

Bavarian News

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

September 16, 2009

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SPEAK UP!

Have you taken the Customer Service Assessment yet?

If not, it's time to have your voice heard. The assessment, which runs through Friday, gives members of the garrison the opportunity to rate the importance of resources and services and allow for improvements.

Access the survey at www.myarmyvoice.org.

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For the latest in community news, visit www.grafenwoehr.army.mil

USAREUR announces Supply Excellence Awards

by Sgt. DANIEL J. NICHOLS

USAREUR Public Affairs

Several units across U.S. Army Europe have been selected as USAREUR-level winners in the Army's Supply Excellence Awards competition for their outstanding logistics operations.

The awards, which were first awarded to active Army units over a decade ago for supply excellence at the unit level, are split into size categories for a modified table of organization and equipment units, table of distribution and allowances units and supply support activities.

It takes many months of work and proven customer

service to earn an SEA, logistics officials said.

"This kind of competition really brings out all the hard work we put into this," said Master Sgt. Ethan Thompson, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of supply operations for the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, which earned a battalion-

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Remembering 9/11



Photo by Melissa Wolff

The retreat team from the Joint Multinational Training Command folds the American Flag at conclusion of the day Sept. 11. The flag was taken down from half-staff as Soldiers, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and children stood by in formation, saluting in remembrance and respect for the lives lost during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. After the retreat ceremony, Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, JMTC commanding general, addressed those gathered about the significance of the day, thanking them for their service in defense of the United States of America.

Support on hand during housing market crisis

IMCOM-E Press Release

Persistent stateside economic problems are hammering the U.S. real-estate market. And many people within the Army community – troops and their families, along with civilian employees – are finding themselves unable to make

monthly payments, rent homes or have loans where the appraised value of the house is less than the mortgage.

In a recent memo to senior leadership, Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, commander of Installation Management Command, wrote, "The current housing

situation continues to affect Soldiers who have purchased homes; those living in rentals; and (those making) government-directed moves for permanent change of station and base realignment and closure relocations."

Consequently, various fed-

eral organizations, including the Department of Defense, and private sector agencies, "are aggressively working programs to provide help, information and support during these challenging times," Wilson stated.

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Specialized legal assistance available for wounded warriors

by BRADLEY J. HUESTIS

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, JMTC

A Soldier's local judge advocate general office normally provides legal services.

However, what if he or she is injured and facing a medical evaluation board or physical evaluation board?

In these cases, a Soldier will need specialized assistance and the local legal assistance office will serve as a referral point.

For general legal assistance questions, call the following numbers: Ansbach, DSN 467-2103; Bamberg, DSN 469-7609; Grafenwoehr, DSN 475-7114; Hohenfels, DSN 466-2471; Schweinfurt, DSN 353-8511; and Vilseck, DSN 476-2290.

Soldiers going through MEBs will be assisted by an outreach attorney and Soldiers going through PEBs will be assisted by a Soldiers'

counsel attorney.

These specially trained attorneys represent and advise Soldiers, not the MEB or PEB.

The MEB outreach attorney's office for U.S. Army Europe is located in Room 202, Bldg. 3625 at Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg. To contact them, call DSN 371-2091/2427.

When facing an MEB or PEB, there are many common questions:

• What can Soldiers do that will help themselves later on during the process?

Soldiers can start by getting copies of all medical records and ask for a copy of each printout after every appointment.

Soldiers should also think about what they want from the process - eventually to be found fit and to return to duty, or to be separated from the Army with an appropriate disability rating.

Soldiers' counsel can give general advice on what evidence will be most helpful. Individuals can then start to develop and gather evidence.

• A Soldier knows he or she wants to be found fit for returning to duty. What can he or she do to help make that happen?

Soldiers can talk to a doctor about whether they can change their profile on Department of the Army form 3349 to a P2 and ease the physical restrictions imposed.

Soldiers should perform the duties of his or her primary military occupational specialty if at all possible, and let the command know he or she is capable of performing them.

Soldiers may ask his or her supervisor for permission to perform as many basic Soldier See LEGAL Page 24

18th CSSB returns home after 15 months

by MELISSA WOLFF

Assistant Editor

Families held banners, clutched balloons, waved and cheered wildly as they caught the first glimpse of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion step through the door at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Field House Aug. 29.

The Soldiers of 18th CSSB were welcomed during a re-deployment ceremony after completing one of the last 15-month deployments to Iraq.

During the company's mission to provide command and control over 700 National Guard, reserve and active duty Soldiers who provided combat service support to more than 15,000 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines in northern Iraq, none of the 77 personnel deployed were lost or injured.

While waiting for their Soldiers to arrive back at Grafenwoehr, family members chatted and fidgeted with excitement.

Theresa Roscoe said that being involved in one of the last 15-month deployments was hard on the Soldiers because they were seeing units arrive in Iraq after them and seeing them leave before them. "But through it all," she said, "from what I've heard, they did a great job, and I think it's because they have good family support back here and community support."

Amelia Lavariega Martinez, who awaited the return of her husband, said this was their second deployment.

"The communication has been the big difference," she said, comparing it to his previous deployment.

"When I felt like I needed him, he was there. I knew at 8

See FAMILIES Page 24

Eighth graders grow as leaders, show peers importance of staying drug free

NMS Press Release

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader," said John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States.

Emerging Leaders, a new group of eighth grade students at Netzaberg Middle School, will use this theme as they learn about leadership skills this year.

Symbolically, the group uses an image of a tree limb with an emerging new shoot growing out of it. This symbolizes, according to the committee, that leaders are grown, nurtured from the main branch, to become strong enough to be a supporting branch for others.

As the members of EL program learn about leadership, they will then pass it on to others at school and in the community.

"I am excited about this new leadership group at the school and I am looking forward to watching the students grow as leaders," said Dr. Elizabeth Childs, principal of NMS.

To become a part of program, an eighth grade student is identified as displaying qualities of leadership and is recommended to become a member by a teacher, school administrator or parent.

Throughout the school year, the students will learn leadership skills which includes the planning, organization and implementation of a project. Team Leaders will rotate so that each member has a turn at leading their team through their assigned tasks.

Vincent Kroeger, NMS assistant principal, said he believes Emerging Leaders is a "great program to start identifying students with leadership potential."

"This program is tapping into leadership qualities that will help students now, as well as into their adulthood," said Kroeger.

As part of their development, the students are

working on two projects. The first is writing an article for the NMS newsletter and submitting the article for consideration to other news media. The article will inform readers about Red Ribbon Week in October, a week that focuses on staying drug free.

The second project is to design a bulletin board with the theme "Drug Free is the Key" to be displayed in the school foyer.

The projects the students are involved in support the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services prevention efforts at NMS.

According to Nancy Nolin, leader and mentor for Emerging Leaders as well as one of the ASACS counselors at the NMS, drug prevention efforts encourage the enhancement of protective factors, such as youth having strong bonds with schools.

The focus of Emerging Leaders this year will be to share the message "Drug Free is the Key" with youth at NMS and with the Grafenwohr and Vilseck communities.

Nolin said, "It is important for youth to have an opportunity to learn about leadership skills and to have opportunities to apply those skills."

She mentors the students as they experience the successes and the challenges of establishing teams and leading their team members to complete assigned projects.

According to Nolin, the experiences that the students will encounter this year will enhance their decision making abilities and strengthen their resolve when faced with challenging life decisions.

Other projects planned for the students include inviting community leaders to speak about leadership, assisting with alcohol and drug prevention events, mentoring other students at the school and continuing to learn and apply leadership skills.



Photo by Nancy Nolin

Students of the Emerging Leaders committee from Netzaberg Middle School work as a team to decorate a bulletin board in the lobby of the school. The bulletin board will advertise their program and share leadership skills with the school community.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Vincent Kroeger

What is your position at school? I am the Netzaberg Middle School Assistant Principal.

Hometown: Atlantic Beach, FL is my "hometown," but as a military dependent I spent quite a bit of time overseas.

How long have you been a teacher? Almost 12 years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching? Helping students become knowledgeable, well-rounded, contributing and responsible citizens.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed? It is extremely important to attend school as often as possible since it is directly tied to your academic success.

DoDEA opts for new bus contractor

by AMY NEWCOMB
Bavarian News

Department of Defence Education Activity schools in the Bavaria District have switched school bus contractors for the 2009-2010 school year. This change, said officials, could make all the difference to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community's students and parents after frustration over buses last year.

According to district superintendent for DoDEA schools, Mike Thompson, the option to continue the contract with Audax, the bus company from the previous year, was not exercised.

This was due to a number of issues and failure of the contractor to adjust to meet the terms of the new contract.

"(There were) numerous instances of buses being late for pick-up of students or arrival at school. In some instances the bus never did arrive at the established pick-up point,"

Thompson said.

"The buses lacked quality of service in that there were problems with heat, or lack thereof; rudeness of drivers, and lack of knowledge of the routes and schedules by drivers," he said.

With the opening of Netzaberg Elementary and Middle School last year and the challenges that brought to the community, the need for reliable bus services was increased, Thompson said.

USAG Grafenwoehr School Liaison Officer Ann Bruennig, said that not only did the inferior bus services affect parents and students, but it also interfered with the beginning of school last year.

"(The school) did the best that they could, but they were dealing with parents calling in, of course ... the school bus office was swamped," Bruennig said. "They had a lot of classroom time disrupted from kids coming in late ... that first semester

was pretty challenging."

The reason Audax was originally chosen in 2008, a change from the use of Willax bus company of previous years, was that, according to Thompson, Audax was determined the best option at the time for providing safe and timely transportation of USAG Grafenwoehr students.

"The addition of the new schools at Netzaberg for school year 2008-2009 required the solicitation of new contracts for the transportation of students for those schools and also for other schools in the area," Thompson said.

The new bus contractor for the 2009-2010 school year has been returned to Willax, a contractor out of Vilseck which has a history of service to Grafenwoehr.

There are no anticipated complications for this year's students who plan to ride the bus to school.

"I don't expect anything at all like we had last year. We have

a contractor with a proven track record, routes are better established and in place and the overall operation of the schools, of which the buses are a critical part, are better established," Thompson said.

One thing that hasn't changed are security attendants. They will still be a fixture on more than half of the school buses transporting DoDEA students.

"As part of force protection measures for the safety of the buses, (security attendants) are funded to provide coverage on approximately 55 percent of the buses," Thompson said.

Security attendants are not on the buses to help discipline children but for an awareness of the buses surroundings. This is to help keep an eye out for any possible threats and any patterns that indicate a possible hostile situation.

Security attendants travel on the buses on a rotating basis and help to ensure the safety of DoDEA students.

AFC brings kindergarten boot camp to Grafenwoehr

by AMY NEWCOMB
Bavarian News

The kindergarten boot camp program was initiated to ready new students and parents for kindergarten prior to starting school.

According to Lana Muzzy, outreach services director, the inspiration for kindergarten boot camp came from the Department of the Army's, Army Family Covenant Program.

"(USAG Grafenwoehr) is being used as the pilot program to see if it will be successful. We are doing this for the first time in the entire Child and Youth Services history," Muzzy said.

"It's a new initiative and if we have good results it means we will increase our enrollment for next year," she said.

Rose Barracks and Netzaberg School Age Services had approximately 14 kindergartener's enrolled from the community for boot camp. When added with the kindergartener's from the child development center who have been enrolled in the Strong Beginnings Program over the last year in preparation for kindergarten, the attendance for kindergarten Boot Camp was more than 30.

It took a great deal of teamwork to implement the program for USAG Grafenwoehr and was a joint effort between SAS, CDC, Outreach Services

Program and the School Liaison Officer, Anne Bruennig.

"CYS has a Strong Beginnings Program at the CDC's and it is a half day program. The Boot Camp we have is just a week right before school begins to get those kids who weren't able to attend the Strong Beginnings for the whole year and give them some basic skills for kindergarten," Bruennig said.

Over the course of the four-day kindergarten boot camp, the participants had the opportunity to visit the school library and cafeteria and meet the school advisor and nurse. They were also educated on bus etiquette and how to walk in straight lines.

"We are teaching the kids how to write their names, how to recognize their names ... some basic school skills like raising their hands when they have a question, walking in lines quietly and transitioning from one activity to the next," Bruennig said.

Katie Kuether, a kindergarten boot camp teacher at the Rose Barracks SAS, thought the program was a success.

"They felt kind of scared and timid at first but

by the end of boot camp they were running around thinking they owned the place ... very comfortable and ready for kindergarten," Kuether said. "I think it definitely opened their eyes and made them realize

By the end of boot camp they were ... very comfortable and ready for kindergarten.

Katie Kuether
Kindergarten Boot Camp Teacher

what they are going to have to do ... by the end of the week they realized they would have to sit down and do work so I think it really got them in the swing of things."

Amber Goble had her son, Jonathan attend kindergarten boot camp at the Rose Barracks SAS. With Jonathan being her first child to attend school, this was a new and disconcerting experience for both mother and son, she said.

"We're hoping that it will ease his nerves the first day of school so that he will know what to expect in the classroom and the cafeteria, this way he won't be so nervous," Goble said.

After four days of camp, Goble and her son were ready for kindergarten. "He is not nearly as anxious, he was very excited that he got to see his classroom and now he is ready to start kindergarten," Goble said.

Cougars take time for family during unit's spouse, 'kiddie' spur ride events



Two young Cougar cubs wait for their prey during the water balloon grenade toss at 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment's 'kiddie' spur ride. The children's spur ride was part of Cougar family week, conducted by the unit as they prepare to depart on a training mission.

Story and photos by
Spc. JERRY WILSON
2SCR Public Affairs

With all their equipment loaded and sent to Bulgaria, and the Troopers gearing up to take part in Task Force East, a training mission with both the Romanian and Bulgarian Armies, members of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment focused their attention on the children of the unit by conducting a 'kiddie' spur ride.

The Cougar 'cubs' got a little taste of what their parents do recently as they participated in a series of events from first-aid to water grenade throwing.

"This whole week is Cougar family week," said Lt. Col. Omar Jones, 2nd Squadron Commander. "The Squadron is preparing to head out to Bulgaria and this is a chance to ensure that while we are there, the families feel closer to the unit and each other."

"The idea behind today's event was to get the kids out," said Jones, "and give them an idea of what their moms and dads do."

"It also provides the Soldiers a chance to

spend quality time with their families before they leave."

Jones said the kiddie spur ride was the first of several scheduled events. Additionally, the Squadron conducted two town hall meetings and a two-day family rodeo to better ensure that their spouses and dependants have a better understanding of the resources and opportunities available to them while their loved ones are conducting training as part of Task Force East.

The Cougars closed out family week with another Spur ride; this time it was for the spouses, not the kids.

During the spouse spur ride the participants were subjected to a more rigorous set of tasks. Each trooper had to undergo a modified version of the Army physical fitness test, learn to wear and operate the full chemical warfare protective gear, care for and transport simulated injured teammates, and operate under battlefield conditions.

According to Jones, these events provided Cougar families the opportunity to bond together and let spouses know they have a wide range of support while their Soldiers are completing the Task Force East mission.



Holly Lara, wife of Spc. Abel Lara learns the proper way to toss a grenade during the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment's Cougar spouse spur ride.

Volunteerism opens the door, spurs career goals

by GEORGE A. SMITH
AFN Europe

Nik Meinzer worked as a volunteer. It got him a paying job. Twice.

Meinzer volunteered 40 hours a week at Armed Forces Network Heidelberg, scheduling television command information messages, posting to the station web site, helping on TV news shoots and creating TV announcements.

"My passion for doing something creative and my desire to learn and master the skills regardless of if I was going to get hired or not was more important than getting paid, and motivated me to work hard and learn as much as I could," said Meinzer.

He impressed the AFN Heidelberg management, and when a full-time job became open, Meinzer competed for it and got it.

Unfortunately for Meinzer, five months after he started getting paid for his work, his wife, who also works



My passion for doing something creative and my desire to learn and master the skills ... motivated me to work hard and learn as much as I could.

Nik Meinzer, Armed Forces Network Bavaria

for the military, got a job with the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr and he quit his AFN job to follow his wife.

Meinzer then started volunteering for AFN Bavaria on Rose Barracks, Vilseck, and, when a temporary job became open Meinzer once again competed for it, and got it. He's a jack-of-all trades who his boss, Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Malec calls "indispensable."

