

Bavarian News

Vol 4. Nr. 8

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

April 23, 2008

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U.S. purchased baby monitors may be illegal, interfere with cell signals

USAG Graf Government Relations Office

The use of baby monitors is cause for a good night's sleep for most parents. For some parents, however, its use can result in a 50,000 Euro fine.

According to Germany's Federal Telecommunication's Office (Bundesnetzagentur), some baby monitors purchased in the United States do not meet European frequency standards.

These monitors operate in the 900 Megahertz range, the same frequency used by Vodafone and T-Mobile, and

prevent their cell phone customers from accessing the cell network.

Two recent incidents of blocked cell usage due to baby monitor interruptions have taken place in the Grafenwoehr community—one case on the installation—and have prompted the garrison command group and the German government to issue warnings to parents who use the monitors, explained Jim Federline, the garrison's Government Relations Officer.

Federline, who was notified of the incidents by the Bundesnetzagentur,

suggested families purchase baby monitors on the economy in order to prevent the frequency interruptions and avoid the stiff federal fine.

"And families that are already here and using monitors purchased in the U.S., ordered online, or in an AAFES catalog should stop using them and purchase monitors that are approved for use in Europe," said Federline.

AAFES in Europe has pulled monitors that use the 900 Megahertz range from their shelves and are now selling monitors that meet the correct European frequency standards.

He noted that offending individuals will be warned, but can be charged 50,000 Euro per incident and the German government and the garrison command have the authority to confiscate the monitors.

"Individuals—both German, American, and others residing in Europe—sign legally binding contracts with cell phone companies for them to provide service. If the cell phone service can not be provided, in this case by having the cell phone

See **BABY MONITORS** Page 23

Tell me a story

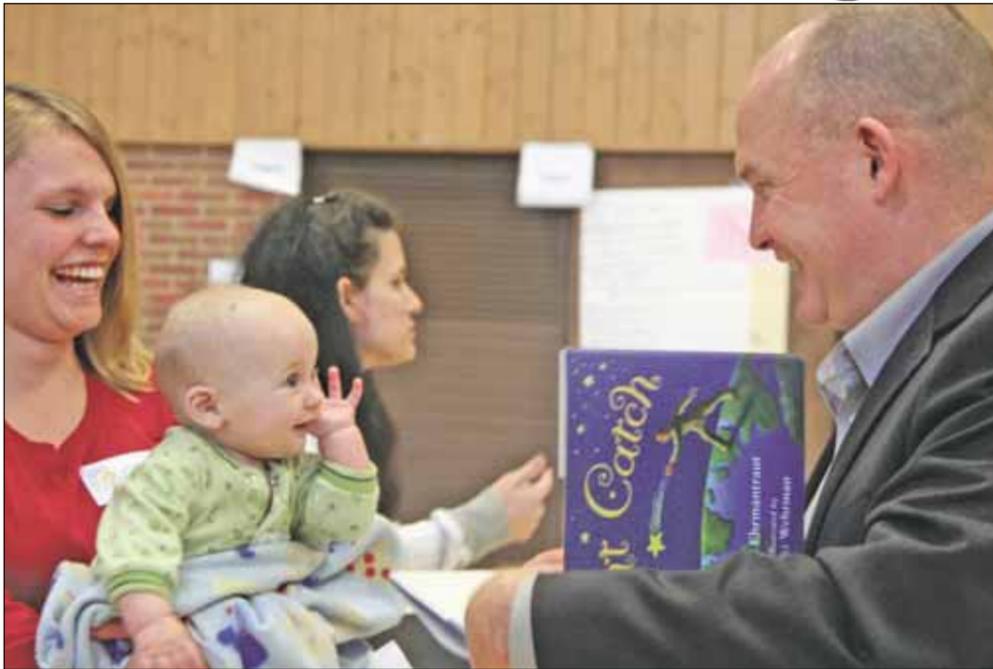


Photo by Mary Markos

Brig. Gen. David Hogg, Joint Multinational Training Command, signs copies of the book "Night Catch" April 6 after reading to participants of the Tell Me a Story event, sponsored by Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Parent to Parent organization.

Deployments to CENTCOM return to 12 months

U.S. Army news release

Following President Bush's April 10 announcement, and as directed by the Secretary of Defense, the U.S. Army will reduce deployment lengths from 15 months to 12 months for all active Army Soldiers deploying to the CENTCOM area of operations, starting Aug. 1, 2008.

The announcement does not affect Soldiers currently deployed and those who will deploy prior to Aug. 1. Those Soldiers will complete their scheduled deployments.

"We recognize the selfless service and unwavering commitment of America's courageous Soldiers, and are profoundly grateful for the sacrifice and support by Army Families," said Army Secretary Pete Geren.

"This announcement is another step in our effort to restore balance to our Army," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. "Returning to our 12-month policy-combined with the growth in our force-will allow us to gradually reduce the stress on the force and prepare for the full-range of missions."

The modified policy does not affect current dwell policies. Upon return from deployment, units will not be deployed again for at least 12 months.

There may be exceptions to this policy given unforeseen circumstances.

Local EEO officer's work to have worldwide impact

■ Covert helps establish NSPS measuring tools for government workforce during D.C. fellowship

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

National Security Personnel System employees have a friend in Grafenwoehr.

Dr. Clint Covert began serving as the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer in 2005 after earning his doctorate in education and serving as an active duty Soldier.

By his own admission, Covert works to wipe out discrimination in the workplace; ensure policies, practices, and procedures do not serve as a hindrance in promotion or advancement for groups or individuals; and strives to ensure fairness and equality in employment.

This is a tall order for anyone, but Covert's up to the challenge. His local and higher headquarters leadership also feels he's the person for the job.

With the support of the USAG

Grafenwoehr and Installation Management Command-Europe, Covert completed an assignment in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Meritorious Research Fellows Program in March.

Selected from a pool of nearly 200 applicants, Covert worked with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, D.C., developing NSPS measuring tools to help guarantee equal employment opportunities in the federal sector.

His work, which will have an impact on the U.S. government's entire NSPS workforce, will be published in the IMCOM Journal and on the EEOC's Web page, and has earned the USAG Grafenwoehr the Vector Award.

His work upheld and transitioned

See **NSPS** Page 22



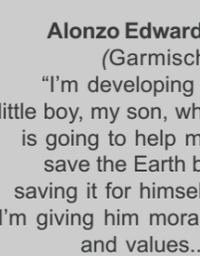
Dr. Clint Covert was selected from a pool of nearly 200 applicants to participate in the prestigious EEO Commission's Meritorious Research Fellows Program in March.

Q&A

What are you *doing* to help save the *environment*?



Andreas Tuerk
(Garmisch)
"I'm going to cut down the driving with my vehicle."



Alonzo Edwards
(Garmisch)
"I'm developing a little boy, my son, who is going to help me save the Earth by saving it for himself. I'm giving him morals and values..."



Spc. Marco Garced
(Garmisch)
"I'll be conducting some clean-up things over at the barracks and around the kaserne."



Abigail Gardiner
(Garmisch)
"I recycle paper, cans and stuff like that."



Lt. Col. John Kane
(Garmisch)
"We have the luxury of living close to work, so I walk or bike to work every day and almost never use the car."



Rachel Stone
(Garmisch)
"I try to walk or ride my bike whenever I can, and I use green bags for my groceries."



Brenda Mims
(Garmisch)
"I recycle, I don't smoke, and I clean up after my dog when we're walking in the mountains."



Patti Pearce
(Garmisch)
"I recycle, I never let my car engine run longer than it has to, I don't overuse heat and electricity, and I conserve water as much as possible."



Parents asked to register kids early for CDC/SAS openings

Side Note: Congratulations to Kansas and Tennessee for winning the NCAA championships although I think fans would have liked to see Davidson win the whole thing on the men's side!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual- Assault Awareness Month. This year's theme, *Prevent Sexual Assault; Ask! Act! Intervene!* draws our attention to the many ways we can prevent and respond to sexual assaults.

Some acts **that could be** considered Sexual assault include:

- Inappropriately touching someone or disregarding the boundaries set by others
- Making suggestive remarks
- Attempting to isolate someone
- Pressuring someone to drink alcohol
- Subjecting someone to violent behavior.

Recognizing these acts and having the courage to confront them is not easy but I encourage all to have the intestinal fortitude to help stamp out these actions.

Our community unfortunately has had some allegations of sexual assault. We are no different than any other community in the United States.



We do, however, have an outstanding sexual assault response team led by Jay Velis. I encourage all to take advantage of the many programs and events Jay and others present during this month and the entire year.

IMCOM-E Entertainment

Armed Force Entertainment's role is to bring big name entertainment to communities. USAG Grafenwoehr regularly engages with AFE to provide these acts to our area, but in the past 18 months we have had several performances either cancel outright or be diverted to Soldiers serving in the Global War On Terror.

For that reason we have been hesitant to advertise these groups because we don't want to disappoint the community. We have also worked with other agencies to get themed entertainment into the community and our higher Headquarters ICMOM -E contracted to bring in "gangsta rap" to Grafenwoehr.

This adult-themed entertainment was held at the Grafenwoehr Field House Thursday.

CDC, SAS Special Openings

Opening the CDC and SAS on Fridays until 9:30 p.m. and alternate Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. has been a resounding success.

In fact, it has been so successful that the number of parents who want to use the service has dwarfed both our facilities and our staff.

And this has the potential to get even more problematic as our current UNI interns will

depart, and there is a gap until the next group comes in.

For that reason we are asking all eligible personnel to register for this service before Wednesday of each week. If the space is full you will be placed on a waiting list and called as cancellations are made.

As a reminder, we continue to have people who register for the service and not show up. Effective March 21, if you register for the service and fail to cancel, deployment support hours will be deducted from that family.

In closing, the weather is starting to get better and MWR and SATO continues to provide opportunities to get out and see Europe. Believe it or not though, we have had some issues with recent trips in Europe where participants failed to bring their passports.

Even though many of the countries are members of the European Union, you must have a passport when departing the country. And ID cards for military members do not always work.

So get those passports in hand and go out and see the beauty and history of this part of the world, and I thank you for helping me keep this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

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

In need of honest communication

dear ms. vicki



Dear Ms. Vicki,
I am new to the military life style and I would be the first one to admit that I have a lot to learn.

Like reading these stupid LES's for one thing. Ms. Vicki, I've been married to my husband, who is a very senior NCO (if you know what I mean) for a short time. Two years to be exact.

I quit my job and gave up my career to move near this awful forsaken base just to make this marriage work. He told me he would

not be deployed. We arrived and four months later he was gone to Iraq. He has been their twice already.

Ms. Vicki, I won't reveal my sources but I found out I am not the beneficiary of my husband's military life insurance policy. His mother is the beneficiary. Ms. Vicki, I don't think this is fair.

If something should happen to him, what am I suppose to do? I've given up my career for goodness sake. I also got a copy of his LES by accident and he has four dependents listed.

Ms. Vicki, I thought I was his only dependent. My friend said this means he has children. Where are they? He told me he has no children. Ms. Vicki, something is wrong here. What can I do?

From: Lost in Translation

Dear L in T

I'm not sure what you can do. I've had this conversation with many spouses about the

issue of SGLI and its beneficiaries. Some spouse feel they should be the beneficiary as the husband or wife while others believe the service member has the right to have beneficiary of their choice.

The next time your husband calls you from Iraq, I think you should come clean about the information you've gleaned from his LES. Ask him who they are.

Hopefully, you will get the truth. In the mean time, rekindle your career. Consider taking courses that will lead to more certifications, licenses etc.

If you can, consider working part time or full time to stay on top of what's going on in your career field.

Keep in touch and let me know how it goes.

Vicki Johnson is a military spouse and clinical social worker with more than 12 years experience working with families in crisis. If you have a question you'd like to ask Ms. Vicki, e-mail dearmsvicki@yahoo.com.



Interactive Customer Evaluation

Your Ideas
Make Our Community Shine

Fill out a comment card and drop it in this drop-box, put it in any US mail box, or send us an on-line comment at <https://ice.disa.mil> or look for the ICE link at <http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil>

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 usagnews@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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Don't miss it!

Deadline nearing for Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge registration

IMCOM-E news release

Children of deployed servicemembers have until May 2 to apply for a summer program that ranges from attending space camp to exploring a German coastal island.

The adventures are part of Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge, which provides for a select group of youth to participate in four events hosted by Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge – the acronym stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth – offers not only a welcome break from the family stresses of deployment, but also a chance for “kids to meet other youth facing similar challenges,” said Joe Marton, child and youth programs specialist for IMCOM-Europe.

Besides CAC-specific happenings, there also will be one-week day camps offered at selected garrisons for school-age children, middle school youth, and teens. Additionally, Child and Youth Services programs for school-age children in first-through fifth-grade will be available at every garrison.

“Deployments can be a very difficult time for some family members,” Marton said. “These camps are a way for these children to share and express their feelings, along with creating lasting memories of unique summer fun.”

As for Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge, middle school and high school students in grades 6-12 (during the 2007-2008 school year) who have a active-duty parent currently deployed, will be deployed by March 1, 2009, or have deployed anytime since June 1, 2007, are eligible to apply. Students having just completed eighth-grade are considered an eighth-grader for camp attendance and may apply only to the middle school camp sessions. Although the overall program is geared primarily for the children of Soldiers, each CAC



Manning a space flight center and operating a life-size shuttle will be one adventure offered during Installation Management Command-Europe's Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge.

Photo by Roger Verschraegen

venue will have four spaces open to Air Force, Navy, and Marines participants.

A sports and fitness camp will be the first venue available for middle school youth in grades six to eight. The camp will be held June 16-21 in Germany, followed by a July 5-12 island adventure session near the German coastline, focusing on environmental awareness.

For high school students in grades 9-12, a sports and fitness camp will be held June 16-21 in Germany. And in Belgium during Aug. 3-8, a space camp – including a simulated launch – will provide a hands-on “shoot-for-the stars” science and technology experience designed to challenge teenagers, Marton said.

During space camp, participants will use actual tools employed by astronauts. Plus they will operate a simulated space flight center and life-size shuttle while under the direction of a team of specialists.

To ensure as many youth as possible have the opportunity to attend Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge, participants can attend only one session.

A \$50 camp registration fee will be charged only when a camper is selected to attend. The fee, which is due May 31, reserves a slot in an assigned session. Refund of the registration fee will be given only if written cancellation is submitted at least two weeks prior to camp starting.

Central bus pick-up points will provide transportation to all camps; however, organizers stressed that individualized transportation will not be funded, with families being responsible for getting their son or daughter to central bus pick-up points.

Complete information details and application forms, which will be accepted only online, are available at <http://www.mwr-europe.com/>

Spotlight on Education



Name: Rob Loe

What grade / subject do you teach? Band and Choir at Vilseck High School

Hometown: Winchester, Va.

How long have you been a teacher? 12 years

What do you like best about teaching? Teaching a subject that allows me to watch students grow. Most teachers only see students for one school year. If I'm lucky, I get to see them mature and develop musically for four years.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Be well-rounded, explore as much as possible, but don't forget what your strengths are as well as remain committed to your education.

2SCR Soldier receives Purple Heart

7th Army JMTC Public Affairs

“Not now! I'm not ready to go yet!”

This was the first thought to hit the mind of Sgt. 1st Class Alexis Santiago as an explosively formed penetrator erupted tearing through his armored Stryker last month while his crew was engaged in a routine escort mission near Combat Outpost 828 in Baghdad. Though injured himself, Santiago immediately turned his concern from himself and his family to his crew inside the vehicle.

“The last time I saw Santiago he was on a gurney in a hospital in Baghdad,” said Lt. Col. Myron Reinke, 2nd Squadron commander for the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment. “Even though he himself was wounded, he asked about his men constantly, even as they were wheeling him down the hall.”

Reinke and many Soldiers from the 2SCR Rear Detachment were on hand recently in Vilseck to honor Santiago for his courage and bravery under fire.

Reinke, who was on leave, presented the hard-charging NCO with the Combat Action Badge and the Purple Heart.

“Santiago is a Soldier who cares deeply about his men,” Reinke said. “He is a great leader who is very respected by his Soldiers and extremely difficult to replace.”

On March, 7, Santiago was seven months into his deployment as a mobile gun system platoon sergeant with 2SCR, when he embarked on a mission he won't soon forget.

“I was escorting a crane and some trucks that were doing improvements on the COP we were staying at,” Santiago said. “We got a report on the radio about some men digging on a road that leads to one of the entrances to COP 828.”

Santiago said he and his crew figured they could kill two birds with one stone and went to investigate the suspicious activity.

“When we got there, I saw a vehicle speed off,” he explained. “I got on the

radio to ask if they were driving or on foot. Right when I said that it looks as if we hit a pressure plate and the EFP went off.”

Santiago said the blast ripped through the left side of his Stryker, knocking out his communications. Shortly after the explosion his driver regained consciousness and drove the vehicle into the COP and to safety.

Santiago suffered shrapnel wounds to his buttocks and lower legs, as well as a torn ligament in his knee.

The physical pain he suffered was not the most difficult part of the incident for this 13-year veteran, it is the separation from his Soldiers that has affected him the most.

“The most painful part of this is my guys are still there and I am here,” he said. “My heart goes out to the guys still over there.”

