

Bavarian News

Vol. 5, Nr.12

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

June 17, 2009

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

Happy Birthday!

Grafenwoehr celebrates Army's 234th year



Staff from the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Dining Facility position the birthday cake June 11 for the Army birthday celebration.

Story and photos by
JOY AWE
Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr Soldiers, families and community members gathered June 11 at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Dining Facility to celebrate the Army's 234th birthday and commemorate the courageous acts of patriotism that enabled the United States Army to be born.

"It's important to celebrate the Army's birthday because, like all birthdays, it's a time of remembrance," said Capt. Ronald Underwood, USAG Grafenwoehr Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander. "It's especially important for these children to know what our ancestors have done, not just then, but all the major wars and battles that we've fought.

"Maybe one day it will inspire a future George Washington. These great men and women fought for what they believed in at great risk to themselves, to buy our freedom with their blood. It's one of those things that need to be retold and understood."

Underwood read "Sam, the Army Dog" to a crowd of more than 200 children, parents and staff at Netzaberg Youth Center.

The book was written specifically for this occasion and every child present was given a copy to take home.

Other activities at the Youth Center included crafts and a puppet show. Each child made a party hat and birthday card

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MOVING ON

JMTC says farewell to commanding general

by **DENVER MAKLE**
JMTC Public Affairs

"Brig. Gen. Hogg, during the time he has been here has implemented many of the improvements that you see today throughout the training area," said Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army. "Brig. Gen. Hogg oversaw projects to upgrade ranges to make the Joint Multinational Training Command what it is today — world class training.

Ham addressed a crowd gathered at the Grafenwoehr parade field to bid Brig. Gen. David R. Hogg, commander of the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) and his family goodbye. Hogg leaves Grafenwoehr, Germany, and the JMTC later this month to become the deputy chief of staff for operations for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Ham credited Hogg with making many improvements to JMTC's training and capabilities, which make the JMTC an extraordinary training facility.

"Unless you have been assigned to the Command, you re-



Hogg

ally do not know what these great Soldiers, civilians, and local national do for the Army in Europe and the Army overall, said Hogg addressing the audience, "Every mission asked - executed to standard, regardless of when or where. We could not ask for better."

Hogg said it was a combination of Soldiers, civilians, local nationals and community leaders that deserve the credit.

"I sincerely hope this team's work has contributed to the community in a positive way," said Hogg, during an interview earlier this month. "We are proud the JMTC has helped develop some of the most highly trained soldiers in the world, but we also know the success of the facilities and training areas has largely been because of the willingness of community leaders to work with us, as partners and friends."

The 7th U.S. Army JMTC trains U.S. and multinational soldiers for missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. In addition, the Command provides about 5000 local jobs.

During the ceremony, Hogg admitted the JMTC could not accomplish its mission without the help of others, and he specifically thanked many units and individuals for their support. He could often be heard talking about the importance of building relationships.

One of the lessons-learned he touts is about 'understanding

See HOGG Page 25

FIRST PLACE

History Day competitors take top prize

by **JOE AMABILE**
Special to the Bavarian News

Netzaberg Middle School Knights are "batting their way to the top" as they were awarded a slot at the National History Day, National Finals in Washington, D.C.

Following their Bavarian District regional win at Ansbach, NMS eighth-graders Sarah Schaffer and Kelsi Brunson won first place in the Junior Website Division at the Department of Defense Dependent Schools' National History Day, European Finals.

More than 160 students from locations as far away as

See STUDENTS Page 25

Historic Cobra King heads to new home in Patton Museum

by **MARY MARKOS**
Editor

Sixty-five years after making its mark on American military history, the Cobra King is headed home.

The 3.6 ton, World War II-era M4 Sherman "Jumbo" tank, which was identified by U.S. Army officials as the first tank to break through German defenses and reach surrounded American troops during the Battle of the Bulge, was lifted from its Vilseck home June 9 for transport to the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, Ky.

To prepare the steel warrior for transport, staff members from the Maintenance Activity Vilseck first had to tow the vehicle one kilometer from the Rose Barracks' gate, where one staff member said it has sat on display for at least 25 years, to the MAV for cleaning.

Mark Manzo, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr,

Logistics Plans and Operations Division chief, said the cleaning process took more than 160 hours before Cobra King passed the stringent customs inspections.

The tank, which will travel first to Bremerhaven, Germany, and loaded to sail June 17, is expected to arrive stateside July 6.

According to a recovery and restoration plan submitted by Len Dyer, Patton Museum director, it will then undergo a two-phase reset.

"My intent is to reset Cobra King in appearance to her historic state as pictured on the day after the relief of Bastogne," Dyer states in the plan.

Phase one will remove the current M-1A1 76mm main-gun that was installed in March 1945

(a year after the tank broke through Bastogne) at the direction of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., commander of the 3rd U.S. Army, to give the vehicle greater firepower against German Panthers or Tigers. The Patton Museum will then



See COBRA Page 25

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Community Action Council evaluates, resolves *your* issues, concerns

Acting on community needs and your feedback is one of my top priorities. We

recently held our second Community Action Council and I want to share some of the active and closed issues that our Customer Service Officer, Melynda Weaver, is tracking.

Toddler-friendly playgrounds are on the community wish-list.

Our playgrounds are designed to Army standards, and playground equipment may be meant for children of a median age older than toddlers. For example, slide heights may not be appropriate for toddlers.

We are currently assessing all of our playgrounds to identify those that have variations in age-appropriate equipment.

Command Sgt. Major Berrios and I have asked that a feasibility study be completed by August. The study will propose locations in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck for toddler-friendly equipment and determines its estimated cost for

the installation. The study will also determine if current facilities can be retrofitted.

Covered bus stops at the PX and commissary complexes were also requested.

While the building overhang provides some cover, users noted that bus drivers may not stop if they do not see people standing at the actual shuttle stop.

We have instructed drivers to stop and scan each area to ensure passengers get picked up.

We are also requesting funding for shelters. However, the request would be competing against other requests, and only the top priority items will be funded so there is no guarantee we will receive the resources we need to purchase the shelters.

We will keep you updated on the status of this request.

Finding innovative ways to resolve issues is the CAC's most effective strategy.

Netzaberg residents indicated they were unsure about how to sort

items for the proper recycling bin.

Our proposed plan is to distribute refrigerator magnets to the 800 plus homes at Netzaberg to explain SORT (Separate or Recycle Trash).

If residents indicate the magnets are helpful and the amount of missorted trash decreases, the magnet program could be expanded to other housing areas as a means of educating our community about proper recycling.

The CAC also closed some pending issues such as airport shuttle buses and non-residents driving through Netzaberg.

A suggestion was made to increase the number of FMWR airport shuttle buses during the upcoming PCS season (summer months). We assessed the situation and if FMWR airport shuttle buses cannot meet the demand, customers

will be referred to SATO, which offers contract airport shuttles as well as one of the local German taxi companies.

While it is more expensive to use the alternative services, transportation costs incurred during PCS are reimbursable and service members can utilize advance Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) to cover the costs.

To alleviate concerns about non-residents driving through Netzaberg, the MPs will check all non-military registered vehicles in Netzaberg during posted quiet hours.

Because Netzaberg is part of the City of Eschenbach, traffic cannot be restricted to residents only. The MPs also recommend that around bulk trash pick-up days, residents secure all items that are not for pick-up.

These are just a few of the many issues the CAC is addressing. But, I do promise we will

evaluate and respond to each question and concern we receive through ICE or our Web site, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/afap_issue2009.htm.

Finally, we ask for your understanding during this heavy moving season.

The shipping companies are at capacity and some have cancelled pickups with very little notification.

CSM Berrios and I are working diligently to address these issues, many of which are outside the garrison's control.

What we can control is getting our Soldiers to their levy briefings and scheduling transportation as soon as orders are in hand.

Please let our transportation office know right away if you get bumped!

CSM Berrios and I really appreciate your input - it is what makes us Army Strong!

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



Finding innovative ways to resolve issues is the CAC's most effective strategy.

CSM CORNER



Celebrate Independence Day with the garrison, stay safe during summer activities

The summer season officially begins this week and with the 4th of July celebrations right around the corner, the summer is beginning to heat up.

This 4th of July, the garrison will host fireworks at both Vilseck and Grafenwoehr.

Festivities kick off at 9 p.m. at The Zone in Vilseck with fireworks to follow at 10:30 p.m. at the Little Mike Softball Complex.

At Grafenwoehr, live entertainment will begin at 6 p.m. on the Parade Field, with fireworks at 10:30 p.m.

Look for a more information in the Weekly Community Newsletter and on the garrison Web page at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.

As you kick back and enjoy the fireworks and festivities, remember the duty we all have to our family, friends and battle buddies - Be Smart, Be Safe.

Summer holidays and warm weather invite swimming, grilling, increased alcohol use and traveling. The summer is considered to be the most dangerous time of the year because of these extra hazards.

Always designate a driver when traveling

to and from parties and get-togethers. Losing even one Soldier to drinking and driving is inexcusable.

I would like to remind everyone that the use of barbecue grills is prohibited on balconies or within ten feet of Family Housing units.

While barbecues and bonfires are a nice way to visit with neighbors and friends, we must remain aware of the dangers of fire and take every measure to ensure our activities and those around us are safe.

Before firing up the grill, check for damage or kinking in propane hoses and always grill outdoors on a non-flammable surface away from your home. Keep all flammable items away from the flames of your grill.

When it heats up and you head for the pool, remember the German schwimmbads (or swimming pools) have different rules and policies than American pools.

Vigilance in pool safety is increasingly important as the crowds at local pools continue to grow.

The crowd at the Grafenwoehr dining facility also grew June 11 from the normal lunchtime rush as the garrison celebrated the

Army's 234th Birthday.

I want to give a special thank you to Spc. James Dunn for decorating the cakes that marked the celebration.

The Army Birthday is a good time to reflect on the sacrifices made and the values sought by those in this country's Army in the past, and to remember to strive to uphold these values in today's Army.

These values, as we near the half-way point in this, the year of the Noncommissioned Officer, have been seen in many of our exceptional NCOs throughout this year.

In the last few weeks, many NCOs and Soldiers helped in our community's schools for field day.

From BOSS representatives at the Netzaberg Middle School to NCOA cadre

at the Grafenwoehr Elementary School, Soldiers and NCOs gave back to the students

and provided a helpful hand to the teaching staff. This was something that was done not only as the school year concluded, but throughout the year.

Leading by example is not only what makes the lesson of volunteering so valuable to our youth, it is also what makes the NCO the backbone of the Army.

Thank you to all that have helped shape our young people.

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

As you kick back and enjoy the fireworks and festivities, remember the duty we all have to our family, friends and battle buddies - Be Smart, Be Safe.

Do you have an opinion on something you'd like to share with the community? Do you have a complaint, request, or compliment? Write a letter to the editor and let us know! E-mail letters to mary.markos@eur.army.mil with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Four Vilseck JROTC cadets earn slots at George C. Marshall Leadership Symposium

Story and photo by
AMY NEWCOMB
Bavarian News

Four Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from Vilseck High School, Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. John Lee, Cadet Master Sgt. Sara Carriker, Cadet Master Sgt. David Wood and Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Christy Manoogian, will travel to Washington D.C., June 25-30 for the annual George C. Marshall Leadership Symposium.

Cadet Sgt. Alex Velez and Cadet Sgt. John Wood were selected as alternates and will accompany the team in the case another is unable to attend.

The VHS JROTC competed against 1,600 other JROTC programs globally, winning one of 45 slots.

Every slot is made up of four cadets, selected from different schools.

The school will represent all of Department of Defense Dependent School JROTC programs at the symposium.

The selection process for the cadets is a rigorous testing of their abilities and knowledge of leadership in their JROTC programs.

"This was a very competitive event," said Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cheney, VHS JROTC Army instructor. "They worked very hard to accomplish the goal of making it to symposium."

Cheney will accompany the cadets this summer to the symposium.

The four-member team earned the chance to attend the symposium because of their knowledge of leadership tenets from George C. Marshall, their understanding of JROTC leadership theory and their ability to translate those tenets and theories to scenario-based questions.



Left to right: Cadet Master Sgt. Sara Carriker, Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. John Lee, Cadet Master Sgt. David Wood and Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Christy Manoogian, seen with the JROTC guidon, will travel to the George C. Marshall Leadership Symposium June 25-30 in Washington, D.C.

"Some of the questions were scenarios where you are the first sergeant or the battalion command sergeant major (and asked), 'What would you do and how would you treat this situation?'" said Manoogian.

According to Carriker the test was multiple choice, however the questions were long and

there was not much time to get them done.

"It's a lot of critical thinking," Lee said.

The cadets spent months taking practice tests to prepare for the two preliminary rounds of online exams.

They studied on their own time after school and often on weekends with the help of VHS

JROTC Senior Army Instructor Maj. Michael Farley.

"We have come in on days we were absolutely horribly sick ... we came in and we studied anyways," Lee said.

Farley arranged for the team to be entered into the competition last summer.

He began gathering materials for the cadets to study through the first half of the 2008-2009 school year in preparation for the online tests the cadets had to take.

The two preliminary online tests consisted of the Challenge Test and the Zero Hour Threat Test.

Each of the four cadets and two alternates had approximately one hour to complete each test. Each test was closed-book and proctored by Farley.

Once the tests were completed, they were automatically sent to the College Options Foundation Server for scoring.

The VHS JROTC cadets scored in the 86th percentile collectively, earning them tickets to the symposium this summer.

At the symposium, they will be integrated with other cadets from schools worldwide.

"It gives them an opportunity to mingle with the other students from different schools," said Cheney.

According to Lee, the cadets will earn 0.5 hours in college credit and be able to work on leadership abilities in a group setting at the symposium.

"We will meet a whole bunch of new people and travel to look at different sites and memorials," Carriker said.

The cadet command out of Fort Monroe, Va., sponsors all cadets going to the George C. Marshall Leadership Symposium, paying for the travel arrangements and expenses of the attendees.

GES students compete in Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

Story and photo by
ANDY BAILEY
Bavarian News

Four Grafenwoehr Elementary School students traveled to Iowa State University May 27 to 30 to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind world finals.

It was their first time GES sent a team to participate in the event.

The Odyssey of the Mind is a worldwide program that develops creative problem solving in students from kindergarten through college.

Students form teams, start with a problem and design props and devices to creatively solve the problem.

Using the props and devices, the teams must demonstrate their solution to a panel of judges.

Students are limited \$145.00 in materials.

Greyson Lerner, a GES student team members, said they participated in the Earth Trek Division I.

They were presented with a problem in which they had to design a vehicle that could travel through four different environments.

"Our team picked thermosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, and geosphere," Greyson stated.

"We designed a vehicle that was hit by an asteroid in the space, crashed in water, travelled on ice, then drove through a volcano."

The GES teams had to go through two competitions prior to reaching the world finals.

The Bavarian Regional, where they placed first, was held in February.

They then went to the Department of Defense Dependent Schools European competition in Kaiserslautern, where they placed second.

The second place finish qualified them for the trip to the Cyclone campus.

"After qualifying for the World Finals students had to raise \$7,000 to get to get to Iowa," said Cathy Gladden, GES Gifted Education teacher.

"We received generous support from private organization across the Grafenwoehr Community. Our students, with the Grafenwoehr PTSA (Parent Teacher School Association), sponsored a Walkathon raising

\$1,600 which covered the rest of the expenses," Gladden added.

The cost aside, the competition builds more than students knowledge base.

"The Odyssey of the Mind builds student confidence levels. Students develop a project to answer the problem. They are asked to present their project to judges and are scored based on the problem criteria," Gladden said.

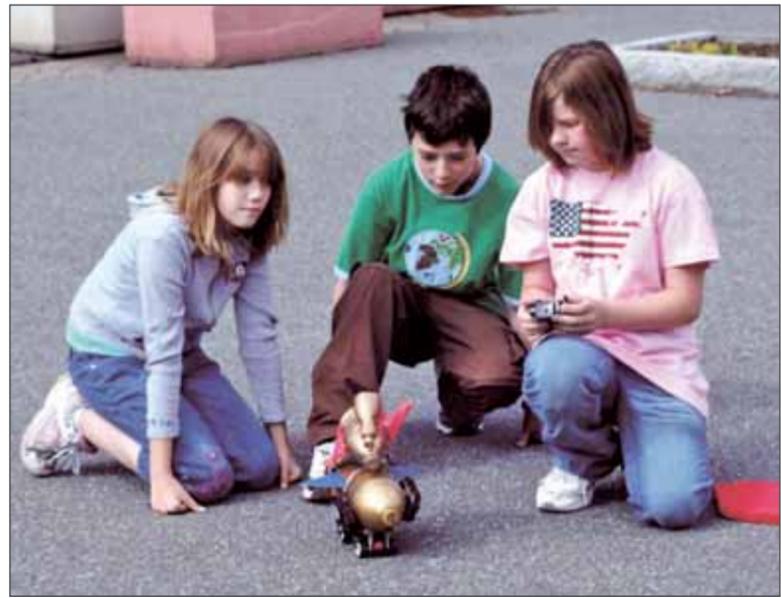
"I have seen from the program that our students are able to apply the problem solving and presentation skills in other education areas at the school."

"Our strongest area was spontaneity," said team member Catherine McNeill.

"We were placed in a room with a time limit. We had to put items on a small bridge without the bridge breaking or the items falling off."