Meinzer does everything from shooting, editing, producing, appearing on live radio shows and

maintaining the Web page. The money he says, "just becomes the bonus."

Another AFN Europe volunteer, Lee Kiss, has been doing a weekend disc jockey show for AFN Kaiserslautern for more than 25 years.

In February of 1984 he met with the AFN Kaiserslautern station management, let them hear a recording of DJ work he did in Sacramento, California, and promptly landed the show.

Kiss, who gets his paycheck from the Army as an Information

Technology System Administrator, has been looking for a paying job with AFN but it hasn't worked out for him yet. Still, he feels good about his weekend gig, saying "always pursue your dreams and aspirations and never give up trying."

Liz Kinsella started volunteering for AFN Hessen on Wiesbaden Army Airfield in September 2008. She has a degree in radio, television and film, so when she and her Army husband got to Germany, her first stop to look for a job was the on-base radio/TV station.

She works 40 hours a week co-hosts the station's afternoon show 2-6 p.m. weekdays, produces radio and TV announcements, records a weekly segment called "Kids News," interviews people and edits their information for the radio show.

She says she's learned a lot.

"My background in television before AFN was in animation. This is a whole different ballgame. I'm very thankful for this opportunity to work with such creative minds," she said.

Kinsella was hired for a full-time job at AFN Hessen, and will soon start earning cash instead of just kudos.

Volunteers with AFN get credit and recognition from the American Red Cross or Army Community Service for their time.

AFN stations occasionally take volunteers if the applicant has a background in radio/TV along with the skills, reliability and availability. If interested, contact AFN Bavaria at DSN 476-3172, CIV 09662-83-3172.

Couple reflects on spiritual ministry to military families

Story and photo by
MARGARET BARTLEBAUGH
Grafenwoehr PWOC

Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels conducted a joint exercise Sept. 1-3. It wasn't, however, a typical Army joint military training exercise.

The exercise was a joint effort among the Protestant Women of the Chapel groups in each community to bring author and speaker Bea Fishback from England to Bavaria.

Fishback is the author of "Loving Your Military Man" and co-authored with her husband, Jim Fishback, "Defending the Military Marriage" and "Defending the Military Family."

Bea Fishback's whirlwind speaking tour included traveling to three communities in three days to speak at each PWOC fall kick-off meeting, bringing a message of hope to all "Scepter Sisters," as they call themselves.

Bea and Jim Fishback are staff members with Military Ministry, a division of Campus Crusade for Christ, and partners with FamilyLife, the

marriage ministry of CCC.

Both Bea and Jim Fishback were diagnosed with a form of lymphatic cancer. They say, however, that their focus still remains on loving God and ministering to others.

For the last 11 years, the Fishbacks say they have focused on helping military families grow closer to God and each other.

Military Ministry continually supports Chaplains by providing resources to share with Soldiers and their families.

The Fishbacks are well acquainted with the stresses and strains military life puts upon families.

The Fishbacks joined CCC after serving in the Army for 20 years. They went through many moves and separations while raising their two children.

Jim explained, "After six years of marriage, we were emotionally divorced from each other. But through God's intervention and forgiveness we were brought back together." The couple invited Soldiers and their spouses to attend one of their weekend marriage conferences to hear

the rest of their story.

The couple says they enjoy traveling throughout Europe and England, spreading the good news of hope and restoration to military

couples and families.

Contact eurmilmin@onetel.com to find out more about their ministry and conference schedule.



Bea Fishback discusses her experience as a military spouse and woman of faith with the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels Protestant Women of the Chapel groups Sept. 1-3.

Adventure, teamwork unite teens at first camp for children with juvenile diabetes

by Lt. Col. SAM HAMONTREE
NATO EUROCORPS Liaison

Atop one of the highest mountains in Bavaria, the first European diabetic camp for children with type 1 diabetes took place at the Hinterbrand Lodge outside of Berchtesgaden Aug. 10-16.

The most commonly understood form of diabetes, type 2, is associated with heredity, shots and pills, and can normally be controlled with exercise and diet. Type 1 diabetes, however, does not have a cure and those who have it must rely on insulin injections via shots or insulin pumps the rest of their lives.

While type 2 diabetes diagnosis is most common in adults, over the last decade there has been an increase of type 1 diagnosis in teens and children, also referred to as juvenile diabetes.

In the U.S., there are many informal organizations and support groups around military installations consisting of families with children suffering from juvenile diabetes that meet and take part in activities together.

During the activities and meetings, parents exchange lessons learned, ideas and experiences while the children exchange their stories on topics such as diabetic equipment and their difficulties in school. This informal support structure has not developed in Europe, however, where military communities are

widely dispersed.

With nine teenage diabetics in her area, Ramstein High School nurse Maureen Husum decided to pull resources together and send invitations through nursing channels to various military communities in Europe to encourage support for a diabetic camp.

Husum reserved the Hinterbrand Lodge and began soliciting donations and resources to hold the first diabetic camp for military families in Europe, primarily oriented for diabetic teenagers, their siblings and parents.

During the day, the families conducted various activities from sightseeing to hiking trails. The teens and parents also exchanged techniques and how they compensated for blood sugar levels.

In the evenings, families took turns preparing meals, discussing how they determine carbohydrate counts for the insulin and cleaning up.

Participants said the week went fast as they made new friends and shared new perspectives on how to live with and successfully manage type 1 diabetes.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation also sent representatives to discuss more outdoor recreation options for next year's camp which is being planned for August 2010.

To find out how to support or participate in the camp, e-mail Maureen Husum at maureen.husum@eu.dodea.edu.



Photo by Wendy Wiley

Some of the participants in the the first European diabetic camp for children with type 1 diabetes take a break during a hike with camp organizaer Maureen Husum (right) along the Obersee near Berchtesgaden Aug. 10-16.

Spiritual support



Photo by Michael Beaton

Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver (right), U.S. Army chief of chaplains, talks with Soldiers at a Joint Multinational Training Command reception in Grafenwoehr Aug. 28. Carver toured Germany to meet and talk with Soldiers and Army chaplains about religious program support in U.S. Army Europe.

COURTS-MARTIAL

The following court-martials were reported by the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

■ At a special court-martial convened in Vilseck Aug. 10 - 11, Sgt. 1st Class Elton Jeans, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck was tried by an enlisted panel for allegedly exposing himself to young girls in the Amberg and Sulzbach areas.

The accused was charged with two specifications of indecent liberties with a child, one specification of indecent exposure and one specification of false official statements. The maximum punishment, if convicted, was one year confinement, two thirds pay forfeitures per month for 12 months, reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge.

Jeans was acquitted of all charges and specifications.

■ At a general court-martial convened in Vilseck Aug. 19, Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Stewart, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, JMTC, was found guilty by an officer and enlisted panel of aggravated sexual assault, kidnapping, forcible anal sodomy, forcible oral sodomy and assault consummated by battery. Stewart was found not-guilty of rape, abusive sexual contact and communicating

a threat.

The government presented evidence Aug. 20 that Stewart voluntarily absented himself from the court-martial and requested that the court-martial continue without him present. The military judge determined that Stewart was voluntarily absent and that the court-martial should proceed without the pre-sentencing hearing without him.

The officer and enlisted panel returned a sentence of eight years confinement, total forfeitures of all pay and allowances, reduction to E-1 and a dishonorable discharge. Stewart later returned to military custody.

■ At a general court-martial convened in Schweinfurt Aug. 28, Sgt. Shaun Broussard, Company D, 172nd Support Battalion in Schweinfurt was tried by a military judge alone.

He was charged with one specification of abusive sexual contact with a child and one specification of indecent liberty with a child. He pleaded guilty to both charges. Broussard was sentenced to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 24 months, total forfeitures of pay and allowances and to be discharged with a dishonorable discharge. The offer to plead guilty contained a 12-month confinement cap.

Year of the NCO Spotlight



Sgt. Robert Murray

Age: 25

Current Unit: Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment

Current Position: Team leader/ tank gunner

Component: Active Army

Current Location: Hohenfels, Germany

Hometown: Port Charlotte, Fla.

Years of Service: 8



At the Joint Multinational Training Center in Hohenfels, Sgt. Robert Murray of Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, makes his money playing war games. He is a member of the professional opposing force at the JMTC. Murray is a tank-gunner and team leader. His unit has supported the International Security Assistance Force since 2004. It deploys a company-size unit during each ISAF rotation to Afghanistan. When not deployed, the 1-4 helps to train U.S. and International Soldiers for deployments downrange.

He's no ordinary Soldier. Murray has deployed, but with the Navy, before he became a Soldier. "I was on oil platforms off the coast of Iraq, and transferring from to ship to ship," said Murray "They were U.S. civilian ships that carried other ships." Murray expects to deploy with the 1-4. He says they are well-trained and he is glad to go downrange with the team. "Before we deploy, the Company D does a pre-op training. We keep going over and over the skills," he said. "We do battle drills and everyone knows what to do without thinking." Being prepared for deployment helped him win the 2009 Joint Multinational Training Command's Soldier of the Year Competition.

Murray represented the JMTC at the U.S. Army Europe competition in August. "NCOs take in everything (they) can and pass it on to (his or her) Soldiers and (are) professional at all times," said Murray. "Good NCOs should be smart on their feet, and take care of his or her Soldiers to help them be their best." The competition was great training, said Murray. "At first, I was worried about competing, but when it started I just let my body go, and I just kept pushing," he said. "This is such a good training event because you realize your weaknesses." He said the competition has made him more aware that others may be watching him more closely. "A good NCO knows how to lead, and he knows how to take care of Soldiers," said Murray. "I can take what I've learned in the competition and go back to my Soldiers and mentor them."



www.army.mil/yearofthenc

Games, trivia bring women's fight for equality to forefront of shopping trip

by JESSICA ROBERSON
Special to the Bavarian News

The Garmisch community celebrated Women's Equality Day on a sunny alpine afternoon at the concessionaire terrace of the garrison's shopping center Aug. 26. The event was hosted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee.

Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Also known as the "Women's Suffrage Amendment," the amendment granted all women in the U.S. universal voting rights.

Garmisch community members were invited to take short trivia quizzes and were rewarded with celebratory lanyards, food, drinks and conversation outside.



Informative silhouettes mark the site of U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch's Women's Equality Day observation Aug. 26.
Graphic by Jessica Roberson

As shoppers were enticed to play educational games, a general theme emerged; more than one attendee commented that they hadn't thought they were interested in the subject until they stopped and learned.

The most interesting moments during the event came when the mood of passersby switched from apathy to genuine interest.

Leigh Plowman and Jay Pagan, both employees of the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, took the test and were surprised to find out that women in Switzerland were not granted full voting rights until 1971.

"Wow! You're kidding!" Plowman said.

"I would never have thought that," Pagan agreed.

Eric Weddle, a teacher at the Garmisch Elementary-Middle School, was asked how much classroom time is generally spent focusing on the suffrage movement in the United States.

Realistically it was one class and that was about it, said Weddle.

One quiz asked participants to match various countries with the year women there were granted the right to vote.

The earliest country was Sweden, where women have voted since 1862.

The most recent was Kuwait in 2005. Still, the countries that fell in the middle such as Portugal, Morocco, Nepal and Finland all challenged the participants' preconceived notions on developed nations' track records.

"Women's equality is not just an issue of historical fact but a current global effort that continues to see progress," said Doris Tyler, Garmisch Army Community Service director.

Interesting stuff when one follows the suffrage movement's roots and discovers that in the United States alone, the journey to suffrage is exactly as old as the country itself.

In 1776 Abigail Adams, future first wife, wrote to her husband John Adams urging him to "remember the ladies" as he worked with the other founding fathers to draft the Constitution.

"If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation," wrote Adams.

John's reply? Certainly not.



Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Also known as the "Women's Suffrage Amendment," the amendment granted all women in the U.S. universal voting rights. Garmisch residents celebrated the fight for equality Aug. 26 with trivia and games.

Courtesy photo

He replied that men would work to fight against the "despotism of the petticoat."

It was not until 144 years later, 144 years of struggle, partnership with the abolitionist movement and protest that the 19th amendment was ratified.

The motto under its pioneer, Susan B. Anthony, was a simple one: "Women, their rights, and nothing less."

Perhaps a more apt motto was the statement made by Alice Paul the year before the amendment was passed: "When you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row."

"Women's Equality Day events are important because they give us an opportunity to appreciate and recognize the efforts and sacrifices of all of the women who worked tirelessly to champion the right for women to

vote," said Freddy Osorio, USAG Garmisch EEO officer.

Women's equality is a subject Osorio takes very seriously.

"The significance of the woman's suffrage campaign, its enormous political and social impact, affects not only women but men alike," said Osorio.

"It was this platform that gave women a voice in our political system," Osorio added.

A garrison visitor posed the question of whether the women of Afghanistan were voting in their election that same week.

The answer to that question was yes. In fact, U.S. Soldiers, in conjunction with the Afghan National Army, worked together in a coordinated effort on Aug. 19, seven days before the Garmisch event, to assist that local population in voting.

Two-time winner hits his mark at German-American friendship shoot

Story and photo by
JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

The Garmisch German-American Friendship Shoot at Kean's Lodge on Sept. 7 was a great success, beginning with a reprieve in the weather and a large turnout of Bundeswehr soldiers and German citizens.

The winner was German Matthias Reiter, who hit closest to the center of the bull's-eye of the combination final round target/trophy, a hand-painted wooden disk.

In the preliminary round, Reiter's shot group was incredibly tight; three of the four lead pellets fired at 25 meters by the high-powered single-shot air rifle overlapped each other, creating a large hole, while the fourth shot was a few millimeters high. Three of his four shots scored a 10 and one 11.

"This is the second time in three years winning for Reiter," said Andrea Winter, garrison host nation liaison and organizer of the annual event.

As keen as Reiter's marksmanship, a review of the targets showed five

other German participants hit cleanly within the center circle during the first round.

Competitor Maximilian Wagner punched a hole in the center worthy of a record player's spindle.

"About 130 people participated in the shoot," said Winter. "We couldn't have asked for a nicer day. I was doing my weather dance every night this week. The weather was perfect."

Events like the shoot have to be planned well in advance, and the original forecasts predicted rainy weather like last year.

However, instead of cloudy skies the shooters and observers were greeted by a picture-perfect Bavarian blue sky framing the surrounding Alps.

In addition to the serious competitors, many families attended the shoot to take advantage of the fest-like day.

German and American volunteers, some of them former members of the garrison team now retired after decades of service, made the event a success from prepping and serving food to the final clean-up.

A smoky barbecue served up steaks and bratwurts along with long tables of side dishes, desserts and drinks.

"I hope the weather is like this for the rescheduled Commander's Cup Golf Tournament on the 26th," added Winter.

The tournament at the garrison's Alpental Golf Course was rained out in July.



The band from Reichersbeuern, Germany, escorts Stabsgefreiter (corporal) Markus Hochwind (front row, center) home at the conclusion of his service to his country.

THE BAND PLAYED ON

Story and photo by
JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

It is normal to see and hear the Bundeswehr's Gebirgsmusikkorps (German army mountain corps band) practicing on Artillery Kaserne, as the soldiers sporting the distinctive Edelweiss insignia share the garrison with U.S. troops, but it was very unusual Aug. 14 for a small village band to march through the front gate and across post performing while followed by a horse-drawn carriage.

Stabsgefreiter (corporal) Markus Hochwind (front row, center) had finished his tour of duty playing trombone and alphorn for the German army, and his hometown band from Reichersbeuern near Bad Tölz honored him by coming on post to collect him from his duty station.

Hochwind marched in at the head of the band, said "Auf Wiedersehen" to his fellow Edelweiss musicians, and then rode off in the carriage. The Reichersbeuern band marched ahead of the carriage, serenading Hochwind and the kaserne as they lead him out the front gate for the last time and towards home.



Participants shoot to win Sept. 7 at the Garmisch German-American Friendship Shoot at Kean's Lodge.

Garrison officials provide force protection, emergency preparation advice for families

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Soldiers attend many briefings throughout the year, probably more than they would like, but family members are not usually the targets of information readily available to Soldiers.

To make sure every family and community member at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels is just as informed about force protection issues and prepared for an emergency as their active duty counterparts, the garrison offered a Community Threat Briefing Sept. 2 at the post theater.

