

Bavarian News

Vol. 5, Nr. 4

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

February 25, 2009

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HR assisting seekers with job applications

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CIAO, BELLA!

Didn't get an opportunity to visit the world renowned Venice Carnival this year?

Well, satisfy your curiosity with a brief firsthand glimpse through one traveler's eyes as they navigate from Autobahn to Autostrada, from Garmisch, through Austria, and into Italy.

Andrea Winters gives a personal recount of their five-hour journey and a few things to see and do along the way. Don't miss her cost estimates for your future travel planning.

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For road conditions and the latest community news, visit www.grafenwoehr.army.mil

ROAD RULES

Traffic fines increase

by ROBERT SZOSTEK
USAREUR Provost Marshal PAO

Officials with the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal want to remind USAREUR drivers that fines for many traffic violations in Germany increased significantly Feb. 1.

Fines for speeding, reckless driving and tailgating all have gone up, said OPM officials, while fines for dangerous overtaking, right-of-way violations and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol were doubled.

Failure to stop at a red traffic light now costs between 90 and

360 euro, compared to the "old fine" of 50 to 200 euro, OPM officials said.

According to information on the German Transport Ministry Web site, the increase in fines aims to improve road safety, but there was no intent to increase all fines. For example, fines for parking offenses were not increased.

"Up to now, the fines in Germany were rather low compared with other European countries," said Lt. Col. Lon Walker, the OPM's chief of law enforcement operations. Great Britain

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Increases include:

- Tailgating: 75-400 € (was 40-250 €)
 - Speeding in "built-up" areas: 80-760 € (was 50-425 €)
 - Dangerous passing: 80-250 € (was 40-125 €)
- Visit www.bmvbs.de/en/artikel-1872.970156/Schedule-of-Fines.htm.



Photo by Cherie Cullen

U.S. Army Europe Commander Gen. Carter F. Ham discusses the future of the Army in Europe during a press conference at the Pentagon, Feb. 17. Ham told reporters he wants to retain some forces in Europe that are scheduled to return to the U.S., to keep pace with evolving USAREUR missions.

Ham: More troops needed

by JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

More troops will be needed to adapt to U.S. Army Europe's evolving missions, USAREUR commander Gen. Carter F. Ham told reporters during a Pentagon news conference Feb. 17.

The command once comprised some 300,000 Soldiers. Today USAREUR has approximately 42,000 Soldiers in its

ranks, and its primary mission is to provide properly trained and equipped forces to support global operations, the general said.

If current plans move forward, that number is set to dip to around 32,000 Soldiers, and Ham said he thinks that's too few. The general has recommended that two heavy brigades now based in Germa-

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- **PAST:** USAREUR had 300,000 troops
- **PRESENT:** There are now 42,000 in its ranks
- **FUTURE:** Current plans will see that number dip to 32,000 - far too few, according to Gen. Ham.

See IPB Page 25

DOLLARS & SENSE!

Save on tax when importing vehicles back to U.S.

by ROBERT SZOSTEK
USEUCOM Customs PAO

U.S. personnel stationed overseas can import vehicles to the United States free of federal tax and duty. This exemption means big savings if you meet three conditions.

You must take physical possession of the vehicle prior to shipment, have valid PCS orders and import it for personal use. However, it does not exempt you from state taxation.

"Most people who miss out on the exemption do

not take physical possession of the vehicle before shipment," said Bill Johnson, director of the European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency. "If you have a car shipped directly from the factory, you risk having to pay the 2.5 percent federal import duty," he added.

Registering a vehicle is the best way to show possession, but you can also prove it by simply putting a copy of your movement orders in the glove compartment.

Second, you must have a set of official change of station orders in hand before shipping a vehicle. The

exemption is not for people on extended leave or temporary duty.

Third, the vehicle must be for your personal use or for use by immediate family members. "If you had six dependents of driving age," Johnson explained, "you could justify importing seven vehicles duty-free; one for each of them and one for yourself." However, it is illegal to use the exemption to import vehicles for third parties or in order to sell them.

People importing vehicles as part of a PCS can

See FIND OUT Page 25

DEPLOYMENT

709th prepped to train Afghan police during deployment

by MARY MARKOS
USAGrafenwoehr Public Affairs

Last week, President Barack Obama ordered an additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan.

"Even with these additional forces," said Gen. David

McKiernan, commander of the U.S. and NATO forces, Feb. 18 in a briefing at the Pentagon, "I have to tell you, 2009 is going to be a tough year."

The 709th Military Police Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Robert Dillon, however, said his troops are up to the chal-

lenge during a casing of the colors ceremony held Feb. 12 at the Grafenwoehr Field House in preparation of the battalion's year-long deployment to the country.

"I believe 2009 +... will be a turning point for Coalition efforts in Operation Endur-

ing Freedom, and we, in (Task Force) 709, will be there to do our part," Dillon said during the ceremony.

Task Force 709, which consists of Headquarters Headquarters Detachment 709th MP Battalion, and the 92nd and 554th MP Companies, will

do their part by training local law enforcement officials.

"Our primary mission will be developing the Afghan national police which may also expand to Afghan border police," Dillon said.

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Garrison making strides in Housing

Housing is an issue that affects every Soldier, Family member, and DoD civilian assigned to our garrison.

We must have a place to live, and the size of our families affects our space requirements.

Here in Grafenwoehr, we have an award-winning Housing Office and a wide variety of government, leased, and private housing options.

The "complaint" I hear the most is that the waiting list for housing is excessive. This was one of the issues raised at our first Community Action Council Meeting, but it's not a new issue.

The bottom line is that our families are housed in acceptable housing in accordance with USAREUR regulations for their rank and family size. Most folk on the wait list are already in suitable quarters, but want to move to another area.

We have made incredible progress with

housing during the past year. When the 172nd Infantry Brigade moved to Grafenwoehr last summer, the majority of Families were able to stay in Schweinfurt until the type of housing they needed became available, and most arrived in Grafenwoehr in the timeline set. We did not have many "hotel" families who were forced to live without permanent housing for an excessive period of time.

Completing Netzaberg Housing (and completing it early) was a huge part of our success. As of the first of this month, Netzaberg's occupancy rate is 98 percent!

As you know, Netzaberg consists of three and four bedroom houses. As was the case last year, two bedroom quarters for junior enlisted comprise the majority of our waiting list for government housing.

We have had setbacks this fall when construction for 300 new leased housing units in Hutten was halted due to financial problems with German banks backing the project.

This issue has been elevated to higher headquarters level and by the German government, and we are keeping USAREUR stationing planners fully apprised of our total

housing requirements to support a variety of planning scenarios. USAREUR, not the garrison, will make the appropriate decision(s) as to increasing our housing demand based on available supply.

I think we are doing an outstanding job in the Quality of Life we provide to Soldiers and their Families here at Graf.

In fact, Command Sgt. Maj. Berrios and our housing management staff recently accepted a best garrison housing award from the prestigious Professional Housing Management Association, huge recognition given our tremendous growth.

Other questions regarding housing include "When will the Netzaberg gas inspections be complete?" and "What's the status of Netzaberg kitchen water replacement/installation?"

The answer is that both Netzaberg gas inspections and kitchen water replacement/installation should be completed by the end of the month. For those families who weren't available because of conflicting appointments, separate appointments will be scheduled respectively.

The utility company/contractors will compile a list of missed addresses and provide that list to the Leased Housing branch for individual appointments.

I also want to introduce some great work by the German Television station OTV out of Weiden. They have produced anDVD for American personnel stationed in the Oberpfalz, a.k.a. Upper Palatinate. This 83-min video provides an excellent overview of the region for folks new to the area and for our friends and Family living elsewhere who want to know more about where we live. We will let the community know when OTV distributes the copies and how you can obtain yours.

We are also working a version to upload to our Web site, similar to what we have done with the JMTC 100-year Grafenwoehr video that is available at <http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/sites/about/history.asp>

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



Commentary: Stay in school or marry military?



**JACEY
ECKHART**
On the Homefront

My mom wishes that she had arranged a military marriage for me when I was 11 years old. That way she says she would have seen my name emblazoned on the Honor Roll instead of just scrawled on the bathroom wall at a truck stop in Des Moines.

Nice, huh? I admit that before I met my sailor, I spent most of my waking hours talking to boys. Even though I was enrolled in college, classes didn't compel my attention the way boys did. If I could have majored in Cute

Boys, I would be a Rhodes scholar by now.

Instead, I didn't even meet Brad until my fourth year of college (note how I did not say "senior year"). From the instant he kissed me, I just wanted to be with him every minute of the day. This was not good for my GPA since the guy was stationed in Florida and I lived in Ohio.

It was only after I married Brad that I made the Dean's List semester after semester. What this says about me, I'm pretty sure I don't want my mother or mother-in-law or you to know. But I think of it every time some military girlfriend wonders whether she should finish her last year or two in college or marry her military guy right away.

I know the right answer. I know the 'should.' You should not marry anybody until you graduate, especially if you are planning to marry a military guy. Why? Because you are going to need money and a j-o-b.

See, I think even saying that makes me old and stupid. Because that is exactly the kind of 'shoulding' that mothers do. That is exactly

the kind of 'shoulding' young women are genetically programmed to avoid.

When it was my turn to decide whether to marry Brad or finish college first, I dodged the 'should' with a lot of magical thinking about how easy it would be to finish my degree. I cringe every time I think about telling my relatives how I had only one more semester until graduation -- "and I can finish that anywhere!" I can still see the closed look on my favorite professor's face when I told him that I might even take this opportunity to change my major. Again. My reasoning was that happy people, in-love people, good people like Brad and me deserved things to go well.

They didn't. When I interview military spouses about their experiences in trying to finish their degrees, we all tell the same story. We talk about courses that didn't transfer. Tuition we couldn't afford even on credit. Moving in the middle of a semester. Getting pregnant. Educational opportunities that did not exist within 200 miles of our current duty station.

Like so many spouses, I did eventually graduate. My mom cried at my college graduation. She said she was afraid it might never happen. Me, too.

The whole situation leaves me certain of only one thing. We military spouses who choose love over education will suffer. We will discover that love isn't enough to eat on. Love isn't enough to be—especially when the one you love is, by necessity, gone all the time.

I know all that. Yet I still don't know if I would change anything if given the chance. I remember that focused feeling I had about my classes after I was married. I remember the deep buckling-down I felt when I came home from school to Brad and our dogs and our life together.

Military marriage requires that we all grow up. Grown ups finish school before they get married. How I wish we had been grown up back then. The way we are now.

So what do you think? Stay in school or go ahead and get married? Reach Jacey at jacey87@mac.com.

Good NCOs: You know them when you see them

Commentary by
DAVID W. KUHNS Sr.

Northwest Guardian, Fort Lewis

It's harder to list the qualities of a good noncommissioned officer than you might think. But everyone who has been in the Army can name NCOs they think are great.

NCOs are the leaders who most directly affect our lives in uniform.

Whether you are a commissioned officer looking back on a platoon sergeant, first sergeant or command sergeant major who served as a guide, right hand or confessor; or you are an NCO yourself, looking back at the sergeants who kicked you when you needed it, steered you when they could, taught you the right way to do it, and finally turned you loose to do it all yourself, Army careers are often shaped by the NCOs met along the way.

I spent 24 years in uniform. But two NCOs stand out for the influence they had on my own development. They were as different as night and day in many ways, but shared the values of true professionals.

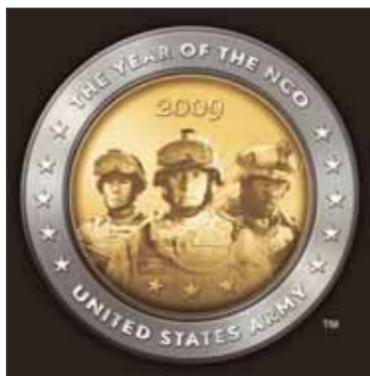
Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Hughes was my first section chief. My initial assignment in the Army was at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in the fire direction and control section of the only artillery battery on the post.

Hughes taught me to be a Soldier. He was a quiet, soft-spoken guy - about as far as you could get from the yelling, swearing, tobacco-chewing NCO the movies had taught me to expect.

But, without all the bluster and noise, Sgt. 1st Class Hughes demanded and got the best out of every Soldier in the section.

He knew everything we did - right and wrong - and praised or corrected, on the spot. And he could do anything. Whether it was showing us how to set a rabbit snare in the snowy woods with strands of commo' wire, or a shortcut to computing meteorological corrections for the guns, Hughes did everything better, faster, smarter, easier than any of us thought was possible.

If there was one lesson I took from him, it was that good NCOs have to be the absolute masters of



everything their troops are asked to do.

After I left the Artillery as a young sergeant, I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division headquarters.

There I met Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas B. Hayes, the division's top NCO.

His face will always come to mind when I think of great NCOs. Hayes was not a young man. But, on the wrong side of 50, he was still one of the toughest Soldiers in the division - 'hard as woodpecker lips,' as one of my friends would say.

If there was one lesson I took from him, it was that good NCOs have to be the absolute masters of everything their troops are asked to do.

Command Sgt. Maj. Hayes ran with a different line unit every morning. He then spent the day visiting training, wandering through motor pools, stopping by mess halls ... He was everywhere.

The general commanded the division, but there was no doubt who the face of the command team was. Hayes might not have met every Soldier in the 1st Cav., but I bet he came pretty close.