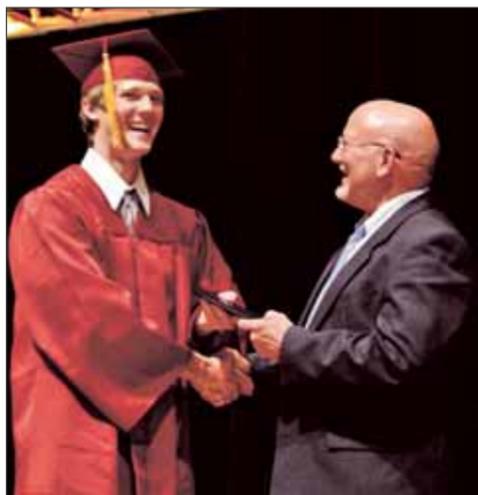
For Lerner, however, the highlight of the event was outside the room.

"The best part was the pin exchange," he said. "We were given a package of lapel pins from the school and we traded with other teams. The best was the Marion pin since nobody wanted to give it up."



Grafenwoehr Elementary School students Catherine McNeill (left), Greyson Lerner and Sophia Hager (right) demonstrate the vehicle, which travels through water, ice and volcanoes, they designed for the Odyssey of the Mind competition. GES sent its first team to participate in the World finals this year.

Congratulations VHS Graduates!



Photos by Melissa Wolff

Seventy-three members of the Vilseck High School class of 2009 graduate June 5 at Max Reger Halle in Weiden. Speakers included Tamaria Hollis, Valedictorian John Reynolds, Salutatorians Yasmine Cofer and Angela Pater, Stevie Hood and guest speaker Kelisa Wing. Principal Duane Werner presented the diplomas. The ceremony was broadcast live over video-teleconference for deployed parents unable to attend the event. Visit www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr to view more graduation photos.

Grafenwoehr student suits up for Space Camp

Story and photo by
BLAIR BENZ
Bavarian News

This summer, one Grafenwoehr Middle School student will be hanging out in zero gravity, preparing for a Space Shuttle missions and experiencing the heart-stopping G-Force of a rocket launch.

Philip Ramirez, a seventh grader at Netzaberg Middle school, was awarded a full scholarship to NASA Space Camp this June in Huntsville, Ala.

The Bernard Curtis Brown II scholarship is offered through the Military Child Education Coalition to all children enrolled in grades six through nine and have a parent on active duty in the military.

This year, Philip was one of five scholarship recipients out of 241 applicants from all over the world.

When asked how he learned of the scholarship, Philip explained the process, "I got an email from my counselor in the gifted program about the scholarship and it seemed really interesting, so I applied for it on my own."

Philip's mother, Lisa Ramirez, a second-grade teacher at Netzaberg Elementary School, concurred.

"He came home and showed the email to me. He wrote the essay. We helped him proof-read the essay, but he applied all on his own," she said.

Students applying for the scholarship submitted two letters of recommendation and an essay highlighting community service, patriotism and future goals.

Special emphasis on plans for sharing the information garnered at Space Camp challenged students to reach past the scholarship and envision



Netzaberg Middle School seventh-grader Philip Ramirez prepares for Space Camp and space missions by researching the planets and stars.

an opportunity to engage the community.

Philip already has a plan to pass on what he learns. "I want to start a space club at school so I can share all the experiences I had at Space Camp with my classmates," he said.

The scholarship offered by the MCEC is named for Bernard Curtis Brown II, the 11-year-old son of a Master Chief Petty Officer, who was a passenger on board the hijacked airplane that crashed into the Pentagon on

September 11, 2001.

Considered by his family, friends and teachers to be an outstanding young man with limitless potential, this scholarship honors Bernard's love of learning and service to others.

Philip carries a deep understanding of the weight and responsibility this award affords. "This award is a great honor," he said.

"Bernard Curtis Brown was one of the brightest students. It will be hard to live up to that, but it is

cool that they think I can," Philip said.

For all of his achievements, Philip's parents are most proud of his willingness to be a leader and try new things.

"I'm very excited for him," his mom said. "I really tried to encourage him to apply for different things and not to be discouraged if he doesn't make it, but try again. I want my boys to try their best and keep trying. There are disappointments in this world but there are great things too."

Notable advice considering Philip was the only student out of approximately 600 eligible in the school to apply for the scholarship.

"It's good to remind them that they are shaping their future and it's a challenging world out there," Philip's father, Maj. Steve Ramirez added.

"We get to live a little vicariously through Philip. We are very excited for him," he added.

Philip's determination caught the attention of NMS Principal Dr. Elizabeth Childs.

"He is very modest and really calm about winning the scholarship. He is such a neat kid," she said.

Childs echoed the support given by Philip's mom, "So many students look at an opportunity like this and say 'I'll never make it.' Philip didn't think that way.

"My hope is that parents look at this and say my kids can do this too," she added.

When asked if he wanted to become an astronaut one day, Phillip responded without skipping a beat, "I'm keeping my options open," he said. "Actually, one day I want to be president of the United States."

While his time in the White House may be a few years away, Philip was recently elected as the 2009/2010 NMS student council president.

Vilseck Elementary School teacher named teacher of the year

Story and photo by
AMY NEWCOMB
Bavarian News

Gretchen Wall has been a teacher for Department of Defense Dependent Schools for 22 of her 26-year teaching career.

The 2008-2009 school year was her first year teaching at Vilseck Elementary School in more than 20 years.

The impact she has made on her students and parents since her return to VES led to her 2010 Bavaria District Teacher of the Year nomination.

Wall is currently teaching Preschool for Disabled Children at VES.

"It's really an honor because you get to be a spokesperson and really talk about some of the things that are going on in intervention," Wall said.

She is also currently working for Department of Defense Education Activity on a Language Arts task force that covers Pre-K through 12th-grade.

The task force is designed to make changes that will improve Language Arts education for students.

Nancy Hammack, VES principal, explained that Wall was nominated

by one of the parents of her students because of her exceptional work and dedication to her students in her daily teaching.

She said Wall works closely with early childhood educators within the community to ensure that students are identified and provided with appropriate services for their individual needs.

"Ms. Wall demonstrates all the attributes of a caring, thoughtful educator ... She works closely with the parents to make sure the students are being successful and growing to their greatest potential," Hammack said.

DoDDS will sponsor Wall's trip as the Bavaria District winner to compete in the DoDEA National Competition this fall in Washington, D.C.

The competition covers district winners from military schools across the globe who will compete for DoDEA Teacher of the Year.

Wall has to compile a series of essays about herself and her thoughts on education for the National competition.

If Wall wins the DoDEA competition she will advance to Nationals.

Wall has taught PSCD, kindergarten,

first-grade and Reading Recovery. Wall has also been a Reading Improvement Specialist and a Reading Language Arts Specialist.

She said she finds it important to have a wide variety of skills so that she can help children succeed, whether they need Special Education or regular classroom learning.

"I've worked both ends and ... it provides a broader understanding of what students need to succeed," Wall said. "We are here to ensure that students get what they need to be successful."

Wall has taught in many places around Germany.

She taught at VES from 1985-87 and then returned this school year after teaching in Babenhausen, Hanau, Rhein Main, and Wiesbaden.

Wall was born and raised in Tucson, Ariz. where she taught prior to becoming a DoDDS school teacher.

She earned her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and her graduate degree in language and literacy at the University of Arizona.

Wall received her Special Education Certification from the University of Maryland.



Pre-schoolers Joshua Rojas (left) and Tatum Racine play with 2010 Bavarian District Teacher of the Year Gretchen Wall in Wall's classroom at Vilseck Elementary School.

Let's hear it for the boys

Netzaberg Cub Scout Pack 49, along with family members, come together June 6 for area beautification at the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic.

Each of the four Dens that make up Cub Scout Pack 49: the Tigers, Bears, Wolves and Webelos, earned their Cubervation Badge after completing the clinic's beautification. The badge is awarded for environmental awareness.

The beautification project is the last goal to meet the badge requirements.



Christopher Johnson, a fourth-grader at Vilseck Elementary School, wields a branch clipper as he helps his pack towards beautifying the clinic and earning their badge.

Photos by Amy Newcomb

Blackhawk family members build camaraderie, understanding through military-style competition

by AMY NEWCOMB
Bavarian News

Much like their Soldier counterparts in the desert, spouses of the 172nd Infantry Brigade dodged bullets, marched with weapons and practiced their shots June 3 during brigade's Spouses' Shootout Challenge.

The day-long event took place at Camp Aachen in Grafenwoehr, and while several bruises, paint splatters, and sweat stains were evident after the challenge, participants cheered and clapped with enthusiasm for each other during the final awards ceremony.

The children of the brigade joined forces June 6 for a similar event, the Wee-EIB.

This event, at Camp Heritage in the Grafenwoehr Training Area, boasted a huge turnout and children left with not only bumps, tousled hair and painted faces, but a sense of accomplishment.

The brigade brought the family members together in these two events to build camaraderie and morale.

During the day of the Spouses' Shootout, 17 teams of four battled it out in three events: marksmanship on a life-like weapons simulator, a road march that included a stretcher obstacle course and a paintball range where the team clashed with a pair of snipers while trying to retrieve a flag.

"These three events should provide



Photo by Melissa Wolff

Spouses from 172nd In. Bde. gather June 3 to compete in the Spouses' Shootout Challenge, completing marksmanship simulations, a road march and a paintball course.

some fun, a little bit of hardship and some good competition for the spouses," Lt. Col. Eric Stetson, Task Force Shield rear detachment commander, said before the day's games began.

During the paintball competition, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment's rear detachment commander, Cpt. Matt McGraw even gave the 2-28 spouses a little incentive.

McGraw offered a 20 Euro certificate to the Day Spa on post to whoever could shoot sniper 1st Sgt. Robert Ogborn, 2-28 rear detachment first sergeant, above the neck on his helmet.

Laura Gettys was one of two spouses who achieved a head shot and won the Day Spa certificate during the paintball challenge.

"I was totally excited ... I talked some trash before paintball so I knew what the mission was ahead of me - and that was to take him out," Gettys said.

"My team did great ... Without Irma and Roxanne cheering me on I could have sat down and quit, but just like everyday military life, it's the wives' supporting each other and cheering us on to make it through those tough moments," Gettys added.

Rebecca Sinclair, 172nd In. Bde. Family Readiness Group leader, and one of the coordinators behind the event, explained that the Shootout created camaraderie among the spouses.

She also explained how that it affects the Soldiers downrange.



Teams of four battle a pair of "snipers" in the paintball course June 3 during the 172nd In. Bde. Spouses' Shootout Challenge. The goal: eliminate the snipers and retrieve the flag.

Photo by Pfc. Audrey Glynn

"The Soldiers downrange love to see their spouses active and having a great time, so we made sure that we took tons of pictures to send out," Sinclair said.

"It's really to send all the spouses that want to participate into the summer on a high note, to build morale, cohesion and team-work between the spouses through this event," added Stetson, "and to give them a little insight into some of the things their Soldiers have done as part of their training."

At the conclusion of the Spouses' Shootout, an awards ceremony took place at Motor pool 11 at Camp Aachen. "Each and every participant was given a certificate to take home," Sinclair said.

First, second, and third place awards were given to winning teams in each event.

Only a few short days after the Spouses' Shootout, the "Wee-EIB," or Wee-Expert Infantry Badge, was held for children of all ages.

More than ninety children participated, battling the elements and gaining insight into what their parent trained for before deploying.

"I know that all the kids had a great time even with the rain," Sinclair said.

The Wee-EIB had seven stations

in all consisting of face camouflage, drill and ceremony, a one-rope bridge, call for fire, confidence course, water balloon assault course and land navigation.

"We just want them to have fun and experience a little bit of military culture," Stetson explained of the event challenges.

Wee-EIB participant, Kevin Spillman explained what he thought his father did down range and what he hoped to do during the event.

"Hopefully to do most of the Army things ... I think my dad does shooting, running, and I think I might get to experience what my mom did on Wednesday ... She had to do the run with the rifle," Spillman said.

"Today is all about supporting the families of the 172nd In. Bde. ... about having fun for the kids. Giving them a little taste of what their mothers and fathers do on a daily basis downrange," Cpt. Matt McGraw, officer in charge of the event said.

To conclude the events of the Wee-EIB, a bonfire was held and every participant received a "Junior Expert Infantryman's Badge" certificate.

More photos of the Spouses' Shootout and Wee-EIB can be found at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr flicker page, www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr/.



Photo by Amy Newcomb

Wee-EIB participant, Markie Beals, crawls through the camouflage netting at the fourth station after throwing his water balloon hand grenade.

War Eagle 10-Miler challenges runners at all levels of fitness

by Master Sgt. EDWARD ANDERSON
2SCR

First Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment conducted their first War Eagle 10-Miler May 30 on Rose Barracks.

The 10-Miler was part of a family oriented sport event that also included a one mile and a 5-K walk/bike/stroller/run.

The final count at the end of the day, 31 runners competed in the 5K and 38 competed in the 10 miler.

Countless runners of all ages took part in the 1-mile fun run to start the morning's events.

Two male runners broke under 60-minutes in the War Eagle Family Fit Series 10-Miler.

In the pairs first ever official 10 mile race, Captain Kyle Greenberg, from 7th Army, JMTC and Lieutenant Walter Biner, from 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, respectively took first and second place honors in the War Eagle 10-miler.

Giving kudos to the race's organizers, Captain Greenberg was ecstatic with his first place time of 59 minutes, 11 seconds in this precursor to the European Army 10-miler qualifier scheduled for June 27 in Grafenwoehr.

Both runners changed leads several times over the course of the relatively flat 10 mile course, with Greenberg pulling away in the last few miles

to claim his first victory.

A newcomer to the 10-mile distance, Greenberg stated, "It took me a while to get comfortable with the pace."

Once he did, however, Greenberg was able to cruise to a victory.

The two runners celebrated after the race and agreed to train together for future races.

According to race founder, 1st Squadron Commander Lt. Col. D.A. Sims, the War Eagle Family Fitness Series was designed to get the entire family interested in physical fitness.

The series began with a 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) race in April and will culminate with a half marathon (13.1 mile) race in October.

Each event featured a 1-mile fun run and 5 kilometer (3.1 mile) race to provide runners of all levels with the chance to compete.

"I am extremely pleased with the turn out we had for both races and look forward to a large group of participants [for the half marathon] in October," Sims said. "Everyone who participated was a winner," the War Eagle Commander said at the end of the events at the award ceremony.

The War Eagle Family Fit Series is open to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community.

For a complete listing of the results and to register for the October half marathon, contact the War Eagle Family Fit organizers at wareagleraceseries@googlemail.com.

Count your blessings



Photo by Franz Zeilmann

Lt. Col. Bryan Denny and Command Sgt. Maj. Everett Clark represent the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment May 24 at the Vilseck horse blessing ceremony. The horse blessing is an old tradition where riders lead their horse through town to be blessed by a local priest. Almost 100 horses participated in this year's parade and ceremony. This year marked the first year 2SCR participated in the event.

Asian Pacific heritage event presenter gives account of her journey to America

by JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

More than 140 people heard a dramatic firsthand account of Operation Babylift from the Vietnam War and enjoyed Oriental food as Garmisch held its annual Asian Pacific Heritage ethnic observance May 22 at the Pete Burke Center on Artillery Kaserne.

Ethnic observances in Garmisch are popular and attended by the entire garrison community, including local nationals. This event was no different, despite a long Memorial Day weekend and the German holiday of Ascension Day.

To the surprise and delight of the volunteers of the Ethnic Observance Committee, the room was packed with servicemembers, civilian employees and families who sampled Asian foods and heard Aryn Lockhart, a graphic

designer who works at the George C. Marshall Center, recall how she, as a Vietnamese orphaned infant, survived evacuation in one of the last big operations of the Vietnam War.

Acting garrison manager Russ Stokes provided the opening comments, followed by Equal Employment Opportunity officer Freddy Osorio's reading of President Barack Obama's proclamation.

"Asian-Pacific-Americans comprise a vast array of ethnic groups. The American way of perception tends to lump all Asians together into one racial group, without distinct ethnic and cultural differences," said Stokes.

"Rather than a single homogeneous culture, the term 'Asian-Pacific-American' actually identifies individuals from at least 29 different countries, each with a unique historical and cultural ethnic heritage of its own."

Then, dressed in a traditional red silk Asian blouse, Lockhart regaled the crowded room with a slide show beginning with an overview of the military operation that brought her to America and photos of her as a swaddling baby in the arms of Sister Ursula at the Good Shepherd Orphanage in Vinh Long, Vietnam.

Lockhart isn't certain of her exact date of birth.

"I was born in 1974. On March 30, 1975, Da Nang, the second largest city in South Vietnam, fell to the North," Lockhart opened. "President Gerald Ford announced Operation Babylift a few days later on April 3."

Operation Babylift was designed to bring 2,700 orphaned babies out of harm's way to the States, Canada, Australia and Europe using enormous Air Force C-5 Galaxy transport planes. Lockhart used illustrations of a Galaxy to show the audience the aircraft's sheer size and configuration for evacuating the babies.

Tragically, the first evacuation flight on April 4 of a C-5 packed with babies crashed shortly after takeoff when the pressurized cargo door blew out.

Capt. Dennis Traynor, US Air Force, tried to return his crippled aircraft to Tan Son Nhut airbase but the aircraft went down in a rice paddy two miles short of the runway. Although injured in the crash, flight nurse 1st Lt. Regina Aune immediately began rescuing survivors.

Both Traynor and Aune were decorated for their valor that day, and both went on to retire from the Air Force at the rank of colonel.

