

Bavarian News

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

January 30, 2008

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Army to finally retire BDUs

Active and Reserve wear-out date set for April 30

by ELIZABETH M. LORGE
Army News Service

The Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for G-1 (Personnel) announced this month that the final wear-out date for the Army Battle Dress Uniform and Desert Battle Dress Uniform will be April 30 for both active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers.

The Army began phasing out the woodland and desert-patterned uniforms on June 14, 2004, with the debut of the digital-patterned Army Combat Uniform. "Our Army is always looking to

constantly improve on everything we do, both on and off the battlefield," said Sgt. Maj. Katrina L. Easley, uniform policy sergeant major at G-1. "We took a look at the combat usability of what was once a good uniform, and based upon feedback from the field, decided to improve it and fix the many problems reported. There were at least 20 changes made and the result is the current ACU.

"Response has been fantastic. Soldiers have adapted well to the new uniform and they tell us they truly

See BDU Page 28



The Battle Dress Uniform in woodland camouflage was first issued in 1981 and has a wear-out date of April 30. The Desert Battle Dress Uniform and many of the uniforms' matching accessories are also being retired. They have been replaced by the digital Army Combat Uniform.

Photo by USAMHI



Yvonne Spiller shops at Grafenwoehr PX with her children, Tyrell, 8, and Kenny, 9, during a tour of the post Jan. 12. The Spillers were among approximately 300 Dagger Brigade Soldiers and family members who visited Grafenwoehr, where the brigade will begin relocating this summer.

Dagger Soldiers, families check out what Grafenwoehr has to offer

Story and photo by Pfc. MICHAEL SYNER
USAREUR Public Affairs

Approximately 300 Soldiers and family members from the Dagger Brigade toured Grafenwoehr Jan. 12 to get familiar with the military community the brigade will soon call home.

The daylong excursion began at noon, when buses picked up

Schweinfurt Soldiers and families for the roughly two-hour drive to Grafenwoehr.

The first stop at "Graf" was the base's recently opened Army and Air Force Exchange Service shopping center. Eyes widened when the Schweinfurt visitors saw the post exchange, many for the first time.

"This is a beautiful PX," said

Yvonne Spiller as she, her husband Sgt. Artis R. Spiller, and the couple's two children browsed the aisles.

Sgt. Spiller, who is assigned to the 57th Signal Company, believes the exchange will serve his family's needs well.

The spacious facility, opened in September 2007, boasts more square

See DAGGER Page 28

Understanding mTBI key to dealing with condition

by KIMBERLY GEARHART
USAREUR Public Affairs

This is the second article in a series on mild traumatic brain injury.

After 15 long months, your spouse is finally home, safe and sound.

A few days later, you notice that your Soldier is irritable, sleepless, suffers from chronic headaches, trips over his own feet (loss of balance), and seems to be suffering from

memory problems. This five-symptom cluster, as it's called, may indicate that your Soldier is suffering from mild traumatic brain injury, or mTBI.

Many Soldiers returning from war in Iraq and Afghanistan may exhibit signs of mTBI, which develops as the result of a concussive injury and disturbance of consciousness. Mortar attacks, vehicle accidents, and even falls can cause this sort of injury, according to Col. Mary Lopez, who heads up a team conducting screenings for mTBI.

Families are often the first to notice such changes in their Soldier, Lopez noted.

"The family is the most important element in any kind of rehab. We see the Soldier for an hour or two; you are with him every day. It is important for families to understand what the recovery process is and what they can

The first article in the mTBI series is archived in the Jan. 16 issue of the Bavarian News at www.milcom.de. Read it today!

See KNOWLEDGE Page 28

USAREUR sergeant chooses 'Soldier life' over law career

Story and photo by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Sgt. David Williams says he joined the Army more than four and a half years ago because he owed a lot of money.

Williams had racked up more than \$100,000 in debt on student loans.

"After I graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in political science, I went to the University of Southern California School of Law and earned a Juris Doctorate," said Williams, a production control manager for unmanned aerial vehicles in Company G, Task Force XII, the aviation task force led by U.S. Army Europe's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

"My friends from college went on to become lawyers, and I have cousins who followed in my footsteps to law school, who are lawyers," he said.

Williams said he passed the California bar exam, and while his family felt he should practice law, the Army offered something law firms in his area could not.

"I lived near a naval base, and I saw all of these signs

that said the military would pay up to \$65,000 of your college loans," he said. "So I talked to a recruiter, and he told me that the Army could pay that amount of money and could also send me to Europe."

The prospect of Europe played a vital role in his decision, he said.

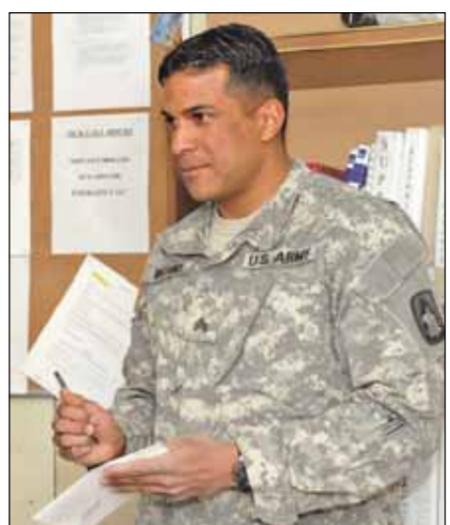
"I spent my junior year of college in Toledo, Spain, and I just fell in love with Europe," said Williams. "It gave me a taste for foreign cultures and made me appreciate how much there is outside of the U.S."

The guarantee to help pay his student loans and the opportunity to return to Europe, he said, would not have been available if he had decided to join the Army as a commissioned officer.

"It's not a big deal to me, because I love my job,"

See ENLISTED Page 28

After earning a law degree, Sgt. David Williams joined the Army's enlisted ranks.



Q&A

Who will win their party's nomination for the presidential election?



Kenneth Aungst
(Ansbach)
"I think Clinton will win the Democratic nomination. On the Republican side—John McCain because he is the man!"

Charles Braxton
(Ansbach)
"I believe Barack Obama will win. I think the person who has the best chance for the Republicans is McCain."



Spc. Edward Dominique
(Ansbach)
"For the Democrats, it will be Clinton. I am not even following the Republican side and do not even know who is running."

James Gatan
(Ansbach)
"Clinton—she will bring change to this world. As far as the Republican side, not Giuliani, that is for sure! I say John McCain because of the military situation we're in."



Detlev Johnston
(Ansbach)
"I'm with Senator John McCain. On the Democratic side, ... if I had to pick one, it would be Obama."

Georg Simonis
(Ansbach)
"... I believe Clinton will win the Democratic race On the Republican side, I am not as familiar with the candidates."



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Thomas
(Ansbach)
"Hillary for the Democrats because she is strong, stable, and ... cutthroat. For Republicans — John McCain because he has been there, done that."

Robert Agard
(Ansbach)
"I think Hillary Clinton will pull it out because of her experience. For the Republicans—I don't care! If I had to pick one I would pick Rudy Giuliani."



Proper use of snow tires, trash cans crucial

Welcome to 2008!! The garrison will continue to fight through budget concerns, prepare the community for a larger than expected influx of personnel this year and continue to provide base operations support to the largest growing community in Europe.

And congrats to LSU for winning the National Championship. Off to the column...

Snow Tires

Many of you probably remember about a year ago the rather confusing guidance we received from the German government concerning snow tires.

Originally we were told that everyone had to have snow tires and you could be held liable in a winter accident if you did not have snow tires.

Later this guidance was modified and it was "okay" to have M+S tires or tires with a snowflake on them.

The purpose of this part of this week's column is to debunk some myths about vehicles and provide some rationale for snow tire usage. Drivers of SUVs and other four-wheel-drive vehicles are under the misconception that they can drive safely on snow and ice. This is really not true.

About the only thing a 4WD vehicle does is get you started from a full stop and corner better. It certainly won't help you slow down. Likewise anti-lock brake systems are useful and can help you in the winter but are still

dependent on the type of tire on the road.

Winter tires give you extra traction, braking, and handling and even at 15 mph allow you to stop one-half to a full car length shorter than identical vehicles with all season tires.

In short, you need to consider what your needs are when using tires. If it is particularly wet or we only get a small amount of snow, all season tires are probably sufficient. If there is moderate to severe snow, you probably should invest in snow tires.

For more information on snow tire use and other winter driving safety tips, refer to the archived Nov. 14 issue of the Bavarian News (Issue No. 22) at www.milcom.de and to pages 26-27 of the Bavarian American magazine (December issue).

Deicing of Sidewalks

As a reminder, Bavarian street and road laws **DO NOT ALLOW** the use of salt for deicing. The DPW self help store has a product called "Tiefen-Eisfrei" for use by personnel who live on post and in built-to-lease quarters.

Those who live in private rental homes must purchase this or similar product for their own use. This product is actually better than salt as it lasts longer and thaws better.

During times of snow and ice, the garrison will use fine gravel or sand in and around community support centers and on sidewalks. You will also see "Tiefen-Eisfrei" used particularly after very icy days. Please do not use salt as a deicing tool.

Post Exchange Parking Area

Bottom Line up Front: we acknowledge that we need to install crosswalks at the new Post

Exchange/ Commissary at Grafenwoehr. We will do that once the weather changes in the spring.

Having spent almost the entire weekend in the parking lot of the AAFES/ DECA complex, I also noticed that people simply throw their trash on the ground. I guess I don't understand this mentality.

While I would acknowledge that we need more trash containers in the parking lot (another thing we will fix in the spring), why don't members of the community take the trash home and dispose of it in appropriate containers?

In the end we are literally trashing a brand new facility. I encourage all of you to stop and think before you throw your trash on the ground and take it with you.

Most of you heard the announcement that the Dagger Brigade from Schweinfurt will move to our community starting now and extending through the summer.

We are excited they are coming and will bring approximately 40 percent of the brigade this year, and the remainder will move as facilities are completed.

The garrison staff recognizes that we are two areas separated by training and ranges and will continue to upgrade both sides with resources and people to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

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

His lovely wife. A military wife

Commentary by REGINA GALVIN

Editor in Chief,
CinCHouse.com

There is a woman in our midst who is moving on — on from her current place in life — on to a new locale and on from the military.

She is the lady we see standing next to the military fellow, dutifully by his side at his retirement ceremony. However, at other times she has been invisible to us. We see him, but her presence is transparent. Don't be fooled, however. She is always there in a place of honor.

But who is she?

We hear the accolades for the one in uniform and his impressive collection of professional accomplishments. We may not know him personally, but his uniform tells the tales of where he's been, what he's done and

with whom he has served. Speeches are given and his sacrifices, his challenges, his career, his service to country are extolled.

But what about her?

She wears no uniform, yet she carries herself with equal distinction. Whom did she serve? How did she help? Her contributions may not be found in a speech or in a proclamation signed by dignitaries. Yet somehow, we know her. We know of her service. We know of her sacrifices.

We are the ones she served.
We are the ones she comforted. We benefited from her leadership, her guidance, her

shared experience and if we were lucky — her friendship. We were mentored by her. She was the one we admired. She was the one who set the example for others to follow.

But this is his retirement — his moment.

“She is the commander-in-chief of the house. She is the advance scout. She is the logistics support. She is the rear detachment. She is all things to all people..”

At his ceremony, a few words will be spoken about her role as partner. Perhaps she'll be given a certificate suitable for framing or a trinket to hang around her neck. Items that, not unlike her, are an understatement of the lives she touched, of the difference she made. Items that won't show up on an "I love me" wall but will be stored away, appreciated but not flaunted.

Who is she? She is the one whose name follows after the phrase, "...and his lovely wife..." She is the one who spends endless hours "hurrying up to wait." She is the fulcrum on which both the family's and the mission's needs balance.

She is the commander-in-chief of the house. She is the advance scout. She is the logistics support. She is the rear detachment. She is all things to all people. But most of all, she is whatever she needs to be.

So when the moment comes to acknowledge her at his retirement, please refrain from polite applause. Instead, jump to your feet. Give the woman a sincere, thunderous standing ovation. Show her you mean it. Show her she meant something to you, to the military and to the service of her country.

Who is she, you ask?
She is his wife. A "lovely wife." A military wife.

Grafenwoehr Middle School Junior Leadership Seminar Presents Its Annual

AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN
Feb. 4, 5, 6
2:30 - 3 P.M.

In the School's Gym
For more information contact
Mrs. R.E. Joshua - 09641-839500
Rita.joshua@eu.dodea.edu

Making LITERACY a part of
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH



Cartoon by Bryan Riviera
Grafenwoehr Elementary School

Bavarian News

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“The brave men we honor here today will forever be remembered for their incredible accomplishments toward making this world a better, safer place for our families.”

-- Lt. Col. Tom Rickard, 2SCR Rear D Commander

Community mourns loss of 2SCR's 3rd Squadron Soldiers

JMTC news release

Members of the Vilseck and Grafenwohr communities gathered at the Rose Barracks Chapel Jan. 16 to honor six Soldiers from the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, who were killed while on a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cpl. Todd Davis, 22, of Raymore, Mo.; Staff Sgt. Jonathan Dozier, 30, of Rutherford, Tenn.; Staff Sgt. Sean Gaul, 29, of Reno, Nev.; Sgt. Zachary McBride, 20, of Bend, Ore.; Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Pionk, 30, of Superior, Wis., and Sgt. Christopher Sanders, 22, of Roswell, N.M., died when a building exploded during an offensive to clear Sunni insurgents from the northern Diyala River Valley, near Baghdad.

The unit was clearing the building when an improvised explosive device was detonated.

“The brave men we honor here

today will forever be remembered for their incredible accomplishments toward making this world a better, safer place for our families,” said Lt. Col. Tom Rickard, the 2 SCR regimental rear detachment commander said. “We mourn their deaths as family members, as brothers in arms, and as a community.”

“These leaders were the core of the scout platoon,” Rickard said, “and set outstanding examples for others to follow.”

According to Rickard each of these NCOs were hand selected by Lt. Col. Coffey and Command Sgt. Maj. Clark to be part of this scout team.

Pionk rose to the rank of Sgt. 1st Class after only eight years in service and was remembered by Rickard as an outstanding platoon sergeant.

Dozier was remembered by Rickard as a born leader and a gifted sniper squad leader.

Gaul was remembered as a consummate professional and an incredibly fit Soldier both physically and mentally.

Sanders was a graduate of the New Mexico Military Institute. According to Rickard, Sanders opted not to accept a commission and became an outstanding NCO.

McBride was referred to as a man of incredible faith with a leadership ability and intellect beyond his years.

Davis was an outstanding Soldier according to Rickard. Davis was selected for the All-Army wrestling team but turned it down to deploy with his unit.

Cpl. Davis is survived by his

mother Vicky, brother Jeremy Davis, stepbrother Steven Shewmaker and aunt, Dorthy Oschsner.

Staff Sgt. Dozier is survived by his wife, Amy and daughter Emma.

Staff Sgt. Gaul is survived by his wife Jessica and daughter Alana.

Sgt. McBride is survived by his father Marshall and mother Laura.

Sgt. 1st Class Pionk is survived by his wife Melanie, his two sons, Dillon and Brandon and daughter Ashley.

Sgt. Sanders is survived by his wife Dara, son Christopher and daughter Jacquelyn.



Davis
“An outstanding Soldier”



Dozier
“A born leader”



Gaul
“A consummate professional”



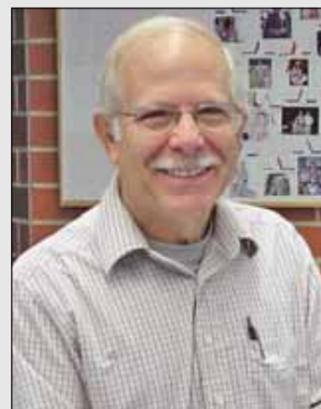
Pionk
“An outstanding platoon sergeant”



McBride
“A man of incredible faith”

Sanders
“An outstanding NCO”

Spotlight on Education



Name:
Mark Benstein

What grade / subject do you teach?
Music at Vilseck Elementary School

Hometown:
Salem, Ore.

How long have you been a teacher?
43 years

What do you like best about teaching?
Seeing kids light up when it finally makes sense.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school?
Focus!!!

‘Big Dawg’ Soldiers certify for deployment to Iraq

Story and photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
16th SB Public Affairs

With only five-and-a-half months from ‘re-designation’ to their deployment ceremony, the logistics Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Bamberg, Germany, had a short ramp from notification to prepare for Iraq.

From Jan. 14 to Jan. 27, while many Army Soldiers were getting back into the groove of Army life after a two-week holiday vacation, “Big Dawg” Soldiers were training and certifying for deployment at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels.

And more uniquely, the logistics Soldiers were certifying independently of a larger unit, a first for a logistics unit in Europe. Usually, logistics units certify as a subordinate unit within a combat brigade or division.

The independent certification was appropriate, because the headquarters company will be deploying to a location separate from many of the units of the 16th SB, and will work with different organizations and units in theater, said Maj. Eduardo Santiago, executive officer, 391st CSSB.

The training and certification process at JMRC demonstrates that the Army realizes logistics units are no longer tag-along groups but front-line warriors.

“In the contemporary operating environment that we all live in today, particularly when you’re deploying to places like Iraq and Afghanistan, there are no rear areas,” said Brig. Gen. Scott West, commander, 21st Theater Sustainment Command. “It’s a 360-degree fight. The threat is equal to everybody on that battlefield.”

The general spoke with Soldiers and leaders of the 391st CSSB during the unit’s convoy live fire Jan. 26, and even rode with the first team through their exercise.

“A Soldier who may be a truck driver, a mechanic, a cook, a signaler, a MP (military police) — it makes no difference — they have to be trained in warrior tasks and battle drills and the full range of their MOS (military occupational skill) to be successful on the battlefield,” West said.

The JMRC rotation was tailored specifically to logistics units, based on what they’re experiencing downrange, said Capt. James

Geishaker, commander, HHC, 391st CSSB.

“It highlights that it’s not just infantry Soldiers that are being attacked,” Geishaker said. “It shows that the enemy is smart enough to attack the logistics chain that is supporting the effort in Iraq.”

The seasoned officer, whose last deployment was as an officer-in-charge of convoys from Kuwait to various sites in Iraq with the 37th Transportation Group, said logistics convoys are exposed to constant danger from small-arms fire, IED attacks, mortar and rocket-propelled grenades and even, occasionally, from friendly fire.

“The training done here will enable our Soldiers to experience the realities of engagements, different types of escalation of force, improve our battle drills, and will enable battalion staff to better support missions,” Geishaker said.

For the certification process, which all Army units have to undergo within 120 days of deploying, “Big Dog” Soldiers ran a forward operating base, conducted convoy logistics patrols, reacted to improvised explosive devices, set up landing zones, evacuated casualties and went through a cavalry-style convoy live fire.

Leaders were also tested. In the battalion tactical operations center, leaders were challenged with managing 24-hour battlefield operations, including providing sustainment to forces in the battalion’s area of operations, conducting distribution operations, and working with Iraqi security forces, with constant scenarios coming at them from a higher command and subordinate units.

The scenarios, called “SIGACTs” (significant activities) in military parlance, included mortar attacks on the forward operating base, IED attacks on the main supply route, the possible capture of an American Soldier by Al Qaeda, inappropriate comments by a Soldier made to a reporter, injuries, deaths and even a disruption of the mail service.

“Our job is (to be) the reactive people,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Helmer, battle non-commissioned officer in charge, 391st CSSB. “Managing chaos would be the closest description. My job is what’s happening right this second.”

For many Soldiers in the company, most of who have deployed at least once, the operations tempo is difficult, but they were prepared for the deployment.



Capt. Gregory Jackson, chaplain (left), Pfc. Daniel Weber, analyst, Sgt. Michael Wyderka, battalion training non-commissioned officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Eric Simmons, water purification non-commissioned officer, evacuate Spc. Kevin Ratliff, chemical biological radiological and nuclear non-commissioned officer in charge, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, during a convoy live fire exercise Jan. 26 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels.

Staff Sgt. Eric Simmons, water purification non-commissioned officer, has deployed twice already.

“I’m prepared mentally,” Simmons said. “With the deployments going back-to-back, I know it’s something I have to do. I raised my right hand to join, like everybody else.”