Everyone knew who he was. There was nothing mild-mannered

about Command Sgt. Maj. Hayes.

I overheard him provide some pretty colorful "guidance" to individuals who failed to perform to the standards the commanding general set.

But I also saw him spend hours of his own time fixing problems for individual Soldiers when he learned their battalion command sergeants major had run into obstacles they couldn't surmount.

For all his gruff exterior and intimidating aura, Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Hayes taught me that the needs of every single Soldier are important to the performance of even the largest units.

There are lots of other Johnny Hughes and Doug Hayes NCOs in uniform today.

They are the ones who set the pace, enforce the standards, get the mission done and do everything to ensure no Soldier is left behind.

It may be hard to list what makes them great - but we know them when we see them.

David W. Kuhns Sr. is editor of Fort Lewis' Northwest Guardian.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Community honors 172nd Soldier

Story and photo by MELISSA WOLFF
Assistant Editor

A crowd of Soldiers and 172nd Infantry Brigade Black Knight spouses gathered in somber silence at a memorial service at the Grafenwoehr post chapel Feb. 17.

They were there to honor Spc. Christopher Perry Sweet, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 3-66 (Black Knights). Sweet died of non-combat related causes Feb. 6 at Forward Operating Base Caldwell, Iraq while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sweet, who was born Feb. 6, 1981, entered the Army Jan. 11, 2006.

TF 3-66 Rear Detachment Commander 1st Lt. William Archer read the that were spoken by TF 3-66 Commander Lt. Col. Louis B. Rago Feb 10 when fellow Soldiers gathered downrange to

memorialize Sweet.

"We join together as brothers to reflect on the happy memories of one of our own that has left this world far too early," he read, "...The death of a young man with whom we have worked and struggled with the past few months is acutely painful."

"We will ... remember the better days and cherish the memory of a friend and fellow warrior. We will honor him and his family by continuing the job we began with him and end it with him in our hearts," he said.

"His death while serving his country and his fellow Soldiers in Iraq causes us to seek answers," said 172nd Rear Detachment Commander Lt.



Sweet

Col. Eric Stetson during the ceremony. "Trying to grapple with the reality that he has left us all behind ... We are left trying to understand the 'Why?' We share the hurt and sorrow of Christopher's passing with his family."

Those who knew Sweet said he was a quality Soldier, dedicated to his duty and family, and had faith that was an inspiration.

Sweet is survived by his mother Christina, father Peter, and younger brother Kyle.

Sweet, who died in Iraq of non-combat related causes Feb. 6, is survived by a mother, father, and younger brother. The 28-year-old Sweet was a member of 172nd Infantry Brigade's 3-66 Black Knights, currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



2SCR launches premier language, culture program for linguists, Dragoon community

by MELISSA WOLFF
Assistant Editor

If you had stopped by room 26 in the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment headquarters building three weeks ago, you would have found a storage room filled with chairs and a vending machine.

Since then, the room has been converted into the regiment's new Foreign Language and Cultural Studies Center.

The creation of Regimental Command Language Program Manager CW3 Anthony Triola, the center is equipped with an array of

new educational technology. It is, "as far as a cultural center and a language learning center, the first here in USAREUR...I'm really excited about what he's doing," said CW4 Mike Biley, 7th Army USAREUR Language Program manager

Until now, linguists in the regiment, who are required to maintain their proficiency in their specific language, were expected to study during the workday or on their own time. Many of these linguists are DLI, or Defense Language Institute, trained. Arab linguists, for example, receive an intense 63 weeks of training at the Institute which raises their proficiency

in the language to just under that of a native speaker. The problem, according to Triola, is that often when a trained linguist arrives to a unit, he is tasked with a job where he has no opportunity to keep his language skills current.

"What our facility provides is not only the quiet and solace of a library environment, but also a place where they can use the latest in language technologies," said Triola. "Our center provides them a place to really immerse themselves in the language and culture.... And in the end, both the linguist and the unit wins!"

The goal of the program is to give each linguist 10-14 hours of training time per week in this center full of learning technologies.

The center's training manuals are those used by Army Special Operations forces and cover topics from weapons employment to medical training.

Also at their fingertips is the Tactical Language and Culture Training system, a computer based simulation of real-world encounters in the soldier's target language and country. It is available in French, Pashto, Dari, and Iraqi dialect.

Real-time foreign broadcasts, such as Al Jazeera, stream live in the room and linguists will soon have access to the portable resource, the iPod touch, where they can view podcasts, videos, and use applications such as dictionaries, note cards, and translators.

The aim of the center is not only to improve language proficiency but to improve cultural awareness and understanding.

"You have to give your language context," said Triola. Which is what may set 2SCR's program apart from others in USAREUR. "A couple of

things that came out of the House Senate Committee studying Iraq, is that while we might have some language skills, though very minimal, we went down there and didn't have so much cultural skills. It really bit us, hard."

Triola went on to talk about the importance of learning the two together as it because without culture, language is only part of the story.

Sgt. Sharon Martin, Arabic and Iraqi dialect linguist said that access to the facility would have made a big impact on her experience downrange, "especially since we have to opportunity to study dialects here.

"Most (linguists) learn college Arabic. Then you go out into the ghetto and they are speaking this crazy Iraqi dialect and you don't understand any of it," she said. "I think one of the big things about going downrange as a linguist is that you need to be prepared and you need to learn the dialect before you deploy so that's what we're going to be doing here waiting for the next deployment. Everyone's going to brush up on their regular Arabic and then start in on the Iraqi dialect."

Martin said that dialect is not a written language. It is only a heard language. Which makes the access to foreign news broadcasts, television programming and Tactical Language and Culture Training system so important.

Martin will teach classes on occasion with the Arabic linguists. She already has plans for listening to Iraqi free radio with fellow linguists.

Martin is not the only one who will be teaching classes. Sanaa Hereira will be a staff instructor and Triola also plans to have speakers come in from the NATO George Marshall Center and the Partnership Language Training

Center in Garmisch as well as Soldiers doing four week immersion programs with host families in other countries.

2SCR is MTOWED, or given as a mission, not only Arabic but French language proficiency requirements as well. This allows them to be prepared for missions to Northern and Western Africa and the Middle East. The unit has eight Arabic linguists and nine French linguists on the books, but also has linguists proficient in Tegalic and other languages. 27 linguists in total belong to the regiment.

The Language and Culture center will also be open to the regiment at large for language acquisition and practice and cultural education.

CW4 Mike Biley said, "I'm really excited about it because he is opening it up to the community, too, so it's not just the unit that's benefiting from this, but it's the community that can benefit also. That really excites me. I'm always really happy when somebody takes an interest in teaching foreign languages and bringing it home."

Non-linguist Soldiers will be able to access the facility and resources for their own language improvement and cultural awareness. They may even become proficient enough to be paid for their language by taking the Defense Language Proficiency Test.

Triola plans to bring non-linguist Soldiers into cultural classes so that they can understand an area that the unit plans to deploy to.

"Naturally, Soldiers would be helping Soldiers," he said. "The captains would go back and teach the first sergeants, the first sergeants would teach the squad leaders and so on. This is going to be a fantastic program. "This will be the premier language program in USAREUR, I'm absolutely certain."



Screenshot from an educational program used in the language center, the Tactical Language and Culture Training System for the Iraqi culture and dialect. This program allows Soldiers to roleplay, using realistic situations. Regardless of aptitude level, Soldiers learn some proficiency in Arabic, Iraqi dialect, and cultural subtleties.



Dining at the Ritz

Students from Vilseck Elementary School partake in an elegant luncheon with U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Chris Sorenson and other invited guests Feb. 6 during the school's annual Dining at the Ritz. The event celebrates outstanding academic achievement.

Photo by Ann Bruennig

IT'S OKAY TO BE NEIGHBORLY: AN EXPLANATION OF THE FAMILY CHILD CARE 10-HOUR LIMIT

Confused? Have you been asked to watch a friend's child for a few hours each week, but been afraid that you might have to become a family child care provider? Have neighbors asked if you would take care of their children while they go on vacation for a week, but you weren't sure if were allowed?

GOOD NEWS! It has always been an Army tradition to help each other. Short-term child care is no exception. Neighbors can watch children while parents, for example, attend a class, go shopping, have a doctor's appointment, participate in recreational activities, take weekend trips or vacations.

The 10-hour limit: the Army has a responsibility to balance the ability of families to rely on one another to meet their short-term child care needs while protecting the safety and well-being of children. There is a difference between watching children a few hours occasionally and providing child care as a profession on a regular basis.

National studies show that specialized training and outside monitoring are two key indicators of providing quality care to children in regularly scheduled child care settings. Therefore, a 10-hour child care limit has been established by Army regulations to protect children from being in unauthorized child care settings on a regular basis.

Simply stated, the 10-hour limit means any family member living in government quarters providing child care for more than 10 child care hours per week on a regular basis must be certified as a family child care provider.

HINTS: If you watch a friend's child all day for a special occasion and provide child care for more than 10 hours but do not do it on a regular basis, you do not need to be an FCC provider. If you watch one child for an hour each day on a regular basis but do not exceed the 10-hour limit per week, you do not need to become an FCC provider.

So, go ahead! It's okay to watch your neighbor's children. It's okay to be neighborly. If you have further questions, contact the FCC Office at DSN 476-2783.

IMCOM begins suicide prevention program at a garrison near you!

IMCOM-E news release

A new program that began Feb. 15 aims to decrease the alarming number of Soldiers taking their own lives.

During the next five months, Installation Management Command is conducting suicide prevention training in three phases for its Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and Family members. The goal is to increase community awareness of suicide risk factors and warning signs, and to encourage intervention for at-risk troops.

In 2008, suicidal behavior among U.S. servicemembers was at an all-time high, with 143 Soldiers taking their own lives. According to officials, suicides are occurring across

every segment of the Army: active duty; reservists; officers; enlisted; deployed; non-deployed; and those who have not yet been deployed.

Therefore, IMCOM leaders have directed a "Stand-Down" phase, which will be followed by a more deliberate chain-teaching program that focuses on suicide prevention and allows leaders to communicate with all Soldiers.

As part of the program, IMCOM-Europe units will conduct a "Stand-Down" between now and March 15. Accordingly, every Soldier and DA civilian will participate in an initial training block led by commanders and/or leaders down to the directorate or branch level.

Stand-Down conductors will use

the "Beyond the Front" Facilitators' Guide and interactive video to enhance Soldiers' ability to recognize risk factors, warning signs and how to intervene in order to prevent suicidal behavior.

"We can significantly reduce the number of suicidal ideations by identifying warning signs, confronting the individual with the clues you've observed, calmly and compassionately listening to them, and referring them to a chaplain or mental health professional," said Chaplain (Col.) Doug Kinder who serves as the Installation Management Command Chaplain for Europe. "Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. Friends, colleagues, and family can save a life by knowing how to identify, manage,

counsel and refer someone at risk."

"The upcoming stand-down really is a great chance for our leaders to remind every Soldier to take care of each other, especially in these stressful times of war, watching for signs and symptoms of depression or suicide," said U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Family Life Chaplain, Chaplain (Maj.) Darin Nielsen.

"Each of us is really the first line of defense as we know the signs, and assure those needing help get the help they deserve," Nielsen added.

The second phase of the program runs from March 15 to July 15, with units holding a chain-teach session – which also highlights risk factors and warning signs – for Soldiers, DA civilians and Family members. Ses-

sions will be held at all IMCOM-Europe organizational levels.

During this portion of the program, commanders will use the "Shoulder to Shoulder, No Soldier Stands Alone" facilitator guide and video.

The sustained third phase – which runs concurrently with the first two phases and will continue indefinitely – establishes annual training requirements, and institutionalizes IMCOM suicide prevention training.

Pick up the March 11 Bavarian News to find out when training will take place at your installation.

Fort Bragg paratroopers visit Germany, train as forward observers with JMTC

Story and photo by Sgt. MICAH E. CLARE
USAREUR Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Melton says he has come full circle.

It has been eight years since he trained with paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division, but over the past six weeks Melton has found himself working with airborne-qualified forward observers who flew in from Fort Bragg, N.C. to take advantage of a U.S. Army Europe Joint Multinational Training Command-based course.

Originally an 82nd paratrooper himself, Melton said he now serves as the JMTC Joint Fires Observer program manager at the Warrior Preparation Center here, in charge of training forward observers -- Soldiers who call for artillery strikes -- to call for air strikes as well.

While normally the WPC's mission is to train Soldiers and Airmen based in Europe, a request to train 36 Fort Bragg-based forward observers created a new relationship between the WPC and its much larger counterpart, the U.S. Army Artillery Center and School at Fort Sill, Okla., Melton said.

"When we got the request, we knew it was outside our normal training capacity," he said. "We decided that we had the manpower to support this. We also wanted to establish the relationship that if Fort Sill is full, here is another schoolhouse able to train JFOs."

The first set of 82nd paratroopers arrived at the WPC in January, where they attended classes in doctrine before applying what they learned during simulator training, Melton explained.

During one typical simulator session, students watched as a simulated cordon-and-search mission by ground troops unfolded on a

wall-sized projection display. Onscreen, as the troops searched for a high-value target, insurgents began attacking them with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. From their overwatch position, the student observers had to pinpoint the insurgents' location and send the data to an Air Force joint terminal attack controller, who could then relay the information to a pilot ready to attack the target.

