hudak
16th SB Deputy Bgde Ops Officer

Training as well as medical training within my section," said Pfc. Ben Malone, a combat medic in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th SB. "A lot of what we trained on wasn't what I expected, but with me being a new Soldier I don't have much to gauge it on."

Malone said it was interesting for him to see all the components

of the brigade working together during the train up certifications and exercises they conducted before deploying.

"You get used to working in your own little section but witnessing the bigger picture with everyone working together was much more exciting," said Malone.

The 16th SB will conduct sustainment and support operations while deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The deployment is expected to last one year.

Teen Center helps Bamberg youth have fun, educational summer

by JOCELYN BRIGHT-SMITH
Bavarian News

This summer, the local U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Teen Center is doing its part to keep the youth population busy.

They are offering different programs throughout the weeks leading up to the new school year, as well as opening the teen center for those who wish to use the courts or the computer facilities located there.

One such program, entitled "Music and Movie Making," was held from July 7-18.

In Music and Movie Making,

middle school age students came in from 1-5 p.m. to learn how to use the film equipment.

The groups were taught by Corwin Reed, the Youth Technology Instructor, and were then allowed free reign in which to write, film, edit and, in the case of one group, animate their videos.

Will Luciani and Jeffrey Jackson chose to make an animation instead of filming with peers. "It seemed more unique," Luciani, said of his decision.

Jackson agreed, and said that he "wanted to make it more challenging."

On day 1, the groups wrote a script. From July 8 to July 15, they filmed—and re-filmed what they had changed in their script. July 16, they had finished filming and all had started working on editing. July 18 was their final day of the program.

Reed, who is self-taught with movie equipment, says that the kids needed instruction only for the equipment and programming, other than that, it was a completely hands-on experience where they learned through trial and error.

He called it a "project in the works," and noted that a major goal was to "get [the kids] to think for themselves...be

creative," and to ultimately become "self sufficient."

The program may become a regular club during the school year "as long as we have the kids interested and excited about it" Reed said.

There is also a possibility of participating in the Boys and Girls Club Digital Arts Fest whose entries range between graphic arts, movie and music making, and digital photography.

The Teen Center and Child and Youth Services are also hoping that this program can "lay a foundation" on which they can build up a strong technological program.

The Teen Center is open for any

middle school or high school students who wish to use its facility.

To use on a regular basis, one must be registered with Child and Youth Services, but a guest sign in for day-to-day use is also available.

Middle school summer hours are Monday through Friday 1-7 p.m.; high school summer hours are Monday through Thursday 1-8 p.m., Friday 1-10 p.m. They are also open two Saturdays a month from 3-10 p.m.

For more information, stop by the JFK Multiplex or call CIV 0951-300-8871.

To register with CYS, stop by Central Registration in Bldg. 7340.

Finney Center named best in Army

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Striving to be the best Army community in Europe has long been the goal of U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt commanders and garrison agencies.

Recently, those efforts have been widely-recognized as successes, ranging from commendations for the best Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program in Europe to, most recently, the best recreation center in the Army.

The Finney Recreation Center, located on Conn Barracks, was chosen as the best recreation center in its size category in the Army, and will be formally recognized Aug. 27 during the Soldier Family Action Plan training symposium in Louisville, Ky.

"We're really proud of that accomplishment. Last year we won the best overall recreation program in Europe. This year we won the best recreation center in the Department of the Army," said Dave Luellwitz, community recreation division chief for USAG Schweinfurt.

Installation Management Command, Europe's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation branch chief Dan Gasparino called the award "a true indication of the excellence and pride" demonstrated by the management and staff of each winning facility.

Luellwitz credited his own staff with the lion's share of the credit for capturing the Army-wide honors.

"Our recreation programmer, Silvia Joiner, has done an outstanding job ... getting the community involved and establishing partnerships" which



Sgt. Brian Moore makes the break on one of Finney Recreation Center's newly-refurbished pool tables. Other improvements include an enlarged Internet Cafe, console game play, and a movie lounge.

enrich the program and highlight the recreation center's capabilities, he said.

Joiner is currently in the United States, representing the Schweinfurt BOSS program, which is under

consideration for Best in the Army honors.

The dedication and determination of the staff is bolstered by the Finney Fitness Center's recent half-million dollar facelift as well.

"It definitely gave us an edge," Luellwitz said. "We have new computers, free wi-fi access, improved gaming capabilities with flat-screen TVs. It's a real first-class operation." The recreation center, which had

last been updated in the early 1980s, updated its look and its equipment during the renovations.

The Internet Café now hosts 25 computers, and the movie lounge has new, comfortable furniture, a wide selection of DVDs, and a new plasma screen TV for viewing.

"You have to have the top-of-the-line technology in order to attract these young Soldiers. They're used to having the latest and greatest gadgets, and nothing short of that will do. They're digital natives, and we had to change to accommodate them," Luellwitz said.

Patrons of Finney Recreation Center can now choose between playing XBOX 360, Playstation, or Wii games, shooting pool on newly-refurbished tables, or logging on to the Internet—for free—with their personal laptops.

One of the most striking aspects of the renovation, and one Luellwitz credits with helping "put us over the other facilities," is a glass wall between the recreation center and the sports bar and grill.

"We can open that wall up and do partnership events. It allows for so many more possibilities," he said.

And although the recreation center has been named Best in the Army, there are no plans to rest on their laurels.

"We're planning more activities every week ... adventure activities, XBOX 360, and pool tournaments," and much more, Luellwitz said.

For more information about what the best recreation center in the Army has to offer, stop by or call DSN 353-8576.

Riders must get heads on straight with helmets

by **MARK HEETER**
USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

The Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute has some important numbers for riders to think about.

Nearly 800 bicyclists died on U.S. roads in 2006, just a slight decrease from the previous year. More than 90 percent were killed in crashes with motor vehicles.

About 540,000 cyclists enter emergency rooms each year; of those, more than 60,000 people have head injuries, according to the institute Web site at www.bhsi.org.

And the Department of Defense has another message.

"(Traffic safety) programs shall emphasize the mandatory use of bicycle helmets approved by the American National Standards Institute or the Snell Memorial Foundation. This applies to all personnel including dependents who ride bicycles on DoD installations," according to DoD instruction 6055.4.

Mandatory

"When I go through the housing area, I see so many little kids without a helmet," said Eddi Sauer, United States Army Garrison Schweinfurt

safety officer.