The married father of one said his family understood the deployments.

“They’re OK with it, they support it, but still, I get those questions from my daughter, ‘Daddy when are you going to be able to come back?’” Simmons said. “It’s kind of heartbreaking to hear that, but she knows Daddy’s going out there doing a bigger job.”

Simmons said he plans to make the Army a career.

For newer Soldiers in the company, the deployment was an opportunity to do their duty. “I’m a Soldier,” said Pfc. Daniel Weber, analyst, 391st CSSB. “I’m doing my job to serve my country, my family and my friends. I’m doing what previous generations have done to make our country the greatest country in the world.”

The 20-year-old from Laurel, Md., said his fiancé, Stephanie Travitz, of Columbia, Md., was proud of him, and believed in the reconstruction of Iraq.

“I’d rather be in Iraq for 15-months than have the terrorists in the US,” Weber said.

Petraeus: Troop reduction plans on track

by JOHN J. KRUZEL
American Forces Press Service

Plans to withdraw four Army brigade combat teams and two Marine battalions by July are "on track" as the military seeks to draw down the number of troops in Iraq as quickly as ground conditions allow, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said Sunday.

Appearing today on CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer," Army Gen. David H. Petraeus said the scheduled withdrawal will reduce the number of troops at the height of the surge by one quarter, or roughly 42,500.

Further reductions after July will be based on the state of Iraq's security, he added.

"The guidance that (Defense Secretary Robert Gates) in fact has given me — and the president and my chain of command, what all of them have said — is that reductions after July should be conditions-based," he said.

The general said after the upcoming drawdown, Defense Department and military officials will need time to "let things settle a bit" before making further reduction assessments. Their focus, he said, will be on removing forces expeditiously, but without undercutting progress made during the troop surge that launched this time last year.

Petraeus, commander of Multinational Force Iraq, said drawdowns aim to relieve strains on

service members, many of whom have engaged in multiple and extended deployments to support U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Force level reductions also would save money and cut back the flow of resources, he said.

The Army strives to provide soldiers the highest possible amount of "dwell time" — the period at home stations between deployments — and reduce deployments from 15 months to 12, the general added.

"But we want to do it, again, in a way that will allow these gains to be maintained. We don't want to jeopardize what we have fought so hard for," he said. "The key is to make the timing of that right and to figure out when that will make sense."

Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker are expected in coming months to give Congress a follow-up to the military and diplomatic progress update they delivered in September.

Asked today about Iraqi security forces' capability, Petraeus said the roughly 550,000-strong force is assuming an increasingly larger role in maintaining the country's security.

The overall forces — composed of some 343,000 police members, 208,000 defense ministry soldiers and 4,000 special operations forces — suffer nearly three times the number of U.S. military casualties, which Petraeus said indicated the Iraqis' devotion to stability in their country.

Earlier this month, more than 2 million religious pilgrims gathered in Iraq to celebrate the Islamic holiday Ashura. In a ceremony that has been marked in recent years by "terrible bloodshed," the Jan. 18 holiday occurred with minimal violence, the general said.

"The Iraqi security forces planned this year the security for that, ... and in fact, in Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad the celebrations went off virtually without incident," he said, conceding that violence occurred in Basra and Nasiriya. "But Iraqi security forces responded in each of those cases and dealt with the situation."

Officials have stated that reductions of U.S. forces in Iraq depend largely on an Iraqi security force that is capable of tamping down violence in the country. Petraeus Sunday noted that half of Iraq's 18 provinces currently are under provincial control, but pointed out that Iraq's security institutions face challenges in breeding military leaders and in equipping and maintaining the current forces.

"(Leadership) is the area that is probably the most difficult, because you just can't find captains, colonels, and generals out there in the numbers that they need by just going back to those who are willing to serve from the old army — not all of whom, perhaps, have the qualities that one would want in the leadership of the new Iraq army anyway," Petraeus said.



Commander of Multi-National Force - Iraq Gen. David H. Petraeus (right), U.S. Army, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates listen to a briefing by Iraqi commanders during a visit by Gates to Baghdad on June 16, 2007.

DoD file photo by Staff Sgt. Lorie Jewell

The Multinational Force Iraq commander said he does not foresee the U.S. maintaining a permanent military presence in Iraq, but rather a smaller number of U.S. troops remaining in Iraq "for some period of years." Citing key pieces of legislation passed by the Iraqi parliament recently, Petraeus said in the future he envisions troops performing a mission that places greater emphasis on empowering Iraq's "reconcilables," those who embrace cooperation over divisiveness.

"I think our soldiers were prepared intellectually for the concept that there were reconcilables whom we needed to reach out to and try to become part of the solution over time, rather than part of the problem," he said. "And you try to minimize the number of irreconcilables, because at the end of the day, they have to be killed, captured, or run out of the country."



Garmisch Pond officers best in company

Pond Senior Security Officer Klaus Guetter and Security Officer Skultety were rated Pond Security's best marksmen during a November competition.

Two employees were selected from each installation where Pond Security has a presence to compete in the annual competition. This year was the first time Pond-Garmisch was represented.

Along with their competitors from throughout Germany, Guetter and Lubomir went through a real-time, computer-generated interactive course of physically demanding and mentally stressful law enforcement scenarios, and were tested on their shooting abilities.

Photo by John Reese

Place your free classified ad in the Bavarian News today!

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



The Nineteenth National African American Read-In

Sponsored by the Black Caucus of The National Council of Teachers of English and by The National Council of Teachers of English

Join over a million readers in the Nineteenth National African American Read-In

Sunday, February 3, 2008
Monday, February 4, 2008, for schools

Schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens are urged to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by hosting and coordinating Read-Ins in their communities.

Grafenwöhr Middle School's Junior Leadership Seminar is looking for volunteers to read in its annual African American Read-In on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday~February 4, 5, 6, 2008. We are asking that you read a short story or poem written by an African American author; or, read an interesting fact or detail about an African American.

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High-tech shopping arrives at commissary

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

After an intense cleaning and remodeling before the holidays, the local Defense Commissary Agency implemented a few new twists that may seem common to customers stateside and at the bigger kasernes but are new and unusual to the Alpine community.

The first and most obvious change for shoppers entering the store on January 8 was the two big IBM self-checkouts replacing one of the normal checkers.

The machines are intended to help speed the customers through the checkout process when the store is busy and they have only a few items, allowing them to do it themselves. A gaggle of customers clustered around

the SCOs while a half dozen IBM and DECA employees helped the more adventurous ones get through their first use.

"This is for when you want to get in and get out," explained Cheryl Wood of IBM between customers. "At first glance it seems confusing, but once you've used the system, it isn't intimidating."

Terry McClain, a teacher at the Garmisch American School, was coaxed from the sidelines to give the machine a try. With Wood's help, he stepped up and the SCO walked him through his purchase. Items with a bar code were easy. He scanned the item, saw the price, and then the machine directed him to put the scanned item in the shopping bag.

He placed some produce on the scale and Wood showed him the short

way to tell the SCO what was being weighed.

"Touch the item to purchase," said the computer in a friendly, robotic female voice. McClain obliged, touching a picture of bananas on the screen.

"One-eighty. Move your bananas," instructed the computer. McClain repeated the process with his next item and was told "move his green beans." After a few tries he had the drill down.

"I think it took me longer right now, but I think probably it will be alright," said McClain, feeding dollars into a bill slot. A handful of change rattled into the coin dish below.

"Please remember to take your change and your receipt. Thank you for shopping at the commissary," said the computer politely.

"It's a trusting system, obviously," said McClain, pocketing his change. "Take your bags and thank you for playing!"

The initial reaction to the machines has been good, said Wood.

"Most people like the machine and most will try it. Some of them aren't going to try it. You know how people stand there—they're looking over here, they're looking away—and then their curiosity gets them to try it," said Wood.

McClain admitted he was one of those unsure whether or not to try it before Wood encouraged him to take it for a test drive.

Unlike using the checkers and baggers, you can't use your own shopping bag and you can't choose paper or plastic bags, just plastic. Once you scan an item, the computer waits until it senses you've put it into a bag before continuing.

"We have the regular register if anybody would like a cashier to help them out," said Teresa DeJesus, the new store director. "We also have price verification machines so the customers can scan their own products for prices."

Another cashier will be added with a long belt for people who have a big shopping cart full of groceries, said DeJesus.

Another change in Garmisch regards the baggers.

"The new policy is for the baggers to carry the groceries out for the customers. I feel that it's important here because we have quite a few retirees, older ladies and gentlemen, and we need to help them if it's raining or snowing," said DeJesus.

"In every other commissary, the baggers take the groceries out for the customer, and here they weren't doing

that. Now they will," said DeJesus.

Products available stateside are not necessarily offered in Germany, and being a small garrison, Garmisch simply doesn't have the space to carry the vast array of products found at a big commissary like Grafenwoehr, but if a product is in the regional system, the Garmisch commissary can get it. DECA has a product book with everything a region like Germany offers.

"If a customer saw an item at the Grafenwoehr or another big commissary and can't find it in Garmisch, we will order that product from the Commissary Distribution Center," said DeJesus. "If we have it, and we do not carry it in my store because this is a small store, no problem. If it is not in that book, then we cannot get it."

Every month an amended list of products comes with some items deleted and new items added, and customers are welcomed to see it, said DeJesus.

Customers can look online to find what products are available for local purchase.

"It's on the Web site www.commissaries.com" said DeJesus. "For example, if you're in Garmisch and want to see if we carry the potato chips you like, you can look to see if we have it."

As DeJesus phased in as the new director, Garmisch said good-bye to acting store administrator Joe Moore, who was honored by his colleagues and garrison manager Karin H. Santos a day after the new IBMs began service.

Moore oversaw the extensive cleaning and reorganization of the entire store just in time for the holidays.

Teacher Terry McClain is guided through his first experience with the new computerized checkout by Cheryl Wood. A staple in larger stores, the self-checkout is new to Garmisch, one of the first commissaries from Germany to Saudi Arabia receiving upgrades in 2008.



Marshall Center meets security challenges, needs

Marshall Center Public Affairs

The NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment visited the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies Monday, during a trip to the NATO school in Oberammergau, Germany.

Peter Flory, who previously worked as assistant secretary of defense for international security policy from Aug. 2005 – Dec. 2006, met with Dr. John P. Rose, Marshall Center Director, staff and students of the center's Program in Advanced Security Studies.

"In my view the Marshall Center is doing a lot of things to address the security challenges of today and in the future rather than being focused on the past, both in terms of the regional aspects of security as well as the increasingly important trans regional or globalized threats such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction," Flory said.

"The impression that I have is that the Marshall Center is very well sighted on current and future challenges," he said.

As ASG/DI, Flory is responsible for the promotion of NATO armaments cooperation policies and programs, and for military common funding.

Flory said that one of the ways the Marshall Center contributes to the NATO mission is by training – both new and longstanding NATO members.

"Many of our newer NATO members have sent hundreds of people through the Marshall Center," Flory said. "(for prospective NATO members) if they get the opportunity to join NATO, one of the reasons they will have been

able to meet the standards for NATO admission will be in part attributable to the work of the Marshall Center in training members of their national security elites.

"The Marshall Center is a very important and valuable means in helping to develop the people who will be the NATO staff of today, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow – in particular, those coming from many of the new members," Flory said.

The Marshall Center is a renowned German-American defense and security studies institute located in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Since its dedication in 1993, its mission has been to create a more stable security environment by advancing democratic institutions and relationships, especially in the field of defense; promoting active, peaceful security cooperation; and enhancing enduring partnerships among the nations of Europe, Eurasia and North America.

Supported by the U.S. Department of Defense and the German Ministry of Defense, the Marshall Center offers postgraduate-level resident programs as well as conferences, seminars and workshops to military and civilian officials from Europe, Eurasia, North America, and beyond.

The Marshall Center boasts an international faculty and staff with representatives from 10 partner nations.

Since 1993, more than 6,000 military and civilian leaders from more than 100 nations have graduated from resident courses and approximately 15,000 have attended more than 260 conferences on European and Central Asian security issues.



Courtesy photo

Pictured are (from left) Ambassador David Litt, Associate Director for International Liaison; Major General (ret.) Justus Graebner, German Deputy Director; Peter Flory, Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment, NATO; Dr. John P. Rose, Marshall Center Director; and Mr. JQ Roberts, United States Deputy Director.

Service Credit Union giving back to military community

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

In a generous post-holiday gesture that surprised local leadership, the Garmisch branch of Service Credit Union issued 25 cash gift cards to local military personnel E-6 and below Jan. 16 at the George C. Marshall Center on Sheridan Kaserne.

Retired Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) John P. Rose, director of the Marshall Center, hosted the brief presentation for the assembled warriors in his office along with Karin H. Santos, Manager, USAG-Garmisch.

"Here is a great example of where

our community support services are paying back and recognizing the contributions that our men and women who are in uniform are making to our country, our services, and the sacrifices they're making every day," said Rose. "I'll tell you what, I've been around for a while and it's the first time I've heard of one of our corporate sponsors doing something like that."

Santos couldn't recall anything similar happening in her many years of service.

"I have to follow, I have not heard of any credit union doing this before," said Santos, addressing the Soldiers

and Airman present. "I think it's a wonderful gesture, and you all are the lucky recipients of their generosity."

The cards for Garmisch, representing a total of \$2,000, were part of about \$30,000 in gift cards issued in Europe by the SCU holiday gift card program, said Rose, adding that the money came from the credit union employees.

"We love our military, and we just want to give back, saying thank you for the sacrifices you make as well as the sacrifices your families make," said SCU Garmisch branch manager Lori Johnson, herself a retired Air Force chief master sergeant. "A lot

of us are former military. We know what you go through every day, and we just want to say thank you for everything that you do."

As part of the ceremony, Johnson presented an oversized "gift card" to the topkick of the Marshall Center, First Sgt. Taher Almosadder.

"This program is a great thing to support the Soldier E-6 and below and their family. We appreciate what the credit union does," said Almosadder, also accepting cards on behalf of personnel who couldn't be present.

The cards came in increments of \$50 and \$100, with the larger amounts going to the junior enlisted with

families first. Most of the card recipients on hand for the presentation were USAG-Garmisch military police.

"For January bills it's a good thing to have a little extra cash. I've been in about 17 years serving but I've never heard of this," said Capt. (P) VickyLynne Peters, garrison provost marshal.

"This is a beautiful duty station," she said. "Sometimes it's a little expensive, so this gives the younger soldiers an opportunity to go out, maybe take a ride up the ski lift, or to buy that memento that they wouldn't have had from this area."

1st Bn., 4th Infantry's Team Dragon prepping for Afghanistan deployment

by Capt. JUNEL JEFFREY
JMRC Public Affairs Officer

As the Hohenfels community begins a new year, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, will once again rise to the challenge as yet another company deploys to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

Company D, 1-4 Infantry Battalion will replace Company A, which is currently at the helm of the Zabul mission. Led by Capt. Wayne Keeler and Sergeant 1st Class Philip Eville, Team Dragon is no stranger to hard work.

"Nearly half of the men in Team Dragon are from other companies in 1-4 Infantry," said Keeler. "Most of those men bring experience from previous deployments on this very mission."

Unlike Alpha Company, which is an infantry unit, Team Dragon is a tank company that brings to the fight knowledge and experience about mounted operations.

Preparing for deployment is not an easy task. According to Capt. Warren Simmons, 1-4 Infantry Battalion assistant operations officer, the tank company took part in a challenging



A Soldier from Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, serving as a member of the opposing forces during an exercise at the Hohenfels Training Area, takes aim at a target. Delta Company is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan in early 2008.

training regiment to ensure readiness.

"Team Dragon has been preparing for their deployment since June 2007," Simmons said. "They qualified at the individual, team, squad, and platoon. Team Dragon is ready to go."

"From fire team situational training to squad training exercises

and live fire, we certified our squads," Keeler said. "The training was challenging and the Dragons did exceptionally well."

Company D last set out for Afghanistan in late 2006. Working in austere conditions and against defiant enemy forces, the light infantry company faces another long, tough

road ahead in taking over this mission.

"Team Apache did extremely well in the execution of their mission," said Maj. Sean Fisher, Task Force Zabul deputy commander. "The main expectation I have for Team Dragon is to take the progress made by the Soldiers, sailors, and airmen of Team Apache and improve upon it."

Fisher said that Delta Company must be flexible and ready to execute both kinetic and non-kinetic operations in Afghanistan's most severe terrain and weather conditions.

"They should expect nothing to come easy," Fisher said. "I know with the great training and preparation they've had in Germany, they will be successful in developing upon the successful efforts of their fellow Warriors."

As Delta Company sets its sights on continuing to provide the people of Zabul Province with a secure and prosperous environment, they will not go alone. They take with them the support and confidence of the Soldiers and families of the Hohenfels community.

"I am eager and anxious to see how my Soldiers will do when they face combat for the first time," said Sgt. Bryan Fenn, a Delta Company mortarman. "I have no doubt in my mind we will be able to accomplish any task that lies ahead."

"This is the reality of Army life," Keeler said. "Our Soldiers and families embrace the situation with the spirit of family and community we have grown in Team Dragon."

Delta Company is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in early 2008.

Students take top prize in spelling, geography bees

Special to the Bavarian News

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Hohenfels hosted a spelling bee and geography bee in January.

The winner of the 2008 Hohenfels Spelling Bee was Josh Petery, a fourth grader in Kathryn Iacampo's class. The runner up was Julian Morales, a sixth grader in Jennifer Remoy's room. Petery will advance to the European Spelling Bee, which will be held at Ramstein Elementary School March 15.

The Scripps Spelling Bee is sponsored by the Parent Teachers Association.

The winner of the 2008 Hohenfels Geography Bee was Andrew Whittingham, a fifth grader in Lisa Zimmermann's class.

Whittingham will advance to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors.

Second place went to fourth grader Jared Bernal, and sixth grader Robert Ryan took home third place.

Spelling Bee school winners are eligible to win the national championship and the first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition May 20-21 in Washington, D.C.



Andrew Whittingham and Jared Bernal compete in the final round of the 2008 Hohenfels Geography Bee.



Josh Petery sits down with confidence after correctly spelling the last word in the 2008 Hohenfels Spelling Bee.

Photos by Troy Darr

Community honors MLK's lasting legacy

Special to the Bavarian News

Soldiers, their families, and civilian employees in U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels honored the lasting legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. at a luncheon in the Garrison Dining Facility Jan. 22.

Highlights of the event included a series of musical performances by Carla Nwoga and vignettes highlighting King's life and vision

presented by Master Sgt. Christopher Mulvihill, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Nwoga and Aundra Fryer.

Courtney Borg was the winner of an essay contest organized by Mulvihill, the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Equal Opportunity advisor.

In a presidential proclamation President George Bush wrote, "In the brief time Dr. King walked upon this

earth, he devoted his life to strengthening the content of the American character and called on our Nation to live up to its founding principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all its citizens.

"Dr. King's faith in the Almighty gave him the courage to confront discrimination and segregation, and he preached that all the powers of evil are ultimately no match for even one individual armed with eternal truths," noted Bush.

"Through his determination, spirit, and resolve, Dr. King helped lift souls and lead one of the greatest movements for equality and freedom in history," he said. "Our nation has made progress toward realizing Dr. King's dream, yet the work to achieve liberty and justice for all is never-ending."

Photo by Troy Darr

Carla Nwoga sings while husband Sgt. 1st Class Paul Nwoga plays the bongo drums at the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in the Garrison Dining Facility Jan. 22.



Participants drop pounds, body fat percentages in Lose 2 Win competition

by MALI HOEH

Special to the Bavarian News

Team FBI or Fabulous, Beautiful, and Intelligent took home first place honors in the U.S.

Army Garrison Hohenfels Sports and Fitness program—its fourth semi-annual Lose 2 Win Program.

The Lose 2 Win Competition was a 10-week event in which 25 teams, each with three members, competed to lose the most weight.

FBI members included Angela Hutchison, Jennifer Curry, and Sabine Smith, who lost a total of 63 pounds and 16 percent body fat while going to the gym two times a day, seven days a week and attending several classes.