"In a real-world situation like this, if it can't be neutralized by any other means, close air support is needed," said Staff Sgt. Jamie Moss, a forward observer from the 82nd's 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry. "(During combat) I've never called for an artillery strike; it was all from the air. However, there are many things I couldn't have done before I took this course."

While working with laser targeting systems, translating "Armyspeak" into something Air Force pilots can better use to hit their targets, Moss said the training gave the paratroopers an opportunity to update their tactics and techniques for calling in close air support.

"We say 'Roger' a lot -- something the Air Force doesn't ever use," he said. "Other things such as target elevation, while not incredibly important in calling artillery, is a 'make or break' factor when calling in close air support. We also can tell the pilots we're JFO qualified, which lets them know that we know what we're doing on the ground."

Moss said JFOs are a valuable asset to today's missions. U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam agreed.

"JFOs in the Army are important because ... we integrate our air and surface assets," said Beam during a visit to the training site February 11.

"We have enormous capabilities here, and



Sgt. Levi Trull, a forward observer from the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry, works with Army and Air Force personnel to coordinate close air support during a simulation exercise during the Joint Fires Observer Course at the Warrior Preparation Center in Einsiedlerhof, Germany, Feb. 11.

as the rest of the Army has found out, they can use it, too," Beam added. "This shows that as far as training is concerned, the difference between [the continental U.S. and overseas duty stations] doesn't matter any more."

"One hundred percent -- this is one of the most important schools for forward observers," Moss said. "Now we can go back and apply new [tactics, techniques and procedures] for

our units."

Melton, who trained his last rotation from Bragg Feb. 13, said he's glad to know he can still be a part of his airborne roots.

"Even over here I'm contributing back to their learning environment," he said. "When they leave this schoolhouse, they have more tools in their toolkit to do their mission even more successfully."

Prevent heat loss while maintaining sufficient fresh air

Help conserve electricity, avoid mold growth by using Germany push air exchange method

by AREF M. ARIANTA
DPW Energy Manager

Germany's winter season can be lengthy and harsh.

It can be challenging to keep work and living spaces comfortably warm while maintaining sufficient supply of fresh air.

Fresh air in enclosed spaces is not only important for the people, but the lack of sufficient fresh air also provides a condition under which mold can well grow.

At times of energy crises when the U.S. Army energy bill is on the rise it is critical to use some common sense in energy usage while maintaining sufficient inside fresh air.

The push air exchange is a terminology used in Germany to maintain sufficient fresh air.

It is a short and intensive air exchange process which should be carried out in contrast to tilting the windows for a longer time.

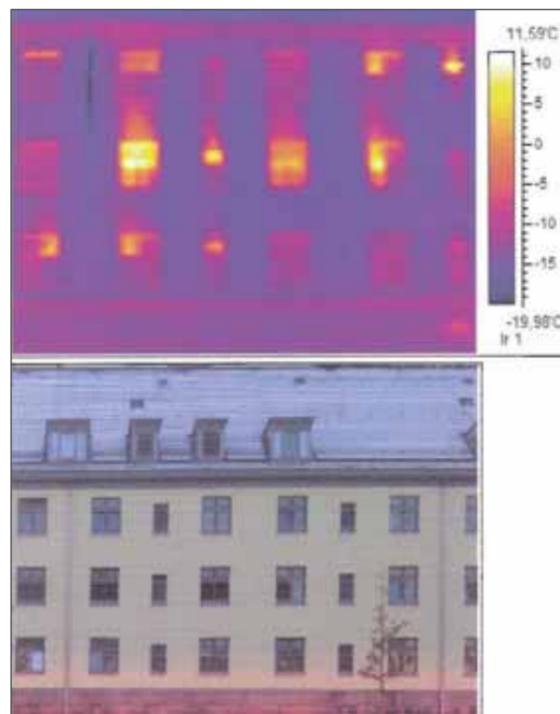
Typically, push air exchange is to open the window for three to 10 minutes.

The rule of thumb is to open for three minutes one window that measures one square meter (10 SF) dimension for every 20 square meters (200 SF) of floor space.

It is important to note that this type of ventilation should be performed at a minimum of six-hour intervals.

Remember, leaving the windows tilted or flat open for longer time causes the wall surfaces to become cold.

Cold wall surfaces promote vapor condensation, which is an ideal condition for mold growth.



A recent photo of Bldg. 725, one of the new BEQs. The thermal image at top shows the heat loss where windows are tilted or open.

The rule of thumb is to open windows for three to 10 minutes. This rule should be followed for each window that measures one square meter per 20 square meters of floor space.

2nd Quarter Honor Roll Students

Garmisch Elementary/Middle School

"A" Honor Roll

France Rhodes
Henry Yocum

"A-B" Honor Roll

Rohan Moise
Astraea Roberts
Nathaniel Sattler

Chloe Scheel
Nico Staples
James Adaryukov
Michael Beans

Kaleigh Byrne
Helen Laub
Timothy Predmore
Matthew Turner

Mark Brown
Tess Chaffin
Sacino Iniguez

Nichole Ney
Khalil Simon
Chantel Wynn

Schweinfurt Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Patrica Cook
Benjamin Finch
Faith Flynn
Kamylla Heinbaugh
Joslyn Medina
Katelyn O'Rourke
Katelyn Palmer
Nickolas Schulz
Hannah Baker

Geoffrey Hite
Vannessa Jackson
Mitchell Justesen
Angelique Kenny
Sharon Kim
Jeremy Kulkowski
Katya Lewis
Oliver Lupa
Aolani Mayo
Heather Miska

Johan Rau
Ty Spencer
Morgan Stockdill
Celene Sweeney
Alicia West
Alexandrea Whitmore
"A-B" Honor Roll
Sydney Bryant
Jadiel Carillo
Declan Hurley
Godson Ike

Brea James
Mia Johnson-Gonzalez
Scout Knotts
Steven Kukowski
Jabari London
Jendayi London
Larry Lyons
John McDaniel
Sandrina Murphy
Justice Newsome
Brittany Passi

Kylee Rabe
Rashad Rogers
Nina Romine
Jesse Sharpe
Amber Shell
Orlando Tagaloguin
Clajanique Thames
Joyce Vizcarrondo
Christopher Witham
Bryce Andrews
Jahmal Boozer

Justin Bulanadi
Teresa Burns
Anna Maria Ceballos
Jada Daley
Quan Dasalla
Axel Delgado
Malik Funches
Cameron Gayles
Isabelle Guevara
Aleeya Harris
Dylan Hopson

Marissa Ixtlahuac
Molly Kintner
Marina Mesa
Sarah Naillon
Michelle Quinteros
Morgen Shreve
Ethan Stemmerding
Josalyn VanGundy
Alexandra Villanueva
Kasey West
Justin Woods

Schweinfurt Middle School

"A" Honor Roll

Tymon Blow
Cennet Huggins
John Gray
Alyssa Isom
Robert Miska
Christine Cook

Rachel Fellingner
Miguel Guevara
Shannon Carlsrud
Cassandra Carreras
Ashley Hendrix
Cheyenne Proctor
Jesse Timmons

Abigail Bernardino
Cecilie Huettner
Trent Mitchell
Devin Pieciak
Alice Rivera Torres
Jonathan Romine
Logan Street

Kiersten Cade
Samantha Gray
Seamus Hurley
Elaine Tagaloguin
Devin Propst
Erin Bolinger
Alexis Ruiz
Alison Sprosty

"A-B" Honor Roll
Jaymel Daniels
Wendy Gonzaga
Cailee Hill
Anissa Holland
Vincent Houston
Casey Naillon
Dario Romeo

Khayree Files
Kaitlyn Floyd
Michael Johnson-Gonzalez
Beau Timmons
Trevor Wright
Malik Boozer
Jasmine Collins

T'Erra Felder
Kimberlee Holness
Chantal Johnson
Frances Negron-Miranda
Elisabeth Roth
Corinna Sweeney
Lisa Stevens

Illesheim Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Lauryn Smith
Cymone Thomas

L. Hunkin
Ellie Gordon
Jermaine Holley

Trevor Christensen
Claire Torza

"A-B" Honor Roll
Yasmin Johnson
Samuel Wiest

Zuhura Semrau
Austin Cate
Bryan Schmidt

Caitlyn Loftis
Kyle Landers
Teresa Montalvo

Vakeaemanu Hunkin
Yarielys Ramos
Jasmine Rodriguez
Miguel Santiago

Ansbach Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Nicholas Abel
Alexandra DeLeon
Rubeck Gonzalez
Naomi Liriano
Paloma Sanchez
Daniel Cordoba
Jacob Lindgren
Brittney Moore

Clarissa Paniagua
Tyra Cleveland
Hayla Corzine
Zachary Dignan
Rayann Fernandez
Luis Figueroa
Ellen Hoff
John Mahlkuch
Jacob Williams

Kohl Wright
Bailey Callahan
Lashana Delduarte
Ava Greene
Megan McEwan
"A-B" Honor Roll
Isaac Ayala
Kendra Beary
Brianna Ferguson

Raymond Fernandez
Chrismin Glaviano
Kimberly Green
Dorian Jones
Christian Liston
Brian McEwan
Tiana Proctor
Aveamaia Temese
Joshua Brooking

Reanna Clavon
Graham Farrell
Jo'Lisa Harris
Emily Hoff
BreAwna Hood
Joel Hunt
Gavin Linnell
Crystal Lopez
Eileen Majka

Francesca Monsisvais
Eboni Mooney
Rikky Tuialuuluu
Coo Chee Coo Delacruz
Laudina Gwira
Aidan Hildebrand
Brian Kylman
Jennifer Montanez
Amanda-May Stansberry

Jrdyn Bradley
Tristan Brown
Claire Farrell
Malik Heard
Francheska Honsvick
Miguel Rivera-Pohl
Maranta Temese
Tehvane Tuialuuluu
Hunter Vidro
Jerico Viloria

Rainbow Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Caleb Chandler
Michael Conner
Hayden Langewisch
Tanner Loper
Cory Mathews

Jennifer Mitchell
Micah Traylor
Olivia Amos
Leia Bright
Marquis Traylor

"A-B" Honor Roll
John Bowen
Sofia Domingono
Joslynn Herbella
Robbie Swint
Caesar Villaluz

Dallas Botchway
Mikael Britt
Ashlyn Farwell
Samantha Hamontree
Mason Lammers
Avery Salak
Michael Zero

Dominic Dillingham
Conner Erickson
Noah Seigel
Katie Sardella
Chandler Lowrey
Camille Martin
Bryanna Mathews

Elizabeth Herring
Mikayla Caulder
Samantha Dowdy
Jonah Hopping
Michael Christon
Timothy Beury

Camille Boodoosingh
James Cusic
Nadia Freeman
Nicole LaCrosse
Annie Macklin
Brianna Tyre

Hohenfels Elementary School

"A" Honor Roll

Amber Aber
Dustin Anderson
Eliana Bara
Lisa Bourgeois
Kevin Brazie
Kaitlyn Brink
Aaron Burlingame
Morgan Cardon
Melissa Clarke
Michael Devin
Jessica Einwaechter
Charles Gozy
Sean Harris
Katherine Hensley

Isabelle Hoecherl
Tatjana Jarvis
Kacey Joyner
Rachel Lange
Nicholas Mann
Jordan Markham
Anderson Peguero
Derek Ray
Paul Roberts
Ian Rodman
Alyssa Taylor
Megan Taylor
Nathan Way

"A-B" Honor Roll
Zoe Abner
Michael Adgie
Virginia Barr
Liza Bermudez
Jared Bernal
Lauren Borg
Brianna Brennan
Hannah Brewster
Jailene Chancey
Courtney Cochran
Cody Coon
Samuel Deleon
Indigo Dominguez
Gregory Eaddy

Cory Earnest
Robert Evans
Jacob Fisher
Joshua Fisher
Lauren Fisher
Jamison Golson
Charles Griscom
William Hammer
Quinton Harper
Ta'von Horton
Aubrey Howell
Yvonne Humphreys
Delaney Keeler
Aidan Kerchner
Alexander Lange

Talia Lassiter
Zachary Lefebvre
Brianna Love
Elijah Mada
Tanner Marsh
Josiah Martinez-Davis
Jessey McBride
Lane McMullen
Lexi Nunn
Marcell Oliver
Noemi Orozco
Jonathan Ortiz
Chaz Perryman
Alexandra Preysler
Christopher Ramos

Rachael Rausch
Mya Reevey
Charlotte Richter
Luke Robinson
Bradley Sain
Maximilian Sammler
James Schafer
Gage Scott
Maya Smith
Uriah Soliz
Caleb Stiefel
Savannah Tackaberry
Elnatan Teklu
Sarah Toppin
Ashley Tuitt

Tanja Vass
John Warren
Virginia Warren
Christopher Welch
Jack Wells
Matthew Wells
Chantell Williams
Devon Williams
Latisha Williams
Loren Winge
Nathan Witty
Pauline Woods
Alexis Wright
Elizabeth Wright

Hohenfels Middle/High School

Courtney Borg
Rene Bourgeois
Chauncey Eaddy
Kimberly Howard
Stephanie Larumbe
Casey Leon
Alicia Moczynski
Angela Reinick
Meggie Rodman
Samantha Smith
Nina Wollersberger
Mary Adgie

Caroline Bourgeois
Keyera Howard
Bryce Hysom
Hunter Massey
Allison Moczynski
Erin Redden
Stephen Welch
Emily Adams
Rachel Borg
Jazmine Calhoun
Kelsey Cochran
Sabrina Collins

Bryce Cooper
Joshua Cooper
Xavier Davis
Loisann DeLass
Darian Eldred
Lana Hollis
Nino Jessup
John Leon
Ovidiu Martin
Johnnie Mesch
Emily Mittag
Victoria Nelson

Shaniece Ruiz
Heaven Sanders
Ian Sellers
Jacqueline Stone
Jessica Walloch
Jane Weber
Sarah Adams
Katelyn Bronell
Melissa Caples
Andrea Mae Einwaechter
Corey Ezra
Natascha Fluker

Alissa Grantham
Patrick Humphreys
Frank Karafa
Caitlin Lehfeld
Sarai Orozco
Kayla Rausch
Christine Reyes
James Robinson
Marisa Warren
Vanessa Wells
Eric Wollersberger
Edward Chancey

Stephanie Fernandez
Ashleigh Glynn
Charlotte Hammer
Lukas Heath
Kaylee-Noel Brennan
Alexis Perryman
Nicholas Randolph
Emerlyn Rivera
Loraine Roberts
Robert Ryan
Kristin Stribbling
Anna Volk

Ralph Williams
Selina Chestnut
Tyrac Curry
Angelyn Fryer
Cheyanne Higgins
Anthony Johnson
Stephany Mills
Lukas Sammler
Emmanuel Soliz
Charles Preysler
Katelyn Turgeon
Richard Velarde

Do you have something going on at your school? Tell us about it!