“I had a guardian angel looking out for me,” he said. “Now may God continue to have that guardian watch over them.”



Photo by Pfc. Jerry Wilson

Sgt. 1st Class Alexis Santiago is described as “a Soldier who cares deeply about his men.”



Annual volleyball tournament aids German-U.S. relations

The annual International Volleyball Tournament was held at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center April 16.

The event is a decades long tradition designed to foster German and U.S. relations. Players include U.S. service members, German local and federal as well as Czech Republic police personnel.

Photo by Franz Zeilmann

NEVER FORGOTTEN

Stryker Soldiers mourned in ceremonies

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Soldiers stood April 2 with shaking hands and teary eyes to salute three 1st Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers who were killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom the week of March 25.

Family and friends gathered at Rose Barracks Chapel for the service which honored the Soldiers and celebrated their lives.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Duenas Gamboa, "Gumby," was, according to Capt. Emmanuel Sioson, rear detachment commander, a practical joker who always took care of his Soldiers.

The 34-year-old Guam native was known to sacrifice himself for other Soldiers. Sioson viewed him as a big brother from the big island.

"I personally owe my life to him," he said.

Gamboa is survived by his wife Michelle Gamboa, sons Austin, Ashton, and Avery, and daughters Krystianna and Isabella.

Cpl. Steven Ivan Candelo, 20, dreamt of enlisting in the Army since he was a young boy. Proud of his Colombian heritage, his comrades often joked how he had an uncanny ability to locate a Colombian restaurant wherever he was stationed.

"His love for Columbia was matched only for his love for his family, unit, and the Army," Sioson said.

Candelo is survived by his parents Alvaro Candelo and Julia Martinez.

Cpl. Joshua Alexander Molina was known for making others laugh.

"That was the kind of person Josh was; he was always happy and he made it a point to make others laugh," Sioson said.

A great storyteller, his elaborate stories would often take ten minutes to reach the punch line.

But, Sioson said, "Josh could always get a smile out of his audience."

He is survived by his father Josue Molina and mother Maria Molina.

Another memorial ceremony was held April 12 at the Rose Barracks Chapel in Vilseck in honor of Cpl. Jason Christopher Kazarick and Sgt. Michael Thomas Lilly, both of 1st Squadron, 2SCR, who were killed April 7 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Kazarick is a 30-year-old native of Oakmount, Penn.

He is survived by his mother Susan Dubaich, his brother and sister Taylor and Marissa Dubaich, and his fiancée Susanne Hutzelmeyer.

Lilly, 23, is from Boise, Idaho.

He is survived by his wife Miseda Lilly, father John Lilly, and mother Vicky Egbert.



Candelo



Gamboa



Kazarick



Molina



Lilly



Two memorial ceremonies were held recently to honor five 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers who were killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Both ceremonies took place at the Rose Barracks Chapel in Vilseck.

2SCR's Gimlets retrieve missing Soldier's remains

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Every Soldier is taught the Warrior Ethos: "I will always place the mission first; I will never accept defeat; I will never quit; I will never leave a fallen comrade."

The words serve as a set of principles for Soldiers to live by. Staff Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin, 724th Transportation Company, Bartonville, Ill., lived by those words.

The 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment does as well.

On March 29, the Department of the Army confirmed that the remains recovered by 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," who are attached to 2SCR in the Abu Ghraib area of Iraq, were those of the 24-year-old Reservist who was abducted four years ago when his convoy came under attack.

"I feel the regiment accomplished something special, provided a sense of closure for the Maupin family and lived up to the Warrior Ethos that we will never leave a fallen comrade," said Maj. Jon S. Pendell, 2SCR public affairs officer. "We take pride in that we took care of one of our own and finally helped bring him home."

The recovery mission was a result of information gained after detaining



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin, 724th Transportation Company, of Bartonville, Ill., was captured by a terrorist cell in Iraq April 9, 2004. His status was missing-captured until his remains were discovered by 2SCR Soldiers and positively identified March 29, 2008.

members of the terrorist cell which took part in the capture of the Batavia, Ohio native April 9, 2004. A week after his abduction, Maupin was shown on the Arab television network Al-Jazeera,

surrounded by masked men holding weapons.

A video released of a Soldier's alleged execution was released in June of that year. The Army ruled the video

inconclusive as only the back of the victim's head was shown.

In the months and years following his disappearance, Maupin's parents, Keith and Carolyn, lobbied for the Army to continue the search for their son, meeting with President George W. Bush and senior military officials.

The search came to an end after years of concentrated effort by multiple organizations.

"The operation to recover the remains of Staff Sgt. Keith Maupin was the result of four years of intensive effort by Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers and multiple joint and interagency organizations," Pendell explained. "The recovery was made possible by the Gimlets relentlessly pursuing intelligence leads and simultaneously leveraging the new relationships made possible by reconciliation."

Based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the Gimlets approached the recovery "as a criminal investigation," employing "appropriate investigative techniques."

The Armed Forces medical examiner positively identified the remains as that of Maupin, changing his status from missing-captured to deceased March 31.

The change in status brought

some resolve to the Maupin family.

"We will never have closure," said Maupin's father, Keith. "We have resolve. The Army may have closure, but for me it goes on forever."

Keith Maupin expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Gimlets and 2SCR for bringing an end to the search for his son, and for upholding the principles his son lived by.

"We are so proud of them that they completed their mission and the Army lives by the Warrior Ethos," he said. "We could not have brought Matt home without the support of everyone here and the guys that were willing to lay down their life to find Matt. I appreciate their efforts and it will not go in vain."

"I would like to meet each one of them and thank them for what they did," he added. "We appreciated what they continue to do. Without them, we could not do what we do back here."

In the wake of their son's capture, the Maupins founded the Yellow Ribbon Support Center which has sent more than 10,000 support packages to Soldiers fighting throughout Iraq and 90 computers to Soldiers at Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq.

A memorial service will be held for Maupin Sunday in Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park.

1 U.K. soldier dies, several injured in training accident

by Capt. JUNEL JEFFREY
JMRC Public Affairs Office

One soldier died and several soldiers assigned to the 7th Armored Brigade, 1st United Kingdom Armored Division were injured in a vehicular training accident early Monday, April 14, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

U.S. and German emergency medical personnel, and military police responded to the scene. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

For more information media representatives should contact Headquarters, 1st U.K. Armored Division Information Officer at +49 (0)52219-95-3587 or +49 (0)52219-95-3380.

Summary court-martial officers should e-mail Katie.Cowart@eur.army.mil to submit estate claims for Soldiers. For more information, call DSN 475-7775.

Sherwood Forest comes to Garmisch

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

Collision course! Knights Peter Sattler, left, as Sir Guy, and Joey Allison as The Other Sir Guy collide during a joust as the citizens Nottingham react, all in exaggerated slow-motion action. In cooperation with Child & Youth Services and the Garmisch Elementary & Middle School, the community kids took part in the Missoula Children's Theatre touring production of *Robin Hood* March 27, performing to a standing-room only multi-purpose room.

The parents of the children who attended the one-night performance are military and civilian personnel from all branches of service serving locally or taking classes at the George C. Marshall Center or the NATO School in Oberammergau.

The MCT is a traveling show, moving from one military post to the next to reproduce the same program using the same sets and costumes. Normally garrisons have a week to rehearse before a Saturday performance, but due to a previous commitment by the students to participate in an academic competition, the Garmisch production was cast on Monday, rehearsed Tuesday and Wednesday, and performed on Thursday.

"These kids are better than usual," said Dory Lerew, MCT touring actor and co-director. Lerew was the narrator of the Garmisch production, performing as character Sherwood and being the center for the children to work from. Lerew and Chelle Robinson, her MCT show-business partner, take turns.

The Garmisch community interest in the production was so great that 69 Department of Defense school students, homeschoolers, and American students attending German schools participated, including two students visiting from Bamberg.

"The school and CYS gave tremendous support to the production," said Rachel Stone, a garrison volunteer who coordinated and guided the different agencies through the fast track to make it happen. "These kids are really amazing."



Displays, quiz and raffle raise Women's History awareness

by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

To celebrate Women's History Month in March, the USAG-Garmisch Housing office put together an exhibit and raffle in the headquarters building featuring three local "Women in Art."

"We put the display up on the 17th of March and it ran until the 31st," said Gaby Furitsch, Housing manager. "We put two local artists and one sports woman on display, and two

Women's History Month boards provided by Grafenwoehr. The library also put on a display featuring books on women in art and had a raffle box."

The exhibits generated such interest that the library ran out of raffle entries, said Furitsch.

"We tried to steer interest to local women," said Furitsch. "We had a lot of people in the building and the library looking at the displays."

The raffle consisted of an entry card with a quiz about the three featured women. In order to win,

entrants had to find the answers in the exhibit. About 60 members of the community answered the questions and entered the raffle.

"We had some local museum tickets, child care hours, and some things like a mountain bike rental thanks to FMWR," said Furitsch.

The garrison manager, Karin Santos, drew seven winning cards April 1.

The next ethnic observance, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, takes place in May.

Karin Santos, USAG-Garmisch manager, draws the winning names in the Women's History Month raffle drawing. Entrants had to study the exhibit to answer questions about the three featured women to make their entries valid.

Photo by Andrea Winter



Photo by Bundeswehr Master Sgt. Mark Winkler

Keeping it safe

A dog handler with the German federal police forces leads a bomb-sniffing dog through a demonstration of airport security measures at the Munich International Airport April 9 as part of a five-day conference on border security conducted by the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. Officials from 26 countries met at the center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen April 7-11 to share current information and best practices on border security issues, including challenges to border security, border guard training, border security modernization, and interagency and cross-border cooperation.

Important Observance Date Change!

The Dachau Concentration Camp, maintained to honor those who died in the Holocaust and to educate future generations about these crimes against humanity, is the subject of the April/May Holocaust Remembrance Day observation. The trip was scheduled for May 2 to coincide with the 1945 liberation of the camp. Because of an impending VIP visit, the educational trip to Dachau has been rescheduled for May 9. Chaplain Shackelford has arranged for an experienced guide from Garmisch to accompany the group and explain the history of the camp. The bus will leave from the Pete Burke Center at 9 a.m. and return around 5 p.m. Due to the travel time and camp's showing of a historical film in English at 11:30 a.m., there are currently no plans for other stops and participants are requested to bring a sack lunch and bottled water. There is no cost to participate. Interested parties can reserve a seat on the bus by calling Miki Tedesco at the Chaplain's Office, DSN 440-2819.

Hohenfels hosts 38th annual Volksfest

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Food, games, music, dancing, and rides are just some of the things that will bring Germans and Americans together at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Volksfest April 30 - May 4.

The annual five-day event will kick off at 4:30 p.m. April 30 with a grand opening ceremony at the airfield, followed by a keg tapping inside the fest tent.

The tent, which will be open for the entire event as the place to gather and drink beer with friends, along with German and American food vendors, rides, and carnival games, will be set up at the Festplatz next to Hohenfels High School.

The Volksfest first started over three decades ago as an open house to allow the garrison's German neighbors to see what life was like inside the gates. In the early 1980's it was re-worked into a German/American Friendship Week, eventually becoming the more carnival-like Volksfest of recent years.

Americans enjoy the beer tent and children's rides while many Germans come to sample American foods not available on the German market, said Norbert Wittl, a garrison public affairs specialist and German citizen from Hohenfels.

Twenty-five years ago, ice cream was the thing for German guests to purchase.

"You'd see people coming in with coolers, leaving with 30 or 40 Marks worth of ice cream," he said. "That was back when German ice cream wasn't very good; now that it is much better, hamburgers and hot dogs seem to be the things to get."

The public is invited to attend, and VIP invitations are issued to select business and community leaders who work closely with U.S. Soldiers, family members, and personnel living in and around the Hohenfels training area.

No fee is charged for admission, but prices vary for rides, food, and beverages.

On Thursday, local mayors and Army officers will compete in the fest's annual German-

American soccer game.

On Saturday, the First in Battle chapter of the Association of the United States Army is sponsoring a 10-kilometer run. Participants can register from now until the day of the event by visiting www.firstinbattle-ausa.com or in person at the main tent on the day of the event. The race begins at 9 a.m. May 3.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation is sponsoring five-man, single elimination, youth, and adult beach volleyball tournaments, as well as "Bavarian Olympics," in which participants compete in log throwing, beer rack stacking, and beer mug arm challenges. Registration for MWR events will take place at the fest tent.

2008 Fest Schedule

Wednesday, April 30 (Gate Open 2 p.m.-2 a.m.)

4:30 p.m. Grand Opening and speeches (airfield)
Keg Tapping (fest tent)
4-6 p.m. All Rides € .50
6 p.m.-1 a.m. Chris Wittl Band (fest tent)
10:30 p.m. Fire Work Display

Thursday, May 1 (Gate open 11 a.m.-2 a.m.)

1-2:45 p.m. German-American Soccer game (Tiger Field)
1-6 p.m. Kangaroo Boxing (midway)
2-5 p.m. Jura Blaskapelle Pilsheim (brass band, fest tent)
6 p.m.-1 a.m. Die Kracher (band, fest tent)

Friday, May 2 (Gate Open 11 a.m.-2 a.m.)

1-6 p.m. Mega Kicker Human Fussball (midway)
2-5 p.m. Kolping Blaskapelle Hohenfels (brass band, fest tent)
2-7 p.m. Family Day (all rides ½ price)
7 p.m.-1 a.m. Die Midreissa (band) (fest tent)

Saturday, May 3 (Gate Open 7 a.m.-2 a.m.)

9-10:30 a.m. 10 Kilometer Run (fest tent)
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Youth Beach Volleyball (near fest tent)
12-3 p.m. Third Annual Hohenfels Cooking Classic (fest tent)
12-6 p.m. Military Display (display area)
1-1:40 p.m. Kasperltheater (puppet theatre) for children (children's area)
1-6 p.m. Fantasy Kingdom Jumping Castle (children's area)

3:30-5 p.m. Kolping Blaskapelle Hohenfels (brass band, fest tent)

2:30-6:30 p.m. Children's Events (children's area)
4-4:40 p.m. Kasperltheater (puppet theatre) for children (children's area)

5-5:40 p.m. Kasperltheater (puppet theatre) for children (children's area)

6 p.m.-1 a.m. Country Stars Band (fest tent)
KONTAKT Club Line Dancing (fest tent)
10:30 p.m. Fire Work Display

Sunday, May 4 (Gate Open 8 a.m.-10 p.m.)

9 a.m.-UTC Bus Tour Ticket Booth Open
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bus Tours Through The Box (every hour until 4 p.m., main fest entrance)
12-2 p.m. Bavarian Olympics (in front of fest tent)
12-4 p.m. Adult Beach Volleyball (near fest tent)
12-6 p.m. Military Display (display area)
2:30-5 p.m. Blaskapelle St. Ägidius Schmidmühlen (brass band, fest tent)
4-4:30 p.m. Schützengesellschaft von 1433 e.V. Neumarkt (shooting club, fest tent)
6-9 p.m. Neukirchner Blasmusik (band, fest tent)

The schedule is subject to change. Refer to the daily community news briefs for updates or call the Public Affairs Office at DSN 466-2457, CIV 09472-83-2457 for more information.



Courtesy photo

Children and adults alike enjoy a ride during the 2002 Volksfest. Food vendors, rides, games, music, and fireworks highlight the five-day event, held this year from April 30 to May 4.



Photo by Kristin Bradley

Just the beginning

(From left) Richard Daschner, construction project manager, Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, Hohenfels garrison commander, James Einwaechter, Department of Public Works director, and Chris Cornelison, sports and fitness director, break ground during a ceremony that marks the beginning of construction for the post gym addition.

The gym has been closed since March 3 for renovations as part of an Installation Management Command-funded \$2.68 million project that is expected to be finished in spring 2009. When the project is complete, the main post gym will absorb the fitness center, currently located near the library, and become the only gym on post.

Although the cardio and weight room addition that will replace the fitness center will not be complete until spring of 2009, it will reopen when renovations are completed on the existing post gym, giving patrons access to the basketball court, aerobics room, locker rooms, and saunas. The projected date of completion for the renovations is August 2008.

Threefold return makes Emergency Relief fund a sound investment

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

If an account existed which guaranteed a 300 percent return on your investment in one year, most people would probably rush to contribute whatever they could.

In 2007 the Army Emergency Relief fund returned even more than that.

Hohenfels raised more than \$33,000 last year, but community members received more than \$107,000 in emergency assistance—a threefold increase in community donations.

AER is a private non-profit emergency relief organization dedicated to helping Soldiers help Soldiers.

The majority of assistance given at Hohenfels goes toward vehicle repairs and expenses for emergency travel back to the States, explained Rachel Sosa, the Financial Readiness program manager for Army Community Service.

Amounts average \$1,400, the majority of which are given in the form of no-interest loans. Last year nine percent of recipients were awarded grants that do not need to be repaid.

Capt. Samuel Fishburne, the Hohenfels coordinator for this year's campaign, said anyone interested in giving should contact their unit leadership. Each unit has a representative, and each representative oversees personnel who are responsible for smaller sections of the unit.

Community members who wish to

Donors can make a one-time donation or an allotment that will be withdrawn monthly. Visit www.aerhq.org.

donate online can do so by visiting www.aerhq.org and clicking on "donations."

