

Bavarian News

Vol. 5, Nr. 13

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

July 1, 2009

GARMISCH SAFETY FIRST

Fire and Safety Week warns of dangerous behavior

PAGE 10

HOHENFELS GIVING BACK

Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club raises \$50,000 for community

PAGE 12

ANSBACH LEAN ON ME

Griffin Soldier helps motorist in time of need

PAGE 22

SCHWEINFURT MOVING ON UP

Strong Beginnings program hosts its first graduation ceremony

PAGE 24

HONOR ROLL

STUDENT SCHOLARS

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr congratulates the academic achievements of their student scholars.

PAGES 4, 6



View photos of the U.S. Army Ten Miler Qualifier Race held in Grafenwoehr June 27 at www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr/sets

What you're looking for

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Command Message | 2 |
| News | 3, 18 |
| Honor Roll | 6, 8 |
| What's Happening | 14-15 |
| Travel | 17 |
| Medical | 18 |
| Blackhawk News | 20 |
| 2SCR | 23 |
| Sports | 26 |
| AAFES | 26-27 |

SRM funding improves quality of life across European garrisons

IMCOM-E Press Release

Improved barracks, libraries, street lights and roads are just part of how Installation Management Command-Europe officials are applying the significant sum of Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization funds flowing to Europe this year.

According to IMCOM-Europe officials, this is the first year that Europe garrisons have ever received 100 percent of their authorized SRM funding.

The fiscal year 2009 funding enables the reduction of outstanding work and service orders, more thorough execution of routine preventive maintenance, the initiation of a number of unit-move

transformation projects and initiation of projects that improve barracks and repair facilities of deployed Soldiers, along with enhancing energy efficiency, the transportation infrastructure and community facilities.

At U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, the funding is especially welcome for projects such as the repair and maintenance of quarters and restrooms in various barracks in Vilseck, according to Albert Hasty, the garrison's Chief of Engineering for the Directorate of Public Works.

"These projects significantly improve the quality of life for our Soldiers," he said.

This is also true for many other projects that are

See FUNDS Page 28

Examples of where the money is being spent:

- ◆ Transportation infrastructure: \$4.6 million;
- ◆ Barracks improvement: \$10.3 million;
- ◆ Energy products: \$13.9 million;
- ◆ Transformation programs: \$38 million;
- ◆ Community facilities upgrades: \$9.3 million;
- ◆ General installation improvements: \$108.2 million

Sergeant Major of the Army spells out objectives, goals for Year of the NCO



Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston congratulates Soldiers from the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment for their decision to stay "Army Strong" during a reenlistment ceremony held at the 2SCR Memorial in Vilseck June 22.

Story and photo by
Spc. JERRY WILSON

2SCR Public Affairs

The 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment was host to a very distinguished guest June 22.

Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston took time out of his schedule to sit down and speak with some of the 2SCR troops about their issues and concerns, as well as the importance of leadership and the noncommissioned officers corps.

Preston stressed the need for current NCOs to encourage their Soldiers to develop good leadership skills early on in their careers in order to become members of the organization known as the backbone of the Army.

"I talked to a brand new group of recruits down in San Antonio recently who were just getting ready to take the oath of office," Preston shared. "I told them, all of them, thank you for your service and aspiring to be a Soldier."

Preston, stressing the need to pursue professional development, immediately issued a challenge to the new recruits.

"Now what I want you to do is aspire to be a noncommissioned See PRESTON Page 28

JMTC names Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

by DENVER MAKLE
JMTC Public Affairs

The 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command named Sgt. Robert Murray of Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment and Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Beckman of Company C, 7th U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy the winners of the JMTC 2009 Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition during a June 19 ceremony.

The Soldiers will represent the JMTC in the U.S.

Army Europe competition Aug. 9-13.

"I do not believe there has been a more grueling and physically challenging competition, said Staff Sgt. Stanley Black, last year's JMTC winner and Soldier of the Year for USAREUR.

"Despite being physically and mentally stressed, and suffering sleep deprivation they soldiered on."

Also competing were, Staff Sgt. Jason Kuhns of U.S. Army NATO, Spc. Joseph Piper of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, V Special Troops Battalion, Sgt. Darius Simpkins of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Training Sup-

port Activity Europe, Spc. Gavin Spain of U.S. Army NATO, and Sgt. Teresa Washington of the 7th Army JMTC G-4 (supply).

Since there are numerous separate units that aren't large enough to host their own competitions, some units sent their candidates to Grafenwoehr to compete. Kuhns and Spain won spots in the USA-REUR Separate Units Competition, during the same competition. They will represent USAREUR separate units at the USAREUR-level competition.

The Soldiers demonstrated their abilities in the See MUSCLE Page 28

Three local units receive Army Deployment Excellence Awards

by BLAIR BENZ
Bavarian News

Three local units received top honors for deployment excellence at the 2009 Chief of Staff, Army Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., last month.

The 412th Aviation Support Battalion out of Ansbach earned the Chief of Staff, Army Deployment Excellence Award for best active Army, large deploying unit while Vilseck's 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment RSS took the runner up spot.

Grafenwoehr's 172nd Brigade Combat Team won first place in the all-Army operational deployment category for deployment excellence in support of operational missions.

Established in 2000 by the Chief of Staff, Army Deployment Excellence Award identifies Active, Reserve, and National Guard units who demonstrate innovative or outstanding practices during deployment.

DEA program manager, Aaron Burr, helped introduce the award program to U.S. Army Europe beginning in August 2008.

"This is the first year USAREUR

units competed for this award," said Burr. "Ten units submitted packets for the competition and four were winners."

When asked about the significance this award plays at the unit level and beyond, Burr remarked, "This award acknowledges innovation at a boots-on-the-ground level and through feedback, these units can push lessons learned up to the DA level."

The DEA creates a mechanism for disseminating best practices throughout the Army that benefit the unit, the mission, and ultimately, the individual Soldier.

Burr coordinated with DEA headquarters in Ft. Eustis, Va., for an observer to fly in and evaluate the 172nd's deployment from Grafenwoehr in November.

Observing and scoring every movement of the unit's installation staging activity, the observer assigned high marks for safety, mission completion ahead of schedule and no frustration of cargo at the port.

Reorganized into an Aviation Support Battalion and subsequently deployed to multiple locations in Iraq - all within a year - posed quite a See DEPLOYMENT Page 28

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Be heard, make a difference in the community through ICE comments

Sharing Independence Day is as important as celebrating Independence Day.

This year we have fireworks planned for both the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr sides of the installation.

Additionally, on the Grafenwoehr side, we will have food, entertainment and activities for the whole family.

Our festivities coincide with the City of Grafenwoehr's Buergerfest, or Citizen's Fest.

We have invited our German community to enter the festivities through Gate 1 starting at 5 p.m., and are hosting a German leader social to unite our binational communities.

This is fantastic opportunity for you to get to know your neighbors and share the spirit and meaning of this holiday – freedom.

Many of the Family Members who will participate in the Independence Day celebrations have loved ones deployed: HHC 18th CSSB, 574th Support Co, 23rd Ordnance Co, 172nd IBCT, 1st CTC and 709th MP Bn.

These Soldiers are protecting the freedoms we all cherish. With a full understanding of



exactly what service to this nation means, they continue to serve with exceptional courage and selflessness.

Many of them are deployed for a second, third, or even fourth time - yet they remain committed to making a difference.

One of the things that make our country so great is that our laws and processes, from the lowest to the highest levels of government, allow citizens to give their opinions of and participate in the decisions being made.

Here at the garrison, our strategic action plan and our priorities are based on you using the Interactive Customer Service Evaluation (ICE) and the Organization Self Assessment (OSA) survey.

I particularly urge you to use ICE, since it allows you to provide us immediate feedback about our customer service.

In order to improve our communities, everyone must be an active participant. Participate in ICE through the garrison's Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.

Based on participant feedback, we are also reviewing the effectiveness of legacy forums that facilitate community awareness, such as our Town Halls and Senior Spouses Roundtable.

These events are about community participation and communication, and the litmus is how well we reach the most folk.

What has recently changed is our

successful implementation of the Customer Management System (CMS).

Now, you do not have to wait until the next community forum to be heard and to find out what the issues are.

CMS is helping us work the issues you bring to our attention. A good example of this is parking at Netzaberg.

Many residents have expressed concern about the limited parking. The City of Eschenbach, where Netzaberg is located, was also concerned about parking because of embankment wear.

The City of Eschenbach had posted no parking signs at various locations, including the John F. Kennedy Ring. Garrison representatives met with city officials, who agreed to take down the signs along JFK Ring.

Eschenbach officials are also considering placing grass blocks in the area to create additional parking spaces.

Our Directorate of Public Works is

simultaneously developing a plan to add four or five "T-shaped" parking facilities near the area of current construction activities.

I also want to hail our newest Hohenfels garrison commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles and his family. Kevin assumed command today from Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg who brought about much needed improvements to the Hohenfels community. Kevin will continue the momentum and we are glad to have him on our team.

Again, enjoy our freedom this 4th of July season.

Please reflect on how we can better improve our communities.

We can all make a difference. That's what makes us Army Strong!

I particularly urge you to use ICE (Interactive Customer Service Evaluation), since it allows you to provide us immediate feedback about our customer service.

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

CSM CORNER



Do your part to keep *our* community clean, act responsibly, drive safely

As we all prepare to celebrate our nation's independence this weekend, I want to stress the importance of safety and acting responsibly.

As I mentioned in my last article, there's a wide range of festivities and fireworks planned for our 4th of July celebration.

The garrison will be providing shuttle bus service between the Rose Barracks PXtra and the Grafenwoehr PX, as well as a service to and from Netzaberg (all bus stops) to the Grafenwoehr PX.

The shuttle allows everyone to enjoy the food, drink and fun without having to worry about driving home.

I urge all Soldiers and family members to take advantage of this free service.

You can find the full listing of shuttle times and stops in our Weekly Community Newsletter, which is posted on the garrison's Web site at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.

While enjoying the long weekend, I stress the importance of making smart choices.

On the installation, we depend on each other to do the right thing – to keep the area safe and clean.

Some members of the community are not doing their part. When you are behind the wheel,

drive responsibly.

The maximum speed limit for vehicles in U.S.-controlled areas is 30 kph or as posted.

There are a number of locations in which people are not adhering to the posted speed.

Please be aware of the location and posted speed below:

- PX parking lot is 20 kph
- The Netzaberg hill is 70 kph
- The Grafenwoehr

Post Office/CMR is 20 kph

• The Netzaberg schools and CDC island is 10 kph

If you exceed on-post speed limits, you will have between 3 and 6 points assessed to your license.

If 12 or more points are assessed to your license in a one-year period or 18 or more points in two years, your license will be suspended for 180 days.

Also, driving too fast for conditions (i.e., rain, snow or fog) will result in a 6-point assessment.

Other assessable infractions include improper passing, using a cell phone and failure to stop or yield.

Speeding and disregard for traffic laws will not be tolerated by either the German Polizei or the Military Police.

When you disobey traffic

laws you are risking your driving privileges, your career and the lives of others.

In doing our part and acting responsibly, I would also like to remind everyone it is up to each of us to keep the community clean.

Scattered trash and shopping carts throughout the PX and Commissary parking is not only an eyesore, it is disgraceful.

The bottom line - do not litter! If you see litter, pick it up and if you use a cart, return it to the cart corral.

As Soldiers and NCOs, we are setting the example. Do your part to ensure it is the right example.

Be someone our children can look up to. And if you see someone picking up trash or returning a cart, thank him or her.

On a lighter note, I want to welcome the new Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

President, Cpl. Bobby Shomper, to his post.

The B.O.S.S. program supports nearly 4,500 single Soldiers in the garrison.

It is also open to geographic bachelors and single parents.

B.O.S.S. provides numerous opportunities for the community to get involved and travel.

When organizing trips, B.O.S.S. will also accept married people to fill seats to avoid trips being canceled.

Their next trip is "Natur Pur" rafting trip in Austria on Friday.

For more information, contact Cpl. Shomper at DSN 475-8822.

Another opportunity I encourage everyone to take part in is growing your own garden.

Self Help offer garden plots to ID card holders on Rose Barracks and Grafenwoehr.

Plots are available from Spring through Fall each year and are ideal

for growing vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers.

The plots are tilled by the Directorate of Public Works each Spring and gardening tools are available through Self Help.

Grafenwoehr's garden plots are located on Merrell Street, near Bldg. 508.

Rose Barracks' plots are located next to the Sports Field, off of Green Mountain Drive.

You can find more information at Self Help or by calling Grafenwoehr DSN 475-6331 or Vilseck DSN 476-2577.

As we continue to celebrate the Year of the NCO, I would like to extend a Welcome Home to the Soldiers and NCOs of the 527th Military Police Company who redeployed from Afghanistan in the early morning hours June 28.

I would also like to thank the families of those Soldiers who offered their love and support during the 15-month separation.

It is the selfless service of all our Soldiers and family members that we should celebrate with our independence this weekend.

*Command Sgt. Maj.
William Berrios
CSM, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

On the installation, we depend on each other to do the right thing - to keep the area safe and clean... Do your part. Be someone our children can look up to.

To view photos of community events, visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr flickr Web page, www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr/sets.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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DoD official clarifies rules, eligibility for Post 9/11 G.I. Bill transferability

by **TODD LOPEZ**
Army News Service

Beginning this week, Soldiers can go online and elect to transfer their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to their spouse or children.

Rules for transferring educational benefits under the "Post-9/11 Veteran's Education Assistance Act Of 2008," sometimes called the "Post-9/11 G.I. Bill," were spelled out June 23 by Bob Clark, the Department of Defense's assistant director for accession policy and military personnel policy.

According to Clark, Soldiers will be able to transfer benefits to dependents only if they are active or Select Reserve on Aug. 1.

The benefit cannot be transferred by those serving in the Individual Ready Reserve, who are retired, or who are separated on that date.

Additionally, under the transferability rules, a Soldier must have served six years and must commit to serve an additional four years.

Soldiers can elect to transfer benefits to family members through the Transferability of Educational Benefits Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>.

After Soldiers make those elections, the Army will verify and approve the election and assign the four-year commitment, if required.

Following that approval, a Soldier's family member can then apply for benefits through the

Veterans Administration Web site.

According to Clark, it is recommended that Soldiers add all family members as potential beneficiaries of their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.

Once a Soldier has retired or separated from the Army, they can no longer add new family members as potential beneficiaries.

Under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, thousands of qualified Soldiers or family members of qualifying Soldiers will have the opportunity to go to college at no cost to them.

Soldiers, Army veterans, and family members of qualifying Soldiers can begin using benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill beginning Aug. 1.

Benefits from the program can be paid out for a total of 36 months.

Under a typical degree program, where students attend school for nine months at a time and are then off during the summer months, the plan could allow veterans to get a four-year degree while attending school in residence.

With the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, tuition payments are sent directly to the school. Additional payments for books and supplies go directly to students.

Tuition is not the only benefit extended to potential college-goers. For students attending school more than half the time, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill also pays housing costs, up to a rate equivalent to the Basic Allowance for Housing

Under the transferability rules, a Soldier must have served six years and must commit to serve an additional four years. The amount of time active service members have after 9/11 determines what percentage of benefits they can receive under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

| <u>Member Serves</u> | <u>Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable</u> |
|---|--|
| At least 36 months | 100% |
| At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability | 100% |
| At least 30 months, but less than 36 months | 90% |
| At least 24 months, but less than 30 months | 80% |
| At least 18 months, but less than 24 months | 70% |
| At least 12 months, but less than 18 months | 60% |
| At least 6 months, but less than 12 months | 50% |
| At least 90 days, but less than 6 months | 40% |

rate for an E-5 with dependents in the ZIP code where the school is located.

Students are also entitled to a yearly stipend of up to \$1,000 to cover the cost of books and supplies, and students from highly rural areas who are transferring to a school may also be entitled to a one-time payment of \$500.

Soldiers on active duty may tap in to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill and apply benefits toward tuition.

However, active-duty Soldiers are not entitled to receive the housing allowance from the program, nor the books and supplies stipend.

Benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill can be used for all levels of degree programs.

The program allows Soldiers to earn a second degree, a master's degree or even a doctorate.

Soldiers meeting the eligibility requirements to transfer benefits to their family members already exceed the requirements to earn 100 percent of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.

Soldiers who have served less than the time required to earn 100 percent of the benefit under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill may receive benefits at a prorated amount.

The amount of time active service members have after 9/11 determines what percentage of benefits they can receive under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

Education center specialist urges Soldiers to earn GED

by **JOY AWE**
Bavarian News

The Army community sponsors many programs designed to help Soldiers and family members further their education and prepare for life after the Army.

As part of the Army Continuing Education System, the Vilseck Education Center offers GED High School Equivalency Diploma testing for Soldiers and family members.

The GED exam is free for Soldiers and costs \$39 for civilians and family members.

A Spanish language version of the exam is also available on request for an additional charge.

Although no preparatory classes are taught at the Education Center, any interested person is encouraged to take a free practice GED exam.

Study books are available for free at the Education Center and post libraries and there are free study

I think it's a shame for a Soldier who doesn't have a high school credential to spend a three year enlistment or longer with this option available for free and leave the service without completing the high school requirement. That should not happen under any circumstances.

Manny Iglesias, Education Services Specialist

materials available online.

Manny Iglesias, education services specialist at the Vilseck Education Center, encourages Soldiers and their families to check out the GED testing program.

"I think it's a shame for a Soldier who doesn't have a high school credential to spend a three year enlistment or longer with this option available for free and leave the service without completing the high school requirement," said Iglesias. "That should not happen under any circumstances."

The GED examination measures

mastery of basic academic subjects required for high school graduation and includes five parts: mathematics, science, writing, reading comprehension and social sciences.

Iglesias recommends that anyone who wants to take the GED exam take the practice exam first without studying or preparing to determine his or her individual readiness for the exam.

"Once they take the practice test and we determine that they get good scores all the way across, then we encourage them to make an appointment to take the official test,"

explained Iglesias.

"If not, then we can concentrate on the issues that were identified as being a liability or deficiency in the practice examination and know where to start working."

The official GED examination lasts approximately six hours and is scheduled over a period of at least two days.

Any sections that are not passed on the first try can be retaken at a later date without retaking the entire exam.

Although passing the GED exam is an attainable goal, potential testers

should be aware that the exam requires preparation.

"The key thing to know is that you have to get prepared," explained Michael Watts, test examiner at the Vilseck Education Center.

"You can't just walk in off the street and pass it. It has some difficulties and people have experienced that. About 75 percent of testers fail at least one of the five sections on their first try," Watts said.

Those who do not pass all portions of the test on the first attempt must wait 90 days and can then retake only the sections that they failed instead of repeating the entire test battery.

The cost of retaking the exam is \$15 per section.

While education counselors are available at the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Education Centers to discuss the GED exam, at this time the test is only given in Vilseck.

Exams are scheduled by appointment only.

Grafenwoehr's Tower Inn receives national recognition

by **ANGELICA MEDINA**
Bavarian News

The American Hotel and Lodging Association Educational Institute designated U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Tower Inn winner of the 2009 Gold Pineapple award.

The recognition was the result of the Tower Inn utilizing personnel training materials beginning in October 2004 from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute, the premier resource for hotel staff training and development in the United States.

The Tower Inn, the previous winner of the Bronze and Silver Pineapple award, focused its sights on achieving the next highest honor from the AH&LEI, gold.

In order to be considered for the Gold Pineapple, hotels must submit to an audit every six months, turning in training and goals.

The criterion for winning the Gold Pineapple is based on the ability to achieve those goals, which must be measurable.