Contact your local Public Affairs Office, or send an e-mail to adriane.foss@eur.army.mil.

Community members go wild, raise money for welfare grants, programs

by KRISTIN BRADLEY

Bavarian News

Wearing cowboy hats, boots, and lots of denim, community members filled the Zone Feb. 13 for the Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club's annual Wild West Night.

The event, highlighted by a high-stakes Texas Hold 'Em tournament, raised roughly \$4000 that will be channeled back into the community through the club's many welfare grants and programs, said Wild West Night committee chair Cheryl Ray.

The poker tournament alone raised nearly \$2000 of that total after prizes, according to Sgt. Eric Bragg, tournament chair.

The four-hour tournament drew more than 40 people of all ranks, ages, and skill levels.

"After years of doing this (running poker tournaments) I would say that this is the new golf. There has been nothing really like that for younger Soldiers to do, until recently," he said.

Though the majority of contestants were men, Bragg said this was the first time he had seen two women make it to the final table.

"I think since the game reached its hey-day on TV a few years ago and has been growing in popularity people are now comfortable coming out of their basement and playing in games like



Photo by Morrisa Booker

Men from the Hohenfels community become gambling cowboys for the night at the Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club annual Wild West Night Feb. 13 at the Zone.

this," he said.

Ray said the night's attendance, especially at the poker tournament, is a perfect example of why HCSC

recently added "community" to its club name to highlight the fact that all community members, not just spouses, benefit from its programs.

"It's a fun way for them (younger Soldiers) to get out and blow off steam, especially after a hard rotation."

Wild West Night is HCSC's second

largest event. Their annual bazaar is the largest.

Both events raise thousands of dollars that directly impacts the Hohenfels community through scholarships and grants to numerous community organizations.

"The spouses club is all about the community. After costs, 100 percent of the money we raise goes straight back into the community.

"We are proud to provide resources to organizations that they may not be able to get anywhere else," said Ray.

Not only do HCSC funds go back to the community, she said, but it also takes the entire community to put together an event like Wild West Night.

"Everyone in the community helped. Without them it would not be the success it was. It's a community fundraiser and it takes the community to put it on."

Ray specifically noted the night would not have been nearly as successful without the entertainment provided by Maria "Elena" Renehan, Mary Woods, and Lt. Col. Keith Markham, and the decorations donated by the Bourgeois family.

"This year we improved on some suggested areas from the past," said Ray, "hopefully next year can improve on us and make this event even bigger and better."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Trivia competition exposes students to history, contributions of Africian American culture

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY

Bavarian News

Hohenfels Elementary School and Hohenfels Middle/High School hosted their annual jeopardy-style tournaments last week to celebrate February as Black History Month.

"This helps them to understand other people and gets the message across that America is composed of many different ethnic groups and people, and that that is what makes us the United States," said Samuel Aundra Fryer who played host at the events.

At both schools children who volunteered were given a packet of facts about African American history which they studied for a school wide test.

The three students with the highest scores on the test were chosen to be contestants.

At the High School Feb. 17, 11th-grader Ebony Gilbert, 9th-grader Kiersten Flack, and 9th-grader Lana Hollis answered questions

"(The game) helps them to understand other people and gets the message across that America is composed of many different ethnic groups... that is what makes us the United States."

Samuel Aundra Fryer, host BHM tournament

in front of the school via the closed-circuit television system.

"I wanted to know things that you don't learn in school," said Gilbert. "I wanted to know more about my own race than I do already."

"Throughout the year we learn about everyone else, this is the only time we learn about just African Americans," she said.

"It's important to learn about everything in U.S. History, and this is a big part of it," said Flack.

Hollis, who was this year's champion, agreed.

"This is our history too," she said.

"We don't spend time learning about some important people, like Shirley Chisholm (the first African American woman to be elected to congress who in 1972 became the first majority African American candidate for President of the United States), though we learn about some people over and over, like Rosa Parks," said Flack.

At the Elementary School Feb. 18, the contestants were younger, but they had just as deep an understanding of the importance of the history they were learning.

"I learned how African Americans created and contributed to America and the world," said

6th-grade contestant Olivia Jorgensen.

"I wanted to try something new that I had not done before," said 4th-grader Josiah Martinez-Davis.

"I wanted to do history and this was the right one for me. I really liked it."

"If I grow up and have kids and they ask me a question I will know the answer and be able to tell them," he said.

Second year champion Jack Wells, 5th grade, said he had fun in last year's competition and wanted to give it another try.

Fryer, who has been volunteering his time to coordinate the annual tournament for almost 15 years, said it is important to include children in this Equal Opportunity event.

"This is the grass roots stage. This is where you change people's thoughts about things, it begins as a child.

"If they learn about every different population's contribution to society, hopefully they will not grow up to have discriminating thoughts about people when they are older," he said.



(Above) Kiersten Flack, Lana Hollis, and Ebony Gilbert, joke with each other during a jeopardy-style game honoring Black History Month Feb. 17 at Hohenfels Middle/High School. (Right) Students Josiah Martinez-Davis (left), Jack Wells (center), and Olivia Jorgensen compete in the Elementary School's version of the game Feb. 18 in which Wells walked away victorious for the second year in a row.



Hohenfels chef selected to represent Europe at elite culinary competition

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

After ten days of training in Mannheim, Germany with Europe's best chefs, 15 were selected to represent Installation Management Command-Europe, U.S. Army Europe, and 7th Army at the 34th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition.

Only two of the team members are civilians.

One of those civilians, Daniel Trawick, is from U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels.

No stranger to hard work and long hours at the Warrior Sports Café, Trawick said once they arrive in the U.S. he and his team will be working 12 hours a day for 15 straight days to perfect their techniques for the competition in Fort Lee, Va. that runs from Feb. 28 to March 13.

Once the competition begins they will face-off against more than 160 military chefs from around the world and across the Department of Defense in more than 40 categories, including Best Overall Table Exhibit, Most Artistic Piece, Chef of the Year, and Junior Chef of the Year.

"This is like the food service Olympics," said Trawick. "Not everybody can go to the Olympics, you have to qualify first. Just qualifying is a big accomplishment."

A graduate of the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University, Trawick said his interest in food came when he was a cook in the military.

After earning his degree he moved to Germany in the 80's for a civilian job with the Army, and has been here ever since.

He says he loves being creative with foods and finding new ways to "take food to a different level."

At Fort Lee Trawick will be responsible for the team's cold platter which he said will

be his sole focus in the days leading up to the competition, days which will most likely be long and stressful.

"The last few days we may have to work around the clock to finalize things," he said.

Though representing Europe in this year's competition will probably involve longer hours for Trawick than he would be putting in back at Hohenfels, he said he can't wait to begin.

"Being part of the culinary team representing food service of Europe, to me, that's a gold medal right there," he said, adding that he hopes to help younger Soldiers as much as possible so they may go on to win a medal.

"If the team does well, everybody does well. I really want the team to do well," he said many times.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Shirley T. Ashley, USAREUR theater food advisor, said the team is eager to prove themselves.

"We have Soldiers that really want to do it, so they put their hearts into it," she said Jan. 27 in Mannheim, adding that it will take more than heart for a good showing in Virginia.

"They have to cut things to a certain degree," she said, "and sometimes when they get to the competition, the evaluators actually take a ruler and they will measure."

The tough competition is not just for show, said Sgt. 1st Class Leonardo Alvarez, a veteran of the U.S. Army Culinary Arts team who has 22 years of experience in culinary arts and helped pick the team during training in Mannheim.

"Everything that the Army does is training to make the Soldier better," he said. "It gives them a different level of confidence."

"They can go back to their dining facilities and share this with their Soldiers, and a lot of this can be incorporated in their day-to-day menu planning and service. All-in-all, I think it strengthens the Army food service program."

Glenn Abdon, manager at the Warrior Sports



Daniel Trawick puts the finishing touches on a shrimp tower salad and a cream cheese custard with vanilla sauce and kiwi gelee in preparation for the 34th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va.

Café, agrees and said Trawick has been an asset at the dining facility, especially when he lends his skills to creative concoctions for special events.

Abdon said he and the rest of the staff at the

dining facility are proud one of their own earned a spot representing Europe in Virginia.

"You get that far and you're really doing something right," he said.

Kristen Marques contributed to this story.

PHOTOS FROM THE FRONT

1-4 deploys to Afghanistan, supports International Security Assistance Force



U.S. Army Pvt. Jeffery Hansen (above) crouches down after launching a 60mm mortar round on a range at Forward Operating Base Lane in Afghanistan on Feb. 15. Hansen is assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

U.S. Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment (left) wait for takeoff aboard a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, Feb. 6. The Hohenfels-based Soldiers are deploying in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Adam Mancini

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Eastern Star Meeting

Radiant Star Chapter #46, Order of the Eastern Star (OES), is having an informational meeting Friday for the entire community, women and men ages 18 years and older at 7 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Chaplain's Conference Room, Bldg 555.

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men may belong.

For more information on OES, go to <http://www.masonicdictionary.com/oes.html>.

Tax centers are open

Scheduled appointments and same day appointments (walk-ins) are available daily, with extended hours several days a week to better serve our community.

Call DSN 475-9258, CIV 09641-83-9258 in Graf, and DSN 476-2714, CIV 09662-83-2714 in Vilseck for more.

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Christopher Sweet of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor should contact the following summary court martial officer, CPT Matthew L. McGraw at DSN: 474-2684 or email matt.mcgraw@us.army.mil.

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Christopher Sweet of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor should contact the following summary court martial officer, CPT Matthew L. McGraw at DSN: 474-2684 or email matt.mcgraw@us.army.mil.

Storytelling Festival

Come to the Netzaberg Elementary School March 7 from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for a storytelling festival featuring professional storytellers Susan Klein, Baba Jamal Koram and Sandy Oglesby.

Door prizes will be awarded. For additional information please contact blackhawkshieldevents@yahoo.com.

Bellamy Brothers to perform

Join us for the Bellamy Brothers concert March 24 at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Gym on Rose Barracks.

Following the show, stay for a meet and greet. For more information on the Bellamy Brothers, who have released more than 40 pop and country albums, visit their website at <http://www.bellamybrothers.com/>.

Travel opportunities

To sign-up for these trips, call Vilseck ITR DSN 476-2563, CIV 09662-83-2563 or Grafenwoehr ODR DSN 475-7402, CIV 09662-83-7402.

Daytrips

- Salzburg, Austria, March 13-15
- Barcelona, Costa Del Sol, Granada and Seville, Spain & Avignon, France Trip, April 3-12
- Euro-Disney and Paris Trip, April 6-9
- Mosel Wine and Medieval Castles, May 1-3
- Cinque Terre, Pisa and Lucca Italy, May 21-25

Thrift Shop news

The Vilseck Thrift Shop will be open the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more info, call DSN 476-2649, CIV 09662-83-2649.

ODR ski trip

The following trip is being offered: • Zillertal Ski Safari, March 13-15 Call Rose Barracks ODR at DSN 476-2563, CIV 09662-83-2563, or Graf ODR at DSN 475-7402, CIV 09641-83-7402 for information.

Youth skiing

CYSS offers weekly ski trips to Mehlmeisel ski slope Wednesday afternoons for youth 8 to 10 years of age, and Friday evening for youth 11 to 18.

For more, call DSN 476-4037, CIV 09662-83-4037.

VFW news

• The Grafenwoehr VFW hosts an Open House every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Business meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

POC Commander, James Holliman 0160-91423858, or Sr. Vice Commander Roger Schneider 0160-95877025.

• Vilseck VFW holds their Open VFW night Thursdays for members and those just curious about the VFW from 6 - 10 p.m. Food, fun, and cards. Bldg. 133 (located behind Vilseck Rose Barracks Fire Station).