Some riders, especially children, have a problem with the image of wearing a helmet, Sauer said.

"It might not look cool, but it's the only thing that parents can do to protect their children," he said. "Make it cool for the children, so that they would never want to sit on a bike without their helmet."

And the problem will continue, he said, until wearing the helmet becomes the norm.

"It should become a part of the culture. If it becomes part of the culture, then no one will worry," Sauer said.

Maj. Kenneth Glidewell, USAG Schweinfurt director of emergency services, is quick to note one positive development in his 15 months on the job.

"I've seen a great increase in helmet usage by adults and children in Askren Manor ... to include observing children correcting each other and adults," he said. Still, one age group continues to test the authority of the policy: teenagers.

"And I know, because they're the ones I'm yelling at," Glidewell said.



Photo by Lindsey Cole

Jamar Thomas, left, and Frances Johnson simulate a fender bender on Ledward Barracks. One of them is properly attired; the other is violating a DoD regulation.

PSDR standard until DIMHRS

by **MARK HEETER**
USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

Army transformation does not simply refer to installations closing and units moving; rather, it also refers to changes in the way some business gets done.

Military personnel actions, for example.

"In Schweinfurt, it used to be in Bldg. 215 on Ledward Barracks, and people used to go there to take care of certain types of actions," such as personnel matters and issuance of military identification cards, said Vic Roman, Military Personnel Division supervisor with the USAG Schweinfurt directorate of human resources.

"Now everyone in the community knows, it's in Bldg. 40," Roman said.

Something changed, however, when the personnel services delivery redesign was introduced in 2007.

Everything is not in Bldg. 40. PSDR was created to allow unit personnel sections the ability to execute military personnel actions themselves, rather than having to rely on the community agencies to process Soldiers' actions.

"That was the whole purpose of it, so the commander could have visibility of all the human resources functions right there where they are,"

said Rhonda Hawes, MPD chief.

"PSDR, I think, is a better way of life, because you're taking care of your own, rather than relying on outside agencies," said Capt. Karen Obeng-Dompreh, 172nd Infantry Brigade assistant adjutant.

The system, which requires unit personnel sections to complete many of the tasks that used to fall to the community personnel services battalion, comes ahead of the recently announced implementation of Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System.

DIMHRS will de-centralize many processes even further and will place more responsibility on the Soldier to track and update his or her personnel records.

"They need to embrace this now, because DIMHRS is going to eliminate a lot of these little systems that they've got. They're going to have to get familiar and comfortable with a brand new system," Hawes said. "Everything is falling back on the Soldier being a responsible individual."

Local units have been trained on the PSDR and are now embracing it, Obeng-Dompreh said.

"We're doing some brush-up training that will help them," she said.

2-1-5 program hailed as 'best practice'

by **MARK HEETER**
USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

2-1-5. What do those numbers mean? Two hours or less of television. One hour of physical activity. Five servings of fruits and vegetables.

Angela Hunter, USAG Schweinfurt health promotion coordinator, and Lily Bagtas, the former nurse at Schweinfurt Middle School, created Operation 2-1-5 four years ago as a youth weight management program.

"From that, the program has expanded and is now a comprehensive school-based program," Hunter said.

From that moment in 2004, Operation 2-1-5 has become a program recognized as one of the best practices in the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Europe.

Hunter provided a special brief about the program at the force health protection conference in the United States earlier this month.

"It is definitely about changing habits and about education," Hunter said, emphasizing the educational aspects of Operation 2-1-5.

A collective effort of health professionals, Operation 2-1-5 is aimed not only at the children, but also their parents.

"We have to go back to teaching parents, because a lot of this is about behavior. So we have to go back to reinforcing healthy habits," Hunter said.

"The bottom line is that they all signed up for 2-1-5, so we're going to help facilitate this change in lifestyle as best they can," said Jenny Roper, regional manager of the Women Infants and Children Overseas program, who focuses her efforts on the nutritional aspects, the "5" daily servings of fruits and vegetables.

"We encouraged the parents to come to the nutrition session so they can see what we're teaching their children. And we also gave them healthy recipes," Roper said.

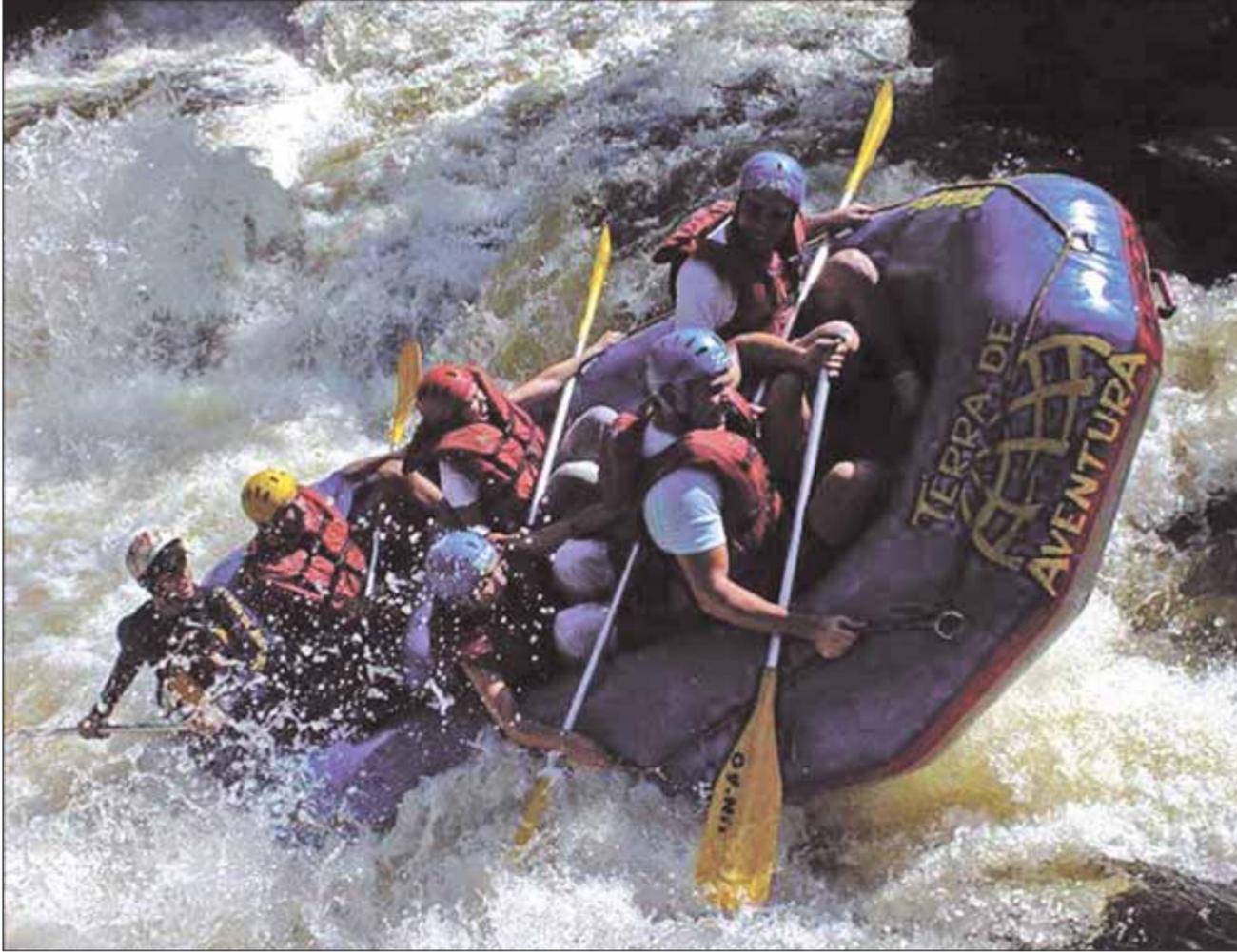
Hunter echoed the standing invitation to parents to take part in any of the Operation 2-1-5 sessions, simultaneously inviting all youth to participate.