According to Andrea Mueller, manager of the Tower Inn, those goals were achieving

customer satisfaction in reducing the number of complaints, increasing occupancy, reducing turnover rates among staff, ensuring all staff members were certified under the AH&LEI program and the gradual upgrade of the facilities with new carpeting and painting.

In employing the training methods of the AH&LEI, Mueller said it has helped "educate staff in the areas of service, safety and security," adding that it has aided cross-cultural communication not only between employees and customers, but among personnel and between management and staff members.

The Tower Inn's win of the Gold Pineapple award of 2009 was one of only five awarded to hotels and lodging in this year's competition throughout the U.S. and its territories.

"Next year our goal will be the Meritorious Award," Mueller said, in reference to the award above the Gold Pineapple.

Those seeking nomination for a Meritorious Award must continue using the training programs from the AH&LEI for at least six years and possess the Gold Pineapple Award.

Customers shorten delay at POV inspection through preparation

by **ANGELICA MEDINA**
Bavarian News

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Privately Owned Vehicle Safety Inspection Point wants to help customers more easily navigate the vehicle inspection process to cut down on waiting time.

Peter Ott, maintenance manager for base support operation Europe, expects to see even more customers in the future come to have their vehicles inspected; either to register or renew registration on their vehicles in the coming months, due to the garrison's expanding population and Soldiers returning from deployment.

The main issue affecting waiting time is that customers routinely bring their privately owned vehicles during the lunch hour and the end of the day.

At this time it is not unusual to see five or more cars waiting for inspections. And since the average inspection time per vehicle is 17 minutes, when multiplied by the number of cars in line, it can make for long delays.

Staffing is also limited at vehicle inspection during lunch and since employees are forbidden from working past 4 p.m., customers are often turned away and asked to bring their vehicle at a later date.

"We open at 7:30 a.m. If customers come when we open then there is no waiting. Also if they come after lunch, around 12:45 p.m., when we are not busy, they (customers) don't have to

wait," Ott suggested in order to "better spread out work flow all day" for the department.

Arriving to the vehicle inspection point prepared will also reduce waiting time for the customer and those in line.

Customers should make sure their vehicle is checked for the following before coming to the inspection bay:

- POV registration and application on hand, likewise for re-inspection, the old inspection sheet.
- No tinted material on windshield and both side front windows.
- All lights, head lights, turn signals and horn are operational.
- No warning lights on in the dashboard, such as ABS or airbag.
- Tires are free of wear and properly inflated.
- Safety belts are working.
- There is a valid first aid kit that meets or exceeds German Industry Standard 13164, blue parking placard and warning triangle for the vehicle.

For permanent registrations, customers have 75 days before the expiration date to have their vehicle inspected in order to renew registration.

Renewing registration and inspecting the vehicle in advance before the expiration date will not cause the customer to lose time on the registration renewal; the new registration simply renews the day after expiration of the old one.

To view photos of community events, visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's flickr Web page, www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr/sets.

JROTC Leadership camp brings camaraderie, competition to cadets

by JOY AWE
Bavarian News

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from Department of Defense high schools throughout Europe arrived in Grafenwoehr June 14 for a 10-day Cadet Leadership Challenge camp.

Cadets participated in team-building activities designed to build leadership skills and encourage cooperation amongst the cadets.

The 112 cadets who attended the Cadet Leadership Challenge took part in events such as land navigation, canoeing, obstacle courses, rock climbing and rappelling, urban orienteering, a drill competition, and geo-caching, where cadets used a "treasure map" to find a series of GPS points.

Maj. (Ret) David Schwab, senior Army instructor at Baumholder High School, said the activities at the camp challenged the misconception that JROTC programs are merely a recruiting tool for the military.

"It's not about getting them into the military. JROTC is about developing young leaders, preparing them for a future as adults in our society. The mission of Junior ROTC is to motivate young people to be better citizens," Schwab said.

He added that, the tasks assigned to the cadets are carefully chosen to be challenging without being so difficult that the cadets cannot perform them.

Great care is taken to ensure that none of the activities pose a serious safety risk to the students



Photo by Maj. (Ret) David Schwab

Left to right: Cadets Mezzan El Sayed, Heidelberg High School, Gabriel Ruiz, Vilseck High School, Mitchell Loyola, Baumholder High School, Tabitha Holzhauser, Vilseck High School, and Dominique Brown, Patch High School, negotiate an obstacle during JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge camp June 14-24 in Grafenwoehr.

participating, and medics are on hand in the event of an injury.

Although the Cadet Leadership Challenge focuses primarily on military activities, JROTC prepares cadets for success in all

aspects of life.

"Junior ROTC is unique in that we teach life skills and success in everybody's classroom, not just in our own classroom," said Schwab.

"It's very important to us that our cadets

succeed in all of their classes. We encourage them to graduate from high school, we encourage them to cooperate with all their teachers, get good grades in all their classes, to prepare themselves all around, to be all around good students."

Throughout the 10-day program, cadets woke at 5 a.m., and spent a full day participating in training activities until lights out at 10 p.m.

Although the schedule is grueling, the cadets clearly enjoy taking part in the program. "I would definitely recommend joining JROTC," explained Cadet Christy Manoogian, a junior at Vilseck High School. "It's the best program you could put yourself into. It got me out of trouble, made me less shy. I relate to people better.

"JROTC kind of forces you to get outside your comfort zone. It's a great opportunity, and if you're in JROTC you have to come to JCLC to have fun," Manoogian said.

The cadets are not the only ones having a great time at the Cadet Leadership Challenge, explains Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell Pollock, commandant of cadets at Vilseck High School.

"I go home at the end of the day and my face hurts from laughing all day long. The kids are an absolute riot," said Pollock.

"My favorite part of camp is graduation, because you can stand back on graduation day and you can see what 10 days of non-stop intense training does to these kids."

The program concluded June 24 with a graduation review on the Grafenwoehr parade field. Command Sgt. Maj. Hu B. Rhodes, commandant of the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, served as the guest speaker.

Military Police working dog welcomes MPs to Graf

Story and photo by
JOY AWE
Bavarian News

Members of the 615th Military Police Company recently underwent a three-week training program to familiarize newly arrived Soldiers with local Grafenwoehr policies and procedures.

The program, the Bloodhound Law Enforcement Academy, included topics ranging from legal responsibilities and limitations and performing routine traffic stops to proper use of military working dogs.

The 22 participants took part in the course to familiarize themselves with local policies related to the German Status of Forces Agreement and other subjects that might be handled differently in Grafenwoehr and throughout Bavaria than at other posts.

"The purpose of this course is to

bring them up to speed on the garrison-specific differences," said Capt. James Vaughn of the Department of the Army Civilian Police.

In addition to benefitting the Soldiers, BLEA also served to familiarize the new DACP Watch Commanders.

"The new Watch Commanders that are being fielded by IMCOM-E are attending the BLEA training so that they can better understand, when they're working with the Soldiers out on the street, what level they're trained to and they're better able to help the Soldier complete the law enforcement mission," said Vaughn.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mitchell coordinated the BLEA training events. "We know the Soldier goes to basic training, and Advanced Individual Training to learn how to be a military policeman or woman, but we also take what they learn there and emphasize it, maybe go into a little bit more depth. It's our own little internal academy,"

explained Mitchell.

One of the most entertaining training activities was designed to familiarize the new Military Police with the capabilities of military working dogs.

In this portion of the course, Sgt. Marvelt Adamson, military working dog handler, showed the Soldiers what his three-year-old German Shepherd, Jackie, could do.

Pfc. Ralph Williams volunteered to flee from the MPs and allow Jackie to take him down. For safety reasons Williams wore a protective sleeve that covered his entire left arm, allowing Jackie to bite him without injury.

Adamson explained the importance of teaching all MPs to interact comfortably with military working dogs.

"Using a military working dog is a great asset for commanders both for utilization of health and welfare and cache and weapons searches when downrange. You want to utilize them



Jackie, a military police working dog, attacks Pfc. Ralph Williams, a student of the Bloodhound Law Enforcement Academy, during a demonstration June 24 in Grafenwoehr.

as much as possible because they really do find things that normal people wouldn't find," said Adamson.

The 615th MP Company will conclude BLEA training with a graduation ceremony July 10.

Year of the NCO Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Christopher Massey

Age: 29
Current Unit: 7th Army NCO Academy (WLC)
Current Position: Small Group Leader
Component: Army
Current Location: Grafenwoehr, Germany
Hometown: Little Compton, RI
Years of Service: 11



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Massey builds the future of the Army 48 Soldiers at a time. He'll tell you that he's just doing his job, trying to ensure Soldiers attending his Warrior Leader's Course know what right looks like. "So often, we as NCOs just take people's word for what 'right' really is," he said. "WLC tells the sergeants that come through here what the Army expects from them in their position as a leader. We give them the tools to be successful at it, and give them the opportunity to observe what right looks like."

With 11 years of service and one Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment under his belt, Massey's current position is perhaps his most important yet. As a Small Group Leader for the WLC, Massey knows his position as a mentor is important to the careers of many young troops.

"Knowing that Soldiers react to situations the way they are trained motivates me to give Soldiers the best training I can," he said. "I understand that Soldiers will die in combat, and sometimes there is nothing we can do about it, but I would not be able to live with myself if I ever thought a Soldier died because I failed to train them properly."

But, Massey doesn't stop there. Outside of his duty hours, Massey took it upon himself to learn and become proficient in Army Combatives. Until recently, he was the only Modern Army Combatives, level four, instructor within the Grafenwoehr footprint.

He resourced and constructed a combative facility that is envied by instructors throughout Europe. He has trained and certified more than 1,000 U.S. and European Soldiers on level one technique, and more than 400 on level two.

At work, Massey will tell you, he's just doing his job. But he sacrifices his personal time for the sake of training soldiers, whether it's putting in extra hours for study groups, or teaching combative courses - what he's too modest to admit is that he epitomizes what a leader is - he is what right looks like.



U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr 4th Quarter Honor Roll Students



Grafenwoehr Elementary School

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| "A" Honor Roll Diana Barta Courtney Beilhart Jacob Butler Haley Connell Tyler Cooper | Sydney Fenn Carlos Franco Megan Howard Ryan Martin Nicole Ogborn Patrick Ramirez | Kyle Roberts Morrice Smith Abigail Villanueva "A-B" Honor Roll Victoria Banister Julian Burnham Yazmin Chavez | Caryl Cohen Silvia Daskalakis Jaylen Dawn Zachary Fenn Carly Florance Joshua Frenette Sophia Hager | Maleik Henry Myrah Hernandez-Mace Laura Hurtado Enrico IrizarryManig Jasmine Jimenez Greyson Lerner Gerald Managuit | Peyton Mansell Ki-me McLeod-McElroy Janio Moreno Dante' Mueller Chandler Nye Trey Pruitt Ryan Randle | Steven Renick Genesis Rivera Joel Romero Sven Schnare Erika Schneider Caroline Toth De'Von Traylor |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|

Vilseck Elementary School

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| "A" Honor Roll Justin Baker John Boyle Dominique Dillahunt Tierra Mendoza Emily Mock Heaven Moten Tessamari Novak Alex Rodriguez Autumn Siebold Ashna Singh | Shaliyah Smith Carlos Valarezo John Villar Patrick Barnett Elizabeth Butscher Riley Campell Margaret Clearwater Elisabeth Davis Michael Dougherty Tiffany Hendricks Christopher Lancaster | Benjamin Jones Kenzyll Jones Joshua Neely Sarah Read "A-B" Honor Roll Savannah Anys Margaret Blangger Chloe Clifton Derek Davis Ethan DuWors Jaylen Garland | Brandon Hayes Hayden Kasavicha Jordan Russell Michael Shoemaker Joseph Whyte Malachi Alston Armando Barkley Kyera Black Zachary Graves Kamilia Hereira Chase Manzano | Crystal Morris Jeremy Palermo Malik Price Emma Self Carlos Vazquez Troy Vernor Isaiah Walton Kaitlin Wood Tiffany Belcher Jeremy Diamond Jenina Flores | Rebekah Haas Darica Hayes Edward Powers Michael Powers Samantha Purganan William Stewart Marc-Anthony Signorello Komal Singh Shanea Smith Femi Whitehead Edward Zdeb | Vismel Candelaria Nathaniel Cruz Hailey Davis Hope Davis Sylvia Hasley-Velez Madison Hoecker Chanita Kirmanidou Michaela Lawson Alicia McCorkle Nautiqa Moten Yasmine Perez Azriya Smith |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|

Netzaberg Elementary School

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| "A" Honor Roll Alex Argueta Stephen Bartlebaugh Gillian Becraft Tyler Bowser Taylor Butcher Xavier Calip Joshua Delgreco Kainoa Dulce Alyssa Dunivent Alexandria Finney Erykah French Meigan Girard Keara Hamer Tamara Hewett Kimbrea Hollingswoth | Gunner Key Kathryn Korte Kirstyn Korte John Michael Lopez Elijah McNickles Madysen Meyer Samantha Parrish Syeanna Pedroza Ken Rassavong Ethan Reibsome Hugo Rucobo Dakota Scroggins Jaihde Williams "A-B" Honor Roll Kiana Akuna Ciera Alston | Spencer Andrus Alexya Austin Kenneth Bogawitch Makaela Burgess Chesna Burleson Disney Cain Rachel Campbell Hunter Carr Joshua Clamage Ronnie Clary Lauryn Colon Alexander Crispin Caityln Curry Katelyn Daniels Mikayla Davis Devyn Driscoll | Matthew Duenas Tyler Floyd Julia Foslin Mila George Christopher Gorman Sarah Gowers Dakotah Hall Caleb Hammond Danae Hammond Rebecca Haney Sierra Hardy Nadeen Hassan Yazmine Hassan Sadira Hayes Jasmin Hazelet Jermaine Hernandez | Talibah Howard DeAuna Jones Laura Jones Caleb Kemple Greyson Key Dakota Lopez Dejia Mack Janeya Marion Lucas Markos Jennifer Maxwell Cierra Miller Brandon Mitchell Michelle Modry Taelur Morgan Nathan Mosely Nathan Moses | Cynthia Muniz Jacob Nebroski Sarika Oberman Philip Orbe Amanda Orellana Faith Paul Lars Peterson Adam Proctor Nijel Rawlins Aaron Reasoner Jadeen Rivera Andrew Rosendo Kyan Royster Destiny Russell Kayleigh Saal Chris San Nicolas | Travis Scharninghausen Brandon Schoonover De' Shawn Smith Jared Snell Kevin Spillman Kristian Swotek Sydney Thornbrugh Amber Tuft Alanis Vargas Indira Velasquez Jasmine Wallace Patrick Whitworth Charles Williams Nathan Wilson Brianna Woodson Aryana Ybay Tera Young |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|

Netzaberg Middle School

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Jordan Akalaonu Jason Albert Heather Allen Kemo Allen Nadia Almomory Bradley Baker Vannesa Banister Yesenia Barkley Keilani Barrineau Jamie Lee Bartow Alicia Batten Omari Batts Nicholas Baxter Zachary Becraft Jonithan Bennett Samantha Bidinger Tyler Boothe Michael Briskin Sydney Brunson Amber Burger Michaela Callaghan McCann Tiernan Callaghan-McCann Georgina Cano Sarah Cavazos Everett Clark | Jade Clark Brianna Coleman Chiara Coleman Hannah Collins Nico Conrad Jessica Corder Nathan Corder Kaylee Criss Candice Cudjoe Latrece Cunningham Christopher Curry Dakota Curry Dominic Davidson Lilyanne Degollado Marlon Delgado-Lopez Ronald Diaz Victoria Duckels Anna Duenas Joshua DuWors Samantha Elane Kyle Florance Devin Florendo Cecilia Fodor Rachel Gabavics Javier Gallardo | Jonathan Guevarez Brenda Guzman Jamie Haas Jesse Hall Sarah Hall Morgan Helton Rachael Hocker Brent Hoffman Kayla Holland Uriah Huffman Monteirdre Huggins Montez Huggins A'Tiana Hughes Kiera Huie Niejohn Ignaco Stephanie Jessop Samuel Jones Abdul Kamara Noah Kraemer Sophie Kraemer Ingrid Krann Nicholas Lawrence Ashley LeBel Emily LeBel Michaela Lechwar | Gabriel Lewis Kimberly Lopez Molly Maine Paul Mako Adam Malec Emily Manzo Michael Marchese Katherine Mason Tyrece Matthews Anthony Maynard Ayasha Mays Lindsey McClafin Ariel McIntire LaTina McIntosh Kaitlyn Mendum Ana Merel Jocelyne Meza Faith Miller Meycelle Miller Alexis Mitchell-Dugan Ingrid Morris Amira Murry Rebecca Neely Benjamin Nelson Michael Nelson | Katharina Neuser William Nguyen Laura Octavo Robert Ogborn Madeline Olden Sydney Parker McKenzie Peifer Kristine Peterson Jaiden Parris Carolyn Pippin Rebecca Raastad Caitlin Rabuck Michelle Ragay Angelica Rago Gabriella Rago Phillip Ramirez Trey Reese Nathaniel Reline-Martin Andrew Reyna Benedikt Reynolds Daniel Reynolds Taylor Robinson Rosemarie Rodriguez Robert Root William Rosalino | Ismarie Rosario Ashley Ross Cheyenne Ross Chrislynn Ross Sheynilmarie Ruiz Dennis Ryner Shawn Schafer Sarah Schaffer Jana Schmidt Chrystin Schmol Briana Scott Julia Scroggins Ian Seitz Elizabeth Self Megan Shimkus Kiersten Shoemaker Shanice Smith Alexandra Soika Florian Sovine Coree Stahr Haylie Steffe Shelby Stewart Alexandria Strube Paola Suarez Vivian Tanner | Sage Thornbrugh Andrew Toohey Andrew Touzinsky Reyna Towns Nolan Tucker Mahpiya Vanderbilt Leah Vasquez Sydney Velez Danielle Villali Benjamin Villalon Bhryen Villalon Ulani Villanueva Shayla Washington Mikaela Watrus Taylor Watson Zarah Webster Katelyn White Ashley Williams Roderick Williams Courtney Wills Delia Wilson Sereniti Woodford David Wright Ty Wrolson Tyreque Young Andrew Zdeb |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|