Lockhart said that out of 378 people aboard the Galaxy, 175 survived. Most of those killed in the crash were babies in the cargo compartment.

The flight manifest was destroyed in the crash, but from other research Lockhart believes she was one of the survivors.



photo by John Reese

Aryn Lockhart describes where the Vietnamese orphans were located aboard the C-5 Galaxy like the one that carried her to the U.S. Lockhart believes she was one of the babies who survived the crash of the first official flight of Operation Babylift.

In researching her origins, Lockhart became friends with Aune and the two remain in contact.

"She is a part of my family," Lockhart said.

After describing her story, Lockhart told of growing up ethnically Vietnamese but culturally American.

"I didn't think of myself as different or as Asian, just American," she said. "I was asked if I'd thanked a Vietnam veteran and at first I didn't understand, I didn't know why I should. Now I do."

Lockhart concluded by outlining her future plans to visit Vietnam and find out more about her past.

Her account coincided with a celebration of other Asian Pacific cultures through culinary tradition. The food samples from many different Pacific peoples were plentiful and very well received. Different courses from different countries at different tables all drew large crowds.

Garmisch has no Army dining

facility - just a coffee and beignets shop, a sandwich concession and hot dogs at the shoppette - so the change in cuisine prepared by accomplished Asian cooks was heartily welcomed.

From sushi to adobo chicken, from spicy kimchee to Vietnamese pho, very little remained when it came time to clean-up afterwards.

Even the table decorations were edible tropical fruits, nuts and spices.

According to Osorio, ethnic observances in Garmisch continue to improve and draw ever larger attendance due to two major factors: the close cooperation of the George C. Marshall Center and the NATO School working in partnership with the garrison to enable students and staff to experience the cultural diversity of the United States; and the dedication of the hard-working volunteers and the Ethnic Observance Committee members who constantly strive for better events.

A flight nurse prepares infants for Operation Babylift, the mass evacuation of orphans from South Vietnam to the U.S. and other countries at the end of the Vietnam War during April 1975. By the final American flight out of South Vietnam, more than 2,000 infants and children had been evacuated.



Courtesy photo

Field trip gives students access to democratic institutions

Story and photo by
JASON TUDOR
GCMC Public Affairs

Tucked amidst the concrete maze that is Washington D.C. are several offices, agencies and departments nicknamed "The Puzzle Palace." As the seat of government of the United States, the city as a whole could easily carry the same name, its dissimilar pieces sometimes difficult to navigate and understand, yet still forming the world's lone superpower.

With those pieces in front of them, students attending the Program for Advanced Security Studies stepped off a nine-hour airplane ride and began the task of assembling a more complete picture. Their five-day pilgrimage from the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies to the banks of the Potomac meant an opportunity to see the puzzle pieces up close and understand where those pieces fit into the grand scheme of government.

Meanwhile, the field trip's 120 participants were also like pieces of a puzzle coming from locations like Kosovo, Latvia, Liberia, Moldova, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United States and others. Prior to the trip, they spent their time in classrooms seeing the security situations unfold on PowerPoint slides and from the mouths of professors. Coming here offered context and hands-on experience.

"Remember our purpose," reminded Dr. John P. Rose, Marshall Center director, to "bring to you the United States of America, what it stands for and what we're attempting to do with your course of studies."

The week's schedule included visits to the Supreme Court, the State Department, Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Pentagon, and more. There were more than a dozen bus rides through DC traffic to meet a schedule that included lengthy questions and answers from the course participants.

Dr. Andrew Michta, a professor for the Marshall Center and one of the leaders on the trip, said the sort of perspective students gained from attending the program and making the DC field trip is beneficial, especially as it applied to national security policy making.

"You will be given an opportunity today that

very few Americans will have in their lifetime," Dr. Michta said as the week began.

The first to field questions and provide the judicial piece of the puzzle was Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Scalia had spoken to a half-dozen Marshall Center groups before this one. Speaking for about 20 minutes, Scalia also discussed interpreting the US Constitution, how the Supreme Court selects cases, was asked what problems he sees in America's courts and asked who monitors the court.

"What makes the American system distinctive is that it disperses power," Justice Scalia said. "At the federal and state level, it is very difficult for any one person to have power."

When court adjourned, students boarded the bus for the Pentagon Conference Center. Defense Department speakers highlighted the military piece of the puzzle, including Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley. Donley provided an overview of the Air Force and fielded questions about his team.

It was remarks by Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, however, that drew the most attention. Although General McChrystal spoke to participants as the director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he had found out that morning he'd be the new commander of military forces in Afghanistan.

"The only way to have success in Afghanistan and Pakistan is to have success in both," McChrystal said. "Our core message is a renewed commitment to the goal of limiting the ability of Al Qaeda to act."

Afghani student Mohammad Naser Yousafzay also listened. Yousafzay, country adviser to NATO senior civilian representative of the International Security Assistance Force, said these opportunities are few and far between for members of his country.

"The important message here is about democracy - how they interact and how they share their formal lives and their informal lives," Yousafzay said.

The big picture continued to unfold as more pieces fell into place: Three Pentagon-based reporters from ABC television, the Christian Science Monitor and the Wall Street Journal offered their opinions on interaction between the media and the military at the National Press Club; think tank experts at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars;

three Congressional representatives offering views on elections to the new administration; a briefing from the Coast Guard and a chance to tinker with nuclear, biological and chemical detection equipment.

The visit to Congress piqued the interest of Lt. Cosmin Gabriel Alexa Iovanel of Romania. The intelligence officer said the three Congressmen offered new perspective on how he viewed the political process.

"This is very important to me and I can see how it would be very important to others in our group," he said. "I am glad we had this opportunity to interact with them."

Retired German Maj. Gen. Justus Graebner, Marshall Center German deputy director, has visited his own country's capitol five times but hadn't seen DC in 25 years. He applauded the week's effort, saying the visit also allowed him to gain new perspective on the American

democratic process.

"The impression in Europe is that the executive power dominates the system, checks and balances aside. I gained a feeling of American identity and that's very important to Americans," he said. "That is something that is different for Germans."

Program director Navy Capt. Dean Dwiggins called the trip "one of the best he's ever attended." The PASS executive director said that while traversing the concrete maze of the nation's puzzle palace, he believed each attendee found something that made sense for him or her.

"On this trip the participants were able to question, criticize and express comments directly to senior policy makers and ground level practitioners alike," Captain Dwiggins said. "They enjoyed access to a wide variety of institutions in a short amount of time that many Americans don't easily obtain. That is the beauty of the Washington Field Study Trip. There was something for everyone."



German Air Force Maj. Sascha Donath and Mihajilo Grahovac of Serbia listen to a Soldier from the 33rd Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team talk about equipment used by the unit.

Class of 2009 urged to learn, change

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

The Hohenfels High School Class of 2009 completed their last ritual as high school students when they received their diplomas June 5 during a ceremony at Burglengenfeld city hall.

"I know in my heart you are ready to become young adults and take on the responsibility of making our world a better place to live," said Daniel Mendoza, principal of Hohenfels Middle/High School.

He praised the class for earning more than \$710,000 in scholarships.

He said 75 percent of students are planning to attend college, 10 percent will attend community colleges, and 5 percent are joining the military.

No matter what each graduate has planned for their future, all will start a new chapter in their lives, a point John Leon addressed in his speech as salutatorian.

He said he centered his remarks on what he knows best—movies—naming a few favorites that all deal with a character leaving their comfort zone to find their own way.

"Is that not what we are doing here today?" he asked.

"Are we not leaving our circle of family and friends to find success, happiness, adventure? When we come back we'll each tell our own story about how we conquered adversity.



Graduates from Hohenfels High School Class of 2009 listen to keynote speaker Shawn Rodman during their graduation ceremony June 5 at Burglengenfeld city hall.

We'll look our family and friends in the eye and know we didn't let anyone, even ourselves, down."

Class valedictorian Stephanie

Larumbe also spoke about the eagerness of the Class of 2009 to take the next step in their lives, even if it means making best friends with

Ramen noodles.

"Though we are moving to what seems like opposite sides of the world, we are ready to take whatever life

gives to us and to live up to our full potential," Larumbe said.

Shawn Rodman, Hohenfels High School teacher and keynote speaker, told the class Hohenfels has prepared them to accept whatever is to come their way.

He said the school gave them many challenges requiring them to learn, persevere and change.

Rodman recalled the first graduation he ever attended, a small ceremony with only three graduates from a correctional facility.

Two of the graduates were back on the street and dead within six months. One changed his life and went on to attend Brigham Young University.

"He took what we had to offer him and took his life in a different direction," said Rodman, urging Hohenfels' graduates to do the same.

"In the very near future you will be faced with many opportunities and challenges and choices. Make the most of them. You might question your ability to succeed. You have the ability to succeed. You know how to make decisions. You know how to work with other people even though you might not always agree with them ... We as a school gave you the opportunity to learn new things and you decided to take that opportunity to learn and change. That's what your diploma certifies," said Rodman.

"To answer the question 'when am I ever going to use any of this,' I have no idea—but I suggest you start tomorrow."

Local celebrity surprises commissary shoppers with visit, healthy eating tips

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Shoppers at the Hohenfels commissary June 2 and 3 did a quick double-take when they saw Kay Blakley, the recognizable face of the Defense Commissary Agency on Armed Forces Network commercials, touring the aisles of their store.

Blakley, DeCA Europe consumer advocate, made the trip from DeCA Europe headquarters in Kaiserslautern to give Hohenfels shoppers a road map toward healthy eating.

During lunchtime June 3 Blakley took a group of community members around the store, pointing out nutritional tips and information.

Blakley said she came to Hohenfels to "give people a better understanding of how you can eat healthier just by paying attention.

"I want to give them information that will help them make smart food choices at every turn," said the woman who every Thanksgiving hosts a commercial on AFN showing viewers how to cut calories during the usually gluttonous

holiday meal.

"I want to give nutritional info to the Hohenfels community and bringing in a celebrity is a good way to do it," said Jamie Segarra, commissary manager, who asked Blakley to Hohenfels. "I wanted to do something different and I've received very positive feedback from it."

Blakley said during the nutritional tour she reminded customers that there is a place for all foods in their diet.

You can even squeeze in treats by making every calorie choice count, she said.

She also pointed out that here in Europe consumers do not need to purchase organic milk to avoid hormones sometimes found in traditional milk.

Many people are not aware that all the regular milk at your commissary is completely free of hormones and antibiotics, she said.

After the commissary tour Blakley handed out sandwiches, nutritional information and a big, warm smile to customers entering the store.



Photo by Jamie Segarra

Kay Blakley (right) gives community members nutritional information during a tour of the Hohenfels commissary June 3.

Garrison leaders thank, 'salute' German doctors

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

The Hohenfels U.S. Army Health Clinic and commanders from U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels and the Joint Multinational Readiness Center presented twelve local-national medical providers with Freedom Salute Awards signed by Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George Casey, during a small reception May 30 in the Commander of Operations Group's conference room.

Dr. Terry Carroll, retired colonel and current clinic health systems officer, told the assembled German doctors they are crucial to the clinic's delivery of healthcare.

The Hohenfels clinic is only able to provide primary care, referring patients to off-post providers for more in-depth or specialized care.

"Today it is so important we take a moment to say thank you for all you do for us. Not only do you provide medical care, you provide world class medical care," said Carroll.

Col. Charles Preysler, JMRC commander, thanked the doctors on behalf of Hohenfels Soldiers, saying the awards are just a small token of the community's thanks because the debt the community owes these providers can never truly be repaid.

"I don't think I can ever repay anyone who has taken care of my kids.

"They have received great care here in Europe and for that I will always be grateful," said Preysler.

"I have said for a while that the best health care Soldiers can receive anywhere is right here in the Oberpfaltz region," said Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, USAG Hohenfels commander.

Col. Derek Cooper, clinic commander, said recognition for the doctors by the Chief of Staff of the Army was an almost six-month process,

but well worth the effort.

"You have my heartfelt thanks for what you have done, and what you continue to do, for the community," Cooper said.

After the awards were conferred and the doctors milled throughout the room, it became clear they have relationships with the community that extend beyond the work day.

"My motivation is to take the best possible care of American Soldiers, families and kids," said Dr. Ludwig Hecht, doctor of orthopedic surgery and sports medicine in Regensburg.

"I love Americans," Hecht said, explaining that he even has told his German employees

to put the yellow "Support Our Troops" ribbon magnets usually sported by Americans on their cars.

One of the doctors for the German national soccer team, Hecht voluntarily missed a trip to Shanghai, China to receive his award.

Other doctors, like Dr. Marita Eisenmann-Klein, spoke of the positive relationship between American healthcare workers and patients and German healthcare providers.

Eisenmann-Klein, a plastic surgeon with a practice in Regensburg, said Americans are her favorite patients.

"Americans are the patients we love the most. They are easy to work with and very open-minded," she said.

As the General Secretary of the International Confederation for Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, an organization of more than 32,000 plastic and aesthetic surgeons, Eisenmann-Klein is also involved in humanitarian work she said often receives logistical support from with the U.S. Army.

IPRAS's humanitarian organization Women for Women is a program that provides female surgeons to help female patients, usually in third-world countries, suffering disfiguring traumas that are often the result of social or ethnic traditions.

Americans are the patients we love the most. They are easy to work with and very open-minded.

Dr. Marita Eisenmann-Klein
Regensburg Plastic Surgeon

Get the latest news and community information at the USAG Hohenfels Web site,
<http://www.hohenfels.army.mil/>.

The 527th Military Police Company stationed in Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr and Ansbach has been completing a diverse range of missions in Afghanistan since deploying in spring 2008.

Before their departure, company leaders said the unit would be stationed at four different forward operating bases, separated by platoon and, in some cases, by squad, each with a unique mission. Photos taken by company Soldiers and Army public affairs personnel document company members performing their duties.

Right: 527th MP Co. Soldiers in Afghanistan coordinate with interpreters and members of the Afghan National Police.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Davis



527th from the frontline

A Soldier with the 527th MP Co. performs maintenance on an Armored Security Vehicle.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Davis



Above: A Soldier from 527th MP Co. coaches an Afghan security guard on how to fire an AK-47 assault rifle in the prone position during weapons training on Forward Operating Base Torkham in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan May 12.

Left: An Afghan national police member treats a simulated gunshot wound to the chest of Spc. Alan Bunting, 527th MP Co., May 10. U.S. Soldiers have been training selected ANP personnel on advanced medical treatments as part of an ongoing combat medic training program at the Nazyan Police Station in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.

Below: Staff Sgt. Joshua Garrick, 527th MP Co., explains how to operate an AK-47 assault rifle to Afghan security guards assigned to Forward Operating Base Torkham, in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, May 11, the night before conducting a weapons range at the FOB.

Photos by Sgt. Matthew C. Moeller



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Davis

Above: With the help of interpreters, Soldiers from the 527th MP Co. conduct training with Afghan National Police.



What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Girl Scouts

The USAG Grafenwoehr Girls Scouts is recruiting for Overseas Committee Co-Chair and an OCC-elect for 2009-2010.

The committee chairs direct and supervise all Girl Scout Troops in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Netzaberg.

For more, contact Michelle Aschton Griffin at CIV 09643-205233 or e-mail m.aschton@hotmail.com.

Ten-miler qualifier

The U.S. Forces Ten Miler qualifier will be held June 27 in Grafenwoehr.

Registration is available online at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil. Call DSN 475-7576/8207/7137 for more.

4th of July

Join the garrison to celebrate Independence Day, July 4.

In Grafenwoehr, there will be food and entertainment at 6 p.m. and fireworks at 10:30 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Parade Field.

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

Car boot sale

The Grafenwoehr library will host a car boot sale Saturday. This flea-market-type sale is open to ID card holders only.

For more, call DSN 475-1740 or DSN 476-1740, or go online to www.library.eur.army.mil.

Apprenticeship program

Children Youth and School Services is implementing a new program for youth 15 to 18 years of age. The Hired! Apprenticeship Program offers valuable paid work experience and training to better equip each participant with the skills needed for a highly-competitive job market.

A cash award and certificate is available to youth at the end of the term, provided by Kansas State University.

Youth interested should contact Joann Valenzuela at DSN 476-2662.

Executive-level EO seminar

The 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command cordially invites all First Sergeants and above, company commanders and above, GS-13 and above to attend executive-level EO

seminar. June 22 from 8 a.m.-noon at the Multi-Purpose Facility, Bldg. 134 in Vilseck, Germany. Call DSN 475-8038 for more.

Horseback riding lessons

Sign up for the SKIES Unlimited horseback riding lessons Monday-June 26. Lessons will be in July at the Weiden Reiter Club. Sign-up at your nearest Central Registration office. Spaces are limited.

Pet vaccination clinic

The Vilseck Veterinary Treatment Facility will sponsor a weekend vaccination clinic Saturday. Services will include, but are not limited to: routine physical exams, vaccinations, heartworm/feline leukemia tests and fecal exams.

To schedule an appointment, call DSN 476-2324, CIV 09662-83-2370.

Estate claims

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

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

Summer camp program

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

All youth must be registered in CYSS to attend. For more on summer camp, contact either Teen Center at DSN 476-3144, DSN 475-9390.

Swim league

European Forces Swim League team in the Grafenwoehr area is now recruiting for swimmers ages 6-19, swim coaches and parents willing to help get the team started. You must be an ID card holder to join.

For more, e-mail v.g.vipers@google-mail.com or visit <http://www.swimefsl.org>.