Donors can make a one-time donation or an allotment contribution that withdraws a designated amount from each month's paycheck.

Fishburne said even if donors choose to

contribute online, they should still see their unit representative for a company code to enter on the donation form, ensuring Hohenfels and the donor's organization receives credit for the donation.

The Army-wide fundraising campaign this year runs from March 1-May 15; Hohenfels' drive is conducted from April 2 to May 15.

Hohenfels' goal this year is to raise \$35,000. As of April 15, the community has raised \$12,000 toward this goal.

Did you know?

Finding exactly what you're looking for is sometimes a challenge for Hohenfels community members.

The shopping situation has improved since the opening of the large Grafenwoehr Post Exchange, but making the hour-long

trip is not always possible or desirable.

Rudy Mattingly, the head supervisor of the Hohenfels PX, said you don't have to leave Hohenfels to find what you want. Most people don't know it, but it has long been a policy that if a customer cannot find what

they are looking for at the Hohenfels PX they can have it ordered from another location, said Mattingly.

Customers can visit the customer service desk and fill out an order form for the items, and when the item is located at another PX

(likely Grafenwoehr), it will be shipped to Hohenfels, usually within a few days of the order. Shipping times are subject to inventory availability. Customers do not need to pay for the item in advance and are under no obligation to purchase the item once it arrives.

Hohenfels, Ansbach CYS teams win, lose one in opening day double header

Tigers go back to basics in prep for Heidelberg match

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

April 12 was opening day for the Hohenfels CYS Senior "Bigs" Baseball League, with the Hohenfels Tigers hosting the Ansbach Cougars in a double header that left each team with one win and one loss.

After five innings of game one, the Tigers had yet to score a single run. Mitch Leikam and Shawn Larry each scored runs during the first inning for Ansbach.

The Cougars went on to win the game, 12-4, when it was called due to time in the middle of the seventh inning.

But Hohenfels was not ready to give up.

"It took them a while to get warmed up," said Tigers assistant coach Mike Toliver. "Once they got going, got used to the flow and got it under their skin they were able to finish pretty well."

Hohenfels' pitcher Ryan Matheson gave up

one run early on in game two, the only one the Cougars would get, then struck out the next two batters to quickly end Ansbach's first turn at bat.

Hohenfels went on to score 12 runs in the first five innings when the game was called on time and the mercy rule, which ends a game when a team is winning by more than 10 points.

Toliver said the Tigers' turnaround had to be attributed partially to communication.

"At first they weren't talking. They had their heads in other places instead of focusing on the game. Once they started talking, they did a lot better," he said.

To prepare for Hohenfels' April 19 matchup against Heidelberg, Coach Darren Mesch said the team will be working on getting back to basics.

"We had a lot of errors, mental and physical errors," he said of their first game performance. "We're going to work on fundamental baseball.

Base running, fielding, the basics."

Toliver said he expects the Tigers to do well when they play Heidelberg.

"Everything we've been telling them seems to be making sense. At practice this week they said how sore they were from the game Saturday, but they were still working hard," he said.

Hohenfels Season Schedule

Saturday: at Vilseck

May 3: home vs. Vilseck

May 10: home vs. Stuttgart

May 17: at Stuttgart

May 23-26: Championship tournament at Ramstein.

All games, with the exception of the championship, are double headers with a planned start time of 1 p.m.



Hohenfels Tiger John Leon keeps his cool as an Ansbach player charges toward first base.

Garrison cuts DUIs in half, thanks to no-repercussions taxi service

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

The number of Hohenfels community members arrested for driving under the influence in the past six months is down 50 percent from the same time last year, according to U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Safety Manager Dan Voglesong.

According to military police reports, in the first two quarters of fiscal year 2007 (from October 2006 to March 2007) the garrison had 14 DUI-related arrests. In the first two quarters of fiscal year 2008 (from October 2007 to March 2008), there were only seven.

Voglesong said one reason may be the Emergency Taxi Ride Home program initiated by the garrison six months ago.

On Sept. 27, the garrison started a fund with voluntary donations to provide a service that would transport Soldiers back to Hohenfels if they found themselves too intoxicated or tired to drive, and without money for a taxi.

If a Soldier (or civilian employee or family member) needs a ride, they can call the garrison's 24-hour Installation Operations Center, which will contact a taxi to pick up the Soldier and bring him or her home. The taxi driver then goes to the IOC desk to receive payment.

The garrison has informal agreements with local taxi companies near Hohenfels and in Nuremberg, locations where Soldiers party on the weekend.

The taxi service has averaged one person per weekend since September. Although Department of the Army civilians can use the service, all taxi service users have been Soldiers so far, said Voglesong. He also said there have been no problems getting Soldiers to repay the taxi loan by their next payday.

"No one has abused this Emergency Taxi Ride Home program, and it will continue to be offered to Soldiers and DA civilians who request

it," said Voglesong.

And community members should not be concerned about negative repercussions for using the service.

"Perhaps there are Soldiers concerned about retribution for using this taxi service," he said. "They need not worry... All unit commanders fully support the Soldiers for using this taxi service."

"This is an example of how innovative programs, together with command emphasis and Army and individual programs can prevent DUIs," said Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels. "If one is prevented, it is a success."

Be prepared; for life's unexpected; make a living will today

by CLAY DONNIGAN
Hohenfels Legal Office

The first National Health Care Decision Day, designed to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision making, took place April 16. Throughout the day and throughout the country, healthcare providers, professionals, chaplains, attorneys, and others participated in a massive effort to encourage the public to execute written advance directives.

A Military Advanced Medical Directive, better known as a living will or healthcare power of attorney, allows an individual to make critical, legally binding decisions regarding their medical care in a crisis when they may not be able to communicate their wishes.

Living wills and medical powers of attorney, the names and terms vary by state, essentially address two potential scenarios:

- What should be done in the event an individual is incapacitated and medically beyond any reasonable hope of recovery, and

- What medical treatment an individual should receive in the event they are unable to make medical decisions of their own.

The absence of a living will leaves open the potential for legal conflicts concerning medical treatment once medical professionals have determined that an individual is beyond any reasonable hope of recovery.

Without a medical power of attorney, in many cases spouses or parents are able to make medical decisions for the patient, though medical necessity requires medical professionals to make all treatment decisions in their absence.

A medical power of attorney allows an individual to choose who they want to make medical decisions on their behalf.

The decision to have a living will or a medical power of attorney is a personal decision that should not be taken lightly.

While legally complex in their nature, these documents are readily available from all legal assistance offices.

If you are interested in further exploring whether these documents are right for you, contact your local legal assistance office.

EEO welcomes new program manager

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

A new advocate has arrived for the civilian employees at the Hohenfels training area.

Alma Molina, a former Soldier and civil service employee for more than 20 years, arrived in Hohenfels March 15 as the new Equal Employment Opportunity program manager.

While working with the EEO program, Molina will be in charge of reviewing and analyzing the community with the goal of promoting a diverse workforce in the garrison and the various tenant organizations.

In addition to managing special

emphasis programs, ensuring compliance with Army regulations, providing employee and manager training, and advising the command leadership, Molina's office will manage and report all complaints related to civilian jobs on post.

Whether it is an employee who feels they are being treated unfairly or an applicant who feels they were wrongly passed over for a position, the EEO office is tasked with neutrally gathering information on the complaint, recommending whether or not the complaint should be accepted, and forwarding it to the appropriate channels.

But those are just a few aspects of

Molina's job.

"This is one of the best EE offices in Europe," she said. "There is no problem with morale here. Kym [McRae-Haeffner, EEO program specialist] has been doing a great job," said Molina. "What I want to do now is get people together more with little programs that make them feel good at the end of the day."



Molina

She said improving communication and creating a more diverse workforce, especially including people with disabilities, are some of her goals.

Her last assignment was with the Army Corps of Engineers in Manhattan. She also worked at Mannheim and Hanau, but said she has never been sponsored by a community like Hohenfels.

"Everyone has been so happy to see me. I would recommend to anyone to come work here," she said. "I just want to let everyone know that the best way to work things out starts here. Our office can help others, not just with complaints, but to listen and advise too."

Hohenfels 2008 Spring Bazaar

Friday, April 25th - Sunday, April 27th
Hohenfels Community Activities Center, bldg. 40

Featuring over twenty of Europe's finest vendors selling cheese, crafts, rugs, wine, jewelry, art, furniture, clocks and much more!

Opening Hours:
April 25: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
April 26: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
April 27: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Open to all U.S. ID card holders

For more info, contact the CAC at
CIV 09472-83-2670/2840 or DSN 466-2670/2840

Help us help YOU!

Make sure you're getting all the information you need about life in and around Hohenfels.

Fill out a two-minute command information survey to help us improve programs that keep you informed of what's going on in your community.

Visit www.hohenfels.army.mil and click on the green "Quick Survey" box in the upper right hand corner. Tell us what you think! There are no repercussions.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

ARIMS training offered

The United States Army Publications Distribution Center Europe will conduct a Web-based Publications Management Training session May 6. The training will take place at the Grafenwoehr Digital Training Facility, Bldg. 3144, Camp Normandy. The training is a one day session from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The class is designed for new publication managers and publication managers that require refresher training. The training will facilitate proficiency in managing Army in Europe publications accounts.

Each publication account should send both the primary and alternate publications managers to the training. If you have not yet established your publications account, you can also attend and learn about the AEPUBS site and account management.

Reserve your slots for training by completing the Automated Training Request Form via the AEPUBS Web site <https://aepubs.army.mil>, calling DSN 314-384-6881/6884, or e-mail: pubstraining.aepubs@eur.army.mil.

AFN links Soldiers, families

Call it a connection between deployed Soldiers and their families. A new link on the AFN Bavaria Web site takes deployed Soldiers to videotaped greetings from their families.

AFN Bavaria has added all of the TV stories produced about our deployed Soldiers, photos, and greetings from the troops to their families. Go to www.afneurope.net/bavaria and click the link called, "Our Deployed Soldiers" at the bottom left side of the screen.

Looking for the most up-to-date weather information? Tune in to AFN's live shows from 6-10 a.m. and 2-6 p.m. weekdays for the most recent weather warnings, traffic information, and closures. Also check the Web site for school and road closures.

Estates claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Staff Sgt. Joseph D. Gamboa of 1st Squadron, 2SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. Sarah S. Noyes at DSN 475-9104 or e-mail sarah.s.noyes@us.army.mil.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estates of Spc. Steven I. Candelo of 1st Squadron, 2SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. Terry Graham at DSN 475-8006.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Cpl. Joshua A.

Molina of 1st Squadron, 2SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, Capt. Audie A. Cavazos at DSN 475-8387 or e-mail audie.cavazos@eur.army.mil.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Sgt. Michael T. Lilly of 1st Squadron, 2SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, Capt. Joshua S. Hearn, at DSN 475-8670 or e-mail joshua.hearn@us.army.mil.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Jason C. Kazarick of 1st Squadron, 2SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, Capt. Jason M. Miller, at DSN 474-2038 or e-mail jason.m.miller1@us.army.mil.

VHS volunteers needed

Vilseck High School is looking for volunteers for Saturday to assist with the high school track meet. For more information, contact the Vilseck High School main office at CIV 09662-83-2864.

Finance your education

The University of Maryland University College Europe will have an academic and a financial aid advisor visiting the Army Education Centers in Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr, and Vilseck.

The advisors will be in Hohenfels May 6, Grafenwoehr May 7, and Vilseck May 8. At both Hohenfels and Vilseck, there will be a 10 a.m. financial aid workshop for Soldiers and family members.

For information call your UMUC Representative at UMUC Hohenfels DSN 466-4106, Grafenwoehr DSN 475-6106, and Vilseck DSN 476-2462.

Clinics set changes

Beginning May 1, due to the increasing population, Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Health Clinics will change booking procedures. Soldiers and their family members will have priority for booking primary care and optometry appointments. Tricare Plus enrollees will also be given priority. All others will be booked on a space available basis. Please contact the Grafenwoehr Tricare at DSN 475-7251 or CIV 09641 83-7152 and the Vilseck Tricare office at DSN 476-2000/3323 or CIV 09662-83-2000/3323 for more information on local physicians in the German community.

Graf clinic closures announced

The Grafenwoehr Health Clinic will be closed May 3 to support the USAG Grafenwoehr Boxing Invitational. The clinic will also be closed May 9 for the unit's organizational day. For all health emergencies, please proceed to Klinikum Weiden or Krankenhaus Eschenbach. Maps to both locations are available outside the main entrance of the health clinic.

Hohenfels Briefs

Hohenfels spring bazaar

Friday-Sunday: The Hohenfels Community Activities Center, Bldg. 40, will feature more than 20 of Europe's finest vendors selling cheese, rugs, wine, jewelry, art, furniture, clocks, and much more.

Opening Hours:
Friday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JMRC 2008 spring formal

Joint Multinational Readiness Center 2008 spring formal tickets are available for purchase from the JMRC S-1. The event is scheduled for Friday at the Ostbayerhalle in Kreuth. All military and civilian personnel assigned to JMRC, 1-4 Infantry, and USAG Hohenfels are invited to attend. For more information call Staff Sgt. Cristita Bufford at DSN 466-3049.

SKIES ballet, tap classes

Registration for the Monday to June 20 SKIES ballet and tap term is open through Friday. Register at CLEOS/Central Registration in Bldg. 10. Children and youth enrolled in Hunter's instructional classes will appreciate her grace, attention-to-detail and techniques. Classes are designed to encourage creativity, discipline and independent thinking in the art of ballet and tap. For more information call CLEOS at DSN 466-2078.

CYS spring carnival

Saturday: Celebrate Month of the Military Child at 10 a.m. at the SAS Facility, Bldg. 112. Activities and events end at 2 p.m. The activities include age appropriate treasure hunts at the SAS and CDC facilities, jumping castles, clown, balloons, face painting, games, give-aways, and other activities and community agencies. Interested community agencies and youth organizations should contact the CLEOS office for information on participating in this event.

Wood shop safety

Saturday: 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. Wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing. 9:30 a.m. to noon. Call Arts and Crafts Center at DSN 466-2538 for more information.

Volksmarch in Hohenfels

Saturday and Sunday: Start and finish point: Hohenfels - Kulturzentrum Keltensaal. Walking distances: 5 kms, 10 kms, and 20 kms. Starting times: Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Sunday between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. For more information call the Public Affairs office at DSN 466-2457 or stop by the office in Bldg. 309 for a flyer.

Training for senior NCOs

April 30 through May 2: The Senior

NCO Safety Course at Schweinfurt still has openings. Every leader coming out of this course says that it's one of the best courses ever taken. It's about personal experiences and interactive discussion about leadership in today's Army. Rich Hamilton, a very dynamic, passionate individual and former Army leader, moderates this safety training seminar. Register through ATRRS, School 757, Course: CATC-SNSOC, Class 502. You can get basic course information on the ATRRS site or through the USAREUR homepage at www.hqusareur.army.mil.

Chick flicks

May 6: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Who says football season is over? Come and watch some European football in Bend it Like Beckham at the Hilltop Chapel Center. We'll be having a tailgate party so bring your favorites foods to munch on while the watching the games! This will be our last Flick of the year so join us in making it a big success! Child care provided free for children ages 1 month - 5 years in the Chapel Annex. For more information, contact Pam Angell at sapangell@yahoo.com.

My favorite things

May 7: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. As we wrap up a fantastic year, we'd like to share some of them with you right here in Hohenfels at the Hilltop. We'll also introduce our incoming Board for next year and say "Thanks!" to those outgoing. Child care provided free in the Chapel Annex for children ages 1 month - 5 years. For more information, contact Jennifer Rucker at jndada@aol.com.

Belly dancing class

Start with a healthy aerobic workout. Add the fun of dancing. Spice things up with exotic music, the twirl of silk, and the rhythmic clapping of finger cymbals. Top it off with a path to rediscovering one's feminine nature and creative spirit, and you have Belly Dancing for Fitness. Come out and learn the basic movements and one beginner's routine. This six-week session begins on May 8. Classes will be held on Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. at The Zone, Bldg. 150. Six classes are \$24. A minimum of eight participants must be registered for the class to take place. To sign up call Sports and Fitness at DSN 466-2868/2493.

Motorcycle mentor ride

May 9: JMRC and USAG Hohenfels will hold a motorcycle mentor ride in the form of a poker run through the local communities. This is a safety orientated event with some prizes that will be given away at the end. For more information, contact the Hohenfels Safety office at DSN 466-1670 or martin.d.angel@eur.army.mil. Link up will be at the Hohenfels Fest Platz at 8 a.m. for all motorcyclists with a rain date of May 13.

2008 Spring Golf Classic

May 9: The USAG Hohenfels 2008 Spring Golf Classic at Habsberg Golf Course opens an exciting, warm-weather golf season. Team and registration information: Four-person teams; 40 Euro green fee + 15 Euro lunch; 7 a.m. check-in,

8 a.m. shotgun start; registration deadline is May 6. For more information or to register contact MWR Sports and Fitness at dlimwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil. Only 18 team slots available.