"Not only do we want our affected population to get healthier, we want to protect the kids who are already healthy and encourage them to keep on doing the right thing," she said.

In fact, peer involvement has helped to destigmatize the program, according to Hunter.

"(People) should know that the program is open to everyone, and I would encourage all students to participate," she said.

MWR-sponsored outdoor adventures await garrison's redeploying Soldiers



Courtesy photo

White water rafting is just one of the many adventure activities available through Outdoor Recreation.

by LINDSEY COLE
Bavarian News

Soldiers returning from downrange often need fun, relaxing activities for themselves and their families. Morale Welfare and Recreation offers a wide range of low cost and free activities ranging from bowling to white water rafting.

Outdoor Recreation offers adventurous field trips, such as white water rafting, high ropes courses, and rock climbing, which give participants an opportunity to learn new skills and just have fun. Activities offer high-risk adventure in a controlled environment.

"A lot of times people don't know how or where to start with trips and exploring; we can help them. Especially now with the exchange rate it's hard. If (we're) able to provide the programs, it gets the Soldiers and families out and gives them a chance for a new experience," said Christian Hofstetter, MWR Outdoor Recreation director for USAG Schweinfurt for over 20 years.

For the white water rafting field trip, participants travel to Austria, where they will spend one day learning to raft and another applying their new found skills. The trip departs Aug. 29 and returns Sept. 1, and for \$99 it includes transportation, hotel, equipment, professional guides, and breakfast.

Maybe you'd like a drier environment. High ropes and rock climbing are offered as well. A climb up a huge artificial wall is included in the high ropes course which is near Schweinfurt. Rock climbing gives you the chance to get away and experience the mountains, each trip is only \$10 and includes transportation, equipment, and the guidance of professionals.

Transportation to Europa Park will be offered Sept. 20 for \$10 per person or \$20 per family (entrance fees not included). Free paintballing continues to be offered every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Field usage, equipment, and up to 200 paintballs are included in the offer.

The majority of trips in the past have gone well, and this year Hofstetter expects even greater successes with the high-energy events planned.

"When everybody sleeps on the way back, I know it was a successful trip," he said.

These programs will be offered through September as part of the 1-91 Cavalry reset but are available to the entire community. If interested in any outdoor recreation trips or activities, call ahead to reserve a space at DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080, or visit Bldg. 50 on Conn Barracks.

New GI Bill on horizon, funding still available now

by KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

The passage of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, signed into law June 30, has generated a lot of press, and a lot of questions, over the past few weeks. The new GI bill, as it's being called, is still largely in the planning stages, however, and not set to take full effect until Aug. 1, 2009.

"We are already getting a lot of questions about it," said Jamie Reilly, Schweinfurt education services officer.

Since there are still many legal and procedural issues that need to be hammered out, many of those questions have no solid answers yet, Reilly said. The best place for the most up to date GI bill information is straight from the source: <http://gibill.va.gov>.

However, Soldiers seeking to take advantage of educational benefits have myriad other options available to them, including some they can use while still on active duty. Tuition Assistance is one such option.

"GoArmyEd. Every Soldier needs to know about GoArmyEd," Reilly said, noting that the education center on Ledward is well-equipped to walk Soldiers through the process of signing up to use their TA, although Soldiers can use any computer with Internet access to access GoArmyEd.

In order to use their TA, Soldiers and their commanders must sign and submit a Statement of Understanding to the Education Center. The SOU is good for a year and must be renewed for TA to continue.

Soldiers who plan to take classes when they deploy should insure their GoArmyEd account is

set up and their SOU is signed and on file prior to deploying, since there are no education centers in Iraq, and those in Afghanistan are limited to the higher-population areas.

Renewal of the SOU for Soldiers downrange requires only a commander's initials, and can be e-mailed to the education center for processing, said Shalyn Moore, education center administrative assistant. Moore and Reilly added that over the past few years, they have gotten plenty of experience helping deployed Soldiers via e-mail.

"E-mail correspondence is a savior for a lot of service members," said Andrew Lang, University of Maryland University College field representative for the Ledward Education Center. Deployed Soldiers use the Internet for online courses, keeping up with their educational goals, even in a war zone.

Those Soldiers deploying to Iraq may soon

have the option of face to face classes in addition to online courses, at least through UMUC. Lang notes that some courses will be offered in location in Iraq, such as Camp Liberty, beginning with the fall term in late August.

Signing up for TA through GoArmyEd, even if you are unsure of your ability to take classes downrange, is a smart choice, according to Moore.

"It's about being prepared. If you've already signed up, there are less obstacles to overcome" when you decide to start taking classes, wherever you are, she said.

For more information about TA, GoArmyEd, or furthering your education, stop by the Education Center in Bldg. 242 on Ledward Barracks, between the Army Community Service Center and the Library, or call DSN 354-6383 or CIV 09721-96-6383.