DAC training

All new DAC supervisors/employees are required to attend initial classroom EEO and POSH training. Also, new military supervisors of civilian employees are required to attend.

The next EEO and POSH classroom training is scheduled for Monday from 9-10 a.m. at the Grafenwoehr EEO Office,

Building 537. Notify the EEO office in advance at DSN 475-6390/8360 to register.

If you would like to schedule the EEO/POSH training at your worksite, call the EEO office at DSN 475-6390/8360.

Combatives tournament

The JMTC and the 7th Army NCO Academy will be hosting a combatives tournament at the Grafenwoehr gym Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

To sign up, contact christopher.massey@eur.army.mil. Combatives certification is not required and it is open to any active duty Soldiers stationed in Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, or Vilseck.

Hohenfels Briefs

Investing for tomorrow

This financial seminar June 17 gives insight on mutual funds, explains the difference between stocks and bonds, offers advice on when a Roth IRA is better than a traditional IRA, identifies investment opportunities and establishes a perspective between the risk of an investment and the reward it returns. Check it out from 3-5 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 10. For more, call Rachael Sosa, Financial Readiness Program manager, at DSN 466-3401.

I love my daddy crafts

Be prepared for Father's Day with a great craft made at the I Love My Daddy Crafts June 18 from 2:30-4 p.m. at the library. The craft is for all ages. For more, call the library at DSN 466-1740.

CPR and first aid

Become American Red Cross CPR and First Aid certified by taking the one-day course June 20.

Class runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and provides attendees with the knowledge and skills necessary to help sustain life in an emergency. CPR certification is valid for one year, and first aid certification is valid for three years. Cost is \$30 for First Aid, \$35 for CPR, or \$40 for both. All classes are in the ACS conference room, Bldg. 10. Call DSN 466-1760 for more.

Youth sports and fitness

Summer Mini Camp enrollment is currently going on. The first week of specialty camps and trips start on Monday. Camp activities include Start Smart golf and basketball, street hockey, basketball, golf, canoeing, Garmisch hiking and boating, sand boarding, extreme sports ventures, tackle football, mountain biking, European handball and more. For more, call Youth Sports and Fitness at DSN 466-2558/2479.

Hallo Hohenfels

If you are new on post, this is the place to be Monday through June 26. This week-long information extravaganza, presented monthly and designed to orient newly arrived spouses, is packed with information about your Hohenfels community. Make new friends while you tour the post, learn how to use the German public transportation system, shop and dine on the German economy and more. Free child care is offered when you pre-enroll. Join other recent arrivals at ACS, Bldg. 10, at 8:30 a.m. Call ACS at DSN 466-4860 for more.

PWOC bible study

Protestant Women of the Chapel invite you to join the summer bible studies. Summer dates are June 23, June 30, July 21, July 28, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18. These stand-alone studies will be held at the Hilltop Chapel Center from 10-11:30 a.m. Childcare for all ages will be available. For more, visit the PWOC website at hohenfelspwoc.com or contact Crystal Tackaberry at crystal.tackaberry1@us.army.mil.

Camp coaches needed

Youth Sports is looking for football coaches to come out and help with the upcoming football camp June 24-27. If you are an experienced coach, have knowledge of the game or would just like to volunteer and lend a hand, call Youth Sports and Fitness at DSN 466-2558 for all the facts.

Hohenfels tax center

The tax center will be taking appointments through June 30. Walk-ins will be un-

available due to limited staffing. For more, call Serena Bushee at DSN 466-2817.

Catholic youth conference

The Hohenfels Catholic Community would like to take a group of interested teenagers to the European Catholic Youth Conference August 7-10. This gathering of interested Catholic youth and youth Ministry Leaders will be held in Schoenstatt, Germany, near Koblenz. This will be a great opportunity for Catholic teens to build bridges of friendship and hope, connecting military youth with those who support them. If interested in attending, contact Jennifer or Tom Fisher at tjmfisher@aol.com before June 30.

HCSC board positions

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club is looking for individuals to be a part of the board for the upcoming year. The following positions are available: thrift shop liaison, ways and means chair, publicity chair, special activities coordinator, hospitality chair, child care coordinator, historian, newsletter chair, scholarship chair, volunteer coordinator, and Wild West Night event coordinator. Anyone interested should contact Heather Bruce by July 1 at hdeithorn@yahoo.com.

VBS volunteers needed

The Hohenfels Chapel Community is looking for adult and teen volunteers to participate in this year's Vacation Bible School, Aug 10-14. Training and materials will be provided. If you are interested and available, contact Ginger Sain at ginger.sain@eu.dodea.edu or Morrisa Booker at bookerbunch6@aol.com or call at DSN 466-1570.

Garmisch Briefs

Summer reading program

Join the fun and explore the worlds of music, dance, art, books and more. The program is open to young people, grades K-6, with programs, prize drawings, story readings and more. Families are invited to join the Read-to-Me portion of the program. Registration is underway for programs Wednesdays from 11 a.m. - 12 noon on June 24, July 1, July 8 and July 15.

For more, call DSN 440-2467, CIV 08821-7502467 or ask at the library for details.

If you are interested in volunteering for the summer program, please stop by the library or e-mail libstaff@eur.army.mil.

SKIES unlimited

Do you enjoy getting wet? Maybe spending some time outdoors with a four legged companion. How about releasing energy while maintaining self control or hitting a ball? Are you next in line for Dancing with the Stars? CY Services is looking for contract instructors interested in teaching the following classes: swimming, horseback riding, martial arts, tennis, and dance. For more, call DSN 440-2393.

County fair

The 3rd Annual Garmisch County Fair, an American-style old fashioned county fair, will include softball, pie baking contests, barbecue-style food (and beverages), traditional picnic games, live entertainment, and Sports activities. It will take place at the Garmisch sports fields, across from the elementary school July 3. For more, contact FMWR at DSN 440-3702, CIV 08821-750-3702.

Conquer the Zugspitze

Join the trip, July 18 for \$120 which includes accommodation in a beautiful historic mountain hut, tickets for the cogwheel train or the spectacular cable car down the mountain. Contact the folks at the Pete Burke Community Center at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

King Ludwig's 'Other Castle'

Visit the Schachen castle August 22. \$85 includes accommodation in a beautiful historic mountain hut, tour of the castle, and certified guide. This is the experience of a lifetime! Contact the Pete Burke Community Center at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

Hiking club

Get your gear and explore beautiful Garmisch on foot. All trips are geared to prepare youth for our overnight hike with Grafenwoehr youth in August! For more, call DSN 440-2600, CIV 08821-750-2600. 23 June, Hoellental, FREE 30 June, Wank, \$20.00 for bahn ticket down

Rock-n-Rollick playgroup

Join in on all the fun at our weekly playgroup, each Tuesday from 1000-1130 at the Pete Burke Annex. For more information, contact the ACS staff at DSN 4403777 or CIV 08821-750-3777.

All community members are invited
June 24 at 6 p.m.

at the Grafenwoehr Elementary
School Multi-Purpose Room,
Bldg. 124.

Find out the latest on programs, events,
construction updates,
and other important issues.

Garrison directors and subject matter experts
will brief topics and answer questions.

You can make a difference in your
community!

**Town Hall
Meeting**

ARTS & CRAFTS CONTEST

Complete for cash prizes against the best artists and artisans in the U.S. Army! Enter your best 2D and 3D artwork in the annual U.S. Army Arts and Crafts Contest.

Enter online. Call the Crafts Studio for more information at 09721-96-6903/DSN 354-6903.

Deadline for Entry: 30 June 2009
Contest Website: <https://artscrafts.fmwr.army.mil>

What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Self Help Saturdays

Self Help stores at Katterbach and Storck Barracks are now open Saturdays May 30 through June 27 from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will be closed Mondays.

Customer use of new Saturday hours will determine if a permanent change is warranted. For more, call the Katterbach store at DSN 467-2149, CIV 09802-83-2149, or the Storck Barracks store at DSN 467-4666, CIV 09841-83-4666.

Furniture expo

Army and Air Force Exchange Services hosts a Furniture Expo June 25-27 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Storck Barracks Air Field Hangar.

Fuel card outage

There will be a fuel ration card outage June 28 from 10 p.m.-8:30 a.m. June 29.

Between those hours, the purchase of fuel on post or use of ration cards at local Esso stations will not be available. AAFES will not be able to issue new cards at this time.

The outage will allow for maintenance to ensure the system remains compliant with industry standards.

See the hospital

Storck Army Community Service will host a trip to the Bad Windsheim Hospital June 26 at 1 p.m. to help newcomers learn about the health care services available on the economy.

Attendees will be able to tour the hospital and ask questions of the staff. Afterwards, the group will go for coffee and cake. For more on the visit, call DSN 467-4555, CIV 09841-83-4555.

Pro skateboarders visit

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

For more, call the USAG Ansbach Religious Support Organization at DSN 467-3082, CIV 09802-83-3082.

Vacation Bible School

This year's theme is "Crocodile Dock." VBS takes place Aug. 3-7 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Katterbach Chapel and Aug. 10-14 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Storck Barracks Chapel.

Take a romp through the swamp! This bayou VBS is a ragin' celebration!

With Operation Kid-to-Kids, children will create a pair of soft and snuggly Comfort Critters that will be given to disaster relief organizations who in turn pass them along to kids in crisis.

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Sgt. Richard A. Dempster of F Co., 5-158th Aviation Battalion, should contact the summary court officer, 1st Lt. Andrew Wempe at DSN 467-2200, CIV 09802-83-2200.

AAFES extends hours

In an effort to better serve the community and in response to customer requests, Army and Air Force Exchange Service is extending hours at two eateries in the Ansbach community.

Subway at Storck Barracks is open until 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, and Burger King on Katterbach is open until 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Both hour extensions are 90-day trials to determine if usage is enough to continue with the hours.

School registration

USAG Ansbach area schools are now holding registration for the 2009-2010 school year. Registration will go on for some time, but parents are advised that the earlier they register, the better service the schools will be able to provide as staff and resources are allocated before registration ends.

For more, call your servicing school.

Medical appointments online

Katterbach Health Clinic patients can now make appointments online. Log on to the Web site at www.tricareonline.com and register. After that, follow the instructions.

Mail notification via e-mail

The USAG Ansbach Community Mail rooms now offers e-mail notifications for the arrival of packages to those who register for the service.

To register or for more, talk to the staff your CMR.

Travel changes

New U.S. Transportation Security Administration travel requirements are expected to go into effect in July.

Travelers, when making reservations, must ensure their reservations and tickets reflect their names exactly as shown on their travel documents, i.e., passports.

Use of nicknames such as Jim for James or Bob for Robert will not be accepted.

This change could also impact frequent flyer programs.

Check with your program officials

to make sure you will receive credit with these changes, or have your name changed on the account to match your travel documents.

For more, call DSN 468-7957, CIV 0981-183-957.

Marriage, family therapy

The Ansbach Behavioral Health Clinic on Bleidorn Kaserne, Bldg. 5083, has a marriage and family therapist available Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The therapist is available to assist with pre- and post-deployment issues that are impacting the marriage or family as well as counseling not related to deployment.

For more or to schedule an appointment, call DSN 468-7853, CIV 0981-183-853.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Fuel ration card outage

AAFES will have a scheduled system outage from June 28 at 10 p.m. to June 29 at 8:30 a.m. Between these hours customers will not be able to purchase fuel on post or use their ration card at local ESSO stations and AAFES will not be able to issue new fuel ration cards.

The outage is necessary so the fuel ration card will remain compliant with industry standards.

Adjusted gate hours

Askren JFK entrance will be open for 24 hours in support of the Volksfest and the upcoming construction on B303.

Askren main gate will be open for 12 hours from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. These changes will remain in effect until August 7. Additionally, the Ledward east gate will remain closed until approximately July 1.

Pick strawberries

Women and children of the community are invited to come pick strawberries at a local strawberry patch tomorrow. Meet at Ledward Chapel at 10 a.m. for directions or to carpool.

Bring own container to gather strawberries and Euro to purchase them as well as for lunch afterwards. For more details, email pwoc.schweinfurt@gmail.com.

Recycle center notice

On behalf of the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Public Works, residents of Askren Manor Housing Area are reminded that dumping at the recycle center outside the normal operating hours is prohibited.

If the center is closed, take the trash back home and bring it back when the recycling center is open.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday. Please put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before.

Bulk trash is only those items too large to transport in your vehicle. For more, call SORT coordinator CIV 0162-270-9403.

Army 10-Miler

Want to join a competitive 10-mile race in Grafenwoehr? The race takes place June 27 and is open to all U.S. Department of Defense identification card holders.

Participants can register online through the USAG Grafenwoehr Web site at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, and free troop billets are available on a first-come, first-served basis by calling DSN 475-9024, CIV 09641-83-9024.

Alternatively, lodging or camping can be reserved by calling CIV 09641-83-1700, CIV 09662-83-2866. Deadline to register for the race is June 24.

Inspector General visit

The 7th Army Office of the Inspector General will be in Schweinfurt to provide assistance to Soldiers, family members and the Schweinfurt community today and tomorrow from 4-5 p.m. in the Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room. For more, call CIV 01622-973323.

Summer camps

Child, Youth, and School Services camps have begun for the summer, but it's not too late to sign up your child or teen. Camps are available for kindergarten through 12th-grade.

For kindergarten, call the Child Development Center at CIV 09721-96-6281; for first- through fifth-grade, call School Age Services at CIV 09721-82181; for sixth- through eighth-grade, call the middle school/teen center at CIV 09721-96-6732; for weekly sports camps for kindergarten through 12th-grade, call Youth Sports and Fitness at CIV 09721-96-6822.

Army birthday

Celebrate the 234th Army birthday in Schweinfurt Friday with cake and a story at the Child Development Center at 9:30 a.m., at the Teen Center with a barbecue and cake 4 p.m., and at School Age Services with cake and a story at 4:30 p.m.

Rollercoaster, museum, beer

Join Schweinfurt's Outdoor Rec's day trip to the Rhoen Saturday. Visit the Wasserkuppe with its summer rollercoaster, the Outdoor Museum in Fladungen, and the famous Kreuzberg Monastery best know for its delicious beer.

Transportation departs Conn ODR at 9 a.m. and returns approximately 5:30 p.m. \$20 includes transportation and museum entrance. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-8080.

Comedian performs

Comedian Bernie McGrenahan will return once again to the Ledward Theater June 26. The community is invited to attend his performances at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for hearty laughter.

Attention teens

Teens are invited to join the Ledward Library video game and graphic novel group June 29. Bring games, anime, and ideas. Group meets from 4-6 p.m. For more, call CIV 09721-96-1740.

Single Soldiers invited

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) offers events throughout each month and invites you to participate. Call CIV 09721-96-8476 for more.

•Tuesday: BOSS council meeting, open to all, Finney Rec. Center, 2 p.m.
•Wii challenge, Finney Rec Center, 6 p.m.
•June 25: Horror movie and popcorn night, Finney Rec Center, 6 p.m.

Fishing in Germany

Want to fish in Germany? Attend the required fishing license certification course at Conn Outdoor Rec. starting the evening of June 26 - June 28. Course costs \$65. For more or to sign up, call ODR at CIV 09721-96-8080.

DA arts & crafts contest

The 2009 Department of the Army

Arts and Crafts contest has begun. Eligible participants can create a profile and submit entries at <https://artscrafts.fmwrc.army.mil/> until June 30. For more, contact the Ledward Crafts Studio at CIV 09721-96-6903.

Summer fun for teens

Schweinfurt Club Beyond welcomes the teens of the community to join in summer fun. High school students are invited to join Water Wars at the Conn Chapel field June 18 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. For more event details or for a ride, call CIV 0175-666-3339 or DSN 354-8620 or e-mail ecable@clubbeyond.org.

Schweinfurt carnival

Come enjoy the fun at the 100th anniversary Schweinfurter Volksfest, the city carnival at the volksfestplatz across from Askren Manor. Festival runs until Monday with the following opening hours: Mon-Thu 2 p.m.-midnight, Fri-Sat 2 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Sunday noon-midnight.

Movie matinee

The Ledward Library, in association with Film Movement presents an award-winning independent film, entitled "Noise," Sunday at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. For more, call CIV 09721-96-1740.

Adult book club

The community is invited to attend the adult book club at Ledward Library the last Thursday of each month. The next meeting is June 25 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the book, "Year of Magical Thinking."

A copy of the book can be picked up at the library's circulation desk. Coffee, tea, and treats will be served. For more, call CIV 09721-96-1740.

Socialize at the Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town?

Join Army Community Service Schweinfurt's Lunch Bunch June 25 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at CIV 09721-96-6933.

Experience German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome! Please bring Euro for lunch.

Wood shop orientation

Want to learn how to make your own picture frame or chess board? Come to the Wood 'N Frame Shop orientation Saturdays from 10-11:30 a.m.

The class is required to use the wood shop for any project. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6304.

2009 ANSBACH YOUTH SERVICES
SUMMER SPLASH

Weekly Camps from 15 June - 28 August

Cost: \$70/week (day trips only)
\$140/week (overnight trips)

These fees include all entrance fees, transportation costs, lodging and snacks/meals. Multiple child discount is available. Register at Central Enrollment Registration today!

Activities: Fishing, Water Sports, Freizeit-Lager Geiselwind, 49-Kart Racing

Contact:

- Headquarters CER Bldg 4651 DSN 467-8800
- Katterbach CER Bldg 5817 DSN 09802-83-2533
- Storck Barracks YS Bldg 4421 DSN 09841-83-4731
- Katterbach YS Bldg 5811 DSN 09802-83-2295



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Accomplish extraordinary things while you achieve your personal goals.