Free garage sale

May 10: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SAS. PWOC and School Age Services have teamed up to provide the community with a Garage Sale where everything is free! If you're PCSing, you don't want to miss this chance to drop off all your unwanted treasures (clothes, electronics, furniture, toys, etc.) to the SAS building on Friday night between 6:30 and 9 p.m. or Saturday between 7 and 8:30 a.m. We will offer these items for free to whoever wants them from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. What-ever is left over will be taken to the Elim Christian Center in Poland and donated to those less fortunate. This event is open to all US ID card holders. If you are interested in volunteering at this event or would like more information, contact Pam Angell at sapangell@yahoo.com.

Intramural softball registration

FMWR Sports is accepting registrations and sign ups for the Intramural Softball program. If you have a team and are interested in participating in the softball season you can pick up your Letter of Intent from the Fitness Center, Bldg. 47 or contact Bill Craven at DSN 466-2868 or Chris Cornelison at DSN 466-2493. Deadline for team registration is May 12.

Summer Hire Program 2008

Through May 16: The Civilian Personnel Civilian Human Resources Agency, Europe Region, is accepting applications for the 2008 Summer Hire program until May 16, for jobs that will last from July 7 to Aug. 15. Information on the program, including vacancy announcements and application instructions, is posted on the CHRA Web site at <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/employment/index.htm>.

CAC Bus Trip to Bolaslaweic

May 17: Bolaslaweic, Poland is the heart of the pottery industry. Factories continue to hand stamp patterns on each piece in a centuries-old tradition. Designs range from original pieces inspired by the peacock to more modern patterns including Christmas themed sets. Many pieces are microwave and dishwasher safe. Trip cost is \$55 per person, departs Hohenfels from the CAC Bldg. 40 at 12:30 a.m. Contact the CAC at DSN 466-2670 to reserve your seat or for more information.

An evening with your daughter

May 17: All Hohenfels community fathers with daughters ages 9 to 18 are invited to participate in an evening with your daughter at 6 p.m. at Kellermeier's in Imhof. The guest speaker is Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dave Scheider. This is a chaplain sponsored event which is open to all faith groups. Some of the training is Christian in content. The event is free and is limited to 120 guests. Dress for the event is coat and tie. For more information call Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Crowley at DSN 466-3031/2482.

USAG Grafenwoehr
Kinderfest

Free!
Saturday, April 26
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Memorial Fitness Center, Vilseck Bldg. 616

- * Games
- * Activities
- * Food
- * Educational Materials
- * Open to all children and families

Special!
Child car seat inspections during the Kinderfest. Stop by the 2nd SCR Parking lot across from the Memorial Fitness Center.

Logos for sponsors: AEPUBS, Community, SERVICE, MWR, etc.

Spring Yard Sale

The 18th CSSB Family Readiness Group is hosting a community yard sale May 10, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Field House Bldg. # 547.

Refreshments and snacks for sale

Participation is limited to authorized ID card holders

Items for sale: Books, Collectibles, Electronics, Strollers, Toys, Antiques, Garage Sale.

What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Celebrating military children

In honor of April being the Month of the Military Child, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts numerous events to celebrate military children.

■ Saturday — Month of the Military Child Celebration, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Hangar 2 on Katterbach. The big event features a band, a jumping castle, a petting zoo, food and more. A free bus from the Storck Barracks Theater leaves at 10:15 a.m. a heads back for Illesheim at 2:15 p.m.

■ April 30 — Month of the Military Child parade on Von Steuben Strasse from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

For more information on any of these activities, call school age services at DSN 467-2632 or CIV 09802-83-2632 on Katterbach, or DSN 467-4733 or CIV 09841-83-4773 in Illesheim.

Register to vote

The Army's Voting Assistance Program aims to ensure that Soldiers, their families and DOD civilians overseas can exercise their right to vote.

The USAG Ansbach Voting Assistance Program officers are Mohammad Alkadri and Scott Hamilton. Absentee ballots can be applied for by filling out the federal postcard application (Standard Form 76).

The form is available at the garrison command group or can be downloaded at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

The Web site also features an automated federal postcard application. Filling out the form not only registers voters for an absentee ballot, but it also registers them to vote in federal, state and local elections.

For more, call Alkadri at DSN 468-7730 or CIV 0981-183-730.

Family workshop

Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a family workshop titled Habits of Highly Effective Army Families April 29-30 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Von Steuben Community Center.

The workshop will offer topics like learning the inside-out approach to problem solving, anticipating all the phases of deployment, building and rebuilding relationships of trust and love at home and with extended family, abandoning unhealthy behaviors, building family traditions, unity and nurturing family culture and learning practical skills for dealing with financial issues.

For more information on or to register for this free workshop, call DSN 467-

2531 or 09802-83-2531.

Summer hire openings

Community youth have the opportunity to sign up for the annual summer hire program on-line at <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm> now through May 16.

Applicants are reminded to read the application procedures carefully and ensure all requirements are met to ensure a chance at one of the job openings. One requirement often missed by applicants is the need to bring in required hard-copy forms to the civilian personnel center on Barton Barracks.

For more information on the program, check out the Web site or give John Britton a call at DSN 468-7640 or CIV 0981-183-640.

Toastmasters International

Ansbach Toastmasters International meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 6-7 p.m. at the ACS classroom on Katterbach.

Toastmasters is a way for people to beef up their resumes, enhance their leadership and communication skills, and become the speakers and leaders they want to be, said Nicole Stickney, a member of the club.

Stickney said guests are always welcome at the meetings, which she described as "dynamic and fun."

"We are looking for new members to join our recently-organized group," she said. "Whether you're a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, Toastmasters is the best way to improve your communication skills in a supportive environment."

For more, send an e-mail to ansbachtm@yahoo.com or check out the Web site at <http://www.geocities.com/ansbachtm>.

Paintball tourneys

The Katterbach Kanyon paintball facility host two tournaments as part of its 2008 season.

The first tournament is Saturday and the second is May 31. Cost for team registration is \$175. Teams will vie to be the best of the season with trophies awarded to the top three teams.

The tournament is open to people ages 14 and older. Minors younger than 18 must have a waiver completed by their parents on the day of play.

To register or get more information, call outdoor recreation at DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

Chubby pet?

The USAG Ansbach Veterinary Clinic offers a pet wellness program that includes nutritional guidance, ideas for increasing physical activity and monthly

weigh-ins to track pets' progress.

The clinic also offers weekly walks Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m.

For more, call the clinic at DSN 467-3179 or CIV 09802-83-3179.

AAFES info

Army and Air Force Exchange System officials offer the latest news, offers and information with their AAFES Buddy e-mails.

To ensure you find out about the latest fuel prices, movie schedules and sales, send an e-mail to Chris Litch at litchc@aafes.com to get on the AAFES Buddy e-mail list.

No more walk-ins

The Illesheim Immunization Clinic no longer accepts walk-ins. Appointments should be made through the receptionist at DSN 467-5119 or CIV 09841-83-4512.

Help with a career

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

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

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

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

Scholarship opportunity

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club's scholarship applications for 2008 are available. This year, ASCC anticipates awarding \$6,000 in scholarships to students.

There are three different categories for scholarships this year to provide awards to high school senior military dependents, college students who are military dependents and ASCC members pursuing continuing education.

All scholarship funds must be applied towards costs in pursuing education at a regionally-accredited college, university or technical school for 2008-09.

The scholarship application packet includes an information sheet specifying eligibility requirements, Privacy Act Statement, the scholarship application form, three forms for letters of recommendations, and an assessment sheet.

Applications are assigned a number upon receipt so that anonymity is assured until selections are complete.

The applicant's name, status, rank of the applicant's sponsor and location of residence will remain unknown to members of the committee.

Applications are due by May 15. To request a scholarship application, or for more information, contact Nicole Stickney at CIV 09826-655-656 or send an e-mail to nicolestickney@yahoo.com.

CIF improvements

The central issue facility will soon install a new system designed to speed the process of signing transactions on customers' clothing records in the Installation Support Module System.

The new system will offer digital signing by Common Access Card readers located at the customer counter of the CIF.

CIF staff can then print the record and hand it to the customer. Customers used to have to wait for the printing of the record and then for copies to be made.

CIF officials expect the new system to be installed at the Ansbach and Illesheim facilities around May 1.

School immunizations

The Katterbach Clinic immunizations nurse will visit schools over the next few months to make sure all students are properly immunized.

The nurse will visit:
■ Ansbach Middle/High School June 4 at 8:30 a.m.

■ Rainbow Elementary June 3 at 8:30 a.m.

■ Ansbach Elementary June 4 at 12:30 p.m.

School nurses will send out immunization requirements and necessary paperwork to parents of students.

For more information, call your child's schools.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Learn about Autism

Families, teachers, and community service providers are invited to a three-session Autism 101: Making a Difference workshop at Bamberg Elementary School, room 129 May 5, 7, and 12 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Chuck York, ISS-Autism Consultant for DoDDS-Europe, will help you to develop hands-on techniques for working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Walk-ins are welcome. Graduate credit offered to those who attend all meetings and complete a response paper. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail chuck.york@eu.dodea.edu.

Andrews FCU closing

Come to Andrews Federal Credit Union Wuerzburg branch information session May 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get more details about the closing of the branch, ask questions about relocation or finances, and enjoy free refreshments and giveaways. For more information, call DSN 350-6229 or CIV 0931-705-860 or go to www.andrewsfcu.org. In addition, Wuerzburg Andrews Federal Credit Union branch is now closed on Mondays and Wednesdays. On these days, the phone lines will be forwarded to the Schweinfurt branch.

Play Bunco

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation hosts, "It's Bunco Time" at the Irish Pub Community Club on Conn Barracks tomorrow. Games begin at 6 p.m. All I.D. card holders 18 or older are invited to attend. Win fabulous prizes like gift cards from popular stores. All participants will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a \$4,000 spa gift card or a second place \$500 spa gift card. For more information or to sign up, call the Finney Sports and Leisure Center at DSN 353-8476. Walk-ins are welcome.

Buy or sell wares

Come shop for great bargains at the Schweinfurt Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association flea market May 3, or sell your own wares by purchasing a table. Applications for tables to sell wares are now available. The market will be held in the middle school gym from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For table applications, call Diane Schmidt at DSN 354-6815 or CIV 09721-96-6815.

Attend family palooza

Come join the excitement at the family palooza on Askren Manor Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy a parade, face painting, pony rides, family games, or participate in the Little Miss or Mister Kinderfest Pageant. Applications for the pageant are available at the thrift store or the American Red Cross on Ledward Barracks or the 172nd Brigade on Conn Barracks. For more information, call DSN 354-6141 or CIV 09721-96-6141 or e-mail wendy.sledd@us.army.mil.

Play games as a couple

Come to the Army Community Service Couples' Game Night at Schweinfurt Elementary School multipurpose room on Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Couples will play Cranium in small groups and facilitated discussion on understanding one another's communication styles will follow. Childcare is provided as part of the Child and Youth Services Parents' Night Out. For more information, call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Community theater audition

Calling all actors! Come out to the Abrams Entertainment Center Tuesday and April 30 at 6 p.m. to audition for "And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank," by James Stills. Adult males, females, youth, and many extras are needed. Production volunteers for costumes, hair, make-up, stage management, publicity, set construction and more are also needed. For more information, call Garland Travis at CIV 0162-296-2776 or e-mail garland.travis@us.army.mil.

Flea Market at Volksfestplatz

Come shop at the large flea market of the Bavarian Red Cross at the Volksfestplatz parking lot across the street from Askren Manor on Saturday. Market opens at 6 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m.

Take advantage of Super Saturday respite care May 10

Sign up now for Child and Youth Services' Super Saturday Respite Care May 10. Children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade will be cared for from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The program includes one meal. Children must be registered with CYS and also have current immunizations. Reservation deadline is one week prior to event. Call CYS central registration to sign up or for more information at DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-96-6414.

Newcomer orientation set

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, then the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program beginning May 5 is the fit for you. Free childcare is available the entire week. Get acquainted with the military community as well as the German town of Schweinfurt. For more information or to sign up, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

ACS hosts ceremony to recognize volunteers

Attend the Army Community Service 2008 Groovy Volunteers Celebration at the Conn Community Club Friday to help recognize those who donate their time to the community. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the ceremony runs from 10 a.m. to noon. Refreshments will be served immediately following. The ceremony will recognize the efforts of all garrison volunteers and pay special tribute to those nominated for the title "Volunteer of the Year." For more information, call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Movie night for teens

Send your teen to Army Community Services' movie night event tomorrow at the Abrams Entertainment Center from 6:30-9 p.m. Don't miss the search for buried treasure in the movie, "The Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest." Teens ages 13 to 18 years old are invited. For more information, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Shop for pottery

Come to the Schweinfurt pottery market in the downtown market square May 2 and 3. The market is open on Friday from noon to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Socialize at the Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town? The Army Community Service monthly Lunch Bunch is the perfect fit. Join Schweinfurt's next Lunch Bunch tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Experience a little of the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome! Please bring euro for lunch. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Join adult book club

The community is invited to attend the adult book club at Ledward Library on the last Thursday of each month. The next meeting is tomorrow at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the book, "Three Cups of Tea." The month of May book selection is, "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen and will be discussed May 29. For more information, call DSN 354-1740 or CIV 09721-96-1740.

AER needs you

The annual Army Emergency Relief fundraising drive is in full swing, and continues through May 15. AER is about Soldiers helping Soldiers, and annual contributions help insure that mission continues. Donations are accepted on a one-time basis or by recurring allotment. Soldiers may contact their unit AER representative, and anyone can contact Mike Sleeper at mike.sleeper@eur.army.mil, DSN 354-7033 or CIV 09721-96-7033 for more information or donation procedures.

Take back the night

April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month, and the Schweinfurt Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program will host a "Take Back the Night" walk beginning at the Schweinfurt commissary tonight at 6 p.m. Show your support for awareness and sexual violence prevention by joining your friends and neighbors in this vigil.

CHECK OUT!

MWR Is...

- Alternate Escapes Digital Lounge
- Army Community Service
- Arts & Crafts
- Auto Skills Centers
- Bavarian-American Magazine
- Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers
- Bowling Centers
- Child & Youth Services
- Clubs and Lounges
- Entertainment
- Family Assistance Centers
- Fitness Centers
- Hotels
- Hunting, Fishing & Shooting
- Java Café
- Libraries
- Outdoor Recreation
- Restaurants
- Soldier and Family Assistance Centers
- Special Events
- Sports
- Tax Relief
- Trips

FOR RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Roman

Holiday



Trevi Fountain

Garmisch community members visit the Eternal City

by **DAWN LYN and JOHN REESE**
Special to the Bavarian News

Rome isn't explored in a day, so a Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation tour group of 27 adults and children from Garmisch recently did the next best thing and spent three days in the Eternal City.

A local train left Garmisch at 8 p.m. on Valentine's Day, pausing for a two-hour layover in Innsbruck, Austria. Most of the travelers played it safe and took refreshment in the Bahnhof, but there was plenty of time for a few intrepid souls to leave the Bahnhof and mingle with locals at a nearby pizza parlor.

The train left Innsbruck at 11 p.m., already "quiet time" aboard, and piled into sleeping berths for the long ride. The German train provided sheets and pillows, and Paul Dutro, the FMWR trip organizer and tour guide, dispensed earplugs and nasal strips to help participants get a good night's sleep.

Arriving on a sunny and warm mid-morning at Rome's main station, the Roma Termini, Dutro led us on foot a few blocks through the imposing Piazza della Repubblica to the Nardizzi Americana on via Firenze, an American-friendly, inexpensive, and eclectic hotel in the center of the city, to drop off the luggage and dive into adventure.

Dutro, an experienced FMWR tour leader and art lover, kicked off the city tour with visits to Santa Susanna and Santa Theresa, beautiful churches that are a short walk from the hotel.

From Santa Theresa, we walked a few blocks to the Il Pomodorino, an affordable family restaurant near the U.S. embassy, after the priest politely informed us that the it was time for lunch.

The staff was expecting us, a fairly large group, and kept the food and beverages flowing for two hours, leaving everyone in high spirits for admiring the art at the next stop, the Villa Borghese.

The opulent home of Cardinal Scipione Borghese (1576 - 1633) is now a museum filled with an amazing collection of art, most notably works by sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The massive gardens surrounding the villa are one of the few quiet places in Rome.

While at the Borghese, we purchased the Roma Pass, a discount packet with a three-day public transportation pass, entrance to two museums plus discounts on others, a map, instructions, and a slightly out-of-date guide of 2007 events.

As the sun began to set, we first used the transportation pass to visit the piazza at St. Peter's Basilica. The sheer size of the piazza ringed by hundreds of statues encircling a massive obelisk is as impressive as the day it was completed centuries ago. And although the pontiff did not make an appearance, the lights were on his suite.

Next, we took a small bus for a great night cityscape overlooking the Vatican at the statue of Italian hero Giuseppe Garibaldi. Garibaldi was a revolutionary who led a military campaign that brought about a unified Italy, and once offered his services to President

Lincoln during the U.S. Civil War.

The night took a twist as everyone, well supplied with information, set off on their own to find dinner and eventually a way back to our hotel. We broke into smaller groups, enjoyed individual time in the city, and each found our way safely back to the hotel after a few hours.

For the rest of the trip there was no organized tour, just the option to follow the knowledgeable Dutro in his quest for art. We set out in search of Ponte Milvio, the oldest bridge in Rome, to join hopeless romantics in the modern tradition of securing padlocks to the bridge and throwing the key into the Tevere River as a symbol of fidelity.