Kids soar to new heights with SKIES summer programs

From swimming to scuba, horseback riding to karate, CYs has a program for kids of all ages

Story and photo by MARK HEETER
USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

High atop a hill in a town near Schweinfurt, four adventurous young boys took a dive into the unknown: the Schonungen indoor swimming pool.

Day one of the beginners' swimming class, offered by the Child and Youth Services Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills, began with a splash Tuesday.

"We are very heavy in the recreational area," said Tom Williams, SKIES coordinator for the USAG Schweinfurt.

For example, SKIES most popular programs at the moment include horseback riding, karate and swimming, according to Williams. And youth 18 and older will soon have the chance to try the scuba diving class.

"It will start in August," Williams said. "As long as they're still ID card holders, they're eligible to use us."

But SKIES is more than taking a dip or working up a sweat, he said.

"We also try to do mentoring programs,"

such as tutoring, homework help, and computer skills, he said.

Parents of the newest swimmers in Schweinfurt were generally pleased with what they had seen and experienced through SKIES.

"The Army does a lot more for you here than in the states," said Holly Nichols, who has been in Schweinfurt for three months and is interested in signing up her son, Devin, in the SKIES soccer program.

"They have a lot of programs. I had no idea half the stuff was there," said Lori Overway, who also clued in a neighbor to the SKIES menu.

All of the SKIES programs are CYs-based, and staff and facilities are held to the same standards of excellence, Williams said.

"They tend to be well-organized," Donna Matherne said, while her son, Nathan splashed and splashed through day one. "They're relatively affordable, too."

For information about SKIES programs and classes, visit CYs central registration in The Commons or call DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-96-6517.



From left, Devin Nichols, Joshua Overway, Tristan Rothe, and Nathan Matherne get acquainted with the water during the SKIES beginners' swimming class.

Boyle farewells Grafenwoehr

continued from Page 1

in facilities, infrastructure, and services that have emerged here, and the noticeable increase in support for Soldiers and families are a product of Col. Boyle's leadership. Col. Boyle's trailblazing role over the past three years has afforded the thousands of Army Families who call this area home, and the thousands of American and (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) fighting men and women who pass through here to train – with a safe and secure environment where they can train, live, enjoy and thrive," she said.

Devens praised Boyle for his role in the \$1.2 billion Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr initiative and military

facility projects.

"He's overseen an unprecedented level of investment that will make this community the Army's premiere facility outside the United States, and a model for the rest of the Army to emulate," she said. "During his tenure Col. Boyle has facilitated sweeping change with new, state-of-the-art facilities that make Graf one of the finest communities in the Army."

Devens said she is thrilled to welcome Sorenson, a father of two young children, to the IMCOM-E team.

"As a career infantry officer, leader, and family man, I can't think of anyone who is a better advocate for the Soldier and the Family here in this great community," she said.

Sorenson's Special Operations background has taken him from Bosnia and Kosovo, to Afghanistan and Iraq. With a mantra of "good enough does not live here," he explained his expectations for the future.

"Let me share my foundational priorities with you," he said. "First and foremost is to ensure we accomplish the mission for which I have no doubt that we will. Second, is that we focus on the teamwork to accomplish that mission; teamwork that requires relationships, diversity and dialogue outside traditional organizational structures. Third, but not least, is our people and their passion. We must properly lead and prepare our people to foster the teamwork necessary to accomplish our mission."

Col. Boyle's trailblazing role has afforded ... Army Families ... a safe and secure environment where they can train, live, enjoy and thrive.

Diane Devens
IMCOM-Europe Director

Army program recruits junior officers to JAG

continued from Page 1

officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active federal service at the time legal training begins.

Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the law school admission test.

Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at AHRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Ms. Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before Nov. 1.

Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact their local Staff Judge Advocate for further information.

JMRC training tool deploys for first time in August

Story and photo by
C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

A team in Germany is prepping to deploy a tool this month that promises to make training easier, more efficient, and more meaningful for units preparing for Iraq.

The Exportable Instrumentation System is a portable set of equipment that tracks player and equipment movement during exercises and records their activity and communications for

use during the after-action review process.

In August, the Instrumentation Training Analysis Computer Simulations and Support Center -- part of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center -- will for the first time deploy the EIS to Hammelburg, Germany to be part of a mission readiness exercise there involving the 172nd Infantry Brigade from Schweinfurt, Germany.

Participating from the brigade will be the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor

Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment; and the 9th Engineer Battalion.

A total of about 700 Soldiers will participate in the MRE and will be the first to use the complete EIS.

"During the exercise, Soldiers at Hammelburg will be responsible for security, for convoy operations, and for everything they will be responsible for when they go downrange to Iraq," said Dave Caples, ITACSS operations officer.

"For this exercise, the EIS will provide a means of expanding the battle space, challenging the Brigade to maintain logistical support, communications and C2 with a unit that is geographically separated from the headquarters element," said Caples.

The 172nd is expected to conduct a six-day MRE using the EIS, and will be disbursed across three locations, including Hammelburg, Grafenwoehr, and Hohenfels, Germany.

The headquarters element of the brigade will be located in Hohenfels while the 3-66 AR will be located in Hammelburg – about 125 miles away.

The disbursed units will all be tied together during the exercise by the EIS.

The EIS consists of several pieces of portable equipment, including the "Global Hawk" containers that contain the computers that run the system; several hard shelters called HELAMS that house workstations for analysts; and several remote base stations that can be placed around a training range to act as signal repeaters to feed information back into EIS.

Individual Soldiers may be asked to wear instrumented personnel detection devices so that EIS analysts can see

where they are on the range, and vehicles involved in the MRE will be outfitted with MILES II equipment that allows the EIS to track their whereabouts, their expenditure of munitions, and their fuel usage. In all, the EIS can monitor some 800 inputs participating in the exercise.

During an exercise, the system allows for analysis of Soldier's actions, the communication between Soldiers and their headquarters, and the implementation of logistics support to Soldiers and equipment, Caples said.

The EIS also contains a sophisticated facility where Soldiers and their commanders can conduct the after action review process, aided by video captured by EIS during the exercise and by inputs from analysts.

In all, the 172nd will be the first to benefit from the advanced technology ITACSS has assembled to enhance Soldier training.

"We are the only place in the world that has something like this," Caples said. "The EIS is meant to deploy anywhere in the world. We give these guys the flexibility to do a whole lot of things simultaneously, and I think it will enhance the training immensely."