Purim Service

All Jewish personnel and Family members are invited to attend the Purim Service (Costumes are optional) March 10 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Bldg. 555. For more information, contact Mr. Tobias at DSN 475-9633.

Training support

The Joint Multinational Training Command's Training Support Activity Europe's General Support Center has been renamed the Training Aids Production Center and is located at Bldg. 3060,

less than a kilometer from the new TSAE Headquarters at Buildings 3006-30011.

For information on services, call DSN 475-1398.

KONTAKT Club

Check out your local German-American friendship organization, KONTAKT Clubs in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Amberg.

For more, call DSN 475-8885, CIV 09662-83-8885, or DSN 475-1600, CIV 09641-83-1600. Visit: <http://www.kontakt-vilseck.de/>.

GCSC Thrift Store

The GCSC Nearly New Treasures Thrift Store is open every 1st Saturday of the month to better serve our community.

All net profits go back into our community through welfare grants and scholarships, so support our community through your purchases and donations.

Located in the old SAS building, #508, open from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday - Thursday, as well as the 1st Saturday of every month. Consignments from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Langenbruck Center events

• Karaoke Night, March 13, 6 p.m. at The Zone Sports Bar

• Indulgence Night Bunco March 18 at 6 p.m. Join us for an evening of fun, food and friendly chatter. Win gift cards and other great prizes. Call DSN: 476-2360 to reserve your seat.

Youth Sports registration

CYSS Spring Sports registration runs thru March 20 or until rosters fill up. YS Sports includes T-Ball (3-5, 6-7 years), Baseball (Coach Pitch - 8-9, Player Pitch 10-12, 13-15) and Softball (10-12, 13-15). Soccer will be offered for 3-15 year olds.

Parents can sign up at either Central Registration Office in Grafenwoehr or Rose Barracks.

Youth need to be registered with CYSS and have a health assessment that is valid through the end of the season (first week of June).

Hohenfels Briefs

AFAP rocks Bldg. 10

Army Family Action Plan is a conference designed to voice issues that affect quality of life within the community and to recommend viable solutions to those issues.

Tomorrow you can view the workings first hand. Call DSN 466-4860 for details.

Stretching your dollar

Stretching your dollar is the perfect program for you to define your financial priorities with a professional financial consultant.

Be at ACS, Bldg. 10, Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 466-3401.

Investing for tomorrow

This is a great opportunity to identify your own personal investment profile, while you learn the basics of investments.

Check it out Feb. 27 from 1-2:30 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 10. For information call DSN 466-3401

This class provides vital information you need for a secure future.

Free movies

Free movies at the Community Activities Center

• Feb. 26: Transporter 3, 7 p.m. (PG-13)

• Feb. 28: Seven Pounds, 7 p.m. (PG-13)

ODR one-day ski trip

Let ODR do the driving and enjoy a quick winter getaway to the Bavarian Alps.

The Winklmoosalm mountain community in Reit im Winkl, Germany, offers alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, hiking in the snow and much more.

The remaining trips are scheduled for March 7, 21, 24, and 28; April 4 and 18. A new, reduced price of \$20 for adults, \$15 for children, and \$15 each for groups of 5 or more, is now available.

The cost includes transportation only. Outdoor Recreation has new equip-

ment rental available for \$15 per day for adults.

For more, call Outdoor Recreation at DSN 466-2060.

Regensburg Shopping Trip

Shop 'til you drop Feb. 28 at the Donau shopping centre in Regensburg.

Hohenfels ITR invites you and your friends to enjoy more than 100 specialty and department stores under one roof, plus a wide range of cafes and restaurants in one fun day of shopping.

The bus will depart Hohenfels from parking lot across from the CDC at 9:30 a.m. and return around 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person.

For more, call DSN 466-2060.

CYSS Kids' Club

Every Thursday parents and children can participate in gross motor play at the CYSS Annex Facility, Bldg. 44, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Activities include climbing, crawling, manipulating obstacles, running, jumping, and other fun events. Children must be CYSS/Kids' Club registered.

Kids' Club is free and is a great opportunity to get out, relax, and make new friends.

Open to parents with infants to kindergarten-age children. Call DSN 466-2078/2080 for information.

Youth Sports enrollment

Registration runs through March 13 for all Youth Sports and Fitness spring sports.

Offered this spring will be Start Smart Baseball for ages 3-5, baseball for ages 6-15, girls' softball for ages 10-15, soccer for ages 6-15, track and field for ages 8 and up, and tennis for ages 8-15.

Cost for enrollment range from \$35-50 depending on the sport. Spring Sports enrollment will continue through March 13, and a late fee will apply after that date.

Parents may enroll their children at the CLEOS office located in Bldg. 10. For more, call DSN 466-2078. All players must have a valid sports physical through June 19.

Coaches needed

The Youth Sports and Fitness office is in need of 10 baseball coaches, 3 softball coaches, 12 soccer coaches, and 2 tennis coaches, 2 track and field coaches, and 1 Start Smart baseball coach.

All coaches are needed by March 13th to ensure that the proper training is received. Excellent training and instruction will be provided.

Great discounts are available for the children of coaches who are enrolled to participate in sports.

For more information call DSN 466-2558 or go to the Youth Sports and

Fitness office in Bldg. 94.

Stations of the Cross

Catholic Stations of the Cross for Children will be held Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. in the Main Post Chapel Bldg. 2.

A Communion Service will be included. A meatless meal will follow.

Trip to Markt am Inn

Join St. Michael's Catholic Faith Community on a visit March 7 to Markt am Inn, birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI, and Altoetting, a renowned German Pilgrimage Site with a 750-year old Black Madonna statue and excellent shopping for religious articles.

Space on the bus is limited to 40 people, but additional people are welcome to caravan in POVs. The group will be leaving from the Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2 at 7 a.m.

Any tour and meal costs are not included. For more information, or to reserve a space, call Naomi Evans at DSN 466-2226 or email Naomi.Evans@eur.army.mil.

Math, Science & Technology

The 8th annual Math, Science, and Technology Night will be held at the Hohenfels Middle/High School March 4 from 4-6 p.m.

The entire community is invited to attend and participate. There will be demonstrations, experiments, and other activities to try. Food will be sold.

Prizes will be won. If you or your organization would like to participate in the event contact Martha McIntyre at martha.mcintyre@eu.dodea.edu.

Red Cross Classes

• March 21: CPR from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• March 28: First Aid from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost is \$35 for CPR, \$30 for First Aid, or \$40 for both. All classes are in the ACS conference room in Bldg. 10. Additional course dates are available in Vilseck.

KONTAKT Club Hohenfels

The KONTAKT Club is a German-American friendship organization, sponsored by the U.S. Army that includes Soldiers, families, and other Americans supporting USAG Hohenfels, and German citizens from the surrounding communities.

The Hohenfels community is invited to participate in the Club's upcoming activities, like Bowling Night March 4 from 7-9 p.m. at Lane 17 next to the CAC.

For information or directions to the events call the Public Affairs Office at DSN 466-4294, or visit the club's website at www.kontakt-hohenfels.com.

BULK TRASH PICK-UP

City of Eschenbach to include the Netzaberg

WHEN AND WHERE:

Tuesday, 10 Mar 2009, curbside, in front of your home

THIS PICK-UP IS MAINTAINED BY THE LOCAL COUNTY. NOT THE US ARMY!! BULK TRASH HAS TO BE OUT ON CURBSIDE NLT: 06:00 AM

WHAT WILL BE PICKED UP??

Everything that is too big or too heavy to go into the normal refuse container, like the following: Furniture, mattresses, carpets, washing machines, dryers, radios, TVs, ovens, stoves, bicycles, strollers, etc., and other items which cannot be dismantled, torn or broken down to a size that would fit in the regular refuse container.

Each single item should not be larger than 80x40x32 inches and should not be heavier than 110 lb. Bulk trash consisting of metal (i.e. bicycles, washers, dryers, stoves, etc.) and electronic equipment (such as large appliances, small appliances, cooling devices, information & telecommunications including entertainment equipment) should be put out separately next to the normal bulk trash.

Pick ups will be performed in three steps:

1. Combustible material: like upholstered furniture, mattresses, rugs, etc.
2. Electronic equipment: i.e. TV, PC, printer, scanner, radio, VCR, DVD player, monitor, vacuum cleaner, refrigerators and freezers (no permission sticker required anymore), etc.
3. Salvageable wooden furniture: (i.e. bed frame, wardrobe, chair, table, etc.)

Smaller electronic appliances (i.e. hair dryer, toothbrush, telephone, drilling machine etc.) should be dropped off at the infrequent off post "curbside refilling" poison wagon. The poison wagon will be in the Town Eschenbach at the "Sandzische Bauhof" (Friedhofstr. 1) from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs on 16 April 2009. It should be brought to the drop off point "Company Bagler" in Weilerhammer, Etzelsbach Str. 2, Mu-Fl from 0800-1600 hrs, phone: 08235-82398.

WHAT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP?

- Normal refuse, recyclable material, garden refuse like cut grass, branches, etc.
- Hazardous waste
- Tires, car parts, batteries, wrecked cars, motorcycles
- Doors and windows (with or without glass), laminated floor, rouleaus
- Construction debris
- Night storage heaters

Any material not picked up must be removed by residents. Don't put out the wrong stuff!!!

It may happen that the pick-up is delayed for some reason. If your material does not get picked up on the announced date, just leave it in place. It will be picked up for sure on the next day or the day after.



SMART-PROGRAM

USAG GRAFENWOEHR, O & M Division, Utilities Branch Grafenwoehr, DSN 475-6664

Hohenfels Outdoor Recreation presents

2008 Equipment is just \$15 to rent for adults

Groups of 5 or more only \$15 for anyone!!



ONE DAY SKI TRIPS

Let ODR do the driving and enjoy a quick winter get-away in the Bavarian Alps. The Winklmoosalm mountain community in Reit im Winkl, Germany, offers Alpine & cross country skiing, hiking and more.

Only... \$20* for Adults \$15* for Kids

Saturday March 7th

For more info, or to reserve your seat, contact Hohenfels ODR at CIV: 09472-83-2060 or DSN: 466-2060



What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Clinic hour change

The Katterbach Clinic changes its hours March 1. The clinic will be open Mondays-Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to noon. The clinic will be closed for mandatory training from noon to 4:30 p.m. every Friday.

The clinic will remain closed on weekends and federal holidays.

Speak your mind

USAG Ansbach hosts town hall meetings this month for residents to voice issues and ask questions—plus get the latest local news directly from the garrison commander.

Join us today from 6-7 p.m. at the Terrace Playhouse for the Bleidorn Town Hall. Come Thursday from 6-7 p.m. at the theater for the Storck Town Hall.

Now hiring

The Franconian Inn on Bismarck Kaserne is hiring desk clerks for nights and weekend hours. Starting salary is \$8.44 and hour.

For a full job description go to <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm> on the Web and search for announcement EUNAFHJ09012AOC1 or for the keyword Desk Clerk.

Applicants can also submit their application or resume to the non-appropriated funds civilian personnel advisory center in Room 313 of Bldg. 5254 on Barton Barracks. For more, call DSN 468-7822 or CIV 0981-183-822.

Alterations

The Storck Barracks Alterations Shop is open Mondays and Thursdays from 2-6 p.m. Alterations is located next to the military clothing sales store.

“On the Scene”

Want to know what is going on within USAG Ansbach? Check out the “On the Scene” newsletter available at the garrison’s web site, www.ansbach.army.mil. The newsletter is posted every Thursday.

Interested in a pdf version? Send an email to jim.k.hughes@eur.army.mil to subscribe.

If you would like to publicize an event in the newsletter, or have a story idea, call public affairs at DSN 468-1600, CIV 0981-183-1600.

Get fit

Ansbach Health Promotions offers the civilian fitness program that allows U.S. and local national employees a chance to get up to three hours a week to exercise.

The next open enrollment is March 23 from 10 a.m. to noon and 4-5 p.m. at the Bunch Fitness Center on Storck Barracks.

Another enrollment is offered March 25 from 10 a.m. to noon and 4-5 p.m. at the Katterbach Fitness Center.

For more, call DSN 468-7863, CIV 0981-183-863.

Know when to hold ‘em

Ansbach Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a Texas Hold ‘Em No Limit tournament Friday at 7 p.m. at the Von Steuben Recreation Center on Bismarck Kaserne.

The tournament is a feeder for the Army-wide online tournament with the Ansbach winner getting a seat at the finals.

The grand prize locally is a \$500 gift card and second and third places will be awarded, too.

The doors open at 6 p.m. and you can pre-register at the bowling centers on Katterbach and Storck.

For more, send an e-mail to ansmwr@eur.army.mil.

Live drama

The Terrace Playhouse presents its production of David Auburn’s “Proof” Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the facility in Bleidorn Housing.

Tickets for the live dramatic production are \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and \$20 for a family. For more or to make a reservation, call DSN 468-7636, CIV 0981-183-636.

Get cooking

The Storck Barracks Yellow Ribbon Room offers a German cooking class Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. and March 18 from 10 a.m. to noon.

For more, call DSN 467-4555, CIV 09841-83-4555.

Schools survey

The Department of Defense Education Activity is administering its biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey until Saturday.

The survey is available online at www.dodea.edu (click on the CSS graphic link).

Tax Centers open

The Tax Assistance Centers at Katterbach and Storck Barracks are open.