Aimed specifically at spouses and family readiness groups, the briefing included information about operational security, force protection measures and Ready Army, the Army's emergency preparedness campaign.

John Cavanaugh, director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, said that family members play an important role in supporting their Soldiers and must remember they also play a large role in assuring their safety.

He said family members should always look at their activities and communications from an enemies' point of view and assess the risk their actions might put on their family.

Though some tips about good OPSEC may seem like common sense, many times people do not see how their actions might potentially be giving out information they don't want others to have, said Cavanaugh.

He offered these tips: Do not to place countdowns to a deployment or re-deployment on internet sites. Be aware what information about yourself you speak about in public or post online.

For example, a woman whose husband is deployed should not advertise that she is alone, where she is living or any other information about her family.

"Predators are out there on the internet every day of the year looking for someone who might

be an easy target," he said.

To protect their information, people should make sure their accounts on sites such as Facebook and MySpace are closed to the public. As a general rule, limit what you say about the unit and about yourself and your family in public and online.

"We do live in a pretty safe area in the Hohenfels region but we have to remember to still be careful. With a lot of the events (training involving international troops) that happen at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, we offer a possible opportunity for intelligence gathering for foreign sources," said Cavanaugh.

Spc. Alexis Wicker, strategic debriefer with the 66th Military Intelligence Detachment, also said that though Hohenfels is a pretty safe area, personnel and family members must still be cautious of people looking to gather intelligence about the U.S. military.

"Foreign intelligence gathering is always a threat," said Wicker. "You might not even know you're talking to someone gathering intelligence."

Wicker advised spouses to be cautious of anyone lingering around military housing or asking questions about military units or families.

She also suggested that when traveling to any country outside of Germany it is beneficial to first contact the garrison S2 to get an update on any threats that may exist in the area.

She also said everyone in the community should get a Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army briefing. Family members are invited to attend briefings offered for in-processing Soldiers every Monday at 2:30 p.m. in building 314. For more information call DSN 466-4781.

After Cavanaugh and Wicker spoke about how to prevent situations by practicing good operational security, Tom Janis, garrison antiterrorism and emergency disaster preparedness

■ Get a Kit

Get an emergency kit that includes enough supplies to meet your family's essential needs for at least three days.

■ Make a Plan

Make and practice your family emergency plan, considering communication methods and emergency actions.

■ Be Informed

Identify all hazards that can affect you and your family.



The Ready Army campaign prepares Soldiers, family members and Department of Defense employees for disasters. More information can be found at the Ready Army Web site, www.ready.army.mil.

officer, spoke about what to do if disaster does strike.

He explained Ready Army, an Army program that seeks to educate people about how to prepare for a disaster, be it natural or man-made.

The three tenants of Ready Army are: Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed.

Janis said it is important to be aware of the threat that exists in your area.

He said he especially wants people to be aware that there is currently a possibility of terrorist activity surrounding the German

elections on Sept. 27.

Beyond that, he said, there is also the possibility of an H1N1 flu outbreak.

"From an emergency management perspective we need to be concerned about it (H1N1) for a number of reasons," Janis said, adding that if extensive enough, an outbreak could affect aspects of infrastructure and support services either on or off post.

For more information about how to prepare for these or other emergencies, visit www.ready.army.mil.

Religious groups join together to help Afghans

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

When Soldiers deploy to a combat zone from Hohenfels, their destination is almost always Afghanistan. They leave their families and take up the

mission of trying to stabilize the country for the benefit of the Afghan people. Their families stay behind, going about their daily lives while hearing stories of what life is like in the small Asian country.

Then the Military Council of Catholic Women and Protestant

Women of the Chapel decided they were not content just hearing stories about the country - they wanted to somehow help its people and support the mission of U.S. Soldiers there.

Starting in late July, MCCW began collecting coats to send to Afghanistan where, though it may reach well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer, it can also fall below 0 degrees during winter.

In August, they teamed up with PWOC to also gather school supplies to send to Afghan students. They finally saw their efforts come together Sept. 3 when they inventoried the supplies and packed more than 100 coats and countless school supplies into boxes ready to send away.

"We wanted to do a project that

would really benefit people and providing for basic needs is a way to do that. If you're cold you're not going to think of anything else," Natalie Cannata, MCCW president, said, explaining how they decided upon a coat drive as one of this year's major service projects.

Other council members said it was important to the group to support a project that also supported the mission of Hohenfels Soldiers.

"It's such a good cause. Our Soldiers are over there doing such a great job and they have told us their needs," said council member Amanda Hoffer.

"We want to help make their mission a success. Hopefully if we bring them (Afghan citizens) items that bring warmth and comfort they won't think of us as the enemy," said Hoffer.

Though as much as the women are motivated by a desire to support the mission by providing for the Afghan people, they said they also enjoyed the chance to bring their two groups together.

"We both believe the same things; we are women looking for the same

things," said Crystal Tackaberry, PWOC president.

Those similar beliefs are not just the desire to serve God, but the desire to find and serve a sense of community.

"The first thing I do when I come to a new post is to look for PWOC," said Tackaberry. "It is one group that it doesn't matter who you are or where you have been, they care about you, love you. It's just a great group of ladies."

Isabel Parker, a member of Hohenfels MCCW for the past 11 years, said much of their group's fellowship is built around education.

"As Catholic ladies we need to learn as much as we can about our faith so we can love it and witness to it," Parker said.

Both MCCW and PWOC meet weekly. MCCW gathers each Thursday at the Main Post Chapel at 9:30 a.m. PWOC meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Monday at 7 p.m. at the Hilltop Chapel Center. For more on MCCW, call DSN 466-2226. For more on PWOC, email crystal.tackaberry1@us.army.mil.



Amanda Hoffer, right, prepares clothing for Afghanistan Sept. 3 as part of a group service project by the Women from the Military Council of Catholic Women and Protestant Women of the Chapel.

Summer hire program provides teens valuable work experience

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

When the end of the school year approached, students across the U.S. began thinking of that annual teenage rite of passage, one of the first toe-holds into the world of adulthood: the summer job.

During that first summer, tasks they will soon come to dread - filling out W-2 forms, copying down shift schedules - seem exciting and responsible.

Like their counterparts in the U.S., American high school students living in Germany start to long for a paycheck during those few months of summer vacation.

However, for military family members finding a summer job is not as easy as walking into the nearest restaurant or clothing store.

They may not speak the local language, and even if they do, working off-post would involve complicated visas or work-permits that may not be an option.

Acknowledging these obstacles, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels and other employers offered teens a chance to work on post as part of the Summer Hire Program.

"Since we're overseas this is the only, and first, opportunity for these kids to get to be in the workplace, so it's really important we continue it," said Michelle Wolff, garrison school liaison officer.

The students seemed to agree.

"I had fun and learned about how to work with other people and have some responsibility, which helps in the future," said Sarai Orozco, a senior who worked at the Hilltop Chapel Center.

Though a small post and a limited budget meant opportunities were limited, students were placed in positions with the garrison, operations group and health clinic.

"It's hard to get jobs here so it's a great program. It helps you get some work experience," said senior Sarah Adams. "And it's a nice paycheck, especially since we only work for six weeks."

"A lot of students haven't had the chance yet to get some experience, plus you get a chance to see what it's like to get a reward for your work," said Emily Adams, also a senior.

For Justin McBride, part of the reward was not just the experience, but the interactions with other students. McBride, 17, graduated from the German school system and entered Hohenfels High School as a senior last month.

"It is a way to get to know some kids so I

don't have to be alone. There will be a familiar face when I go to school next year," said McBride, who added this is his third summer with the program. "I don't know what I want to do yet, so if I have lots of different things I'll be more squared away."

McBride said he knew he wanted a more labor intensive job that got him away from an office, so he was placed with Outdoor Recreation.

Wolff said she worked hard to find the right placement for each student, taking into consideration the student and the employer's preferences as well as insight from teachers and from her own experiences with the students.

"No organization is ever forced to take a summer hire and no kid goes somewhere they don't want to. We work hard to make this a really positive experience."

Installation Operation Center employees offer assistance, compassion during times of crisis

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

If you were to walk into Bldg. 309, headquarters of U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, on any given day and take a look at the person sitting behind the Installation Operations Center desk, they might seem like any other job.

They might be on the phone or working on the computer, but the five men who work the IOC desk are not your typical office drones. Actually, they are probably best described as superheroes in disguise.

"We do the things people don't see, the things behind the scenes," said Chris Koivisto, supervisory operations specialist.

One of the most important of those behind the scenes functions is to serve as a central location for emergencies that occur either on or off post.

"You could say we are the overseas equivalent of 911 - you just need to dial a few more digits," said Koivisto.

If any member of the Hohenfels community needs emergency assistance, whether it is a family member having a heart attack or a training accident on post, they can call the IOC and know they will be understood and that help will be on the way.

"Especially for a new person who doesn't know anybody and doesn't know the language, to call in and speak English to someone and know they are being understood, that is a big deal," said Koivisto.

After receiving an emergency call, the officer on duty notifies the proper agency to get that caller help as quickly as possible.

"We have assets at our fingertips that we can call in and fix most situations," said Koivisto, adding that all IOC officers are trained in



Luis Pagan-Arroyo, duty officer at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Installation Operations Center, might look like your average office worker, but he and his four colleagues are the garrison's behind-the-scenes machine that, among many other things, provide help during emergency. Reach them at DSN 466-4519.

emergency management through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Those are some subject matter experts when it comes to emergency management," said Tony Williams, who worked at the IOC desk for a year before becoming garrison chief of operations.

Those emergency management skills extend far beyond handling calls about isolated emergencies. If a disaster, natural or man-made, strikes, the IOC turns into the Emergency

Operations Center and becomes ground zero for crisis management. They notify the garrison commander and agency directors and begin sorting through information with the ultimate goal of returning the community to normal operations as quickly as possible.

All these procedures are practiced annually during the installation force protection exercise and throughout the year with training and other events.

"We 'what if' everything to death because we want to be as prepared as

we can be," said Koivisto.

And as if constantly working to keep the garrison and its community members safe was not enough, the IOC staff fulfill many other duties that are almost too numerous to count.

They send out information about weather warnings, school closings and road closures. They run video teleconferences for the garrison, plan ceremonies such as changes of command and place information on the Command Information Channel. They coordinate reintegration for

re-deploying Soldiers, maintain the emergency taxi ride home program, and receive Red Cross messages after hours. They often serve as a liaison between hospitals and units, coordinate with military police to issue emergency vehicles and notify social work services when needed.

They do all of this in twelve-hour shifts day and night, every day of the week, every week of the year, including Christmas, Thanksgiving, Fourth of July and any other holiday on the calendar.

"There would be a huge void without them," said Williams. "A lot of people wouldn't sleep very well at night."

To succeed in a job with such an incredibly diverse job description requires a person with a unique skill set and a wealth of knowledge about the system.

"We have to be able to think fast: What is the best course of action? What are your resources? How you think can save somebody's life," said Luis Pagan-Arroyo, IOC duty officer.

On top of being good on their feet, Koivisto said compassion is their number one asset.

"The bottom line is how would I like the situation to be handled if I was the one on the other end of the line? Compassion, understanding and basic human kindness is what we try to inspire in everybody," said Koivisto.

Compassion however can be an asset or a liability. More than anything, the staff at the IOC desk takes their responsibility to the community very seriously.

"It is a very fulfilling job," said Koivisto. "If you can help just one person you get to take that home with you. Though there are those times you can't help and someone dies - you take that home with you too."

Garrison welcomes new command sergeant major

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Command Sgt. Maj. Brenda Kadet took responsibility of U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels from Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cofield during a ceremony Sept. 1 at the post theater.

Cofield had been serving as the acting garrison command sergeant major since the retirement of Command Sgt. Maj. Perry Clark in May.

Before welcoming Kadet, Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, garrison commander, thanked Cofield for a job well done and said the garrison is indebted to him for his service to the Hohenfels community.

"As the Army we have officially designated 2009 as the year of the NCO. I would offer every year is the year of the NCO... The noncommissioned officer core is and always will be the backbone of our Army," said Quarles.

When welcoming Kadet, Quarles noted that after enlisting in the Army in 1984 she reached the rank of master sergeant in less than 14 years.

"Command sergeant major Kadet's rich special operations and conventional assignment

history and wealth of experience includes 62 months of service in overseas assignments, the last 15 of which she served as a command sergeant major in combat in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 07-09.

"She already has five years of command sergeant major experience before setting foot into this job," said Quarles.

Kadet said she looks forward to working with the commander and fellow sergeants major from across the garrison to provide for the Soldiers and families of Hohenfels.

"My vision is simple: to continue placing the highest priority on taking care of Soldiers and families, to strive to provide Soldiers and families with a level of support commensurate with their level of service and sacrifice, and to continue focusing on providing that support with exceptional customer service."

Command Sgt. Maj. Brenda Kadet, left, accepts the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels guidon from Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, garrison commander, during a Change of Responsibility ceremony Sept. 1 at the post theater.



Experienced commander takes reins of 527th Military Police

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Capt. Richard Gautier took command of the 527th Military Police Company from Maj. Michael Capps during a ceremony Aug. 31 at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels post gym.

Gautier attended Basic Combat Training and Officer Candidate School in 2005, later deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2006-2008.

Before taking command of the 527th, Gautier served as the Deputy Provost Marshal of the 500th Military Police Detachment in Fort

Leavenworth, Kan.

He holds a master's degree from Wright State University and a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University.

Capps received his commission in 2001 after earning a bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston. He later earned a master's degree from Webster University.

Capps served in OIF from 2005-2007. He commanded the 527th during a 15-month-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2008-2009.

Capps' next assignment will be with the 289th MP Co.

Marriage Retreat

All active duty Soldiers and spouses are invited to join the Family Life Center on a Marriage Retreat to the Beautiful Edelweiss Lodge and Resort Sept. 18-20. Breakfast, dinner, childcare, rooms, transportation, and marriage classes are included. You provide lunch and a great attitude. Call Angel Dilmore, Family Life Coordinator, at DSN 466-3473 or email angelique.dilmore@eur.army.mil to sign up.



What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

NES Open House

Parents and caregivers of Netzaberg Elementary School students are warmly invited to come to the school's open house Thursday from 4-6 p.m. to hear about their child's education program for the new school year.

Meet teachers and hear what about plans for NES this school year.

For more, call NES at DSN 472-9184, CIV 09645-917-9184/9185

Customer Service Assessment

Participate in the 2009 annual Customer Service Assessment now through Friday.

Customers who live, work or do business at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr have an opportunity to rate the importance and performance of garrison services by logging onto www.my-armyvoice.org.

For more, call CIV 09641-83-8881 or e-mail usagggrafenwoehr.cms@eur.army.mil.

Operation Rising Star

Win the ultimate recording music experience Friday.

Local winners win \$500 cash & advance to the televised finals; 2nd place wins \$250 in cash; 3rd place wins \$100 in cash.

Audience, come vote and win prizes too. Three-hundred dollars will be awarded to the most supportive unit or Family Readiness Group.

Singers must be Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard or military family members 18 and older. Doors open at 6 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center, Bldg. 102/103.

For more, call DSN 475-6426, CIV 09641-83-6426.

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Larry E. Candler of LFOA-Europe should contact the summary court martial officer Capt. Geerati Choosang at DSN 474-2485, or e-mail geerati.choosang@eur.army.mil.

Karaoke night at "The Zone"

Come Friday for karaoke night at "The Zone" Sports Bar in Vilseck at 9 p.m. Songs range from adult contemporary to old school R&B and everything in between. Music by DJ Mark C.

Parking restrictions

Per direction from the garrison commander, parking restrictions are continuing to be implemented at various community service areas on Grafenwoehr and Vilseck during increased force protection awareness leading up to the German national elections Sept. 27.

Please continue to be patient with these restrictions and use consolidated

parking areas near the restricted areas.

American Legion

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

'Chewonit' performs

The local U.S. rock band, 'Chewonit,' will perform at the Vilseck VFW Open House, in Bldg. 133, Saturday starting at 8 p.m. The band offers a wide assortment of rock music from the 70's on. Open to all community members. Adults only.

Netzaberg shoppette opening

The Netzaberg Shoppette will hold its grand opening Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.