This turned out to be quite the adventure as its distance from the hotel made it necessary for me to take almost every imaginable form of public transportation to get there and back.

On the way we lingered in the bustling Piazza del Popolo and listened to musicians and watched street performance artists. We explored a soon-to-be-extinct farmers' market where a mysterious man approached customers selling garlic as discreetly as if selling contraband.

That afternoon we went to a historically preserved building on Via Rasella, the scene of an unprecedented Italian partisan attack on a heavily armed SS police company of mostly German-speaking northern Italians on March 23, 1944.

The crude IED ambush led to the following day's Fosse Ardeatine Massacre, in which 335 Italians were shot in retaliation. The building

is laced with the wildly scattered return fire of the stunned survivors.

After that it was off to Giolitti, Italy's oldest gelateria, for champagne gelato, and then on to the very crowded Trevi Fountain to toss in coins and ensure a return to Rome someday.

After a good look at the nearby Pantheon, we quenched our thirst at the Trimani Wine Bar, one of the "1,000 Places to See Before You Die," and enjoyed appetizers and a bottle of caparzo before a nice dinner.

On Sunday morning, the tour group met and followed Dutro on the subway and buses to see Santa Sabina, home to one of the earliest surviving depictions of the crucifixion of Christ carved on a 5th century wooden door, and to peep through a keyhole into the sanctuary of the Knights of Malta, a tiny state within the state.

Below us was Circo Massimo, home of the ancient chariot races—think Ben Hur. It is now an open park frequented by joggers, tourists, and people walking their dogs.

We returned after lunch to take a lap around the famous track before exploring the Foro Romano, the ruins of the original great city, but first it was a leisurely tour of the Colosseo (Coliseum), the signature landmark of Rome.

Even though it is mostly in ruins, the Colosseo is as striking as it must have been in 80 AD.

The entry fee, including an express entrance line bypassing hundreds of tourists, was included in the Roma Pass. It was an odd sensation to see the modern offices and shops ensconced in the ancient stadium.

Next we climbed the Spanish Steps, so named because they once linked the Spanish Embassy and the Holy See. Italian law prohibiting eating on the steps seemed impossible to enforce as hundreds of people ate, drank, smoked, and lounged while awaiting sunset.

On the way back to the hotel we walked down Via Condotti, a trendy street crammed with pedestrians shopping at expensive designer stores, and found dinner at a small restaurant near the hotel.

On Monday everyone was up early to make the long journey by train back to Garmisch.

Due to delays, our train was late for the connection at Innsbruck, but our intrepid tour guide and the Italian conductor convinced the Austrians to hold our final train, and Dutro received a rare compliment from the Austrian conductor for rapidly transferring his 26 charges.

With that, the Roman holiday ended back in Garmisch with one last misadventure. One family of four left a backpack containing their passports in a restaurant in Rome.

Without knowing the name of the place but knowing its general location and description, they contacted the USO in Rome, where diligent staff members tracked down the bag being safely held by the honest eatery and passed it to the U.S. embassy.

The backpack, like Garmisch's FMWR tourists, returned home safe and sound, intact, after an exciting foray in Rome, the famed Capital of the World.



Rome's signature landmark, the Coliseum, has more visitors entering today than it did when it was operating as a working entertainment stadium.

Photos by Dawn Lyn

Illesheim clinic strengthens ties with local health care providers at dinner

by RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

Members of the Illesheim Health Clinic showed their appreciation to the local providers in the area that help form the team to provide quality health care to Storck Barracks Soldiers and families during a dinner hosted by the unit April 3.

The dinner also gave the military health care professionals to rub elbows and chat with their local national counterparts, said 2nd Lt. Walter Glasco, the clinic's executive officer who coordinated the event.

"It is basically a way to say 'thanks' to our local providers for being there for us, sharing health information and helping our clinic to provide expert care for our Soldiers and family members—we are bridging the gap tonight and putting faces and names together," he said.

"If we do not bridge this gap, our clinic, in the future, will not be able to provide quality

services for our patients—which is key."

Nevertheless, this is more than just a dinner and get-together for providers.

"Our clinic cannot provide all the specific services and care for everyone's needs, so we have to use local providers and refer our patients out to them," said Semra Tainatongo, patient liaison for the clinic.

"That is why we need external providers—to have local care available for our patients. We end up dealing a lot over the phone and do not get much of a chance to get out and see our external providers."

And that face-to-face interaction is important, Tainatongo said.

"We want our staff and host nation co-workers to get to know each other by networking and connecting the LN doctors to our doctors," she said. "This is the perfect time to bring us all together in one room and do just that."

Even though it is already a small clinic, the facility's resources are also affected because of

the drawdown, clinic commander Dr. (Maj.) Luther Wiest said.

"Being the smallest clinic in the Bavarian MEDDAC region, we are your small hometown clinic—that is the way to really look at it," he said, adding that having the local providers available extends their reach.

"It's like having a supplemental full expert external staff accessible at your fingertips," Wiest said. "We see over 1,000 patients a month and our clinic provides only a certain level of care. So we have to outsource for the larger things—like obstetrics and gynecology—that require specialists, of which our outside referrals, Soldiers and family members, have been averaging over 150 a month as of late."

Obstetrician gynecologist provider Dr. Michael Gampe, who has his own private practice on the economy and has been seeing American patients since 1989, said that he likes seeing American patients.

"You are guests in our country and I welcome

the chance to see American patients on the economy—especially now since there is a lack of Army specialists locally," he said.

The doctor added that he looks at treating Americans as a chance to build international relations and cooperation.

"I consider myself a type of ambassador between Americans and Germans," he said.

"I like Americans and want to support my local Army colleagues and patients. About 10 percent—or about 120 patients a quarter—of my base are American patients," Gampe said. "The Americans appreciate my services and this collaboration provides a solution for all."

Amber Rodriguez, a military spouse who is a regular patient of Dr. Gampe's, chimed in that, "The care is excellent. We were handled with patience, kindness and understanding—he has a very professional staff that were very attentive to my needs and took care of everything in a very detailed manner. I would highly recommend any German provider."

USAG Ansbach fifth-grade students learn basics of SORT

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

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's environmental office took their message of green to the students of area elementary schools in March.

The office set up competitions and activities to add a dash of fun to learning how to be better stewards of Mother Earth—and save the military money in the process, said Jutta Seefried, Separating or Recycling Trash program coordinator for USAG Ansbach.

She said SORT is easy when you know how, and her regular trips and activities at the schools teach community youth just that.

Seefried, who has implemented the program for five years, teaches a "how-to" to local fifth-graders annually via a presentation geared for them, along with games testing what they learned in the presentation.

"Teaching students at a young age instills lifelong habits," Seefried said. "When they learn young, the children grow up with these new habits, implement them later on in life, and on the way, teach their parents new habits as well—I have seen these results."

Christopher Schlagen, a fifth-grader at Illesheim Elementary School, said the presentation taught him a lot.

"Recycling helps not to pollute the air and helps not waste time making new things that we could just recycle," Schlagen said.

"Not recycling oil correctly

pollutes our water supply, plastic can be recycled over 40 times, bulk trash needs to be taken to the SORT yard and put in the orange containers, and colored glass needs to be recycled in the proper containers—by color.

"It is easy if you pay attention—we recycle at home anyway," he added.

Part of Seefried's duties is to oversee the services supplied to the community in order to implement the program.

"For solid waste, which includes residual waste and recycled waste, the garrison spent over \$2 million the past fiscal year. That brought the recycling rate to 44 percent, up from 43.97 percent in 2007," she said. "That is still great by comparison to other communities, but we are able to increase it by better sorting waste with education, which is the most important point to reach higher recycling rates."

She added that the entire USAG Ansbach—Katterbach, Bismarck, Shipton, Barton, Bleidorn, and Illesheim—generated an average of 280 tons a month of residual waste and 216 tons a month of that are recycled."

Seefried says that the most important point in talking to the children is saving energy.

"We are really glad to have the opportunity to educate them at this early age to save energy—an aspect of the program that translates into saving money," she said. "Reducing waste volume, on post and off, and

sorting wastes protects valuable resources like water and air. The children have to understand, for the future, we have to protect our earth and it all starts with them and at home."

Winners of the SORT Days competitions:

Illesheim Elementary School

1st prize: Christopher Schlagen
2nd prize: Anne Dillon
3rd prize: Nathaniel Ortega-Torres, Brandon Coulter and Miguel Santiago

Ansbach Elementary School

1st prize: Bailey Callahan
2nd prize: Samantha Showers, Maranata Temese Jr., Lashana Delduarte, Nicolette Scroggs, Claire Farrell, Samantha Teixeira, Miguel Rivera, Dominique Jones

3rd prize: Jamie Wright, Jerico Vilorio, Megan McEwan, Britney Sweitzer, Echo Stewart, Rebecca Wiedeman, Francheska Honsviek, Ava Greene, Jordyn Bradley

The "Recycling Fashion Designer 2008": Echo Stewart and Leonardo Garcia

Winners received recognition and prizes for their accomplishments April 15. The first place winners received a badminton game, a cap, and a calculator. The second and third place winners received caps, rulers, pens, and small recycling bins for desks.

There was no competition at Rainbow Elementary due to the fire at the school around the time SORT was scheduled.



Juergen Stoehr, USAG Ansbach environmental office, explains the container SORT game rules to Kayla Hilliard and Allelys Simerly, fifth-graders at Illesheim Elementary School March 27.

High school FBLA racks up awards at DoDDS-E conference

by JIM HUGHES
USAG Ansbach CI Chief

Six Ansbach high schoolers attended the Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Europe Future Business Leaders of America conference in Garmisch in late February—bringing back five awards and a newly-elected national officer.

Brandon Vigil, Daniel Robinson, Larissa Deikun, Marie Cook, Marcus Allen, and Richard Gutteridge joined hundreds of other DoDDS-E students at the event at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort for three days of workshops, competitions, and guest speakers.

Vigil earned top honors in the spreadsheet applications competition and the FBLA's Got Talent competition, and also was elected as the DoDDS-E FBLA treasurer.

Robinson tied for first place in the business law competition and Deikun placed third in the job interview competition.

Janet Cook, a teacher at the school, FBLA chapter adviser, and also a member of the club's state board, said the successes enjoyed by Ansbach students aren't that surprising.

"In general, Ansbach High School has good kids and the kids in FBLA

worked hard to prepare themselves for the competitions," she said. "I worked with the kids to prepare them—I've been on the state board for a few years so I know they need to do more than just show up to do well."

That preparation paid off for Deikun, a sophomore.

"Ms. Cook and Marie helped me with the resume and cover letter—there were many, many revisions," Deikun said. "I probably would've worn the wrong outfit if it wasn't for Marie. I ironed my clothes before I went, and I never iron anything."

"The whole thing was about how you present yourself, so I sat there in the little proper position and answered 'Yes, sir. No, sir.' I think my credentials also helped a lot—ROTC, FBLA reporter, last year captain of the cross-country team—I have a lot of things going on."

Thanks to a bit of an oversight, Deikun didn't find out she'd won third until they were packing to leave.

"I looked down and saw a certificate—then asked, 'Why is my name on this certificate?'"

"They just forgot to call her name," Cook chimed in.

For future plans, Deikun, who is accelerating her schedule to graduate

next year, would like to become a veterinarian and is considering joining the Air Force via an ROTC scholarship.

Vigil's impressive run at the conference was highlighted by becoming the DoDDS-E FBLA treasurer. That position entitles the junior to attend the FBLA's National Leadership Conference in Atlanta this summer. But he might need some help to get there, he said.

"They pay for the hotel and meals, but I have to come up with the travel money," he said.

In true entrepreneurial fashion, Vigil said people who would like to donate money to his trip fund can call the school office and ask how to donate to the student trip fund.

"Being treasurer means I'm in charge of all the finances and know what goes in and comes out," he said. "To get elected, I had to make a poster and give a speech."

The Microsoft Excel-certified Vigil also scored first in the spreadsheet applications competition where he had to solve several problems and send in a "big packet" of his work.

Next on his list of feats at the conference was earning top honors in the talent competition—Beatboxing (a

way of making music with your mouth) his way to the win over about 15 other students.

"It was the second time I'd performed before large crowd, but I've been doing it for a year or two now—I just do it for fun," he said. "I got a \$50 AAFES gift card and they made a big banner saying that I'd won."

Vigil is working on getting nominated to the Air Force Academy and becoming a pilot, or working in economics.

Robinson said his win in the business law competition came as quite a surprise considering his score was 41 out of 100 on the multiple choice test.

"I thought it was such a bad score—much below what I expected to do—but then I found out the average score was 20 or so, I thought, 'Wait a minute, that score can't win,'" the senior said.

The low scores aren't indicative of how hard the test was or a statement against the DoDDS-E's business academia, but more of what the test is designed for, said Cook.

"The tests are expected to be taken in summer after kids completed the full classes," she said. "But these kids had to take the test at end of first semester,

so they hadn't had the second semester worth of stuff—no one had it, so it was an even playing field."

Robinson said at the beginning of the school year, he wanted to become a lawyer, but now he's looking at a more business-related career with non-profit organization like a museum, zoo, or science project.

"My passion will be for something that does something for someone else—something to give back to community," he said.

Robinson will graduate in June and plans to head for school at the University of Mobile in Mobile, Ala.

"My dad went there exactly 30 years ago, so it will be an honor to go to that school," he said.

Ansbach's FBLA is 15-students strong and meets during seminar periods during school days.

"We try and give them an idea of what happens in different businesses," Cook said. "And it benefits kids even if they're not interested in business—just to see what is going on and what is out there—something they experience might peak their interest. A lot of kids don't know what is out there—they only see the Army. We want to give them a better idea of what is available in world."

WHY I SERVE

Soldier strives to motivate others, challenge himself

by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
Task Force XII Public Affairs

Throughout his childhood, Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Branchetti and his two brothers loved to build forts and pretend they were soldiers in opposing armies—they would battle each other to become the leader of a dangerous, yet familiar, territory known as their backyard.

Branchetti, being the oldest, always played the “good guy” during these backyard skirmishes, and welcomed the challenge whenever his brothers would team up against him.

Now the noncommissioned officer in charge of Task Force XII’s Air Defense Airspace Management Cell, Branchetti continues to look for challenges in his daily life and tries to motivate other Soldiers in the process.

“Since I arrived to Task Force XII, I have been working outside of my Military Occupational Specialty,” said Branchetti, a patriot missile launching station operator and maintainer. “A few months ago, I didn’t know anything about aviation, but now I can tell you all about aircraft and operations. I try to learn everything about the job I’m doing, and then I ask myself ‘what’s next?’”

ADAM Cell Soldiers keep track of the locations and altitudes of “No Fly Zones” for Task Force XII aviators.

“Fly zones can be closed off for several reasons like qualification ranges, artillery test firing or for special operations,” said Branchetti, who hails from Cape Coral, Fla. “When ‘No Fly Zone’ information comes out, we put it into a tracking system and push it out to the units.”

Not all “No Fly Zones” mean no flying, some zones just have limitations on what times and altitudes they can be traveled.

Working with patriot missile launch systems has given him a clearer understanding of the altitudes at which different objects travel, but his experiences working with a Special Police Transition Team in Iraq have given him an



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Branchetti, NCO in charge of Task Force XII’s Air Defense Airspace Management Cell, volunteered to be deployed on his current assignment. In 2006, he worked with an Iraqi National Police training camp.

uncanny knowledge of the roads and terrain in the Baghdad area, he said.

“In 2006, I worked side-by-side with the Iraqi Commandos and with an Operational Detachment Alpha Team—most of our missions consisted of locating and capturing high-value

targets and items in the Baghdad area,” said Branchetti, who has been in the military for more than 14 years.

“My wife, Mercedes, and my daughter, Vittoria, weren’t exactly pleased that I volunteered for this assignment, but my MOS

had not deployed to Iraq since 2003 and there are so many Soldiers today who have deployed multiple times already. I felt it wasn’t right for me to continue to stay behind.”

Branchetti gained a vast knowledge of convoy routes in the area, as well as the Combat Action Badge for his involvement in numerous firefights with al-Qaeda in Iraq operatives.

“When we would clear a building, sometimes I would be the second or third person to enter the building—that means I trusted them with my life,” he said. “My tour with the Iraqis was awesome because I got to learn so much about Iraqi people, their military and myself.”

Branchetti is a real asset to Task Force XII because he has been in the area before and knows the terrain, but more importantly he knows the air above the terrain, said Lt. Col. Bryan Hoff, the operations officer for Task Force XII and a native of Felton, Minn.

In addition to being a combat veteran, Branchetti’s resume includes being airborne and air assault qualified and he is currently cross-training to become a UH-60 Black Hawk door gunner.

“His combat experience has allowed him to make a smooth transition into becoming a door gunner,” said Stockton, Calif., native, Sgt. Juan Haninger, a flight instructor in Company A, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. “Seeing someone who is so multitasked really makes me want to push myself and seek challenges in life.”

Even though several years, and thousands of miles, now separate Branchetti from the backyard he and his brothers once used as a battleground, his desire to accept a challenge was never left behind.

“I try to challenge myself everyday and motivate the Soldiers around me to challenge themselves to become not just better Soldiers, but better people,” said Branchetti. “I feel extremely proud of myself and my military career because I accepted each challenge and I succeeded.”