Appointments are available at Katterbach from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays with walk-ins accepted from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

At Storck, appointments are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and walk-ins are accepted from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Contact the tax centers for more information about filing your federal and state returns:

• Katterbach Tax Center DSN 467-2324, CIV 09802-83-2324
• Storck Barracks Tax Center- DSN 467-4511, CIV 09841-83-4511.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Terra Nova testing

Schweinfurt Elementary School, Schweinfurt Middle School, and Bamberg High School will all conduct Terra Nova testing during the week of Mar. 9-12. For information about the testing, call CIV 0160-989-05927.

Play racquetball

Sign up to play in the St. Patrick’s Day racquetball shootout at Kessler Fitness Center Mar. 14.

Registration ends Mar. 11. Games run from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more, call CIV 09721-96-8234 or email william.comeford@eur.army.mil.

Learn Web design

Come to the Army Community Service class “Basic Web design” in Ledward bldg. 206 computer lab Mar. 5 to learn what it takes to get started designing a Web page.

Class runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. and all participants will receive a certificate of completion. Class is open on a first-come, first-served basis. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

New to the military?

Learn how your family readiness group can help you be successful in your new community by attending the Army Community Service class “FRG 101: Intro to the FRG” at the Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room Mar. 4 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call CIV 09721-96-6933 to sign up.

Theater auditions

Try out for the play “Steel Magnolias” at the Abrams Entertainment Center Mar. 9 and 10 at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. Parts include six female roles with no experience required.

Volunteers are also needed as production staff including costuming, lights, sound, set construction, etc. For more, call CIV 0162-296-2776 or e-mail garland.travis@eur.army.mil.

Adult volleyball clinic

Participate in the Schweinfurt volleyball clinic at Kessler Fitness Center Tuesday through Mar. 5 from 6-8:30 p.m. each evening.

The clinic is open to all ID card holders age 18 and up and not in high school. A tournament will be held Mar. 5 from 6-9 p.m. For more, call CIV 09721-96-8234 or email william.comeford@eur.army.mil.

Vacation communication

Army Community Service offers the class “couples communication through travel” at the Education Center Mar. 9 from 9-11 a.m. Couples will learn how unique traveling opportunities in Europe can benefit relations by learning to establish goals and how to achieve them. To register, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Lego Land with BOSS

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers invites you to join a trip to Lego Land Mar. 14 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Deadline to sign up is Mar. 6. Call CIV 09721-96-8476 for information.

Storytellers visit

Come to the free family concert featuring professional storytellers Susan Klein, Baba Jamal Koram, and Sandy Oglesby at Schweinfurt Elementary School Mar. 5.

Attend the community expo beforehand at 4:30 p.m. to learn of services available to you on post, and to win door prizes. Concert begins at 6 p.m. Food will be available for purchase prior to the concert.

PTA needs volunteers

The Schweinfurt Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association is looking for volunteers. To see how you can help, attend the next meeting open to the community at SES Mar. 4 starting at 2:30 p.m.

Unit-level volleyball

Registration ends Mar. 4 for the unit-level volleyball season. Play is open to

unit-level teams only and rear detachment teams can combine within battalion. Season runs Mar. 18-Apr. 20. For more, call CIV 09721-96-8234 or email william.comeford@eur.army.mil.

Youth basketball

Come watch the Jr. NBA/WNBA youth triple play basketball games at the Ledward gym Saturday. Games begin at 9 a.m..

Celebrate Dr. Seuss

Celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday Monday by bringing your child to the Ledward Library story hour. Stories begin at 4 p.m., and children of all ages are welcome.

Identify child abuse

Come to a class that will teach how to identify cases of child abuse or neglect. The awareness training, taught by Army Community Service, takes place at Ledward Chapel Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Child care is available at no charge on the premises, and refreshments will also be served. Participants will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training. Please call to reserve a seat at CIV 09721-96-6860.

Interest assessments

Find out your strengths and weaknesses in the Army Community Service workshop “career and interest assessment” held in the Ledward Yellow Ribbon room Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Discover a path to success for years to come.

The assessments are designed for immediate results for those looking to volunteer or seek a job in their areas of interest. For information, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Mar. 10. 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 CIV 0162-270-9403.

Newcomer Orientation

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community?

If so, then the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program is the fit for you from Monday through Mar. 6.

Get acquainted with the military community as well as the German town of Schweinfurt.

For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Free childcare is available.

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 Schweinfurt’s Lunch Bunch tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at CIV 09721-96-6933.

Military saves campaign

The Military Saves Campaign runs through Sunday. Come to the saving and investing seminar tonight at the Conn Community Club from 6-7 p.m. to learn how to save and build wealth while avoiding debt. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Join adult book club

The community is invited to attend the adult book club at Ledward Library on the last Thursday of each month. The next meeting is tomorrow at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the book, “Run,” by Ann Patchett.

A copy of the book can be picked up at the library’s circulation desk. For more, call CIV 09721-96-1740.

Learn MS Word

Come to the Army Community Service class “Basic Microsoft Word” in Ledward bldg. 205 computer lab Tuesday to learn the fundamentals of word processing and simple tricks to make it faster.

Class runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. and all participants will receive a certificate of completion. Class is open on a first-come, first-served basis. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Get tips on birth and babies

Do you have a baby on the way and want to be prepared with what to expect?

Come to Army Community Service’s (ACS) two-part series, “Birth-n-Babies” at Ledward ACS on Mar. 11 and 13, both from 9 a.m. to noon. Learn the latest about what is available for labor and delivery, how to handle complications, and what to do the first night home with your new baby. For more information, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Sponsorship training

Learn the ropes of helping new Soldiers and families integrate into the community.

Attend the Army Community Service’s “Sponsorship Training” class in the education center Mar. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Call CIV 09721-96-6933 for more information.

Girl Scouts Ansbach
Present:

**The 2009
“Starlight”
Father-Daughter Dance**

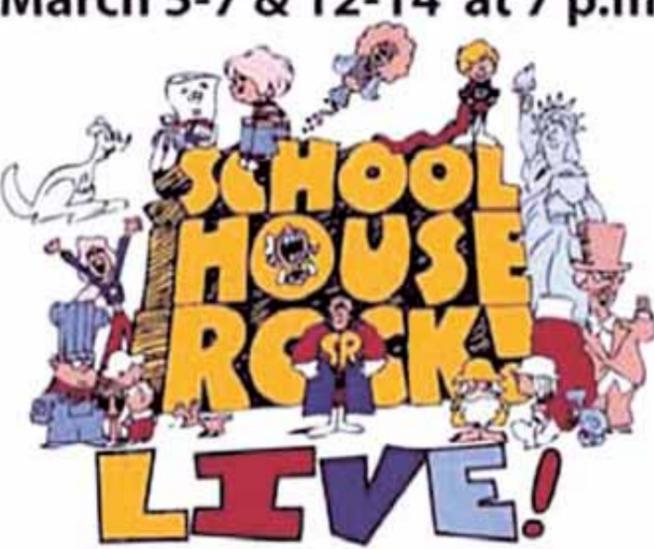
**Saturday, March 14th, 2009
5pm -- 8pm
Von Steuben Community Center on
Bismarck Caserne**

**Tickets are \$10 /Girl for Non-Girl Scout Members,
age 5-17years**
The fee can be applied towards the registration, if the daughter decides to sign up that evening.

**Attire: Party Dress or Sunday Best for Girls;
Suits or Military Formal for Fathers.
Pictures will be made available for purchase.**

For Ticket Purchase or Information, please contact:
Ms. Tina or Ms. Leslie
Troop 584 OCC GS Ansbach
(0151)20956155 (0176)76777695
gsansbach@yahoo.com

**Performances:
March 5-7 & 12-14 at 7 p.m.**



To reserve tickets, contact:
Garland Travis
09721-96-6225, 0162-296-2776, DSN 253-6225
email: garland.travis@eur.army.mil

COMMUNITY THEATRE
USAO SCHWEINFURT
ABRAMS
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER



The sights and sounds of the world renowned Venice Carnevale draw thousands of tourists annually.

Italian Carvenvale dethaws Garmisch resident

Story and photos by
ANDREA WINTER
Special to the Bavarian News

When you get cabin fever in Garmisch because winter seems to last forever, a trip down to Venice Italy during "Carnevale" is just the right cure for a taste of spring.

We started out on a Friday morning driving into Austria and got on the Autobahn near Innsbruck. It turned out a rather expensive trip for just a weekend but was definitely worth it!

By the time you get to Italy on the Brenner Pass, about 100 km's from Garmisch, you will have already spent 16 Euros for an Autobahn sticker (vignette) and a toll for a privately owned bridge. And it doesn't get cheaper from here...

It takes about 5 hours to drive to Venice from Garmisch, a total of 490 km, and 22 Euros in Autobahn tolls. As we went further south the thermometer went up to 12 degrees Celsius, putting a big smile on our faces.

We stopped at a big shopping center in Affi, just off of the Autobahn at the south end of Lake Garda about three hours into the trip. Here you find a huge supermarket with all the good Italian stuff like a large selection of pastas and Italian wines. This time of year the mall is closed on Sundays, so that's why we stopped on the way there rather than on the way back.

After two hours of shopping, we finished the break with the season's first Italian ice cream on a bench outside in the sun. Remember, it was now 12 degrees just a few hours after we left at -6 degrees in Garmisch!

Back on the Autobahn and about two hours later we entered the city limits of Venice and only took one wrong turn towards the ferry harbor.

A GPS navigator would have been nice here but we only had a route planner print out. The signage is not exactly tourist friendly so you have to pay good attention.

Our hotel was located at Venice-Lido, a 25 minute ferry trip away from the boat landing and parking area of Venice. The cost of parking almost equals the cost for the ferry so for us it made more sense to take the car along than leaving it in an unattended park house.

On the way to the Lido you have a wonderful first view of the Campanile and the St. Markus square with the Cathedral.

Alessandro, the host of our beautiful old villa named after that great romantic Casanova, welcomed us and showed us our rooms. The villa was only 200 meters away from the boat landing.

The room was nice and very clean but during this special Carnevale season we paid 100

Euro per night for two people including a nice breakfast buffet. Alessandro even offered fresh made cappuccino and latte macchiato rather than just regular coffee. It was a great start into a nice, sunny Saturday.

To get to St. Markus Square and the tourist area of Venice we bought a 12 hour transportation ticket (18 Euro) valid for both bus and boats. The boat ride takes less than 15 minutes from the Lido to the St. Markus's. We got off a couple stops early and walked along the canal towards the square.

Along the way we already spotted a few figures in beautiful Venetian outfits. Typically you do not see any skin. They wear scarves around their heads, hats and/or masks and all of them wear gloves to stay mysterious. They do not speak to you either but invite you to have your picture taken with them.

The weather was gorgeous and by the time we reached the famous Rialto Bridge, shortly after noon, we sat down on the steps by a gondola station, had more ice cream and watched people from all countries passing by and having a good time. The sun just felt so nice after all the cold back home that we didn't want to leave.

By now the alleyways were very crowded and in St. Markus square it was so packed you couldn't fall over even if you tried hard. We took the boat back along the Canale Grande, the main water street thru Venice.

When we returned to the Lido in the late afternoon on Saturday we rested for a while and then went out for dinner to a pizza place - of course, what else in Italy! Dinner was good and very reasonable.

After a couple of glasses of Italian red wine, a good night of sleep and an extended breakfast, we left the Lido on the ferry boat back to the Autobahn.

On the way back home we stopped in Verona. The famous Roman arena is easy to find by following signs to the "zona fiera" and the arena. We visited the inside where you can see beautiful performances of operas in the summer.

And then we went for more ice cream in the gorgeous old town!

Once back on the road toward Garmisch it took us four hours to get back home and we watched the temperature go back down. On top of the Brenner Pass entering Austria it hit 0 Celsius, brrr... We arrived back in Garmisch just in time for dinner at our favorite pizza place.

Cost for the weekend (2 people):
• Tolls and transportation- 160 Euro
• Accomodations- 200 Euro
• Experiencing the Venitian tradition of Carnevale- priceless.



The masks and costumes of Carnevale, which traditionally began as a way to disguise one's social status, brings visitors from around the world. The 10-day pre-Lent celebration is marked with masquerade balls, music, and theatre. For this year's theme, "Sensation: 6 senses for 6 districts," neighborhoods hosted events and activities relating to a particular sense.



Visitors can enjoy ice cream, some of the best coffee in the world, and a bit of people watching as revelers fill the streets and sidewalk cafes.



DFAC program aims to encourage healthy eating

Story and photo by
ANNE TORPHY

BMEDDAC Public Affairs Officer

You're at the DFAC and not sure what's best to eat so that you can stay fit to fight?!

Bavaria MEDDAC nutrition experts and the "Go For Green" program are here to help.

The Grafenwoehr Camp Normandy DFAC that serves the Warrior Leader Course soldiers will begin participating in "Go For Green," a food identification program designed by Army dietitians that focuses on preventive health and provides an easy way to make smart food choices.

The program hopes to encourage diners to attain and/or maintain proper weight standards and make healthier food choices for improved health and readiness.

According to Spc. Robert Van Houten, BMEDDAC Nutrition Care Specialist, diet affects the amount of energy, strength, and endurance you have for training and missions and can be the "edge" that makes the difference between winning and losing.