The facility will have a four-pump island, a fully functional Snack Ave with drink station and complete Java Coffee program, a selection of DVDs to rent and books and magazines to purchase, a walk-in cooler for cold beverages and a Class Six section.

Free and reduced lunch

All Free and Reduced School Lunch applications, including new applications for this school year and re-applications for the upcoming school year, will be processed through CYS Central Registration offices on Rose Barracks (Vilseck) Bldg. 224, or Grafenwoehr Bldg. 244.

CYS Central Registration Rose Barracks (Vilseck) is open from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and the Grafenwoehr Central Registration is open from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more, call CIV 09662-83-2760 or e-mail cysinfo@eur.army.mil.

Passport photos

The Grafenwoehr Passport Office will begin offering free passport and immigration visa photos to customers beginning Sept. 21.

Customers will now be able to complete the application process on USAG Grafenwoehr in Bldg 244, room 134.

AL-ANON

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

For more, call CIV 0171-983-9151.

Bowling

Join the bowling center Sept. 27 for the King of the Hill tournament beginning at 11 a.m.

The center now has new hours. Hours are Monday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Tuesday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 11a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday 2-8 p.m. The center is closed Wednesdays.

For more, call DSN 476-6177.

Hispanic-American heritage

Celebrate Hispanic-American heritage month Friday from 11:30 a.m.-1

p.m. at the Field House at Grafenwoehr.

There will be ethnic food samples, giveaways, and more. The event is open to the entire community.

For more, contact Master Sgt. Brown at DSN 475-8038 or e-mail celeste.brown@eur.army.mil.

Gospel tour

The "Lift Up Your Spirit" gospel tour, Sept 22 at the Grafenwoehr Feild House, will feature Trin-i-Tee 5:7, Deitrick Haddon, Daminta Haddon and Spensha as well as an appearance by the Army's 2008 Operation Rising Star Winner, Joyce Dodson.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. More details will be available at www.mwr-europe.com.

Back to school trivia

Join the Grafenwoehr Community and Spouses Club Thrift Shop, Bldg 508, for a fun filled evening of trivia and prizes Sept. 22 at 6 p.m..

The event is open to all GCSC members. New members are welcome to join.

Cost is \$10 per person and entants must be 18 or older.

RSVP by tomorrow to gcscmembership@yahoo.com.

Antique Hunt Club

The Vilseck Community and Spouses Club, "Antique Hunt Club" heads to a variety of destinations each month to find great European antique treasures. Meeting are the first Tuesday of each month and car pool from the Vilseck Commissary at 9 a.m. and return by 3 p.m.

RSVP to mail@vcsconline.com or Christina Vaughn at CIV 0173-4531837.

Vilseck book club

Sistas Book Connection will be discussing the book of the month Sept. 24, The Devil Is A Lie by Reshonda Tate Billingsly.

The meeting will be on the second floor of the Rose Barracks Library from 6-8 p.m.

Anyone is welcome to attend. RSVP to Tranese Washington at CIV 0174-6756489 or e-mail tranese.washington@yahoo.com.

BOSS Bash

Enjoy a BBQ, a DJ and Sporting Events at Little Mike Lake, Rose Barracks Sept. 25, from noon- 5 p.m.

For more, contact the BOSS president Robert Shomper at DSN 475-8822, CIV 09641-83-8822.

Garmisch Briefs

"Stomp"

Enjoy this athletic theater piece in Munich at the Circus Krone Sept. 29-Oct. 4, cost 29-59 Euro (children under the age of 16 are half price).

For more, call DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

Rothenburg Meistertrunk

Visit the famous walled city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber October 3, and watch the Meistertrunk, a reenactment of the morning of October 30, 1631, when the city was surrounded by the emperor's troops facing the pending plunder and destruction of their fine city. See how this city was saved.

The bus departs at 6 a.m. Cost is \$39. For more or to sign up, Call DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

Top Chef, Garda See

Join us for the vacation of a lifetime Oct. 9-12. Cost is \$450 per person.

The best trips are the ones that teach

you something new - this trip includes two days of cooking classes in a villa, three nights in a lakeside apartment for two, pool, sauna and breakfasts on the terrace.

For more or to sign up, call DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

"Ben Hur Live"

Watch the classic theatre Oct. 30-31, cost 120 Euro at the Olympic Hall in Munich. Show includes the recreation of the famous chariot race.

For more, call DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

Thanksgiving in Paris

The trip has become a tradition - like the turkey!

Call DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638 for cost and details.

SEPTEMBER SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH
Prevent suicide. Be willing to help.

Need to Talk?

- Army Community Service: DSN 354-6933/CIV 09721-96-6933
- Army Substance Abuse Program: DSN 354-1710/CIV 09721-96-1710
- Behavioral Health: DSN 354-6231/CIV 09721-96-6231
- Family Life Chaplain: DSN 354-6135/CIV 09721-96-6135
- Garrison Chaplain: DSN 354-1370/CIV 09721-96-1370
- Military Family Life Consultants: 0151-100-23585/CIV 0175-379-4691
- Social Work Service: DSN 354-6276/CIV 09721-96-6276
- Military Police Emergency: DSN 114/CIV 09721-96-114

USAG Schweinfurt Suicide Prevention Task Force

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Comrad Support & Community Service

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Grainau Musikpavillion
Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 1930
Garmisch

(No Federal Endorsement of Sponsors) Intended

The United States Army Recruiting Command

www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter

Recruit the Recruiter Team

ATTENTION ALL SOLDIERS!

The **Recruit the Recruiter Team** will brief all Specialists through Sergeants First Class regarding the benefits, challenges, and qualifications of recruiting duty.

Tower Theater, Grafenwoehr, Sept. 29 at 1:30 p.m.

Camp Normandy, 7th Army NCO Academy, Sept. 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Rose Barracks Theater, Vilseck, Sept. 30 at 9:30 a.m.

Multi-Purpose Instruction Center Bldg 1, Hohenfels, Sept. 30 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Attendance by all NCO s is highly encouraged. Spouses may also attend. This briefing in no way obligates you for recruiting duty. If interested visit the Web site above, complete your packet and bring it to the brief.

Any problems or question please contact Sgt. 1st Class Hayes at stateside CIV 1-877-465-9035

What's Happening

Hohenfels Briefs

Story time

Children in grades K-5 are invited for an afternoon of stories, games, rhymes and activities at the library Sept. 16 starting at 3 p.m. Registration is not required. For more, call DSN 466-1740.

Texas Hold'em, Bunco

MWR patrons are invited to enjoy either Texas Hold'em or Bunco Sept. 18. Texas Hold'em registration fee is \$25 which includes a light buffet. Bunco registration fee is \$10 and also includes a light buffet. Doors will open at the Zone at 5:30 p.m. and the games will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more, call DSN 466-2060.

Marriage retreat

All active duty Soldiers and spouses are invited to join the Family Life Center on a Marriage Retreat to Edelweiss Lodge and Resort Sept. 18-20. Breakfast, dinner, childcare, rooms, transportation, and marriage classes are included. You provide lunch and a great attitude. Call Angel Dilmore, Family Life Coordinator, at DSN 466-3473 or e-mail angelique.dilmore@eur.army.mil to sign up. Slots are filling up fast.

Community health fair

The Community Health Fair will be at the Post Gym, Bldg. 88 Sept. 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This is a one-day event to provide information on programs and activities throughout the community as well as information on preventative healthcare, TRICARE benefits, and Primary Care Manager enrollment. The Health Clinic staff will also be hosting a Bone Marrow Screening drive.

Munich Oktoberfest

Enjoy the original Oktoberfest in Munich with ITR. The bus will depart Hohenfels from ODR, Bldg. H15. Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 the bus will leave at 8 a.m. and return around 1 a.m. Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 the bus will depart at 8 a.m. and return at 10 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person and includes transportation to and from Oktoberfest. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. For more, call DSN 466-2060.

Arevita Spa

ITR is going to the Arevita Spa in Amberg Sept. 23 where you will enjoy

a standard facial, eyebrow and half-leg waxing or manicure or pedicure, full body massage, sauna, steam bath, "waterbed" and a light lunch.

The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from ODR and will return around 2:30 p.m. Each trip is limited to eight guests. The cost is \$110 per person. Other services may be selected upon arrival to the spa. Bring Euros and they do accept the VAT form.

Trip to Kloster Weltenberg

The St. Michael's Catholic Community will be taking a trip to Kloster Weltenberg Sept. 19, the oldest monastery in Bavaria and a prize-winning brewery. Included in the trip is a river cruise on the Danube River and transportation to and from Hohenfels. Space is limited, so sign up early. To sign up, contact the Parish Office at DSN 466-2226 or e-mail naomi.evans@eur.army.mil.

Crystal shopping with ITR

Normally a wholesale only outlet, the Cesa Lipska outlet in Cheb, Czech Republic will open only for this group and offer wholesale and below wholesale prices on crystal items. After time at the outlet, ITR will venture into Cheb for some more shopping at the Asian Dragon Marts. The bus will depart Hohenfels Saturday from ODR, Bldg. H15, at 4 a.m. to arrive at the Cesa Lipska outlet by 9 a.m. and return to Hohenfels around 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person and includes transportation. Passports are required. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. For more, call DSN 466-2060.

CPR and first aid class

Combined CPR and first aid classes are available in Hohenfels Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in Bldg. 10, and provide attendees with the knowledge and skills necessary to help sustain life in an emergency. The cost is \$40 for both classes and must be paid to reserve a slot. Bring a sack lunch to the class. For more, visit the Red Cross office in Bldg. 10 or call DSN 466-1760.

AWANA

AWANA, a worldwide, non-denominational Christian children's ministry for children grade K-6, will take place in the Hilltop Chapel, Bldg. 6 Sept. 22 and 29 from 3-4:45 p.m. Join other AWANA members for Bible stories, music and games every Tuesday from 3-4:45 p.m. To register your children, call Jason or Betsy Meharg at 09492-601831 or e-

mail betsymeharg@yahoo.com or jason.meharg@us.army.mil.

Catholic religious education

Catholic religious education will begin for the fall following school on Sept. 23. School pickup is available. Classes will be held at both the Hilltop Chapel Center, Bldg. 6, and at the Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2. To enroll your child, kindergarten through grade 8, contact Amanda Hoffer at tabhoffer@yahoo.com or call the Parish office at DSN 466-2226.

First Communion

Classes for Catholic first Holy Communion will begin for the fall following school on Sept. 23. Children must be at least seven years old and in grade 2 to enroll. Contact Amanda Hoffer at tabhoffer@yahoo.com or call the Parish Office at DSN 466-2226 to enroll.

Catholic teen confirmation

Classes for Catholic Confirmation will begin for the fall Sept. 23. Teens must be at least 13 years old and in grade 8 to enroll. Contact Amanda Hoffer at tabhoffer@yahoo.com or call the Parish office at DSN 466-2226 to enroll.

Testing services at Ed Center

The AFCT will be offered at 9 a.m. Sept. 23. You must have a DA Form 4187 signed by the commander. The ACT will be given at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 7. The initial test is free for the military. This test usually takes six to eight weeks to get the results back. The tests at the Education center are primarily for entrance into the officer candidate programs. High School students must contact Hohenfels High School for national test dates for the SAT and the ACT. For more, call Bobbi Jensen at DSN 466-4040. Testing Services are offered in Bldg. 351.

Sunday Screenings restart

Pop some popcorn, bring a bottle of soda, and get comfortable on the couch at the library on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4-6 p.m. for some excellent foreign films on the big-screen TV. The Sept. 27 showing will be of the Uruguay/France/Brazil filming of The Pope's Toilet. Due to some mature content, ages 17 and older only. For more, call DSN 466-1740.

Spouse leadership conference

Army Community Services is presenting the first-ever Hohenfels Spouse Leadership Conference Sept. 29-30. This two-day offsite event is keynoted by military spouses and authors Kathie Hightower and Holly Scherer presenting their acclaimed seminar "Follow Your Dreams While You Follow the Military." Registration will be limited to 100 people. All conference fees have been waived for Hohenfels spouses. Free childcare will be provided if you register by Sept. 16. For more and to register call ACS at DSN 466-4860.

Basketball league

Registrations are ongoing for FMWR Sports 3 on 3 Basketball League. Registration has been extended until Sept. 30 and the season will begin on Oct. 6. If you have a team and are interested in playing, contact the sports staff at DSN 466-2868 or stop by and fill out a registration form or send an e-mail to dmlwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil and a registration form will be sent to you.

Holiday greetings program

The Joint Hometown News Service team from San Antonio will be traveling to Hohenfels on Oct. 1 to record holiday greetings for broadcast on television and radio stations in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The team will be set up in front of the Warrior Sports Café from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and in front of the Main Post Exchange from 2-6 p.m.

Volleyball players needed

FMWR Sports is looking for Volleyball players by Oct. 1 to fill the team rosters for the upcoming Community Volleyball season. Both men and women are needed for the teams. Practice will take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Post Gym, Bldg. 88. If interested, contact the sports staff

at DSN 466-2883 or Bill Craven at DSN 466-2868 or e-mail dmlwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil for more.

Polish pottery

Poland is known for its handcrafted goods such as Polish pottery. Enjoy a full day shopping for the traditional crockery at one of the most popular cities to find the renowned ceramics, Boleslawiec. The bus will depart Hohenfels Oct. 10 from ODR, Bldg. H15, at 4 a.m. and return around 11 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person and seating is limited. To reserve your seats, call DSN 466-2060.

Ansbach Briefs

Rate Your Army Home

USAG Ansbach community members can participate in the Web-based Customer Service Assessment at www.myarmyvoice.org now through Friday. The survey allows you to rate the performance and importance of garrison organizations. You can also link to the survey at the top of the garrison website at www.ansbach.army.mil.

Newcomer orientation

Katterbach Army Community Service hosts a newcomer orientation, "People Encouraging People," Sept. 22 and 23. The event features a driving tour of the community, a visit to a German hospital, the Aquella swimming pool and a tour of Ansbach. Attendees will also learn basic German phrases and use of the bus system. The trip is open to the whole family. Bring Euro for the bus and also for lunch. For more, call ACS at DSN 467-2883, CIV 09802-83-2883.

School lunch program

Free and reduced-price school lunch program applications are available now for the next school year. Applications can be picked up at Army Community Services, Department of Defense Dependent Schools or from the school liaison officer in Bldg. 5817 on Katterbach across from the community mail room. Applicants should complete the form and bring it with a copy of the sponsor's orders and most recent leave and earnings statement to ACS.

Personnel office hours

The Ansbach Military Personnel Division has new operating hours for its offices. ID card section is open Mondays,

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8 a.m.-4 p.m. with last customer sign in at 3:45 p.m. Wednesdays are for appointments only. Installation Access System is open Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Passport section is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m., closed Fridays from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. for training and open from 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays are for appointments only. Reassignment actions is open Mondays-Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Fridays the office is closed from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. for training and open 1-4 p.m. and Wednesdays for appointments only. For more, call DSN 467-2630, CIV 09802-83-2630.

Learn German

Katterbach Army community Service hosts German classes for beginners and also for those who know the basics throughout the year. German 1 is scheduled for Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21. German 2 is scheduled for Sept. 16, 22 and 23. All classes take place from noon-1 p.m. at Katterbach ACS. For more, call DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-83-2883.

Instructors wanted

Ansbach's Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills Unlimited is looking for people willing to share their expertise with community youth in a variety of skills - and earn money in the process. SKIES Unlimited program needs instructors in culinary arts, art, hip hop dance, voice and German language. For more, call DSN 468-7303, CIV 0981-183-303.

Now hiring

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club Thrift Store is hiring for various positions. Those interested should stop by the store on Katterbach for an application. The Ansbach Thrift Store is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Thursdays from noon-6 p.m. For more, call CIV 0176-631-07391.

Foster parents needed

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program is looking for interested families to become emergency foster care providers. The EPC program provides substitute family care for children over a planned period of time when children's own parents are unwilling or unable to care for them. If interested, call DSN 467-2146, CIV 09802-83-2146.