Brothers reunited: Iraqi deployment brings siblings together

Story and photo by
Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
Task Force XII Public Affairs

Throughout their military careers, Staff Sgt. Shane Hansen and his brother, Sgt. 1st Class Zane Hansen, have always been on opposite sides of the world.

Over the years, the combination of both brothers getting married, having children, and being stationed in different places has reduced the number of chances they saw one another. But an unexpected mission change, combined with a little good fortune, brought them together in Iraq.

Shane, who is stationed in Katterbach, deployed to Logistical Support Area Anaconda in July while Zane, who is stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, learned his unit would also deploy to Iraq in November.

When Task Force XII received the mission of becoming the aviation task force for Multi-National Division—Baghdad, the Hansen brothers found their first opportunity to be stationed together.

“I was excited when I found out we would be here together because the last time I saw (Zane), before this deployment, was at our parents’ house in August of 2004,” said Shane, a

section sergeant in Company D, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. “We usually get to see each other about once every five years.”

Even though the brothers, natives of Wichita, Kan., live and work less than a half a mile away from each other, they still remain worlds apart.

“Right now I’m working night shift and (Shane) works day shift—it seems like every time my shift changes, so does his,” said Zane, a platoon sergeant in Troop T, 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. “Since we’ve been stationed here together, we’ve only seen each other about three or four times.”

“Our different shifts, and different reset days, makes it difficult to see each other unless we really put forth an effort to going over to where the other one works,” said Shane, who has been in the Army for 12 years.

Their families have mixed feelings about them being stationed together in Iraq.

“Our wives are happy that we are stationed here together because they feel we have someone to talk to,” said Shane, a UH-60 Black Hawk maintainer. “Our parents don’t like the idea of us being here together because if something happens, it might happen to both of us—but our older sister isn’t

too worried about us being here.”

Both brothers are on their second deployment. Zane previously deployed to Bosnia and Shane to Afghanistan. Zane, being the oldest, joined the Army a little more than a year before Shane.

“When I joined the Army in 1994, I got stationed in Korea,” said Zane, an AH-64D Apache Longbow maintainer. “When he joined the Army and got stationed in Hawaii, I was stationed in the States.”

Communicating with each other was difficult for the first couple of years because there was no Internet, but now, it’s definitely gotten a lot better, said Shane.

Zane has always been in aviation, but Shane started his military career as a signal Soldier.

“I really didn’t like that job, and Zane would always tell me about his job and all of the cool things he did,” said Shane. “He wasn’t the only reason I chose this job, but he definitely helped me make my decision.”

Their grandfathers were also in the military and both served during World War II. Their father also served in the Army—he joined shortly after the Vietnam War.

Growing up, they had plenty of



Staff Sgt. Shane Hansen, left, is deployed from Katterbach, while his older brother, Sgt. 1st Class Zane Hansen, is deployed from Ft. Hood, Texas.

good times mixed with a little bit of mischief. Although they try to stay professional, and call each other “Sergeant Hansen” when around other Soldiers, childhood memories sometimes resurface.

“All of (Zane’s) Soldiers want to know about him,” said Shane. “Every once in a while, one of them will come up to me and ask me questions about

him, and I’ll give them a tidbit of information about some of the things he did growing up.”

Shane has been selected for promotion to sergeant first class and said, in the future, he would like to be stationed back in the United States. Of course, Zane said he and his wife are discussing the idea of asking to go to Europe.

CAB public affairs enhancing morale at home and downrange

by Maj. DON STONER
Task Force XII S-1

Why is it that people love to see flattering pictures of themselves, yet most don’t seem to want their picture taken?

Ironically, the Iraqi soldiers and children we have come into contact with since our arrival at Camp Taji flock to the camera, while the American Soldiers seem to shy away.

This has not discouraged the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs team from capturing the

images and stories of this deployment.

Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton, a native of Kingfisher, Okla., and Sgt. Brandon Little, of Washington, N.C., have created their own legacy as the first public affairs team ever assigned to the 12th CAB.

They are yet another example of the increased capability now resident within aviation and sustainment brigades as Army modularization has pushed resources down to brigade levels.

It’s hard to imagine that just over one year ago the 12th CAB Public Affairs Office was a single room with

one empty desk, waiting for the arrival of these public affairs professionals.

After eight months in Iraq, Seaton and Little are credited with providing a vital lifeline between deployed Soldiers and thousands of family members in Germany. They have captured thousands of photographic images, published almost one hundred print stories—along with multiple broadcast stories—and created the first TV commercial for the 12th CAB.

Task Force XII operations officer Lt. Col. Bryan Hoff says the impact of public affairs, when compared to

his previous Afghanistan deployment with the 12th CAB in 2005, has been positive.

“Having public affairs Soldiers assigned to the brigade significantly increases the morale and pride in the unit by providing news and information to families, and increasing visibility of Soldiers and the mission to Europe and nationwide,” he said.

The efforts of these outstanding public affairs professionals will be highlighted during the 12th CAB Faces of Freedom broadcast, which was

broadcast April 10 on the American Forces Network Prime Atlantic channel with a second part to be broadcast at a later time to be determined.

By visiting <http://www.afneurope.net>, viewers will be able to view and download it from the web after the show date. All the shows are archived under the Faces of Freedom tab.

Also be sure to check out stories on 12th CAB Soldiers at the unit’s public Web site <http://www.12cab.army.mil/>.

Local radiology facility benefits military

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Living overseas with the military often means having limited access to medical specialists on post. In Schweinfurt, this isn't such a big problem, because English-speaking host-nation providers in Schweinfurt can supply such a wide range of care options for American patients, including some of the most state-of-the-art diagnostic care available.

Prof. Dr. Jean-Michel Friedrich and his partners run the Radiologische Praxis Schweinfurt, with locations near St. Josef's and Leopoldina hospitals. Friedrich's clinic specializes in many forms of diagnostic testing including magnetic resonance imaging, X-ray, sonograms, mammograms, and computerized tomography scans.

"We have an enormous demand for testing. Our clinic is the only certified screening facility in our area," Friedrich said.

The clinic next to Leopoldina was also one of the first clinics to employ what is known as a 3-tesla MRI scanner and is still the only such machine in the area.

"The machine is especially good for imaging joints. There is a great amount of fine detail to

help in diagnostics," Friedrich said.

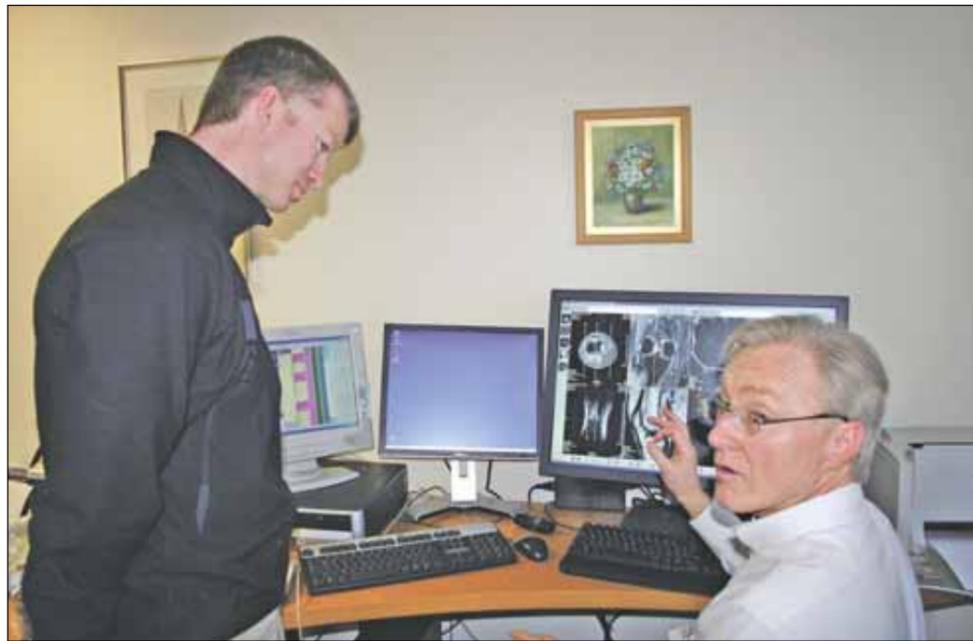
And the process is very fast, taking only about five minutes to scan, rather than 30 or more as can be the case with other imaging techniques. The shorter scan time means patients do not get restless and move, requiring repeated scans.

Patients undergoing diagnostic tests are counseled regarding findings and given both a picture CD and print outs of imaging to take back to their primary care physician. Additionally, the clinic prepares English-language short reports regarding the diagnostic results for American physicians.

"Those reports help us quite a bit. When reports come in German, we sometimes have to wait weeks for an official translation," said Kevin Worth, nurse case manager in charge of host nation care with the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

The short reports contain all of the essential information to help physicians interpret the diagnostic images and best decide how to proceed with a care plan for the patient, Worth explained.

"We let the physician who referred the patient decide what to do after the testing," Friedrich said. "The absolute most fundamental part of good care is patient/doctor communication."



Prof. Dr. Jean-Michel Friedrich (right) explains the benefits of high-resolution MRI scanning for joints, such as the knee, to registered nurse Kevin Worth, of the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

ACS class teaches Soldiers, families to get out of debt

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Americans in today's society are continually racking up debt due to several key factors: spending more than what is earned, failing to establish a budget, spending on impulse, and purchasing wants instead of needs.

"Today, anybody will give you credit if you ask," said Darryl Jones, Army Community Service financial readiness program manager in his class



Jones

Seven Steps to Getting Out of Debt. Schweinfurt's ACS offers financial classes each month taught by Jones, and this one emphasizes

the importance of learning to manage debt.

First, by acknowledging debt and admitting the financial struggle, a desire for change can be established. Step two requires creating a budget by listing routine monthly expenses and detailing debt, then measuring that against income.

"We (came) to get a better idea of what's the best way to spend our money ... We've got a little bit of debt, and we want to get out of it before the baby comes," said Natoshia Williams, who came to the financial class with her husband.

Step three entails learning how to maximize your income by taking advantage of reduced or free lunch programs or food stamps if you or your family qualifies.

Now is also an opportune time to use tax refunds or the money received through the upcoming Economic Stimulus Package to reduce debts.

"Start paying yourself ... if you don't have savings right now, start with something as little as \$25 a month," Jones said. With the Internet allowing instant access to money these days, Jones recommends putting the money away in a bank that doesn't have easy access through the Internet or ATM.

Making cut-backs comes next. Learn to save on transportation by walking, riding bike, carpooling, or taking public transport. Eating out dramatically increases expenditures, and Jones recommends making a lunch each day instead. Taking advantage of the food and other product coupons supplied on base is an additional cost-cutter.

"Financially, I need to make myself better," said Spc. Malcolm Sheehe, member of the Schweinfurt Warrior Transition Unit, who also attended the class.

Steps five and six include prioritizing current debts and beginning to make regular payments

to creditors. Jones suggests targeting the smallest debts to get rid of them so that more can be applied to the larger debts.

"Don't ignore (your creditors). Send them something. It's better than nothing—even if it's only \$10," Jones said.

Some relief can be found for Soldiers through the Service Members Civil Relief Act. By writing a letter to the creditor, Soldiers may be eligible for the reduced interest rate of six percent on debt accrued pre-service.

The last step involves working out a long-term financial plan. Change your lifestyle, stay away from credit cards, and make only cash purchases.

"Start eliminating debt today. It starts with a commitment to change," Jones said.

Jones' next class, "Eliminate Debt for Good" will take place at Ledward ACS May 6 at 9 a.m. For more information, or to sign up, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Memo to be used towards issue of lost or stolen ID

by **MARK HEETER**
USAG Schweinfurt PAO

A look at the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt military police statistics indicates one incident category as the consistent leader: the lost or stolen military identification card.

"One day we came in, and they had lost 21 cards over the weekend," said Rhonda Hawes, chief of the military personnel division with the Directorate of Human Resources. Some Soldiers have lost two or three times apiece, she said.

While USAG Schweinfurt policy memorandum 1-15 prescribes the procedures for replacing lost or stolen ID cards, a recently upgraded computer system requires two forms of identification — a problem if all forms of identification are gone.

"It (the computer system for issuing ID cards) requires two forms of ID, including the current ID card if

it's still valid, and another form of ID. And that could be a stateside driver's license, social security card, official or tourist passport. For school-aged kids, it could be school records, something that will identify the person," Hawes said.

"When a Soldier has lost everything, and we have had several of those, when they do not have a second form of ID, the commander can sign off on memo. Then they have to bring the report that they get from the military police, with the memo back to the ID card section," and a new card can be issued, she said.

The memo can be obtained at the Soldier or family member's unit, or the civilian personnel office which was authorized to issue the identification card.

"That's for Soldiers, civilians, contractors, that's for everybody," who loses all forms of identification, Hawes said.

Acceleration program allowing PCSing students to withdraw early with full credit

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

The school year ends in June for students in the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt. For some parents with Permanent Change of Station orders, June may not be soon enough.

For those parents, and their children, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools has an answer: the acceleration program.

Families with PCS orders between May 15 and the last day of school may request their child's school year be accelerated. Students may then be removed prior to the last day of school and still receive full credit for the year.

"The program helps families that are moving at the end of the school year by not requiring students to re-enroll at their new duty station. Because school districts have such

varying year-end dates, this program offers some stability," said Damon McGibboney, school liaison officer for the USAG Schweinfurt.

Parents who wish to accelerate their child's school year must have PCS orders dated between May 15 and June 13 and complete a program application 30 days prior to the withdrawal date.

"We encourage parents to keep children in school for as long as they can. May 15 is the earliest, but not the only, acceleration date," McGibboney said.

A final requirement for completion of the acceleration program mandates that the student must complete and submit all work assignments that would come due between the day of withdrawal and the end of the school year, as determined by the school and their instructors.

"The student will only receive credit for passing grades, of course," McGibboney said.

Only PCS moves falling within the school year qualify a student for accelerated withdrawal, according to high school registrar Svetlana Tucker.

"We sometimes have parents who take leave and want to apply for accelerated withdrawal," McGibboney explained, noting that the program is designed to help families that are moving due to military needs.

Families who move before May 15 will be expected to complete a regular withdrawal and then enroll their children in school upon reaching their new duty station.

For more information about the acceleration program, contact your school's registrar or the school liaison office at DSN 354-6090 or CIV 09721-96-6090.

Garrison recognizes 39 local nationals for long-standing service

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

Thirty-nine German employees were honored for 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service and dedication to the U.S. Army in a ceremony and luncheon held in the Conn Club April 3.

"This ceremony gives the garrison the opportunity to recognize and thank the devoted local national employees, without whom our community would not function," said John McIntyre, director of human resources for the

garrison.

In remarks to the assembled honorees and their families, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager extended thanks not only from the Army, but from himself personally.

"I know for a fact that we are lucky" to have such a great relationship with the German community of Schweinfurt, he said. Haager went on to thank the honorees "from the bottom of my heart" for their selfless and long-lasting dedication

to the Schweinfurt military community.

The spring ceremony is something of a change for the annual length-of-service awards, as they are called. The ceremony is usually held in the fall, honoring everyone who had, in the previous year, reached service milestones.

The consolidation of the Wuerzburg and Schweinfurt military communities led to such a large gathering last fall—158 individuals were honored—that the decision was made to hold two separate ceremonies this year, keeping the group

of honorees smaller and the event more personal.

After speeches from Haager, Schweinfurt Lord Mayor Gudrun Grieser, and works council chairman Michael Doerfer, each honoree was called to the front to receive award certificates and pose for pictures with Haager and Grieser.

"Your continued support keeps our community intact, healthy and vibrant," Haager said. "Our community remains on the cutting edge of family programming and Soldier care thanks to dedicated individuals like yourselves."

Health clinic implements scheduling changes

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

Effective May 1, the Schweinfurt Health Clinic will implement new guidelines for scheduling appointments. The plan, which utilizes a staggered timeline for calling in same-day appointments, has a two-fold aim: help the clinic meet the mission of caring for Soldiers and their family members and reduce the number of missed appointments or no-shows.

"For the first three months of the year, we had approximately 500 no-shows, costing the clinic nearly \$50,000," said Lt. Col. Daniel Duecker, Schweinfurt Health Clinic commander, noting that every missed appointment soaks up time and funding that could better be used helping patients.

"If we keep that pace up, we're going to lose

a physician," Duecker noted. A physician should see 100 patients per week, or 20 per day, in order to meet medical command staffing guidelines. Missed appointments could contribute to a reduction in staffing levels.

Most missed appointments are those that are set for a future date, rather than a same-day appointment. To counteract the no-show problem, the health clinic will move to an almost-exclusively same-day appointment scheduling program.

"It is essentially an open access program. If you call today, we'll see you today," Duecker said.

To accomplish this goal, changes in appointment scheduling practices will be implemented.

Active duty Soldiers in need of care will report to sick call, and those determined to be in

need of further medical care will primarily be seen before 9 a.m. In any military health clinic, Soldier care is priority one.

"The change for Soldiers will be transparent, as they will still report to sick call at their aid stations," Duecker said.