Vilseck High School

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| "A" Honor Roll Emma Andrews Terri Atwater Leah Beilhart Erik Bidinger Christopher Brown Shane Calder Lauren Carroll Yasmin Cofer Brittany Conley Katharine Cooper Jacqueline Cormier Michael Diaz Sarah Douglas Darren Eldredge Anne Goho Jannicalouise Gueco Tyler Hall Aaron Hogg Bryan Hogg Tamarina Hollis Jessica Kay John Lee Maitner Amy Jacob Martin Alexandria Mills Megan Moore Maximillian Neuser Brandon Pettitt Angela Prater John Reynolds Gabriel Ruiz Jared Russell | Dominique Smith Ryan Solis Tracey South Maxianne Villalon Kevin Waters Megan White Darius Whitehead Gavrielle Whyte John Wood "A-B" Honor Roll Jennifer Agee Tiffany Agee Kimberlee Akuna Patrick Akuna Mary Beth Allen Toni Anderson Rommel Andre Ravonna Bailey Averi Baker Jermaine Barkley Allyson Barnett Douglas Barrineau Benjamin Barry Gabor Barta Andrew Baxter Najja Beaulieu-Hains Sidni Beaulieu-Hains Crystal Belcher James Blackburn Cassie Blakeney Angela Blevins Shelby Brown Mindy Bryan | Caitlyn Burger Chelsey Burger Shawn Calder Kaisha Camacho Melissa Camara Sara Carriker Georgianna Castro Nancy Castro Tyler Cepeda Crystal Clark Rayshan-Shakur Clark Quartney Cohen Shamyra Coleman Harmony Comer Kayla Cook Zachary Cooper Jordan Cooperrider Jamie Corbin Courtney Corder Jessica Crusing Shanice Cunningham Daniel Dailo Alisha Davidson Myles Davis Jonathan Delgado Lopez Nicholas Diaz Galaysha Dillingham Dylan Driscoll Althea Dunes Remington Edwards Benita Ewen Jacquelyn Fassett Andrew Feazelle | Kourtney Galvin l'Mario Gibson Shaina Gowin Taylor Graves Michelle Green Leah Griggs Rodolfo Guerrero Stephanie Guzman Sarah Halcomb Taylor Hall Shania Hargis William Hargis James Hartz Nicholas Heikkinen Amber Hendricks Ashlia Hendricks Nancy Hernandez Jorge Hernandez Michele Hernandez Phadre Hocker Tabitha Holzhauser Stephanie Hood Nikki Ignaco Aaron Jackson India Johnson Patricia Johnson Samantha Johnston Curtisa Jones Danielle Jones Kwamene Jones Sarianna Jones Victoria Kander Nadia Kastner | Tiarah Kay Joshua Keith Colleen Kiechler Kyle Krajcovic Ashley Lavallais Hocker Nathaniel Lavallais Hocker Jordan LeBouef Uriel Lee Christian Leming Dominik Lomonaco Dominic Lonowski Carlos Lopez Santana Kyle Lund Sarahfina Luuga Darre'Auna Lyde Parris Manning Phillip Manning Christy Manoogian Chadwick Marchman Samantha Marshall Lauren McClafin Rebecca McNeill Marissa Miller Roberto Miranda Kimberly Morris Devin Moss Aida Mougan-Leis Victoria Murchison Anna Muzzy Meredith Nance Michael Naterlin Christopher Nelson Jimmy Nguyen | Fabien Niedermeier Kerwin Octavo Kyle Octavo Ramon Ortiz Adriane Paminiano Caleb Pettitt India Pinkney Stefanie Powers Danny Quitano Johnson Dylen Raastad Marissa Rago Jessica Rider Jason Roberts Lisa-Marie Roberts Christine Rodriguez Leonard Rodriguez Nayhomi Rodriguez Patrick Rodriguez Stephanie Rodriguez Josie RodriguezArgueta Marcella RodriguezArgueta Samuel Ross Shniece Ross Jeremy Ryan Benicia Salas Sanshon Sanders Rochelle Schadegg Sebastian Schnare Danica Schobin Bartley Schwegler Xavier Scott Bianca Selders Myah Shamlee Mary Shoup | Lianna Sierra Joseph Signorello BriAnn Smith Donald Smith Kalyn Smithson David Solis Belinda Spiritty Kylee Stahr Tristan Steinmann Alizabeth Sullenger Christian Swann Virgilia Tanner Kevin Taylor Edith Tessman Tiffany Thomas Erin Toohey Joanna Torres Karina Touzinsky Theresa Trevino Tekeha Turner Coger Sarah Utke Bianca Vance Calvin VanPatten Dmitri Walker Aaron Ware Damon Watson Gabriel Welch Daniel Williams Fabian Williams David Wood Dareck Woodall Yvette Woulard Yvette Ybay Amanda Zumwalt |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|

4th Quarter Honor Roll Students



Garmisch Elementary/Middle School

"A" Honor Roll

Alexander Cavoli
James Adaryukov

Angelina Moten
Michael Beans
Nico Staples

"A-B" Honor Roll

Frances Rhodes
Kaleigh Byrne

Mark Brown
Nicole Ney
Astraea Roberts

Tim Predmore
Tess Chaffin
Chantel Wynn

Nathaniel Sattler
Tess Laub
Khalil Simon
Chloe Scheel

Alex Schwartz
Maria Steinke
Henry Yocum
Samuel Turner

Schweinfurt Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Hannah Baker
Anna Ceballos
Patricia Cook
Jada Daley
Isaiah DeBorja
Benjamin Finch
Faith Flynn
Isabelle Guevara
Kamylla Heinbaugh
Geoffrey Hite
Marissa Ixtlahuac

Vannessa Jackson
Mia Johnson-Gonzalez
Nicholas Kennaugh
Angelique Kenny
Sharon Kim
Molly Kintner
Katya Lewis
Oliver Lupa
Aolani Mayo
Joslyn Medina
Mariana Mesa
Heather Miska

"A-B" Honor Roll

Katelyn O'Rourke
Katelyn Palmer
Johan Rau
Nickolas Schulz
Morgen Shreve
Ty Spencer
Ethan Stemmerding
Morgan Stockdill
Celene Sweeny
Jalynn Williams
"A-B" Honor Roll
Kayleigh Adkins

Kyrese Benjamin
Cameron Bennett
Jahmal Boozer
Hunter Boyer
Kayleigh Bradshaw
Teresa Burns
Nyla Cooper-Gittens
Axel Delgado
Donavon DeLoach
Quan Desalla
Austin Evans
Malik Funches

Michelle Furkin
Emiliano Garcia
Aleeya Harris
Dylan Hopson
Declan Hurley
Godson Ike
Michelle Johnson
Jeremy Kukowski
Steven Kukowski
Jabari London
Jendayi London
John McDaniel

Melissa Mella
Gino Mendoza
Sandrina Murphy
Sarah Naillon
Zachary Nevard
Brittany Patrick
Michelle Quinteros
Tabatha Salcedo
Jesse Sharpe
Amber Shell
Patrick Stark
Melina Stone

Orlando Tagaloguin
Clajanique Thames
Josalyn Van Gundy
Alexandra Villanueva
Victoria Weaver
Kasey West
Alicia West
Frederick Wheeler
Alexandrea Whitmore
Keyjana Williamson
Christopher Witham
Matthew Woodall

Illesheim Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Jermaine Holley
Yasmin Johnson
Zuhura Semrau

Samuel Wiest
Santiago Apodaca
Austin Cate
Trevor Christensen

Vakeaemanu Hunkin
Kyle Landers
Teresa Montalvo
Claire Torza

"A-B" Honor Roll

Chelsea Deloria
L. Hunkin
Ty Thomas

Desenea Bell
Sharon Cuadrado
Lauren Gehres

Caitlyn Loftis
Yarielys Roldan Ramos
L. Hunkin, Jr.

Jennifer Lane
Miguel Santiago
Christopher Schlangen

Ansbach Elementary School

Nicholas Abel
Isaac Ayala
Kendra Beary
Jrdyn Bradley
Tristan Brown
Bailey Callahan
Reanna Clavon
Tyra Cleveland

Daniel Cordoba
Natalia Correa
Hayla Corzine
Catalina Crawford
Gavin Cruz
Alexandra De Leon
Lashana Delduarte
Nadira Dunn

Xavier Enriquez
Claire Farrell
Graham Farrell
Brianna Ferguson
Raymond Fernandez
Leonardo Garcia
Jermaine Gilyard
Chrismin Glaviano

Rubeck Gonzalez
Ava Greene
Laudina Gwira
Malik Heard
Ellen Hoff
Emily Hoff
Francheska Honsvick
Dominique Jones

Dorian Jones
Jacob Lindgren
Naomi Liriano
Christian Liston
Crystal Lopez
John Mahlkuch
Megan McEwan
Brian McEwan

Francesca Monsisvais
Elisa Nagle
Clarissa Paniagua
Tiana Proctor
Miguel Rivera-Pohl
Alejandro Rocha
Edith Rosas
Asia Small

Taylor Sund
Brittney Sweitzer
Maranata Temese
Avenaia Temese
Rikky Tuialuulu
Tehvance Tuialuulu
Hunter Vidro
Kohl Wright

Rainbow Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

John Bowen
Caleb Chandler
Jennifer Mitchell
Samantha Hamontree

Darryus Lowe
Marquis Traylor
Camille Boodoosingh
Dominic Dillingham
Conner Erickson

Camille Martin
Brianna Tyre
"A-B" Honor Roll
Hayden Langewisch
Tanner Loper

Cory Mathews
Olivia Amos
Leia Bright
Michael Zero
Timothy Beury

Nicole LaCrosse
Bryanna Mathews
Mary McKinney
Sofia Domingono
Samantha Dowdy

Jonah Hopping
Diondra Page
Mikayla Caulder
Robbie Swint
Micah Traylor

Baylee Crooke
Neftali Santiago
Nadia Freeman
Chandler Lowrey
Annie Macklin
Marissa Reiners

Hohenfels Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Zoe Abner
Michael Adgie
Elina Bara
LisaBourgeois
Kevin Brazie
Kaitlyn Brink
Morgan Cardon
Gregory Eaddy
Jessica Einwaechter
Lauren Fisher
Camden Frohock
Charles Gozy
Amelia Heath
Katherine Hensley
Yvonne Humphreys
Tatjana Jarvis

Kacey Joyner
Rachael Lange
Elijah Mada
Nicholas Mann
Jordan Markham
Abigail Meharg
Lexi Nunn
Jonathan Ortiz
Rachael Rausch
Derek Ray
Paul Roberts
Ian Rodman
Bradley Sain
Savannah Tackaberry
Alyssa Taylor
Megan Taylor

Virginia Warren
Nathan Way
Christopher Welch
Nathan Witty
Pauline Woods
"A-B" Honor Roll
Amber Aber
Dustin Anderson
Logan Arcand
Virginia Barr
Lisa Bermudez
Alexandra Borders
Lauren Borg
Brianna Brennan
Hannah Brewster
Aaron Burlingame

Jailene Chancey
Melissa Clark
Courtney Cochran
Codey Coon
James Crone
Samuel Deleon
Michael Devin
Malik Drayton
Rainer Eldred
Robert Evans
Jacob Fisher
Joshua Fisher
Mary Fitter
Jennifer Ford
Zarayia Fuller
Daniel Gaitan

Katherine Gamble
Timia Gilbert
Conner Gray
Quinton Harper
Cameron Hartfield
Isabelle Hoecherl
Samantha Hunter
Viviane Johnson
Ibrahim Kamara
Delaney Keeler
Aidan Kerchner
Alexander Lange
Talia Lassiter
Madison Lopez
Brianna Love
Samantha Lujan

Jessey McBride
Lane McMullen
Seth Moats
Anastasia Nikolaeva
Marcell Oliver
Noemi Orozco
Chaz Perryman
Alexandria Powell
Alexandra Preysler
Noah Rains
Raphael Ramos
Christopher Ramos
Madison Renehan
Charlotte Richter
Luke Robinson
Maximilian Sammler

Addison Smith
Maya Smith
Uriah Soliz
Alyssa Taylor
Sarah Toppin
Tanya Vass
Sydney Walker
Jack Warren
Tyler Wells
Jack Wells
Latisha Williams
Devon Williams
Loren Winge
Tony Winters
Elizabeth Wright
Michael Wright
Alexis Wright

Bamberg Middle/High School

"A" Honor Roll

Raymond Chang
Victoria Featherston
Teresa Luciani
Victoria Martinez
Selena Newton
Anye Wanki
Keziah Williamson
Jeffery Brown
Victor Godbee
Brady Kerkhoff
Devona Walters
Laura Carl
Angelika Castro
Anna Hodges
Richard Jimenez
Stephen Newman
Zandromeda Samuels
JaVante Taylor
Hannah Boulware
Adja Dieye
Christopher Guambana
Anastasia McCray
Lauren Sink
Marcus Wade
Terry Williams

Erica DelosSantos
Dillon Luedtke
Mark Witter
Adam Doerres
John Monteleone
Cody Rosenberg
Sylina Byron
Carl Cook
Natesha Godbee
Joshua Johnstone
Ryan Mecillas
Danielle Mitchell
Haile Baker
Josten Buen
Jesse Hodges
Raleigh Addington
DeVante Cunningham
Amber Streker
Aleksandra Wisniewska
Daniel Samarin
Amanda Wingard
Hanna Fellingner
Oumou Kaba
Anthony Lestochi
Charlotte Woods
Bethany Yost

"A-B" Honor Roll

Rochelle Streker
Nuh Wanki
Megan Bentley
Jenna Cepe
Tawna Dickens
Erick Suarez
Kianna Thomas
Brooke Mecillas
Jocelyn Bright-Smith
Sofia McKinney
Olivia Caba
Tessarose Cepe
Roberautrice Eddie
Jhana Bradley
Melissa Ross
Rebecca Hunter
"A-B" Honor Roll
Kaitlyn Berbach
Michael Egan
Wally Garcia
Anlyzha-Shae Montevirgen
Catharina Watkins
Kelci Beaty
Joseph McNamara
Victor Nwafor
Judy Ann Sanchez
Alex Stringer

Joshua Caudill
Keagan Coate
Otavius Rush
Ryan Buettner
Sara Crum
Makayla Haedt
Devante Ardley
Christopher Bentley
Eliza Buchanan
Raven Daniels
Symone Elder
Brianna Johnson
Haden Keough
Tajai McCollum
Victoria Miller
Darius Cyrus
Kevin Bolling
Nelson Cruz-Bernier
Skylar Frias
Melanie Rivers
Jaymes Bradley
Sarah Cruz-Bernier
Ryan Verhoef
Keegan Walker
David Fleming
Violet Knoll
Rachel Williamson

William Caudill
Elizabeth Millner
Daniel Riojas
Jasquanique Walker
Malcolm White-Sago
Caroline Bentley
Ashton Buchanan
Sade Davis
Caleb Isom
Brianna Ruiz
Humberto Vasquez
Branden Webb
Gianna Williams
Krystian Adamiak Carpenter
Rodolfo Bernardino
Melissa Bowser
Sean Boyle
Thaddeus Parker
Julian Pollitt
Korianna Purdin
Trent Harvey
Caitlin Leeds
Jessica Sweazea
Ivey Cherry
Meggan Lambes
Morgan Luedtke
Sebastian Rodriguez

Nicholas Ruiz
Raymon Rosado
Donovan Davis
Zachary Hopper
Joshua Clifton
Alexis Jennings
Richard Nevard
Ashley O'Rourke
Isha Sumah
Madeleine Wojack
Franklin Cook
Robin Forrey
Brian Kirk
Madison Thornes
Lisa Hartvikson
Daniel Kieser
Joshuamil Torres
Dwight Doran
Stephanie Keeter
Andy Kim
Alexandra Riquelme
Nichelle Rodriguez
Sean Williams
Andreas Foster
David Martinez
Joshua Robinson

Chantel Sellers
Danielle Witter
Sierra Davis
Crystal Baker
Andrea Bell
Dominik Jones
Jaleesa Knuckles
Liz Addison
DeLaRentae Evans
Amanda Biggins
Kevin Brown
Analeisa Crum
Selina Godbee
Angela Hughes
Elisabeth Lambes
Rebecca Bausum
Francine Mendiola
Jorrel Buen
Jabb Bumanglag
Melissa Carr
Sebastian Castaneda
David Cormier
Jewell Johnson
Frances Johnson
Justin Webb
Caleb Wills

Barbecues, bike rides take center stage during Fire, Safety Week

Story and photo by
JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

Just when you thought it was safe to break out the charcoal or take a leisurely bicycle ride in Garmisch, these two favorite summertime activities found themselves in the safety spotlight June 22-26 during the garrison's Fire and Safety Week.

The barbecue issue was raised during the U.S. Army Garrison Town Hall gathering June 18 when a resident of the Breitenau Housing Area asked about a neighbor firing up his grill from a balcony of the four-story apartment-like building.

With the summer Alpine weather fickle, some residents have been tempted to step outside and stoke up the charcoal under cover instead of out in the chilly rain away from the apartments.

Not so fast, warns garrison Safety Officer Andy Tuerk and Fire Chief Wolfgang Pauls-Polch.

"U.S. Army regulations and German law prohibits the use of charcoal grills in a building, garage, or on a balcony," said Tuerk. "When people barbecue on their balconies, the smoke detectors can cause false alarms."

An alarm triggers the Garmisch Fire Department and Military Police to respond to the call on post.

The situation can be more complicated off-post. "If you have an apartment on the economy, you could run into problems based on the house rules you agreed to," adds Tuerk.

Barbecues need to be used in authorized areas only, meaning you can't just abide by the regulation of maintaining 50 feet from the building and have a tailgate party in the housing area parking lot.

"Grills should be lit and supervised by adults only and kept clear of building overhangs and porches. Always keep them at a reasonable distance from all combustible structures and vinyl siding," said Pauls-Polch.

While it may seem field expedient to use gasoline to start the coals, it must never be used in place of starter fluid and never, under any

circumstances, place charcoal in the oven, warns the fire chief. Carbon Monoxide is produced and death can result from the toxic fumes.

"Once you've finished with the coals they need to be properly disposed of, as spontaneous combustion can occur from the wet charcoal. Any bags of charcoal that became wet should not be placed in sheds, storage areas, or a utility room until the coal is dried out," Pauls-Polch said.

"Charcoal must be cool before disposal and must not be combined with combustible materials. The Fire Prevention Section recommends that used charcoal be placed in a metal container, doused with water, and let set for 24 hours before disposal," Pauls-Polch added.

The Garmisch Directorate of Emergency Services advises that if your neighbors insist on cooking on their balcony, the first step should be to notify the stairwell and building managers.

If the activity continues, the MPs will be called to the residence.

One new Breitenau resident said he learned about the prohibition on balcony cooking from his neighbors within five minutes of firing up his grill.

"There are designated barbecuing areas on Artillery Kaserne with pre-existing barbecues or you can bring your own," said Housing Manager Gaby Furitsch. "We are always looking for ways to improve them and we'll gladly look at our resident's suggestions, but please, don't use your balconies."

The same rainy weather that made unsafe balcony cuisine attractive did not dampen the spirits of a group of children attending a class on bicycle safety June 24.

The garrison Safety Office had filled the Pete Burke Center with different safety tables with themes of fire or motorcycle safety, but it was the bicycle display that perked the kids' interest.

"Tom Creley from Outdoor Recreation spoke the young children about how to maintain their bikes to enjoy the 101 days of summer," said "Safetyman" Tuerk. "I thought the rain might keep them away, but they came and asked him a lot of good questions after the video and demonstration."



Tom Creley speaks to a group of elementary school children about bicycle safety. The kids were welcomed to visit him at Outdoor Recreation if they have concerns about the safety of their bikes.

Creley fielded questions about brakes, loose handlebars, flat tires and offered reflectors to the kids who needed them.

"Don't ride your bike up curbs," he said, spinning the back tire of the display bicycle for effect. "Even if you clear the front tire, you can damage the back tire and the rim may not be true afterwards."

Any child interested in knowing more about keeping their bike safe can stop by ODR and visit him or one of the other bicycle experts, offered Creley.

A similar bicycle safety class was offered to adults, as well as the latest child seat safety and other topics, Tuerk said.

"We do a combined Fire and Safety Week twice per year," said Tuerk as he passed out bracelets, pens, balloons and other novelty items with safety messages to the children.

A bicycle rodeo originally scheduled at the beginning of the month was cancelled for safety concerns when electrical work had to be done in the CYS parking lot. The rodeo will be rescheduled.

GARRISON SNAPSHOTS



Photo by Suayn Moise



Photo by Clayton Young

Above left: U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Manager Karin H. Santos reads the Army Birthday Book to about 100 children and adults as Child Development Center director Ellen Harris helps out. All gathered for the party June 15 then sang "Happy Birthday" to the Army before enjoying a piece of red, white and blue birthday cake. The smaller children received a copy of the Army Birthday Book, and many immediately began asking teens and adults to re-read the story to them.

Above: Army Col. Mark D. Baines, (left) became Commandant of the NATO School at a change of command ceremony June 10 in Oberammergau. USMC Gen. James N. Mattis, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (center) and outgoing Commandant Col. James J. Tabak, USMC, march alongside Baines while Oberammergau Mayor Arno Nunn (left) and NATO School Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Claude Schmitz, Luxembourg Army, join them to pass through a cordon of Bundeswehr.