While there are similar, non-portable systems already at Army combat training centers, the EIS is mobile, and can be taken anywhere in the world.

It is the only system of its kind in the Army today, and JMRC will use it to take its training capability on the road to other training ranges in Germany, or anywhere in the world.

Caples said it is the Army's intent to assemble another EIS for use inside the continental United States, but doesn't expect that system to be ready until 2011.

For this exercise, the EIS will provide a means of expanding the battle space.

Dave Caples
ITACSS Operations Officer



The remote base stations, part of the Exportable Instrumentation System, can be placed around a training range to act as signal repeaters to feed information back into EIS. The EIS is a training enhancement tool that will be used for the first time this month in Hammelburg, Germany.

172nd medics stay on top of skills with training, certification

continued from Page 1

woman give birth, but that knowledge of the various types of tourniquets is probably the most useful.

"I think it's very important and every Soldier needs to know how to use (a tourniquet)... we have a lot of amputees," she said.

She said it's also important for Soldiers to know "simple things like (how to open) an airway or how to stop bleeding," since those are

easy emergency techniques that can make the difference between life and death.

"Medics are so shorthanded. The more medical skills every-day Soldiers learn, the better off we are," said Lucier.

Another C Company medic, Pfc. Raymond Lytle, said that he benefitted most from getting the opportunity to use new equipment he hadn't been exposed to before and the team work.

"It's more of a refresher course. It shows me things I haven't used in a while," he said.

Lytle's teammate for the test, Spc. Melissa Gordon, said that the scenarios were challenging and forced the participant to be creative.

"It's pretty powerful to put (my skills) in action," she said. "It's all about making sure I can save my patient when it comes time."

She added that she thinks the training works and helps her focus

more with the different scenarios.

"When you get downrange, your mistakes kill someone," Gordon said. "No matter how many firefights you're been in, or traumas, you have to adapt. They're all different."

The 172nd Infantry Brigade, which is in the process of moving from U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt to Grafenwoehr as part of the Grow the Army plan, is expected to deploy later this year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Don't forget to tell them you read it in the Bavarian News! For previous Bavarian News articles, visit our online archive at www.milcom.de.

AAFES offering shopping sprees for jingles

continued from Page 1

■ What AAFES means to the entrant

■ The benefit AAFES provides military shoppers

■ The savings found at BXs and PXs (information about the AAFES "value story" is online at <http://www.aafes.com/docs/valuestory.htm>)

■ What the AAFES "Community Connection" means to the military community (background on the "Community Connection" is available at <http://www.aafes.com/PatriotFamily/home.asp>)

"Ultimately, 12 of the best entries will be incorporated into AAFES' marketing efforts throughout 2009," said AAFES' Chief Marketing Officer Mat Dromey. "Each of the 12 winners will receive a \$500 AAFES shopping spree and stand an excellent chance of hearing their song next time they visit the BX or PX."

Entries will be accepted electronically (through www.aafes.com or PatriotFamily@aafes.com, or by mail through Oct. 6.

Submissions will be judged on style and creativity, suitability to be an AAFES official jingle, overall performance and the ability to tie-in with AAFES' "Community Connection" and "Value Story" themes.

Complete details concerning the AAFES rap/jingle contest, including a selection of approved backing tracks, are available at <http://www.aafes.com/PatriotFamily/rapjingle.asp>.

German, American pediatric care follow same international standard

Story and photo by
MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

In a conference room at the Klinikum Weiden, two doctors, one German and one American, begin to discuss pediatric care.

Within a few moments, Dr. Heinrich Vielhaber, head of pediatrics at the facility, pulls from his pocket a tattered book.

Across the table, Lt. Col. Telita Crosland, commander U.S. Army Health Clinic-Grafenwoehr, laughs.

"I have that same book," she said. Whether American or German, doctors around the world study and ascribe to the same standard of care.

"The body of literature that drives what we all do in medicine is the same," Crosland said. "It's the same body of literature... that he makes decisions off of, that I make decision off of. And so, while the way we implement it may look different to patients... the evidence that we're using, the science, is the same."

"Medicine is international, and the international standard nowadays is set by the States," Vielhaber added. "We follow the same standards everywhere."

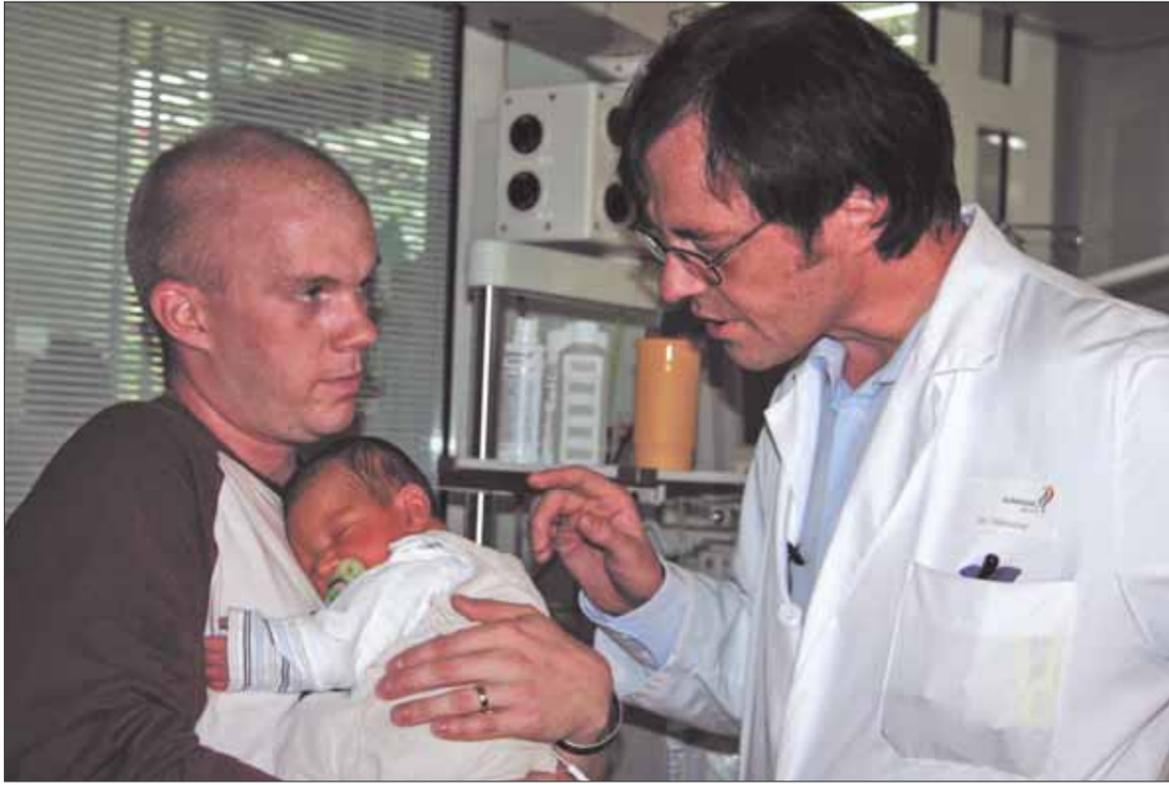
More than half a dozen American children are patients, or have appointments, at the Weiden hospital every day.