Family members in need of care can begin calling at 7 a.m. to schedule same-day appointments. These family appointments will begin no earlier than 9 a.m., allowing parents time to get their children off to school and doctors time to care for Soldiers.

All other patients will be seen on a space-available basis, in line with the clinic's mission of providing care primarily for Soldiers and their families. These patients can begin calling about possible appointment openings at 10 a.m.

"Essentially, if you are not a Tricare Prime enrollee, you can't call until 10 o'clock," Duecker

said.

This move will help prioritize appointment scheduling, allowing Soldiers and family members to seek appointments first as dictated by the medical command's mission. Referral for care in host nation facilities is offered if appointment slots at the clinic are full.

Patients should arrive at all appointments 15 minutes early, and showing up 10 or more minutes late will result in your appointment being cancelled.

"Things happen—flat tires, last minute emergencies—but if you can't make your appointment, call. We may be able to schedule you in a later slot, and we can open yours up immediately for someone else," Duecker said.

To schedule an appointment at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic, call DSN 354-7901 or CIV 09721-96-7901.

Carmack remembered in March 28 chapel service

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment gathered March 28 to remember Pvt. Jeremiah Carmack, whose death March 14—three days before the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment became I-2 IN—meant he died a Vanguard, but still at brother-in-arms of the Black Scarves.



Carmack

"We will all end this life in some final setting. It is a natural human tendency to focus on the passing," said Lt. Col. Steven Miska, battalion commander. "But I would argue that the real value of our lives comes when it is at its peak."

Carmack was a prior-service Soldier who joined the Army for the second time in July and came to Schweinfurt as Vanguard assigned to the rear-detachment. The brigade returned in the fall.

Having not served downrange with his battalion meant that Carmack was not well known, according to Miska.

"But we all mourn his loss," he said.

At thirty years old, Carmack was a bit older than the average private and quiet. He made friends "in the Army way," by accident of association in the battalion, rather than by actively seeking them out, said Pvt. Steven Calnan.

"He was a good guy," he said.

Carmack was a source of Army knowledge Calnan could tap into and a movie aficionado who seemed to know, within seconds, what flick was playing on the tube.

"It's like he had seen every movie we could want to watch," Calnan said.

Although he did not serve in Iraq with the battalion, Miska asserted that Carmack's willingness to do so, as proven by his enlisting during a time of war, defined his character, and is worthy of honor and remembrance.

"He was a son, and a brother, and a nephew of whom his family will always be proud. He was also a Soldier," and will always be a Vanguard, Miska said.

Senators visit troops in Afghanistan



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Jason LeVay, of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry (Airborne), (from left) briefs senators John Kerry, Joe Biden, and Chuck Hagel at Camp Monti, Asmart District, Kunar Province, Afghanistan. LeVay showcased his troop's reconstruction efforts, stressing the need for continued funding. "Had we been doing what you are doing now six years ago, we'd be home by now," Biden noted, praising the unit's efforts in the war-torn area.

Ex-Schweinfurt Soldier returns to visit site of first duty station

Story and photo by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

When Darion Glover left Schweinfurt in 1989, it was with a broken back and little hope of ever seeing his first duty station again. Glover was injured during training in Grafenwoehr, and was medically separated from service.

Nineteen years to the day after his accident, Glover found himself touring Ledward Barracks Saturday with his wife Colleen, best friend Dana Lovik, and sister-in-law Rebecca Slatkin.

"He's been excited for months. Can you imagine returning to a place that meant so much to you, after so many years?" Slatkin said as Glover pointed out his barracks and old dining facility, which is now the 9th Engineer headquarters.

Soldiers from 9E and 2nd Battalion, 28th

Infantry Regiment, spotting Glover, invited him to join a barbeque, which provided an opportunity to compare notes about Soldier experiences. Glover had his own message to convey as well.

"I just want you to know that we back home in the States support you all, and we're proud of you," Glover said, shaking hands and asking for names and hometowns.

Soldiers from Alaska to Texas added their own flavor to the visit, trading opinions on barracks living and the new Meals-Ready-to-Eat—beef stew is good hot or cold, but meal 8 is best.

"This visit has been wonderful. This garrison is doing great things for Soldiers. I'm ready to re-enlist," Glover said, laughing.

"But he's serious," his wife added. "He's tried before."



Rebecca Slatkin, Darion and Colleen Glover, and Dana Lovik listen as Spc. Mike Bolin discusses life as a Soldier and the secrets of a making an authentic Southern homemade barbeque sauce.

Retirees turn out in force for retiree appreciation day

Story and photo by **MARK HEETER**
USAG Schweinfurt PAO

Hundreds of years of military experience spanning generations packed into the personnel transition assistance center on Conn Barracks for the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt retiree appreciation day April 12.

"You're a part of our community, and it's important that we take care of our community," said Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, as he addressed 117 retirees and their family members at the opening of the RAD.

One of the hottest tickets was the shuttle trip to the Schweinfurt dental clinic on Ledward Barracks, while organizers brought in subject-matter experts from as far away as the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Indianapolis.

"Today is your day. Make sure you get what you came for. And if we don't have what you need, then tell us," Haager said, encouraging them all to use the opportunity to do everything from getting a new identification card to getting their teeth checked and finances checked.

Before presenting certificates of appreciation and awards to several participants and organizers, he thanked the retirees for their service.

"Our nation is what it is today because of the sacrifices you and your families have made," he said. "It's a privilege and an honor to provide this service."

The first RAD hosted in Schweinfurt met the organizers goal of providing "more services to more retirees at more locations." The event was traditionally held in Heidelberg.

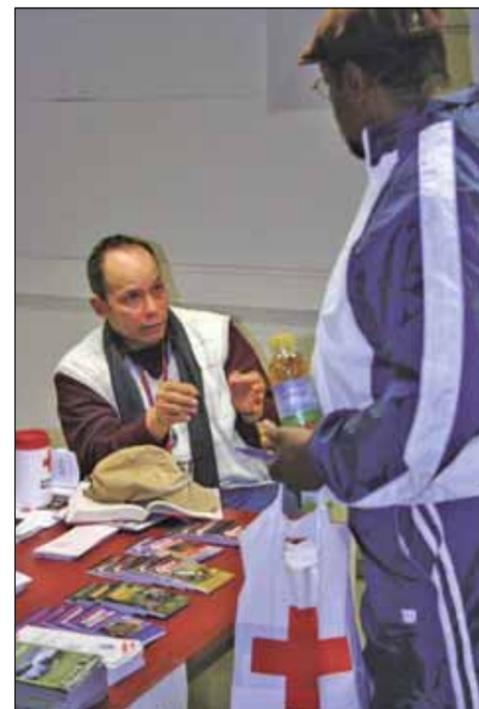
The decision to host one in Schweinfurt hit the mark, according to Mike Swafford, head of the Schweinfurt retiree council.

"I could count all the Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg retirees on one hand," when visiting the Heidelberg RAD, Swafford said. "We've reached a lot of retirees and widows that

wouldn't have come (had it been held elsewhere)," Swafford said.

In a basement corner, Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Jose Santiago, working for Army Community Service, offered some advice to one of his fellow retirees, Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Espy Johnson.

"Retirees can really help each other out," Santiago said. And where they might not be able to, the USAG Schweinfurt is ready to fill in the gap.



Jose Santiago talks to Espy Johnson about the benefits available to retirees during the April 12 retiree appreciation day.

'Eye Care About You'

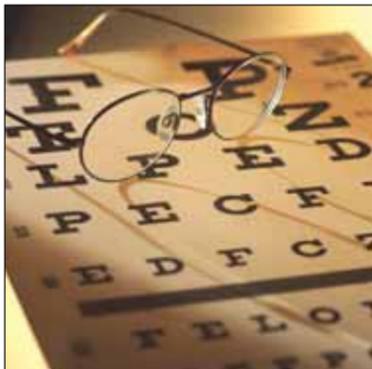
Seasonal allergy relief available at local clinic

by Capt. KYLE SMITH
Katterbach Optometrist

"Spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's Party!'" - Robin Williams

Spring is when we think of regeneration, of the new rising from the old, of the sun returning to warm our skin and our souls, and are reminded that darkness and cold last only for a season.

Spring is full of Bambi and daffodils, fuzzy ducklings and budding trees, and for 50 million Americans – the return of seasonal allergies.



Red, watery, itchy eyes are among the most common complaints associated with seasonal allergies.

This occurs when the immune system cells of the eye react to the pollen and other allergy causing particles in the air.

These cells then release a cascade of chemicals including histamine, causing the blood vessels to dilate (red eyes), extra tears to be produced (watery eyes), make the eyelids puffy, and tell your brain that your eyes feel itchy.

This is usually accompanied by sneezing, nasal congestion, and sinus

pressure.

Thankfully, modern medicine has given us some fantastic ways to make you feel better.

For people with all of the above symptoms, an allergy pill taken during allergy season will take care of most of your symptoms.

However, some people will still have red, itchy eyes which are not improved with oral medication, and some people only have eye symptoms without the congestion.

If this is you or someone you know, do not despair. We have fantastic medicated eye drops that will get you back to normal in no time.

If your head is full of congestion and you feel like you want to scrub your eyes with a Brillo pad, come in to the clinic for some relief.

Soon you'll be back to enjoying nature's party – spring!



HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

Dear Demetrius,
I spoke with you a long time ago in regards to an exercise program. I have seen some good weight loss and am now ready for the big step across the gym to weight lifting. Do you know any rules regarding weights? I don't want to feel like I am being rude or look out of place.

"Learning the Ropes"

Brenda

Dear Brenda,
Thank you so much for this question. I am ecstatic to provide you an answer.

Gym Etiquette:
1. If you are waiting for equipment, it is okay to say "excuse me, how many sets do you have left?" This lets others know someone is waiting.
2. Don't slam the weights. Proper weight lifting utilizes control and form. Grunting, yelling, and slamming weights does not get you the attention you want or the results

you are looking for.
3. Rack your weights after use. Imagine your mother wanting to use a machine you just used loaded down with heavy weights. Besides being rude, we are too old for our mothers to be cleaning up after us.
4. Use gym towels to wipe sweat before it hits the machine and also to lay claim on equipment, this is why you have one towel.

5. Do not monopolize the gym. Try to use exercise equipment one at a time. It is unfair to others to monopolize equipment, and this includes dumbbells.

I hope these few rules help. In all honesty, it is the people who have been working out for years who make these mistakes. Newcomers always do fine.

Good luck!

Demetrius

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to usagnews@EUR.army.mil.

Demetrius is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.

NEW in town



Photo by Katie Cowart

This new electric car is one of two that arrived April 7 at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Director of Logistics to begin a six-month trial investigating the savings of having all-electric cars. The cars do not use fuel, can travel about 70 kilometers before needing to be recharged, and can reach a speed of about 40 kilometers per hour.



Photo by Mary Markos

DaMya Jones, 4, prepares to sing at the third annual kid's karaoke event held April 11 at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Library.

NSPS measuring tools designed to ensure workforce equality

Continued From Page 1

the EEOC's mission from the general service, or GS, pay schedule to the current NSPS pay-for-performance system.

"The EEOC's charge is to eradicate employment discrimination, both in the federal and the private sectors," he explained. "One of the ways they do that is through agency reporting."

"The Army, for years, was under the General Schedule pay system. Last year, we ... went from the GS to the National Security Personnel System. The developmental assignment involved me taking a look at this new pay-for-performance system and how the EEOC is going to continue to provide oversight of agency compliance under this new system."

The new system, according to Covert, does not allow agencies to visualize the makeup of their workforce.

"Under the GS system, there was a career ladder. Under NSPS, there is essentially only three pay bands," he

said. "It was real easy to capture people in the GS ranks... What it can't do, currently, is capture the race, national origin, gender, etc... (of the NSPS workforce)."

The ability of an agency to capture the makeup of their employees discourages discrimination.

"At the end of the year if you find in your workforce that 90 percent of white males received a performance award, and only 20 percent of black males did, then you'd want to examine why. Is there a policy, procedure, or practice in place that is preventing any group from equal employment in the workplace?" he explained.

During his fellowship in D.C., Covert developed measuring tools to allow EEOC compliance and help agencies avoid discrimination by gathering ethnic, gender, national origin, and disability information related to each employee.

"What will happen, if the EEOC implement the additional measuring tools, then every Army agency, down to the U.S. Army Garrison

Grafenwoehr, will report those additional measuring tools, and so what we have ... (is) a snapshot of where we are at and where we can improve," he said.

Covert said the measuring system does more than improve the agency from a management standpoint.

"Employees need to know that there is a system out there to ensure fairness and equity in employment."

IMCOM-Europe's EEO Director Annie Buther understands the far reaching impact of the new measuring tools and how they will enhance the EEO program.

"We are very excited about having one of our own present facts and suggestions that will be used to enhance IMCOM's model EEO program under the auspices of the EEO Commission," she said. "(Covert's) participation in the fellowship has gone a long way to enhance our capabilities, not only in EEO but his participation will also have positive impact on the federal workforce, especially those under NSPS."

Baby monitors purchased in the U.S. can block cell signals

Continued From Page 1

frequency blocked by someone using an illegally operated frequency device, it could be seen as breach of contract and the cell phone provider can be sued by the person whose service was blocked," said Federline, explaining the steep fines.

He noted that the U.S. government and any private or commercial organizations are required to coordinate with the host nation prior to introducing frequency-generating equipment into the host nation.

"The bottom line is that the Bundesnetzagentur indeed has a right and duty under the SOFA

Supplementary Agreement to perform frequency monitoring. They have the authority to monitor all frequencies that are in use within the boundaries of the Federal Republic of Germany," said Federline, "and their right to conduct monitoring is paramount to the monitoring conducted in the United States by the Federal Communications Commission.

Inquiries concerning frequency issues should be addressed to the garrison Emergency Operations Center at Grafenwoehr or Hohenfels. The EOC will further direct the query to the appropriate (federal or U.S. military) frequency manager.

Place your free classified ad in the Bavarian News!

Call DSN 475-7113 or CIV 09641-83-7113 for information.

Running on a prayer

Graf community takes it to the streets during Paris marathon

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

What do three chaplains, five military spouses, six Grafenwoehr Protestant congregation members, and nearly 30,000 strangers have in common?

A pair of running shoes and a medal from the 32nd Annual Paris International Marathon after they competed April 6 in the famed City of

Lights.

But for 15 Grafenwoehr and Vilseck community members, the race was no laughing matter.

The group, made up of experienced and novice runners, leaned on each other for support and guidance as they prepared for the 26.2 mile run.

"By having a group of friends participating in the Paris marathon all of us motivated each other," said first-time marathon participant Hilda

Eusebio. "We would encourage each other and give tips on running trails (or) routes, good running gear ... and what would be good energy food and drinks."

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander Capt. Amelia Waldon found the experience of others invaluable.

"It is nice to know there are other people out there and if you did have a

random question, there is someone else in the community that can give you some guidance," she said.

For many of the runners, guidance came from USAG Grafenwoehr Chaplain (Col.) David Hillis. Nicknamed "Kill-us Hillis" after leading students in intense up-hill sprints while an instructor at the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course, he has completed 27 marathons and appreciates the benefits of knowing other competitors on race day.

"You encourage one another," he said. "We went out to dinner a couple of times and we celebrated afterwards. Knowing other people are running helps motivate you. I think the other thing is accountability."

While members of the informal running group are not accountable during training, race day brings a sense of unity to this individual sport.

"There was a lot of camaraderie," said Service Credit Union Manager Sue Westerh, who raced over two decades ago and was inspired to run again after she heard others speak of the race.

Westerh fell while sightseeing in the capital city. Knocked momentarily unconscious, she was unsure if she would be able to complete the race that more than 200,000 spectators gathered

to watch.

On race day, however, she crossed the finish line knowing that "13 of us went, and 13 of us finished."

Camaraderie helped Sandra Keil, Vilseck relocation readiness specialist, cross the finish line as well.

"The unity it created is what helped me to persevere to the end," she said. Keil ran alongside spouses whose husbands, like hers, deployed last year with the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The runners whose spouses are deployed developed a sense of togetherness, explained Eusebio.

"You could really feel a sense of family," she said.

The impromptu family of runners formed over time and without planning. While many do not train together, they rely on each other for coordination of events and marathon tips.

"Actually we just kind of evolved," Hillis said, noting that anyone can run marathons.

"I would say it is in the possibility of anybody to be able to run a marathon," he said.

The secret, he explained, is to start out slow and gradually build up, even running and walking to build distance.

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr marathon participants included (back row, from left) Chaplain (Capt.) Gerald Woodford, Billy Howerton, Chaplain (Col.) David Hillis, Capt. George Hill, Chaplain (Maj.) Darin Nielsen, Capt. Amelia Waldon; (front row, from left) Danielle Wilding, Sue Westerh, Haila Hill, Sharon Howerton.

Courtesy photo



Summer greens, spring draw Garmisch golfers

by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

One of the oldest golf courses in Germany, the Armed Forces Recreation Center Alpentel Golf Course in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, opened up the summer greens April 12 to a capacity course of enthusiastic duffers.

The Alpentel Golf Course, part of the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch footprint, began in 1930 as a private six-hole course, and today the nine-hole course averages 7,500 rounds per year. For decades after World War II the course was popular with American veterans and retirees.