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featuring
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Also Appearing: ARMY's 2008 Operation Rising Star Winner Joyce Dodson

Grafenwoehr Sept. 22
Bamberg Sept. 23
Ansbach Sept. 24

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LOG ON TO WWW.MWR-EUROPE.COM
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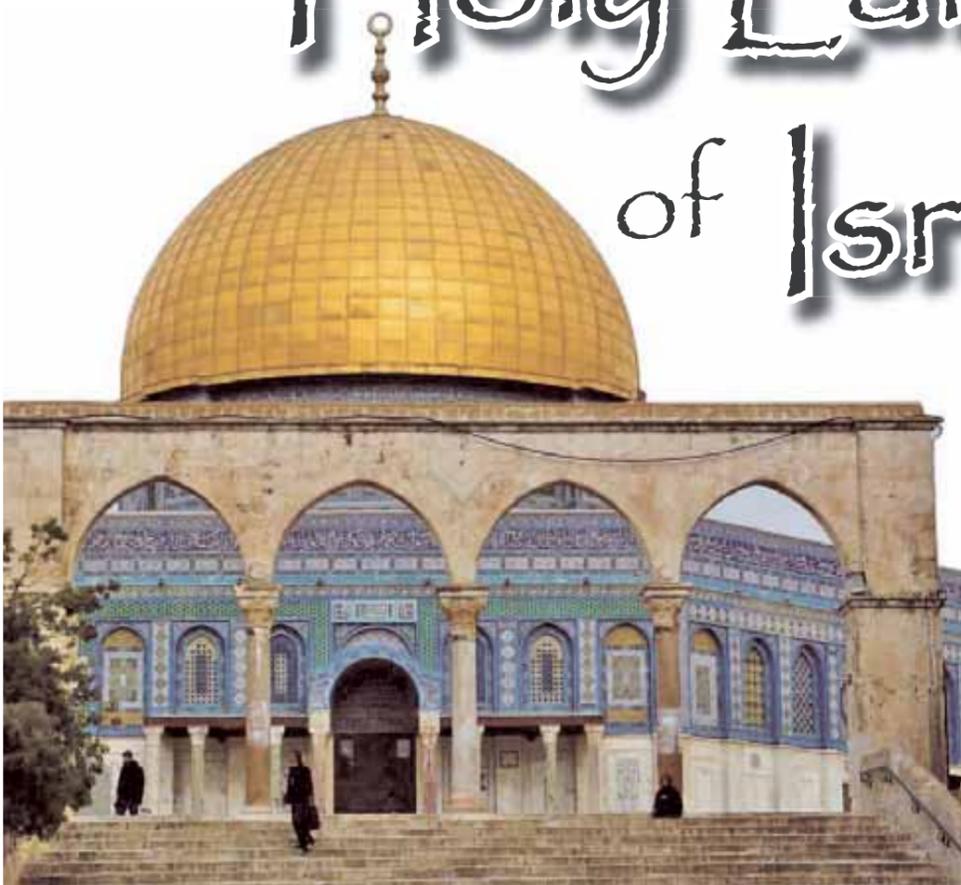
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The Holy Land of Israel



Photos by Daniel Wilson

Above: Day tours can be taken from Tel Aviv or Jerusalem to places like the ruins of the port city of Caesarea. In 22 B.C., Herod the Great began extensive construction in the city of a deep sea harbor, storerooms, markets, wide roads, baths, temples to Rome and Augustus, and more.

Left: Beyond the Wailing or Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock towers with its golden-domed rooftop. Visitors are restricted access to this area during Muslim prayer times.

by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

A land that has been fought over for thousands of years and conquered by many empires and rulers is definitely worthy of a well-planned visit.

Holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims alike, the city of Jerusalem unfolds its history of many wars and occupations and is now a place that many consider the ultimate pilgrimage with its abundant culture, stories and religion.

For those wanting to avoid the hot and dry months of the summer, traveling to Israel during the winter months will offer temperatures in the 60s, some rainfall and less crowds. Booking the vacation with a tour company, religious group, or school is possible, but some prefer to brave the trip on their own by booking daily tours or renting a car.

For those that choose the latter, several tips will allow for a remarkable vacation that will offer memories for a lifetime.

Old City Jerusalem

Affordable hotels and hostels can be reserved in advance in the Old City of Jerusalem for a great

jumping off point to many of the city's walkable sights. Visitors can witness the holy prayers sent heavenward at the Western or Wailing Wall, what is said to be one of the holiest places near where the second Jewish temple once stood until it was destroyed in the year 70 A.D.

Tours of the underground must be booked up to weeks in advance for those interested in seeing the massive remains of the temple walls below the city.

Beyond the wall, the Dome of the Rock towers with its golden-domed rooftop. Visitors are restricted access to this area during Muslim prayer times.

Nearby, the Jerusalem Archaeological Park museum uncovers the wonders that have been unearthed to date. Archaeological digs continue in this area to this day, revealing more and more of Jerusalem's colorful history.

The wealthy way of living during the Herodian Era (37 to 4 BC) is uncovered at the Wohl Archaeological Museum in another part of the Old City.

The ever-popular Church of the Holy Sepulchre is led up to by the Via Dolorosa, or the 14 Stations of the Cross. Though the route has changed

throughout the centuries due to argument between factions, following the Via Dolorosa, may offer a glimpse of the path walked by Christ carrying the cross on the way to crucifixion.

The church claims to be the location of Christ's death and burial. But booking a tour in advance for the rival Garden Tomb near the Damascus gate may be of more satisfaction to the visitor looking for more answers.

Israel and beyond

Many day trips outside of Jerusalem can be taken by rental car or by booking through various local tour companies. Travelers will find that a vacation to Israel can easily span a two-week time period when visiting the best hot spots.

Tel Aviv is a bustling university city that offers reasonably price accommodations, food and entertainment. One could spend an entire day at the Diaspora Museum at Tel Aviv University learning about the history of the Jewish people.

The city is also a good launch pad for day tours to places like the ruins of Caesarea or the magnificent mountain top city of Masada with a short float in the intensely salty Dead Sea on

the way home.

An overnight trip including a stay at a kibbutz (community lodging) can take tourists to the wine land of Golan Heights, the Jordan River, Nazareth and many other sites mentioned in the New Testament including the Sea of Galilee.

Though border crossing can be prohibited at times, tours can also be booked for the Palestinian territories of Bethlehem to see the birth place of Christ, and the city of Jericho, believed to be one of the oldest continuously-inhabited cities in the world, possibly dating back to 9000 B.C.

Some vacationers opt to take a two to three day trip to Petra, Jordan, during their vacation in Israel. Petra is considered to be the most famous and gorgeous site in Jordan and is now a UNESCO world heritage site as well as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Whatever the choice of travel to the holy land of Israel, visitors are likely to find their vacation well-spent when itineraries are planned in advance as well as knowledge gleaned ahead of time about the sights. The friendly locals welcome tourists and often speak fluent English to help any wayward traveler to enhance the experience of the land that they love.



Left: The Tower of David, or Citadel, near Old City Jerusalem's Jaffa gate offers extensive history of Jerusalem through multi-media outlets and presents a spectacular light show on its stone walls after dark.

Below: A visit would not be complete without a trek through the shopping stalls of the Cardo and the Muslim Quarter where tourists can haggle prices for souvenirs, food, and spices.



WWII medic, prisoner of war shares experiences with medical community

Story and photo by
JENNIFER WALSH
BMEDDAC PAO

As part of the 1st Infantry Division, 16th Regiment, retired Master Sgt. Charles Shay was part of the initial assault on Normandy on D-Day.

He was there at three o'clock in the morning when they were ordered to debark into small landing crafts; He was there at five o'clock in the morning when the orders came to proceed to the beach; And he was there at six o'clock in the morning when they hit the first obstacles the Germans had left in the water.

This is the experience Shay shared with the Soldiers at the Europe Regional Medical Command's Non-Commissioned Officer Conference held in Garmisch, Germany, Aug. 18.

Shay has more than 20 years of service under his belt and had a highly decorated and war-intensive military career. Shay, who has only talked about his experience at Normandy for a couple of years now, said he could easily sum up the event in three words.

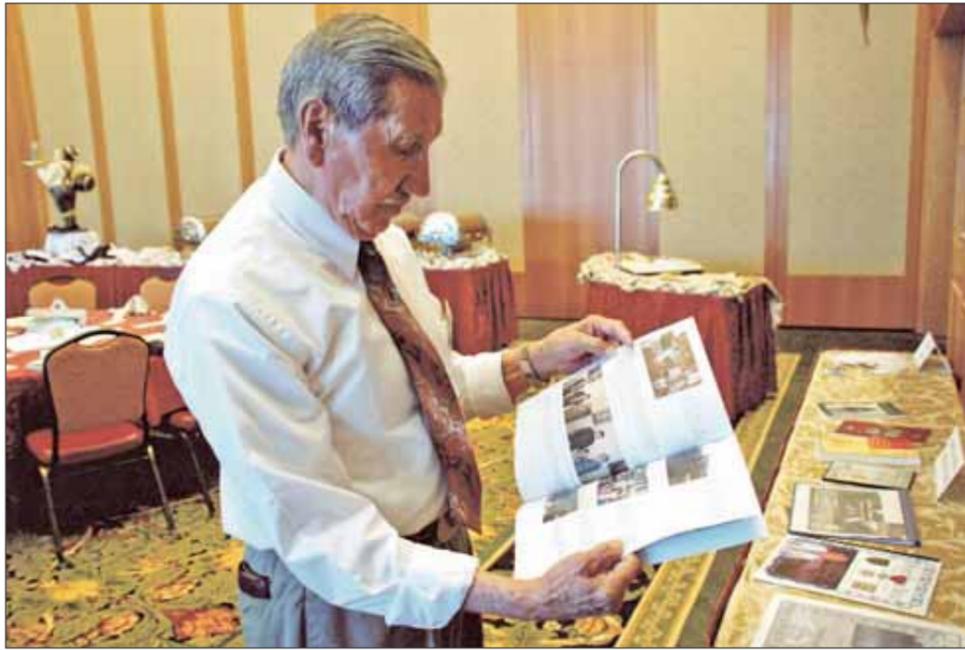
"It was hell," he said.

On June 6, 1944, orders came to debark the landing crafts and the invasion began, Shay said.

"When I jumped out of the landing craft I landed in water up to my chest," Shay said. "The Germans were sweeping the area with machine guns and small arms fire and many of the men standing at the forefront of the landing craft were struck. Some were killed immediately and some were seriously wounded and dropped into the water."

Shay managed to push his way forward to the beach and was able to use the obstacles as protection as he reached shallower water. His fellow Soldiers did the same and eventually large groups made it to the safety of the sand dunes on the beach. "I began immediately to do what I was trained to do," Shay said.

He was busy bandaging wounds, making makeshift splints, applying tourniquets, and giving morphine when he happened to glance back at the water and notice the tide was coming



Retired Master Sgt. Charles Shay reflects on his time in the service Aug. 18 at the Europe Regional Medical Command's Non-Commissioned Officer Conference.

up quickly.

"I saw that many men who had been wounded were floundering in the water trying to stay afloat so I dropped what I was doing, went back into the water and tried to pull as many men as I could to safety above the water line," Shay said. "I was able to do it for some time. I don't know where my strength came from, but I was able to save the life of several comrades."

For his selfless actions that morning on the beach, Shay was later awarded the Silver Star.

"He did his duty without someone telling him to, without him thinking twice about it. And when men were rolling into the sea he went out there and got them and saved their life because there was no one else to help," said Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, ERMC commanding general. "He

went out under extreme human sacrifice."

Part of Shay's sense of duty comes from his background as a Penobscot Indian. "The Native American has always been supportive and stood shoulder to shoulder with their American and Canadian brothers since the Revolutionary War," Shay said.

When Shay was drafted into the Army in April 1943, he was living on a small Indian reservation in Maine. According to Shay, about 82 men of the 500 people living on the reservation either volunteered or were drafted into military service.

Shay himself chose to be drafted because he was supporting his mother, who was an advocate for legal rights for Native Americans. "One of the main reasons I chose to be drafted is because we had no right to vote," Shay said.

Shay was drafted into the military and shortly thereafter he was told he would be a medic in the Army.

"I never had any background or history in medicine," Shay said. "They just pointed out you're going to be a truck driver, you're going to be a medic, you're going to be a cook."

From that point forward, Shay lived the military life. He fought at Normandy on D-Day. He was part of every major battle the 16th Regiment fought in WWII. Shortly before the war ended, he was taken as a prisoner of war.

Although this amount of service would be enough for most people, it was not enough for Shay. He continued to serve as a medic in the Army during the Korean War.

"The only difference between the two wars was the terrain we had to fight in," Shay said. "When we had wounded warriors, we had to climb up the mountains to get the wounded and the dead out."

When he finished his time in Korea, Shay decided two wars as part of the Infantry were enough and left the Army. He continued to serve as part of the Air Force Reserve and later went back to active duty as part of the Air Force. Eventually, he retired from military service altogether.

Following his military career, he worked for the International Atomic Energy Agency for 20 years, the Office of the High Commission for Refugees in Vienna, Austria, for two and a half years, and as a limousine driver and tour guide in Vienna for an additional 10 years.

He recently moved back to Maine where he promotes the history of his family and speaks to groups about his military experience.

Although he is no longer a medic, he continues to share a bond with his medical brethren and offered his gratitude for their service.

"You are playing a very important role today and you will go down in history in the United States' war against terrorism," Shay said. "I would like to pay tribute to you for the sacrifices you make and what you endure for your country."

Health benefits awareness month focuses on dental health, medical coverage while traveling

TRICARE Press Release

This is the second part of a two part series dealing with TRICARE benefits.

The month of September is the TRICARE Health Benefits Awareness Month.

During the month, TRICARE will focus on four important facets of good health:

- Physical health - week 1
- Mental health - week 2
- Dental health - week 3
- Travel Health - week 4

Dental health

We've come a long way in the last 100 years in the field of dental health. Painful toothaches, bleeding gums, bad breath, difficulty eating were pretty common at the turn of the century and many people over the age of 65 had already lost most or all their teeth.

Today, things are very different and most people work hard to take care of their teeth. Many children have never had a cavity thanks to fluorinated water, sealants and good daily dental care.

The following measure should be taken to ensure good dental health.

Dental care:

- Avoid eating or drinking items with high sugar content – if you do, brush immediately afterwards.
 - Brush at least twice a day – especially before bed.
 - Clean between teeth daily with floss or interdental brushes.
 - Visit your dentist regularly.
- Military dental treatment facilities provide care for active duty members; however, family members are seen on a space available basis.

TRICARE Dental Program is a great benefit for active duty family members, reservists and reserve

family members.

TDP is a voluntary, premium based dental insurance program that offers coverage for dental procedures received from certified host nation providers. The TDP program in Europe is the same one that covers military families in the states - except it actually offers better benefits.

■ Monthly premiums for a single family member are \$12.12, or \$30.29 for multiple family members (premium costs are adjusted each February). The government pays 60 percent of the cost of the dental insurance premiums.

■ Each enrollee is covered for a maximum of \$1,200 per contract year (1 Feb. – 31 Jan.) for most routine services.

■ TDP offers a lifetime maximum benefit of \$1,500 for orthodontics. Overseas, the benefit is 50 percent of the total cost.

■ Maternity Dental Benefit – allows for an additional (third) dental cleaning for mothers-to-be in a consecutive 12-month period at no additional charge

How do you enroll?

■ You can enroll in the TDP at the United Concordia Companies, Inc. Web site on-line or via mail.

Sponsors must enroll for a minimum of 12 months. You may e-mail UCCI at oconus@ucci.com or visit their Web site, www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com.

How to get care?

■ No referral is needed for routine dental care. Non-availability Forms are needed for orthodontics and implants.

■ "Preferred Dentists" will submit the claims for patients with UCCI – it is best to check before patients receive care, as you may have to "pay and claim" with some dental providers.

Retirees living overseas can now

take advantage of the Enhanced-Overseas TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. The TRDP is a voluntary dental benefits program with enrollee-paid premiums, administered by the Federal Services division of Delta Dental of California. Visit www.trdp.org for more details on the program and coverage specifics.

Travel health

There is nothing worse than starting off on a trip only to have the plans interrupted with an illness or accident. Part of any travel plans should include: what if ... ?

Your travel plans should include a review of a beneficiary's medical coverage and what steps one must take if the need should arise.

Travel preparations:

■ Pack your TRICARE Europe Passport.

■ Keep the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information for each beneficiary current.