Second place went to Las Latinas

whose members were Lisa Godoy, Adriana Orozo, and Lourdes Astello. Together they lost 49.5 pounds and 19 percent body fat.

Third place was secured by Lion's Heart teammates Evelyn Rivera, Jose Rivera, and Alex LeMasters who as a team lost 45 pounds and 11 percent body fat.

The program was open to Soldiers, family members, and civilians. Teams earned points based on body fat loss, weight loss, and hours of physical exercise completed at one of the local physical fitness facilities or through one of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness classes.

The next Lose 2 Win Competition in Hohenfels kicks off on March 18.

Thinking about joining?

The next Lose 2 Win competition kicks off March 18.

Hohenfels military police working closely with German authorities

by GARRY BARROWS
Special to the Bavarian News

Team work is generally described as a cooperative effort by a group or team.

It also describes the relationship that exists between the Hohenfels Military Police and the local German law enforcement officials.

"We enjoy a very good, friendly working relationship with the local Polizei," said Provost Marshall Capt. Derek Wilson who is also the garrison's chief of the Emergency Services Directorate.

Most U.S. Army posts have good working relationships with local law enforcement agencies, but in Hohenfels the relationship seems to go beyond the typical.

"We have joint responsibilities and work together accordingly," Wilson said, "and not just outside the installation.

"The local Polizei will come here, and together we will do things like winter tire checks and even customs and security inspections of local national workers."

Wilson said that because of the long history of the training area, the local communities have become accustomed to Army personnel being here, and the local law enforcement inspectorate in Parsberg has developed a special trust with the post.

"If there is any kind of issue with a civilian, family member or contractor, and an investigation is necessary, it is their case, but we do the legwork," Wilson said. "We have a coordinated and respectful partnership."

Army families live in 16 off-base housing areas. In addition, hundreds of others live in private rentals in apartment complexes and houses.

"Every day, MPs have off-post

responsibilities to check road conditions, respond to traffic situations, housing area patrols, and more," Wilson said.

Viktor Zacharda, director of the Parsberg detachment of the Polizei, has had the opportunity during his 18 years of service to understand the complexities of the kind of law enforcement that is needed in a mixed community where 16 percent of his jurisdiction is affiliated in some way with the United States government.

"I see our primary duty is to assist, to clarify, and to help anyone, regardless of nationality."

Zacharda said even though the 60-year-old Status of Forces Agreement is the formal basis for working together, common sense and good judgment are also important.

"There are really two problems we have to work through to have a good relationship," said Zacharda. "One is the constant change of the military police personnel. Two or three years and they're gone."

Fortunately, a long line of very good military police personnel have been stationed in Hohenfels who have sincerely tried to understand the German laws and how they work,

he said.

As an example, Zacharda credits Wilson for making the effort to learn the German language and he now "speaks very good German," he said.

The second issue is the language barrier.

"Thank God we have the interpreters, otherwise we would drown," said Zacharda.

Long-term German speaking employees/interpreters are on call around the clock and have provided a continuity and consistency to everything that has evolved in making the working relationship so effective and satisfying.

It has also given him and his staff a confidence that, with the influence of the interpreters, a basic level of cooperation and understanding is always in place.

"They (the interpreters) have been here a long time and they know what the polizei and what the MPs need to begin with," Zacharda said.

Another example of a joint assignment is to have a combined group of MPs and polizei visit German night clubs frequented by U.S. Soldiers in the surrounding communities.

The German and American police also conduct random traffic stops on Friday and Saturday nights.

While cooperation between law enforcement agencies is important, the diligence of the citizens, both German and American, is even more important.

Zacharda said many Americans have told him, "Viktor, I feel so safe here."

"But that can be a double edged sword," Zacharda warns explaining that all citizens must stay alert and conscious of security in locking cars, garages and homes.

"You can not let your guard down," he advised.



Photo by Christina Wilson
Pfc. Jarrod Addison and a German policeman conduct a joint traffic stop at Gate 1 in Hohenfels. U.S. military police and German police have developed a close working relationship over the past decades.

COMMENTARY

by HEATHER MASTERPOOL
CYS Youth Sports Assistant

Youth coaches making positive impact on kids, sought for local programs

Community Youth Sports coaches are preparing children for the future one season at a time.

Team sports available to the youth in Hohenfels build numerous, positive life skills that help young athletes succeed in the future.

Cooperation, planning ahead, dedication, and determination are all developed by children, and all while having fun and getting exercise.

In today's high calorie society, developing an enjoyable way to stay fit and eat healthy early on is always a good thing.

However, all of these benefits would not be possible without the positive impact of the community's volunteer coaches.

Simply holding a practice requires a great deal of time and energy from these coaches in planning and execution, but the benefits are reward enough for the

effort.

Young athletes are providing a safe environment to interact with each other and learn new skills under the supervision of caring and knowledgeable coaches.

The coaches also serve as positive role models for their players. The commitment, selfless service, and positive attitude of volunteers coaches are absorbed and emulated by their young charges and are eventually fully adopted into the children's developing characters.

Youth sports volunteer coaches are without a doubt a necessary asset to any post.

Without the time, care, and effort of these men and women, the future, as well as the present, would not be quite as bright for our future leaders.

For information about becoming a Youth Sports Coach call DSN 466-2558.

“In today's high calorie society, developing an enjoyable way to stay fit and eat healthy early on is a good thing.”



Courtesy photo

Hohenfels Hurricane Stephanie Davis competes in a European Forces Swim League swim meet against the Stuttgart Piranhas and the Bamberg Aqua Barons in Neumarkt.

Hohenfels take second at swim meet

by DAN HOEH
Special to the Bavarian News

The Hohenfels Hurricanes Swim Team captured second place team honors and three swimmers earned seven gold medals in a swim meet against the Stuttgart Piranhas and the Bamberg Aqua Barons in Neumarkt Jan. 13.

Karl Hoeh took home first place in the 50- and 100-meter Freestyle and the 100-meter Butterfly.

Stephanie Davis won top honors in the 200-meter Freestyle and 100-meter Backstroke, and Grant Gamble earned first in the 50- and 100-meter Freestyle.

Katelyn Bronell was the team's most improved swimmer, chopping a whopping 21 seconds off her 200-meter Freestyle.

Amy Hoeh's performance was equally great by reducing her best time before she found out she was swimming with a broken bone in her

arm.

The final meet of the year takes place in Berlin where the Hurricanes will compete against individuals from the 17 other swim teams from throughout Europe in the European Forces Swim League.

For more information on the Hohenfels Hurricanes or to see how the swimmers compare to others throughout the league visit their Web site at www.hohenfels-hurricanes.org.

Do you have a question, comment, or concern you'd like to see discussed? Do you have a compliment or complaint? Write a letter to the editor! Send an e-mail to usaggnews@eur.army.mil with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

Marines hit JMRC hard, 'FAST'

JMTC Public Affairs

More than 50 Marines from the 2nd Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Company 5th Platoon from Rota Spain spent a week recently at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels to hone their skills during sustainment training in advanced urban combat.

Vital security assets

FAST Company is a quick response team protecting vital security assets in the European theater.

"What we focus on is limited recapture in a secure environment," explained Capt. Rudy Salcido the 2F5

commander."

"If a naval installation or American Embassy is compromised," he said, "We have the ability to go in and take it back over."

The selection

According to Salcido each Marine is selected for FAST platoon on a 7-month rotation basis. Midway through the deployment team members are provided the opportunity to undergo this sustainment training.

Observer/Controllers from the Grizzlies at JMRC have gone to great lengths to provide their brothers-in-arms with a variety of critical and

realistic training exercises.

"We have three different types of training lanes set up for the Marines," said Capt Dan Enslin the senior O/C for the rotation.

"We have a mounted combat lane, where they have to conduct a patrol on up-armored HMWVS," he said. "During this patrol they have to identify an IED cache that has been laid in by the enemy."

IED and ambush training

According to Enslin the lane also included reacting to contact with an improvised explosive device as well as an ambush.

Marines also conducted a dismounted patrol, during which they were tasked with clearing several buildings.

"During this lane they will be identifying materials that could be used for manufacturing IED," Enslin explained.

"We also have a torture victim at the electrical sub station they will have to deal with and an IED ambush," Enslin added.

According to Enslin the final lane will involve a limited recapture.

"They will have two police officers who have been taken to be tortured," he said. "They will have to go in and rescue these men with very little notice."

Day and night

The Marines finished their training at JMRC with a live-fire exercise at the shoot-house. Teams would enter the structure clearing rooms one at a time using live ammunition.

The platoon practiced their urban combat skills in both day and night time scenarios.

In addition to providing a very realistic training environment, JMRC provided observer/controllers, opposing forces and civilians on the battlefield to add to the experience.

A lasting impression

It was this attention to detail that made a lasting impression on some of the men.

"The nighttime scenarios were amazing," said Cpl. Rick Geslan, 2F5 fire team leader "We actually had to forge through buildings with furniture in them and we had aggressors who were not Marines, playing the aggressors."

A different experience

According to Geslan this training was a different experience for the unit.

"We had to deal with interpreters and civilians on the battlefield," he said.

Another aspect of this training was the use of Soldiers instead of other Marines as aggressors.

"Back home in York town Virginia we use other Marines as the aggressors," he said. "They have a tendency not to take their role as seriously."

The size and quality of the military operations on urban terrain sites at JMRC is what stuck in the minds of some of the visiting Marines.

The bare minimum

"Back home we have the bare minimum in our MOUT sites," said Lance Cpl. Michael Silver. "Here you have cities, buildings, people occupying it so it gives you the actual feeling that you are there."

"It wasn't just one thing that stuck in my head, it was everything," he said. "You had to really be on point with everything you do or it will come back to haunt you later."



Courtesy photos
A Marine FAST unit prepares to enter a building during a live-fire exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.



The Marines' live-fire exercise at JMRC helped them hone their urban combat skills.

Czech soldiers receive driver training from CATC

JMTC Public Affairs

Instructors from the Combined Arms Training Center in Vilseck were at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels recently teaching Soldiers from the Czech Republic how to maintain and operate U.S. military armored HMMWV.

A total of 21 Czech Soldiers from the Czech Army Reconnaissance Battalion participated in the week-long course. The unit is preparing for their deployment to the Logar Province of Afghanistan in February.

"The importance of this training is familiarizing these Soldiers with vehicles they have never driven before," said Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Harris, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the sustainment training branch of CATC.

"Most of these students have never seen these vehicles before and they will be using them when they deploy to Afghanistan," said Harris.

According to Harris, instructors went to great lengths to insure this training was beneficial to our coalition counterparts.

"We didn't just throw this course together," Harris said. "We planned it for about a month."

"We have some experienced civilians who have backgrounds in transportation and



A Czech soldier directs a fellow student through the serpentine station of the driver's training course.

Courtesy photo

maintenance," Harris said. "They came out and set up the course then put it through a dry run."

The course is divided into three separate stations. Station one tests the driver's ability to stop the vehicle. Each student accelerates the HMMWV to 20 miles-per-hour. Once this speed is achieved, the driver applies the brakes, learning how to compensate for the weight shift caused by the additional armor.

Station two is known as the serpentine track. Each driver winds the vehicle in and out of

cones. This maneuver lets the driver to feel how the vehicle will respond traveling around barriers similar to what they may encounter in the field.

Parallel parking was the object of station three. Upon completion of the serpentine track the driver proceeds to a cordoned off area where they are required to park the vehicle.

"You can't really see around this vehicle," Harris said, "That's why it's important to learn how to use your mirrors and pay attention to

your ground guide."

At the final station students also learn the appropriate hand signals to guide a driver into position.

"This training is very important to us," said Lt. Zdenek Soural, platoon commander of the Czech Army Reconnaissance Battalion. "We are used to driving smaller vehicles with no armor. It is really different driving these larger U.S. vehicles with the armor."

"This has been really good training for my troops," Soural said. "It was a little difficult for us at first, but my men have really gained a lot of confidence."

Soural attributes this confidence to the hard work and dedication of the CATC instructors.

"The instructors have been of great," he said. "Their positive attitude towards us has been great during this training."

Soural said the hardest thing to get used to was driving a car with an automatic transmission.

"We have manual transmissions in our vehicles," he said. "Getting used to R and D on the stick has been interesting."

According to Soural, the facilities and equipment at JMRC is better than anything they have used in the past and they look forward to training there again.

Soldiers learn short-range marksmanship training tactics at JMTC

JMTC Public Affairs

Following closely with the idea that every Soldier is a rifleman, a mobile training team from the 192nd Brigade, 29th Infantry Charlie Company of Ft.

Benning Georgia came to Grafenwohr recently to train Soldiers from different units in the art of short-range marksmanship.

During the week-long course noncommissioned officers were taught a variety of techniques to help better prepare their Soldiers to engage the enemy.

"The purpose of this course is to allow students to pick up different techniques," said Staff Sgt. Michael Borr, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the short range marksmanship course, "so when they

go back to their unit they can train their Soldiers that they broaden their horizons."

Borr explained that the goal of the course was to teach students to be able to engage targets quickly and actively at close range.

"We want the Soldier to practice the techniques enough that when the time comes he just snaps into it instead of having to stop and think about what to do."

Staff Sgt. Michael Borr
NCOIC, Short Range Marksmanship Course

techniques.

"We let them figure out which ones work best for them, and then we incorporate it all at the end into a transition scenario with different barricades," Borr said.

Techniques taught include shooting while in motion and around barricades. Students also learn the

quickest and most effective way to change magazines during an engagement.

According to Borr the main focus of this course is to help the Soldier develop muscle memory in order to make their reactions to hostile fire reflexive in nature.

"We want the Soldier to practice the techniques enough that when the time comes he just snaps into it instead of having to stop and think about what to do," he said.

Borr explained that this course was to train NCOs to take techniques back to Soldiers in their units that don't ordinarily get to shoot.

"We like to focus on the Soldiers who weren't out doing patrols prior to the war like service support," Borr said.

"I feel this course is vital to those Soldiers who don't ordinarily get to shoot," he said. "These techniques will help better prepare them to complete their mission."

Units interested in this type of training are encouraged to contact the Training and Doctrine Command or visit the 192nd Brigade Web site at www.benning.mil.



Photo by Pfc. Jerry Wilson
Staff Sgt. Mario Rios makes a dry run through the barricade course during the short-range marksmanship training class at the Joint Multinational Training Command.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

General officer assignment

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced that the President has nominated Army Gen. David D. McKiernan for re-appointment to the rank of general and assignment as the commander, International Security Assistance Force. McKiernan is currently serving as the commanding general, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army/commanding general, U.S. Army, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Germany.

Estates Claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of **Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Pionk** of 3rd Squadron, 2d SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. John Paul Rebello at DSN 475-7776.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Jonathan K. Dozier** of 3rd Squadron, 2d SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, Capt. Glenn Anderson at DSN 475-8591.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of **Spc. Todd Davis** of 3rd Squadron, 2d SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. John H Stanczak at DSN 475-6735.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of **Sgt. Christopher Sanders** of 3rd Squadron, 2d SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, Capt. Eugene Williams at DSN 474-2300.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Sean Michael Gaul** of 3rd Squadron, 2d SCR should contact the following summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. Daniel Crystal at DSN 474-2166.

Vilseck Clinic has new hours

The Vilseck Health Clinic's new operating hours are as follows:

- Monday-Wednesday: 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Thursday: 1-6 p.m.
- Friday: 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m.-noon (Urgent Care Only)

■ Closed all training holidays and federal holidays.

Active Duty Sick Call

- Monday-Wednesday, Fridays 6:30-7 a.m.
- Thursdays 1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Beneficiary Appointments by Phone Only

New Phone Appointment System:
DSN 476-2882/2804/2936 or CIV
09662-83-XXXX.

Air Travel Update

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced new safety rules relating to the storage of rechargeable Lithium batteries when flying to, from and within the USA.

The new restrictions, effective from Jan. 1, 2008, dictate that loose lithium cells may not be packed in checked baggage under any circumstances - batteries installed in equipment are unaffected.

Carry-on baggage may contain up to two loose batteries but only if there is no possibility of short-circuit; containing them individually within simple plastic bags or their original packaging is sufficient to prevent this and will satisfy inspectors.

Graf Thrift Store accepting consignment furniture

The Grafenwoehr Community & Spouses Club Thrift Store in Grafenwoehr is now accepting furniture and/or any individual item valued over \$25 for consignment.

Call CIV 09641 454 085 to set up an appointment to start an account and to deliver your large items to the Thrift Store.

Vilseck Sort sets new hours

Effective Friday, the Vilseck Recycling Center will be open Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. It will be closed on Sunday. For more information call DSN 476-2600.

Girl Scout cookies on sale

Girl Scout cookie season will run through Feb. 16. Scouts will be conducting cookie booths in various community locations Saturday-Feb.16.

EFMP screening set at Grafenwoehr Health Clinic

Starting Jan. 8, the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic will offer EMFP screenings with a registered nurse on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Call DSN 475-7152 or CIV 09641-83-1750 to make your appointment.

Graf Optometry Clinic appointments available

Grafenwoehr Optometry Clinic is open and appointments are available for all Grafenwoehr beneficiaries. Call CIV 09641-83-7251/8393 or DSN 475-7152/8393 to make your appointments.

You must be enrolled at Grafenwoehr Health Clinic in order to make appointments. Vilseck enrollees must continue to use services at Vilseck Optometry.

CYS SKIES Unlimited

CYS SKIES Unlimited (School of

Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills) is seeking certified professionals who would like to put their skills to work and dedicate their time and knowledge to making a difference in a child's life.

Instructors are needed for Music (Piano, Vocal, and Guitar), Foreign Language (German and Spanish), Gymnastics, Tennis, Swimming, and Academic Tutoring. Please call DSN 476-3376 or CIV 09662-83-3376 for more information.

New Customs office

There is a new Customs customer service office in Grafenwoehr located in Bldg. 244, Room 240. Operation Hours will be as follows:

- Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - noon / 1 - 4 p.m.
- Friday, 8 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m.

For more information, call DSN 475-7249 or CIV 09641-837249 at Grafenwoehr, or call the Vilseck Office at DSN 475-2105 or CIV 09662-832105.

AWAG announces this year's conference dates, location

American Women's Activities, Germany is hosting their annual conference at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch April 27-May 1. This year's theme, "AWAG - The Tie That Binds", emphasizes the organizations mission to strengthen, train, and connect volunteers within the European theater.

Interested participants must register by Feb. 15. To register, log on to www.awag.us or e-mail the AWAG registration chair at registration.awag.us.

Embassy hosts literature, lecture series at Pariser Platz

U.S. Embassy announces literature and lecture series to celebrate return to Pariser Platz. Please visit http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/embassy_series.html for full details of scheduled events.

Lost your bike? Look here!

The Vilseck City Hall and Vilseck MP Station have an abundance of unclaimed found property that is believed to belong to American personnel.

The found property consists of bicycles, wallets, and clothing. The point of contact at the Rathaus is Ms. Felkl's office which is located at #13 Marktplatz, 92249 Vilseck, her phone number is CIV 09662-9927.

The point of contact at the Vilseck MP Station is Staff Sgt. Buchanan, DSN 476-2903.

Remember, if you don't secure your personnel property, someone else will.

Hohenfels Briefs

Free tax assistance offered

The Hohenfels Tax Center will open Tuesday and began scheduling appointments yesterday. The Tax Center, located in the Hohenfels Legal Center. Bldg. 313, will be open throughout the tax season, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays). Call DSN 466-2836 to schedule an appointment.

Want to learn German?

Visit <http://www.vhs.neumarkt.de/hp120887/Filialen.htm>. (VHS German classes) For any persons interested in learning German (beginners or experienced) see the above Web site and instructions to register with Frau Elfride Abrigo at the Neumarkt Volkshochschule (classes at the Parsberg Hauptschule). Call Frau Abrigo at CIV 09492-906290 on Mondays (9-11 a.m.) or on Tuesday through Thursday (2-3 p.m.) with your bank account and BLZ numbers.

CYS registration free

Registration for Middle School/Teen Services is free. Pick up registration forms at the MS/Teen facility, temporarily located in the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 40, or register at CLEOS.

Counseling available

Counseling is available for individuals, couples or families on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Family Life Center, Bldg. 743, across from the commissary.