EVERYDAY PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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The St. Mere Eglise Zone where time turned back 65 years

Story and photos by
JOHN REESE
USAG Garmisch PAO

"You're traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound, but of mind. A journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination ... the sign post up ahead, your next stop ... the St. Mere Eglise drop zone." (with apologies to Rod Serling)

Thousands of French and British re-enactors dressed as 1944 Allied soldiers and hundreds of U.S. paratroopers invaded the small French town of St. Mere Eglise June 1-8 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

It was a surreal experience to Americans who came to Normandy, seeing so many Europeans waving and wearing the red, white and blue.

Most of the re-enactors were dressed as U.S. paratroopers or infantry disembarked at nearby Utah and Omaha beaches. A vast armada of restored WWII motorcycles, jeeps, trucks, halftracks, tanks and other hardware filled the narrow lanes and local campgrounds. The packed campgrounds were transformed into 1944-era Army encampments.

Occasionally old war birds such as spotter planes, C-47 transports or Spitfire fighters buzzed overhead (as well as a few low level passes by USAF C-130s) to add to the festive atmosphere.

American flags flew everywhere. Many of the village shops had an airborne theme featuring the insignias of the 82nd and 101st.

U.S. and French veterans of that longest day, easily recognizable from their advanced age and the hats, jackets and baretts adorned with patches that identified their units of June 6, 1944, mingled with the re-enactors.

Mixed in were American

veterans of the Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Classic French sidewalk cafes were elbow-to-elbow with re-enactors and actual airborne troopers from France, the U.K., Germany and the U.S. in contemporary uniforms.

Locals and visitors alike kept offering to buy Soldiers drinks, keeping the local barkeeps running.

Carnival rides kept the young at heart busy, including bumper cars on steroids that were seriously fast and hard-hitting. Street vendors hawked food, drink and war memorabilia to the throngs of ersatz warriors.

For 20 Euro one could pick up a replica German "potato masher" hand grenade. Real items like pristine helmets or uniforms saw prices reaching into four digits.

By June 5 the gendarmerie had to close the roads leading to the center of town, causing some interesting traffic jams as tractor trailers towing M-4 Sherman tanks had a difficult time negotiating 90 degree turns on narrow streets that barely accommodate two small passing cars.

All of this was happening under the gaze of a mannequin hanging high above the center of town with his parachute snagged on a spire of the church.

The mannequin represented Pvt. John Steele, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, portrayed by actor Red Buttons in the epic film "The Longest Day."

Elderly residents of St. Mere Eglise populating the cafes argued whether or not Steele was actually the paratrooper unfortunate enough to land atop the church or just a guy who raised his hand when asked, but all agreed that whoever it was actually got caught on the back side of the church instead of the more easily seen front.

A joint services "life support area" featured an enormous open bay sleeping tent for American and British military and civilian personnel. There were about 500 warm cots in one tent alone.

For the European allies, the MREs issued for lunch were a novelty; for the

Americans more familiar with the fare, it was trying not to get stuck with the beef patty or the vegetarian omelet.

During a ceremony June 6 under sunny skies at the Omaha Beach American Cemetery where 9,387 U.S. Soldiers killed in action were laid to rest after the battle, the leaders of France, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. spoke to an audience of more than 10,000.

The Army had set up 9,360 folding chairs extending the length of the cemetery, and thousands of military personnel of all branches of service from different countries, most of them American, stood at the sides.

Public Affairs officers and security personnel did what they could to keep the hundreds of media people in their designated areas.

Actor/director Tom Hanks caused a frenzy of cameras snapping away as did the arrival of the First Lady and President Barack Obama.

"Friends and veterans, what we cannot forget - what we must not forget - is that D-Day was a time and a place where the bravery and selflessness of a few was able to change the course of an entire century," said Obama, speaking to those present and the world via live television and radio.

"At an hour of maximum danger, amid the bleakest of circumstances, men who thought themselves ordinary found it within themselves to do the extraordinary.

"They fought for their moms and sweethearts back home, for the fellow warriors they came to know as brothers. And they fought out of a simple sense of duty - a duty sustained by the same ideals for which their countrymen had fought and bled for over two centuries," Obama said.

On June 7, attention turned to a drop zone eight kilometers west of St. Mere Eglise where tens of thousands came to watch an exhibition of modern airborne operations.

Sticks of American paratroopers from Fort Bragg, Ga., Fort Benning, Ga., and Vicenza, Italy joined their European airborne brethren in a mass jump demonstrations.

Gusts of wind and rain squalls

delayed some of the jumps, eventually cancelling the final sticks.

One gust carried a participating U.S. Navy SEAL into a stream, where he emerged soaking wet, but in high spirits.

During the rain delay, members of the USAREUR Band, taking refuge in a large tent, entertained the soggy crowd with a spontaneous, free-flowing Dixieland set. When the sun returned the band resumed playing military marches and popular 1940s tunes.

As June 8 dawned, the American military and re-enactors alike began to strike tents and head for home.

Convoys of green vehicles, old and new, streamed away from Normandy destined to return another year, never forgetting what happened there in 1944.



Clockwise from the top: The stained glass window in the church in St. Mere Eglise was created in memory of Pvt. John Steel, 505th Parachute Infantry who snagged his parachute on the steeple during the invasion, and the other paratroopers who jumped there 65 years ago; Members of the French Resistance and Free French, who took part in the Battle of Normandy, participate in a ceremony June 5 in Gourbesville; French re-enactors adorn American uniforms and fly the U.S. flag; Three 1944 "paratroopers" (French re-enactors), wearing the 82nd Airborne patch, pose in St. Mere Eglise's town center; Fallschirmjagers (German paratroopers) smile as the crowd applauds their jump of friendship with their French, British and American airborne counterparts.



Bavaria Medical Activity welcomes new commander

by ANNE TORPHY
BMEDDAC PAO

Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher, commander of Europe Regional Medical Command, officiated the change of command ceremony June 3 on the Vilseck High School sports field where Col. Steven J. Brewster assumed command of U.S. Army Medical Activity, Bavaria from Col. Theresa M. Schneider.

BMEDDAC, headquartered at Rose Barracks in Vilseck, provides the command and control for an ambulatory network of seven primary care health clinics throughout Bavaria that support more than 40,000 Soldiers and family members in the Bamberg, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Illsheim, Katterbach, Schweinfurt, and Vilseck communities.

The clinics are out-patient primary care or ambulatory clinics and are capable of providing urgent care, routine care, and wellness examinations.

Ambulatory care is defined as medical services that are provided as an out-patient. Services include: diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. The health clinics do provide some special resources such as physical therapy, optometry, audiology, and behavioral health.

Col. Brewster was previously stationed at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine in Aberdeen, MD as the Director of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance.

He has spent considerable time in Germany, attending Ramstein Jr. High School and Kaiserslautern High School while stationed with his family.

Brewster has nine years of service as a physician in Europe. After completing an internship in Family Medicine at Dewitt Army Community Hospital, Ft. Belvoir, Va., he served as battalion surgeon for 10th Special Forces Group in Stuttgart, Germany, while simultaneously serving as the EUCOM Flight Surgeon. In 1994, COL Brewster returned to



Photo by Mary Markos

Col. Steven J. Brewster (left) receives the U.S. Army Medical Activity-Bavaria colors from Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher, commander, Europe Regional Medical Command, June 3 at BMEDDAC change of command ceremony in Vilseck.

Dewitt, where he completed a Family Medicine Residency. Upon graduation, he was re-assigned to Germany as commander of the Bad Kreuznach Health Clinic, transferring two years later to the SHAPE Health Clinic in Belgium, where he assumed duties as the Officer in Charge of the International Health Clinic and SACEUR Flight Surgeon.

Brewster holds a Master of Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health.

He completed a residency in Preventive Medicine at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., in 2002.

Subsequently, he served as Chief of Preventive

Medicine at Ft. Drum and deployed to Ar Ramadi, Iraq, in support of the 82nd Airborne Division as the Division Preventive Medicine Physician responsible for the Al Anbar Province.

Brewster was assigned to Wuerzburg MEDDAC in 2004 as Deputy Commander of its nine Outlying Health Clinics and later as the MEDDAC Deputy Commander for Clinical Services.

Between these assignments, he served as Division Surgeon for 11th Infantry Division, then headquartered in Wuerzburg.

In 2007, he left Germany to become Director of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance at

the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine in Aberdeen, Md. Brewster and his wife Ellen return to Germany with their daughter, Kelsey.

Cpt. Kerry Brewster, their oldest daughter, is currently serving with the 172nd Infantry Brigade in Iraq and Midshipman Kirsten, their middle daughter, will shortly conclude her sophomore year at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

Brewster is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff Officer Course. He is board certified in both Preventive Medicine and Family Medicine.

Brewster thanked Schneider for her service. Brewster said, "Colonel Schneider, thank you so much for your leadership and your many accomplishments over these last two years.

"It is every commander's desire to leave their organization in a better state than that in which they received it, and you have certainly done so and raised the bar for future commanders.

Your tireless efforts, compassion and selfless dedication have sustained and propelled this organization through its transformation from a legacy MEDDAC to a regional health care system. We wish you God-speed in your deployment to Iraq and look forward to your safe return."

Brewster also addressed the many German officials and doctors that attended the ceremony, noting that the U.S. military system needed to capitalize on the superb health care in Germany. Brewster went on to say, "I look forward to partnering with all of you - our commanders, community leaders, health professionals and host nation colleagues - as we work to build and sustain the physical, psychological, social and spiritual health of our Soldiers, families and communities."

Schneider thanked the troops and the German providers for their tremendous support over the last two years. She spoke of the two words in her mind this past week, "pride" and "joy".

Her next assignment is as Deputy Surgeon, Multi-National Force - Iraq.

Avoidance key to preventing tick-borne illnesses

by Capt. MATTHEW PERRY
Environmental Science Officer

It is that time of the year again here in Bavaria.

Believe it or not, the season for outdoor activity really is upon us and for most of us, this will take us far into the beautiful landscape of Europe on bike trails, volksmarches, and weekend camping trips.

While these activities are a wonderful way to get attached to nature, we need to be sure we don't get nature too attached to us.

In Europe, tick season is April through October. Ticks in Germany, as in the United States, can carry several potentially deadly diseases for us and our pets.

Two common diseases seen here are Lyme disease, caused by the bacteria group *Borrelia*, and tick-borne encephalitis, caused by the tick-borne encephalitis virus.

Both are transmitted through the bite of an infected Ixodes tick. Lyme disease is commonly seen in the U.S. as well as in Europe.

A person with Lyme disease may develop: fever, headache, fatigue and a very characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans.

This rash, which develops in about 70 percent of infected patients, is sometimes referred to as a "bull's-eye" rash because it is red and circular in appearance and as it grows (which

can be up to 12 inches) it will often lose the red appearance in the center of the rash.

If the disease is left untreated, it can worsen and cause swelling of the brain; facial paralysis; pain and numbness in the hands and feet; enlargement and inflammation of the heart; intermittent bouts of arthritis in large joints (commonly the knees); and problems with sleeping, concentration and even short-term memory.

In most cases Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. In a small percentage of patients, problems with joint and muscle pain, fatigue and memory defects can persist months or years after treatment.

Tick-Borne Encephalitis, also known as Fruehsommermeningoenzephalitis in Germany, is a disease that is not seen in the U.S., but is common to Europe and other parts of the world.

This disease, like Lyme disease, is caused by being fed on by the Ixodes tick.

Unlike with Lyme disease, a person can also get this disease by drinking raw milk from sheep, goats, and cows infected with the virus. A person with TBE can go one-two weeks without any symptoms of the infection.

Following this, the disease will follow a characteristic two-phase period. The first phase lasts two-four days and can cause fever, headache, loss of appetite, muscle aches, nausea, or vomiting.

Then there will be a period of about eight days where the virus will go into remission. After this period, about 20-30 percent of infected people will enter the second phase of the disease.

This will involve the nervous system and cause inflammation of the lining of the brain (meningitis), inflammation of the brain itself (encephalitis), or a combination of the two (meningoencephalitis).

Because this disease is caused by a virus and not a bacterium, antibiotics are not effective in treating it. Hospitalization is essential, and depending on the severity of the illness, may require anti-inflammatory drugs and assisted breathing procedures.

In about 1-2 percent of the cases, death will ensue after about five to seven days. There is a non-FDA approved vaccine available in Europe. People interested in this should contact their health care provider to get further information on this vaccine.

The prevention of both of these diseases is the same: avoid being bit by ticks.

Ticks have a way of sensing heat and carbon dioxide from long distances and will climb to the tops of long stalks of grass or other vegetation and wait until an animal (or human) walks by and brushes up against them. Ticks will then attach to their host and begin feeding.

In order to reproduce, male and female ticks require this blood meal. Female ticks can lay from several hundred to several thousand eggs, depending on the species.

To prevent being bitten, avoid areas of overgrown brush, un-mowed yards and fields that back up into wooded areas where wild animals reside. These will be popular places for ticks.

Before going out hiking, camping, or playing in high brush areas, be sure to use some simple precautions that can significantly reduce the chances of being fed on by ticks and other insects.

Soldiers already know this as the "DoD Arthropod Repellent System".

This system includes wearing permethrin treated uniforms, applying DEET to exposed areas of the skin and properly wearing the uniform.

It should be noted that the new ACUs do not come pre-treated with



Photo by Scott Bauer

The Ixodes tick is found in the United States and Europe. This species is responsible for the spread of Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis.

permethrin. There are several methods available to treat military uniforms, but the recommended method is the Individual Dynamic Absorbent kit.

Additionally, wearing light-colored clothing may make it easier to see ticks when they initially attach to the skin, making their removal easier. Wearing long pants and tucking them into socks or hiking boots will make it harder for ticks to find exposed skin to feed on.

Apply DEET to exposed areas of the skin as directed by the label, but do not apply to children under 2 months old. Also, avoid milk that has not been pasteurized.

If a tick is found, removal should be done carefully. Proper removal of a tick is done by using fine-tip tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pulling up in a smooth, steady motion.

After removal, clean the area with soap and water and apply an antiseptic. Avoid jerking motions or pinching off the head, as this could cause secondary infections.

Do not use home remedies such as hot matches, fire, fingernails, polish, or other extreme methods.

The practice of wearing flea collars on a person's body, directly or over clothes, should be strongly discouraged.

This is not only ineffective but can be dangerous to the health of the person wearing them as the pesticides in the flea collars will concentrate in the person's skin and can cause skin and internal organ damage.

Officials continue vigilance against H1N1 pandemic

ERMC Press Release

The World Health Organization decision to declare the novel H1N1 influenza outbreak has reached pandemic levels June 11 has no immediate impact on health care operations in the Europe Regional Medical Command, according to leading health experts.

"We continue to track the spread of the disease, and we have sufficient reserves of medications for treating the seriously ill," said Col. Evelyn Barraza, ERMC preventive medicine consultant and chief of preventive medicine at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

There have been six confirmed cases involving U.S. servicemembers in Europe, she said. Those patients have received treatment and are responding well.

She added that the command continues to follow Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Current guidelines include information on treating the illness for those who suspect they may have contracted the H1N1 influenza.

The CDC notes that if you are sick, you may be ill for a week or longer. You should stay home and avoid contact with other persons, except to seek medical care. If you leave the house to seek medical care, wear a mask or cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

In general, you should avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness. At the current time, CDC believes that this virus has the same properties in terms of spread as seasonal flu viruses.

Antiviral drugs can be given to treat those who become severely ill with influenza. These antiviral drugs are prescription medicines with activity against influenza viruses, including H1N1 flu virus.

For updated information, visit the CDC Web site at [visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/).

The "bull's-eye" rash, a symptom of Lyme disease, occurs in approximately 70 percent of infected patients and can spread up to 12 inches in diameter.

Courtesy photo



Highway 1 reopens to Iraqi motorists

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

The Governor of Babil Province, Salman Al Zargany, and the United States Ambassador to Iraq, Christopher R. Hill, joined together June 2 in Convoy Supporter Center Scania, Iraq, to cut the ribbon officially reopening Highway 1 and signifying the U.S. Military's cooperation with recent security agreements made with Iraq.

Highway 1, which has been closed for six years, runs through Basra, up to Baghdad and further north.

According to Lt. Col. Jim Barren, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, the road is probably the most modernized highway in the country.

Since all six lanes of the highway were closed off by barriers, it forced motorists to use a bypass road that ran adjacent to the highway.

The bypass was a one lane dirt road, which passed through a salt marsh.

According to Master Sgt. Hollis Champlain, an operations sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, due to the road being so small, there was an average of four major incidents per week where coalition forces had to respond and assist with the removal of overturned vehicles.

"This is a great project and a great example of the partnership between the U.S. and Iraqi people," said Lt. Col. Christopher Lestochi,

commander of the 54th Engineer Battalion.

"The Iraqi engineers were very enthusiastic to help, because they knew how important this road is to the people of Iraq."

The 54th Engineer Battalion and the 8th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment worked together to make reopening the highway possible by moving over 1,800 barriers to the inside median of the highway.

"Opening the road to the public will save a huge amount of time," Barren continued. "There are always traffic jams. If a vehicle has a roll over or gets stuck on the bypass road, it just stops all traffic flow until someone can come and get that vehicle moved."

"It has been a long time coming and is definitely a step in the right direction," Barren said. "I think it's about time we did this."