■ Schedule any routine care needed before travel, and obtain adequate routine medications which travelers should carry with them (not in checked baggage). Any routine care obtained while traveling for Prime beneficiaries must be pre-approved by a patient's primary care provider or TRICARE service center.

■ Non-TRICARE beneficiaries traveling to Europe should check with their insurance carrier to see what is covered overseas and/or obtain travelers insurance.

■ If traveling to a foreign country it is important to see if there are any recommended immunizations that are needed before traveling.

■ If traveling to another country, it is wise to know the number for the American Embassy or Consulate and the local emergency phone numbers.



Courtesy photo

Beneficiaries can make appointments, refill prescriptions and take wellness courses at the TRICARE Web site, www.tricareonline.com.

Emergency Care

TRICARE defines an emergency as a medical, maternity, or psychiatric condition that would lead any prudent layperson to believe that a serious medical condition exists for which immediate medical treatment is needed to save life, limb, or eyesight.

■ Seek treatment immediately at the nearest military treatment facility or host nation hospital emergency room.

■ Active duty personnel traveling on temporary duty or temporary active duty or leave and Prime enrolled family members should contact the TRICARE Global Remote Alarm Center immediately for assistance. Beneficiaries can reach the center at CIV 0044-208-762-8429.

• The Alarm center can assist with locating appropriate medical care, emergency medical transportation and provide a guarantee of payment to the treating facility whenever possible.

■ Standard beneficiaries – should

also seek care immediately at the nearest emergency room, but be aware that most facilities in Europe will require upfront payment. Patients will have to pay for the services received and file a claim with TRICARE for reimbursement in the region where they live.

Urgent Care

TRICARE defines an urgent medical need as one for an illness or injury which does not require immediate treatment to avoid further disability or death, but requires professional attention and has the potential to become more serious if treatment is delayed longer than 24 hours.

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries should contact their TRICARE Service Center for guidance. TRICARE Standard beneficiaries can seek care locally and pay as claim as usual.

To view part one of the TRICARE benefits series, visit the Bavarian News archives at www.milcom.de.

Food service specialist deliver food, support to Soldiers throughout Iraq

Story and photo by
Capt. STEPHEN C. SHORT
172nd Infantry Brigade

Temperatures in Iraq can swell to over 120 degrees Fahrenheit, but that does not stop the food service specialists of the 172nd Infantry Brigade, from receiving, unloading and reloading thousands of pounds of food for shipment to hungry Soldiers at outlying bases.

Sometimes seven trucks a day arrive that require Blackhawk Soldiers to start unloading shipments as soon as possible, and the work is predominately done outdoors in the heat of the day or sometimes at night.

Food service Soldiers work hours ranging from 4 a.m. to sometimes 8 p.m., ensuring that food is unloaded and redistributed to anywhere from 350 to 900 Soldiers awaiting resupply.

"We had only six Soldiers to do Class I resupply when we arrived here in Iraq and there were a lot more shipments and bases to supply," said Staff Sgt. Billy J. Kearsner, non-commissioned officer in charge of Class 1 resupply, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Support Battalion.

"At one time we had over one million dollars in food shipments in one month, but now we are averaging around 90 thousand dollars per week," added Kearsner.



172nd Infantry Brigade food service specialists, Pfc. Danny R. Washington hands boxes of food to Spc. Belinda S. Dancil as Spc. Amra E. Webber prepares to receive and stack a pallet full of food supplies for storage. Brigade food service specialists unload trucks and prepare packaged loads for delivery to outlying bases.

Agility, a Kuwait based company, packages and ships food orders by truck to Forward Operating Base

Kalsu. Once the order arrives, Soldiers unload, repackage and reload specific orders for each base onto

trucks driven by Soldiers from the 172nd Support Bn. and 2nd Bn., 28th Infantry Regt., 172nd Inf. Bde.

"I've got 72 hours to unload a truck once it arrives, and then we have perishable and semi-perishable foods that have specific requirements," said Master Sgt. Arthur F. Ray, brigade senior food operations manager, HHC 172nd Inf. Bde.

A large forklift lifts pallets full of drinks and foods for positioning in front of storage containers or beside trucks, but the final step requires hands on lifting and human muscle to get the job done.

"When we first got here we didn't have forklifts and we were downloading all of the trucks by hand, but now we have a forklift plus more personnel and it has made their jobs a lot easier," added Ray.

Food service specialists work in dining facilities when not deployed but Class I resupply is a major mission for these Soldiers in a deployed environment.

Food service contractor companies provide most meals for the military in Iraq while Army food service Soldiers perform inspections and supervisory duties inside the facility.

"We rotate the Soldiers from resupply duties to working in the dining facility, but most of them prefer to be out working together," explained Kearsner. "They just don't complain. I've had as little as six Soldiers out there with trucks coming in and going out the same day, I've seen them work 12 to 14 hours."

Added insulation brings protection, relief from desert sun

Rodney Beckett, Honeywell Corporation coater, sprays a layer of foam on one of the battalion buildings. Each structure receives a two-inch polyurethane layer of foam sprayed directly on the surface, which creates hard shell insulation on the outside of the structure.

Photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little



by **Capt. STEPHEN C. SHORT**
172nd Infantry Brigade

The 172nd Infantry Brigade, Blackhawks, are putting a coat of foam all over structures at Forward Operating Base Kalsu to help keep Soldiers a little cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

"Contractors from Honeywell Corporation will spray 369,000 gallons of foam on our base structures, which reduces the need for air conditioning output by 40 to 50 percent, said Capt. Devin W. Pompa, 172nd Inf. Bde. construction officer.

"It not only helps with insulation, but decreases dust and wind from getting in and the light yellow color reflects heat rather than absorbing it," added Pompa.

Each structure receives a two-inch polyurethane layer of foam sprayed directly on the surface, which creates hard shell insulation on the outside of the structure.

While the brigade has also directed the coating of hard wood structure and tin buildings, the fabric tents receive the most benefit. The medical, transient and public computer tents have been coated to help make them more efficient and comfortable. The foam coating also makes the tents last longer under the extreme environments of the desert.

TERRAStrong is the registered trade name of the nonflammable liquid foam that has notable environmental qualities. The spray foam

reduces the amount of electricity needed to cool or heat structures, which is a definite reduction of fossil fuels needed to run electricity-producing generators.

Major Gen. Ken Dowd, central command J4, was quoted as saying, "the majority of power usage in area of responsibility FOB's is for environmental control inside temporary structures."

"A foam insulation initiative has reduced the power requirement by 85 percent and air conditioning requirements by 50 percent in these buildings. The reduction in fossil fuel transportation for power generation also decreases vehicle fuel consumption and reduced convoy traffic saves lives," added Dowd.

Contractors began foaming the structures on FOB Kalsu Aug. 17 and plan to finish by Sep. 3.

The medical tents, battalion buildings, temporary living tents, fitness center and maintenance areas are some of facilities that will soon benefit from the insulation.

"In the back room of the gym, where it receives the most sun light, it has lowered the temperatures by about 10 degrees ... which has allowed us to work out even harder," said Sgt. 1st Class Stefan B. Sturkie, senior career counselor, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Inf. Bde.

"I think it is cool that they are doing this to keep us from sweating to death around here," added Sturkie.

Iraqi government gives Sons of Iraq double payment

by **Pfc. BETHANY LITTLE**
172nd Infantry Brigade

The Babil Province Sons of Iraq members received a double payment from the 4th Company, 31st Iraqi Army Brigade at Patrol Base Hamiyah, Iraq, Aug. 26.

Established in the spring of 2008, the SoI program creates jobs for local Sunni and Shiite citizens by asking them to maintain security checkpoints throughout their areas.

For the months of June and July, the 4th Company, 31st IA Bde., paid 3,205 SoI members 276,120 Iraqi Dinar for their services.

Soldiers of Echo Troop, 5th Cavalry oversaw the payments made to the SoI members on the Iraqi side of the patrol base here.

"This is a great opportunity for the Iraqi Government to show how

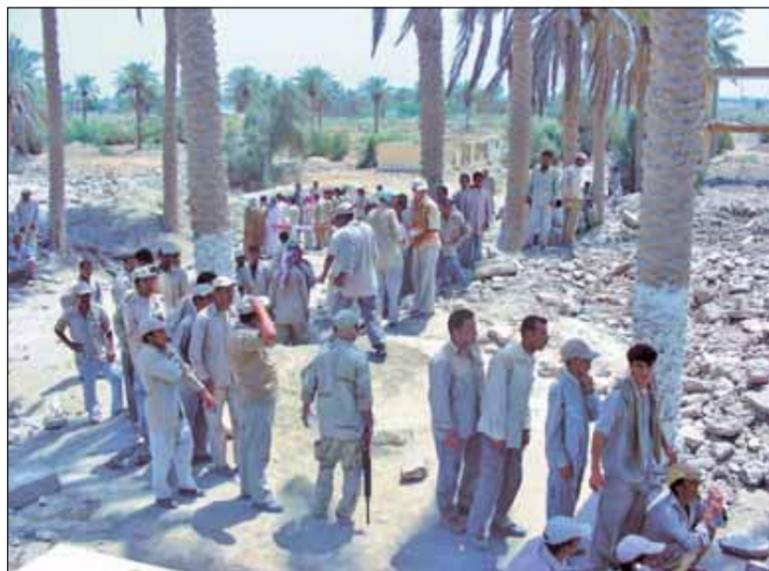
they are following their word on paying the SoI and continuing with the program without our help," said Staff Sgt. Jason M. Watson, headquarters platoon sergeant, Echo Troop, 5th Cav.

The Government of Iraq took over SoI payments in March 2009 from U.S. Coalition Forces.

The SoI help to support their own government and minimize U.S. military assistance by providing security for the surrounding areas.

Members of the Sons of Iraq program wait in line for payment from 4th Company, 31st Iraqi Army Brigade, for the months of June and July at Patrol Base Hamiyah, Iraq, Aug. 26.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Theriault



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

**172nd
 Infantry
 Brigade**

visit,
www.172infantry.army.mil/

Officials urge preparation when moving with animals, discourage abandoning pets

by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

Each year, many Soldiers and families prepare for a move, undertaking numerous steps necessary for a proper permanent change of station.

For pet owners, additional steps are involved, and abandoning the animal should not be one of them.

Recently, the number of abandoned pets, especially cats, has increased and become a growing concern for many animal lovers of the Schweinfurt community.

"Pets are not a three-year deal. It's a commitment. What's happening is these (animals) are being left behind and come winter, we're finding them dead. These domestic animals can't make it in the wild," said Christine Willis, a community member who has taken in several cats in the past few months hoping to find them a home. But despite her efforts, the problem continues.

Therefore, it is important potential owners understand the responsibilities that come with getting a pet, explained Dr. Sandra Brosig, staff veterinarian at the Schweinfurt Veterinary Clinic on Conn Barracks.

According to Brosig, preparation and planning are the most important tools when getting a pet, especially when it comes to PCSing.

"We have many, many different solutions

and options for Soldiers and families to consider before abandoning animals when they move. Of course the number one option is to take them with you," Brosig said.

According to Brosig, the main thing to know when it comes to shipping pets is to plan ahead by talking with them at the clinic. They are there to help the Soldier and family every step of the way.

"It's actually very simple. The bottom line is being proactive. As long as you make an appointment 30 days before the PCS for a quick exam and make an appointment ten days before you PCS to get the health certificate, you'll be set.

"Just call the vet, and they'll walk you through the whole process," said Capt. Rob McClelland, a Soldier of the 172nd Support Battalion who completed the procedures with his pet for his upcoming PCS.

For those considering not bringing their pets along, it is important they further understand what the best approach is to ensure their pets are safe and are adopted into a suitable home.

"There is an adoption book here. Or you can put an ad in to try and find the pet a home. We always have handouts and information available to help pet owners plan ahead for their PCS," Brosig said, encouraging community members to consider the alternatives and not abandon their pets.

"It's becoming a problem and it shouldn't be," Willis added.



Courtesy photo

Three kittens found on post were taken in by an animal lover of the Schweinfurt community and adopted later into new homes. Pet owners within the Schweinfurt community are encouraged to take the right action when preparing for a PCS.

Animals that don't find a home will end up in the nearby animal shelter, or tierheim. To contact the local tierheim, call CIV 09723-7770.

For more information on PCSing with pets, call the vet clinic at CIV 09721-96-8359 or stop by for informational handouts and brochures.

American Red Cross supports health clinic, Soldiers with \$2,000 shopping excursion

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

It's no ordinary sight to witness the Schweinfurt Health Clinic and American Red Cross shopping for

televisions at the Main Exchange. This special event took place Aug. 28, and it wasn't only TVs that they were buying.

"(Cheryl Dean) came over yesterday and said I've got \$2,000 we need to spend," said Schweinfurt health clinic

Commander Col. Patrick Denman, explaining the ARC Schweinfurt station manager's visit to the clinic the day before with federally funded grant money to support military hospitals and their outreach programs.

In this purchase, wall mounts and

DVD players were included along with the two televisions which will eventually hang in the pharmacy and the laboratory waiting rooms.

"We're going to use these for patient education," Denman said. "My intent ... (is to) have patient education rolling continuously." He hopes to eventually wire the entire clinic building for that specific purpose.

The \$2,000 was originally part of a larger grant totaling \$20,000 that the Schweinfurt ARC received and has been doling out primarily to the Warrior Transition Unit over the past year for items that aren't covered by existing government programs.

Recently, ARC purchased four orthopedic mattress sets for Soldiers living in the barracks who had undergone major back surgery. Other medical equipment for WTU Soldiers not covered by TRICARE has also been bought with the grant money to aid in the healing process.

"I'm just glad that they're my happy recipients," Dean said about the gratitude shown by both the WTU Soldiers and the health clinic.

"This office will be able to continue to assist our Schweinfurt military community with new opportunities to help and encourage good health," Dean said.

Health care booths bring info, prizes

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Do you know how TRICARE coverage works if you encounter a health emergency while traveling? What is the proper way to sit at your workstation to avoid possibly developing carpal tunnel syndrome or other debilitating conditions? Are there effective parenting strategies in handling a strong-willed child?

These questions and more can be answered by the Schweinfurt Health Clinic, which is on a mission to inform the community of the services it provides. In support of September's Health Benefits Awareness Month, informational booths will be set up at the Main Exchange and the health clinic on Ledward Barracks throughout the month.

"One of our main goals is to educate our beneficiaries on the health care benefits available to them," said Tammy Calvanico, TRICARE case manager assistant. "We're also hoping to raise awareness about the tools that are available online, one of which is the ability to schedule an appointment."

At the clinic itself today, there will be informational booths throughout the building emphasizing key points of interest, handing out free material and answering questions in all the departments. Additionally, attendees can enter their names in a raffle for prizes.

"Oftentimes, we're behind the scenes," said Maj. Vernell Jordan, chief of Army public health, Bavaria West, emphasizing the need to let the community know the services that are offered through the Schweinfurt health clinic. Preventative medicine and nutrition care feature valuable information in the booth at the Main Exchange Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The final booth Sept. 30 will run the same time period at the Main Exchange and will feature TRICARE, with fact sheets and brochures regarding TRICARE and dental, prime, standard, retirees, newborns and more.

Not only will the community find answers to their questions related to health care, but they will find the booths serve as a meeting point to converse with the medical providers in the community.

From left, Cheryl Dean, American Red Cross Schweinfurt station manager; Staff Sgt. Peter Berthold; Staff Sgt. Jeffery Johnson; and Col. Patrick Denman, health clinic commander, discuss the type of television to purchase as part of the clinic outreach program.