Food is assigned to three categories: green, amber or red. Green category items are nutrient dense, high fiber, low in fat and calories. Everyone should Go Green with at least half of their daily food choices; these foods have the highest nutrient content.

If you'd like to lose weight, that amount should increase to 75 percent of your total food choices.

Amber foods are moderate in calories, fat, and fiber. Red items are high in calories and fat and low in fiber, and can be empty calories.

When selecting your entree, do you pick the Fried or Breaded Chicken (Red, lots of fat), the Baked Chicken with Skin (Amber, better), or the Grilled Skinless Chicken (Green, the best choice)?

What about your salad?

Mixed salads with high fat topping or made with regular mayonnaise or salad dressings are considered Red. An Amber salad could be with some lowfat cheese, lean meat, croutons and a lowfat dressing choice. A Go Green salad could be mixed greens and veggies with vinegar or low-fat salad dressing.

Each food item offered at the Grafenwoehr Camp Normandy dining facility will have an easy-to-see color coded card or sign above the food item at the serving station.

For more information on the Go for Green program, contact Spc. Robert VanHouten, Nutrition Care Specialist, at DSN 476-2059, CIV 09662-83-4605.



A Soldier going through the Warrior Leaders Course makes healthy food choices at the Camp Normandy DFAC in Grafenwoehr.

EAT RIGHT! National Nutrition Month March Events

•Listen and call in to the AFN Bavaria morning show on March 2 from 8-10 a.m. for tips on how to "Eat Right."

•Check out the BMEDDAC nutrition experts with their "Eat Right" booth at your local area PX. They'll have information and be able to answer questions on weight nutrition, heart healthy diet and activities, tobacco cessation support groups, and more.

•A raffle will also be held. Grand prize is a pedometer, eco-safe apron, and two grocery canvas bags to carry your healthy food. Other prizes will be sani-mist pocket spray and fitness planners. Dates for raffles are as follows:

March 2: Katterbach/Ansbach
March 3: Bamberg
March 4: Schweinfurt
March 5: Grafenwoehr
March 6: Hohenfels
March 9: Vilseck



Healthy sleep habits provide healing, rest

Proponency Office for Rehabilitation
& Reintegration

Getting a good night's sleep has to do with many factors.

The following are helpful hints for good sleep hygiene and treatment of insomnia.

Prior to bedtime...

- No caffeine-containing foods or drinks
- No heavy exercise
- No alcohol, nicotine or large meals
- Avoid bright light exposure
- Stop work or TV viewing of disturbing or stimulating television shows
- Do NOT take naps

Relax...

- Foster a quiet, pleasant sleep environment - a cool room and soft lighting

- Have time for a warm soak in the tub or warm shower, relaxing thoughts, meditation, progressive muscle relaxation exercises, or Yoga
- Use of the bed is for sleep and sex, which means no watching TV, work, or reading

Keep a routine...

- Keep regular bedtime and wake-up hours, even on the weekend
- Go to bed only when sleepy
- Go to another room if sleep does not come within 20-30 minutes
- If you have been prescribed sleep medications, take them as instructed and at the same time every night
- Consult with a health care provider before taking any over-the-counter medications or supplements

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month.

For more information, contact your local BMEDDAC Health Clinic.

You now have the option to schedule clinic appointments online at:

www.TRICAREOnline.com

Please keep appointments or cancel in advance so that others may receive care.

Bavaria MEDDAC Health Clinic New Hours

Hours have been adjusted for mandatory training that will occur on Friday afternoons.

Bamberg Health Clinic

DSN 469-1750 / CIV 0951-300-1750

Sick Call

Mon - Fri, 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

Routine Care

Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Please note: The clinic will be open from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm two Fridays a month. Please check marquee for schedule.

Weekends, Federal Holidays CLOSD

Vilseck Health Clinic

DSN 476-2882 / CIV 09662-83-2882

Sick Call

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, 6:30 - 7:00 a.m.

Thurs, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Clinic Hours

Mon, Tue, Wed, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thurs, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Training Holidays

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Routine Appointments Only

Weekends, Federal Holidays CLOSD

Grafenwoehr Clinic

DSN 475-7152 / CIV 09641-83-7152

Sick Call

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Thurs, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Clinic Hours

Mon, Tue, Wed, 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thurs, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fri, 6:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Training Holidays

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Routine Appointments Only

Weekends, Federal Holidays CLOSD

Hohenfels Health Clinic

DSN 466-1750 / CIV 09472-83-1750

Sick Call

Mon - Fri, 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.

Routine Care

Mon - Thurs, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Weekends, Federal Holidays CLOSD

Illesheim Health Clinic

DSN 467-5141 / CIV 09841-83-5141

Sick Call

Mon - Fri, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Routine Care

Mon - Thurs, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Emergency/Urgent Care in afternoon

Weekends, Training,

& Federal Holidays CLOSD

Katterbach Clinic

DSN 467-3398 / CIV 09802-83-3398

Sick Call

Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Routine Care

Mon - Thurs, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Weekends, Training,

& Federal Holidays CLOSD

Schweinfurt Clinic

DSN 354-7901 / CIV 09721-96-7901

Sick Call

Mon - Fri, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Routine Care

Mon - Thurs, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Weekends, Training

& Federal Holidays CLOSD

172nd Infantry Brigade claims silver, gold

Story and photos by
Sgt. MICHAEL J. TAYLOR
172nd Infantry Brigade

"One mile, no sweat. Two miles, better yet" are the words of a well known cadence that 10 Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry "Blackhawk" Brigade brought to life as their teams claimed 1st and 2nd place in the 10th Mountain Division's 10-Mile Combat Ruck Relay held here Feb. 15.

The gold trophy team from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment and silver trophy team from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment defeated 65 other teams to claim their victories during the combat relay.

The 10-mile relay is a race where members of five person teams from various units within the Multi-National Division-Center, navigated two miles each around Lost Lake here with a 30-pound rucksack strapped on their backs and a rifle in hand.

Each person had to navigate around trees, over barriers and through narrow paths to make it to the next person on their team.

With final times of 1:21:05 and 1:21:07 the 1-2 Inf. and 2-28 Inf., teams provided the audience a breathtaking finish as they fought till the very end through the course to claim the gold. Dominating the race, both teams finished more than seven minutes ahead of their nearest opponents.

"I told you," said 1st Sgt. Kurt D. Hopson, of Bravo 1-2 Inf., as if he expected nothing less than greatness from his team. "Our Soldiers trained hard and were very motivated for this event."

When asked about the teams strategy prior to the race, Hopson commented, "There is no team strategy, our guys are just going to go out there, run hard the whole two miles and come out on top."

"It feels great to win," said 1st Lt. Seann Kim, last runner and leader of the 1-2 Inf. team. "1-2 has to represent, we strive to be the best in everything we do."

1-2 Inf. and 2-28 Inf. were not the only teams



1st Lt. Seann Kim from the 172nd Infantry Brigade's 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, crosses the finish line in 1st place, claiming a victory for his team during the 10th Mountain Division's 10-Mile Combat Ruck Relay held Feb. 15. The "Black Scarves" of 1-2 Inf. captured the gold by beating out 66 other teams that competed. Kim, a Chicago native, was the team's leader and usually runs his two mile in 10 minutes flat.

from 172nd Inf. Bde. that took part in the relay race. A total of six teams made the trip to Baghdad and represented the Blackhawk Brigade. A second 2-28 Inf. team finished seventh and the 9th Engineer team finished 10th which allowed the 172nd Inf. Bde. to sweep the relay with a total of four teams finishing in the top 10 finals.

A team from the 172nd Support Battalion came in 30th place while an all women team

from their battalion came in 34th.

The all women's team was the only all female gender team that competed in the race. Fighting hard and staying tough, the Blackhawk Brigade women beat out more than half of the opposing teams, which were made up of all males or mixed genders. They displayed courage and lived the Blackhawk motto, "Strength with Honor."

"We are going to do excellent," said Pfc. Alicia C. Litchfield, prior to the race. "Whether we come crawling across the line, limping or running, we will give it our everything."

The women's team finished with an impressive time of 1:56:16.

This was the first time that the 10th Mtn. Div. ever held the 10-Mile Combat Ruck Relay. It was planned and organized by two senior non-commissioned officers, Sgt. Major Donald L. Spicer and Master Sgt. Glenn Honts. The relay was thought of as a way to give Soldiers and civilians something different and unique to compete for and also to promote team cohesion.

"The relay was open to all service members, civilians and even other country's armies such as, Ghana and Great Britain," said Spicer.

"The idea of the 10-Mile Combat Ruck Relay was ultimately to give the competitors something that was very challenging," said Spicer. "But the guys from the 172nd Inf. Bde. really made it look easy."

"Our battalion constantly strives to be the best," said Kim. "Whether it is a 10-mile race or patrols in our sector, everyone does the best job they can every time."

"It is that same dedication to duty and personal courage that allowed us to emerge on top and win the gold trophy," he added.



Members of the Blackhawk all-women's team race for the finish line.

Iraqi women's initiatives take front seat at FOB Kalsu



Photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

Non-governmental organization members from Mahawil, Iraq listen to opening remarks during the Women's Initiatives Conference held at Forward Operating Base Kaslu Feb. 6. There were no shy speakers as leaders from youth associations, human rights groups and women's support groups spoke in depth about their organization's beliefs and efforts to improve people and their country.

by Capt. STEPHEN C. SHORT
172nd Infantry Brigade

Iraqi leaders of non-governmental organizations came together to connect with peers and representatives of their government at the first Women's Initiatives Conference held at FOB Kaslu Feb. 6.

The Women's Initiatives Team, which is composed of Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Brigade and B Company, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, has the mission of connecting Iraqi government agencies to the women of Iraq.

The team seeks to empower Iraqi women to become key citizens with equal rights and privileges during the transformation of the government of Iraq. Their mission is to bring about an equal voice under law and basic human rights.

The team believes that in order to create opportunity and change, people must form a united front and get their voices heard within their communities and by their government.

Twenty-eight organization reps from Babil Province, Iraq attended the conference with 41 representatives being men and 12 women.

The conference began with opening remarks from Maj. Lucien Campillo, 172 Infantry Brigade Executive Officer, welcoming the distinguished guests to the conference and thanking the Women's Initiatives Team leader, 1st Lt. Gloria Brickles,

for her team's hard work putting the conference together.

Brickles asked representatives to come to the podium and introduce themselves, speak about their organization, its history and list some of its projects.

There were no shy speakers as leaders from youth associations, human rights groups and women's support groups spoke in depth about their organization's beliefs and efforts to improve people and their country.

"The Iraq Organization for Motherhood, Childhood and Handicap Care of Jurf As-Sakhr was established after the fall of Saddam Hussein, and we focus on the issues of women, children and the disabled," said Jabbar Mohammed Naif, an attorney attending the conference.

"Our achievements are providing humanitarian aid, courses covering computers and literacy as well as health promotion," he added.

The common theme recognized among all the speakers were the abhorrence of violence and desire to improve the human rights and lives of women in Iraq. The delegates informed the brigade of some of the most important issues facing their organization.

"I need to know how my organization will be funded once the U.S. Army leaves Iraq," said Hazim Al-shafeei, a delegate from the Ard Al-furatain Youth Association. "I really want to know how the process works

for the Iraqi government to provide funding for our group."

The groups gathered concerns and pressing questions for forwarding to the appropriate government agencies, all in hopes of connecting the Iraqi people to the Iraqi government.

The event planning started in January and went into February with meetings conducted between the Women's Initiatives Team and Amira Abed Salman, the Babil Province Deputy Chairwoman of Women's Affairs.

"I plan on sitting down with Amira and presenting the consolidated questions and issues gathered at the conference," said Brickles. "We will work out a system where the NGO's can submit their proposals to the government, and our team will be the facilitators to make this happen."

"This conference brought many different people together to create one voice for change," said Brickles. "I truly believe in the power of the people to make change for women in Iraq."

Brickles concluded the conference by thanking Spc. Gretchen Hubbard, a 172nd Infantry Soldier from Winnipeg, Canada for writing the closing remarks speech.

"We are all here for one common goal," said Brickles. "We want our daughters and granddaughters to have a better life, full of opportunity and possibilities beyond those afforded to us."

Soldiers share highlights of African-American history

by Pfc. BETHANY L. LITTLE
172nd Infantry Brigade

Soldiers and civilians gathered at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation stage at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, for an African American History Month program, Feb. 13.

The program provided a learning opportunity for the residents of FOB Kalsu through "I am" speeches, a guest speaker and music provided by the FOB Kalsu Choir.

Seven Soldiers started the program off by giving "I am" speeches noting the significant achievements of seven important figures in Af-

frican American history. Soldiers described their chosen historical figures life and key accomplishments, which impacted American history.

Highlighted figures included Oprah Winfrey, Reverend Jesse Jackson and President Barack H. Obama.

A heavy equipment construction operator for A Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, enjoyed voicing the life of Obama.

"I feel honored and privileged at having the chance to participate in this program and voice the accomplishments of our president," said Pfc. Roscoe Graveside, a New York City native.

Guest speaker Lt. Col. Fredrick J. Hannah, battalion commander for 204th Base Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, spoke about the struggles and advancements of African Americans throughout history.

"Today, I want you to join me on a journey to discover the history of slavery up to where we are today," Hannah, a native of Havana Fla., said.