"Two years ago, you would never have thought about reopening the road, because the area was getting attacked often," said Brig. Gen. David Elicerio, deputy commanding general of operations, 34th Infantry Division.

"Twenty months later, we are able to reopen the highway again, right beside the convoy support center. It shows the significant improvement in this area."

"We stand on a road that people have used for many thousands of years," Hill said about Highway 1. "When we have a moment like this, we should remember those tough times that got us here and will help us build a better future for Iraq."



Iraqi motorists wait for the official reopening of Highway 1 in Convoy Supporter Center Scania, Iraq. During the six years the road has been closed, motorists were forced to take a bypass that runs adjacent to the highway.

172nd Soldier helps preserve brigade history

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

Sgt. Juan Diego Ruiz-Cruz, 172nd Infantry Brigade, repair and utilities noncommissioned officer in charge, works every day to help preserve the brigade's history by using his talent to construct heraldic items for the brigade.

Ruiz-Cruz, a Woodburn, Ore., resident, said he has been working with wood since he was eight-years-old at his grandfather's woodshop in Aguascalientes, Mexico. His grandfather taught him many of the tricks he knows today when it comes to getting the job done.

Eleven years after beginning work with his grandfather, he moved to the United States to experience the 'American Dream.'

He opened his own construction company and maintained it until his opportunity to join the military arose after September 11, 2001.

Ruiz-Cruz's command recognized his talents in carpentry and has made him the noncommissioned officer in charge of the woodshop. He has worked in the shop since the beginning of his deployment in November, building desks, chairs, tables, and Blackhawk regalia.

For ceremonial purposes, such as



Above: Sgt. Juan Diego Ruiz-Cruz, 172nd Infantry Brigade, repair and utilities noncommissioned officer in charge, cuts out a star that will be part of a large, wooden Blackhawk patch.

the Army's birthday, Ruiz-Cruz and his Soldiers created large unit patches that can take them up to four days to complete.

"We do what we can to preserve our brigades history," he said.

One project his team has worked on is the brigade conference table in the headquarters building on FOB Kalsu. The table has been elaborately decorated with engravings of the Combat Action Badge, Combat

Infantryman Badge, Combat Medic Badge and the Blackhawk shield.

Sgt. Nicholas Diaz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company team leader of the 1st Battalion, 2 Infantry Regiment, did the detailed artistic engraving that distinguishes the table top.

Spc. Christopher Spradin, 172nd Infantry Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Operations, joined Ruiz-Cruz in the repair and utilities shop in January, said he has

Below: Each Blackhawk patch Sgt. Juan Diego Ruiz-Cruz, 172nd Infantry Brigade, repair and utilities noncommissioned officer in charge, and his Soldiers build takes up to four days to complete.



learned a lot from Ruiz-Cruz.

"He has taught me some of the tricks he has picked up on in the many years he has worked in carpentry," said Spradin, a McMinnville, Ore., resident. "He is very smart, and he definitely knows what he is doing."

"He is probably one of the better noncommissioned officers to work for," said Spradin, "because he is very understanding and he does what he can to help anyone who is having

a problem."

"He has showed me how I would like to be as an NCO," added Spradin. "He doesn't create a stressful environment, and instead of getting upset at mistakes, he will come over and show you a better way of getting the job done."

"I wouldn't be able to get any of this work done without my Soldiers," Ruiz-Cruz said. "It is only possible through the team effort they give."

To find out more
about the
missions and
actions of the
Soldiers of the
172nd
Infantry
Brigade

visit,
www.172infantry.army.mil/

Babil medical first responders train to save lives

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

Soldiers of the 413th Civil Affairs Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team and 172nd Support Battalion of the 172nd Infantry Brigade trained 30 Iraqi medical personnel during the Babil 1st Responders Course at the Babil Rehabilitation Center in Al Hillah June 4.

The training presented two scenarios for the 14 doctors and 16 nurses and paramedics to demonstrate their ability to assess the situations and take action in preserving the lives of the victims, said Capt. Pam Foley, team leader of essential services and infrastructure with the 413th Civil Affairs BPRT.

The scenarios simulated car accidents, because 80 to 90 percent of all hospital admissions in Iraq are from car accidents.

Types of injuries the medical personnel trained with during the exercise included fractures, head and spine trauma, pelvic and abdominal injuries and burns.

"The quick responders splinted the fractures and stopped the bleeding before loading them up and moving them inside the treatment facility," said Foley.

"Once inside, the doctors performed their specific duties such as placing airways, chest tubes and some advanced cardiac life support."

"They have all done a wonderful job," Foley said about the Iraqis,

"They knew exactly what to do in the given situations."

Now that the four day block of instruction is complete, the doctors, nurses and paramedics will continue to train 10 more medical personnel a month.

"I have confidence they will do a good job in continuing the training," Foley said.

At the completion of the train-

ing, the Iraqis received certificates of completion from the American Soldiers that traveled to the rehabilitation center to train them.

During the awards ceremony, Capt. Christina Buchner, commander of the 172nd Support Battalion addressed the doctors, nurses and paramedics.

"This has been an exciting four days. Not only was this training experience for you, it was also a training experience for us. It gave us the opportunity to see you at work in your environment," she said.

"We have conducted many training exercises around Iraq," Buchner, a Brooklyn, N.Y. native continued, "and this has been the best so far."

"Thank you very much for your patience, knowledge and intellect you have brought to this exercise," she commented. "We hope to work with you again in the future."



Two Iraqi paramedics strap a patient to a stretcher June 4 after extracting him from a vehicle at Al Hillah's Babil Rehabilitation Center.

Griffin warrant officer reaches highest rung on career ladder

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

A 12th Combat Aviation Brigade materials officer reached the pinnacle of his career recently when he was awarded a rare rank - the last stop for his warrant officer career.

In a special and emotional ceremony June 2 Lt. Gen. Ken Hunzeker, V Corps commanding general, and distinguished brigade colleagues, family members and guests witnessed Keith L. Langewisch of New Franklin, Mo., pin on the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5.

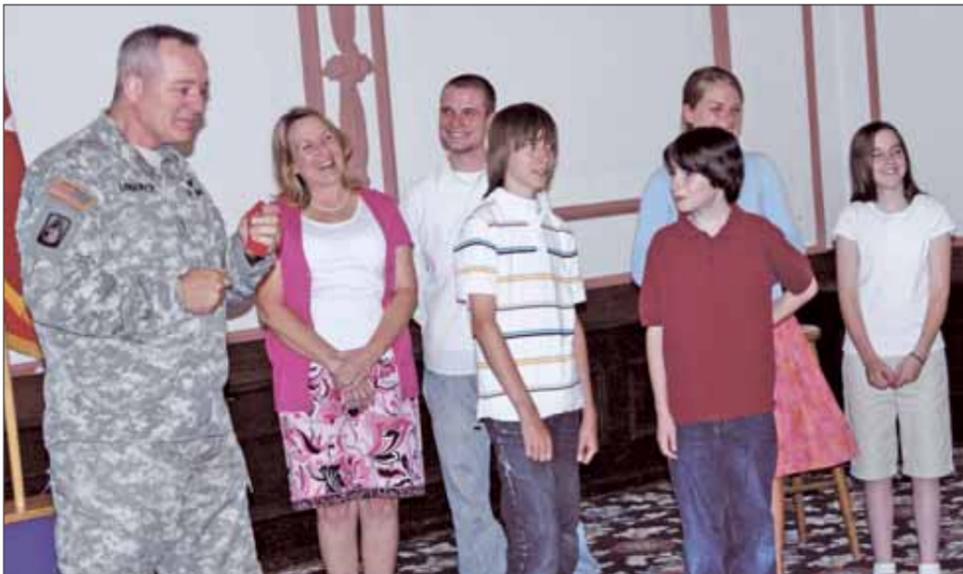
"This is the highest a warrant officer can go," said Langewisch. "I'll stay Chief Warrant Officer 5 until I retire in about another six years - which will then be 30 years of service."

Langewisch explained that making CW 5 is not a given for warrant officers.

"It is harder to make W-5 than it is O-6," he said. "There are more positions for colonel ranks than there are for W-5 ranks, because they have a bigger pool to pick from. Plus, colonels are in every branch, where as aviation has 50 percent of the warrant officer population in the Army."

The Chief Warrant Officer 5 corps is very limited, Langewisch said.

"I want to say we are authorized only 300



Chief Warrant Officer 5, Keith L. Langewisch, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade aviation material officer, and his family during his promotion ceremony June 2.

CW-5s in the [entire] U.S. Army—it is a small number, limited by Congress," he said.

The rank of CW 5 is sign of exceptionally hard

work in the warrant officer field, said Hunzeker.

"We built this rank at human resources command - the old 1st PERSCOM - to recognize

those warrant officers that needed to go the next level - those working above and beyond - and we wanted to capture and recognize them for the talents they bring to the force," said Hunzeker.

"It is a huge honor to be part of one of these ceremonies - recognizing those guys and gals who go to the next level."

Langewisch said that it took him about 20 years to earn the rank, and then explained how he decided to become a warrant officer.

"Given that I did not know the rank and helicopters even existed when I initially enlisted in the Army, I was only going to stay in six years, get some experience, get out and get a job in the civilian world. This is huge for me," he said.

"When I was enlisted, there was a non-functioning radio on my aircraft that a W-1 kept writing up. I complained about it to another warrant officer and he said, 'Become a warrant officer and maybe you can fix these things.' So that is what I did.

"It is an honor to represent all the other warrant officers and know that we're experienced guys," Langewisch said. "It is about self esteem and personal fulfillment - striving to do our best. It is a very good reward for doing your best and continuing to serve your country at the next level." Langewisch also thanked his family for their support of him during his career.

Garrison supports, appreciates its retiree corps

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

Approximately 60 area retirees descended upon Storck Barracks for the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's Retiree Appreciation Day June 6.

"We want to show them that we, as a garrison, still care," said Will Godard, retiree services officer for the garrison. "We recognize them for their service, their local presence—they are not forgotten, and most of all, we have something for them as a community."

"We want to show our retirees that the council and service has restructured, under new leadership, and what the garrison has to offer and give them as a community—we do not want them to feel like they have been left out in the cold, and that is how some of them feel," he said.

Godard explained that the garrison may not have all services needed for retirees, but it does have the main ones requested by retirees.

"Medical, mailboxes and financial needs--in that order--are what retirees need most in Ansbach," said Gilbert Clarke, vice president of the local

retiree services council.

The RAD featured the Illesheim Health Clinic offering a wellness clinic consisting of an educational presentation, how retirees get appointments, senior health screenings and information about TriCare—which is now open for the first time to retirees for dental services in Europe, said Godard.

In addition to the health screenings, the dental clinic offered dental screenings and scheduled appointments for retirees.

Godard said Ansbach retiree services serves more than just Ansbach.

"We serve a large region, and have retiree representatives in the areas of Augsburg, Crailsheim and Nurnberg, but we reach out that far because we are the closest garrison to them," he said.

USAG Ansbach commander, Col. Christopher M. Hickey, said it is important to support retirees.

"We need to ensure our retirees are connected to the services because of the service they have given our country," said the commander. "If they are having issues with anything—

finances, legal---it makes it very convenient for retirees to resolve them all in one place."

And that is exactly what happened.

"There is a lot of information I would never have found out without the RAD," said Ilse Baker, surviving retiree spouse living in Furth. "When you live in Germany, you do not have as much access to this information—like the dental services offered."

"You get first hand information," said retired Sgt. 1st Class Bob Jones, who said while the information on the internet is good, a RAD is better.

"Face-to-face and talking to someone, more so than reading, you get a better understanding of services offered," he said.

And if some retirees do not have internet access, they can get that access at the garrison.

"The library is open for every retiree to use the computer - they can access it and the Internet to actually update their information on it," said Elke Lewis, publicity officer for the Ansbach retiree council.

Having the RAD is important to the local retiree corps, Godard said.



Retiree Ron Wheeler (left) talks with Kenneth Aungst, retiree supervisor of the Storck barracks mail room, June 6 about retiree mailbox allowances at the Retiree Appreciation Day.

"It shows we support our retirees and there is sunshine in this community," he said. "We do support and understand them, we know they are here and we have respect for them—it also makes them feel good when they leave."

Hickey applauded that sentiment and added a final note of coincidence. "It is really an honor and special to do this for them today - June 6, a very significant day in our country's history," he said.



History on the big screen

Sophomore students from Ansbach's Middle/High School attend the Honors 10 Movers & Shakers Conference May 29 at the school.

The conference, which came at the end of the year-long class combining history and literature, also served as the final project for the students.

Each of the 23 class members reviewed, analyzed and critiqued video presentations they made that highlighted a historical figure.

For the year-long project, students had to research their figure, choose pictures and music, write a script and narrate and time their video.

"It is a lot of work," said Soleil Vaughn. "We really learned a lot from all the projects. Not only of our own character, but we learned about everyone else's character too, which showed the real importance of the figures and how they impacted the world and how the world would be different if we hadn't had them," she said.

Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

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Leading by example: Noncommissioned Officer Academy molds tomorrow's NCO leaders today

Story and photo by

Spc. MICHELLE WATERS

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

As the sun came up over the hills, Soldiers attending the Warrior Leaders Course at the 7th U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officers Academy in Grafenwoehr, mentally prepared themselves for the first event of their trek to becoming U.S. Army NCOs – The Army Physical Fitness Test.

The APFT is one of the major tenants of the WLC, a 30-day course designed to prepare Soldiers to become the future leaders of the Army.

"The PT test is just the start," said Sgt. Maj. Antonio Reyes, NCOA Deputy Commandant. "The WLC helps NCOs develop leadership savvy, self discipline and professional ethics, while also demonstrating the skills and knowledge for leading disciplining and developing Soldiers."

In addition to training Soldiers from the U.S. Army the NCOA regularly trains the NCO's of coalition partners from countries such as, Poland, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Liberia, Republic of Botswana, among others.

"This fiscal year, Oct. 2009 until present, we have graduated 2524 students, and there are still two classes left for the year," said Reyes. "Of that number, about 65 students were international students."

Helping the Soldiers, international and U.S., achieve their goal of becoming NCOs, are more than 40 instructors, also known as Small Group Leaders. The SGLs are molding the young Soldiers into becoming the Army's backbone.

"I prefer hands-on leadership. I like to get



A Soldier in the 7th Army NCO Academy's Warrior Leaders Course takes the Army Physical Fitness Test in Grafenwoehr May 14.

down and dirty with the students," said Staff Sgt. Yolanda Felton, a small group leader for Alpha Company. "I want them to see what we have to offer here at the academy."

While in training, Soldiers conduct physical training six days per week with Saturday being a morale-focused session. Rather than conducting the typical Army PT formation, Soldiers in each platoon conduct morale building competition-driven exercises for their physical activity for the day.

Felton said cadre set up obstacle courses and other fun activities to give Soldiers a break from the standard 'one – two – three' cadence style exercises.

Besides the mandatory APFT, Soldiers are evaluated on classes offered by the NCOA, leading a PT formation, garrison and tactical leadership, conducting an individual training session ("Train the Force") and land navigation. These are the skills they will one day take back to their unit to train their own Soldiers.

In addition to the required WLC curriculum, Students gain access to some of the most modern and advanced training techniques and facilities in the Army. The 7th Army NCOA allows students to conduct training at the Joint Multinational Simulations Center's Virtual Battlefield Simulator. The students discover their leadership potential on the largest live-fire training area outside the continental United States, training using simulations, which replicate realistic scenarios that the junior Soldiers are likely to encounter as NCOs in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Every Soldier is given a chance to succeed. The NCOA even provides metabolic weight and health issues, which is provided by Health Care Specialists within the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities.

"I'm really pleased with the way things are going so far. I don't want a friend out of the SGL's. I want them to be a mentor to me," Sgt. Antwone Sneed, a student attending WLC.

The SGL's are there to facilitate and help guide the classroom, but the students are given the conditions and standards for each event, and are have the opportunity to teach each objective.

"Leading by example is the best way to lead Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Massey, NCOA SGL.

"When you set the example for them, and show them what's right, there is no question in their minds as to what it is they need to do. You can counsel someone, but actions speak louder than words."

Massey said he enjoys the opportunity to work with the junior-enlisted Soldiers and teach them what they need to know to become leaders.

Grafenwoehr offers stress-free lane training for deploying troops

Story and photo by

Staff Sgt. GINA VAILE-NELSON

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Running the APFT is one thing ... but running in full battle-rattle from one station to the next and firing your weapon at the correct target all while having that crusty sergeant up your fourth-point-of-contact is another.

"I was moving kind of slow," said U.S. Army Spc. Michael Dickey, a soldier from Vicenza, Italy. "My sergeants were yelling at me, but that's what they are supposed to do. It motivates me, makes me better."

Dickey and 70 other Sky Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, ran through a stress-free lane at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, May 9.

"I was worn out," Dickey said, after completing the six-station exercise that tested the Soldiers physical ability to work in a stressful environment.

Soldiers assembled their M-4 rifle

at the start of the training lane then ran to the first station where they knocked down two targets.

The Soldiers then conducted the three-to-five-second rush to a second checkpoint where they engaged targets from the prone position.

Once the objective was cleared, Soldiers had to walk and fire to the third station.

At this station, Soldiers were met with a 200-pound dummy that needed to be moved to the fourth checkpoint.

At the fourth point, Soldiers called in a nine-line-MEDEVAC for the patient then engaged two more targets. After low-crawling to the fifth station, the Soldiers – nearly out of breath already – engaged the final two targets, secured a water jug and ran it to the sixth and final station.