Bullseye

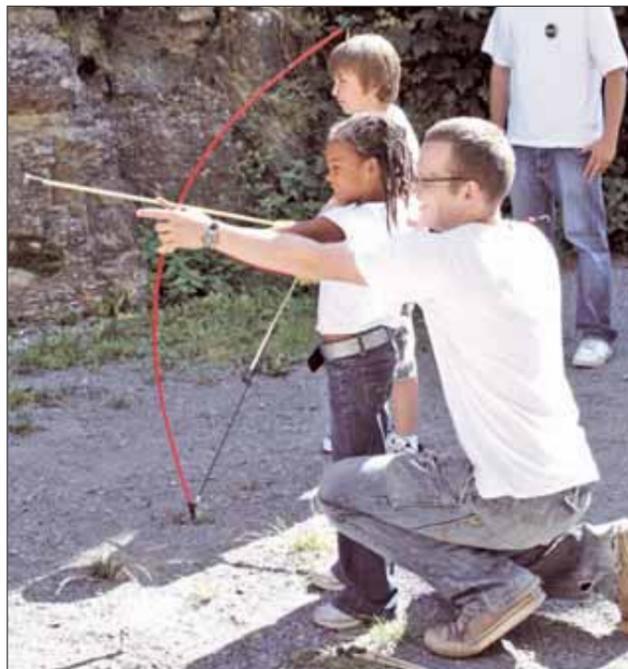
Catara Martinez, 7, aims an arrow at a target with the assistance of a German instructor while John Ekstrom, 10, looks on. Child, Youth and School Services invited its summer camp kids to join a German kids' camp for a day of adventure at Trimberg Castle in Elfershausen Aug. 19.

The Germany Infantry School of Hammelburg sponsored the German kids' camp as well as the partnership event for American children to attend. Participants were given the opportunity to rope climb, rappel, learn archery and a go on a scavenger hunt.

More than 80 children were in attendance, with nearly 40 of them from CYS Services' summer camp.



Photo by Daniel Jones



Military police vie for Top Dog title in three-day competition

by EMILY ATHENS
Bavarian News

The 630th Military Police Company of Schweinfurt completed a three-day "Top Dog" competition Aug. 21 that tested the skills of seven teams of handlers and their military working dogs.

The three-day competition included numerous events challenging not only the training abilities of handlers but also the performance skills of the working dogs.

"The competition was for teambuilding. It created a healthy competition within kennels to be the best while also serving as training for the dog and training for the handlers," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Pelkey, coordinator of the event.

The seven teams, two from Ansbach, two from Bamberg, and three from Schweinfurt, participated in seven different challenges including a written test, ruck march, a stress course, detection, the construction of a field kennel and first aid for dogs for a possible total of 700 points.

The competitor with the most points at the end of the contest took home the honorary top dog plaque, explained Pelkey.

According to Pelkey, a dog is assigned to a Soldier like a weapon would be assigned. The dogs come after completing initial training, and it's up to the Soldier to continue building basic training for the dog.

"The relationship between a working dog and a handler is based on trust and confidence in each other. It's based on rapport. This competition helped build that," Pelkey said, adding that it prepares the handlers and dogs for future missions.

"On a day to day basis, we're also training for our dogs. We train and do things to keep their senses up and keep it fresh in their minds what they're supposed to do," said Sgt. Nicholas



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Benjamin Webb and his military working dog, Ingo, from Schweinfurt finish up the ruck march and prepare for the obstacle course.

Najera, Schweinfurt dog handler who took first place overall in the competition with his narcotics military working dog, Fram.

According to Najera, the competitors enjoyed the events and viewed them as a learning experience in addition to a competition.

"It's a different change of pace. It brings everyone close together for a fun challenge, but at the same time, everyone can share their knowledge," Najera said.

"It sparked interest in the handler to do the best, to be the best," Pelkey added.

BOSS advisor receives top DA award

by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Had you asked her 28 years ago, perhaps she wouldn't have known about the kind of passion she would develop in the forthcoming years to serve single Soldiers to the best of her ability.

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation advisor to the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program in Schweinfurt Silvia Joiner, received the top Department of the Army award in August for her excellence in service to the program.



Joiner

The 2009 Felteus Edwards Award for FMWR Excellence to the BOSS Program goes only to one recipient Army wide, and this year Joiner outshined the rest.

"She has demonstrated a level of commitment and loyalty that far exceeds duties described in her job description," wrote Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander, in recommending Joiner for the award.

"I'll do it with an award or without an award. ... I do it because I can't help it," Joiner said, adding that she loves her job and feels honored to have received such prestigious recognition.

Not only has she garnered the personal accolades, but the program in which her energy is spent also brought home the DA first place award for "Best Event" in its size category for the second year in a row.

"(Joiner) has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty which is evident in our BOSS program being one of the best programs in the Department of the Army," wrote USAG Schweinfurt Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee, senior enlisted advisor to the BOSS program, in a recommendation letter for the award.

Joiner began working with Schweinfurt military community in 1981, and by 1987 found herself in the MWR field.

"I wanted to work with the Americans. ... I felt very comfortable with the culture," she said, explaining that, though born and raised in the nearby town of Sennfeld, much of her prior job experience was in the U.S.

For the last 20 years, since the inception of the BOSS program, Joiner has found that her work has naturally incorporated some of the things she enjoys most.

"I wanted to show (the single Soldiers) that there were other things in life," she said. "I knew there were bigger and better things to do on the weekends in Germany."

Planning trips, local events, and recreational activities has given her the opportunity to share the adventures with Soldiers who may not know the fun to be had. Joiner's job even took her on two deployments to serve the Soldiers in Kosovo and Bosnia with entertainment events and activities, as well as developing recreational centers for their well-being.

"Before BOSS, there was no voice for the single Soldier. ... The needs of single Soldiers were not addressed. I wholeheartedly believe that has (now been) accomplished," Joiner said.

"I will continue to work with the Soldiers. ... We'll just continue to make BOSS the venue for the Soldiers to ... give them a voice in terms of their quality of life. ... That's my goal," she said.

Community remembers fallen Soldier as talented artist, friend

by MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

Late in the evening of Aug. 18, Pfc. William VanOsdol was instant messaging from Iraq with his sister in the U.S., who prodded him to get to sleep because he had a lot of work to do the next day. "No, I don't," he wrote back. "I have tomorrow off."

Just a few hours later, VanOsdol, 23, a native of Pinson, Ala., assigned to the 172nd Support Battalion and Task Force 1-2, died when enemy rocket fire struck his quarters.

Members of the Schweinfurt community gathered for a memorial ceremony in his honor at the Ledward Chapel Sept. 1.

"It is hard for all of us, especially myself, to deal with this tragic loss," said Capt. Timothy Palmer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 1-2, commander, in remarks relayed here by Capt. Joshua Buchanan, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment commander.

Palmer, joined by others recalling VanOsdol as a gifted artist, noted that, in his spare time, the light-wheeled vehicle mechanic was creating a

wooden sculpture of the 2nd Infantry Regiment Crest.

"He could draw pictures of anything you could imagine," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stevan Horning, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, who delivered remarks at the ceremony.

One of VanOsdol's fellow Soldiers, whose remarks were presented here by Spc. Ian Graham, recalled the first time he saw one of VanOsdol's drawings. "I thought, 'This guy's really good,'" he said.

VanOsdol had a special passion for drawing heroic figures, according to Horning. "Whatever he did, he wanted it to be dramatic, on an epic scale," Horning said.

VanOsdol is survived by his mother, Susan, and his sisters Brandi and Sabrina.

Spc. William Z. Van Osdol, 23, of Pinson, Ala., died Aug. 19 at Ad Diwanayah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when enemy rocket fire struck his quarters. He was assigned to the 172nd Support Battalion, Task Force 1-2.

Courtesy photo



NO SOLDIER STANDS ALONE

Suicide prevention week educates, promotes awareness

by EMILY ATHENS
Bavarian News

Over the years, the Army has emphasized that no Soldier stands alone; however, with recent increases in suicides and the numbers continuing to rise, the concept has become ever so significant.

"There are 21 more suicides this year compared to the numbers from this time last year. It's continuing to rise and becoming more and more apparent that the whole Army needs to get involved," said Dr. Catherine Manos, Army substance abuse program prevention coordinator.

Throughout the month of September, garrisons Army wide

"Suicide is not the answer. No matter what anyone says, medication and talking really work. Courage is what it takes to get here."

Dr. Marsha Ashurst, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

are encouraged to reach out to the community and highlight the importance of suicide prevention, stress the resources available, increase training and intervention and educate how to help someone in need.

"The Army has become much more proactive than they have ever been before. They're seeing it as the issue that it is. ... It's true, no Soldier stands alone, so they need to know

that we're here," Manos said.

Resources are available within the Schweinfurt community including at the behavioral health clinic, social work services, with the military family life consultants, and the military police.

"All of our programs contribute to the resiliency and well-being of our Soldiers and families. Our contribution in terms of suicide

prevention is giving community members alternatives to their temporary problem that isn't a drastic permanent solution," said Hal Snyder, director of ACS.

Those in need are encouraged to utilize these agencies and seek the help they need.

It is further the responsibility of the community to reach out, listen, ask questions and not be deluded

into thinking everything is alright, Manos said.

"Suicide is not the answer. No matter what anyone says, medication and talking really work. Courage is what it takes to get here," said Dr. Marsha Ashurst, psychiatric nurse practitioner with Schweinfurt behavioral health.

According to the Department of the Army Web site, one suicide is too many.

"For every one incident, hundreds are affected," Manos said.

For more on suicide prevention, visit www.armygl.army.mil/hr/suicide/default.asp. To read how one Soldier overcame suicidal ideations, visit the Bavarian News archives, Sept. 2 issue, at www.milcom.de.

Community showcase returns, provides information, opportunities for residents

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

After a two-year hiatus from conducting a community showcase, the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach resumed the information day Aug. 29 - this time, with some special additions.

The showcase proved beneficial and was a success for the enduring community, attendees and agencies, said Sarah Amos, showcase coordinator.

"Due to the fact that the brigade was in the field, it was a fantastic turnout," Amos said.

Approximately 450 community members attended the showcase to learn about the community agencies. Forty-five organizations were also on hand to offer information and volunteer opportunities to residents.

Because other events deterred conducting a showcase in the past, Amos said the point of the fair was to inform Ansbach community members what it has to offer them.

"People can find all the community organizations here within the garrison, sign up for memberships and see what all our community has to offer: spouses clubs; Boy Scouts; adult and youth organizations; children activities; and sign up for volunteering," she said.

She added that an event like this allows the organizations in the garrison to showcase what they can do for the families and what resources are available to them.

"We are the enduring community and this is the opportunity to do it," she said. "Get outside in Germany, explore the local community, get involved in community activities and take advantage of what the community offers. There is a lot to do in Ansbach and people just need to get out and find it - not only for children, but for adults as well," Amos said.

But this year's showcase also added a cultural flair. "We have



Community members gather information about events and opportunities Aug. 29 at the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's community showcase.

outside German community representation that has never been brought in before like the Ansbach and Gunzenhausen Tourism offices; the city of Wolfram-Echenbach; ADAC (Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil Club--the German equivalency of the American Automobile Association) and representation from the Bad Windheim spa, Franken Terme - so members will know what is in the local area," said Amos.

And newcomers said they benefitted from the showcase.

"I love it. It is really nice," said Andrea Hernandez who has only been in the garrison for three weeks.

"It is great because there is a lot of information I am getting from it - all the different programs for the kids; a lot of resources and places to go out in the community that I don't know about - like the ones outside the base, like lakes and resorts and entertainment for the kids," she said.

"It is a learning experience for someone who just got here when I do not know where to go or what to

do, this is very helpful; and the kids love it too because they get a lot of free-bees."

In conjunction with the showcase, Amos said there was even something specifically there for children.

"This year we paired with the fire department and they had their kid-day along with it ... they did an awesome job," she said.

Providing residents the opportunity to learn about community services and events, as well as host nation local events and leisure activities while their

children have fun at the fire station was key, said Stefan Groetschel, chief fire and emergency services for the garrison.

"We want to provide awareness on fire safety through the kids for the entire family - demonstrating the mission of the fire services and the service capability of the Ansbach fire service," Groetschel said.

In addition, he said that preventing the loss of life and property, being prepared for an emergency - emergency phone numbers, how to react in case of fire - providing a nice and exciting day for our kids was important.

For other organizations, the day was an opportunity to exceed limits.

"It is an awesome outreach of our organizations," said Chaplain (Capt.) Jorge Torres, pastoral coordinator for the garrison chaplain.

"It gives us a way to minister not only in our services on post, but also a way to minister off post - like in hospitals with the puppet ministry to bring joy to the kids there and in schools," he said.

"It shows that we are not just here as a military base, but are here to support them and their families out in the community - an institution that is willing to reach out them in their time of need - we are a community of caring," he added.

And even residents, who have lived in the community awhile and were with attending agencies, said they benefitted from the event.

"I like seeing all the different community agencies represented here because I did not know half of this stuff was available - like the spouses club," said Evelyn Torres.

"It makes the community what it is and unites us by forming friendships, helping us to be able to cope when we need it," she added.

For more information about the event, contact Amos or Army Community Service at DSN 467-2370, CIV 09802-832-370.

BACK TO SCHOOL

School year brings changes, adjustments for faculty, students

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

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach schools opened their doors to students and changes Aug. 31 as they marked the first of 183 days in the 2009-2010 school year.

For the elementary schools, changes were

not as significant as they were for students on the other end of the spectrum at the middle/high school.

Advancing to middle school is a big step and adding a major change in class scheduling is challenging for all, said Principal Jennifer Rowland.

She noted that seventh-graders are usually anxious about the change, but said the school

wants to make the transition easy for them and helped by relaxing some of the usual rules and not being as strict for the first few days.

"It is something new, and with seven classes, of course, they are anxious," she said.

But the big change this year is the class schedule.

"We went to a hybrid-block schedule," said the principal.

She explained three-days a week the teachers see all seven classes, and on the other two days - the block days - the teachers have 85 minutes with each class.

"We think it will be beneficial for the student body and the school over all," said Rowland. "It gives us more direct contact time with students and they do better," she added.

And in the spirit of doing better, Rowland explained that at the high school level, they are working on an advanced placement culture.

"It is not only for the students to do well in classes, but to do well and improve their scores on the exam at the end of the year," she said. "So it is not just doing well in classes, but on the exam too," she added.

Adjusting to the changes will be a challenge - for both students and faculty.

"It is a little exhilarating," said Ansbach Middle/High School Student Body President Kiley Schreurs, a junior this year. "I already have homework everywhere and this is just

the first day," she added.

She said there is a lot of new teachers and approximately 80 percent of the student body is also new. For this reason, Schreurs said the school would be hosting a number of events for the students to get acquainted with the school activities, organizations and their peers.

The new events and schedule brings adjustments for the faculty as well.

"The difference is the deviation from the lunch schedule," said football coach Markus George. "We had to jump like Mexican jumping beans between seven periods, but we are learning to adjust," he added.

For parents of seniors, the school year also brings both adjustment and exhilaration.

"I'm a little choked up - my oldest son will be leaving next year," said Jennifer Farinos about her son's first day of his last year of high school.

"It brought back memories of when he started in Kindergarten. He was so excited to go to school and now the realization of this being his last year and going to college next year is setting in," she explained.

She said her son aspires to be an actor and he has been taking drama courses since the seventh grade and is looking at colleges that have great acting departments.

In a building not far away, first-year students also have big dreams for their future.

"I am looking forward to painting," said aspiring artist Gus Mercer, 5, who started his school career at Rainbow Elementary School this year. "I like to draw my mommy and daddy," he added.



Displaying a bouquet of balloons for her sweet 16th, Kate Schuh, returns to Ansbach Middle/High School Aug. 29.

GO HOME !

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Web site, www.ansbach.army.mil/sites/local/, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and more.

2SCR Dragoons overcome obstacles, conquer combat cross country title

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

A spirit of competition was in the air Sept. 9 as 48 Troopers from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment gathered at the Rose Barracks Fitness Center in Vilseck to compete in the U.S. Army Garrison Grafewoehr Unit Level Combat Cross Country Championship.

"This is the preliminary event to the larger competition to be held in Hohenfels," said Carlton Campbell, tournament coordinator. "This event supports the community and showcases their overall mission of being a Soldier."

The race covered 6.2 kilometers

over a variety of terrain. The course included two obstacles participants must overcome.

The first obstacle was a 12-foot steep hill runners had to climb twice. The final roadblock was a water obstacle.

Near the halfway mark runners come upon a small bridge that was mined with simulated improvised explosive devices. They had to choose to cross the area either by traversing the side of the bridge or crossing a stream that was roughly 3-feet deep.

Unlike most races, contestants were required to run the course wearing ACUs, boots, web gear with belt and two ammo pouches. Each runner also carried a full canteen and his or her rifle.