While Crosland receives only positive comments or reviews, she said she understands the hesitation some parents may have about seeing a doctor there.

Still in the hiring process for a pediatrician at the Grafenwoehr Clinic, however, she said that at times, seeing a pediatrician off post may be necessary.

"Right now I have two family physicians who can do 90 percent of pediatrics... we are taking care of basic primary care needs of most children."

When pediatric care is required,



Dr. Heinrich Vielhaber, head of pediatrics at the Klinikum Weiden, discusses the health of Hunter Hulett, born July 13, with his father Spc. Garren Hulett of 2-28 Infantry Regiment, 1st platoon.

Crosland said she is confident that quality care will be given through the TriCare Preferred Provider Network, which has 11 pediatricians available within the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

The entrance process or selection of these doctors is based on the need of the community, as well as the qualifications of the doctor.

"First, we would need a need. For primary pediatrics, we need one in the PPN, and that one is for the individual parent who feels better having their child cared for by a pediatrician rather than a family physician. This is their choice, and I would like to honor that choice," Crosland said.

"The other thing that I need is the doctor has to have an interest in working with us. It has to be a good relationship from their perspective as well. Our patients bring unique challenges; they bring a different perspective, different expectations of medicine. We need folks open to that.

"The other thing is obviously their qualifications, being certified and qualified in that area before they are in our PPN, and they have to provide all that documentation," Crosland said.

She explained that she also interviews each doctor to ensure they will be able to communicate with American patients.

"I have them speak to me in English to get an idea on how their English is," she added.

Communication fears, she said, is often what makes patients hesitant to be seen by German doctors.

"It is very challenging when you talk to patients about health care in your native language," she said. "We have a saying in medicine: when you talk to a patient, they will remember 20 percent of what you say, max, and that is assuming that you do a reasonably good job and not using a whole bunch of jargon, if you take your time and really go over it.

"So, if you add in culture, the heightened anxiety and fear when

you're in uncharted territory in a foreign country, and then language and actual translation, it can be challenging," she said.

Vielhaber said, however, it is a challenge he and his staff have overcome.

"In most of the cases, there is not a big language barrier," he said. "I think the nurses and other staff members do speak some English, and there are some nurses that have friends and relatives in the States, so the language barrier is not as big as you might consider."

It is cultural differences or traditions, he said, that makes American patients uncomfortable.

"If the patient is uncomfortable in a situation, we should change the situation," he added. "Probably, there are traditions that we're not really aware of, and if we do know that, then we can react to them."

The Grafenwoehr Health Clinic has a nurse case manager and two patient liaisons available, however, if patients feel they need assistance when dealing with a German physician.

Helen Wise, Grafenwoehr nurse case manager, said that often American patients prefer the attention they receive from their German pediatrician.

"I have a lot of patients that ask to go back to their German provider," she said.

As for the hospitals, she said there is no difference in the care German and American patients receive.

"They are as similar as you can get two cultures to be. They try to accommodate... which an American hospital may not."

Vielhaber said, for him and the other staff members at the hospital, a child's nationality is not considered in their care.

"There is no different in approach whether it is an American child, a German child, or any other foreigner that we take care of... If we've got a child that turns to us, then we care for them."

Bamberg WTU promotes healing, boosts morale

Special to the Bavarian News

Bamberg's Warrior Transition Unit has been instrumental in providing quality health care, welfare, and morale to wounded warriors stationed in Bavaria.

One of the WTU's goals is to ensure that Soldiers receive adequate treatment in order to promote a timely return to duty or transition into civilian life. Sgt. Jamerson Hayward exemplifies the program's success as he works as a lab assistant for the Bamberg Health Clinic.

Hayward was a 21 Echo Heavy Equipment Operator in 173rd STB. For the past couple of years, he suffered from neuromas in his foot.

After surgery, Hayward was placed in the WTU program where he was able to get exceptional health care through his medical provider, and improve his physical condition as an active duty service member.

"Before the WTU program, Soldiers would get chaptered out of the military, but now we have a program that helps to accommodate Soldiers that are injured. Transitioning into the WTU program has been beneficial for me and my family," he said.

Hayward and his wife, Kelley, have become active members within the Bamberg community.

Kelley attends biweekly tea and breakfast meetings for WTU spouses, supports Army Family Team Building classes, and serves as a volunteer with Army Community Services.

They also participate in garrison briefings, town hall meetings, and WTU functions on a regular basis. Giving back to the community has become an integral part of the Hayward family for they feel that the WTU program has provided them with a sense of family and comradeship.

In a month, Hayward will be completing his MOS-Medical Retention Board, which will be an administrative screening to determine his physical ability and whether or not he can change his MOS.

"It's always difficult dealing with uncertainty of what will happen next, for there's always the chance of being processed out," Hayward said.

In the meantime, Hayward has returned to duty as a lab assistant at the Bamberg Health Clinic where he draws blood and runs samples.

"The Warrior Transition Unit created a vision 'to create an institutionalized, Soldier-centered WTU Program that ensures standardization, quality outcomes, and consistency with seamless transitions of the Soldier's medical and duty status from points of entry to disposition.'

"In essence, Sgt. Hayward's experience with

the Bamberg WTU is one of the great examples of the WTU success stories. Sgt. Hayward was able to accomplish many of his goals, both professional and personal, while assigned to the Bamberg WTU," said Lt. Col. Pablito Gahol, health clinic commander.