"They are pretty smoked by the time they get to that final station, but they like what they are doing," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Key, a fire support NCO and lane safety from Company A,

2nd Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

"It definitely gives them an idea of what it's like to have to run up a mountain and engage a target."

The Sky Soldiers conducted training at Grafenwoehr in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

"The GTA provides a very unique training environment due to its size and the numerous ranges it has here," said 1st Lt. Andrew Underwood, officer in charge of the training event.

"Earlier this week we were able to qualify Soldiers and now we're able to conduct stress shoots like this, as well as, buddy live fires."

Underwood said the training was a success for his Soldiers, many of whom have not deployed before.

"The facilities and training lanes have definitely improved over the years. You can look out here and see this training lane isn't exactly realistic, but it gives the Soldiers an idea of

what they will encounter down range," said Key, a combat veteran, who had trained at the GTA between 1999 and 2000.

"We can do pretty much anything on these ranges. From small arms,

up to artillery mortars and cavalry, so the 173rd gets some good training out here."

The 173rd comes to Grafenwoehr at least twice a year to conduct squad live fires, qualification and zeroing, he said.



A 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Soldier carries a dummy to a secure location during a stress-fire exercise May 9.

Year of the NCO Spotlight

Sgt. 1st Class Nakia Way

Age: 33

Current Unit: Joint Multinational Readiness Center

Current Position: Platoon Observer/Controller, JMRC Vampire Team

Component: Active Army

Current Location: Hohenfels, Germany

Hometown: Andrews, Texas

Years of Service: 15

"I will do it" is his catch phrase; as a matter of fact Sgt. 1st Class Nakia Way often looks for those positions that take him out of his comfort zone. He believes it gives him a chance to learn more and excel. For him no job is too difficult. As a Platoon Observer/Controller for the Vampire team, the team that trains soldiers on Fire Support and Maneuver's at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Way trains Soldiers and Multinational Forces for Peace Support Missions and Counter-Insurgency Operations. He improves combat readiness by teaching technical and tactical operations, and doctrine. "As an O/C we all play a key role in mentoring Soldiers, which saves lives once the unit deploys," Way said. "Also, I get an opportunity to work with foreign nations. I get a chance to learn the Troop Training Procedures of other Countries and in turn, teach them some of the U.S. Army's TTPs."

Command Sgt. Major Michael Grinston, Senior Enlisted Fire Support NCO for Way's team describes Way as an NCO that consistently takes initiative in everything he does. "When the team has a difficult task to perform, he is often the one to stand up and say 'I will do it,'" said Grinston.

Way's initiative extends into the community as well. He has volunteered more than 300 hours of his off-duty time to coach a men's softball team, and coordinate and organize food drives for the Parsburg, Germany Children's Orphanage. "We are the Back Bone of the Army and Soldiers look at NCOs for guidance." "To be an effective and good NCO, you should be the example for all to follow. You should be the most dependable, loyal, dedicated, and trained Soldier. Great NCOs make things happen when no one else can, said Way. "They force high standards of excellence. They go the extra mile to ensure all Soldiers are taken care of. They know their Soldiers and families, and always take an interest in them." The old adage, "lead by example" is true, said Way. "NCOs should strive to be the best at all levels, not only at his or her job, but also in his or her personal life. Always pursue the tough jobs and higher education," said Way. "Be the example for all others to follow. Remember the reason you became an NCO, and live the NCO Creed."



Customers come first at award-winning Schweinfurt commissary

Story and photo by
MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

In the wee hours of most mornings, while the Askren Manor Housing Area around them and the rest of Schweinfurt are asleep, a small crew toils in the aisles, and on the docks and shelves in the Schweinfurt commissary, preparing for the day.

They are part of a 46-person team that was recognized with an honorable mention for the best commissary worldwide in the last fiscal year, the Defense Commissary Agency announced May 20.

"That's what makes this a store. You have people who are interwoven and have become a team," said Larry Weathers, store director.

Holding the plaque for the award and peering out from the office of his store administrator, Michael Pride, Weathers gestures toward two of his team members "on the floor."

"It's about those people out there, wearing those red coats, those red smocks," Weathers said of the award.

"It's not just me and Mr. Weathers. It's them out there," Pride said.

The award is the fruit of determination to

understand and accommodate the people whom they serve – about 700 to 800 per day – the customers, according to Weathers.

"We take care of the war fighter. We take care of the customer," he said.

Sales numbers are up – consistently and substantially, Weathers said.

"The more dollars we run, the happier the customers are," he said. "They seem to be able to find what they are looking for."

The workers in the commissary do their best to keep each other informed and up-to-date on their areas of expertise, therefore providing consistent information to the customers, according to Ashley Stepp, lead sales store technician.

"We put the customer first. We make sure they're taken care of," Stepp said. "They won't leave here without a smile."

And they probably won't leave without what they came looking for.

Employee Ellen Glaser rotates the steaks and meats in the Schweinfurt commissary. The commissary received an honorable mention for best commissary worldwide as announced by DeCA May 20.



Warm weather activities increase risk of careless mistakes involving alcohol

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

With the onset of warm weather, many people are turning their activities

outdoors to barbecues, picnics, outdoor sports and more.

Along with these activities often comes food and drink and the Schweinfurt Alcohol and Substance

Abuse Program wants to send a message of responsible drinking out to the community.

"We tend to make careless mistakes" when drinking, said Gerry Warner, alcohol and drug control officer.

And believe it or not, the host of the party can be held responsible if an accident occurs due to alcoholic consumption at their gathering.

Several ways to avoid liabilities from attendees is to provide options.

"The biggest thing is offering non-alcoholic drinks and offering lots of water ... and snacks," Warner said. Even when making drinks, it's a good idea to offer an alcohol-free version.

In addition to providing a variety of drinks, the host should be aware of designated drivers and when people are leaving and with whom.

"They need to make sure that someone stays sober," said Catherine Manos, ASAP prevention coordinator/employee assistant program coordinator.

If there are no designated drivers, the host should provide alternative

ways for people to get home or even have the option for the guests to spend the night, Manos said.

Fines and penalties for driving under the influence have steeply increased in Germany as of January, according to Manos.

But even more important than that are the lives at stake.

"Let's personalize it a bit ... what would happen if (your) children were out on the street," Manos said, describing how many innocent people on the road fall victim to those who drink and drive irresponsibly.

Drug and alcohol education and making wise choices are the keys to avoiding an irreversible mistake.

There is now an online training Web site available offering the information needed to make those wise choices.

By using a Common Access Card, the training can be taken at <https://incom.eep.army.mil/sites/hrd/asap/default.aspx>.

"It's a good option for people to get the information they need and want," Manos said.



Courtesy photo

Schweinfurt Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program stresses the importance of responsible drinking and avoidance of alcohol-related accidents.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Schweinfurt youth soars to rank of Eagle Scout

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

What do Neil Armstrong, Steven Spielberg, Robert Gates, Michael Moore and President Gerald Ford have in common?

They all achieved the highest rank of Eagle Scout in their youth while participating in Boy Scouts of America.

Only five percent of all Boy Scouts ever acquire the foremost rank of Eagle Scout, according to the Boy Scouts of America Web site - and the Schweinfurt community boasts one in those numbers.

High school senior, Larry Morgan, sought to earn the rank about a year ago and began the rigorous steps to fulfill the requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills.

"My mom provided a lot of support, and, my dad, he's deployed, but he gave me ideas ... my brother stepped in to pick up the slack," Larry said, explaining how time-consuming and challenging it was to reach for the Eagle Scout rank in the midst of his senior year in high school.

"We got a (large) amount of support from the community - especially from the Isoms" who remain active in promoting the Boy Scouts of Schweinfurt, he said.

Throughout the year of work, Larry described his over-arching feelings.

"I was kind of in a state of optimistic panic. I was



I was just kind of seeing what it was like. I liked being able to go out and experience lots of things.

Larry Morgan, Eagle Scout

worried about something going wrong," he said, but everything really worked out well.

"It's been a life-altering experience for the whole family," said his mother, Amy.

"I wish that more people would put (their kids) through all the way to the end" of the Boy Scout ranks.

Larry first joined the BSA at Ft. Sill, Okla., when he was 11 years old with no idea of his future pursuits.

"I was just kind of seeing what it was like. I liked being able to go out and experience lots of things," he said.

In the course of six years, his involvement in the Boy Scouts increased as he moved with his family in the transient military life.

Twenty-one merit badges later, Larry found himself with the Boy Scout rank he sought.

Larry did not achieve this rank but not before spending hours volunteering; leading a troop; and

planning, developing, and carrying out a successful service project.

"I planned to throw an appreciation ceremony for the WTU Soldiers," Larry said.

He did exactly that for the Warrior Transition Unit Soldiers.

The ceremony served as one of the biggest projects he completed in his trek toward the rank of Eagle Scout.

"It meant a lot for me to be able to do that for them. I felt like that was where the most difference could be made. I thought it was worth it even without the Eagle Scout, because it meant that much to me," Larry said.

An attitude like that, said his mother, is a mark of honor in her book.

"One of the things I like the most about Boy Scouts is the community service. It shapes their minds into becoming a contributing member of society," Amy said.

Red Cross offers support in emergencies

by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

When an emergency arises and a spouse is deployed, family members may easily feel overwhelmed by the situation.

To help ease the stress, the American Red Cross and the rear detachment command are ready, willing, and able to assist those Soldiers and families in the event of an emergency.

"A lot of people don't know we're here. The service we provide is that we verify emergencies and notify the command.

"They in turn use that information to notify the Soldier and give him access to emergency leave," said Cheryl Dean, Schweinfurt ARC station manager.

Dean explained that a situation is branded an emergency, warranting emergency leave, when there is a death or severe illness of an immediate family member.

The ARC also provides an easy way for family members to contact their deployed spouse for the birth of a child or urgent financial situations.

It is important for family members to know that when utilizing the notification service of ARC, they need to be prepared to provide the service member's rank, social security number, unit and local phone number.

With this information, the ARC representative can confirm the emergency and begin the notification and emergency leave process.

Beyond the ARC, family members are privileged to have a trained rear-detachment command group that they can rely on for extra help and support.

"The rear detachment works as a crisis action team to engage garrison, community, governmental, military and host nation agencies that offer various types of family support," said Cpt. Jim Woods, 172nd Support Battalion rear detachment commander.

Through the efforts of the ARC and the rear detachment command, contact with a Soldier can be quick and efficient, given the Soldier is not engaged in a mission that would delay communication.

"You truly need to possess a sense of compassion, and you need to realize that not every family member or Soldier deals with these situations in the same way.

"You have to be patient with your approach but ruthless in your efforts to ensure they are cared for with the utmost respect and courtesy," Woods said.

Woods explained the importance of being prepared for any type of situation to maintain the success of a unit and the well-being of Soldiers and their families.

"(We) take every minute we can before Soldiers deploy to run situational battle drills with the rear detachment team relating to family emergencies. You can never rehearse, plan and prepare too much when it comes to caring for our Soldiers and their families," Woods added.

For more information or to report an emergency, contact the ARC at 09721-96-1760.

"You call our phone number and it's answered 24/7, 365 days a year. We have wonderful, compassionate, caring people who will assist (the Soldier) in getting home. We're very good at what we do, so afford us the opportunity to do our job," Dean said.



American Red Cross

Chaplain assistant develops character during Soldier of the Year competition

by SANDRA WILSON

Bavarian News

Some may think that winning is the only worthwhile goal to attain when in a competition. Others may see that just the training it takes to prepare for such an event builds character and perseverance unmatched to claiming victory.

That's how Spc. Jonathan Conerly, chaplain assistant in Schweinfurt, felt upon completion of the intense, three-day 2009 Installation Management Command-Europe Soldier of the Year competition held in Grafenwoehr May 10-13.

"This is a collection of tasks that ... are intimidating. (Conerly) made me proud," said Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Bearor, one of Conerly's sponsor trainers for the competition.

The competition began with a physical fitness test of sit-ups, push-ups, and a timed two-mile run. Marksmanship at the firing range followed, and then weapons' maintenance exercises tested Soldiers'

skills. The day finished with a written exam.

"Once the (training) preparation is done, the sponsor is kept at bay. We're really only there for moral support," said Staff Sgt. Seneca Calbert, another of Conerly's sponsors.

"We were more prepared this year because we knew what to expect," said Conerly, referring to last year's competition as being his first. "(Even so) every competition is different because the competitors are different."

Day two brought on an early 12-mile ruck march with a 35-pound ruck sack and 20 pounds of other gear, a day land navigation course including a set of drills and a night land navigation course.

"I probably excelled most in the land navigation. I came in first for the Soldiers in the day. I was really prepared for that," Conerly said.

"He's a natural at (land navigation), and not a lot of Soldiers can do that," Bearor said. "Putting all that together with very limited coaching, he did a

good job."

But the ruck march posed to be much more challenging than all the marching he did during the month of training.

"I thought I could do it without any food. I know now, put food in your pocket," Conerly said, explaining how he didn't seem to need refueling during his training, but the competition proved to be different.

The final day set before the competitors the trials of the selection board.

Seven command sergeants major fired questions at each Soldier from all directions.

"It's meant to be a stressful environment to make sure you're on your toes and to test your military bearing," Calbert said.

"I thought it went great," he said. "(The competition) is definitely a motivator for other young Soldiers. It should also motivate NCOs in units ... to want to train up their Soldiers."

"It can be open to any Soldier. It just depends on how badly they want it."



Spc. Jonathan Conerly performs the set-up, loading, and operating of a Single Channel Ground Airborne Radio System during the 2009 Soldier of the Year competition.

Photo by Melissa Wolff

Single Soldier program boasts best event award



From left, B.O.S.S. senior adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee, trip coordinator Pfc. Darci Jordan, President Spc. David Houser, member Pfc. Keith Brown, and DFMWR representative Silvia Joiner met for the B.O.S.S. council meeting Tuesday to discuss upcoming programs and events. Council meetings occur the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

Story and photo by
EMILY ATHENS

Bavarian News

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is a social, recreational and educational program that is designed to enhance the well-being of a single Soldier.

In Schweinfurt, the B.O.S.S. program has made long strides to better its program, and the effort was recognized by Installation Management Command-Europe with a second place award for best event for large garrison in Europe.

B.O.S.S. programs around Europe attended a training event in Schwetzingen April 27 through May 2 where awards were bestowed on those outstanding programs that demonstrated strength in event-planning, entertaining and more.

"They look at the content of the event, if it hits the pillars of B.O.S.S.—like well-being, recreation, quality of life and overall presentation," said Silvia Joiner, Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation adviser for the Schweinfurt B.O.S.S. program, explaining that their award-winning event was the 'meet and greet'.

"The meet and greet event makes sure that new Soldiers get to meet their B.O.S.S. representatives and helps Soldiers coming from downrange get reconnected," Joiner said.

President of the Schweinfurt B.O.S.S. and

mastermind of the meet and greet event, Spc. David Houser, said that not only did they bring home an award from the training event but new skills, too.

"They taught us different aspects of B.O.S.S. such as financial areas, branding, marketing, and how to get participation of single Soldiers up," Houser said.

According to B.O.S.S. leaders, the program works hard to promote a healthy lifestyle among single Soldiers endorsing individual development and aiming to enhance a Soldier's experience while stationed in Germany.

"B.O.S.S. gives single Soldiers support," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee, senior military adviser for the program.

They continually strive to make the program the best they can make it and that it's important for every single Soldier to be aware of what the B.O.S.S. program has to offer, Lee said.

"Our goal is to ensure the single Soldiers in Schweinfurt can have a safe time out here, to see all the sights and go out away from Schweinfurt and the barracks," Houser said.

Keep an eye out for weekly B.O.S.S. events and upcoming trips.

For more information about the program, or to sign up for upcoming events, call CIV 09721-96-8476.

"For the Soldier, by the Soldier ... that's the whole foundation of the B.O.S.S. program," Joiner said.

Charlie Rock Soldiers honor fallen comrade, family man

by MARK HEETER

Schweinfurt CI Chief

Cpl. David Schaefer Jr. probably really wanted to be a landscaper or interior designer, one of his closest friends joked. But he chose to be a Soldier.

"Well, dang! We can do some great things with this!" was Schaefer's reaction to his new living quarters when he and Spc. Brandon Goodell arrived at their living quarters at Forward Operating base Kalsu, Iraq, Goodell recalled in a memorial ceremony for Schaefer in Iraq May 22.

Schaefer, 27, was killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting a combat patrol near Najaf, Iraq, May 16.

He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

"Schaefer was honest, everything you could ask for in a friend," Goodell said in remarks relayed by Staff Sgt. Cole Thomas at a memorial ceremony for Schaefer at the



Schaefer

Ledward Chapel May 28.

Goodell described Schaefer's unflinching generosity and willingness to give to his friends, who might call on him for a favor.

"He would give it to you without thinking twice," Goodell said. "He had the largest heart I have ever seen in anyone," Goodell said, referring to Schaefer as his wingman and explaining that Schaefer loved "getting dirty in the motor pool at 1900 on a Friday."

But Schaefer loved something even more, according to those who spoke of him: his family.

About a week before his death, in a crowded room where the Soldiers of "Charlie Rock" stood one-by-one and shared an interesting fact about themselves with their new commander, Capt. Nicholas Seidel, Schaefer followed a comrade who said he loved to party.

Schaefer stood.

"Well, sir, I like to party, too," he said, according to Capt. Joshua Buchanan, who conveyed Seidel's remarks at the Schweinfurt ceremony. "But I love my wife and I love my kids."