Appointments can be made to see Chaplain (Maj.) Darin Nielsen by calling DSN 476-3276 or counselor intern Beth

FitzGerald by calling DSN 466-1570 or DSN 466-4795.

All counseling is confidential and is available for Soldiers, spouses, civilians and family members.

ASC seeks volunteers with foreign language skills

The Army Community Services is looking to build a pool of volunteers with foreign language skills to assist with the Warrior Transition Unit Soldiers and family members.

They are looking for people with skills in any language, not just German. If you possess this skill, and are willing to volunteer, contact Eva Garrett at the Army Community Services at DSN 466-2081.

Checking German mailboxes

All residents at Leased Family Housing Units are requested to check their German mailboxes on a daily basis.

The Housing Facilities Office is sending important and recurrent information, such as appointments from contractors for oil deliveries, annual heater maintenance, chimney sweeping and other contractor maintenance.

Club Beyond Update

Club Beyond is free. All youth (7th-12th grade) are welcome anytime.

If you have any questions about these upcoming events or Club Beyond Hohenfels call Chris Howard at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 0151-1494-3311 or e-mail christopher.s.howard@eur.army.mil.

CYS Babysitter Referral Services

Babysitters are Red Cross trained teens willing to provide childcare services during non-school days and weekends.

Child care services and rates are negotiable with provider and include at home or in-quarters care.

* Referrals are available to anyone requiring babysitter services.

* Visit the CLEOS office for referral services, or contact us for additional information.

Kansas City Chiefs cheerleaders perform

Armed Forces Entertainment and Hohenfels MWR Entertainment Office presents the Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders Friday at 7 p.m. in the post gym. Sideline excitement takes center stage as the cheerleaders join us for a night of fun and good cheer.

Famous for their highly-choreographed shows that feature music, dance, acting, and 41 costume changes, this highly-talented group has been recognized as one of the best NFL squads to entertain the troops.

Admission is free and the show is suitable for all ages. Check out the Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders Web site at www.kcchiefs.com/cheerleaders.

Super Bowl party

Sunday, starting at 7 p.m., enjoy contests and activities up until kickoff including the 8 Pin/9 Pin No-Tap Tournament and lane rental at \$9 per hour per lane. AFN will also be broadcasting live from 7-9 p.m.

Library hosts craft party

On Feb. 14, the library will host a free event open to children of all ages to create a Valentine's craft for their loved ones, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information call the library at DSN 466-1740.

CYS registration free

Registration for Middle School/Teen Services is free. Pick up registration forms at the MS/Teen facility, temporarily located in the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 40, or register at CLEOS.

VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS

(as of 4 Jan 08)

GRAFENWOEHR:

Sieglinde Schedl (Installation Voting Assistance Officer)
Sgt. Katie MARTIN (not trained) HHC USAG Graf
Phil Romanowski AAFES Graf
Rober Chace POSTAL
Clarence Stephens POSTAL
Jose Guevrea 111th Postal Co
Michael Price CMR 411
CW2 Jason Cintron A Co, 2d MI Bn
Darius Pratt USAG Graf, DPW
1st Lt. Bryan H. Roy-Smith 12th Chemical Co
1st Lt. Christina Hummel 12th Chemical Co
2nd Lt. Matthew Martinez 212th MP Co
2nd Lt. Shonette Jones 212th MP Co
2nd Lt. Jessica Johnson 212th MP Co
2nd Lt. Sarah S. Noyes 18th CSB
Capt. Paul F. Speering 255th Med Det (PM)
Staff Sgt. Valery Pfiffner 3747th MFTB-E (Reserves)
Dedrick Carr USAHC Vilseck
Ruth Pepito USAHC Vilseck
Sgt. Alan D. Buchholz USAC Grafenwoehr
Capt. Richard S. Wilt ¼ INF Bn
Capt. Brandon M. Gage 561st Med Co
Sgt. 1st Class Steven M. Cormier 69th Sign Bn
Sgt. 1st Class Troy S. Hardy 709th MP Bn
Staff Sgt. Fernando A. Batista 709th MP Bn
Michael McGonigal 615th MP Co
2nd Lt. Matthew J. Songe 615th MP Co
Sgt. 1st Class Santiago Gallardo 72d Med Det (VS)
Capt. Justing BINGHAM Dental Vilseck
1st Lt. Johseph Walker 2SCR, RD
1st Lt. Pauline Harris 2SCR, RD
Capt. Shawn D. Giacobbe 2SCR, FS
Capt. Angelique Mitchell 2BN, 405th AFSB
Sgt. Kim Hurst 41st TRANS

JMTC / JMRC

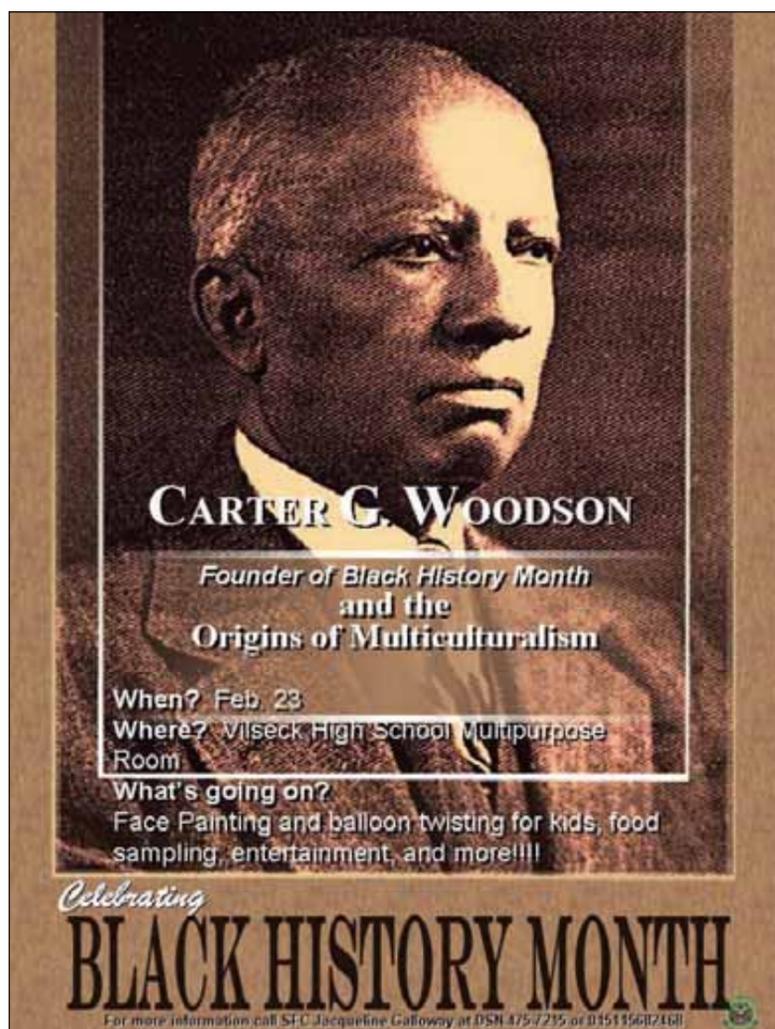
CW3 Koo Yoo JMTC, HQ G1
Sgt. 1st Class Sebastian Rojas HHC 7th Army, JMTC
Sgt. 1st Class Paul Garrett 7th Army, NCOA
Staff Sgt. Eliezer Orellano 7th Army, NCOA
Capt. William R. Duncan JMTC
Danny R. Thomsen HHC JMTC
Capt. Kevin P. Emore HHC JMTC
Staff Sgt. Anthony Ridley HHC, JMRC
Maj. Mark Huntanar JMRC, S1
Master Sgt. Chrisanna Garcia HHC, JMRC, OPS

GARMISCH

Steven Denman
Alonzo Edwards (not trained)
Jessica Roberson (not trained)

HOHENFELS

Sheddric Knight USAG Hohenfels, DHR



CARTER G. WOODSON
Founder of Black History Month
and the
Origins of Multiculturalism

When? Feb. 23
Where? Vilseck High School Multipurpose Room
What's going on?
Face Painting and balloon twisting for kids, food sampling, entertainment, and more!!!!

Celebrating
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
For more information call SFC Jacqueline Galloway at DSN 475/2936 or 015115602468

What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Immigration outreach

People who are considering becoming a U.S. citizen or have questions about immigration, passports or visas are welcome to attend the Immigration Outreach Seminar Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vilseck in Bldg. 355. Frankfurt embassy officers will be on hand to answer people's questions on a variety of subjects. To get to Bldg. 355, turn left at the movie theater and left at Bldg. 322.

Also, for people unable to attend, Ansbach's own legal assistance center stands ready to help people with these same types of services, as well.

Cheerleaders visit tomorrow

The Kansas City Chiefs cheerleaders will help USAG Ansbach show off the renovations at a free open house at the Bunch Fitness Center tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. The facility sports a family fitness room, cardio theater and fitness sessions.

For more information, call DSN 467-4582 or CIV 09841-83-4582.

Youth sports registration

USAG Ansbach Child and Youth Services holds spring sports registration Friday - Feb. 29 for developmental T-ball (ages 3-5), Pee-Wee T-ball (ages 6-7), coach-pitch baseball (ages 8-9), bantam baseball and softball (ages 10-12), junior baseball and softball (ages 13-15), senior baseball (ages 16-18), and spring bowling (ages 6-15).

Age cutoff date is June 15 and youth will be placed in their proper age group according to their playing age.

A 10 percent multiple child discount will be given, and deployment and coaching discounts may also be available. Participants must have a current CYS health assessment at the time of sports registration.

For more information, call DSN 467-2533 or CIV 09802-83-2533 on Katterbach, or DSN 467-4880 or CIV 09841-83-4880 at Storck Barracks.

Community flea markets

USAG Ansbach Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a community flea market on Bismarck Kaserne Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Von Steuben Community Center.

Single spaces cost \$10, double spaces are \$16, and an extra table is \$5.

For more information, call DSN 468-7336 or CIV 0981-183-336.

Autism support group

The USAG Ansbach Autism Support Group meets Feb. 20 and March 19 from noon to 1 p.m. on Katterbach and Feb. 21 and March 20 on Storck Barracks.

The group's sessions give families a chance to discuss concerns and share ideas. Topics include current theories, behavior management, inclusion techniques, stress management and whatever parents would like to discuss.

For more on the group or for exact locations, call DSN 467-2516 or CIV 09802-83-2516 on Katterbach, or DSN 467-4752 or CIV 09841-83-4752 at Storck Barracks.

ACAP job opening

There is a full-time Army Career and Alumni Program counselor vacancy in the Katterbach ACAP office. The counselor provides comprehensive transition assistance to service members and spouses leaving active duty. Requirements include two years of counseling and/or training experience, a master's Degree in the human resources, counseling, Education or related fields, and strong administrative skills.

E-mail a cover letter and resume to Travis Reynolds at travis.reynolds1@eur.army.mil or call DSN 353-8871 for more information.

Hit the slopes with ODR

Outdoor recreation offers many weekend and one-day ski trips this winter:

- * Saturday day trip to Feldberg
- * Feb. 9 day trip to Gross Arber
- * Feb. 16-19 weekend trip to Sölden
- * Feb. 23 day trip to Feldberg

Outdoor recreation also has ski and snowboard equipment available.

For times, costs, and more information, call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

Make your voice heard

USAG Ansbach hosts its Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 12

and 13. The plan offers community members a chance to make their voices heard by allowing them to make suggestions on things to improve.

Idea forms and the gold boxes to put them in will be available throughout the community, including commissaries, bowling allies, health clinics, libraries, Yellow Ribbon rooms and on the garrison Web site.

All ideas will be addressed and most will be worked at the local level to ensure approved improvements take place.

For more on AFAP and how you can be active in improving things at USAG Ansbach or within the Army, call Katie Server at CIV 09802-83-2370 or send her an e-mail to Katie.server@us.army.mil.

Register to vote now!

The Army's Voting Assistance Program aims to ensure that Soldiers, their families and 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.com>. 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 information, call Alkadri at DSN 468-7730 or CIV 0981-183-730.

Idling illegal in Germany

The garrison's environmental staff reminds community members that allowing their car to idle on and off post is prohibited by national law. By not allowing your car to idle, you help protect the environment from harmful emissions of carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen and other volatile organic compounds.

For more on how you can be a responsible environmental steward, call the staff at DSN 467-3423 or CIV 09802-83-3423.

Massage therapy available

The Katterbach Fitness Center offers massage therapy by appointment from noon to 8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Choose from Swedish, deep tissue, and prenatal massages. Swedish massages cost \$30 for 30 minutes and \$50 for 60 minutes. Deep tissue massages cost \$30 for 30 minutes and \$60 for 60 minutes. Prenatal massages cost \$50 for 60 minutes.

For more or to schedule an appointment, call DSN 467-2771 or CIV 09802-83-2771.

Preschool drama time

The Terrace Playhouse offers preschool drama time Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. The class is a parent and child interactive and directed playtime that is open to children ages 5 and up. It gives parents and children an opportunity to explore their creativity together.

The playhouse is located in Bleidorn Housing Area. For more information, call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.

Understanding your car with automotive skills classes

The USAG Ansbach automotive skills centers on Barton Barracks and Storck Barracks can help people learn about their cars, and give them the skills and mental tools to accomplish the seemingly impossible, all at no cost.

For more on what the centers have to offer, call the Barton center at DSN 468-7662 or CIV 0981-183-662 and the Storck center at DSN 467-4608 or CIV 09841-83-4608.

Hook into Wi-Fi

USAG Ansbach Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers Wi-Fi connections at the Von Steuben community center, and the Katterbach and Storck Barracks bowling centers.

People can hook up their laptops and wireless devices in the centers for various rate charges: \$3.50 hourly, \$9.50 daily, \$24.50 weekly, and \$39 monthly.

Bamberg Briefs

Black History Month event

Celebrate the multicultural history of America at the USAG Bamberg Black History Month event Feb. 14 from 11:30

a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Warner Club. Guest speaker will be Gen. William E. Ward, commander, United States Africa Command. Tickets are required and available for free from your command or local EOA. For more information contact Sgt. 1st Class Freeman at DSN 469-1610.

Celebrate Black History Month at the library

Explore and learn more about African-American history in America at the Bamberg community library.

Monday, 3:30 p.m. Join Anansi's Treasure Hunt and help Anansi, a tricky spider, find African treasures.

Feb. 11, 3:30 p.m. Play Mancala; a count and capture game played all over Africa.

Feb. 19, 3:30 p.m. Meet Addy a courageous African-American girl growing up during the Civil War.

Feb. 26, 3:30 p.m. Create peanut butter science experiments in honor of George Washington Carver.

For more information contact the library at DSN 469-1740.

Dinner and wine tasting

Join the CAC for a unique dining experience at the historic Schloss Buttenheim Feb. 15. The event includes a three-course dinner with wine tasting and presentation for \$50 per person. Trip price includes transportation, dinner and wine. Contact the CAC for more information at DSN 469-8659.

Buy Girl Scout cookies

The Bamberg Girl Scouts will be selling cookies throughout the month of February. Pick up a box or two of your favorites every Friday from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in front of the Shoppette or PXtra. Sales end Feb. 29 and cookies are \$3.50 a box. Be sure to buy early for the best selection.

Get fit for the New Year

Step, kick, and stretch your way fit at one of the many fitness classes being offered at the Freedom Fitness Facility. Cardio classes include Step Aerobics, Aerobic Body Blast, Boot Camp and Mommy Boot Camp. Toning and stretching classes include, Total Body Stretch, Pilates and Yoga. Tae Kwon Do, Mixed Martial Arts and Tiny Tots Tae Kwon Do are also offered.

Stay on top of address change

The Bamberg consolidated mail room reminds customers to notify friends, family, and institutions of their address change. As of May 1, 2008 the CMR will no longer accept mail addressed to old unit mailroom addresses. Improperly addressed mail will be returned to sender.

For more information contact Leland Samuels, Postal Officer at DSN 469-7794.

Get into the FAST lane

Soldiers looking to improve their GT score or anyone simply looking to improve their basic skills in math and reading are encouraged to take the next Functional Academic Skills Training class Sunday to Mar. 4. FAST class attendees must take the TABE prior to the class. All military personnel require a memo signed by their unit commander authorizing them to attend the on-duty class. Call the Bamberg Education Center at DSN 469-7715 or e-mail Edgar.Stitt@us.army.mil for more information.

Complete DLPT 5 testing

Are you going downrange? Avoid the last minute rush and get your DLPT 5 language testing done early. If it has been at least 6 months since your last testing, you are eligible to retest. Contact Rebecca Bradley at the Bamberg Army Education Center at DSN 469-7715 to schedule your exam.

ACAP employment workshop

The Army Career and Alumni Program is offering a 2 1/2 day employment assistance workshop for separating and retiring service members and their families Feb. 12 and 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Feb. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Preston Hall. All participants must complete pre-separation counseling prior to enrolling in this course. Call the Bamberg ACAP Office for more information at DSN 469-8925.

Super Bowl Party to be held

See the XLII Superbowl game live at the Moonlight Cabin Sunday. Win great raffle prizes. Manager Allen Vance and staff will be serving up some tailgating favorites including burgers, hot dogs, and ribs! Get geared up for the big game

and catch the NFL play-offs Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Moonlight Cabin. Call CIV 0951-300-8423 for details.

Super Bowl family fun at SAS

School Age Services hosts a Superbowl Family Night Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Bldg. 7669. Watch great video clips, plays and bloopers from the past 41 years of the big game. Enjoy tailgate finger food and a chance to win football prizes. Open to ages Kindergarten to 5th grade. Only 50 slots available, sign up in advance.

Apply for BSCC scholarships

The Bamberg Spouses and Civilians' Club is accepting applications for Term 4 continuing education scholarships from Bamberg community members. Applications are available at the Thrift Shop, the Education Center or can be downloaded at www.bsccgermany.com under "Education". Applications must be turned in at the Thrift Shop by Feb. 27. For more information, contact the BSCC Education Chairperson at education@bsccgermany.com. The Term 5 scholarship deadline is May 7.

Shop the Bazaar with Heart

The Bamberg Spouses and Civilians' Club hosts the annual Bazaar with Heart on Warner Barracks Feb. 8-10 at the Basics Building. The bazaar is a unique shopping experience that brings together dozens of European vendors, crafts and collectibles all under one roof. The Bazaar with Heart is open starting Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The bazaar is open to all U.S. military ID card holders. Cash, Checks, Military Star Card, Master Card, and Visa accepted. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail bazaarwithheart2008@bsccgermany.com.

Chapel needs Protestant Religious Coordinator

USAG Bamberg Community Chapel has a non-personal service contract available for a Protestant Religious Coordinator with a range of \$7,200 to \$9,000. The anticipated performance period will be one year starting Feb. 15. Applicants should contact the Bamberg Regional Contracting Office at CIV 0951-300-9401 for a copy of the solicitation, (packet number W912PG-08-T-0025) or visit their Web site at <http://www.usacce.army.mil/frc>. For more information call Sara Bernier at the Chapel at CIV 0951-300-8326. Completed packets will be accepted through Feb. 8.

Barons basketball schedule

Come out and support the Bamberg Baron's girls and boys basketball teams at home or away.

Friday: Bamberg vs. Vilseck

Saturday: Vilseck vs. Bamberg (home)

Feb. 15: Ansbach vs. Bamberg (home)

Feb. 16: Bamberg vs. Ansbach

Schweinfurt Briefs

Immigration seminar set

Do you have questions about immigration, visas, passports, or citizenship? Frankfurt Embassy officers are coming to the Vilseck military installation Bldg. 355 on Feb. 7. Come to the Immigration Outreach Seminar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Legal Assistance at DSN 353-8384 or CIV 09721-96-8384.

American group performs

Come watch the American Drama Group Europe perform "Short Stories, One Language - Many Voices" at the Schweinfurt Theater, Rosbrunnstrasse 2 at 7 p.m. tomorrow. For tickets, call CIV 09721-51475 or e-mail theater@schweinfurt.de.

Celebrate fasching season

Come to a fasching party Friday at the Schweinfurt club "Eskage" in the city Eskage Hall, Am Hainig. Enjoy carnival comedy and show dance performances. The evening begins at 7:54 p.m.