"His prior medical experience as a Corpsman in the Navy, served as a combat multiplier for the USAHC Bamberg in accomplishing its mission during numerous Soldier readiness processing, pre-deployment processing, and redeployment processing. I am glad to see that through the Bamberg WTU, Sgt. Hayward was given the opportunity to heal and at the same time show that he is a valuable member of the organization.

"Sgt. Hayward's motivation and talent is fully recognized by his command and the Bamberg

community. I'll take him in my clinic at any given time."

In addition to providing medical services for the clinic, Hayward has been allowed to attend

resume writing classes, VA briefings and college. He's currently taking a German course through the University of Maryland—University College.

"I know I'll continue with my education, for I've shown a vast amount of interest in the foreign languages, law enforcement, law, Intel, and aeronautical aviation," Hayward said.

"The WTU program has been very encouraging in giving us opportunities that

can further us in our careers." For more information about the WTU program, contact Staff Sgt. Ronald Chitty at DSN 469-9018 or CIV 0951-300-9018.

Before the WTU program, Soldiers would get chaptered out of the military, but now we have a program that helps to accommodate Soldiers that are injured.

Sgt. Jamerson Hayward
Bamberg WTU Soldier

Vilseck Health Clinic prepares for 2SCR reintegration

BMEDDAC press release

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Vilseck will fully support the medical readiness and reintegration of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment. We have been engaged with garrison planning meetings to provide the best medical care for our returning Soldiers.

During the reintegration period, which is expected to be sometime in October and November, several changes will be made to the daily operations of the health clinic.

Several health clinic providers and personnel will be assigned to the reintegration site, therefore limiting the number of appointments available at the health clinic. Routine and well appointments will be delayed during this time. The health clinic will continue to provide sick-call coverage and will have limited same-day appointments.

Urgent and emergent care will be provided by the host nation medical facilities. If your condition does not require emergency treatment, please call the health clinic to get a referral on the economy.

Priorities of care will be strictly enforced. TRICARE Prime enrollees will be top priority, and the Non-TRICARE Prime enrollees will be seen on a space-available basis.

In order for us to continue to meet the health care needs of our community, we have already completely booked two school and sports physical days yesterday and tomorrow.

We still have some openings for Sept. 2. We encourage all parents to call the health clinic to schedule an appointment for their child. Please make sure to keep these appointments and we

ask that you show up on time.

For patients that are on chronic medications, we advise that you get your prescriptions refilled before October. If you are due for a wellness exam (well baby or woman), please call the health clinic for an appointment before October.

The Vilseck Health Clinic's objectives are to return deployed Soldiers and their families to full mission readiness, and to continue to provide top quality health care for the community. In order for us to achieve these objectives, we ask for your cooperation.



Connor Williams (left) of the K-Town Raiders and Chance Knoblauch (right) of the Lakenheath Lancers practice offensive-line drills at the 2008 DoDDS European Football Camp - the Department of Defense Education Activity's annual version of spring training.

More than 400 players from 21 schools in Europe attended the annual camp at Ansbach High School Aug. 12-15.

"They put in 12 hours of nothing but just rep after rep after rep after rep and that is the beauty of the camp." Ansbach head coach Marcus George, who began the rugged six-hour-a-day, two-day preparation camp two decades ago in Fulda, Germany.

Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

Pigskin Practice

More than 400 DoDDS students from 21 schools attend European football camp, preparing in earnest for the upcoming season.

by RONALD TOLAND
Bavarian News

Four hundred and forty players from 21 Department of Defense Dependant Schools in Europe attended the DoD Education Activity's annual version of spring training—DoDDS European Football Camp—at Ansbach High School Aug. 12-15.

"They put in 12 hours of nothing but just rep after rep, after rep after rep, and that is the beauty of the camp," said Ansbach's head coach Marcus George who began the rugged six-hour-a-day, two-day preparation camp some 22 years ago when he was in Fulda, Germany.

George said he saw a need for fundamental skills and drills, and conditioning of the players then and still does today.

"This is a non-contact camp. We do things coaches do not have time to do—rep after rep of fundamentals since the coaches are trying to put together so much for their team in three weeks, they do not have a lot of time to teach a lot of what we teach here."

First year and first-string varsity quarterback Domimic Barrale said that this camp gets the hosting team down to the beginning business of football for the season.

"It really brings us together for the first time as a team, trap on the helmets, show the others

we mean business, be ready to go, and work hard," said Barrale. "It also gives us a chance to see what everybody's got at the quarterback camp and compare yourself to the other athletes to what I am up against all season. It is a lot of fun."

Wide receiver Matthew Whitmire says it gives the team a chance to show what they know and learn from others.

"It shows we know what we are doing and we are not afraid to show what most of us can do," said Whitmire.

"It is also great to bring most of the players from Europe together to get meet new people, train with them, and get accustomed to seeing all the different faces. Then when you come to the game with another team you may say, 'I remember you from camp.'"

DoDDS supports the camp and its volunteers who serve 6,000 meals during the four-day total event.

"They rubber-stamp us," said George. "They designate or sanction us, to be the site for the camp."

But, the camp receives more support than just from DoDDS. The garrison also supports the camp.

"They do more than we imagine every year," said the coach. "The command basically asks 'how can we help you?', 'what do you need?' anything."

"They provided us on-field latrine facilities, turning on the water, busses, and providing a full-time military liaison to be here to help resolve any issue that needs to be resolved—Staff Sgt. Dignan, who is also a volunteer coach from the garrison."

Dignan, whose day job is at the garrison's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security, is also the offensive and

defensive line coach for the Ansbach Cougars and said, for him, it is all about the players and supporting them.

"It is important because I can give back to the kids," said Dignan. "The players need positive influences in their lives, especially with the times we live in today."

“ They put in nothing but rep after rep, after rep after rep, and that is the beauty of the camp. ”

Marcus George
Ansbach Head Coach

Do you have what it takes?!!

Pfc. Robert Harshbarger, V Corps Special Troops Battalion, knocks out push-ups during the opening event of the weeklong 2008 U.S. Army Europe Soldier/NCO of the Year competition: the Army's physical fitness test.

The competition was held at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr through Friday. Pick up the Sept. 3 issue of the Bavarian News for full coverage.

Photo by Spc. Joseph Mcatee



Paintball - not for the faint of heart



File photo by Paula Guzman

Grafenwoehr's ODR offers Woodsball and Speedball paintball.

No. 1 most extreme sport up and running at Graf

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Be prey, or be killed. The theme of Richard Connell's 1924 short story in which man hunts man introduced the world to a sport in which only the strong survived.