"This is a great event that promotes

camaraderie, teamwork and Esprit de Corps," Campbell said.

Contestants competed in five- to seven-man teams. Each runner's individual time was consolidated and averaged to a collective team time. Trophies were presented to each team finishing in the top three spots.

Despite the grueling course and the strenuous pace, many of the contestants described the event as a lot of fun.

"It was HOOAH," said Pfc. Lasse Larsen of 3rd Squadron. "This is the stuff that makes infantrymen infantrymen."

Larsen said that even though he was running for a personal time, the event was far from an individual achievement.

"You are running for you and your team," he explained, "but also for your squadron and your company."

"Nothing in the Army is ever individual," he continued.

"It was pretty fun" said Spc. Tyler Hall of 1st Squadron. "It was really different doing this without a vest and Kevlar on."

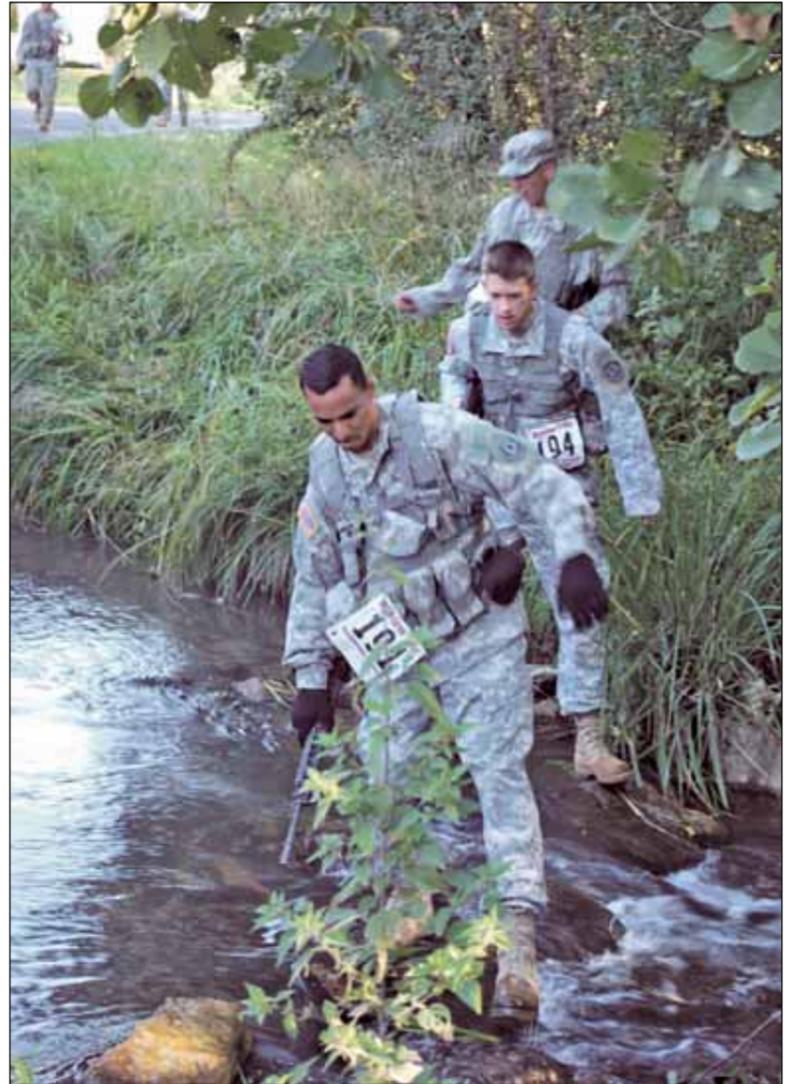
Hall said the motivation from others was the best part of the race.

"It was great to see all the other guys lifting up their men and encouraging them," he said.

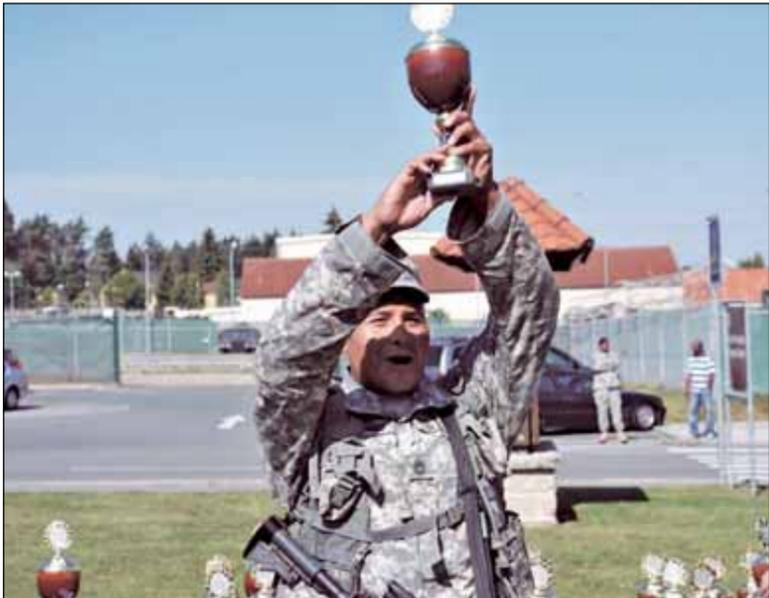
In the end, first place went to the Wolf Pack team from 3rd Squadron, with a time of 2 hours and 50 minutes.

Second place was won by Charlie Company from 1st Squadron, with a time of 3 hours and 4 minutes. Third place was taken by Alpha Company, also from 1st Squadron, with a time of 3 hours and 15 minutes.

The top individual score was achieved by Cpt. Nathan Cary of 3rd Squadron, with a time of 30 minutes 26 seconds. More photos of this event can be found at www.flickr.com/photos/dragon2scr/sets.



The Wolf Pack team from 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment navigates the water obstacle Sept. 9 during the U.S. Army Garrison Grafewoehr Unit Level Combat Cross Country Championship. The pack secured first place with a time of 2 hours and 50 minutes.



Sgt. 1st Class Jose Palamino, Alpha Company, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, celebrates his third place finish at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafewoehr Unit Level Combat Cross Country Championship Sept. 9 in Vilseck.

TOUCHDOWN



The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness Program kicked off their football season Sept. 12. The program supports four Grafenwoehr and three Vilseck football teams, as well as cheerleaders ranging from 3 to 15 years old.

Left: William Rosalino of the Grafenwoehr Thunderwolves outruns his Vilseck Falcon defender in Bamberg Sept. 12. The Falcons proved victorious in the Bantam season's opening game with a 21-point win over the Grafenwoehr team.

Below: Falcon Steve Buckner shakes off a Thunderwolf defender to score.

Photos by Mary Markos

Above: Grafenwoehr Thunderwolves prepare for the kick-off at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness Program Bantam's football season opening game Sept. 12 in Bamberg where Grafenwoehr faced Vilseck.

Right: Grafenwoehr's offensive line fights off Falcon defenders.

For more photos of the game, visit the garrison's flickr Web site, www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr/sets.

Photos by Amy Newcomb



Legal aid available during transition

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skills (those listed in block five of DA Form 3349) as possible; take and pass the army physical fitness test. Soldiers should ensure supervisors document all of these efforts.

• **If a Soldier receives a DA Form 3947 (MEB Report) and doesn't know whether or not to agree with it, can he or she consult with an attorney for help?**

Yes, an MEB outreach attorney will look at any records provided and advise the Soldier regarding his or her rights.

If the Soldier wishes for an attorney to review the packet, call a Soldiers' counsel office immediately.

There are only as few as five days from the time of receipt of your DA Form 3947 to make your election.

• **A Soldier's case was referred by the MEB to the PEB. He or she received a DA Form 199 (Informal PEB Decision) and disagrees with the decision. What can he or she do?**

Talk with Soldiers' counsel, who will review the documents and discuss the options.

Soldiers should schedule an appointment as soon as possible after receiving the DA Form 199, because there are only have 10 days to appeal the informal PEB decision.

• **A soldier has requested a formal board and to be represented by military counsel. What should he or she do next?**

It takes several days for an office of Soldiers' counsel to receive a file from the Army and to contact the sender.

If an individual has not heard

from the office of Soldiers' counsel within three days of receiving notice of the date of the formal board, they should call their office.

The servicing office of Soldiers' counsel for each case is named in the notice of hearing letter.

• **How can Soldiers' Counsel help with a formal hearing?**

The lawyer will meet with the

Soldier before the hearing to discuss the case, to assist in gathering relevant evidence and to help identify potential witnesses who may give testimony or provide written statements on the Soldier's behalf.

Most important, the lawyer will appear at the hearing as the Soldier's advocate.

• **If a Soldier is unhappy with the decision at the formal hearing, can Soldiers' counsel assist with an appeal?**

Only in some cases, because not every decision of a PEB is appealable.

Soldiers' counsel can determine whether there are grounds for appeal and, if so, can advise whether appealing is in the Soldier's best interest.

Soldiers' counsel can also assist in drafting and submitting an appeal within the applicable deadlines.

• **The PEB placed a Soldier on the temporary disability retirement list. Should he or she still consult with Soldiers' counsel?**

Yes, even when a Soldier agrees with the decision.

If put on the TDRL, the PEB will re-evaluate each case after 12 to 18 months.

Soldiers' counsel can give important information and advice about the TDRL review process.



Courtesy photo

Wounded warriors in transition facing medical evaluation boards or physical evaluation boards are eligible to receive specialized legal care by outreach attorneys or Soldiers' council attorneys who are specially trained to represent and advise the Soldier.

Relief accessible for those affected by housing crunch

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In fact, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has two such programs to assist people, including those affiliated with the military: the Homeowner's Assistance Program and the Making Home Affordable Program.

HAP is a DoD initiative with the Army as the executive agent and operated by the Corps of Engineers. Since 1966, HAP has assisted servicemembers and civilian employees whose home values dropped because of BRAC announcements.

In February, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which contains funding of \$555 million. Additionally, ARRA authorizes the expansion of HAP to three homeowner groups to provide them partial reimbursement for home-sale losses. The groups are:

■ **Warriors in transition:** Wounded servicemembers relocating for treatment or medical retirement, and for surviving family members of those who have died while on deployment.

■ **BRAC05:** Military and DoD civilian employees impacted by BRAC – without the need to prove whether the base closure or then general housing market decline caused the loss.

■ **Rotation:** Normal permanent change of station moves, but only on a retroactive basis that covers PCS moves that occurred from July 1, 2006 through Dec. 31, 2009.

"We are in the middle of a credit crunch and housing crisis, and we recognize that military families cannot generally choose when to move," said Vice President Joe Biden during a May 14 speech in San Diego. "We've used the Recovery Act to dramatically expand what once a fairly small

program, assisting families forced to relocate due to base closures or normal assignment rotations."

The other initiative boosted by the Recovery Act, the Making Home Affordable Program, might fill the gap for people who are affiliated with the military but are not eligible or do not qualify for HAP. MHAP helps homeowners with refinancing.

For more information on specific program criteria or to apply online if eligible, visit www.myarmyonesource.com/SoldierandFamilyHousing for links to HAP and MHAP.

Additional information included from American Forces Press Service.

Homeowners assistance program can assist military home buyers in crisis due to a normal rotation, realignment and more.

The **HOUSING CRISIS** is affecting millions of Americans including Soldiers

Through the Homeowners Assistance Program, Servicemembers can be partially reimbursed for home sale losses incurred because of a PCS

Learn more about the programs, information and services available. Visit Army OneSource, talk to your command or stop by your ACS office

www.myarmyonesource.com
Click on Soldier and Family Housing

Units receive awards for outstanding logistics operations

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level award. "We train the troops here that come to JMRC, but at the same time we're making sure that we maintain the standards on the supply end of the mission."

Winners at the USAREUR level go on to compete at the Army level later this year, with on-site inspections of the Europe winners in November and December. The winners of this year's awards, along with will be officially recognized for their efforts during an annual Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony in April.

USAREUR winners:

■ **Category Level 1 (A) Modified Table of Organization & Equipment, Company/Battery/Troop or Detachment:** 615th Military Police Company, 709th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.

■ **Category Level 1 (B) Table of Distribution and Allowances, Company/Battery/Troop/ or Detachment:** NCO Academy, JMTC, Grafenwoehr, Germany.

■ **Category Level 2 (A) MTOE Property Book Operations:** Property Book Office, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

■ **Category Level 2 (B) TDA Property Book Operations:** Property Book Office, Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.

■ **Category Level 3 (A) MTOE Battalion/Squadron:** 212th Combat Support Hospital, 30th Medical Command, USAREUR, Miesau, Germany.

■ **Category Level 3 (B) TDA Battalion/Squadron:** JMRC, JMTC, Hohenfels, Germany.

■ **Category Level 4 (A) Supply Support Activity, MTOE:** Supply Support Activity, 5-7th Air Defense Artillery, 357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

■ **Category Level 4 (B) Supply Support Activity, TDA:** Supply Support Activity, Supply Activity Europe, Theater Logistics Sustainment Center, 21st TSC, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Runners-up:

■ **Category Level 1 (A) MTOE, Company/Battery/Troop or Detachment:** Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 159th Attack Recon, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Illesheim, Germany.

■ **Category Level 1 (B) TDA, Company/**

Battery/Troop/ or Detachment: Maintenance Activity Mannheim, Theater Logistics Sustainment Center – Europe, 21st TSC, Mannheim, Germany.

■ **Category Level 2 (A) MTOE Property Book Operations:** 30th Medical Command, Europe Regional Medical Command, Heidelberg, Germany.

■ **Category Level 2 (B) TDA Property Book Operations:** Property Book Office, Area Support Team Kosovo, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

■ **Category Level 3 (A) MTOE Battalion/Squadron:** 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, USAREUR, Katterbach, Germany.

■ **Category Level 4 (A) Supply Support Activity, MTOE:** Supply Support Activity, 2SCR, Vilseck, Germany.

■ **Category Level 4 (B) Supply Sport Activity, TDA:** Supply Support Activity, Task Force Falcon, USAREUR, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

Honorable Mention:

■ **Category Level 1 (A) MTOE, Company/Battery/Troop or Detachment:** 557th Medical Company – Ground Ambulance, 30th Medical Command, Wiesbaden, Germany.

■ **Category Level 1 (B) TDA, Company/**

Battery/Troop/ or Detachment: HHC, JMTC, Grafenwoehr, Germany.

■ **Category Level 2 (A) MTOE Property Book Operations:** Property Book Office, 21st Troop Support Battalion, 21st TSC, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

■ **Category Level 3 (A) MTOE Battalion/Squadron:** 3rd Battalion, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, USAREUR, Vilseck, Germany.

■ **Category Level 4 (A) Supply Support Activity, MTOE:** Supply Support Activity, Alpha Company, 412th Aviation Support Battalion, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Katterbach, Germany.

IMCOM- E winners:

■ **Category Level II (B) TDA Property Book Operations:** Winner: USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany. Runners-Up: USAG Vicenza, Italy. Honorable Mention USAG Schinnen, Netherlands.

■ **Category Level IV (B) TDA Supply Support Activity Operations:** Winner: USAG Vicenza, Italy. Runners-Up: USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany.

USAG Grafenwoehr PBO and USAG Vicenza SSA Winners will now advance to the IMCOM Headquarters level of competition.

Families re-unite with 18th CSSB

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o'clock he was going to call - instead of 'maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, maybe not next week,'" Martinez said.

"I'm really excited," she said. "I haven't slept in about a week ... It's been a lot of anxiety," saying she had cleaned, baked a cake, washed all her husbands' clothes and even bought a new dress for the occasion.

While work and children kept Gloria Valtrip busy at home, she said the unit really kept the families in "the loop about what was going on downrange."

"They gave us newsletters which I thought was awesome" Valtrip said and added that the newsletters included what the Soldiers were doing and many photos.

While Valtrip's youngest daughter, Patience, 20 months, was too young to understand the occasion, older daughter Uriah, 12, who had been through a deployment before said, "I'm nervous. I plan to be the first kid to go run for my dad."

When Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commanding general of the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command released the Soldiers and families at the conclusion of the ceremony, they raced to each other to embrace.

After hugging and kissing his wife, Jodie and three children, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles Byrd concluded, "It's just good to finally be home."