Feb. 14 romance from USO

Looking for a romantic evening out for Valentine's Day? Go to USO inside Café Rohr on Ledward Barracks to sign up for a special Feb. 14 evening including dinner, dessert, drinks, candy, and roses. The last day to sign up is Monday. For more information, call DSN 354-6711 or CIV 09721-96-6711.

Shop for flea market bargains

Browse a local flea market for great bargains at Wirsingstrasse near the train station in Schweinfurt on Saturday. The flea market runs from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

B.O.S.S. events slated

Participate in Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers events throughout the winter. All instruction, materials, and games are provided free of charge. Call DSN 354-6270 or CIV 0170-725-6464 for more information.

■ Super Bowl party, Finney Sports and Leisure Center, Sunday, pool tournament begins at 8 p.m. and madden tournament begins at 9 p.m.

■ Welding instruction, Conn Auto Skills Center, Feb. 6 from 6-9 p.m.

■ Framing, Ledward Wood 'N' Frame Shop, Feb. 12 from 6-9 p.m.

■ Bowling (drill a customized ball), Kessler Bowling Alley, Feb. 14 starting at 8 p.m.

■ Ski and snowboarding class, Italy, Feb. 15-18.

Build a volunteer portfolio

Not sure how to make your volunteer experience work for you? Let Army Community Service show you how in a class at Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room Feb. 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring any certificates, memos, scrolls, awards, job descriptions, and pictures from past volunteer experiences and learn to put it all together in a book that highlights strengths in order to show off to family members or to apply for a job. For more information or to sign up, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Learn to control anger

Do you know your anger style? Come to Army Community Service's class on anger management at Ledward ACS Bldg. 242 Feb. 12 to find out ways to deal with and control your anger. The class runs from 3 to 5 p.m. Anger management will also be held at Leighton Barracks ACS Bldg. 14 Feb. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933 in Schweinfurt or DSN 350-7103 or CIV 0931-889-7103 in Wuerzburg.

Schweinfurt parades around

Come watch the fasching parade in downtown Schweinfurt Tuesday. Parade begins at Spital-See-Platz (near St. Josef's Hospital) at 1 p.m.

Orientation for newcomers

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, then the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program, held by Army Community Service, begins Monday and runs through Feb. 8. 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.

Respite care available

Sign up now for Child and Youth Services' Super Saturday Respite Care Feb. 9. Children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade will be cared for from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m. One meal will be served. Children must be registered with CYS and also have current immunizations at the time of reservation. Sign-ups for the March Super Saturday begin Feb. 8. Call CYS central registration to sign up or for more information at DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-96-6414.

Basketball game set

Come watch a community basketball game, Schweinfurt against Rattelsdorf, at the DJK gym in Schweinfurt Feb. 9. Game begins at 8 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door.

Smooth move seminar

Leaving the community? Army Community Service wants to help "smooth" your transition. Attend a seminar at Ledward ACS Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. to get tips on packing, shipping, moving with pets and more. For additional information, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Salsa dancing classes offered

Learn some moves and shake it up on the dance floor! Schweinfurt Army Community Service is offering salsa dancing lessons as part of a "Couples can do it" success series. Class will be held at the Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room Feb. 13 from 6 - 8 p.m. For more information, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

80th Academy Awards

Try your hand at guessing this year's Oscar winners

www.oscars.org

Every February Oscar® fever hits the entertainment community and film fans around the world, build to the crescendo of the annual Academy Awards

Presentation a month later, when hundreds of millions of cinema lovers glue themselves to their television sets to learn who will receive the golden statuette.

After more than seven decades of recognizing excellence in film-making achievement, the presentation of the Oscars® has become the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' most famous activity. The Academy of Motion Picture



Arts and Sciences is a professional honorary organization of over 6,000 motion picture professionals. It was founded to advance the arts and sciences of motion pictures; foster cooperation among creative leaders for cultural, educational and technological progress; and recognize outstanding achievements, among its many other goals.

This year, Jon Stewart, host and executive producer of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, has been selected to host the 80th Academy Awards® telecast.

The Oscars® will be telecast live Feb. 24. Stay tuned for updates.

Best actor in a leading role
George Clooney in "Michael Clayton"

Daniel Day-Lewis in "There Will Be Blood"

Johnny Depp in "Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

Tommy Lee Jones in "In the Valley of Elah"

Viggo Mortensen in "Eastern Promises"

Best actor, supporting role
Casey Affleck in "The

Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"

Javier Bardem in "No Country for Old Men"

Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Charlie Wilson's War"

Hal Holbrook in "Into the Wild"

Tom Wilkinson in "Michael Clayton"

Best actress, leading role
Cate Blanchett in "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"

Julie Christie in "Away from Her"

Marion Cotillard in "La Vie en Rose"

Laura Linney in "The Savages"

Ellen Page in "Juno"

Best actress, supporting role
Cate Blanchett in "I'm Not There"

Ruby Dee in "American Gangster"

Saoirse Ronan in "Atonement"

Amy Ryan in "Gone Baby Gone"

Tilda Swinton in "Michael Clayton"

Best animated feature film

"Persepolis"

"Ratatouille"

"Surf's Up"

Achievement in art direction

"American Gangster"

"Atonement"

"The Golden Compass"

"Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

"There Will Be Blood"

Achievement in cinematography

"The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"

"Atonement"

"The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"

"No Country for Old Men"

"There Will Be Blood"

Achievement in costume design

"Across the Universe"

"Atonement"

"Elizabeth: The Golden Age"

"La Vie en Rose"

"Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

Achievement in directing

"The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"

"Juno"

"Michael Clayton"

"No Country for Old Men"

"There Will Be Blood"

Best documentary feature

"No End in Sight"

"Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience"

"Sicko"

"Taxi to the Dark Side"

"War/Dance"

Best foreign language film of the year

"Beaufort" Israel

"The Counterfeiters" Austria

"Katyn" Poland

"Mongol" Kazakhstan

"12" Russia

Achievement in makeup

"La Vie en Rose"

"Norbit"

"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"

Best motion picture of the year

"Atonement"

"Juno"

"Michael Clayton"

"No Country for Old Men"

"There Will Be Blood"

Achievement in visual effects

"The Golden Compass"

"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"

"Transformers"

Don't miss Italy's Carnevale



Story and photos by
Spc. CRYSTAL ABBOTT
SETAF Public Affairs Office

Whimsical costumes with elaborate masks create parades of color down the cobblestoned streets of Venice. People in their bright and fanciful costumes fill the streets during Carnevale.

Similar to the Mardi Gras celebrations, most famous in New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro, Carnevale is a time of merriment, feasting and voluntary madness, and prior to the start of Lent.

The Carnevale masks and costumes originally broke down the social barriers between the upper and lower classes and allowed them to mingle freely.

Today, traditional style masks are available to purchase in many of the shops around Venice. Costume rentals are also available in some of the shops and through some of the hotels.

Today's Carnevale festival includes many elaborate balls, operas and parties that require the participants to be in costume.

Many of these parties can be costly, with ticket prices ranging from 75 to 250 euros.

For those who want to enjoy the festival on a smaller budget, there are parades and public performances held in and around St. Marks

Square, Piazza San Marco. It is also enjoyable to walk around viewing the varying flamboyance of the costumes and masks.

For those who enjoy photography, Carnevale is the perfect venue to get many colorful photos.

Some of the participants turn their costume into pieces of living art, as they pose and move in an artistic and fluid manner, flirting with the cameras that surround them.

However, Carnevale certainly isn't for everyone. The popularity of the festival brings in multitudes of people from all over the world.

You will find yourself stuck in large crowds with very little maneuvering room. All forms of transportation will have very long

lines and likely standing room only.

It is possible to walk from the train or bus station to the square, but even the walkways are crowded, so be sure to safeguard your personal items.

You may also want to consider leaving small children at home as it is easy to get separated in the crowds and there is no room for strollers.

This year's Carnevale festival runs from Jan. 25 – Feb 5. You can find more information about the events online at: <http://www.carnivalofvenice.com>.

To arrive in Venice by train, be sure to take the train to the Venezia San Lucia station. From the bus or train station you can either walk or take a water taxi to St. Mark's Square.



(Far left) Some of the more elaborate costumes are renditions of Renaissance fashion and flamboyance. But it's not just period costume that is in fashion as can be seen by the futuristic Star Wars garb worn by revelers at last year's Carnevale.

CMR crews deliver happy holidays

by JIM HUGHES
Bavarian News

By taking on 60-hour work weeks and moving more than 10 tons of mail a week, U. S. Army Garrison Ansbach community mail room workers helped deliver happy holidays to community members.

While many other people were on leave or working half days, the CMR crews at Storck Barracks, Katterbach Kaserne, Shipton Barracks and Barton Barracks were busy making sure Christmas presents were delivered on time.

Switching to 10-hour days for six days a week around Thanksgiving in preparation for their busiest time of the year, CMR employees from the top down realized the importance of delivering the goods for the holidays, said Fred Lane, USAG Ansbach postal officer.

"Because of the deployment, we wanted to make sure this holiday season was extra special," Lane said. "We worked hard to provide great customer service along with speedy service getting the mail out as early as possible each day."

Lane said the holiday season basically means doubling the normal workload for the CMRs. He said the CMRs processed about 21,500 pounds of mail a week, with a total of about 130,000 pounds over the six-week period that just ended in mid-January.

How do they feel now that the rush is over? "Exhausted," Lane said, adding that some well-earned time off was in store for the CMR crews, while continuing to provide the same great service they always provide.

"To be honest, whether it's a holiday or a regular day, whether you're a colonel or a private, everyone gets the same great service every day—it doesn't fluctuate," Lane said. "We're really conscious about our customer focus. If employees are happy, customers are happy and the mail is getting out, then that means everything is running smooth."

And it was smooth sailing, said Scott Hamilton, garrison director of human resources who oversees the postal operation. He said he'd received 20-25 positive comments through the garrison's Interactive Customer Evaluation system and more are coming in daily.

"That's huge for an organization," he said. "We got the occasional 'not satisfied' comment card, but getting 20-25 positive comments is outstanding. I'm proud of the work Fred and the CMRs are doing."

That success was also evidenced by some patrons making deliveries to the mail rooms.

"Several patrons took time to show their appreciation for our work by bringing us cookies, a cranberry cake, and one person even went to the commissary and bought sub sandwiches for everyone," Lane said. "It's nice. It makes it all worth it because you feel appreciated."

Bill Swanson, a worker at the Katterbach mail room who started the job as the Christmas rush was kicking off, agreed that the customer appreciation was welcome.

"No one was mad or sniping at us—they were understandably anxious to get their packages,"

he said. "I was surprised at how many people were appreciative of the job we were doing. Everyone here knows the job, wants to get it done and pulls together to get the job done."

Lane said it takes a lot of work by a lot of people to ensure a timely mail delivery.

"I want to thank the APO (American Post Office) down the hall for getting the mail scanned in so we could get it to our customers—and also for letting us help them break down the mail to get it out even quicker," he said. "And I know some people didn't get some mail on time, but we can only give them what we have in the facilities."

Lane added that people with difficulties getting a package or mail item should talk to him as he can oftentimes find out what happened or give them insight on what they can do about it.

The success of the 2007 holiday mail season, and the general success of everyday mail delivery within USAG Ansbach, was summed up by Kenneth Aungst, supervisor at the Illesheim CMR.

"We enjoy what we're doing—taking care of Soldiers and their families," Aungst said. "We have a good staff that is motivated, we have a good work climate, we do things in accordance with regulations and we have fun doing it."



Photo by Jim Hughes

The employees who delivered mail, packages, and happy holidays to community members: (from top left) Fred Lane, Sherman Byrd, Pamela Frank, Christopher Cox, Regina Reeder, Seth Frank, Charles Morris, William Swanson, Charles Braxton, Gloria Curry and Scott Hamilton, (from bottom left) Detlev Johnston, Leslie Smith, Jerry Rinehart, James Dorman, Robert Agard, and Cody Dillard.



Photo by Ronald Toland

The employees who delivered mail, packages and a happy holidays to community members at Storck Barracks: (from left back row) Michael Bushell, Adam Morris, Christian Simons, Edward Dominique, Olivia Hendricks; (from left front row) Kenneth Aungst, Lori Copland, Lisa Hardwick and James Gatan.

AMS students compete in GEO-BEE

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

A seventh grader who hopes to follow in her father's footsteps as a pilot won top honors in Ansbach Middle School's GEO-BEE.

Victoria Bone proved tops in geography at the school after competing against 10 fellow students in the final round of the school-level National Geographic GEO-BEE competition Jan. 11.

As a reward for her victory, Bone got to take a test Jan. 18. The results of that test, which are not known at this time, will determine if she makes the final cut for the national-level competition in March in Washington, D.C., hosted by Jeopardy!'s own Alex Trebek, said Ansbach teacher and event organizer Jeff Dye.

"She must do exceptionally well on it" to make the cut, Dye said. "The National Geographic Society began this (competition) because there was a concern that people did not know their geography—where places are on the globe."

He cites popular NBC talk show host Jay Leno's "Jay-Walking" as an example.

"When Jay does his 'Jay-walking' segment and asks 'Where is Canada?' people do not know," he said. "So there was a real concern, and as a result, they decided that if there was some kind of competition where students were recognized for their knowledge—to learn these places and increase awareness of geography as a whole—it would encourage kids to pay closer attention."

The school submitted Bone's test to the judging committee in Washington and her results will be compared with other Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Europe and Pacific students' results. The student who scores the best on the written portion will be selected to compete in Washington.

"It is a competition of about 2,000-3,000 students," Dye said of the overall competition.

This is the second year in a row Bone has competed.

"I was nervous, even though I prepared and studied with my sister," she said.

"Being in the competition last year, where I studied for a month, helped prepare me. We studied capitals of continents, countries, major mountain ranges, lakes, and rivers—basically everything you can learn in geography."

"This year I only had to study about a week—a re-cap of last year's work," Bone added. "It is my favorite subject."

And her life goals give her added incentive to do well in geography.

"I like to travel and I hope to one day take after my dad and be a pilot," she said. "Having a geographical knowledge will really help me—I have to know this stuff. You never know what you'll run into."

Tyler Holderby finished in second place while Steven Taylor took third. The rest of the Top 10 were (in no particular order): Melody Reeder, T.J. Propp, Colton Cross, Gregory Mariscal, Dennis Allen, Jordan Callahan, and Andrew Ahearn.



Victoria Bone is congratulated by Ansbach Middle School teacher Jeff Dye after she won the school-level National Geographic GEO-BEE competition Jan. 11. Bone then took a test Jan. 18, which will determine if she is invited to take part in the national-level GEO-BEE in Washington, D.C., in March.

Garrison Spotlight

USAG Ansbach leadership recognizes employees for a job well done and excellent customer service in the Garrison Spotlight.

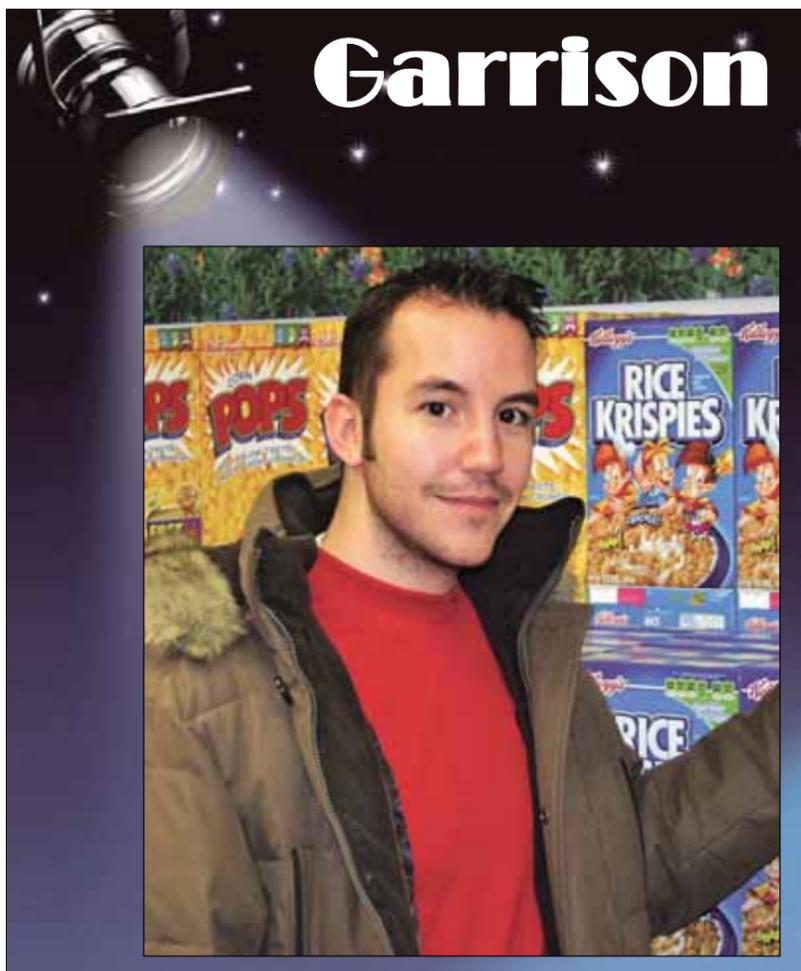
Maximus Brandel, Katterbach Commissary store work leader supervisor, was recently recognized for his outstanding customer service. A woman was shopping in the store with her four children when her 4-year-old became ill and collapsed on the floor, face down.

Brandel was nearby and came to their aid. "I noticed while I was busy stocking that she needed assistance and just did what came naturally to me," Brandel said. "I helped out and did what she told me to do with no questions asked. I am a people person—I enjoy helping others. It is rewarding."

He added that customer service is "the backbone of any operation—it is our lifeblood and livelihood, and keeps customers coming back."

"It interjects daily in my job here—from store opening to closing. I see these people every day and most of them know me by name. They come to me when they need something. I am always helping people with something—special orders, product inquiries, customer assistance, shoppers unfamiliar with the store, those types of things."

Brandel said that he is usually upbeat and has a positive attitude while working every day. "I like to have a good time at work, finish what I start and I lead by example—I would not ask anyone to do anything that I wouldn't do."



WHY I SERVE

Soldier joins Army to travel, becomes 'go-to guy'

Story and photo by
Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE

Task Force XII Public Affairs Office

This is the first story in a new series entitled "Why I Serve."

Staff Sgt. Derrick Mims, a native of Shreveport, La., has become the "go-to guy" whenever Company D, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment needs something done.

"I do a little bit of everything," said Mims, the shop's platoon maintenance supervisor for Company D.

In addition to being the maintenance supervisor, he is also the unit movement officer, the company equal opportunity liaison, the unit historian and the unit photographer.

He has been married to Tamara Mims for almost six years and they have a 5-year-old son,

Derrian. Mims says he had no idea exactly where joining the Army would take him.

"I joined the military 13 years ago because I wanted to travel, see different things and just get away from Shreveport," he said. "Most of my family thought going into the military wasn't a good (idea) but, being a rebel, I decided I'm getting out of this place."

He hoped to become a photographer in the Army because he had been taking photographs since he was in high school. When that job was unavailable, he chose to pursue for his second love: aviation.

"Growing up, my brother and I did a lot of research on aircraft," he said. "My recruiter had a background in aviation maintenance, and once he explained his job to me, I knew that's what I wanted to do."

He was first stationed in Korea for five years

and then he moved to Germany where he's been ever since.

"I've known (Mims) since August of 1999," said Company D 1st Sgt. Ronald Pickens, a native of Abilene, Texas. "When we first met, I was an aircraft component repair supervisor and later became his platoon sergeant."

The two kept in touch over the years and, Pickens says, he even received a call from Mims before he went to Iraq in 2003 because he had some questions and needed a little mentorship on how to handle his first deployment.

Mims, now on his third deployment, is giving the same mentorship he received from Pickens to the younger and less experienced Soldiers of Company D.

"He's been married for quite some time, and this is his third deployment," Pickens said. "One thing the junior Soldiers who are married need is that faith and confidence that a marriage can work through these deployments. He gives them a little advice here and there on how to handle situations because everything seems to magnify while you're apart."