Left: Pond guards (from left) Theodor Holzer, Peter Meier and supervisor Mathias Trautwein receive a NATO Commendation Certificate for performed first aid on an 11-year-old German girl who broke her arm after falling just outside of the NATO School grounds in Oberammergau. The guards came to the young lady's assistance the early evening of May 2.



Courtesy photo

Spouses club raises more than \$50,000 to give back to community programs

by KRISTIN BRADLEY

Bavarian News

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club recently ended a record-breaking year, raising more than \$50,000 for the Hohenfels community.

The 2008-2009 board year saw record-breaking fundraising numbers, including the most successful Holiday Bazaar to date, the largest amount of money raised at any Wild West Night on record and the first ever Craft Fair.

The club also managed to nearly double its membership, awarded \$13,000 in scholarships to members and high school students and more than \$28,200 in welfare grants to numerous community organizations including school and sports groups, family readiness groups, the chaplain's office and more.

"The mission of HCSC is number one, to raise money to donate to the community, and two, to create fun events for the community," said Nickayla Myers-Garner, HCSC president during the 2008-2009 board year, which runs from June to May.

According to Erika Cave, HCSC treasurer, the majority of funds come from the HCSC-run Thrift Shop and the club's annual Holiday Bazaar, co-sponsored by U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Cave said last year alone the Thrift Shop earned \$28,000 for the club, which Myers-Garner attributes in part to the large number of donations they received.

She said while ID card holders may consign items at the thrift store, with HCSC keeping a small percentage, community members may also donate their items to the store, allowing HCSC to keep 100 percent of the profits.

Using money raised in part by the thrift shop, Cristina Trinh, former scholarship chair, and her committee were able to award scholarships to five club members and eight high school students during the 2008-2009 year.

"People were very appreciative to be able to use this money toward their education" said Trinh. "It makes it easier to continue going to school, especially considering how high college tuition is."

Money awarded to community organizations in the form of welfare grants is often used for programs and services those organizations would not otherwise be able to provide, said Myers-Garner.

"We're pleased to raise money within the community to give back to the community. For example, we gave the school nurse money for supplies and gave funds to Club Beyond so they could go on a service trip to Poland to help others," she said. "We're helping our own."

Though it is a large part of the club's mission, fundraising is just one piece of the HCSC pie. The club also aims to have fun by hosting regular events for members and some for the community as a whole.

HCSC holds one event each month during which their meeting is conducted, as well as special events like the Holiday Bazaar, Wild West Night, a murder mystery dinner, crafting classes and cultural tours.

Myers-Garner said none of those could be successful without the help of many club and community volunteers.

"Our volunteers are outstanding," she said. "There is no way we could do what we do if we didn't have the support of the community. We had so many wonderful volunteers and board members willing to step in and help wherever it was needed."

Heather Bruce, current HCSC president, said she and her new team of board members are ready to continue that volunteer tradition.

"We want to increase our membership - that is always a goal - and get even more people involved. We have great programs planned for people to come and have fun," Bruce said.

"And of course we hope to give even more money back to the community because that's



Adrianna Standifer, a crafter at the first ever Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club Craft Fair samples another crafter's wares April 18. HCSC had a record-breaking year June 2008 to May 2009 during which they nearly doubled their membership and awarded \$13,000 in scholarships and \$28,200 in welfare grants to fellow community organizations.

Photo by Nickayla Myers-Garner

what it's all about."

Bruce said they have already set dates for the Holiday Bazaar, Sept. 10, 11 and 12, and for their monthly meeting programs, the 3rd Wednesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Community Activities Center, beginning in October.

She said special events will also be held

outside of the work day to involve teachers and the club's many working members.

For more information on HCSC, including how to become a member or board member during the 2009-2010 board year, contact Heather Bruce at hdeithorn@yahoo.com, or visit their website at www.hohenfelscsc.com.

TRICARE takes care of Soldiers, families during "101 Critical Days of Summer"

ERMC Public Affairs Office

Though it seems long overdue, summer will eventually come to Bavaria, bringing with it the increased risk of injury that comes with warmer weather, longer days and more outdoor activities.

According to the U.S. Army, the "101 Critical Days of Summer" - the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day - typically corresponds with an increase in off-duty injuries.

Sometimes those injuries and other conditions result in a trip to the emergency room or other off-post medical provider.

Soldiers, family members and retirees living in Europe may experience a few differences from their counterparts stateside when it comes to TRICARE coverage, but Yvonne Horn, TRICARE medical service coordinator at the Hohenfels Health Clinic, insists patients need

only follow a few simple steps to ensure effective coverage.

"Active duty Soldiers and their family members enrolled in TRICARE Overseas Prime are fully covered when seen by a host nation provider," said Maggie Smith of the Europe Regional Medical Command's resource management division.

TRICARE pays 100 percent of all medically necessary, covered services for active duty and family members including private physician services, hospitalization and emergencies, she said.

Soldiers and family members may also be referred to a preferred provider on the economy when the medical services they require are not readily available in the military health care system where they live.

Smith explained that preferred providers are hospitals or English-speaking doctors who have agreed to work with the U.S. military to see

its beneficiaries.

"In most cases they will not ask our TRICARE Prime patients to pre-pay for services," Smith explained. "Instead, preferred providers will file claims for our patients."

Active duty Soldiers are usually enrolled in Prime through DEERS during inprocessing, said Smith.

Command Sponsored families of active duty are eligible to enroll into the Prime program at their local TRICARE Service Centers, which in Hohenfels is located inside the clinic.

"It is very important that families enroll in TRICARE Overseas Prime so that they will not have to pay out-of-pocket when they get care on the economy," said Smith.

In the case of an emergency, care on the economy may come in the form of an ambulance or emergency room.

If you call an ambulance, depending on the description given, the dispatcher may send just the ambulance or an ambulance with an emergency physician and take you to the nearest hospital.

TRICARE pays ambulance bills for active duty Soldiers and their Prime-enrolled Family members. Ambulance companies will bill retirees and civilians, who then must file claims with their health insurance companies and TRICARE.

If the situation doesn't quite warrant a trip to the emergency room, Horn said beneficiaries can always call the Nurse's Advice Line with health questions or even for help locating the nearest hospital.

She said there are different advice line numbers for different areas. Horn strongly advises any TRICARE patients to visit their service center before traveling for vital information, such as how to contact an ambulance in an emergency and the country's Nurse Advice Line phone number.

For more regarding TRICARE coverage, contact Horn at DSN 466-4528, CIV 09472-83-4528 or visit her in the Hohenfels Health Clinic.

Teens tour Europe with Hohenfels Youth Center

by KRISTIN BRADLEY

Bavarian News

Few American children would even dream of a weekend trip to Paris or a week-long vacation with their friends in Italy.

For children living in Hohenfels, Germany, those trips are not just dreams but real possibilities thanks to the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Youth Center.

This summer between June 20 and August 29 the center will be taking middle and high school children on 22 trips including not just Paris and Italy, but also Vienna, Geiselwind, pools, amusement parks, the Nuremberg Zoo and more.

Not only does the center arrange the trips, but they are also able to use funding to keep the cost per child relatively low, like only \$125 for a week in Camp Darby, Italy.

Sheli Brown, Youth Center administration assistant, and Rena Mesch, child and youth program associate, both said the trips are meant not only to keep the children busy during their summer break, but also to allow them to experience Europe.

"How many times can you live in Europe?," said Brown. "You should do as much as you can while you're here."

"Especially in these economic times, a lot of families might be able to send one child, but it's just too expensive for the whole family," said Mesch.

"So when they (children from the Youth Center) go back to the states they got to go some places they wouldn't have gone without us."

Mesch said when planning trips the center tried to schedule one amusement park every month, some cultural events, some day trips, and some barbecues and other events held

right on post.

That way, even if someone cannot go on trips they can still participate in the events, she said.

In fact, seven of the events are free; many cost between 10 and 15 Euro.

Ricky Ruiz, Youth Center director, said the center is able to offer the activities at such a low cost because they only need to break even and many things, like buses and some meals, can come out of their budget.

Ruiz said the main focus of the summer trips is to keep the children busy, build relationships and have fun.

"We base our program not just on what their needs are, those fundamental needs are definitely met, but on what they want. As long as it's in the regulations, if they want to we're gonna go ahead and do it," said Ruiz.

He said that is their focus for the entire program, not just the summer.

The center certainly has enough entertainment to keep any teen happy.

There is an art room, dance room, movie room, pool table and more computer and video games than a small electronics store.

There is even a music room complete with drum set, guitars and pianos. Tenth-grader Joseph Dominguez, whose friends say he can play every instrument in the room and then some, says he comes to play the instruments.

Though despite all the gadgets, staffers say it is the relationships and open door policy that keep the teens coming back.

"Some will come just for Rena or Rick," said Brown. "They just want to talk to that one adult that has made an impression on them."

"This is a good group of kids and they need something to do," said Mesch. "This is their safe place."



Photo by Kristin Bradley

The "101 Critical Days of Summer" corresponds with an increase in off-duty injuries. In the case that summer fun results in a trip to the emergency room, knowing your TRICARE benefits is a must.

For more information, or to sign up for Youth Center trips, call DSN 466-4492, CIV 09472-83-4492.

Oldest branch of service, 'backbone of the nation' celebrates its 234th year

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

In honor of the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, a retired command sergeant major with almost 50 years of service to the Army was the guest speaker June 11 at a celebration in honor of the Army's 234th birthday.

Command Sgt. Maj. (Retired) Larry Emery, who spent 30 years on active duty and has spent 19 years in civilian service, warned the audience at the Warrior Sports Café that there may be times during his speech when he refers to the Army as a living, breathing being.

"If you've lived the Army as I have, you know that sometimes it is a living, being thing," he said.

The Army is the largest and oldest established branch of the U.S. military; one of seven uniformed services.

"Since its birth on June 14, 1775 (the establishment of the Continental Army), the Army has been on the forefront of defending freedom, the nation and the values to which it was born," Emery said.

"Do you realize that that is over a year before we were even a country?"

Emery said the Army's mission was the same then as it is today: to defend the nation from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

He then went on to highlight some of the Army's accomplishments from the past 234 years.

The Army has engaged in combat operations in 20 campaigns and 178 major operations.

A total of 2,404 Soldiers have received the Congressional Medal of



Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Graham, Joint Multinational Readiness Center command sergeant major, left, and Cpl. Timothy Wells, Hohenfels' newest noncommissioned officer, cut a birthday cake at a celebration June 11 at the Warrior Sports Café in honor of the U.S. Army's 234th Birthday.

Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the

United States.

The Army has given millions of people a place to make a better life for themselves, has led the nation in equal

opportunities and has the most modern and best equipment of any force in the world, said Emery.

"We are the best Army at what we

do and we're that way because of our values, our ethos and our people. Most importantly our people. People are our most important asset," he said.

The Army currently has 1.1 million Soldiers, 540,000 of them active duty, and more 250,000 Soldiers serving in 80 countries.

A substantial civilian population also serves the nation through the Army.

There are currently 243,000 Department of the Army civilians, 4,000 of which are forward deployed, and 200,000 contractors.

Emery also recognized the contributions Army families have made to the force.

"Army families have been the unsung heroes in every American conflict since the War of Independence," he said, pointing out that more than 56 percent of Soldiers are married and 46 percent have children - a number substantially larger than when he first enlisted.

"And last but not least, the volunteers. They abound throughout the Army and are an integral part of the Army mission," said Emery.

He said those many groups, made up of a diverse range of people, are all working to ensure the best Army in the world remains the best Army in the world now and 234 years from now.

"This 234th birthday commemorates America's Army - Soldiers, families and civilians - who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army strong both here and abroad," Emery said.

"Their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is without a doubt the backbone of our nation," he said.

Pre-deployment training 'dead on' for National Guard, Hungarian Soldiers

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

After months of training in Hungary, members of the Ohio National Guard and the Hungarian Armed Forces came to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center for three weeks of training before they deploy to Afghanistan as an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team tasked with training and mentoring the Afghan National Army.

Approximately 30 Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard's 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, a unit composed of Soldiers from all over Ohio, and 25 Soldiers from the Hungarian

Armed Forces began their training together in February.

Their training at JMRC focused on practicing their skills as mentors. For their capstone mission they operated as an OMLT while the ANA (played by the Louisiana National Guard) completed a mission to capture a high value target in one of JMRC's many Military Operations on Urban Terrain sites.

JMRC hosts training for numerous OMLT teams throughout the year. It is a unique training scenario when the Observer/Controllers mentor a unit on, among other things, how to be Observer/Controllers.

Hungarian Command Sgt. Maj. Jozsef Balogh said the team has been working better

and better together since their training began and their experience at Hohenfels helped them to improve even more.

"They (the O/Cs) are very qualified at their job and are very helpful. We can all learn from each other," he said.

Hungarian Sgt. 1st Class Kornel Nagy said though the language barrier is definitely the most challenging obstacle the team faces, they are working through it.

He said the team gets along very well and they all share the same goal of teaching the ANA skills to secure their country that will eventually allow international forces to leave Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Michael Ashley, from Cincinnati, Ohio, said he was grateful for the training he received at JMRC.

"It lets you make your mistakes here instead of in Afghanistan. It's pretty realistic," he said.

Capt. Mike Bell, from Akron, Ohio, agreed - and he should know.

Bell has been deployed six times since 2002, most recently with an Embedded Training Team, a unit similar to an OMLT.

"This training is great. It is right on," Bell said. "They've (JMRC) obviously employed a lot of subject matter experts. The training is dead on."

Like Ashley, Bell said though the OMLT has improved their capabilities since February, they benefited from their training at Hohenfels.

"Now it is fine tuning. We take the info they give us and add and improve. These scenarios add a little different dimension to things. A lot of the instructors have personal experience that helps the guys get into it," said Bell.

According to an Ohio National Guard Public Affairs release, "the joint Ohio-Hungarian mission is a continuation of a relationship formed in 1993 between the Ohio National Guard and the Republic of Hungary as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The SPP encompasses all 54 state and territory National Guard organizations and relationships with 56 foreign countries."



A Hungarian Soldier treats a Soldier from the Ohio National Guard's 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade for a simulated wound during training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center June 15. Both Soldiers are part of an Observer Mentor Liaison Team on their way to train the Afghan National Army.



**FREEDOM
FEST**

JULY 4

Join U.S. Army
Garrison Hohenfels at
the Festplatz for food,
drink and fun from
4-11 p.m., with
fireworks at 10 p.m.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

4th of July

Join the garrison in celebrating Independence Day July 4. In Grafenwoehr, there will be food and entertainment at 6 p.m. and fireworks at 10:30 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Parade Field

In Vilseck, at 9 p.m. an "After Hours Party" will take place at the Langenbruck Center sports bar and at 10:30 p.m. fireworks will take place at Little Mike Softball Complex.

Charity concert

The garrison will co-host a charity concert by German Army Mountain Music Corps July 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr city pond (inclement weather: Stadthalle).

Enjoy an evening with an entertaining mix of military, classical, modern and Bavarian music!

Library happenings

Grafenwoehr Library will be closed Friday for annual works outing

The staff of the Garrison libraries will travel with participants of the Summer Reading program to the small village of Moedlareuth July 7 to tour the museum and get a look what was once a divided city.

Drunk driving simulator

The Harley Davidson Road Show and Drunk Driving Awareness simulator is coming to Vilseck PXtra tomorrow and Friday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and the Graf PX Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

B.O.S.S trips

Join Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers July 3 for a rafting trip in Austria. Ages 18 and over. For more info, call DSN 475-8822, CIV 09641-83-8822..

Teen deployment education

ASACS counselors will lead a "Coping With Deployment Education Group" at the Netzaberg Teen Center Tuesdays, July 7 to Aug. 11, from 1-2:15 p.m.

For more, call DSN 472-9215, CIV 09645-917-9215/9224.

Kontakt Club summer party

Join the fun July 11 at 6 p.m. at the Big Mike Recreation Center in Vilseck. Food provided for 5 Euro per person, or bring your own. There will also be overnight camping.

For more, email daniel.koenig.vilseck@t-online.de.

Parent advisory committee

Join CYSS July 15 from noon to 1 p.m., at the Rose Barracks, CYS Services Bldg. 224. The PAC provides two-way feedback about CYSS and provides input

for establishing & changing CYSS procedure. For more, call DSN 476-2760, CIV 09662-83-2760.

Special camp for special kids

A camp for children with special needs is being held through July 18 at the Netzaberg SAS from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For teen, a camp will be held July 20-24 at the Netzaberg Teen Center from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or more, call DSN 475-6656 or CIV 09641-83-6656.

American Legion

If you are interested in joining the American Legion in Grafenwoehr, call CIV 09605-925770, or email georgie.t@t-online.de.

AAFES now hiring

Visit your local Human Resources Office or go on-line at www.aafes.com to apply.

Craft shop events

For more on craft classes, call DSN 475-6101, CIV 09641-83-6101.

- Illusion Necklace with Julie, Friday, from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

- Beginner's Quilt Class, July 8 from 9-11 a.m.

- Framing Classes are held second Wednesday each month from 6-9 p.m. and the 4th Saturday of the month 9 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$35 + supplies.

"Kids on Site"

Beginning July 6, CYS Services offers on-site childcare while you workout at the Grafenwoehr Fitness Center from 9-11 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday.

Register at the CYSS Grafenwoehr CER Bldg 244, Room 220, or Rose Barracks CER Bldg 224, CIV 09662-83-2760.

Youth scuba classes

Discover Scuba every Wednesday July 8 to 29 from 8 a.m.-noon.

The classes include a day in the classroom learning the basics of dive safety and equipment familiarization, two mornings in the Grafenwoehr Schwimmbad, and a full day in Munich split between the indoor dive center and the Echinger Weiher.

Any CYS Services-eligible youth ages 12-18 may participate. Cost is \$48. This 4-week program will be offered again August 5-26. For more, call DSN 476-3376.

Bowlopolis youth league

Join the youth bowling Summer Thursday league July 9 August 27. For more, call DSN 475-6656, CIV 09641-83-6656, or DSN 476-2760, CIV 09662-83-2760.

Dinner theatre

Join Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center for the "Wedding from Hell" Dinner Theater, July 17-18 at 6:30 p.m.

Price is \$20 per person and includes buffet dinner and show.

Theatre workshop

Registration for Young Explorer's Summer Theater Workshop is going on now. Call DSN 475-6426 for more.

FAST Classes

The Vilseck Ed. Center will be conducting FAST Classes July 7-17 and 20-31. For more, call DSN 476-2753 or DSN 475-6786.

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Sgt. Christian E. Bueno-Galdos of 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor should contact summary court martial officer Capt. Phil Hensel at DSN 474-2391 or e-mail phil.hensel@eur.army.mil.

Anyone having any claims on or obligations to the estate of Pvt. 1st Class Michael E. Yates of HHC 3-66AR, 172nd, should contact the summary court martial officer, Capt. Audie Cavazos at DSN 475-6918 or e-mail audie.cavazos@eur.army.mil.

School physicals

School physicals will take place at the Vilseck Health Clinic on the following days:

- August 11 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Aug. 26 from 8 a.m.-noon.
- Aug. 27 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Schedule your appointments by calling CIV 09662-83-2804.

Summer camp program

Teen Centers in Netzaberg and Rose Barracks is offering a summer camp program from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Youth must be registered in CYSS to attend. For more, call DSN 476-3144, CIV 09662-83-3144.

Seventh Day Adventist

The Vilseck Seventh Day Adventist Group meets every Saturday at the Vilseck Chapel, Bldg. 219, from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Fellowship and potluck after worship.