"More than anything, he loved his family," Goodell said.

Schaefer is survived by his wife, Shelly, and his three children, Jason, Logan and Savannah.

Teens take it to The Edge! with new weekly summer program

by MARK HEETER

Schweinfurt CI Chief

They will do the arts, cars and fitness with an edge.

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt middle-schoolers and teenagers are invited to participate in a new program aimed at their interests, called The Edge!

"The idea is to provide cutting edge programming for school-aged kids, and the programming happens at the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities," said Patricia Lamson, partnership specialist with Child, Youth and School Services.

The program concentrates on sixth- through 12th-graders, beginning June 29 and continuing each Monday from 3 to 6 p.m., she said. School Age Services will join in with The Edge! programming when the next school year begins.

"We know that we have a great SAS program and a great middle school and teen program. But we know there are a whole lot of kids who don't use those programs. So we're trying to find something to offer those kids," she said, adding that July's sessions will be devoted to theater.

"(The Monday session) starts off with taking

directions, moving to character development and then interpretation," Lamson said. "Every Tuesday we have another section of theater 101 that is for techs."

Still, the programming will remain flexible and accommodate the kids' wishes, said Garland Travis, the USAG Schweinfurt entertainment director who, with his assistant, Stephen Connolly, will conduct Theater 101.

"If no one's interested in lighting, I'm not going to force them to go through lighting," Travis said. "They will have great fun. It's going to be a fun program."

Later programming will also include a program with the Auto Skills Center, called "Pimp this ride," as well as Fit Edge!, devoted to sports and fitness, Lamson said.

"The way we'll determine what we do in the future will be to get input from the kids," and youth programmers, Lamson said.

"It's really going to be driven by what the class wants," Travis echoed.

"We're all limited by our imagination. If the kids have ideas, I'd like them to let us know," she said.

For more information about The Edge!, or to register, contact CYSS central registration at DSN 354-6414.



Vilseck High School Spring Sports Wrap-Up



Falcons overcome division challenges, prepare for next year

by JOY AWE
Bavarian News

The student athletes and coaching staff at Vilseck High School had a their ups and downs during the 2008-2009 spring sports season, their first year in Division I.

Baseball

The season also marked the first year that Department of Defense Dependent School sponsored a baseball program rather than Child, Youth & School Services and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

The Vilseck High School Falcon baseball team proved their athletic abilities time and time again throughout their inaugural season as a Division I team.

"[Division I] really helped improve our level of play, we had to play up and not so much as playing to the level of our competition," Head Coach Jim Hall said.

The Falcons slugged their way to the European Baseball Championship and finished the season with a commendable score of 13-4 for their opening year.

VHS competed against six other Division I teams, lost to the Ramstein D-I Champion team, 6-5 and placed fourth overall in Europeans.

"I think this year has been a great

first year for baseball, even with the rainy season this spring...it was a good one that set the basis for the program," Hall said.

Hall, Assistant Coach Kevin Anglim and volunteer coaches Dave Nelson and Capt. Mark Smith have high expectations for next season.

"The coaching staff is going to be here next year, half of the players will be back, now all we have to do is recruit a couple of more blue collar workers," Hall said.

The Falcons will lose only one player this fall, senior **William Pomares**.

Track

The track team, with the help of Head Coach Eric Mead and Assistant Coaches Laura Barbaree, Katie Carrol and Walter Biner, qualified 16 athletes for the European Track and Field Championship. Nine more players than the team took last year.

European results for the girls had **Anna Muzzy** in sixth place in the High Jump at 4'6."

"Anna also anchored our Sprint Medley relay team which had one of the fast times of the track meet but got matched up with some of the top teams in the prelims and did not advance to the finals," Mead said.

Mariah Morris placed third in the Discus and according to Mead should

be the favorite next year.

The 4 x 100 meter relay team of **Crystal Belcher, Shanice Sadler, Philquasia Campbell and Jamila Harvey** placed fifth. The boys European results had **Aaron Horn** in fourth place in the 100 meter dash.

"This was one of the fastest and most competitive 100 meter races that have been ran in years," Mead said. "Aaron worked hard on his blocks all year and had one of the best starts and beat out some favorites in a very close race."

Rommel Andre finished third in the 110 meter High Hurdles and fourth in the 300 meter Hurdles. Rommel also participated in the 300 meter event.

Mead said, "Rommel went in the 300 meter event as the favorite but unfortunately he suffered a bruised heel on day two ... but he came back hard the next day and ran a great race from a tough lane assignment."

Senior **Phillip Manning** placed sixth in the high jump.

"Phillip is just a great athlete who we could count on to pull through at most any event," Mead said. "He was always ready to do anything for the team. He ran two tough 400 meter legs in the sprint medley. We are going to miss him next year."

Senior **Angelo Hall** placed first in the Shot Put.

"Angelo just learned to throw the shot and was coached by former Wurzburg Head Track Coach John Sullivan," Mead said.

Aaron Horn, Rayshan Clark, Phillip Manning and Mitch Steen placed fifth for the Boys Sprint Medley team competition.

Mead and his assistant coaches will attempt to expand the VHS track team for the 2009-2010 school year.

"They seem ready to come back out next year and we are hoping that they bring a lot of their friends with them," Mead said.

Girls Softball

The Falcon Ladies Softball team performed well this year at the European Championship Games in Kaiserslautern.

The tournament was the largest ever with a total of 20 teams, including Kaiserslautern, Lakenheath, Patch, Ramstein and Vilseck High Schools in Division I.

On opening day of the DoDDS European Spring Softball tournament, the Lady Falcons came out strong.

In their first game they were matched up with number three ranked Patch. The Lady Falcon's came up with



Photo by B. Coleman

The VHS girls' soccer team celebrates May 22 after taking third-place at the European Soccer Championship tournament.

10 runs to the Lady Panther's 4.

The following game against the number one ranked Ramstein played out differently. While the Lady Falcons played a great game with everyone putting forth their best effort, it ended up with Ramstein on top.

Senior **Anne Goho** will be missed for next year's season, however most of the Lady Falcon's will be returning for next year's softball season.

Girls Soccer

The girl's soccer team faced significant challenges this year - starting from scratch with an entirely new coaching staff and being one of the smallest teams in Division I.

In spite of these obstacles, the girls placed third at the Europeans and ended a successful season with seven wins, three losses, and two tied games.

The team performed exceptionally well at Europeans, winning all games except for a 2-1 loss against the eventual champions, Ramstein.

"We were up 1-0 at one point in the second half," said Coach Brian Swenty. "It was one of the most passionate efforts I have seen in all my years of coaching. We played to the best of our ability, giving Ramstein its toughest games of the season."

Although many of the team's talented athletes are graduating, Swenty expects players such as **Leah Beilhart, Josie Rodriguez, Thea Dunn, Colleen Kiechler, Caitlyn Rogers, Katie Cooper,** and **Sarianna Jones** to make solid

contributions next season.

"We will be young next year, but they will work hard to be successful," said Swenty.

He said he would like the team to gain experience by playing a wider range of opponents.

"I hope there will be more opportunities to play German clubs in the future. That will be the real key to our success next year," said Swenty.

Boys Soccer

The Falcon boy's soccer faced a difficult first season in Division 1, with their third new coach in four years, and returning players consisting of less than half the team.

"Different coaches in such a short time does effect consistency," said Coach Sam Cassou. "Playing up a level does make a difference, but most games we were competitive ... We belong in D1."

The team's win against Bamberg was the defining point in the boys' 3-7 season.

"Coming from behind to beat Bamberg 4-3. It was a very good game for us," said Cassou.

Cassou, who served as the VHS athletic director this year, looks forward to the new challenges the next season will bring.

"In DoDDS we always shuffle the deck each year. Sometimes you can count on a couple of players to be with you for several years...but for the most part it's a whole new team each year."

Amy Newcomb, Bavarian News reporter contributed to this article.



Photo by Katie Carroll Photography

Freshman Mariah Morris soars at the European Track Championships.

German football team welcomes VHS senior for international championship

by AMY NEWCOMB
Bavarian News

Vilseck High School Senior, Angelo Hall, will travel to Canton, Ohio this month to participate in the 2009 International Federation of American Football Junior World Championship at Pro Football Hall of Fame Field at Fawcett Stadium.

From June 27 to July 5, the Falcon student athlete will play for the German International Junior American Football League, which will compete against the world's seven best 19-and-under junior international teams from Canada, France, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States.

Germany finished first at the 2008 European Junior Championship which qualified them for the invitation to Ohio.

Hall and 359 other competitors

will live in an international village at Walsh University's 136-acre campus where they will practice and meet with business leaders from the Northeast Ohio Hispanic community.

Hall, a seasoned athlete, has claimed four titles this year for the Heavyweight Division in All-Europe Wrestling, Shot put and Defensive and Offensive Lineman.

Hall was selected for the American Football Verband Deutschland team through tryouts.

"They wrote me an email after tryouts telling me that I had made it... it's an honor," Hall said.

Hall's parents, Michael and Margret Hall both expressed enthusiasm over their son's accomplishments this year.

Angelo, who finished German school when he was sixteen, went to Hanau High School his junior year and came to VHS for his senior year after

Hanau closed.

"Angelo has had a lot of stress to deal with, changing schools, moving to a new area, moving in with me and his step-mother, a broken family this Christmas and learning how to speak English better," Michael Hall said.

"I was deployed his first year in a DoDDS school, but Angelo's mother has been his biggest supporter through all of this."

While in Canton for the championship, Hall will have the opportunity to be watched by college scouts.

He said he hopes a scout will recognize and appreciate his skill and love of the game and offer him a chance to further his football career.

Currently, however, Hall has plans to attend college at the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota this fall on a wrestling scholarship.

Do YOU have what it takes?

COMBATIVES TOURNAMENT

Grafenwoehr Fitness
Center

20 June 2009

All skill levels are welcome to compete. Combatives certification is not required. Participants must be active duty Soldiers stationed in Graf, Vilseck or Hohenfels.



For more information, email
christopher.massey@eur.army.mil



Netzaberg Youth Center gets children involved in Army birthday celebration

continued from Page 1
for the celebration.

Earlier in the day, Grafenwoehr Dining Facility employees worked tirelessly to ensure that the Army birthday celebration was a success.

Amid the hustle and bustle of party preparations, Spc. James Dunn carefully put the finishing touches onto the birthday cake he has spent most of the week decorating.

"I'm always excited and always nervous to be asked to do a job like this," Dunn, who has been decorating cakes for the Army since 2002, said.

"It's a lot of work, a lot of detail. I did all the decorating myself. It's a lot of time and work to do a cake this size. It took me a total of three days to do it."

Festivities at the Army birthday celebration included lunch with speeches by Lt. Col. Sean Driscoll, USAG Grafenwoehr provost marshal, and Command Sgt. Maj. Darius Zagara, Joint Multinational Training Command command sergeant major.

A spirited rendition of "The Army Goes Rolling Along" followed with a cake-cutting ceremony where USAG Grafenwoehr Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios, aided by Chaplain (Col.) Glen Woodson, 172nd Infantry Brigade, representing the oldest Soldier in the Army, and Pfc. Matthew Hedgecoth, 172nd Inf. Bde.,

representing the youngest, used sabers to cut the first piece.

As 2009 was named the Year of the Noncommissioned Office, this particular birthday has a special significance for Berrios.

"Non-commissioned officers are the backbone of this Army. NCOs are crucial to the success of our Army and have played an important role since the Revolutionary War. NCOs set the standard, and they enforce the standard of what the Army should be," he said.

At Army posts around the world, Soldiers and their families took time out to celebrate the Army's birthday, with the festivities coming to an end at the Army Birthday Ball held annually in Washington, D.C.

Since its birth on June 14, 1775, the U.S. Army has played a key role in the American military, taking part in every military conflict since the Revolutionary War.

More photos from the June 11 Army birthday celebration can be found at www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr/

Children from Netzaberg Youth Center, with the help of Capt. Ronald Underwood, USAG Grafenwoehr Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, cut a cake June 11 during the center's Army birthday celebration.



Hogg departs JMTC for Afghanistan

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partners you're working with, and fighting with.' He said he will take that with him to his next assignment.

Hogg has been commander of the JMTC since April 19, 2007. Before

assuming command of the JMTC, Hogg served as assistant division commander for support, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army.

Hogg's successor is U.S. Army

Brig. Gen. Steven L. Salazar of the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training Team. Salazar assumes his duties as the commanding general this fall.

"Brig. Gen. Salazar is just recently out of Iraq, and will bring fresh blood, fresh ideas and new energy into making the JMTC better than it is today," said Hogg of his successor. "He is a great guy and the right one for the job."

Hogg said it's not a farewell ceremony really...

"Today the Hogg family officially says not goodbye, but until we meet again," said Hogg as he concluded his speech. "Thanks for everything and see you on the high ground."

More photos from the June 9 ceremony can be found at www.flickr.com/photos/7armyjmtc/sets/.

Joint Multinational Training Command's Staff Sgt. Stanley E. Black (right) presents Brig. Gen. David R. Hogg, JMTC commander, with the ceremonial last round fired during a ceremony June 9.

(Photo by Michael Beaton)



Stephen Colbert films show in Iraq

by
Sgt. LINDSEY BRADFORD
Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs

It is official - Stephen Colbert came, saw and conquered Iraq, claiming victory on day three of his six-day adventure to the Middle East.

Arriving in a C-17 from Kuwait, Colbert landed at the Baghdad International Airport June 5 and began preparing for his shows at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace, as part of his tour "Operation Iraqi Stephen: Going Commando."

In March, Colbert announced his visit to the Persian Gulf, but was forced to remain tight-lipped about the event in true operational-security style. Since then, he introduced a new segment on his hit nighttime talk show, trying to guess which one of the seven Persian Gulf countries occupied by U.S. forces he would visit. Iraq was the winner.

In order to prepare for the trip,

Colbert attended basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. The training lasted eight hours, although he said he "might have dipped out an hour early."

Now a slightly trained killer, armed with a smile and his "A" bag full of satirical humor, Colbert was ready to take his show live to Baghdad, where it would be recorded, edited and sent back via satellite to the U.S. It is something the United Service Organization said was a first for any overseas tour they have organized.

Multi-National Force-Iraq Command General Ray Odierno asked Colbert to come and perform for the troops. However, Colbert said he came here for the buzz cut President Barack Obama ordered Odierno to give to him during the opening show at the palace June 7.

"I also want to claim this as my military time if I decide to run for president in 2012," he said.

Colbert filmed four shows, which

began airing in the U. S. the week of June 8. The reaction from the servicemembers here has been amazing, he said.

"It's been fantastic," he said. "All these people are so nice out here; I don't understand why they want to fight with each other."

Colbert noted that he knows nothing about the country of Iraq, aside from the few days he has was at Camp Victory.

"It's hot, it's sandy, the sun is blazing. It seems like Texas, but with fewer guns," Colbert said.

Soldiers, Airman, Sailors, and Marines packed the palace's rotunda every night of tapings, their thunderous cheers echoing off three stories of marble walls.

In addition to the night's performances, Colbert spent time meeting and greeting servicemembers on Camp Stryker, another camp located within Baghdad's Victory Base Complex.

Students make NMS history with history

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Bahrain, Sicily and England came together April 21-23 to compete at the competition.

Each category was allotted only one finalist spot to attend the NHD National Finals, which will be held in the nation's capital this summer.

This 30-year-old event brings 40,000 students to compete in the annual academic contest.

Schaffer and Brunson refined their district winning website, which focused on 1970's Women's Liberation Movement leader Gloria Steinem, and were awarded "Best of DoDDS's Europe, Junior Website Division".

Dr. Eliabeth Child's, NMS principal, said she was thrilled and delighted at the student's win and is proud to have them represent the school as they travel to the national competition.

"They were the first students to win academic honors for our school

and they are continuing to make us all proud of their work," she added.

To fund the student's trip to Washington, D.C., the school is seeking donations from community organizations and asking for assistance from individuals within the European military communities.

Those interested in contributing may forward their donation to Netzaberg Middle School, Unit 28130, APO, AE, 09114, attn: NHD Travel Fund.

The NHD National Finals are co-sponsored by The History Channel and philanthropist, Kenneth E. Behring.

Behring's generous \$1.9 million gift stands as an example of how education raised him from being a poor, depression-era student, to a multi-millionaire entrepreneur.

He said he understands that "knowledge is invaluable" since it assisted in every avenue of his life's journey.

Cobra King travels to U.S. for reset, display

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place the gun with the original Jumbo version, an M-3 75mm, L38 main-gun.

Phase one will also see the vehicle repainted and the track replaced with a standard track with duck bill extensions, which was originally installed on Jumbos to provide better flotation across the ground due to the increase in the vehicle's combat weight.

Phase one is expected to take six weeks to complete.

The interior will be restored during phase two. An estimate of how long that will take, however, will not be available until the Cobra King has been inspected by museum staff.

"The idea is to try to keep the original

components on the equipment," said Gabriele Torony, U.S. Army Europe curator.

The tank, Torony added, will be moved to the U.S. Army Museum in Washington, D.C., with its expected opening in 2013, to serve as "the feature, historically significant artifact in the World War II gallery."

An honor fitting, said Manzo, for a vehicle that played such a critical role in the war.

"The Battle of the Bulge was a significant event which changed the course of the war. The Cobra King was the lead tank in the break out of the encirclement of Bastogne which changed the course of history. It is the only artifact which can be placed at such a pivotal point in the war."

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