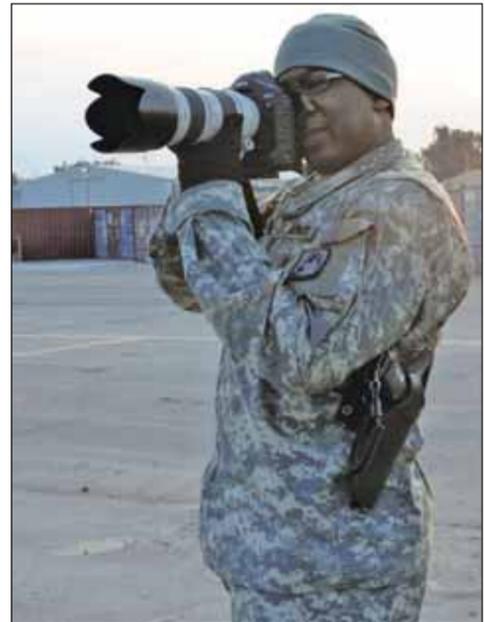
As for his dreams of becoming an Army photographer, Mims says he has accomplished just as much as any military photographer.

"I've had photos published in 'Freedom Watch Magazine', the 'Anaconda Times', 'EURARMY Magazine', 'Army Aviation Magazine' (Quad-A) and on various web pages (USAREUR, V Corp, U.S. Army, etc.)," he said. "I've also had non-military-related photos published in the 'Girls of Lowrider Magazine' and various webzines."

"I placed first and third in the 2005 Quad-A Photo Contest and received an honorable mention in a USAREUR-sponsored photo contest," he said. "I also placed third in a photo contest on TakeGreatPictures.com in 2005."

Ever since he's known Mims, Pickens says, he's been his "go-to guy" to get things done.

"Whether it's handling unit equipment movement or temporarily filling in as platoon sergeant, he'd be the guy I would turn to," he said. "I know he can perform any job asked of



Staff Sgt. Derrick Mims, the shop's platoon maintenance supervisor for Company D, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation, enjoys taking pictures of activities that happen in the deployed Company D area. Mims has been in the Army for more than 13 years, but he has been taking photographs since he was in high school.

him, and someday soon he's going to make a great platoon sergeant."

"I like the big responsibilities that come with the jobs, and I think I've assured them I'm capable of handling those jobs on my own," Mims said. "I've been able to do all of the things I set out to do, and I've been able to see different parts of the world. The Army's been good to me."



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Mims

Several Soldiers from Company D, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment prepare to connect containers to a CH-47 Chinook to be moved via sling load. The cargo was moved to Camp Taji, Iraq to support Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

Garrison opens gates to Kinderheim kids to share fortune, help spread holiday cheer

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

U. S. Army Garrison Ansbach community members helped spread holiday cheer outside the garrison's gates by inviting 43 children from the Walburgisheim Von Feucht Kinderheim to Storck Barracks for tours, basketball, bowling, and shopping right before Christmas.

Children from the home, located 14 km south of Nuremberg in the town of Feucht, have been holiday guests of the Ansbach community for over 20 years, said Helga Moser, German-American liaison for the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

This year's event was coordinated by the J. Ruth Roberts, Chapter 22, Order of the Eastern Star, District 8, Western Europe, Oklahoma Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated, along with other private organizations sponsoring the event.

The children were treated to bowling, static displays of military vehicles and aircraft, sporting events, games, and a favorite American pastime—shopping. And individual sponsors helped give the children a sense of belonging, Moser said.

She worked through unit family readiness support assistants to help J. Ruth Roberts find agency and individual sponsors.

"The purpose is to give disadvantaged children—those without families—a chance to interact with a family and feel part of one every year," Moser said. "What the children experience today gives a lasting impression on them throughout the year."

"What is so special about this for them is that they get to interact with American families since the culture and activities are so different from the German ones they are used to—bowling is usually a big one," she added. "It is a different way of celebrating Christmas with the children—it is louder and more celebratory as opposed to the 'quieter' season the Germans typically share."

And there was a more personal touch added to this year's event.



Capt. Stephen Short, USAG Ansbach provost marshal, receives a handmade gift from Varinia Bulut from the Walburgisheim Von Feucht Kinderheim, one of the 43 children from the home who shared in some holiday cheer at USAG Ansbach right before Christmas.

"This is the first year that the individual sponsors bought gifts for the children," Moser said. "Usually, the gifts are purchased from fundraisers."

Patrik Weichmann, a child visiting for the third time, got to ride around the community in the Military Police command vehicle, sponsored by Sgt. 1st Class James Hicks.

"I am having a lot of fun—riding around, playing basketball," Weichmann said.

Other sponsors, Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott

Seeley, Det. 5, 7th Weather Squadron, and his wife, Jennifer, said sharing was their reason for sponsoring a child.

"We have been fortunate in our lives, we have children of our own, we are compassionate about children, and we want to share love with other children in need," Seeley said. "It is a good way to spend our extra money on somebody else and for a good cause—less fortunate kids."

Mrs. Seeley added that, "It is the holidays! Who doesn't want to make a child smile?"

For more happenings and events in and around Ansbach, check out the electronic newsletters - "On the Scene" and "Cultural Calendar" - available via e-mail.

To get on the mailing list, e-mail

jim.k.hughes@eur.army.mil or rabia.nombamba@eur.army.mil.

Ongoing improvements benefit community

January is a time of change and commitment. For the garrison and residents of Warner Barracks it is the perfect time to take notice of all the changes happening in our community. I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss a particular project/initiative that will take place soon - the closure of 15th Street.

For those of you who do not know, 15th Street is the street that runs along building 7047, the Community Activity Center, more commonly known as the CAC. It is the first road you can turn right on after entering gate 3.

If you regularly drive through this area, then you know, it's a high traffic area that can be confusing. The intersection raises a number of safety issues primarily arising from the number of near-miss vehicle accidents. While looking at the options for dealing with the 15th Street intersection we realized that closing the road would address two issues; safety and force protection. The street closure not only creates a safer environment for people entering the installation, it also improves our force protection measures at gate 3.

Additionally, the new traffic pattern will create designated parking spaces for anyone needing to sign in visitors, reducing the congestion at the intersection.

Please take some time to review the new gate 3 traffic pattern as illustrated in the



diagram. I understand the change will take a little time to get used to and I appreciate your cooperation.

The new traffic pattern gives us approximately ten new parking spaces on Zollner Strasse, (inside gate 3) which will help facilitate signing in guests. More importantly, on 15th Street alongside the CAC, we will gain seven additional parking spaces, making the CAC more accessible to users. Whether you stop by to pick up a cup of coffee, drop off laundry or check out a book, this makes the valuable services provided by the CAC, the library and the Bamberg education center more convenient to you.

The closure of 15th Street will occur Feb 4. After the closure, when the weather is suitable, the marking of the designated parking spaces will occur. Rest assured, it will take no time for us to get used to this change.

Next up, I will provide an update on some prime time projects to include the opening of the newly renovated Child and Youth Fitness Facility and Community Bank, both reopening in early March. As always, this command is committed to our vision USAG Bamberg works every day, so Soldiers and Families can say: "Bamberg was the greatest community in which I have ever in. "Our Garrison: Making memories of a lifetime every day."

*Lt. Col. Gary A. Rosenberg
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Bamberg*



After the 15th Street closure, cars entering Warner Barracks through Gate 3 will no longer be able to make an immediate right turn.

Student recognized for commitment to service

by AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

Alysha Worrell leads a life of service, and her commitment to her community isn't going unnoticed.

Worrell has been selected as Bamberg's 2007 Youth of the Year after being nominated for the local Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year competition.

Worrell, 17, was nominated for the local competition by Army Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps instructor, retired Army Maj. Madonna Roberts.

"Alysha stood out among her peers because of her caring attitude, maturity and commitment. I nominated her for her leadership, volunteer service, strength of character and academic record," said Roberts.

Worrell's strength is tested daily as she faces the physical challenges of living with muscular dystrophy. Diagnosed at age 2, Worrell says she draws her strength from her father, Parrish, a teacher at Bamberg Elementary School.

"He is my role model," Worrell confesses, "and the strongest person I know." Worrell's father also has MS and requires the use of a motorized wheelchair. "Watching him handle his disability has taught me a lot."

Despite her challenges, she keeps a lot going for a teenager besides her good grades. As a Cadet Major and battalion training officer with the 15th Battalion AJROTC, she is committed to volunteering for organizations such as the American Red Cross, the community library, Club Beyond and the High School. She volunteers over 100 hours per year and last May was awarded the "President's Volunteer Service Award."

"She is the first to volunteer and is always willing to help others," said Roberts. "Alysha lives by the words of Martin Luther King Jr.; 'Everybody can be great because anybody can



Photo by James Fredrick
Alysha Worrell reviews her notes before recording a video submission for the European-wide Youth of the Year competition.

serve... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

Worrell explains how being committed to serving others is not always easy. "It is difficult to keep things balanced at times," she said while taping a video interview to be sent to the Europe-wide competition level.

"I have to put school work first, and do all my other activities in my spare time," she said. As Bamberg's local YOY winner Worrell now moves on to compete for the IMCOM-Europe title and the chance to be named the National Youth of the Year.

Additional reporting for this article done by James Fredrick.

Local Soldiers help move mail

Story and photo by AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

The holidays have come and gone and so did all the mail, but not without a little help from three local Soldiers.

Spc. Christopher Correll, Pfc. Jose Guzman, and Pfc. Douglas Talbot took a break from regular duty to work as postal operations clerks at the Bamberg Army Post Office during the holiday mailing season Nov. 1 through Jan. 15.

Douglas Stewart, Bamberg post master said that year-round the Bamberg APO requires a staff of 10 to maintain operations, but during the holidays the number required is closer to 16. Borrowed military manpower helps supply the additional staffing the post office requires to move the mail during the two-and-a-half-month season.

"Making certain the mail gets to people is very gratifying work," said Stewart.

Before volunteering for the APO detail, Correll worked as a generator mechanic with the 240th Quarter Master Supply Co.

"It's definitely a job I am interested in doing in the future; a nice break from unit," he said.

After reporting for duty and two weeks of mandatory training, the new clerks could be seen bagging and tagging outbound mail for "Gateways" to CONUS, international, and

downrange addresses and loading mail onto outbound trucks.

"It was stressful at times, like during the holiday rush, but everyone contributes and the work gets done," said Guzman, a night vision goggle repairer with 317th Maintenance Company.

"It's definitely something new," said Talbot, a small arms repairer with 317th Main.Co.

Guzman commented on what it was like to be part of the process, especially during the holidays.

"I love getting mail. Daily, after seeing all the full bags, you just know what you're doing is going to make someone smile," Guzman said.

Stewart said without the extra manpower, customers may have experienced long lines and wait times during the unpredictable season.

"We plan for the worst case scenarios," he said. "Ultimately the Soldiers' efforts freed up the finance clerks so they could provide service."

Upon completion of their detail, the three Soldiers received training certificates and were recognized for their outstanding service and dedication during the 2007-2008 holiday mailing season by Lt. Col. Richard Shepard, commander, 38th Personnel Services Battalion.

All three Soldiers agreed, "It's the best detail we've ever been on!"



(left) Douglas Stewart, Bamberg post master stands with the holiday postal operations clerks Spc. Christopher Correll, Pfc. Douglas Talbot, and Pfc. Jose Guzman.

'Daddy Cool' inspires Bamberg youth



"Listen to your parents and teachers, they are the ones who love you and want the best for you," said professional basketball player Derrick "Daddy Cool" Taylor. Taylor, a basketball veteran and member of the 2004 German basketball championship team GHP Bamberg, spent time speaking with and inspiring approximately 40 children at the Bamberg community library Jan. 22.

Taylor who now coaches a youth team in Bayreuth stressed education during his speech. "Education and hard work are the keys to success. If I was going back to the States today, all my basketball records wouldn't mean anything. What they would ask me there is if I had a degree."

"The children all had great questions," said Karen Lazzeri, Bamberg library director who invited Taylor to speak after meeting him at a team building event. After the speech Taylor signed autographs and was available for photos.

Photo by Simon Hupfer

Bamberg aid station makes a difference along border

Story and photos by
Spc. GREGORY ARGENTIERI
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

Surrounded by snow covered mountains, the medical personnel of Task Force Saber work side-by-side to provide a first-class, life saving aid station on Forward Operating Base Naray located in northeastern Afghanistan along the Pakistan Border.

The FOB Naray Aid Station team is comprised of medical personnel from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and the 160th Forward Surgical Team. Their first responsibility is to the U.S. Soldiers, whether it is routine shots, taking care of them when they're sick, caring for them when they are injured, or their top priority, treating Soldiers wounded in action.

"The Soldiers know that we are here for them, and that has given me a lot of good feelings about being out here. It's a huge privilege to be able to take care of U.S. Soldiers," said

Maj. Warren Cusick, 41, from Mesa, Ariz., a certified registered nurse-anesthetist and the officer-in-charge of the 160th FST.

"The main thing is for troops to have confidence and know when they go fight they're going to be cared for if anything bad happens to them. I used to be enlisted, and one thing that made me feel confident was knowing I would get medical care, and that is important," said Cusick.

Even though the aid station is only a series of tents, the Task Force Saber medical team delivers extraordinary medical care day and night as close to the fight as logistically possible.

"Our biggest challenge is ensuring that the U.S. personnel are taken care of when they get wounded in battle, and that is what we're always training for," said Capt. Scott M. Harrington, 31, from Daytona Beach, Fla., a family medicine doctor assigned to Charlie Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion.

"In a big battle, we could have 10 or 20 Soldiers come at one time, and

that's happened before, we handled it appropriately, we got everybody out, and we saved their lives," he said.

"I am much more emotionally invested out here because you're among friends. It's very scary when we know the guys are in harm's way," Harrington said. "Every time somebody goes out, one of our medics from the aid station go with the line units. Whenever they go on convoys, one of our medics, who I work with daily, goes out with them."

The Naray Aid Station does much more than provide medical care for American Soldiers. They also are providing life changing and life saving medical treatment to many Afghans, Afghan National Security Forces, and when the need arises, the enemy.

"We have the best relationship with the aid station, they help us all the time," said Afghan National Army Capt. Amanullah, 36, a general-internal doctor assigned to the 3rd Kandak, 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps. "When our soldiers are sick, first we treat them. We try to cure them by ourselves. If we are unable to cure them, we take them to the aid station, and the good doctors help us. We have a very good relationship with the surgeons."

"I was worried and nervous about being treated by U.S. doctors, not knowing what to expect, but after arriving at the aid station and seeing how nice and kind everyone there was, I was okay," said Afghan Soldier Sherin Beg, 22, a medic assigned to 3rd Kandak, 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps. "Within an hour after arriving, I was asleep on the operating table having my appendix removed; the next thing I was awake and it was all over."

The majority of people in need of medical care at the aid station overwhelmingly have turned out to be Afghan. Mostly by word of mouth, the doctors and medics are gaining the trust of the local people, and are building a solid reputation for their compassionate, and respectful



Capt. Scott M. Harrington, 31, a family medicine doctor, from Daytona Beach, Fla., assigned to Charlie Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, examines an Afghan baby girl, testing her reflexes with help from members of the 160th Forward Surgical Team Jan. 3, at FOB Naray Aid Station in northeastern Afghanistan. The infant's father said she has been weak since birth, and the doctors are concerned she may have cerebral palsy.



U.S. Army Spc. Melissa A. Hoffman, 23, from Avondale, Ariz., assigned to Charlie Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion prepares an Afghan mother to draw blood for testing Jan. 3 at FOB Naray Aid Station in northeastern Afghanistan. The aid station has seen more than 5,400 locals since Task Force Saber took over in May 2007.

medical treatment.

"Since we've been deployed, from May of 2007, the [aid station] has seen 5,400 local nationals in our five clinics throughout the upper Kunar Province," said Harrington. "We see many children, adults, and fewer women, but everyday we're seeing more of the local nationals and more of their women because they're feeling more comfortable with us."

An Afghan named Ramdad from the nearby village of Juba is one of the 5,400 people pleased with the services provided by the Soldiers at the Saber run aid stations.

"The first time I came to Coalition forces hospital on FOB Naray was three months ago when I brought my daughter for treatment because she was burned. I was not sure the doctors were going to take her, but they treated

my daughter, and the doctors did a good job," said Ramdad. "I was very happy, and because of that I brought my 3-year-old son, who is sick with pneumonia in for help. We are happy with the American doctors are taking care of our people because we are poor people, we are not able to take our sick family members out of the country, and it's helpful for us."

The doctors and medics working at the FOB Naray Aid Station are the best of the best, they are highly-trained, dedicated professionals, working tirelessly day in and day out, while remaining committed to providing excellent medical care to all.

"Being out here providing the care that I've been trained to do is why I joined the Army. I get to wake up everyday and know that I am doing the right thing," Harrington said.

Finance Soldiers train, certify for war at JMRC in Hohenfels

Story and photos by
Sgt. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16th SB Public Affairs

Finance Soldiers fought their way through small arms ambushes, treated and evacuated injured Soldiers, convoyed through hostile, crowded towns, and transported a VIP through a route full of improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne IEDs during a situational training exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Jan. 18.

The Soldiers of Headquarters, 106th Financial Management Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, went through the intensive training to get certified for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

"All Soldiers have to be warriors," said Capt. James LaCaria, logistics convoy officer in charge, Operations Group, JMRC. "This isn't the days of the Cold War, when combat service support Soldiers were back in the rear. With constant convoy logistic patrols and resupply

missions, they're on the frontlines as often — if not more often — as combat units."

The finance Soldiers had to conduct the planning and execution of the convoy mission on a compressed schedule, but managed to sneak in at least four hours sleep before the daylong iterations of convoy logistics patrols.

"The STX lanes are intensive. We develop our scenarios based on what convoys are experiencing downrange," LaCaria said.

Spc. William Kowalski, supply clerk and armorer for 106th FM Co., was manning a machine gun during a STX mission when an IED exploded and took him by surprise.

"I was focused on the Iraqi Police vehicle broke down on the other side of the road," Kowalski said. "The IED exploded and smacked me on the back. It was pretty realistic with all the debris flying up."

The plaster-spray from the simulated IED that sprayed all over him and the up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled vehicle made the training more real, he said.

"I definitely felt glad that it was a fake," Kowalski said. "It was one of those wake-up calls."

Finance units do leave the Forward Operating Base and have to be proficient in warrior tasks, said 1st Sgt. Andrea Wright, first sergeant, 106th FM Co.

"Everybody's taking mortars," Wright said. "And finance Soldiers have finance support team missions outside the wire."

Wright explained that finance Soldiers have to go out and make contract payments to vendors, and have to go on "money runs," so that Soldiers can cash checks or get other financial services while in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Frank Brown, internal control manager and convoy commander for the Jan. 18 convoy mission, said that the training was important.

"As finance Soldiers, we don't get to do this everyday," Brown said. "It was a great experience that has better prepared us for deployment."

The finance Soldiers also rehearsed warrior tasks and battle drills, conducted cashier training and participated in a convoy live fire, during the two-week certification exercise at JMRC, Hohenfels, and US Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

Headquarters, 106th FM Co., will be joining two other finance units from the company in Iraq. Bravo Detachment, 106th FM Co., Ansbach, Germany, deployed last July to Ramadi and other nearby areas, and Alpha Detachment, 106th FM Co, Vilseck, Germany, deployed Oct. 22, to Rustimiya in southeastern Baghdad.

Army units must be certified within 120 days of deploying.



A finance Soldier ducks as a simulated improvised explosive device detonates during a situational training exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Jan. 18. Soldiers from the 106th Financial Management Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, conducted the STX as part of a certification process for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.



Soldiers from, 106th Financial Management Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade from Bamberg, go through an "Iraqi" village during their situational training exercise lane at Hohenfels.

Town hall explains more details of Graf move

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Representatives from U. S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr held a town hall meeting at the Conn Club Jan. 14 aimed at familiarizing Dagger Soldiers and families with what will soon be their new home. Approximately 1,500 Soldiers and their families will be relocated to Grafenwoehr by mid-June.

Col. Brian Boyle, USAG Grafenwoehr commander, believes his command and community are ready for them.