Spouses support group

Come to a support group for spouses of deployed Soldiers on the second and last Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Chapel Annex. Free childcare and lunch.

For more, call DSN 476-3276, CIV 09662-83-3276.

AL-ANON

AL-ANON meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Counseling Center (downstairs), Building 206 (near CDS) in Grafenwoehr.

The only requirement for membership is that there is an alcohol or drug problem with a relative or friend.

For more, call CIV 0171-983-9151.

Garmisch Briefs

Garmisch County Fair

The Garmisch County Fair is an American-style old fashioned county fair, to include softball, pie baking contests, BBQ, traditional picnic games, live entertainment and AFN Bavaria broadcasting live!

It takes place at the Breitenau sports fields Friday.

For more information, contact FMWR at DSN 440-3702, CIV 08821-750-3702.

SKIES Unlimited

Do you enjoy getting wet? Maybe spending some time outdoors with a four legged companion? How about releasing energy while maintaining self control or hitting a ball? Are you next in live for Dancing with Stars?

CYS Services is looking for contract instructors interested in teaching the following classes: swimming, horseback riding, martial arts, tennis, and dance.

For more information, call DSN 440-2393.

Summer reading

Join the fun and explore the worlds of music, dance, art, books, and more with the "Be Creative @ Your Library" 2009 Summer Reading Program.

The program is open to youth, grades K-6, with programs, prize drawings, story readings and more Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon

For information, call DSN 440-2467,

CIV 08821-7502467.

If you are interested in volunteering for the summer program, send an email to libstaff@eur.army.mil.

Conquer the Zugspitze

Join us July 18. The \$120 fee includes accommodation in a beautiful historic mountain hut, tickets for the cogwheel train or the spectacular cable car down the mountain.

Call DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638 for more.

Castle tour

Visit The Schachen (King Ludwig's 'Other Castle') August 22. The \$85 fee includes accommodation in a beautiful historic mountain hut, tour of the castle and certified guide.

Call DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638 for more.

MSTC Hiking Club

We have three fabulous hikes for the month of June! Get your gear and explore beautiful Garmisch on foot. The Hiking Club members decide what trips are taken in July and August.

All trips are geared to prepare youth for our overnight hike with Grafenwoehr youth in August!

Call DSN 440-2600, CIV 08821-750-2600 for more information.

Rock-n-Rollick Playgroup

Join in on all the fun at our weekly playgroup, each Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Pete Burke Annex.

For more, call DSN 4403777, CIV 08821-750-3777.

Hohenfels Briefs

Sort center new hours

Beginning today, the Sort Center will have new opening hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and closed on Sunday. For more, call DSN 466-2238.

Dresden, world heritage

Visit Dresden July 11 and see the Gruenes Gewolbe (Green Vault) and enjoy one of Europe's most sumptuous treasure chambers.

Cost is \$65 per person and includes transportation. Seating is limited to 50 people. For more information, call DSN 466-2060.

Coaches needed

The Youth Sports and Fitness office is in need of eight football coaches, two cross country coaches, 12 soccer coaches, two bowling coaches, and four Start Smart coaches for flag football and soccer.

All coaches are needed by July 14 to ensure that the proper training is received.

For more, call DSN 466-2558.

Vienna sightseeing, shopping

Bus will depart Hohenfels July 18 from ODR, Bldg. H15, at 4:30 a.m. and return to Hohenfels around 9 p.m.

Cost is \$65 per person and includes transportation. Seating is limited to 50 people. For more, call DSN 466-2060.

Great day at Arevita spa

Pamper yourself with a great spa treatment July 22 when ITR goes to the Arevita Spa in Amberg.

The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from ODR and will return between 2-2:30 p.m.

Each trip is limited to eight guests and you must sign up by July 17 to select your services. For more, call DSN 466-2060.

American Red Cross classes

The Combined CPR and first aid class offered July 24 by the Hohenfels Red Cross office will provide attendees with the knowledge and skills necessary to help sustain life in an emergency.

Cost is \$30 for first aid, \$35 for CPR or \$40 for both, and must be paid in order to reserve a slot. Each one-day class runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more, call DSN 466-1760.

Brewery tour

Bus will depart Hohenfels from ODR, Bldg. H15 at 11 a.m. July 25 and return to Hohenfels around 10 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person and price includes transportation and brewery tours at each of the stops.

For more, call DSN 466-2060.

Blood Drive

The Health Clinic is still taking names for the Aug. 11 blood drive.

Applicants are encouraged to pre-register to donate. Call DSN 466-4006 for more.

Fall sports enrollment

Registration is underway through Aug. 14 for all Youth Sports and Fitness fall sports.

Offered this fall will be Start Smart soccer and flag football for ages 3-5, soccer for ages 6-15, tackle football for ages 8-14, cross country for ages 8-15, bowling for ages 7-16 and cheerleading for ages 7-10 and 11-14.

Cost for enrollment ranges from \$35 to \$85 depending on the sport.

For more, call DSN 466-2078.

HCSC event dates set

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club will host a Holiday Bazaar Sept. 10-12.

HCSC has also set the dates for the upcoming fun-filled year. The programs will be the 3rd Wednesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. at the CAC beginning in Oct.

For more, visit the HCSC Web site at www.hohenfelscsc.com.

Walking group

The Health Clinic sponsored walking group will meet every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Health Clinic.

The group will walk for one hour. For more, call DSN 466-3347.

Girl Scouts volunteers

Girl Scouts Hohenfels is seeking personnel possessing special knowledge, experience, creativity and or talents.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Hohenfels Overseas Committee Management Team call Chandra Roberts at 09492-906636 or email at Chandraroberts27@yahoo.com.

HCSC seeks board members

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club has positions available for the 2009-2010 board.

Positions available include parliamentarian, child care, historian, newsletter, publicity, thrift shop liaison, volunteer coordinator, ways and means, and Wild West event coordinator.

For more, contact Heather Bruce at hdeithorn@yahoo.com.

USAG GRAFENWOEHR

4th of July, 2009

SPECIAL SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES

Vilseck PX - Grafenwoehr Post and back

| | | depart | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 23:25 |
|----------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Vilseck PX | depart | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 23:25 | |
| Grafenwoehr PX | arrive | 17:25 | 18:25 | 19:25 | 20:25 | 21:40 | 00:05 | |
| Grafenwoehr PX | depart | 17:30 | 18:30 | 19:30 | 20:30 | 22:45 | 00:05 | |
| Vilseck PX | arrive | 17:55 | 18:55 | 19:55 | 20:55 | 23:25 | 00:45 | |

(Times may slightly change due to traffic and checking at the gates)

Netzaberg - Grafenwoehr Post and back

| | | depart | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 23:05 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Netzaberg (all bus stops) | depart | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 23:05 | |
| Grafenwoehr PX | arrive | 17:15 | 18:15 | 19:15 | 20:15 | 21:20 | 23:25 | |
| Grafenwoehr PX | depart | 17:30 | 18:30 | 19:30 | 20:30 | 22:45 | 23:30 | |
| Netzaberg (all bus stops) | arrive | 17:45 | 18:45 | 19:45 | 20:45 | 23:05 | 23:50 | |

What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Clinic offers physicals

The Illesheim Health Clinic offers CYS and DoDDS health assessments and sports physicals Mondays-Thursdays now through Aug. 31.

Spots are limited so call and arrange for an appointment as soon as possible. Walk-ins are not accepted. For more, call DSN 467-4512, CIV 09841-83-4512.

Subway hours

The Subway on Storck Barracks has different hours during the July 4 weekend. Friday, Subway is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., closed on Sunday and open from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday.

German cooking class

The Storck Barracks Yellow Ribbon Room hosts its German cooking class Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m.

On the do-it-yourself menu will be Beef Wellington - beef tenderloin coated with pate and duxelles wrapped in puff pastry and baked. For more or to register, call DSN 467-4555, CIV 09841-83-4555.

Rothenburg walking tour

Ansbach ACS hosts a walking tour of Rothenburg - billed as one of Germany's most-frequented tourist cities - July 9 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more, call the Katterbach ACS at DSN 467-2883, CIV 09802-83-2883, or the Storck ACS at DSN 467-4555, CIV 09841-83-4555.

VA benefits briefing

Ansbach ACAP hosts a Veterans Agency benefits briefing July 10 for transitioning military members, retirees and family members.

For more, call DSN 467-3312, CIV 09802-83-3312, or send an e-mail to acap.ansbach@serco-na.com.

Pro skateboarders visit

Shawn Mandoli and Aaron Morgan, professional skateboard instructors from California, will visit Ansbach to host skate clinics, hold contests and do demonstrations July 8-14 as part of the Boarders for Christ community outreach program.

For more on the visit, call DSN 467-3082, CIV 09802-83-3082.

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Sgt. Richard A.

Dempster, F Co., 5-158th Aviation Battalion, should contact the summary court officer, 1st Lt. Andrew Wempe at DSN 467-2200, CIV 09802-83-2200.

Canoeing, biking, camping

Ansbach ODR offers a Saddles, Paddles and Sleeping Bags trip July 11-12 to nearby Frankische Seenland for canoeing, biking and camping.

Cost is \$49 for adults, \$29 for children and \$119 for a family. For more, call DSN 467-3225, CIV 09802-83-3225.

Knobby Jam

Ansbach Outdoor Recreation hosts the 2009 Mountain Bike Race - Knobby Jam - July 18 at Soldiers Lake.

Schedule: registration from 8-9:30 a.m., course pre-ride from 9-9:30 a.m., men's race from 10 a.m. to noon, women's and youth senior race from 12:30-2 p.m., and youth ages 6 and older race from 2:30-3:30 p.m. An awards ceremony will take place after the races. For more, call DSN 467-3225, CIV 09802-83-3225.

Get medieval

Ansbach Outdoor Recreation offers a trip the Kaltenberg Medieval Fest July 19. Transportation to the event is \$29 for adults and \$19 for children. For more, call DSN 467-3225, CIV 09802-83-3225.

Travel tips - Dinkelsbuhl

Ansbach Army Community Service continues its Brown Bag Seminar travel tip series with July's focus being on Dinkelsbuhl.

The seminars take place July 16 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Katterbach ACS and July 22 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Storck ACS. The series culminates with a walking tour of Dinkelsbuhl July 30. For more, call DSN 467-2883, CIV 09802-83-2883.

Summer reading program

Ansbach's community libraries offer their summer reading program now through July 30 for youth of all ages.

During the program, people log the books they read and enjoy special events including crafts, games, story and book readings and other surprises.

For more, call the Bleidorn Library at DSN 468-1740, CIV 0981-183-1740, or the Storck Library at DSN 467-4675, CIV 09841-83-4675.

Sunset paddling

Ansbach Outdoor Recreation offers the Sunset Paddling Program Wednesday evenings through Aug. 5. The program features after-work sunset paddles on the Altmuhl River. The trip goes from the mouth of the Altmuhlsee to Ornau and

takes about an hour and a half.

After the trip, the group stops for dinner at an imbiess on the bank of the river. No experience is necessary to take part in the trip.

Cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children and \$59 for families. For more, call DSN 467-3225, CIV 09802-83-3225.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible takes place Aug. 3-7 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Katterbach Chapel and Aug. 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Storck Barracks Chapel.

This year's theme is "Crocodile Dock." Take a romp through the swamp! This bayou VBS is a ragin' celebration!

With Operation Kid-to-Kids, children experience a sense of purpose and lots of love as they make a pair of soft and snugly Comfort Critters! These cute turtles say "God Cares," and include a pocket to store a friendly note.

These critters are given to disaster relief organizations who in turn pass them along to kids in crisis.

Medical appointments online

Katterbach Health Clinic patients can make appointments online at www.tricareonline.com by registering and following the instructions.

Girls Scouts-Ansbach

Girls if you like to camp, travel, learn new activities while you meet new friends and performing community service-the Girl Scouts is where you belong!

Come on and join the fun and let your adventure begin. For more, contact gsansbach@yahoo.com or call Leslie Atkins at CIV 0176-76-777-695.

Volunteer opportunities

Girl Scouts-Ansbach is looking for adult volunteers. Positions available include treasurer, registrar, leaders and co-leaders. For questions and other info contact gsansbach@yahoo.com or call Leslie Atkins at CIV 0176-76-777-695.

Schweinfurt Briefs

AAFES holiday hours

AAFES will adjust its hours of operation Friday and Saturday for the upcoming

Independence Day holiday.
 • PX and PXTRA: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
 • Shoppette on Ledward: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
 • Shoppette on Conn: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 • Ledward theater: open July 3 and closed July 4

Furthermore, due to an AAFES organizational day, the PX, PXTRA, and Ledward shoppette will close at 4 p.m. on July 10.

The Conn shoppette will close at 6 p.m. and reopen at 10 p.m.

Adult seminar, kids carnival

The Ledward Chapel invites the community to join in the festivities July 11.

Beginning at 9 a.m. adults can participate in the "Strength through Separated" seminar with guest speakers Drs. Donald and Kathy Shorter from the states while grade-school children participate in games and sports with Child, Youth, and School Services in the Ledward gym.

For more, call CIV 09721-96-6860.

Volunteers needed at chapel

The Ledward Chapel is looking for volunteers to fill the following volunteer positions: musician for the general Protestant service, gospel service, or Catholic service; vacation Bible school director for summer 2010; Protestant religious education coordinator or Catholic religious education coordinator; Catholic parish coordinator. If interested, call 09721-96-1370.

Newcomers orientation

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, then the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program is the fit for you from July 6-10. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Get tips on birth and babies

Do you have a baby on the way? Come to ACS's two-part series, "Birth-n-Babies" at July 8 and 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Women's Bible study

Protestant Women of the Chapel

welcomes all women of the community to join a small group Bible study at Ledward Chapel Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. For more, call CIV 01522-1310274 or email pwoc.schweinfurt@googlemail.com.

Adult paintball tourney

Sign up before July 14 for the paintball tournament July 18 sponsored by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers. Tournament begins at 10 a.m. Call to sign up at CIV 09721-96-8476.

Transition briefings

The Personnel Transition Assistance Center offers the following briefings July 8 in building 40 on Conn Barracks for those transitioning or retiring.

For more information, or to reserve a seat call CIV 09721-96-8683/8693.

- Career Status Bonus/Redux Retirement briefing, 1-2 p.m.
- Pre-transition briefing, 9 a.m.-noon.

Bamberg High School tour

Attend the Bamberg High School tour July 8 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Community and downtown tour is also included. Depart from the Askren Manor late activity bus stop. To register, call CIV 09721-96-6517.

Manage difficult behaviors

ACS invites you to participate in the parenting class "1-2-3 magic: Managing difficult behaviors" July 8 from 9-11 a.m.

Learn how to deal with misbehavior in public, exercise self-control, and be an effective yet gentle disciplinarian.

Limited free child care is available if pre-registered with ACS. Call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Summer reading program

It's not too late to join in the summer reading program for youth ages 6-11 years old and teens 12-18.

The first "Be creative" event for ages 6-11 at Ledward Library begins July 8 at 1 p.m. Teens meet at 4 p.m. for "Express yourself." For more, call CIV 09721-96-1740.

Teen swimming

Teens are invited to join Club Beyond on a trip to the Silvana Schwimmbad July 15 from 2-4 p.m. Call CIV 0175-666-3339 for more.

Community softball tourney

The deadline to sign up for the community softball tournament is Tuesday. Tournament runs July 11-12 at the Conn Main and Pendleton sports fields. Call CIV 09721-96-8234 for more.

Winefest day trip

Join the romantic winefest trip with Outdoor Rec July 12 to Sommerach. Depart ODR at noon and return approximately 5 p.m. Cost is \$10 for transportation. Call CIV 09721-96-8080 to sign up.

Build a volunteer portfolio

Not sure how to make your volunteer experience work for you? Let ACS show you how in a class at Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room July 9 from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information or to sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Write a civilian resume

For those who are job searching or updating their resume, attend ACS's class, Civilian Resume 101, at the computer lab in bldg. 206 on Ledward Barracks July 10 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Sponsorship training

Learn the ropes of helping new Soldiers and families integrate into the community by attending ACS's "Sponsorship Training" class July 14 from 9-11 a.m. Call CIV 09721-96-6933 for more.

Pregnant?

Come to ACS's class "OB orientation" July 15 from 9 a.m. to noon to learn about your pregnancy, nutrition, resources in the community and more. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Paintball thrills

The Conn Air Field is open for paintball every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your own equipment or find out about rental packages. Group discounts are available for more than 15 people. Call CIV 09721-96-8080 for more.

Learn to control anger

Do you know your anger style? Come to ACS's class on anger management at Ledward ACS building 242 July 14 to find out ways to deal with and control your anger. The class runs from 3-5 p.m. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Learn to manage debt

Are you in debt and don't know how to get out? Come to ACS's "Eliminate debt for good" July 8 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday.

Put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before. For more, call the SORT coordinator at CIV 0162-270-9403.

Deployment support group

The ACS deployment support group will meet Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon for all Soldiers and spouses who want to share thoughts, exchange coping strategies, voice concerns, ask questions and get feedback. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

2009
USAG ANSBACH
Saturday, July 18
Soldiers Lake

0800-0932 - Registration
 0900-0930 - Course pre-ride
 1000-1200 - Men's race
 1230-1400 - Women's & Youth Senior Race
 1430-1530 - Youth ages 6+

Awards ceremony will follow when all races are finished.

Pre-Register with Outdoor Rec.

For more information, contact:
 ODR - 09820 83 3225
 CYSS Sports - 0981 183 866

USAG SCHWEINFURT
INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION

Events:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 2/3/5/10K Family Fun Run | 9 a.m. |
| Food & Beverages for Sale | 9 a.m.-11 p.m. |
| Horseshoe Tournament | 10 a.m. |
| Live Country, Rock & Latin Music Begins | 12 p.m. |
| World of Wheels Car Show | 12-7 p.m. |
| Rides & Kids' Activities | 12 p.m.-Dusk |
| Softball Tournament | 1 p.m. |
| State Flags Ceremony | 6-7 p.m. |
| Live Music by Ying Yang Twins | 9:30 p.m. |
| Fireworks! | 10:30 p.m. |

JULY 4
KESSLER FIELD
 Featuring
YING YANG TWINS

GREECE

ISLAND HOPPING OFFERS A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Story and photos by
EMILY ATHENS
Bavarian News

Up for a little Greek island hopping?

With many islands scattered throughout the Ionian and Aegean Sea, making up one-fifth of Greek territory, one may want to do just that.

The easiest way to venture out and visit different Greek islands would be to board a cruise ship and let them provide the transportation.

Cruises can often take away the stress of planning every last detail when going from one island to the next and may provide excellent daylong excursions when docked at any port of call.

Greece boasts exotic beaches, cultural getaways, historical sightseeing and much more. Each island presents its own unique flare offering endless entertainment and attractions for almost every personality.

Three Greek islands, in particular, make up part of the must-see list for those wanting to venture out for five to seven days into the Greek isles: Patmos, Santorini and Mykonos.

PATMOS

Patmos is a quaint island bustling with mopeds and mingling shoppers. Small pebbled beaches line the shore tickling the feet of those who wish to get their feet wet.

The island is rich in history and remains a popular place for those seeking low-key touring and relaxation. As it is with most small islands, boats retrieve passengers from cruise ships at bay and bring them to shore.

This can be exciting in itself as it affords a perfect opportunity to capture a panoramic view of the island, namely, St. John's monastery, which sits high on top of the highest point of the island.

Once on shore, vendors welcome the guests with handmade jewelry, clothing, and souvenirs of all kinds for sale, but this won't be the only opportunity to shop as numerous shops on the island sell similar items with possibly more selection.