"General Eisenhower used to golf here," said Dave Chaffin, a former course manager and regular golfer on the Alpentel greens.

Chaffin is a ready source of knowledge about the course and its patrons, noting golf greats like 1969 U.S. Masters winner George Archer played a round at the Alpentel and local celebrity Inge Woerndle, an announcer for the 1936 Olympics now in her 90s, is still active in course events after half a century of golfing.

Today there are no more caddies, but many former caddies who were the sons of WWII German soldiers are course patrons today. It was a great job immediately following the war, said Chaffin.

A caddy master would assign caddies for the golfers using an A-B-C-D caddy rating system based on their knowledge of golf and ability to speak English. The A-rated caddies made a lot of money.

"The sons used to bring home more money than their parents," Chaffin said.

He added that one of the former caddies still golfing at Alpentel is a former Garmisch chief of police.

The nine-hole course is surprisingly difficult, according to Brad Hays, golfer and marketing manager for the AFRC Edelweiss Lodge and Resort. Guests of the ELR are welcomed to golf at Alpentel.

"The par 3 second hole is a challenging tee shot with two bunkers, a tiered green, and trouble on either side," said Hays. "You can really rip your tee shot on hole six



Photo by Jan Denikiewicz

U.S. Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower golfed at the Armed Forces Recreation Center Alpentel in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

because the tee is elevated and you can track the ball through the air with the mountains as your backdrop. Not to mention the calming sound of the large waterfall right behind you as you tee off."

The trickiest hole on the course, said Chaffin, is number eight, a long par 5 running the length of the course with strategically placed bunkers and water traps. The trap that gets the most balls is the bunker in front of hole five.

"We call that one 'Jaws,'" said Chaffin.

Hays agreed eight is the toughest.

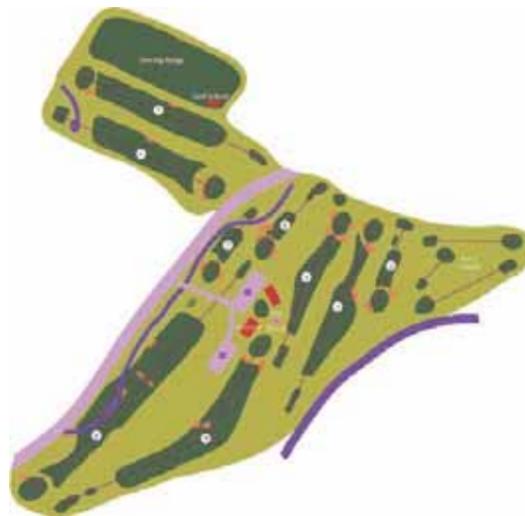
"Number eight is the

signature hole on the course and in my opinion the most difficult," said Hays. "With a small stream that cuts through a tight tree lined fairway, there is little room for error on your second shot, really testing your accuracy."

The course conditions in Garmisch run from perfect to wet during golf season. As modern green fees go, the prices are still extremely low for eligible U.S. military ID cardholders at \$15 for a weekday tee off.

The nearby 18-hole Garmisch-Partenkirchen golf club "Gut Buchwieser" charges about \$75.

Alpentel is a par 72 course with a total of 6,522 yards. The men's rating for the course is 69.5 with a slope rating of 129, and the women's rating is 71.8 with a slope rating of 124.



The nine-hole course is said to be surprisingly difficult. The trap that gets the most ball is the bunker in front of hole five. Frequent visitors have dubbed it "Jaws."

Black Hawks win season opener with defense

Game against Wiesbaden set at Europa Park Stadium in two weeks, will be featured GFL2 game of the week

Special to the Bavarian News

The Plattling Black Hawks began its quest for the German Football League 2 title April 12 with a win over the Saarland Hurricanes, 29-7, in front of a crowd of over 700 fans in Saarbrücken.

For Head Coach Jason Olive, the win was especially important.

"It was important for us to begin the season with a win," he said. "Every game is important, but this one was especially important (because) it was our longest road trip of the year and against a team with much GFL1 experience."

The game didn't begin as the Black Hawks had planned with bruising Saarland Tailback Agyin Kwame busting loose for a 52-yard touchdown the second play from scrimmage.

"That certainly gave us the wakeup call we needed," said Olive, whose team had just defeated the GFL1 Munich Cowboys the previous week.

The Black Hawks defense settled into the game at that point and dominated the Hurricane attack.

"Anytime you force five turnovers on defense, you are doing something right," said Olive whose defense accounted for 16 of the 29

points.

The Black Hawks forced two safeties, and OLB Paul Eichinger intercepted back to back passes and returned them for touchdowns of 31 and 68 yards.

The high powered offense did not fare as well.

"We really struggled all day, and left too many points on the board," said Roland Ertl, the Black Hawks' offensive coordinator.

Defense and special teams gave the team great field position all day and key penalties, and dropped balls put the Hawks in a bind. The team was penalized 12 times for 115 yards and had 8 dropped passes.

QB Adam Hazel threw two touchdown passes, one each to Bob Van der Meij and Andrew Blakely. Hazel completed 50 percent of his passes for 223 yards. The running game also struggled gaining 17 yards in 16 carries. RB Jan Pav led the running backs with 22 yards

on 6 carries.

"We've identified several areas to improve upon," said Olive. "We will need a more balanced effort to beat perennial power Wiesbaden in two weeks."

“ We will need a more balanced effort to beat perennial power Wiesbaden in two weeks. ”

Jason Olive
Black Hawks Head Coach

This will be the featured GFL2 game of the week pitting pre-season contenders Plattling and Wiesbaden against one another at the Europa Park Stadium complex in Wiesbaden.

Wiesbaden features one of the best RB's in the 2nd

League, Davis Matz, and one of the best coaching staffs behind Head Coach Michael Teber.

"Wiesbaden is always a tough opponent, they are well coached, and play very well at home, plus it is tough to play after a long bus trip (five hours to Wiesbaden)," said Olive. "We will be focused, though, and if we execute our game plan, we should be okay."

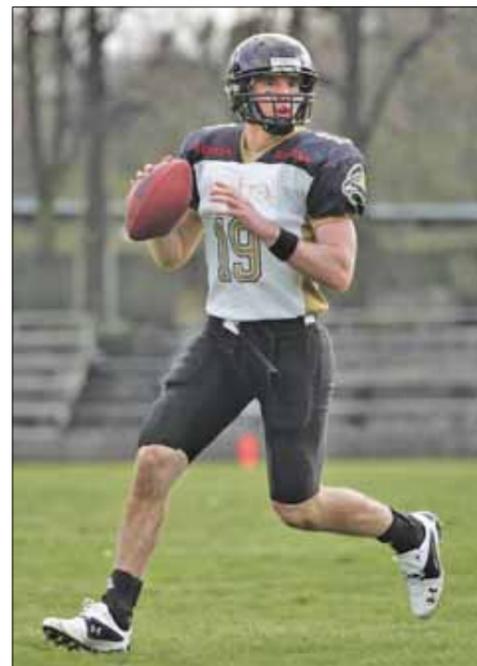


Photo by Benedikt Altschuh

QB Adam Hazel (#19) surveyed the field for open receivers during an April 6 pre-season game against the Munich Cowboys at Dantestadion in Munich.

BH ends pre-season with big win

Special to the Bavarian News

The Plattling Black Hawks finished its pre-season with a big win over German Football League 1 opponent, the Munich Cowboys, 20-10, April 6 in front of 500 fans at the Dantestadion in Munich.

The Munich Cowboys have a storied tradition in GFL1. Two seasons ago, they were a team in disarray. For the first time in many years, they were not playing in the GFL1.

Many of their best players left the program for various reasons. They called on Coach John Rosenberg to bring the program back to prominence.

Coach Rosenberg was no stranger to Munich having coached with the Cowboys back in 2000-2001. He began his coaching career more than 30 years ago coaching under legendary coach Joe Paterno at Penn State University. He had coached at all levels of football since, and won three championships in Europe with various football teams. Under Rosenberg's direction, the Munich Cowboys gained relegation to the GFL1 last season after winning the GFL2 South in impressive fashion going 13-0-1, and by beating the Saarland Hurricanes in two relegation matches.

The Plattling Black Hawks also have a storied football program in Bavaria, although not nearly on the same scale as the Cowboys. They dominated the Bavarian leagues for several years before gaining relegation in 2005 to the GFL2.

The Plattling Black Hawks finished alone in third place last season, 8-6, but lost both its 2007 games versus Munich in decisive fashion.

"It all began back in December when I contacted Coach Rosenberg about playing the Cowboys in a pre-season game," said Coach Jason Olive. "I was taught long ago that you do not get better by playing teams that are not competitive, you get better by playing opponents that are as good or better. Munich was the closest non-GFL2 team that could give us what we were looking for, and just being able to compete with a GFL1 opponent would show us that we belong in the GFL."

The Black Hawks came into the game a little banged up.

"We knew that we were going into this contest short three OL starters, but we felt that it was a great opportunity for our back-ups to get reps against a real opponent," said Olive. "What we didn't anticipate was the pre-game loss of starting MLB Andreas Schreiner and key backup Dominikus Hagel."

At the first whistle, 27 Black Hawk players stared at a Cowboy sidelines of 60 men.

Little went right for the Black Hawks at the beginning of the game.

"We were too tight," said Coach Olive. "We were able to stop the Cowboys their first drive after a key holding penalty, but we turned the ball over on our first play."

Standout WR Andrew Blakely showed early signs of rust fumbling the ball on his first reception.

"Looking back on it now, I probably should have sat Andrew for the game," said Olive. "He just arrived Saturday morning from Texas, and

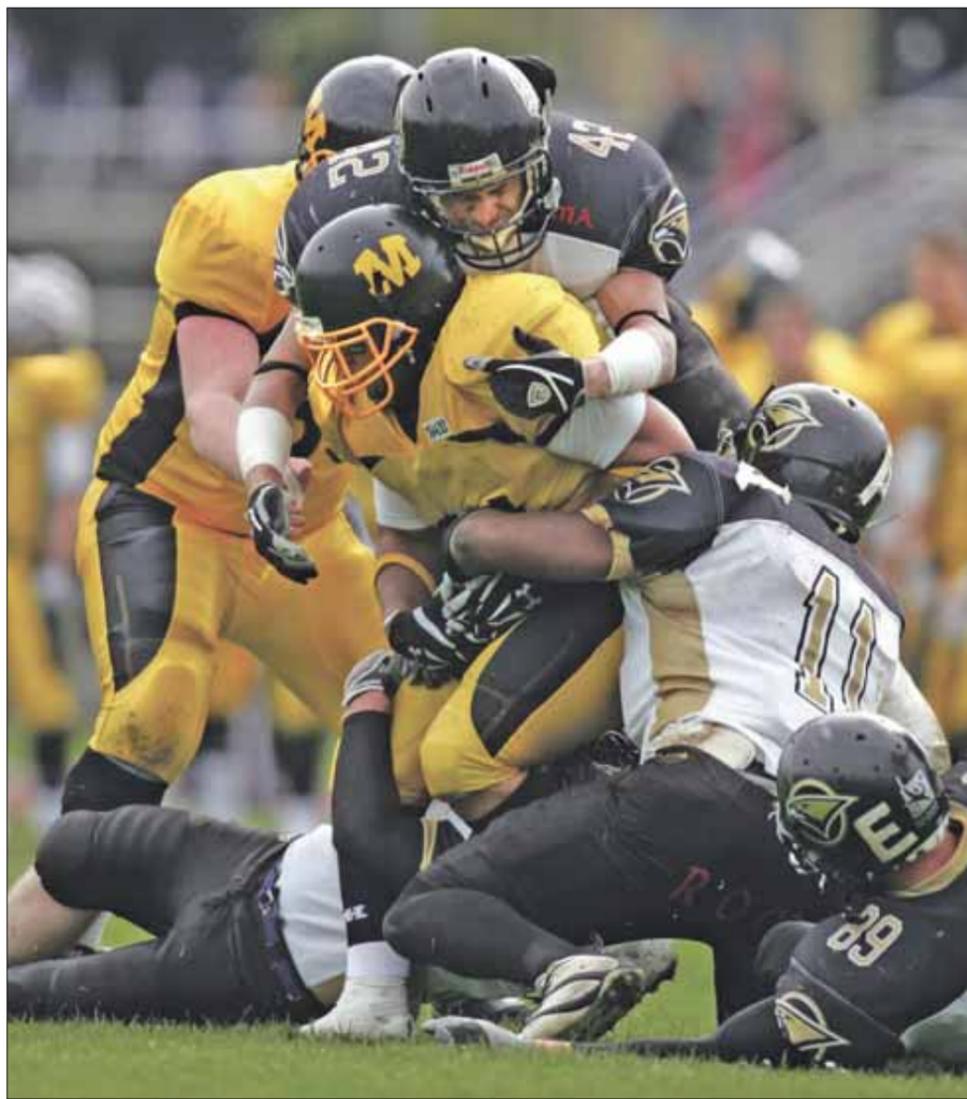


Photo by Benedikt Altschuh

Munich Cowboy Jerome Morris (#31) is tackled by #42 Kenny Telfair, #11, Eric Swift, #89 Bob Van der Meij, and #66 Henrik Ruf.

had not taken a hit in six months."

The Cowboys took advantage of the turnover scoring on the first play, a 24-yard touchdown pass from Cowboy QB Gary Lautenschlager to WR Thomas Mühlleitner. Five minutes into the game, Munich was up by 7.

Plattling's second offensive series produced one first down, but after a big sack, Plattling was forced to punt.

A 24-yard punt return by Dominique Kandolo put the Cowboys back in business at the Black Hawk 49.

After a 10-play drive, Munich settled for a 35-yard field goal to make the score 10-0 Munich.

The Black Hawk Offense started showing some signs of life to begin the second quarter. Plattling drove to the Cowboy 23 yard line before an offensive pass interference penalty negated a touchdown pass from QB Adam Hazel to Alex Schwartz.

Adam Hazel was intercepted the next play

giving Munich possession of the ball at their 7 yard line.

The Black Hawk defense stiffened and forced a punt six plays later, a 20-yard return by Toure Butler put the Black Hawks in business at midfield. Six plays later, the Black Hawks settled for a 20-yard field goal from Sammy Farghali to make the score 10-3 at halftime.

The second half was all Black Hawks. In the third quarter, Rosenberg began substituting liberally.

"Most of what we saw in the second half was Cowboy backups" said Olive, "although key personnel did continue to play."

The Black Hawks received the second half kickoff and drove to the Munich 46 yard line before wideout Florian Starzengruber fumbled giving Munich possession. An interception by Julian Hennek gave the Black Hawks possession at their own 20.

Plattling used a seven-play drive capped off with a 9-yard touchdown pass from Adam Hazel

to wideout Sammy Farghali. Farghali's PAT knotted the score at 10.

After turnovers by both the Cowboys and Black Hawks, Munich was again in business at Plattling's 37 yard line. However, an acrobatic interception by Tobias Schmidt gave the Black Hawks possession at their own 8 yard line, Plattling got a first down, but after poor execution, was forced to punt once again.

The stingy Black Hawks defense held again, and this time Plattling would capitalize. Six plays later, RB Korbinian Hundsrucker scored from 22 yards to put Plattling ahead for good, 17-10. Kicker Paul Eichinger ended the scoring with a 42-yard field goal with 1:54 seconds remaining.

After the game, both coaches had nothing but praise for the other team.

Rosenberg said of the Black Hawks that Plattling was much better coached, much more physical than they were last season, and that he expects Plattling to have much success in the 2008 campaign.

Olive was also very complimentary of the Cowboys.

"Don't let the results of the game fool you, Munich has a great team," he said. "Coach Rosenberg was able to stick with his liberal substitution game plan that we had both agreed upon for the second half, whereas we substituted also, but you are limited with what you can substitute with 27 players. In the fourth quarter, John saw many of our starters while he was deep in his bench."

Stand-outs for the game for the Black Hawks were on defense: Kenny Telfair, who led the team with 8 tackles, 2 for loss; Stefan "Ice Bear" Gladkow, who finished with 5 stops and a forced fumble; Toure Butler also ended up with five tackles; DE Bob Van der Meij recorded the team's only sack. Tobias Schmidt and Julian Hennek ended up with one interception apiece. Schmidt and DT Henrik Ruf added a fumble recovery.

On offense: Jan Pav led all rushers with 52 yards on six carries. Korbinian Hundsrucker added 26 yards and a TD. Adam Hazel led all passers with 182 yards on 29 attempts, one TD/one INT. Andrew Blakely led all receivers with five receptions for 57 yards. Sammy Farghali added 42 yards and a TD on 5 receptions.

The Plattling Black Hawks begin the GFL2 season next weekend with a trip to Saarbrücken to face the Saarland Hurricanes Saturday. Their first home game is May 17 in the Karl-Weinberger Stadium in Plattling.

All American military families will be honored in celebration of Armed Forces Day.

All military personnel and their family members with a valid U.S. ID card will gain free admission to see parachutists jump in with the ceremonial game ball, and two of the GFL2's top teams, the Franken Knights from Rothenburg, GFL2 pre-season favorites, and your Plattling Black Hawks square off in a GFL2 Division Battle.

For more information on the Black Hawks, visit www.black-hawks-football.de or e-mail Coach Olive at weagle_34@yahoo.com.