"Every one of these big moves is a challenge ... but we have done this a couple of times," he said, referring in particular to the recent move of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

The decision to move the Dagger Brigade to Grafenwoehr, announced Jan. 10 by U.S. Army Europe, was primarily a tactical one, but Boyle's main focus is on more day-to-day concerns.

Housing for Soldiers and families is a top concern, particularly when moving such a large group so quickly. Most family housing in Grafenwoehr is handled off-post in built-to-lease housing, with the largest single group being located in the exclusively built-to-lease community of Netzaburg. New schools and care centers are under construction there as well.

Many other small communities in the surrounding area support built-to-lease housing, "and frankly, they're ecstatic" at the prospect of such a large influx of people, Boyle said.

Even so, that influx may put a strain on the elementary school in Grafenwoehr, which is currently operating at capacity with temporary

buildings supplementing teaching space.

"We do not believe we will have a problem next year (because of new construction) ... but kids may have to be bussed" to the Vilseck school if they arrive before the end of the current school year, Boyle explained.

Another area of support about which families may be concerned is health care. Lt. Col. Telita Crosland, Grafenwoehr health clinic commander, was on hand at the town hall to allay concerns and explain what her clinic has to offer.

"I'm gonna sum it up: We're going to give great health care," Crosland said of her clinic's mission.

The clinic is requesting additional staff in preparation for the growth spurt the garrison will soon experience. Using nursing staff to triage and handle patients with routine problems is one way Crosland intends to keep appointments available for more serious or complex issues.

"We've focused on what you need and on getting it in place before you get there," she added, referring to the many new services being added, such as audiology and psychiatric care.

Audrey Bender, Grafenwoehr Moral, Welfare & Recreation director, briefed attendees on MWR and Army Community Service Center programs as well as Child & Youth Services available in her area.

"I have a very dynamic staff that does a lot of out-of-the-box thinking" which allows Bender to be able to offer unique programs like scuba diving.

Those moving with children will be able to electronically transfer their CYS registration when moving to Grafenwoehr, she added. Participants should notify Central Registration



Brigade representative Maj. John Nelson answers questions during a joint briefing with USAG Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle Jan. 14 in Schweinfurt.

in Schweinfurt, so that records may be released.

Brigade representative Maj. John Nelson fielded questions from Schweinfurt community members faced with a move to Grafenwoehr. Questions focused on issues ranging from delaying moves to dislocation allowance eligibility to when and how orders will be issued.

"We're trying to avoid taxing out the transportation system. It's a little bit of a Rubik's cube," Nelson said.

For many questions, however, the answer had to be, "I'll get back to you."

Questions from the town hall were catalogued by brigade representatives and answers are forthcoming for those as yet unaddressed concerns.

Nelson noted that individual Soldier requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration not only the needs of the Army, but also the needs of the Soldier and his family.

Curious George story time



Photo by Sandra Wilson

Three-year-old Ashleigh Bock sits on Curious George's lap during story time at Ledward Shoppette Jan. 18. AAFES employee Desiree Faehre reads a book to her while Curious George makes sound effects to put a smile on her face.

'A break in our ranks'

Couple remembered at ceremony

by MARK HEETER
Bavarian News

The 9th Engineer Battalion, Dagger Brigade and Schweinfurt community honored a Soldier and his wife at a memorial ceremony at the Ledward Chapel Jan. 17. Sgt. Justin Spears, Company B, 9th EN Bn, and his wife, Vilma Crespo-Spears, were killed in an automobile accident on Autobahn 70 near Eltmann, Germany, Dec. 30, when a motorist traveling the wrong way collided with their vehicle. The couple's 10-month-old daughter, Amira, was injured in the accident but has since been returned to the custody of family members.

"There is a break in our ranks," said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Richard Nevard, 9th EN Bn chaplain.

"In a flash, this young family, making their way back to us, was taken from us," said Lt. Col. Glen Masset, 9th EN Bn commander.

"Events like this are not supposed to occur. So why did it?" Masset pondered. "Maybe in this case, there is no right answer."

The Spears family was at a place they wanted to be in their lives at the time leading up to the accident, Masset said.

Crespo-Spears had recently completed military service with the 38th Personnel Service Battalion and was the proud mother to Amira.

Justin had recently returned from deployment to Iraq, and the pair was together for only a few weeks before the accident.

"They were happy," he said.

Spears' company commander, Maj. John Fernas, recalled the first time he met Spears, during a training rotation in Grafenwoehr. "We were stuck in what seemed like mountains of snow," he said, describing the harsh conditions facing him, Spears, and the rest of the Company B "Outlaws" in early 2006.

When he asked his platoon sergeants to name the Soldier who was most up to any task they gave him, one name came to mind - Spears.

"He was self-motivated, mature, focused and dependable," Fernas said. Above all, though, he said, Spears was a family man.

"His topic of conversation was always his family," which also included children, Thunder, 10, and Steel, 7, Fernas said.

Recalling his comrade, Staff Sgt. David Barrera remembered that Spears was a willing friend who was always there for anyone who needed him.

"He definitely made an impact on my life," Barrera said, adding that Crespo-Spears was "a really amazing woman."

"They will always be on my mind, in my prayers," Barrera said.

Free tax filing service available at Conn Barracks tax center

by MARK HEETER
Bavarian News

The Schweinfurt tax center, located in Bldg. 30 on Conn Barracks, has opened for business. As of yesterday, paid tax preparers are available to make appointments and see walk-in customers.

"We have some of the best tax filers in Germany. We have a lot of experience in the office," said Capt. Gregory Costello, legal assistance attorney with the Schweinfurt legal center.

The preparers are equipped to electronically file federal and state income taxes and can help customers receive refunds, in many cases, in 10 to 14 days - with one exception.

"This year, because of late changes to the tax code, people getting education credits and the credit for child and dependent care, their refund is going to be delayed," said Robin Allen, one of the center's tax preparers.

People expecting to file for those credits can come in to have their forms prepared; however, the filers will not be able to submit the returns via computer until around mid-February,

according to Allen.

"It's because forms aren't available," she said. Among the important reminders, according to Costello, is that spouses whose Soldier-sponsor is deployed can file the return with a power of attorney, Costello said.

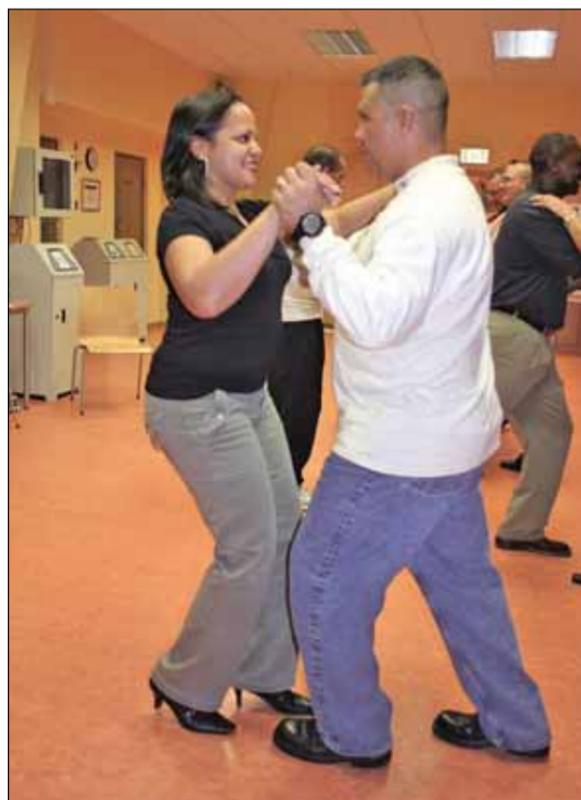
"You can get a special power of attorney done here (at the legal center in Bldg. 1, Conn Barracks) for this," Costello said.

Those who plan to file electronically need:

- Military ID card
- Social security or Individual Tax Identification Number card for all individuals on the return

- All W-2 and 1099 forms
- Copies of last year's returns, if available
- Bank routing and account numbers - not from a debit or credit card
- Joint filers must bring either the spouse or power of attorney for tax filing
- Any other relevant tax information

The tax center hours of operation are Mon-Fri, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the third Saturday of each month, according to Costello. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 353-8992 or CIV 09721-96-8992.



Dance, dance!

Alba Torres and husband Cesar Colon of 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, learn how to salsa dance at the Army Community Service class Jan. 16. ACS is offering free salsa dancing lessons to anyone interested as part of the "Couples Can Do It" Success Series. The next dance lessons are held at the Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room from 6 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 27.

Photo by Sandra Wilson

Miska wins SES spelling bee for second year

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Schweinfurt Elementary School reconvened their annual spelling bee Jan. 17 for third-through fifth-graders.

Twenty-eight children gathered in the multipurpose room with number tags around their necks and ready to spell.

"They've all taken it in stride," said Sharon Rakestraw, SES reading support teacher, regarding the student reactions to having to repeat the spelling bee due to complications with the initial competition held two days earlier.

Each student was provided the opportunity to study the pre-approved words ahead of time.

"This year everything was online," Rakestraw said. Teachers, students, and parents were given instructions on how to download "Spell It!" in order to view the possible words to be used in the competition. "Spell It!" focuses on approximately 700 words which are divided into sections by language of origin.

Teresa Duncan, Susan Wesley, and Carol Haager sat at the judges' table for the duration of the competition while Rakestraw pronounced each word to the participating students.

By round three, only 10 of the 28 students remained, and within 45 minutes of the first word being read, fourth-grader Heather Miska correctly spelled "genuine" and was declared the winner for the second year in a row.

Fourth-grader Justin Bulanadi came in second place to serve as the alternate for the next-level competition to be held in Ramstein in the near future.

"I wasn't here last year, but it's just nice to be here this year," said Miska's father, Lt. Col. Steven Miska, who was downrange for last year's spelling bee.

For winning the SES competition, Miska received a \$25 AAFES gift card as well as a collegiate dictionary to continue her studies.

"Spelling is a lot of hard work," said SES Principal Wilma Holt. "Some of us have it naturally, and some of us have to work at it."



Fourth-grader Heather Miska spells a word as her competitors look on. Miska won the Schweinfurt Elementary School spelling bee Jan. 17 for the second year in a row after spelling "genuine."

Family members, civilians named 'Heroes of the Heart', honored for service to Dagger Brigade

by KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Conn Community Club was an island of activity in a dense sea of fog Jan. 10 as the 2nd Brigade Combat Team gathered to honor 88 family members and civilian employees, and 11 local agencies for their long-standing support and assistance to the Dagger Brigade, and for being "Heroes of the Heart."

Col. J.B. Burton, Dagger Brigade commander, thanked everyone in attendance for their hard work and dedication.

"Where there are caring people ... wonderful things can happen," he said.

Cathy Burton, who has been a driving force for volunteerism and family support during the Dagger Brigade's deployment, praised awardees as "the future of the army."

"You are, by far, the greatest volunteers in the greatest Army, in the history of the world," she added, holding back tears.

Recognized agencies include: Red Cross; Army Community Service; Morale, Welfare & Recreation; Child & Youth Services; MEDDAC; DENTAC; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Dagger Guardian Association; Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club; United Service Organization; and the USAG Schweinfurt.

Individual awards went to (in alphabetical order):

Angele Ackerson
Michelle Adair
Jo Ellen Arthur
Leigh Ann Bandy
Maggie Banks
Gervais Baptist
Angela Beller
Brittany Blake
Jenny Bohns
Morrissa Booker
Jacqueline Borum-Evans
Maria Branyan
Annette Carlsrud
Tom Casarez
Deborah Chambers
Diana Choudhri
Diana Clark
Chris Comish
Marisol Corbett
Jacqueline Dean
Michelle Delgado
Sara Dick
Gabriela Egan
Kelly Ferris
Susi Gawlick
Valerie Glaze
Carol Gowin
Kary Griffith
Katrina Hardy
Manuela Hedman
Denise Higgins
Cris Isom
Annabel Jasso
Kelly Johnson
Tonia Johnson
Carrie King
Heike Kloeckl
Stacie Kolberg
Lynn Lauer
Brittany Learmonth
Dora Lewis
Blanche Livingston
Era Sue Lowenthal
Crystal Malone



Hundreds of Dagger Brigade Soldiers and supporters gathered Jan. 10 to honor the volunteer "Heroes of the Heart" who supported the brigade during their most recent deployment to Iraq.

Grace Maravilla
Melissa Marbut
Angela Martin
Monika Martin
Nadja Martin
Peggy Masset

Jackie McClafflin
Meghan McCormick
Nicole McMurtrie
Laura Merkle
Amy Meyer
Ron Mihalko

Amy Miska
Ramona Morris
Nicki Moser
Barbara Murphy
Kim Napier
Anna Parke
Lisa Parmeter
Debby Pedroza
Susan Perkins
Angleina Philbin
Sarah Polacek
Jennifer Pray
Cheryl Ray
Andrea Reynolds
DeeDee Reynolds
Tuvale Robinson
Jessica Romero
Brandy Simmons
Wendy Sledd
Yvonne Spiller
Bettie Strickland
Dennis Swain
Staci Swotek
Jessica Tanner
Jamie Taylor
Wendy Theis
Ruth Torres
Silvia Turpin
Christina Vargas
Cindy Weisskopf
Sharlynn Wermer
Casie Wester

A special brigade award, the Dagger Rose, given for "exceptionally meritorious volunteer service" to the Schweinfurt Military Community and the Dagger Brigade Combat Team, was awarded to: Cris Isom, Laura Merkle, Morissa Booker, Amy Meyer, Denise Higgins, Lynn Lauer, Sarah Polacek, Christina Vargas, DeeDee Reynolds, and Angelina Philbin.

Commander ushers in New Year 2008



Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, left, USAG Schweinfurt commander, addresses the crowd at his New Year's reception in the Community Club on Conn Barracks Jan. 11. Haager used the opportunity to thank his partners and friends from the local German communities for their support, while also looking forward to the year ahead. Noting the Jan. 9 announcement that the Dagger Brigade is slated to move to Grafenwoehr, Haager reminded his guests that Schweinfurt remains a critical and important installation for the American military.

Photo by Mark Heeter

Bamberg clinic fills host nation prescriptions

USAG Bamberg Public Affairs news release

Active duty Soldiers and family members seen by host nation providers do not have to pay up-front for their prescriptions. Patients seen by German providers can have their prescriptions filled at the Bamberg Health Clinic provided the written prescription meets certain criteria.

In the past, prescriptions coming from host nation providers were not filled because of patient safety concerns.

"Most unfilled prescriptions we received were not written according to the U.S.-based pharmacy protocol," said Maj. Pablito Gahol, U. S. Army Garrison Bamberg Health Clinic commander, and "with over 150 prescriptions being filled per day by our pharmacy personnel, there is no room for errors."

To ensure that your prescription gets filled, and avoid paying up-front, patients should review the pharmacy requirements for host nation written prescriptions.

The Bamberg Health Clinic pharmacy can only fill prescriptions from TRICARE authorized providers contained in the Health Clinic's pharmacy database. The prescription must be for U.S. Federal Drug Administration approved drugs listed on the Europe Regional Medical Command formulary. Medication names and dosage instructions must be written in clear English. Prescriptions for controlled

substances cannot be filled at military pharmacies. Herbal supplements and nutraceuticals normally prescribed by German providers are usually not available.

While the military pharmacy does provide cost savings and convenience to beneficiaries, not all host nation prescriptions can be filled here Gahol explains. Patients should note that German providers do not have to participate in this program. German providers can prescribe German medications and if this occurs the prescription will need to be filled at a German pharmacy (Apotheke). In this instance, patients will need to pay for the prescription and file a claim for reimbursement through TRICARE.

To assist patients, "We have asked our host nation providers to look at our formulary before issuing prescriptions. If the medication is in our formulary, then we can easily fill this request," Gahol said.

For more information about reimbursement contact Michaela E. Blanton, TRICARE BCAC/ Network Coordinator (Referrals/Billing/Benefits) at DSN 469-7897.

The Bamberg Health Clinic Pharmacy is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed on federal holidays, weekends, and on some training days (two afternoons a month). Health Clinic closures are announced in advanced in the Warner Weekly and the Bavarian News.



Photo by Krista Browning

Sgt. Orlando Marin, pharmacy technician discusses a drug with pharmacist David Cannon at the Bamberg Health Clinic pharmacy. Cannon is happy to fill host nation prescriptions and can even translate instructions for any medication filled at a German Apotheke.

Immunizations prevent measles Retirees urged to get vaccines

by ANNE M. TORPHY

BMEDDAC Public Affairs Officer

The German State of Bavaria has reported ninety-five cases of measles during the recent fall and winter months. Measles is a rare disease in the United States due to the efforts of health officials in promoting immunizations. A telling factor in the recent spike is that, except in one case, the disease occurred in patients who had not been immunized for measles.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, measles is an infectious disease caused by a virus. Initial symptoms include a runny nose, cough, fever, and fatigue. After about three days, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and spreads to the rest of the body, and then lasts about three more days.

Measles is highly contagious and outbreaks are most common in the late winter in early spring.

"It is possible to come into contact with people who don't know they have measles, as most have been exposed to the virus about ten to twelve days before exhibiting any symptoms," warned Dr. Sarah Niles, Chief, Preventative Medicine, MEDDAC Bavaria.

Measles is spread by coming into contact with the saliva of an infected person through coughing, kissing, or sharing utensils or a toothbrush.

All children and any adult who did not have measles as a child or who did not receive measles vaccine are at risk. Most children will become

very sick with the disease but recover quickly, with no ill effects.

"There is a slight possibility that serious complications, such as pneumonia or inflammation of the brain, can result from infection of the measles virus," said Niles.

Immunization is key.

"The best way of preventing the disease is through immunization with the measles vaccine," Niles said. "This vaccine is administered as part of the combined measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and is typically given to all infants when they are 12 to 15 months and then again at 4 to 6 years or 11 to 12 years of age."

All unimmunized children and adults are at risk for the disease and should receive the measles vaccine.

"Adults who have not had measles and who have not been vaccinated are at-risk for the disease. Having the disease or receiving the vaccine provides lifetime immunity from measles," Niles emphasized.

Contact your MEDDAC Bavaria Health Clinic for more information on the measles vaccination. Health clinics are located in Bamberg, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Illesheim, Katterback, Schweinfurt, Vilseck, and Wuerzburg. Clinic information is online at <http://www.wuerzburg.healthcare.hqsareur.army.mil/>. For more information on measles and its prevention through vaccination, visit the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm>.

Europe Regional Medical Command news release

Zostavax, the vaccine designed to prevent shingles for persons age 60 and older is available at Army health clinics, and health officials urge eligible retirees to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Following a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation on Oct. 19, 2007, military health officials decided to make the vaccine available to Tricare beneficiaries. The vaccine is free of charge when given in a military health clinic to authorized beneficiaries and civilians authorized space available care.

Shingles is a painful viral disease that affects more than one million Americans every year. More than half of those cases happen in people age 60 or older. The CDC recommends a single dose of shingles vaccine for everyone age 60 and older.

"Shingles comes from a dormant virus living in our bodies. It has become more common as our children are no longer getting the chickenpox. When we reach our sixties and older, the immune system does not remember our past infection, and our bodies become more susceptible to this often painful and debilitating disease. The good news is that the disease is a short-term illness, but prevention through vaccination is the key," said Dr. Sarah Niles, Chief Preventive Medicine USAMEDDAC Bavaria.

In a shingles prevention study done by the

Veterans Administration Cooperative Trial, run by Dr. Michael Oxman out of the University of California, San Diego, Zostavax was more than 50 percent effective in reducing the incidence of shingles and more than 60 percent effective in reducing some of its associated symptoms. Even in people who suffer from the disease, most of those who were vaccinated experienced less pain.

Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox in children. It remains in the body for decades, sleeping in nerve cells along the spinal column. A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts between two to four weeks. It is painful and can be accompanied by fever, chills, and upset stomach.

The medical community is also encouraging adults age 65 and older to get the pneumonia vaccine. They stress these facts:

- Pneumococcal disease can kill. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S.