Carrying a map of the island is unnecessary as getting lost on the maze of streets just adds to the excitement of exploring the island.

For those who enjoy a vigorous hike, begin the uphill climb towards St. John's monastery. With the hot summer sun, the walk can be physically demanding but offers incredible panoramas of the island at higher altitudes.

At the end of the trek, the magnificent fortress stands, built in honor of St. John the Apostle, dating back more than 900 years.

Accounting for the length of time it takes to get to the top, the visit may need to be short.

Taking a different route on the long haul back down provides more insight to the culture of Patmos as tourists can wind through the small towns and take in the modest lifestyle of the residents.

Clothes hang outside to dry, windows are swung open due to the absence of air conditioning, driveways accommodate bikes and mopeds instead of cars.

Making it back to the shore, passengers are transported back to the cruise ship, but not without once again taking in the view of picture-perfect Patmos.

MYKONOS

Mykonos epitomizes what most people think of when they hear about Greece: white houses with blue roofs and doors overlooking mesmerizing water.

Approaching Mykonos by boat can be utterly delightful as bright colors of the architecture catch the eye with the silhouette of windmills in the distance.

Though appearing small, tourists can wind through the many side streets finding endless shops, churches, restaurants and sightseeing attractions.

Upon disembarking the cruise ship, a waiting bus can take tourists to the nearby city of Mykonos where visitors swarm the streets. The town of Mykonos is one of the most popular harbors on the island constantly flourishing with activity.

The capital city of Mykonos, Chora, is where sightseers will find the famous plateau of windmills lining the shore, remaining the most renowned attractions of the island.

Their conspicuous white cylinder bases and pointed wood roofs sit quaintly on the shore picking up wind, as Mykonos is known for its gusty breezes.

Although they are no longer operable, the windmills remain a symbol of the island's rich past.

It is in the town of Chora where visitors can also feed the pelicans, visit a restaurant on the harbor, and tour the many museums.

The beaches on Mykonos are likened to paradise and vacationers should not miss what they have to offer. Although generally busy, they are worth the trip with white, soft sand and clear, blue water.

Public transportation is reliable and can be utilized in lieu of renting a vehicle to get around.

After the quest of exploring the island, take the time to enjoy watching the sunset over the water while sitting at a waterfront restaurant, where it is possible to dip your feet into the sea from the restaurant table.



Perched on top of the hills of Chora on the Greek island of Mykonos, windmills remain a popular sight among the tourists.

The menus usually offer some of the best tasting calamari, which can be washed down with a locally brewed beer.

As the sunlight runs out, so does the time, but the next port of call aboard the cruise ship is not to be missed: Santorini...

SANTORINI

Approaching Santorini can be a bit intimidating. Cliffs hang high over the sea, water hitting the jagged shoreline.

White houses sit atop the cliffs and a single road zigzags its way up to the top. A small boat once again transports cruise passengers from the ship to the shore.

Getting onto the island and looking up can be simply magnificent, but many may think, "How do we get up there?"

There remain three options: taking a cable car up for four euro a person, riding a donkey up the winding dirt road, or walking. Some will agree that it's impossible to go to Santorini without climbing on a donkey and taking a ride to the top.

Though chaotic at times with numerous donkeys pushing their way through, it's worth the five Euro trek.

Once on top, tourists can meander the many side streets and paths lined with shops, cafes,

and resident houses.

Renting a moped or a four-wheeler is a great way to navigate the island offering breathtaking views from high up while riding in style. All that's needed is a stateside driver's license and the freedom to explore will be granted at a reasonable price of about 30 Euro.

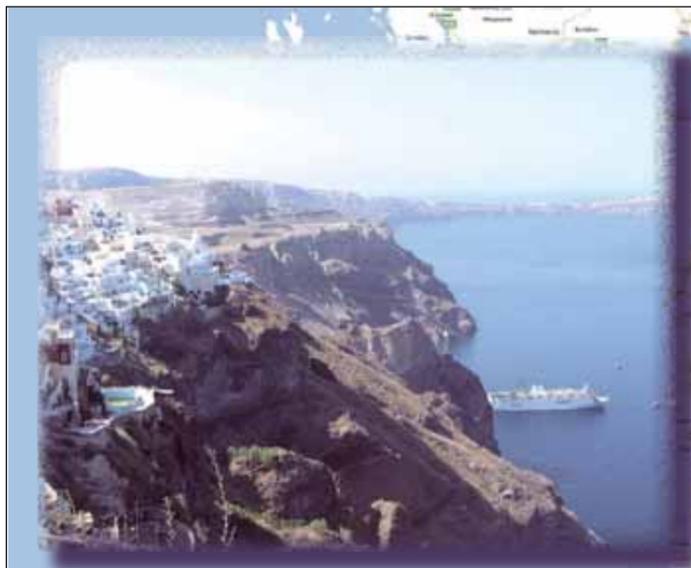
A rental allows visitors to tour the island on their own time and check out the many beaches - with black, white and red sand or fine pebbles - Santorini has to offer.

Tourists can also enjoy a different array of cuisine, ranging from traditional Greek dishes, to American cheeseburgers, to international gourmet dinners.

Prices range tremendously from one restaurant to the next so browsing the options while checking out prices is recommended.

The same goes for the shopping whether it be for art or other merchandise. Many shops sell original art work for a hefty price, so some tourists may want to keep a look out for prints that are similarly impressive, but offered for a significantly cheaper rate.

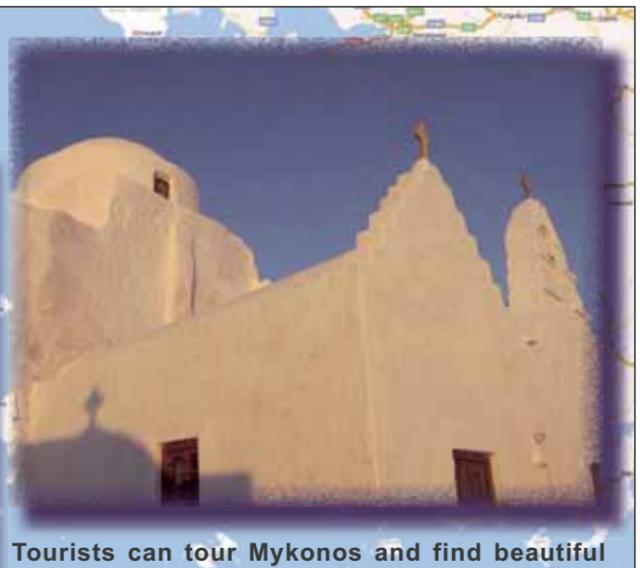
Sadly, all vacations must have an end, but travelers to the Greek islands may find that they have something, whether souvenirs, mementos or their memories, to take back with them.



Santorini, a European tourist hotspot, provides spectacular physical beauty and endless entertainment for visitors.



Mykonos provides an enchanting sunset over the small town on the shore.



Tourists can tour Mykonos and find beautiful churches at every turn, like this one located on the shore.

Identifying type of headache vital to treatment

by Dr. KELLY L. FORYS

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Aching, pulsing, throbbing, stabbing ... Headaches can really be a pain!

Headaches are extremely common.

They can range from being a minor nuisance to a debilitating pain. One in 20 people experience a headache on any given day. Even though headaches are common, they can sometimes be a sign that something is wrong.

There are many different types of headaches, and they occur for a variety of reasons. It is important to identify the type of headache you have so that you can get the proper treatment.

The most common types of recurrent headaches are:

Tension Headaches: These headaches often produce mild to moderate pain over the entire head, with pain concentrating at the back of the neck or base of the skull.

Tension headaches can seem to occur without an identifiable cause, but they frequently happen during times of stress and tension.

Treatment for this type of headache often includes over-the-counter pain relievers; however, a doctor can determine if a more powerful remedy is required.

Migraine Headaches: In addition to pain in the head, migraine headaches are often accompanied by nausea, sensitivity to light and sound, and numbness and/or tingling.

These headaches are more complex and most

always require a physician's assistance.

Sinus/Allergy Headaches: Allergy and sinus headaches often co-occur with an infection in the sinuses, a fever, and pain or throbbing behind the eyes and at the temples.

Over-the-counter medications can help in some cases.

If the headache is the result of an infection, then a physician would need to assess the condition.

Headaches can occur during the adjustment to a new environment, such as when you are deployed or when you return from a deployment.

The change in air temperature, humidity and stress can produce headaches.

Headaches can also occur after staring at the computer screen for long periods of time or from holding your posture in an unusual way.

Headaches happen more frequently during times of stress when your muscles become tense and your breathing is rapid and shallow.

Sudden onset headaches may occur for reasons such as thirst, hunger or caffeine withdrawal, or can result as a side effect from taking prescription medications.

Prevention is the best medicine. Here are some tips for preventing headaches:

- Stay well-hydrated.
- Eat meals at regular intervals to maintain steady blood sugar.
- Get adequate rest.
- Take breaks throughout the day to relax your body.
- Take a few deep breaths when you feel



Courtesy photo

There are many different types of headaches, and they occur for a variety of reasons. It is important to identify the type of headache you have so that you can get the proper treatment.

tense and stressed.

Because there are so many types of headaches, identifying which type you have is essential to

getting the proper treatment. Seek the advice of a physician to help you put the brakes on headache pain.

Officials urge Soldiers, families to use sun block, prevent skin cancer

by MARCIE BIRK

U.S. Army Center for Health and Preventive Medicine

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States.

According to the Mayo Clinic, more than a million skin cancers are diagnosed annually.

The number of cases of melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, is increasing faster than almost any other cancer.

In 1930, Americans had a one in 1,500 lifetime chance of developing melanoma. By 2000, this chance had risen to one in 90.

This dramatic rise in skin cancer is because of increased leisure time and more recreational sun exposure.

Although most occupational exposure to the sun has decreased, Soldiers are typically exposed to more sunlight than someone with an indoor occupation.

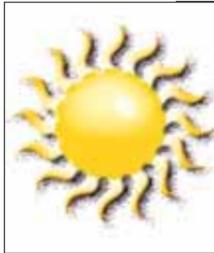
Unit and individual physical training, training exercises and mission-essential tasks frequently occur outdoors.

Soldiers with certain Military Occupational Specialties, such as combat arms, spend long periods of time outdoors year-round. And current operations in theater may require Soldiers to be frequently outdoors.

This increased sun exposure can increase the risk for skin cancer.

On the job, Soldiers can take measures to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

Use your uniform to cover your



As of 2000, Americans have a one in 90 chance of developing melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer.

arms and legs. A wide-brimmed hat can protect the head and neck. If possible, seek shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and use a sunblock with a high sun protection factor and reapply every two hours at minimum.

Soldiers and their families should also protect themselves from the sun during recreational and family activities, making sure to reapply sunblock after swimming or exertion.

And don't be fooled into thinking you don't need sunblock when it's cloudy - up to 80 percent of the sun's harmful rays make their way through light cloud cover; 60 percent through heavy cloud cover.

The take-home message: use sunblock whenever you are going to be outside.

Some people avoid using sunblock because they don't like the way it feels or smells.

Soldiers may feel that using sunblock isn't "HOOAH."

But consider this fact: One in five Americans will develop skin cancer over the course of a lifetime and sunblock is one of the most effective ways to protect your skin from the sun.

Here are some excuses people use to avoid sunblock use, and how to solve the issues they raise:

Excuse: "Sunblocks smell flowery and feminine."

Answer: Buy unscented formulations. They are just as effective without the scent.

Excuse: "The oily base makes my skin feel greasy."

Answer: Water- or alcohol-based lotions, creams, gels and sprays actually outnumber oil-based products.

Try different types and brands to find out what feels right for you.

Excuse: "They make my hands slippery."

Answer: Try a sport sunscreen. They're designed to absorb quickly, without leaving a greasy or sticky residue.

Excuse: "When I sweat, the stuff runs into my eyes and stings."

Answer: Use a stick sunscreen on your forehead and around your eyes. It's easy to apply and stays put even when you sweat or swim.

Never put sunscreen directly on the eye area. Protect the skin around your eyes with sunglasses instead.

To learn more about protecting yourself from the dangers of unprotected sun exposure, go to:

• "Protecting Yourself in the Sun," (www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3166.pdf)

• National Cancer Institute, www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/prevention/skin/patient

• National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention, www.skincancerprevention.org

• Skin Cancer Foundation, www.skincancer.org/Skin-Cancer/2008-Skin-Cancer-Facts.html

Everyday outdoor activities, such as gardening or routinely working outside, increases an individual's risk of skin cancer. To be safe, sun block should be applied before going outside, regardless of the activity.

Courtesy photo



Army takes steps to prevent, stop spread of H1N1 virus

by GRAFTON

PRITCHARTT

Soldiers Media Center

The Army is currently taking steps to help prevent and stop the spread of the H1N1 virus for Soldiers at home and abroad.

The Army has reported a total of 191 cases of the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, as of June 12.

The military is actively pursuing vaccine production for both the regular and swine flu, according to Col. Jonathan Jaffin, director of Health Policy and Services in the Army's Office of the Surgeon General.

Soldiers will be vaccinated as soon as the medicines become available, he said during a Blogger's Roundtable Thursday.

"There has been significant news coverage about the H1N1 virus, and the Army is taking it seriously," Jaffin said. "We want to illustrate why we feel like there is no cause for panic or alarm."

Jaffin went on to state that all segments of the government, as well as international partners, are working together to stop the spread of the flu among members of the military.

"The best treatment for the flu is

prevention," Jaffin said.

Steps for prevention are washing hands and limiting contact with infected persons, surfaces and objects like door knobs.

Soldiers who feel symptoms of flu including dizziness, fatigue and fever should report sick call and stay at home, Jaffin said.

"Their very nature is to come in and work when they aren't feeling well. We are reminding them if they have flu symptoms to stay home. They have a strong sense of duty that sometimes interferes with ability to stay home," Jaffin said. "That is one of the main things we emphasize with them."

Soldiers afflicted with the flu can effectively treat symptoms with medication like Tamiflu.

In order to decrease the chances of infection, all Soldiers are being screened for the flu before they travel overseas.

No missions have been impacted by the virus as of yet, officials said.

The DoD is working with the World Health Organization's Emerging Illness Network and the Global Emerging Infection Surveillance, which is a DoD program, in assisting with the prevention and surveillance of the virus.

Army clinics update appointment confirmation reminder phone calls

ERMC Press Release

"Don't hang up. There's more."

That's the message Europe Regional Medical Command would like to get across to healthcare beneficiaries as it changes the way it gives telephone reminders for appointments.

Starting immediately, those with appointments will receive a call the evening before their visit to the clinic is scheduled.

Before the change, patients received a call two business days in advance.

"A lot of people hang up as soon as the recorded message begins," said Maj. Carla Dickinson, ERMC Clinical Operations Division.

She said the real purpose of the call is to offer the patient an opportunity to either confirm or cancel the appointment.

If people hold the line, they'll be given that option.

Even though it may seem a bit late to cancel the night before, Dickinson said that clinic staffs can use the appointment in a number of ways.

The first option is to give the appointment to another beneficiary.

The change to the shorter notification came after a majority of clinic commanders asked for it. They said the change would make life better for both patients and staff.

Customer comments, for example, indicated that beneficiaries were much more likely to know if they couldn't make it to an appointment when reminded the night before.

It's also important for beneficiaries to update their telephone numbers registered with the clinics, officials said.

That can be done whenever making an appointment by phone, or at the clinic counter at check-in.

For more medical-related articles, visit our archives at www.milcom.de.

Parade, musical guests make 172nd's Army birthday celebration memorable for Soldiers

Story and photo by
Spc. DARRYL MONTGOMERY
172nd Infantry Brigade

Phoenix Man, Nicodemus, Thor and the Village People visited Forward Operating Base Kalsu June 14, to help the Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade celebrate the United States Army's 234th birthday.

Soldiers stationed on FOB Kalsu lined the main road to watch the celebration parade and see their comrades dressed in costumes of the famous music group and mythological figures.

The idea for the parade came to Command Sgt. Maj. Steven W. McClaffin, 172nd Infantry Brigade command sergeant major, because he wanted to do something special for the Soldiers for the Army's birthday, according to Maj. Lucien Campillo, executive officer for the 172nd Infantry Brigade.

"He came up with the idea of the floats," Campillo said, "and the (Soldiers) went ahead and made it special."

Spc. Steven Cassidy, a joint network node operator and maintainer

with the 57th Signal Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 172nd Infantry Brigade, said he and other Soldiers of his unit spent a week building their float, a humvee decorated to look like a chariot, for the Army's birthday celebration.

Participants of the parade tossed out lollipops, gum and water balloons to the on-looking crowd.

As each float passed the command group, the leadership blasted them with water guns that were shipped in from Germany, according to Campillo.

Campillo described the addition of water guns as a "baptism of fun," and added that being able to enjoy events like this "gives you time to let your hair down and have fun with the guys."

Soldiers of the 9th Engineer Battalion perform "YMCA" for the Soldiers who came out to see the parade in celebration of the United States Army's 234th birthday here June 14. The parade consisted of 10 floats all decorated in patriotic and unit colors.



Blackhawks welcome 26 sergeants into NCO Corps

Story and photo by
Spc. DARRYL MONTGOMERY
172nd Infantry Brigade

With a towering flame burning in the background emitting an orange glow to the evening light, 26 noncommissioned officers were inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, June 14.

The induction ceremony welcomed newly

promoted sergeants into the ranks of the professional Noncommissioned Officer Corps, which emphasizes and builds on the pride NCOs share as members of the corps.

The tradition of commemorating the transformation of a Soldier to a noncommissioned officer can be traced to the Army of Frederick the Great.

Before one could be recognized in the full status of a NCO, they were required to stand four watches, one every four days.

Each NCO participating in the ceremony

crossed the line of authority, represented by two crossed swords, symbolizing their induction into the NCO Corps.

After crossing the line, they were greeted by Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, Multi-National Force – Iraq command sergeant major, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven W. McClaffin, 172nd Infantry Brigade command sergeant major, who presented them with a copy of the NCO creed with the Soldier's signature on it and the NCO Guide.

"The ceremony was outstanding and gave me goose bumps," said Wilson.

"I have never been a part of an induction ceremony for the noncommissioned officer," he said, "they didn't do this back then, but they do it now, and what a great way for you young warriors out there to understand the tradition and honor to be called a noncommissioned officer in our Army."

"For our sergeants, our noncommissioned officers, and the 26 new sergeants of our Army, I challenge you, and your Soldiers will challenge you, to always do the best," Wilson said.

Sgt. Jennifer Penero, a crypto-linguist with the 504th Military Intelligence Company, said her favorite part about being a NCO is, "being able to set the standard, and be that standard for other Soldiers."

Sgt. Rachel Harden, a combat medic with the 172nd Infantry Brigade, said her favorite part is, "being able to have Soldiers I am in charge of and seeing the faith they have in her to guide them to become a better person outside and inside the military."

The hardest part Penero says is "communicating consistently, because there is a lot to communicate to other Soldiers."

"Remember the Warrior Ethos, and never forget the Army Values," said Wilson. "Keep these with you and with your warriors, and never let them forget, for if we forget these, we will no longer be 'Army Strong.'"

"God bless you, God bless the Blackhawk Brigade, and God bless the United States of America," he concluded.



Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, Multinational Force – Iraq command sergeant major, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven W. McClaffin, 172nd Infantry Brigade command sergeant major, present newly promoted non-commissioned officers with a signed copy of the NCO creed and the NCO Guide during the Noncommissioned Officer Corps induction ceremony here June 14.