Called the No. 1 most extreme sport in the United States, paintball developed from Connell's theme, and is offered by the United States Army Grafenwoehr Rose Barracks Outdoor Recreation.

The high intensity team sport consists of players firing paint-filled gelatin capsules at their opponents. Upon impact, the capsule explodes, leaving a quarter-sized mark on a player's cloths signifying their elimination from the game.

"It's fun and exhilarating," said Lucas Anderson, USAG Grafenwoehr ODR recreation assistant. "You're shooting at other people and getting shot at... You get

an adrenaline rush."

Offered in two varieties, the sport is open to military ID card holders 18 years and older.

Woodsball, a version in which players hunt and stalk their opponents in a forested area, can last up to five hours. Speedball is set in a more confined area with inflatable obstacles separating the teams.

"Woodsball is where you run around in the woods and shoot people until one team is finished, or you run out of balls," Anderson said. "In Speedball, you have a little aired-up triangle... that you place in a small area and everybody shoots. It's much smaller and everything is faster."

With a minimum of eight players per session, Anderson said that the steady movement is more than a game of strategy.

"You can get (physical training) from it. You're moving a lot; you're jumping around... you're exercis-

ing. It's a whole day of being on the range... it's fun PT," he said.

Aside from PT, he said units can use the game a way to build cohesion.

"(Units) can put out some stress and attack each other for the sake of fun."

The fun, Anderson added, outweighs the small sting felt upon impact.

"It's like getting snapped with a rubber band or snapped with a wet towel," he said.

Anderson added that the impact often leaves a welt or bruise.

The Paintball Sports Trade Association addressed the issue of safety on their Web page - http://www.paintball.org/paintball/playing_it_safe.php - citing the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System report that only one injury is reported for every 4,000 players, making paintball one of the safest sports in the world when the game is regulated and rules are followed.

Anderson agreed.

"As long you're keeping to the rules and regulations, it's safe," he said.

For more information on the USAG Grafenwoehr ODR paintball program, call DSN 476-2563, CIV 09662-83-2563.

You're shooting at other people and getting shot at... You get an adrenaline rush.

Lucas Anderson
ODR Recreation Assistant

Bodybuilding championships set Sept. 13

IMCOM-E news release

Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting the 2008 U.S. Forces Europe Bodybuilding Championships Sept. 13 at U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern.

The competition, which will be held at the KMC Onstage Theatre, is open to U.S. I.D cardholders, active-duty Soldiers, Department of Defense civilian employees, family member, and contractors with logistical support.

Participants are strongly encouraged to pre-register by Sept. 12, with day-of-the-event registration beginning at 8 a.m.

To pre-register visit <https://public.euromwr.army.mil/mwr/sportsineurope.htm#bodybuilding>.

Sanction fee is \$40 and includes International Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation membership.

Competitors will undergo urinalysis tests to ensure non-use of performance enhancing substances. The competition will include the following weight / height divisions:

- Women's Figure (Short Category) - up to 5'5" in height
 - Women's Figure (Tall Category) - 5'5.1" and up
 - Men's Lightweight Category- up to 165 pounds.
 - Men's Middleweight Category- 165.1-176 pounds.
 - Men's Lt. Heavyweight Category-176.1-190 pounds.
 - Men's Heavyweight Category - 190.1 pounds and up
 - Women's Physique
 - Men's Physique
- Spectators will pay an entrance fee; tickets will be available for the following shows:
- Morning show (pre-judging) starts at 11 a.m.; price is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (age 13 or younger).
 - Evening show starts at 6 p.m.; price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.
 - Entrance fee for both shows is \$13 for adults and \$8 for children.

For additional information, contact the IMCOM-E sports director at DSN 370-7944 or CIV 06221-57-7944.



Sports Briefs

Tackle Football Officials Clinic Set Tomorrow through Aug. 23

There will be a tackle football official's clinic Aug. 21-23 for anyone interested in officiating CYS tackle football this fall.

National Federation of State High School Associations and CYS specific rules, as well as mechanics, professionalism and situational awareness, will be covered in the classroom in Bldg. 224, Rose Barracks, 6-9 p.m., Aug. 21-22. There will be a practical exercise Aug. 23, to give all officials a chance to try out what they learned on the field.

For more information, contact Dan Fraizer at DSN 476-4037 or daniel.fraizer1@eur.army.mil.

Players Sought for Year-Round Soccer. Tryouts Set Sept. 7

United States Youth Soccer Europe is looking for players wanting to play year round soccer at a more competitive level than the Youth Sports soccer program.

If your player is interested, we offer a great opportunity for them to work, learn, and develop their game to the next level.

We are holding tryouts for the USYS Oberpfalz District Select teams and welcome all players who want to work at improving their abilities and skills. We invite players to attend from Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Ansbach, Hohenfels, Bamberg, and Schwienfurt communities.

We are also recruiting some coaches and assistant coaches if some parents or other adults have an interest in working with this program. The district teams feed the state level teams, which are considered part of the Olympic Development Program. You have to be a district player to qualify.

Tryouts will be held at the Camp Aachen field in Grafenwoehr on September 7th. There is no cost for this session and no obligation to join until you see if you like it and are selected to the teams. Tryout times are by age group:

- Boys and girls born in 1998-99 from 1300 to 1500
- Boys and girls born in 1996-97 from 1400 to 1600
- Boys and girls born in 1990-95 from 1500 to 1700

Join us Sept. 7th and find out what the USYS Oberpfalz Select Team is about. Contact Steve Thornbrugh at CIV 09648-913570 or HANDI 015202-887140, or e-mail s_thornbr@yahoo.com or Tim Walters at CIV 09814-662191, walters_1987@msn.com.

Put your motorcycle miles to work...

The more miles that you've ridden on your motorcycle, the more experience you have. It is this experience that prepares you for everyday riding situations, no matter how routine they seem to be. Here is your chance to put that know-how to work and help other motorcyclists become better riders. If you're a rider with a clean driving record and good riding and interpersonal skills, we want you to teach our Basic and Experienced RiderCourses.

The next MSF Rider Coach Preparation Course will be held at USAG Grafenwoehr from 11-22 August 2008.



To Register, go to www.usarmy.com/MSF
For more information, contact Dana Steward, dana.steward@us.army.mil

Participating in a sport? Got an idea for an article? Submit your idea today to adriane.foss@us.army.mil or call DSN 475-7113.