- It can be a miserable and expensive illness. There are 100,000 – 130,000 hospitalizations annually in the U.S. It can affect lungs, blood, and brain. It usually causes fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

- Pneumococcal disease can affect people of all ages, but adults ages 65 and over are at higher risk for complications from both the flu and pneumococcal disease. The shot can help protect from serious infection in your lungs, blood, and brain.



HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT

BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

Dear Demetrius,
I have always struggled with motivation to exercise. I tend to begin working out for a couple of weeks and then stop after the soreness, pain, and inconvenience of exercise becomes too much. I was considering a personal trainer. How do I know what to look for in a personal trainer? Do you recommend everyone use a personal trainer?

"Results with Convenience"

Natalia

Dear Natalia,
No, personal trainers are not needed by everyone. Only you will know if you "need" a personal trainer or not but what I can tell you is what a personal trainer should do.

A personal trainer provides education on muscles and related body systems. Through this understanding, you begin to empower yourself so you will not become dependent upon the personal trainer to have a "good workout."

A personal trainer provides motivation. Even I need a "kick in the pants" to get to the gym or to do that extra repetition on occasion.

The personal trainer is accountable, understands, and responds to your needs. She or he should be a professional.

Personal training is a job and it should be treated as such. A personal trainer should not ignore or dismiss questions or problems you have. They should not only want you to workout on the days you are with them.

Finally, they do not interrupt your session to converse with friends or talk on the phone. You are their main focus and their only focus during your one hour session.

Choose a trainer like you choose a doctor. Look at the trainer's credentials, get a feel or vibe from them, and listen to what you have heard from clients about the trainer.

Do the research and watch trainers in action. Good Luck.

Demetrius
Send your nutrition and fitness questions to usaggnews@EUR.army.mil.
Demetrius is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.

Look who's working at the Grafenwoehr Pharmacy: Spc. Travis Danning



Hometown: AZLE, TEXAS

Favorite Phrase: "Stick to your guns!"

Likes: Music, tattoos, video games, relaxing, Rockstar energy drinks, family

Dislikes: Long work days, nagging parents, the color turquoise

Favorite Food: Wife's cookin'

Dream: To be successful

Description: Spc. Danning is an exceptional pharmacy tech that always works to do the best job possible. He manages the narcotics vault and makes sure no "sampling of the product" occurs on his watch. Capt. Ronn has to watch him close so he doesn't steal any of his ROCKSTARS.

1st AD Soldiers try out Army's improved outer tactical vest

Story and photo by
Maj. WAYNE MAROTTO
Army News Service

For as long as the Army has used Interceptor Body Armor, Soldiers have complained that it is too heavy, too hot, and too cumbersome.

But those complaints may be a thing of the past for Soldiers in U.S. Army Europe's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. Those Soldiers recently donned the Army's newest body armor — the Improved Outer Tactical Vest.

"The IOTV is a lot more comfortable because of the mesh lining inside," said Sgt. Brian Freeman, a tanker with 2nd BCT's 1st Battalion, 35th Armor. "The waist strap also makes it fit better by redistributing the weight off my shoulders and moving it around my waist."

Freeman ought to know. He deployed with the 2nd BCT for the first iteration of Operation Iraqi Freedom carrying woodland camouflage pattern IBA.

"We didn't even get small arms protection insert plates until the fifth month in country," said Freeman. "I like the mesh lining; it makes it more comfortable."

The mesh is intended to keep the wearer's body cooler by improving ventilation.

The IOTV is the Army's latest evolution of body armor designed to protect the Soldier's torso area.

According to information released by the Army's Program Executive Office Soldier, the agency in charge of developing and fielding new equipment, the IOTV meets PEO Soldier's goals of providing troops the most advanced protective gear available, while also improving comfort and mission effectiveness.

The Army spent a good deal of time asking

Soldiers for suggestions and feedback about existing body armor, and then tested new designs based on their responses.

As a result, the IOTV has several advantages over its predecessor. It is three pounds lighter; it provides more coverage in the small of the back; it sits higher around the armpit area; and it sits lower on the torso, said Tony Perez, Team 5 fielding leader for Engineering Solution Products, the contractor selected by the Army to field the IOTV to the 2nd BCT.

Perez noted that the new design addresses one of the biggest complaints about earlier body armor models — that the addition of side SAPI plates forced the Soldier's arms awkwardly away from his body.

"The side plates on the IOTV are in a better position, decreasing the profile and allowing better arm movement," Perez said.

Brigade Soldiers who tried on the IOTV called it a welcome improvement.

"The IBA had zero cushioning inside, especially on the shoulders," Freeman said. "The IOTV fits better and it has a quick release, which makes it better than the IBA."

The quick-release cable feature allows Soldiers to get out of the IOTV with one pull by disassembling the vest into two parts that fall to the ground. That innovation should help a Soldier get out of the IOTV quickly when needed — such as when a military vehicle rolls over into water — allowing him to escape the submerging vehicle or be pulled more easily to safety. The quick release should also help medics to treat injured or wounded Soldiers quickly.

Pfc. Tony Gonzales, a tank driver for 1-35th Armor, said the IOTV "is a lot better, because it fits better around the body and is more comfortable."

"The IOTV are in a better position, decreasing the profile and allowing better arm movement."

Tony Perez
Engineering Solution Products



Sgt. Brian Freeman pulls the quick-release cable on Sgt. William Huff's Improved Outer Tactical Vest during a training session for Soldiers of U.S. Army Europe's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany, Jan. 23. The quick-release, one of several improved features of the new armor, is designed to allow the wearer to quickly remove the IOTV when needed.

Pfc. William Fraleigh, an infantryman from the 2nd BCT's A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, conceded that the IOTV allows for better flexibility and movement, and even admitted that the quick-release could prove invaluable if needed during an emergency. But giving up his IBA will be like throwing away a comfortable pair of old shoes, and he was a bit superstitious about the idea.

"It always worked for me in combat and I felt comfortable in it," said Fraleigh.

"I liked the IBA better, because it is easier to put on than the IOTV. I don't like the emergency quick-release, because it might get snagged on something during a patrol and the body armor comes undone. You don't have time to put it back together while patrolling."

The 2nd BCT continues its preparation for its scheduled spring deployment to Iraq.

(Maj. Wayne Marotto is the public affairs officer for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.)

Dagger families get first-hand glimpse at Graf

Continued from Page 1

footage than any other AAFES exchange in Europe, according to PX manager Stephanie Burns. The shopping center also offers several restaurants and concession shops in the mall-like setting.

The Schweinfurt visitors also visited the new commissary located in the shopping center complex. The store is more than triple the size of the previous facility, and offers more brands — a total of 11,230 items — for shoppers to choose, according to garrison officials.

From the shopping center, tour participants received a community briefing, presented by U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian T. Boyle.

"Our mission is to get you acquainted with our community," Boyle told the visitors. "We are sure you will find it satisfactory, and that you will enjoy being here."

Following the briefing, tour participants learned that shopping services aren't the only new features in town. Next up came what the majority of the Schweinfurt group seemed most interested in seeing—

Grafenwoehr's on- and off-post housing areas.

"I'm really concerned about the living conditions," said Staff Sgt. Brett E. McHaney of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. "We are leaving the home we're (settled) in," he added, as his wife, Rachel, nodded in agreement.

The tour made a sweep through the post's recently renovated on-post housing area and past the community's elementary and middle schools — the high school is located in the nearby Army community at

Vilseck — before taking a walk-through of homes in the new off-post Netzbarg Housing Area.

Danny Brannon, an engineer with the Installation Management Agency-Europe, said Netzbarg contains more than 550 new houses. There are 11 home designs varying in size from 1,300 to 1,900 square feet.

"This housing is better than what I was offered when I initially took my commission," said V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, who joined the group for the in-depth look at Grafenwoehr. "It's amazing."

Knowledge key to coping with mild Traumatic Brain Injury

Continued from Page 1

do to help," she said.

The local medical command, under Col. Theresa Schneider, has been "working at increasing awareness among providers and the entire MEDDAC team," but family awareness is key to identifying problems.

Often, Soldiers may be reluctant to seek treatment, Schneider noted, and

it may fall to the spouse to make sure the Soldier is helped.

"There are a lot of avenues available. One thing the spouse can do is come on over to the clinic. Lt. Col. (Daniel) Duecker and his team are very available to talk," she said. The Schweinfurt Health Clinic has many resources for Soldiers and families dealing with mTBI and other post-deployment issues. Clinic staff can then work on a way to get the

Soldier involved in his or her own diagnosis and treatment.

Other routes include talking to your Family Readiness Group, or FRG, chain of command, or local chaplain.

"The chaplain is oh so important, because he can walk right over and talk to the Soldier," Schneider added. "The important thing is to get people talking about and aware of the situation."

Family involvement and understanding is paramount to insuring a successful recovery for the injured Soldier.

"The family member is different, but they do recover," said Lopez.

"You have to understand that they are going to forget things, and they're going to be irritable," she said, "but once the headaches stop and the sleeplessness ends, there will be improvement."

Enlisted Soldier chooses Army over law degree, civilian career

Continued from Page 1

the sergeant said. "I probably get asked once a week why I'm enlisted if I have a law degree."

"I've known (Williams) for about a month and a half, and I was kind of shocked when I found out about his college background," said Sgt. Aaron Mertens, lead UAV maintainer for Company B, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"I was shocked, because I don't think I would have chosen to enlist in the military with that kind of a degree," said Mertens.

In fact, Williams says the Army has provided him with such wonderful experiences and opportunities to meet amazing people, that he has changed his goals in life.

"Growing up, I thought (being a lawyer) would be the greatest thing, and I didn't think that much about the Army," he said. "Now I think the opposite. I think that (practicing) law isn't that great, and the Army turned out to be a lot more than ever I expected it to be."

When he returns to home base in Germany, Williams says he plans to apply for a position in Army Special

Forces or as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot.

Williams' company commander is confident that the sergeant can achieve any goal he chooses.

"(Williams) is a hard worker who learns quickly, and he's a model Soldier because of his excellent physical fitness," said Capt. Shirwen Separa.

"I could definitely see him becoming a company commander or a first sergeant one day; it just depends on what route he chooses to take," he said.

Now completing his second combat tour, Williams says he hopes

to be meeting the challenges the Army offers for a long time to come.

"Most of my classmates have jobs that pay well and they get to go home at the end of the day," he said. "If I could live more than one life, then that choice would be great. But I've got to be Special Forces, a pilot or something cool, because I just like that adrenaline rush. I want to be at the tip of the spear and have a long and distinguished Army career."

"It's great that he's going after what he loves to do, instead of what everybody expects him to do," said Mertens.

BDU wear-out date set April 30

Continued from Page 1

appreciate the improvements that were made. This uniform was designed by Soldiers for Soldiers."

All brown T-shirts, black combat boots and green and black jungle boots, woodland and desert-camouflage caps, olive-drab-green name and U.S. Army tapes, subdued-olive-green shoulder-sleeve insignias and the black rigger belt and web belt with open-faced black buckle will also become obsolete on April 30.

Active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers can continue to wear the black-knit cap and the black micro-fleece-knit cap with the cold-weather woodland-camouflage field jacket until Sept. 30.

The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps wear-out date for these items is April 9.

According to Easley, there haven't been any official surveys to determine how many Soldiers still have the BDUs or Desert BDUs, but she said it's probably hard to find many who aren't wearing the ACU.

But if Soldiers are hanging on to any of these uniforms, they can save them for posterity. They aren't required to turn them in. The only requirement is that they know the wear-out date and report for duty in ACUs May 1.

"Thousands of our great Soldiers spent many years defending our country wearing that honorable uniform. I know it means something to them, just as wearing the ACU will mean something to today's Army," said Easley.

Hohenfels wrestler competes in U.S. Forces European championships

Story and photo by SUSAN HUSEMAN
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

An Operations Group career counselor competed in the 2008 U.S. Forces-Europe Wrestling Championships held at Stuttgart's Patch Fitness Center Jan. 5-6.

Wrestling in the 185-pound class, 39-year-old Sgt. 1st Class Craig Gransbery said he went to the event because attendance has been low in recent years.

Deployments and the ongoing drawdown accounted for the small field of competitors, tournament officials said. With only six athletes, the planned double elimination tournament was changed to the best two out of three matches.

In the first match of the 185-pound class, between 21-year-old Jacob Asher, Ramstein Air Base, and Gransbery, Gransbery scored the first takedown but gave up four points in the first clinch.

Asher scored five points with a grand amplitude throw, a move that sent Gransbery, with feet flying, onto his back, and ended the period. In the second period, Asher scored a takedown and a tilt before Gransbery threw him for three points.

Asher countered with a roll through and led 5-3 at the end of the first minute. He scored three points in the first clinch. In the second clinch,

he dominated Gransbery in his own clinch, scoring five points. Asher won the period, 13-4, and the match.

In their second meeting, Asher led the first 60 seconds of the first period 3-1. Asher clinched first and scored a three-point throw. Gransbery scored three points in the second clinch. Asher brought the score to 8-4 with two more points. The second period was all Asher. He scored six points in the first minute for a superior decision, thus winning the match.

"This was a very good match, said referee Jeff Pellaton. "Both of these guys are very, very skilled and evenly matched. Craig displays incredible skill at his age."

"Age is a factor, and of course, so is conditioning," said Gransbery. "I don't have

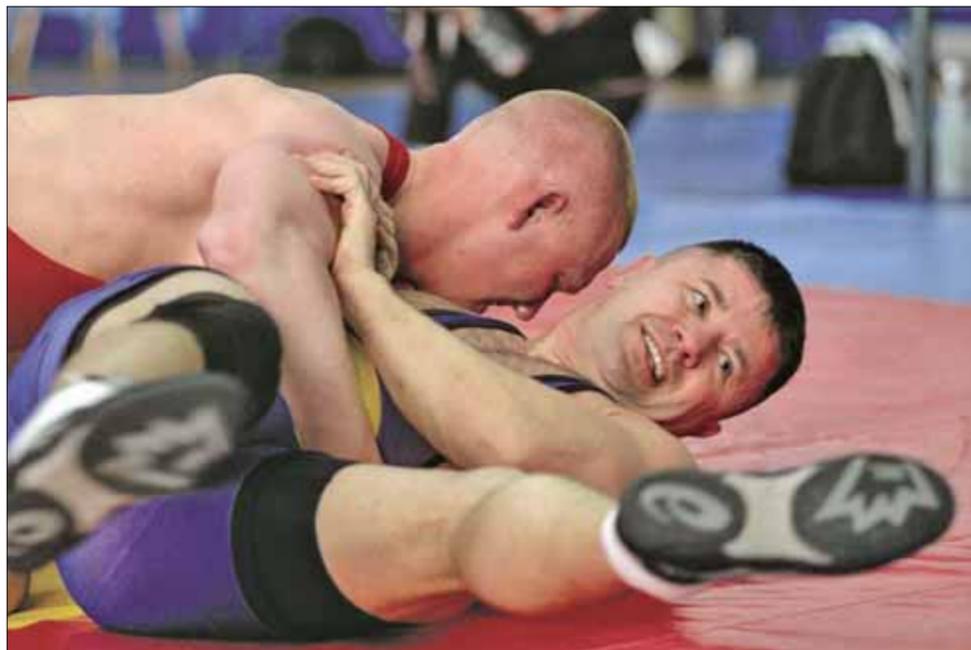
"Age is a factor, and of course, so is conditioning. I don't have the conditioning; wisdom makes up for some of it. But I haven't wrestled competitively in 10 years."

Sgt. 1st Class Craig Gransbery
Operations Group career counselor

the conditioning; wisdom makes up for some of it. But I haven't wrestled competitively in 10 years."

In the first 185-pound freestyle match, Gransbery scored the first point, but was pushed off the edge of the mat with 50 seconds to go. While the wrestlers were tied 1-1 at the end of the period, Asher claimed victory as he was the last to score.

In the second period, Gransbery dominated with three takedowns and won the period 3-0. In a sudden death period, the wrestlers were tied



Thirty-three seconds into the match, Jacob Asher pins and holds Craig Gransbery for the gold medal in the freestyle 185-pound category of the 2008 U.S. Forces-Europe Wrestling Championships Jan. 6 at the Patch Fitness Center in Stuttgart.

1-1 when Asher scored a tilt (turning the opponent so that the opponent's shoulders face the mat at an angle of less than 90 degrees) and held Gransbery for a fall and the match.

The second match was over almost before it started. Gransbery scored the first two points, but Asher countered with a tilt and held for a

fall with only 33 seconds on the clock for the win.

Gransbery, who is also a wrestling coach at Hohenfels High School, said the main reason he traveled to Stuttgart was to participate in the officials' clinic that was held in conjunction with the championships.

Pass your keys to a designated driver this Super Bowl Sunday

USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Office

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Safety Office announced Friday that they are joining forces with the National Football League, the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management Coalition, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and other state and local highway safety and law enforcement officials to remind everyone to act responsibly by designating a sober driver if they plan on using alcohol this Super Bowl weekend.

"We want to remind everyone this weekend that real *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*," said Garrison Safety Director Michael Schwarz. "If you plan on drinking alcohol while cheering your team on to victory, pass your keys to a sober, designated driver before the Super Bowl party begins."

"Follow the rules or law enforcement will

penalize you for driving impaired," said Schwarz. "We want everyone to make the right play for the big game."

This effort is part of the NFL-TEAM's season-long *Responsibility Has Its Rewards* national designated driver program.

During the 2007/08 NFL season, more than 100,000 football fans pledged to be a sober designated driver. For 2008, TEAM projects that number will continue to increase as more fans plan ahead and make the responsible, winning play.

Super Bowl Sunday is one of America's biggest and most entertaining national sporting events as friends and families gather to socialize and watch the big game.

Yet, it is also one of the nation's most dangerous days on the roadways due to impaired driving.

The details

Super Bowl Sunday is one of America's biggest and most entertaining national sporting events.

It is also one of the nation's most dangerous days on the roadways due to impaired driving; 39 percent of all traffic fatalities in the U.S. took place during Super Bowl 2006 weekend. (NHTSA)

According to NHTSA, 130 people, representing 39 percent of all traffic fatalities in the U.S., died during the 2006 Super Bowl weekend in crashes involving impaired drivers with blood alcohol concentration levels of .08 or higher.

Schwarz said that designating a sober driver should be on the top of everyone's Super Bowl party list.

If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:

- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in an impaired driving crash.

- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.

- Serve lots of food and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the party.

- Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game and begin serving coffee and dessert.

- Keep the numbers for local cab companies

handy, and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant:

- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself. Eat enough food, take breaks and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and give that person your car keys.

- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend or family member to come and get you; or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober.

- Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired. Remember, *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*.

- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against other impaired drivers.

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org or www.TeamCoalition.org.



Bob McEntire smashes the ball on his way to a hard-fought tourney win, becoming the racquetball player to beat in Garmisch.

Photo by Beate D'Amato

Garmisch athletes make a 'racquet of a tourney' at Mueller Fitness Center

by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

After two days of advancing through pool play at Mueller Fitness Center on Sheridan Kaserne, Bob McEntire won the 2007 Garmisch Holiday Racquetball Tournament Dec. 9 in straight sets of 15-14 and 15-10.

The tournament began with two pools of athletes from USAG-Garmisch, the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, and the George C. Marshall Center, with the top four players from each pool moving on to the Sunday single elimination rounds.

Those eight players battled it out until two friendly rivals who'd met in

competition before, McEntire and Jose Valdez, were left facing each other in the final match.

"This was a first-class operation put on by the staff which ensured that, at the end, every participant was a winner," said McEntire, a conference support specialist for the Marshall Center.

"The tournament resulting in new friends being made and significantly increased awareness of the sport," said McEntire.

Although he thought he might have found a weakness in McEntire's backhand he could use to win, Valdez lost the final close games.

"It was real intense—it was a battle!" said Valdez. "I tried to exploit

his backhand and keep the ball on the walls. It was a good match and I hope we can play some more competitive games later."

The fitness center staff provided sandwiches, fruit and drinks for the athletes, and the prizes were donated by Racquetworld.com, said garrison sports and fitness director Mike Criswell.

"Lots of fun and exercise for all of the participants," said Criswell. "We plan to continue to bring more of these competitions for the athletes of Garmisch."

"I really enjoyed playing and especially winning" he said. "I look forward to continued use of this first class facility. See you on the court."