To find out more
about the
missions and
actions of the
Soldiers of the

**172nd
Infantry
Brigade**

visit,

[www.172infantry.
army.mil/](http://www.172infantry.army.mil/)

Agricultural high school opens new beehives

Story and photo by
Spc. DARRYL MONTGOMERY
172nd Infantry Brigade

The Diwaniya Agricultural High School in Diwaniya, Iraq, opened its new beehive facility May 28, in an effort by the United States Department of State to help rebuild the school here.

Diwaniya's First Deputy Governor, Abd-Muslim Alghazi, cut the ribbon while surrounded by bees in a ceremony at the school to signify the opening of the new beehives.

Among the people in attendance were Baqir Al-Shalan, the chairman of Provincial Agriculture Committee, and the Director of Diwaniya Vocational Schools, Aziz Hassan Hamza.

"What we are doing is rebuilding the school so students from all over the province can attend and get an education in agriculture," said Michael Cygrymus, Provincial Action Officer with the Dept. of State.

"Before the Dept. of State began

the project of building the new hives, the school only had five for students to hone their skills," Cygrymus said. "The school now has over 70 hives, one for each student to take care of and more than enough to get them going in the right direction."

Cygrymus said, "a small project like this, a one-time investment costing \$25 thousand, can help the school earn up to \$60 thousand annually."

According to Cygrymus, the high school is the only agricultural school in the province.

"We would also hope the school will be able to get back on its feet and help other vocational high schools in the province rebuild," he said.

The school is a three-year program and gives students the knowledge to succeed in many agricultural fields, such as bee keeping, maintaining apple orchards as well as grapevines, he said.

This is important since the province is 80 percent agriculturally driven.



Diwaniya First Deputy Governor, Abd-Muslim Alghazi, cuts the ribbon to signify the opening of the new beehives at the Diwaniya Agricultural High School during a ceremony May 28. The school now has over 70 hives for students to take care of and learn the skills to manage their own hives after they graduate.

Griffin pilot demonstrates leadership by example, provides aid to injured motorist

Story and photo by

Sgt. 1st Class

CHRISTOPHER DEHART

12th CAB Public Affairs Office

The ideals and values Soldiers stand for are often shown in the many commercials, posters and advertisements played on radios and televisions around the world.

However, one pilot with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade demonstrated those values firsthand and without a second thought May 5 at approximately 7:20 a.m. on State Road 13 in the south access area of Marktbergel at an intersection while heading to training.

On what started as a fairly normal day, Chief Warrant Officer Karl R. Bremer, a Blackhawk pilot with Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, was eating a quick breakfast while driving to simulator training at Storck Barracks in Illesheim.

"I was coming down the hill, going underneath the railroad tracks and I saw coming up the hill cars flashing their lights. Coming around the corner, maybe one other car had stopped and there was a German national putting on his road vest," Bremer said as he recounted the morning's turn of events.

"I said to myself that, well, obviously something was going on, so I slowed down and I saw what ended up being the patient lying face down on the road and two gentlemen who were there with him ... they were there



If you feel you can help - try to do that. They're a fellow human being in need of help. Keep yourself safe, too, to avoid adding to the situation. Keep your emotions in check.

Chief Warrant Officer Karl R. Bremer, 158th Aviation Regiment

just talking to him. I noticed there was no Polizei or EMS or anybody there yet," he said.

It was later learned that the 27-year-old man on the ground was involved in a collision with a motor vehicle while on his motorcycle and was injured as a result.

Neither Bremer nor any of the others present hesitated to render what aid they could.

However, this was nothing new to Bremer. Fortunately, he had some extensive experience to draw on that directly related to this kind of thing.

"Before joining the Army, I was a paid firefighter for about eight years - back in Virginia - so I was aware of what to do," he said. "Ever since being a firefighter, I always carry a little pouch of gloves with me. I get joked about it all the time when the guys see it ... but it's for situations like that.

"I go up there and, unfortunately, the language barrier was a major problem - my German isn't the best and their English wasn't very good either. I just tried doing the best I could without having any equipment to stabilize him or get his vital signs. I just did a real quick assessment and my

main concern was keeping his (spine) stabilized," Bremer explained.

"Before I started treatment on him, they asked me if I had a blanket in my vehicle," he said. "Unfortunately, I didn't, but I had a green fleece and I told myself 'He needs it more than I do,' so I gave that to him, and tried wrapping him up as best we could with it and started the very limited treatment that I could with him."

This was what Bremer said seemed to be a very long 10 or 12 minutes before the German Polizei got there.

He said they assumed charge of the situation and a German doctor arrived as well to start an IV and their own treatment of the downed motorcyclist.

"I did what I could with the stuff I was working with," Bremer said with a modest tone.

He added that when he first saw the situation, it seemed like it was a very serious accident and that it may have been one of the most serious situations like this he's seen even during his time working as a firefighter years ago.

He said the time it took for emergency services to arrive seemed to really stretch out, but then he also

explained that is a common feeling for EMS workers in critical situations. His advice for those in such circumstances was to remain calm above all else.

"We were on our way to a fire and a captain of mine was sitting up front. You get the adrenaline going and start fidgeting and he is like 'Hey, this is not your emergency. Yes, we are going to an emergency, but it is not yours. Just stay calm, stay focused and don't try to be a superman or think you are going to save the world,'" Bremer recalled.

Having first aid training or carrying emergency equipment like gloves or similar items is great, but he said he believes the advice his captain gave him was the most important.

The individual who was injured in the accident was treated by the German doctor from Marktbergel on the scene and then evacuated by rescue helicopter to Wuerzburg Klinikum once they determined the severity of his injuries.

All of those present contributed to the man's survival in the midst of a serious accident and his eventual recovery, according to an article that followed up on the event in the Windsheim Newspaper DTD

from May 11.

Even members of his unit agreed that what Bremer did was a great example of a true Soldier.

"On a typical day, he is quiet and reserved, and most people don't know ... he used to be a firefighter as a civilian. I thought CW2 Bremer's actions went above and beyond the call of duty for any Soldier," said Chief Warrant Officer Jason LaCrosse, another pilot with C Co., 5-158th.

Bremer even received an official certificate of appreciation for his exemplary conduct from the Bad Windsheim Police Inspectorate May 26.

"Warrant Officer Bremer's conduct is of great value, to further enhance the reputation of the U.S. Armed Forces in the German public ...," citing the award given to him.

Despite the accolades, Bremer remained humble and true to his character and said it boiled down to one basic thing.

"If you feel you can help - try to do that. They're a fellow human being in need of help. Keep yourself safe, too, to avoid adding to the situation. Keep your emotions in check," he said.

It is evident to most people that this same advice given to him is what helped Bremer act so selflessly in the face of an emergency situation and is in keeping with his record as both a firefighter and later a soldier.

"This reflects greatly on him as a warrant officer and shows that 'DUSTOFF' Soldiers are always ready to take action whether on or off duty," LaCrosse said.

School children open their hearts, piggy banks to help others

Story and photo by

RONALD H. TOLAND JR.

Bavarian News

Illesheim Elementary School students, in conjunction with the school's student council and the rest of the community, collected and contributed \$1,090.45 for school children in third-world countries.

The program, called Pennies for Peace, is geared toward schools and helping children raise money to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, especially for girls, said Maja Smith, Illesheim Elementary School Parent Teacher Student Association president who headed the project.

"The community helped a ton by dropping money in the cans," she said, adding it shows what the community can do.

But it was the children who really owned the project.

Smith explained the children made collection receptacles and signs for them and strategically placed the cans in locations around Storck Barracks.

The students were very passionate about the cause, she added. "They sat at the Spring bazaar to help promote the cause, raided their piggy banks, contributed a substantial amount of their own money and reminded folks to donate when they were out and about," said Smith.

"The learned many great lessons such as empathy, kindness and selflessness, volunteerism, organization, goal setting and, of course, the mathematical aspects are endless," said Smith. "It is important for the kids to see their efforts pay off."

And that is just what happened when first-graders set the goal of collecting \$1,000 by June 8, and met it.

During a coin rolling and counting party at the school June 9, with help from the Community Bank, \$1,090.45 in various denominations of bills and coins were sorted, counted and rolled by students in 40 minutes.

Participating students understood the purpose and felt the idea of helping out others in need was worthwhile, said fifth-grader Edda Hunkin.

"Every kid deserves a chance to earn knowledge so they can become something big one day and live their dreams," Hunkin said.

Many parents were impressed with the results across the board, including Tiffany Learn.

"It teaches the kids the value of something - it teaches them to work toward something and that they can reach a goal," Learn said. "They get it. Knowing that the kids will help someone else build something in another county, it's a wonderful idea."

For more information about the program, call Smith at the school at DSN 467-4731, CIV 09841-83-4731.



Anne Keil and Nari Rivera, Illesheim Community Bank, help roll pennies with students from the Illesheim Elementary School for Pennies for Peace, a program geared towards schools and helping children raise money to build schools in third world countries.



SIMULATOR DRIVES DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS HOME

Frank Phillips, of Frank's Flowers on Katterbach, takes a test drive in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service New Car Sales Drunk Driving Awareness Simulator June 17 as Pete Kotowski of AAFES operates the system.

The Harley Davidson Road Show and the simulator made an appearance at Katterbach Kaserne June 16-17 and Storck Barracks June 18.

According to AAFES officials, the simulator - combining virtual reality and an actual vehicle - provides community members a chance to see the effects consuming alcohol has on their driving abilities in a safe environment - without consuming a drop of alcohol.

Photo by Jim Hughes

Command sergeant major leaves Army with a bang after three decades of service

Story and photo by
Spc. JERRY WILSON
2SCR Public Affairs Office

Despite heavy rains, Soldiers and family members from Fires Squadron of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment gathered recently at the Vilseck High School football field to say goodbye to Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Diamond and welcome the new command sergeant major, Squadron Command Sgt. Major Lorenzo F. Wallace during a change of responsibility ceremony.

After 30 years of service, Diamond ended his career with a bang. As is the tradition within Field Artillery units, the event opened with the firing of the last round.

During the Last Round ceremony the outgoing senior noncommissioned officer takes control of the gun line and fires one final volley with the unit. The canister from that round is then presented to the outgoing Noncommissioned Officer.

Diamond was presented the canister by the first sergeants of the Squadron. This ceremony symbolizes the desire of each artilleryman to be with his men manning his howitzer in battle.

“How do you summarize three decades of service and self-sacrifice, and do it justice,” said Lt. Col. Steven A. Bergosh, Commander of Fires Squadron, 2SCR. “Command Sgt. Major Diamond, there is no one in the Army I respect more than you.”



Command Sgt. Major Anthony Diamond takes control of his final gun line during the Fires Squadron Change of Responsibility Ceremony at Vilseck High School.

“Tony Diamond embodies integrity,” Bergosh continued. “He has a real talent for communicating, ‘Sir that is a real dumb idea, but here’s a better one,’ without making you feel like an idiot.”

“I have never worked with a Command Sgt. Major as approachable as he and that has truly

been a gift,” he said.

Bergosh praised Diamond as an NCO concerned with the welfare of all his Soldiers.

“He cares more about the Soldiers as people than any other leader I have worked with,” Bergosh said.

Command Sgt. Diamond began his field

artillery career in November 1979, when he entered the Army as a Field Artillery cannon crewman. In his illustrious 30 year career, he has held positions from nuclear projectile assembler to Battalion Sergeant Major for Task Force 1-6 FA in Iraq.

Diamond attributed his success throughout his career to his parents.

“My Dad who also happened to be an artilleryman,” he said, “set me on the correct azimuth about 48 years ago and I have been steady and true ever since.”

Diamond had a few parting words of advice to the Soldiers of FIRES.

“Troopers, I bid you farewell and the best of luck in the next fight,” he said. “Continue to lean forward in the foxhole and always ride high in the saddle.”

Taking over for Diamond is Command Sgt. Major Lorenzo F. Wallace. Wallace is a native of Paraiso Canal Zone, Republic of Panama. He began his career in 1982 and has served in a variety of leadership positions, including Section Chief, Gunnery Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant, Observer Controller Trainer Team Chief, Operations Sergeant Major, Operations Fires Sergeant Major and Command Sergeant Major.

For Wallace accepting this appointment was a homecoming.

“It’s been 27 ½ years and I can finally say I am back home,” Wallace admitted. “Just inhaling the smoke makes me say AHHHH!”

STRYKER SNAPSHOTS



Left: Soldiers from Regimental Support Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment beautify the local Vilseck Bavarian Red Cross Senior Citizens and Assistance Living Facility, working on landscaping and building up a sensory path for the seniors.

Photo by Franz Zeilmann



Above: Col. James S. Blackburn (right), 2SCR 75th Regimental Commander, and Sgt. Rachael Singratsomboune cut the traditional cake in honor of the U.S. Army’s 234th birthday.



Children of Soldiers from the 4th Squadron, 2SCR race each other during the PT Test portion of the Kiddie Spur Ride June 17 held during the Squadron’s annual Saber Day event.

Photos by Spc. Jerry Wilson



Left: Former 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Command Sgt. Major John Wayne Troxell discusses career opportunities and progression with 2SCR Soldiers. Command Sgt. Major Troxell is currently serving as the command sergeant major for the U.S. Army Armor Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Troxell took time to answer Soldier’s questions Wednesday, during his visit to Vilseck June 24.



Left: A Trooper from the 2nd Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment gives a lesson in camouflage to the son of one of his fellow Soldiers June 25 during the Squadron’s annual Cougar Day.

Schweinfurt's first Strong Beginnings graduates prepare for kindergarten

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

A group of 5-year-olds marched into the Child Development Center gym June 12 dressed in blue caps and gowns for their graduation ceremony from the new Strong Beginnings program. This milestone signified a level of preparedness that each child attained in order to be ready for kindergarten in the fall.

"From January until now, it was a learning process, a growing process," said Mintina Houston, CDC director, about the Strong Beginnings program that kicked off in Schweinfurt for the first time at the beginning of this year.

Children met for class five days a week from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. to learn the basics of school protocol: standing in line, raising your hand, gathering in circle time and more.

"I think it's a really good program to prepare them for kindergarten so they are not scared," said Montia Colbert, assistant teacher of the program. "I'm going to miss them."

Guest speaker, Wilma Holt, Schweinfurt Elementary School principal, congratulated the children on their accomplishments and told them of their future responsibilities.

"You're going to have to be the leaders when you get to kindergarten," Holt said to the

children during the ceremony.

Turning to the audience of family members, Holt explained how these graduates were one step ahead.

"These students have the knowledge of what school is like. They are going to be the role models," she said.

The five-month program sought to familiarize the children with a daily schedule. For three hours each day, they learned math, social studies, language, science, and the basics of school behavior.

"We see a big progress in the kids. It was really successful," said Katja Romberg, lead teacher for Strong Beginnings.

"Counting to 20 ... I felt like that was something they really needed to know," Colbert said. "(And) if you know how to write your name, you're good."

The children came up one by one to receive their diploma, and then they released balloons with their wish for kindergarten.

"I wish that everyone is nice to me," said five-year-old Vianca Vasquez. Participants watched as the balloons soared away into the sky.

"All of the kids have come a long way. I think they're going to have a good transition into kindergarten," said Heidi Woodall, supervisory program lead.

"We appreciate the CDC starting this Strong Beginnings program, and we hope it continues," Holt said.



Graduates of the Strong Beginnings program march in with their caps and gowns at the Child Development Center gym June 12. The children began the program in January to prepare for the fall's upcoming school year in kindergarten.

Program aids learning, awards children for reading

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

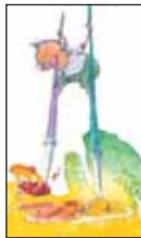
Kids and teachers said goodbye to each other for the summer as the schools wrapped up their last day today.

Even though school will be out of session for most until the end of August, that doesn't mean that learning should stop.

To give a fun twist to summer learning, the Ledward Library has once again brought the summer reading program to Schweinfurt and invites kids between 6- and 11-years-old to join in.

For the first time, teens ages 12-18 are also included in a separate program for the summer. Registration packets can be picked up at the library circulation desk.

The program theme, "Be Creative," takes the younger participants into an exploration of the world of art during the special events planned each



Reading sparks your imagination a lot more than movies or anything else we do. Reading is a must in my opinion.

Andrea Bornman, Schweinfurt Library technician

Wednesday in July beginning July 8 at 1 p.m.

Guest artists such as a floral designer, an oil and water color painter, and a trombone player, will visit the sessions and teach the kids about their particular passion. A field trip to the Georg Schaefer museum is also on the schedule.

"She will not give a boring tour," of the museum, said librarian Christine Willis, about the guide that children will receive during the field trip, which is intended to actively involve the children.

Teens can sign up for their own program called, "Express Yourself." Two events, July 8 and 22 at 4 p.m., will attempt to draw on the creative juices of participants by creating an online magazine just for teens and enjoying other fun games and activities.

Apart from the July events, participants in the program are given a log to record their hours of reading at home throughout the summer.

The time and books logged can include parents reading to children and older kids

reading to younger ones, as well as traditional independent reading.

"We have a general rule of 20 minutes a day," Willis said, and those completing the requirement will receive a prize each week.

"It's not going to be competitive. That's the wrong way to run a reading program. (But) you do not earn a prize if you don't read," she said, explaining that kids don't have to feel pressure - the program is designed to be fun and to encourage reading when school is out.

Though the sunshine may beckon for outdoor activities and children may enthusiastically delve into electronic entertainment, reading still remains an integral summer activity.

"Nowadays there's a lot of DVDs and games ... books are a total different experience. Reading sparks your imagination a lot more than movies or anything else we do. Reading is a must in my opinion," said Andrea Bornman, lead library technician.

Berry fun!



Photo by Sandra Wilson

Sarah Simpkins (front) and Catherine Gutierrez pick strawberries for their baskets at a local patch June 18. Protestant Women of the Chapel brought women of the community to the patch for a family outing followed by lunch at a Schweinfurt restaurant. The group meets for Bible study at the Ledward Chapel Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon with free watch care in tandem with the chapel children's camp for first-through fifth-graders. For more information, call 09721-96-6860 or 09721-96-1370.

SKIES offers music awareness class, hopes to improve academic success

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Modern studies have shown that music education can help children develop and succeed in various academic studies as well as other avenues of life, according to Peter Potter, Schweinfurt director of Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills.

"(Music) helps them later with their math skills because you find similar pattern structures ... and it helps them to organize themselves. It's a very valuable quality," Potter said.

"Music helps (children) to develop in different ways," said Elena Popov, instructor of the new SKIES class

Music Awareness. "My goal (is) to help to develop their strengths."

Weekly classes began June 4 and are broken into two age groups: 3 to 6 years old meets from 3 to 3:45 p.m. and 7 to 9 years old meets 4 to 4:45 p.m.

The class for the younger group will focus learning music through activity.

"We will learn rhythm ... we will develop ear for music," Popov said, explaining how the children will have the opportunity to sing, dance, and play with music.

She will accompany the learning by playing the piano, violin, or domra.

The 7 to 9 year olds will learn similar material but also with additional history,

theory, and composer information.

"We are going to use the same thing ... I will just a little bit make it difficult. Not so hard but harder than previous age," she said.

Throughout the classes, Popov will incorporate many familiar melodies as well as introduce some new tunes.

"I will help them to open their talent. To help them to develop their ear," she said.

Parents can sign up their children a month at a time for only \$35 for one lesson each Thursday.

"I think it will be a good quality class and it will be fun," Potter said.

For more details, or to sign up, call SKIES at 09721-96-6460 or central registration at 09721-96-6414.

4th of July Festivities

Join U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt in celebrating Independence Day, beginning at 9 a.m. on Kessler Field with a family fun run. For a complete schedule of events, turn to page 15 or visit the garrison Web page at www.schweinfurt.army.mil/sites/local.



Education center offers testing, financial information to help Soldiers, spouses excel

Story and photo by
EMILY ATHENS
Bavarian News

Some members of the community who have not been able to complete their high school education may not know that general educational development testing is available in Schweinfurt and remains an option for those in need.

"A GED is the equivalence of the courses that would have been taken in high school. Colleges do accept GEDs," said Veronica Fields, test control officer.

More specifically, the GED tests areas of math, science, reading, writing and social studies, Fields explained.

Testing occurs at the Education Center on Ledward Barracks and is only available to Soldiers and family members. Current high school students are not authorized to take the test at the Education Center.

"It's a great source for German spouses who are continuing forward in the American education system.

It's a standpoint when they return with their Soldier to the states or want to continue education in an American program here," Fields said.

"Statistics show that GED recipients do extremely well in college. We hope to decrease the stigma attached to those who take the GED," she added.

The test is free to active duty Soldiers and \$39 for adult family members. For more information, or to make an appointment, call CIV 09721-96-6858.

For those who obtain a high school diploma or pass the GED tests and want to further their education and training, financial aid in the form of a grant is available.

Spouses of active duty military and activated reserve members can apply for up to \$6,000 in grants for education, training, licensing or certification by creating a personalized military career advancement account through Military One Source.

Those interested must visit <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa> and build an account, establishing a career goal.

Once a career plan is created, the individual must have it approved by a MyCAA career counselor. The application process for funding can be completed when approval is received, explained Janitte Rippey, Central Texas College school representative.

"It's important for spouses to continue their education because it gives empowerment. Getting yourself educated and having knowledge to help your kids through their schooling is priceless. It builds confidence and makes you feel self-sufficient," said Brenda Bruno, guidance counselor at the education center.

For information and assistance on the MyCAA program, call 1-800-342-9647.

Spc. Boaz Vituk logs onto his account for a language proficiency test at the testing center on Ledward Barracks.

The testing center offers much more than just GED testing.



First-year track team exceeds expectations

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Running, jumping, and throwing. Most people know that the sport of track and field encompasses all these within a variety of individual sports.

What many people do not know is that Schweinfurt now has its first Child, Youth and School Services track and field team.

Since mid-April, more than 30 Schweinfurt youth between the ages of 6- and 17-years-old gather for practice three times a week to condition and train.

Practices take place rain or shine and their coach, Darryl Jones, keeps them moving at a fast pace.

"I like how we train hard. It makes me faster. I can feel it in my legs, and my lungs are better," said Tymon Blow, 12-years-old.

"Since this is our first year, this is all developmental track and field - teaching the kids the technique of running and what track and field is all about," said Jones.

Within the first week of practice, he said, the team went from five kids to nearly 30 participating.

The first track meet took place at the end of May in Vicenza, Italy, against youth from Hohenfels, Heidelberg, and Vicenza.

The Schweinfurt athletes took away a total



From left: Tymon Blow, Alex Delgado and Dylan Hopson lead in the ladder drills during Child, Youth and School Services track and field practice June 9. CYSS track and field is open to kids 6-17 years old.

of 40 ribbons: 16 first place, 12 second place and 12 third place.

In addition to the multitude of individual

wins, the fledgling Schweinfurt team racked up the most points for the overall win, taking victory over the three other communities.

"The emotions were overwhelming because I had no idea that our athletes would perform to that level," said Jones.

His main goal was to show up at the track meet and make it known that Schweinfurt had formed a team.

"But it seems like our kids want more than that. They wanted to let (competitors) know that we have some athletes, too," he said.

"For some, it was their very first track meet. They were very enthused and I was happy to see that," said Lynette Jones, assistant coach and wife of Jones.

Now, preparing for the next meet Saturday in Wiesbaden, the youth are training hard at the DJK sports complex facilities.

Help from parents is essential for the kids to get individual training on their events, Jones said.

"I have a core of parents that are standing at the ready to help me whatever it is that I need ... and another good thing is that the parents even come to practice to work out with the children," he said.

Expectations are now a little higher than before for all involved. Jones has matched the training regiment to the newly raised expectations.

"I'm excited for the kids, and I'm excited for Schweinfurt," said Jones, anticipating the remaining three track meets with the final held in Grafenwoehr July 11.

Schweinfurt celebrates 234th Army birthday

Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment march off with the colors after retiring them for the day to the familiar tune of the bugle.

This concluded the community celebration held June 11 honoring the Army's 234th birthday.

Members of Schweinfurt joined the festivities enjoying an opening prayer given by garrison chaplain Lt. Col. Thomas Wesley, a speech from garrison commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Haager and a cake cutting performed by Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee and Pvt. Ferrari Cardona.

Photo by Emily Athens



Grafenwoehr race qualifies Army Europe 10-Miler team for national competition

by MARY MARKOS
Editor

Three hundred and sixty feet hit the ground running June 27 at the U.S. Forces Europe Army 10-Miler Qualification race hosted by U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

Of the 180 competitors, the top six male and six female Soldiers earned a spot on the team that will travel to the national competition held in Washington, D.C., Oct. 4.

Staff Sgt. Kirk Madgic, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, will lead the 12-Soldier team. Madgic, who traveled from Vicenza, Italy to compete in the race, was the first Soldier to cross the finish line with a time of 58 minutes, 46.81 seconds.

The other qualifiers for the men's team were: Capt. Kyle Greenberg, Grafenwoehr (60:20.78); 2nd Lt. Bradley Glosser, Ansbach (61:7.42); Maj. William Rediske, Kaiserslautern (61:16.44); Sgt. 1st Class Walter Johnston, Heidelberg (62:18.98); and Capt. Colby Broadwater, Stuttgart (63:36.73).

With a time of 65 minutes, 21.17 seconds, Capt. Stephanie Feagin, U.S. Army Health Clinic Livorno, was the first female Soldier to cross the finish line.

Capt. Myra Markey, Ansbach (67:43.98); Capt. Rhonda Winsky, Kaiserslautern (75:11.00); 1st Lt. Lisa Becker, Ansbach (76:53.09); Lt. Col. Laura Landes, Stuttgart (77:3.39); and 2nd Lt. Kimberly Defiori, Grafenwoehr (78:3.89) also qualified for the women's team.

For Feagin, who ran the course almost ten minutes faster than the first female qualifier last year, the win was bittersweet.

"I love to run. I'm one of those psychos that just love it," she said. "I'm leaving the Army soon so I won't be able to go to D.C., but it just felt good today."

Eight alternates were also selected based on their times in Grafenwoehr, in the event a runner, like Feagin, is unable to attend the national race.

The Soldier-teammates will have more than three months to prepare for the national race, where an expected 30,000 runners will navigate a route that begins and ends at the Pentagon and passes national monuments such as the Smithsonian and the United States Capital building.

The Grafenwoehr course, according to Tony Lee, USAG Grafenwoehr Morale, Welfare and Recreation chief of recreation programming, was planned to prime the runner for the Washington, D.C. race.

"I've personally seen (the course) in D.C., and I think our course is tougher," he said. "The location is unique. It is no further than D.C., but there are a lot of crooks and turns... a lot more turns than normal. We try to mentally prepare (the runners) for the D.C. race."

Lee added that the Grafenwoehr staff is already looking into the route for next year.

"The plan is to relook at the course and try to find another one, one that is more conducive in terms of what we need for support," Lee said. He added that any changes will not affect the level



Capt. Stephanie Feagin, Vicenza, completes the last mile June 27 of the Army 10-Miler held in Grafenwoehr. Feagin was the first female Soldier to finish the race with a time of 65 minutes, 21.17 seconds.



Photos by Mary Markos

Staff Sgt. Kirk Madgic, Vicenza, prepares to cross the finish line June 27 at the Army 10-Miler held in Grafenwoehr. Madgic was the first male Soldier to finish with a time of 58 minutes, 46.81 seconds.

of challenge the route brings to the runner. "We have had a lot of good comments on the course, as far as the ups (inclines) and downs (declines) and how we finished the last mile (loop)."

The final mile of the course led runners on a

loop around the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center.

While, as a civilian, he did not qualify for the 10-Miler in October, the first individual to finish the loop and pass in front of the crowd that gathered at the finish line was Kelis Secret, Kaiserslautern, with a time of 57 minutes, 6.45 seconds. Feagin was the first female to finish the race.

More photos of the June 27 race can be found at the USAG Grafenwoehr flickr site, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr/sets>.

Bavarian News reporter Joy Awe contributed to this article.

Eighteen-year-old Kelis Secret, Kaiserslautern, was the first individual to cross the finish line June 27 at the Army 10-Miler in Grafenwoehr. Secret ran the course in 57 minutes, 6.45 seconds.

Photo by Joy Awe

Soldiers representing the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr carry the unit guidon as they charge the first hill during the Army 10-Miler in Grafenwoehr June 27.



Photo by Joy Awe



NCOA JUNE 20 COMBATIVES TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Jiro Yamamoto, 1-2 SCR, Lightweight Champion

Jonathan Valverde, 5th Maintenance, Lightweight Runner-up

Jonathan Page, 615th Military Police, Middleweight Champion

Nino Gray, 3-2 SCR, Middleweight Runner-up

Joshua Schwenke, 1-2 SCR, Cruiserweight Champion

Curtis Mosely, 574th QM, Cruiserweight Runner-up

Brandon Roberts, 1-2 SCR, Heavyweight Champion

Benjamin Jackson, 18th CSSB, Heavyweight Runner-up



The Soldiers of the NCOA would like to congratulate the winners and thank the community and family members who supported the tournament.

Hohenfels course pushes bikers to the limit

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Cyclists from all over Europe met at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels June 20 for the first Hohenfels race in the 2009 U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Series.

More than 30 entrants from eight installations tested their skills and endurance on a challenging 10.25 mile course with a total elevation change of 3,000 feet.

Men completed two laps of the course, women completed one.

The top three overall men's finishers were: Justin Koppa, 1:48:02; Jacob Skugrud, 1:53:24; and Andrew Overfield, 1:54:14.

The top three overall women were: Angie Koppa, 1:12:53; Susan Vaughan, 1:25:54; and Tahroma Skugrud, 1:38:37.

"The course had a variety of terrain, it was tough with a lot of climbing," said Tech. Sgt. Brian McRory. "There's not a lot of recovery out there."

McRory and nine other cyclists from Spangdahlem Air Force Base brought their bikes, families and even dogs to spend Friday night in tents to be ready for the 10:30 a.m. start time.

Justin and Angie Koppa, who both finished first overall, said the race was the best biking experience they have had since coming to Germany last fall.

They echoed the Spangdahlem team's assessment of a technically challenging course with lots of

climbing and little recovery.

"The people who put this on were so organized and did a very good job. We're very impressed, and we've done a lot of racing in the states," said Angie Koppa.

The Koppas, who lived in the Western United States before moving to Grafenwoehr, added that the course was "very Colorado like."

That feel may have come in part from one of the most talked about sections of the course, what Brian Witty, Outdoor Recreation staffer, called the rock garden.

"You could ride through it but it would probably be better to pick the bike up," Witty said. "It is one of those things we wanted people to be able to choose to ride it or pick it up. When you're snaking through it it's pretty crazy."

Josh Emry, Hohenfels sports and fitness assistant, said the Hohenfels trails are even better this year than in past races.

"A lot of the trails are more well worn because of the ATVs (Hohenfels Outdoor Recreation recently developed an All Terrain Vehicle program that utilizes the training area for its excursions.) The quality of trails has gone through the roof in the last few years. Eye level hazards have been removed in their entirety," said Emry.

Bikers will be able to test themselves again against Hohenfels' difficult terrain when the series returns for its championship race Sept. 26.

For more information, contact ODR at DSN 466-2060.



Photo by Dain Parsons

Justin Koppa, from Grafenwoehr, a competitor in the 2009 U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Series, skillfully weaves through a course in the Hohenfels training area June 20.

'Muscle memory' helps Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year overcome competition challenges

continued from Page 1

Army Physical Fitness Test, written examinations, an appearance before a board, and an evaluation of a series of warrior skills, such as day and night time land navigation courses.

This year, because of the Army's campaign to highlight NCOs, the participants were also required to write an essay explaining what the 2009 Year of the NCO recognition means to them.

"Anything you think a Soldier needs to be proficient at, we were tested on start-to-finish," said Beckman. "It was kind of fun being a Soldier again."

Beckman said he thought being a senior small group leader at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy gave him a special advantage.

"I think I performed best at the STX lanes on Day 2. Those are the skills I use as a senior small group leader when we train our Warrior Leader Course students on a monthly basis, and it's kind of muscle memory when it comes to employing a hand grenade or setting up a claymore," said Beckman.

"It's those trades that we have that we don't use, we lose. In a regular unit, we are so focused on what's going on in Iraq and Afghanistan - in the contemporary operating environment - we kind of forget our basic skills as a Soldier."

Someday we are going to be fighting another enemy and we are going to have to use those skills again, and as an NCO we should make sure we train our Soldiers in those areas of responsibility," Beckman said.

Beckman added the competition helped him brush-up on skills he hasn't used in a while.

Murray felt he did well on a mission requiring Mission, Oriented, Protection, Posture gear. Murray was referring to the use of the specialized clothing and equipment, which is used to protect the wearer against nuclear, biological, and chemical threats. He remembered the pre-operation training he received before deploying with his unit.

"When I got to the MOPP lane, I saw fake dead animals," said Murray. "It was muscle memory or battle drill because I had done it so much with D Co."

The Company had trained on conducting operations in the NBC environment for about three months, said Murray.

"I even taped the gloves and boots, I didn't have to think about it," he said.

The ceremony and dinner was the final event of the competition which saw seven males and only one female participant, Washington, competing.

"After the dinner and when it is all over, there will be a sense of pride, a sense of happiness because it is completed," she said. "I didn't quit."

"I was a runner-up for the NCO of the Quarter and they chose me to participate," said Washington. "The events aren't things you do every day. There are some things you know you need to brush-up on."

"It was an honor to participate because all of the candidates are good Soldiers and NCOs," Washington said.



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Robert Murray, Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, dons protective clothing after recognizing a nuclear, biological, or chemical threat in the area during the 2009 Joint Multinational Training Command Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Competition in Grafenwoehr June 15-19. Murray was named the 2009 JMTC Soldier of the Year June 19.

Funds to help end deficiencies in barracks, communities

continued from Page 1

currently under way at the USAG Grafenwoehr, such as the expansion of Grafenwoehr's Community Mail Room in anticipation of the transformation relocations scheduled for next year. This year's funding, coupled with favorable FY08 funding, has the cumulative impact of producing lasting improvements in facilities that, up until now, have historically suffered from funding challenges.

The dizzying list of projects aside, what this really means to Soldiers and families is that they will have more reason than ever to call their Europe garrison not only their home, but also their hometown.

"In Soldier terms, this means that we in the installation management business will be eliminating some of the backlog of nagging maintenance deficiencies in our barracks and around our communities while simultaneously making some wise capital investments



In Soldier terms, this means that we in the installation management business will be eliminating some of the backlog of nagging maintenance deficiencies in our barracks and around our communities... thus improving sustainability and quality of life.

Diane Devens, IMCOM-E Director

to our infrastructure, thus improving sustainability and quality of life," said Diane Devens, director of IMCOM-Europe.

"Our ability to execute about 300 more projects than originally anticipated at the beginning of the year is simply great news for the Soldiers and families stationed in Europe."

Funding strategy and project priority development was a collaborative effort between garrisons and senior mission commanders.

While not all requirements could be

addressed, the collaborative approach best ensured that the most pressing maintenance needs were appropriately addressed.

Gary Berkner, chief of business operations and integration for IMCOM-Europe Public Works Division, said the funding level this year is particularly welcome.

"Because we also received specially-appropriated funds in 2008," Berkner said, "these last two years have been very good for our garrisons, probably the best ever for facilities maintenance

and repair work, and that's a tremendous success story for Europe."

Indeed, every military community stands to gain in receiving the bulk of their priority SRM project funding.

Examples of where the money is being spent:

- Transportation infrastructure: \$4.6 million;
- Barracks improvement: \$10.3 million;
- Energy products: \$13.9 million;
- Transformation programs: \$38 million;

■ Community facilities upgrades: \$9.3 million;

■ General installation improvements: \$108.2 million

At USAG Grafenwoehr, planning for projects, such as installing photovoltaic lighting to save energy are underway.

"If the SRM funding allows us to complete these types of projects, it benefits everyone in the community and helps us prepare for the future," Hasty said.

"FY08 and FY09 SRM funding has been significantly above historical norms," noted Al Rasper, chief of IMCOM-Europe Public Works Division.

"Over the next year to year-and-a-half, we will see a number of improvements at garrisons that will enhance the quality of life for our people, increase mission capability, deliver cost savings and provide energy improvements."

Preston visits 2SCR, talks leadership, development

continued from Page 1

officer," he said. Preston explained the reason he challenged the new recruits with that task. "Our goal is to grow Sergeants," he said, "in about three years time and in some cases four."

Preston stressed the need for Soldiers to continue to strive and develop their leadership skills whenever and wherever possible. He explained that this will not only benefit them in their military career but also as they transition back to civilian life.

"Even if your decision is to leave the Army after three, four or five years," he said. "Having served in a leadership position is one of the things most sought after in the civilian world more so than your occupational specialty."

"You may come into the Army and have one of the technical career fields out there, that is somewhat applicable to a civilian career," Preston explained, "but really what civilian business owners out there are looking for are leaders."

Preston continued to talk about the importance of the NCO Corps and the Year of the NCO.

"This year is the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer," he said. "The noncommissioned officer has always been the glue that has held our units together for almost eight years of war."

"Senior commanders are there for a short period of time," Preston said. "They command, then they move out and the next commander moves in. Noncommissioned officers are those leaders on the ground, who are the technical and tactical experts that have held our units and organizations together. This year we are recognizing their contributions," Preston said.

"The three objectives we want to gain from this year. We want to recognize those who have served in the past and have passed on the torch to those of us who still wear the uniform," he said. "We also want to recognize all of us who proudly pass on the position to the next generation."

"Finally we want to inform the American public what a national asset they have within the NCO Corps," he said.

The Sergeant Major of the Army concluded by thanking troops of 2SCR for their continued professionalism and selfless service.

Deployment awards bring attention to lessons learned

continued from Page 1

challenge for the 412th Aviation Support Battalion.

The battalion met the challenge by implementing rigorous pre-deployment equipment inspections insuring 100 percent compliance with regard to equipment standards, documentation and successfully completing a demanding multi-modal deployment.

Given a 90-day deployment notice, the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment RSS performed multiple safety checks, vetted 278 pieces of equipment, prepared 430 personnel and coordinated with regimental leadership to maintain clear and achievable timelines.

Finalists were recognized by USAREUR Commander, Gen. Carter F. Ham at the USAREUR/7A CLEA ceremony April 8 in Heidelberg.

Burr recounted one award recipient's prediction for the future, "Next year USAREUR is going to take all 10 of the awards," he said.

Two representatives from each winning unit

were sent, all expenses paid, to attend the CLEA award ceremony in Washington, D.C. June 2.

The four-day visit included the ceremony and banquet hosted by Lt. Gen. Mitch Stevenson, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for logistics, a city tour and a military tattoo presented at the Jefferson Memorial.

Eligibility requirements stipulate interested units must deploy or support a training or contingency deployment within the competition year and submit a packet for review to the DEA Board.

Burr attributes USAREUR's success this year to local support. "None of this would have been possible without the commanders and the support of the IMCOM folks," he said.

Deploying and redeploying units may self-nominate for the CSA DEA if their deployment or redeployment process was successful.

Units interested in applying for the 2010 CSA DEA are encouraged to contact Burr through email at aaron.burr@eur.army.mil, or by calling DSN 370-5407.

GO HOME !

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.