Hannah spoke about what life was like for slaves in the year 1450. He talked about the evolution of slavery in the United States and how society's views of human equality have continued to move forward.

Hannah concluded his speech and was presented a certificate of appreciation for outstanding support and dedication to the 172nd Inf. Bde during African American History Month by 172nd Inf. Bde. executive officer, Maj. Lucien Campillo.

Soldiers felt attending the event heightened their knowledge of African American history.

"I'm really happy they did this for us," said Spc. Charrod A. Grimes, from Dayton, Ohio, a logistics clerk for the 204th BSB, 4th Inf. Div. "I gained new knowledge and will continue to research great African Americans that altered American history."

Housing, aquatic facility, school bus monitors among top '09 AFAP topics

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

"We the people..."

That is how the U.S. Constitution began almost 222 years ago and that spirit is alive and well in Ansbach today.

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's Army Family Action Plan delegates gathered in Katterbach to hash out 2009's community issues during the annual AFAP conference Feb. 9-11.

The top five issues to come out of the conference included:

*Require a paid English-speaking monitor on all school bus routes at all times;

*Hire a housing administrative assistant to expedite the housing process and improve productivity;

*Build a multi-purpose aquatic facility;

*Increase physical education and fine arts education for kindergarten through sixth grade students; and

*Streamline access to orthodontic care.

These top issues are the ones that the command will have a level of engagement on and issues that the community desires "instant results on," said Michele Schuh, local AFAP program manager.

The garrison conference consisted of five discussion groups: force support, medical and dental, youth, consumer affairs and community support services.

In each group, 10-12 delegates chose three issues to work on from their stack of submission forms. Subject matter experts for each category were available to answer questions. Finally, they discussed solutions and wrote up resolutions, said Schuh.

"AFAP in Ansbach is about change and unity," Schuh said. "For these folks, this was about the beginning of change—getting in at the ground level, making suggestions for goals to make this their Army community."

Now that the conference is over and the community has raised the issues it considers most important, Schuh said the next step is for the issues to be assigned, worked, and determine if a resolution is possible.

"We'll assign a lead agency to take each issue and begin working them," said Schuh. "And then about a month later, they will brief us on the status of the issues—the lead agency has to find a way to fix it, so we cannot say they are solved locally just yet."

She explained that when an issue moves forward to the region or department level, it can take years for resolution. If an Ansbach issue

has impact beyond the garrison gates, it will be considered and voted on at the Installation Management Command-Europe level.

But most of this year's issues were local, said Schuh.

"Those that did not get sent up to region only affect our garrison—like a dog park and community street lighting," said Schuh. "We are challenging the command to find ways to make these things happen, not the easy stuff."

And making things happen is what it's all about for Ansbach Garrison Commander Col. Christopher M. Hickey.

"I take their recommendations very seriously," said Hickey. "I will track, on a regular basis at our command and staff meetings, the progress being made on these issues so we can hopefully achieve some of the changes they are recommending."

"It was very enlightening to hear some of the really intense discussions the groups had on how they view the issues from their perspective—from medical to food services, everything that affects their daily lives in our community or in the Army."

Getting that customer feedback is invaluable, Hickey said.

"It's them, and that is what the whole conference was about—to get at their perspective," he said. "I think there will be some positive results coming out of it, including the teens and how they see the world. They are part of our community and we owe it to them to provide them with the best possible quality of life and services."

Customers also felt the opportunity to voice their opinions was invaluable.

"I love the fact that we come from civilians, Soldiers, family members, teens. It is a nice spread of effort from everyone," said Isha Greene, a three-year AFAP veteran delegate spouse. "It gives voice to members who would not have had it otherwise. It empowers them to be a part of the bigger picture and it does not have to be just Ansbach. It could be Army-wide or government-wide."

"It gets us out of our bubble—out of our own fixed complain mode," Greene said. "It helps us be about the process and not just to talk about it—it is a huge responsibility."

She summed up the experience and process exactly how our forefathers began two centuries ago.

"It's kinda corny, but it's 'We the People....'"

Spouses were not the only ones representing the community's issues—teenagers also had a voice at the conference.

"We [teens] are part of this, too," said teenager Jessica Sowders. "It is about helping the Army Family and we are an Army Family."

The teen council worked through the issues and submitted solutions to improve the teen center and establish better communication between teens and the Youth Services staff, Sowders said.

"This way we do not just sit around and complain; we can actually do something about it, take action," she said.

Soldiers had significant input as well.

"I felt like we were in Congress," said Spc. Justin Shepherd, a delegate Soldier and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president. "We had to look at the issues and then work them—take out what we did not like, combine some issues with it and then submit them."

Shepherd called the process an "eye-opener."

"Without the AFAP program in place, some people will not be able to get their issues brought up to the upper chain of command," he said. "This way it is brought directly up to the post and brigade commander so they can be aware of everybody's issues—a direct line to speak to them and know how everyone else on base is feeling."

And that is exactly what Hickey was looking for.

"We achieved the objectives we were after and that is to get the customer perspective approach on how they look at life in our community, life in the Army and how can we make it better," he said.

The commander also extended his thanks to all participants.

"It was very disruptive for us to take so many Soldiers out of their jobs, especially from the tactical units since they are in the midst of an intense training program," he said, "I appreciate them providing us the Soldiers that they did, and also the volunteers that took time out of their lives to be here for three whole days. We'll be better for it as a community."



USAG Ansbach teen delegates discuss their issues at USAG Ansbach's Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 9-11.

CDC expansion adds space, programs, increased safety

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

The recent expansion of the Katterbach Child Development Center means better customer service in the form of more childcare spaces, improved safety, and new programs.

The Katterbach CDC received the 1.5 million Euro upgrade to improve an outdated design, expand the facility, and improve service to Soldiers

and families, said Shannon Kinkle, director of the Katterbach CDC.

"There has been a big demand for (the care of) infants and toddlers—a big baby boom," said Kinkle. "These modifications to the building have really enhanced the quality of the programming that we are providing the children—which, of course, makes it a safer, better and more positive place for Soldiers to be able to leave their kids."

"[Parents] feel comfortable

knowing that their child will be in day care, where they will receive care in a beautiful new environment and where they are well taken care of," she said.

The Army Family Covenant provided a "lot of really nice things" for families during the last deployment, including fee discounts, and provided money for special activities for the children, said Kinkle.

Not only was Covenant money used to fund activities and pay for the discounted care, it also benefitted redeploying Soldiers.

"One of the things we did was a My Hero's Day luncheon ceremony, which was deployment related and right at the end of the deployment, where we invited parents to come, and the children made special awards and gave them to their parents," explained Kinkle.

The CDC expansion also added 239 square meters and renovated an existing 832 square meters.

"We increased the number of spaces we have in the facility, being able to add approximately 25 more spaces in the facility as a whole," she said.

"There is a huge need for people to come over here and have jobs and work," said Kinkle of the fewer child care options for working parents overseas.

"By increasing the number of spaces, we have increased the opportunity for parents to go out in the community to work and contribute,"

she said.

Kinkle said the expansion "allows for an expanded hourly care—a huge need, and we have a room dedicated just for that purpose."

"We are an evolving and moving community," she said. "The center is better equipped now to make modifications in the rooms to tailor it to what the community needs—like providing the necessary space for all the infants and toddlers with a quick and easy change to the room configuration based on daily demands."

And one mother approves of the modernization.

"There is more room and it is more open," said Leia Webb, mother of a 21-month old girl who is enrolled at the facility. "I can see where she is as soon as I walk in the door."

While the construction was designed and centered on improving service, the staff and, of course, safety, were also at the forefront.

"They put in a lot of neat features that we did not have before—like adult bathrooms and sinks between the rooms," said Kinkle. "Because babies make a lot more laundry, there will be a stackable washer and dryer, too—as well as each infant room having its own dishwasher."

Kinkle mentioned other features that were absent before, like "vision panels" in the walls and doors, so parents can see their kids and vice versa.

"We added door jams that prevent pinched fingers, brand new ventilated wood covers over exposed radiators to prevent burning and upgraded the room's camera monitors," she said.

"They're so good that you can zoom right into a Cheerio."

The improvements get a thumbs up from the staff, said April Acevedo, training specialist at the center.

"The new facility is great and I love the expansion," she said. "It means we can service more of the community and provide more jobs for more people."

"We have a lot more room; furniture is a lot more colorful; [the rooms] are very well lit," she added.

"But overall it's servicing the community, providing a safe place for children to come and spend their day and where parents can feel comfortable leaving their children," she said.

The center has all new furniture and various toys and supplies on order, too, said Kinkle.

There is still some construction to be done and modifications that need to be made to the facility, but Kinkle said she wants parents to know the center offers the reliable service they expect.

"We try and provide all families—duel and single military—with a good, safe place to come and bring their kids, and not have to worry about them when they are working," she said.



Pre-Kindergartener Tatyana Lewis shows off her purse to fellow classmates during "show and tell" in the new Pre-K facility wing at the Katterbach Child development Center.

Garrison prepping for Signal moves

Installation gets facelift to welcome units

Story and photo by
MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

While improvements, renovations, and upgrades have defined the landscape on Schweinfurt military installations for the past several years, one group of current projects marks something new on the horizon.

The Mannheim-based 7th Signal Brigade and its subordinate 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion are scheduled to relocate to Schweinfurt this year, the Army announced in 2008, and the dust and signs of renovation on Ledward Barracks mean the welcome

mat is on the way.

"We're trying to make it home for them. We're trying to improve the facilities to make them comfortable when they get here," said Robin Fisher, deputy director of the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Public Works.

When the Army announced the re-stationing, plans for moving a battalion headquarters into building 215 on Ledward Barracks hit the brakes and shifted to the design and creation of a brigade headquarters instead.

"Before we knew these units were coming, we had a project on the books to fix that building," said Fisher, who added that such maneuvering is common with planning and utilizing installation space.

"It's a complete renovation. You wouldn't recognize the building," Fisher said of the future brigade headquarters, which once housed personnel, finance and in-and-out

processing offices.

Just down the road on Ledward Barracks, the 44th ESB will be the third – and likely final – unit to hang its hat in building 213 in a year.

"The buildings that they're moving into are going to be strictly dedicated to them, and they will stay there. That will be their home," Fisher said.

"We want to have it ready for them as soon as they get here," in the spring, according to Fisher, who is pleased with the project's progression.

While motor pools and maintenance bays are also being tailored to fit the incoming units, workers are putting the finishing touches on three Soldiers' barracks buildings across the street from the battalion headquarters.

"This is sort of a general facelift," that includes painting, lights, flooring, and minor maintenance, according to Fisher.

The DPW housing office is prepared to offer options to Soldiers who are

bringing families, according to Sharan Dockery, housing office manager.

"We've got a couple options," for providing housing, Dockery said. "As soon as we can assign housing to them, we're going to let them have it."

For example, she and her staff have already begun to plan with their counterparts in the USAG Bamberg to receive families with high school-aged children.

"We're looking forward to having them here," Dockery said.

Carpenters renovate the top floor of the future headquarters of the 7th Signal Brigade. The Mannheim-based 7th Signal Brigade and its subordinate 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) are scheduled to relocate to Schweinfurt this year.



Red Cross, Dental clinic team up to offer training

Story and photo by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

The American Red Cross (ARC) and the Schweinfurt Dental Clinic are proud to offer dental assistant's training to military dependents over the age of 18. The program begins in March and is offered free of charge. Participants will be equipped with new skills and abilities that could turn into job opportunities no matter where they're stationed.

"I think this is important because being a

military spouse your career often comes second to the military member. And this affords them the opportunity to develop a career no matter where they are," said Cheryl Dean, ARC station manager.

The program includes instructional training Mar. 23 through Apr. 3 followed by 200 hours of practical, clinical training to be completed by May 15.

According to Sgt. Maria Martinez, non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the dental clinic, the hands-on training will teach

students to make impressions, conduct X-rays, handle and clean instruments, and provide chair-side dental assistance during treatment of patients, to name a few.

And the education doesn't stop there.

"After the program, when you come here to be a dental assistant, it doesn't mean the education just stops. Whatever you want to do, you learn. If you want to learn about oral surgery, we teach you, or pediatrics, we have it," Martinez said.

Each dental assistant will be tasked to a dentist to work alongside, getting cross-trained into different areas of dentistry starting with the basics, explained Lynette Jones, a current dental assistant at the clinic who went through the program in 2004 in Kaiserslautern.

"I would definitely recommend this program to spouses who are at home or even those in the medical type field. It keeps up your credentials. This is one way to get in the system ... it's beneficial to learn CPR, basic lifesaving skills, and basic administrative care for personnel," said Lynette Jones, explaining that during the program she learned her strengths and weaknesses to help decide what her next step should be.

"A lot of people have been asking for the program so we have this just because we want to get more people involved ... you can always volunteer," Martinez said.

"The program offers superb training by excellent dentists at the clinic. It's an excellent program with excellent teachers ... they're only there to help them," Dean added.

Applications can be picked up at the ARC office and are accepted now until Friday. For more information, call the ARC at CIV 09721-96-1760 or DSN 354-1760.



Dr. Sara Steien (left) a dentist at the clinic looks at a patient's X-rays with dental assistant Lynette Jones.

Training expected to boost garrison customer service

Story and photo by **MARK HEETER**
Schweinfurt CI Chief

Many of the nearly 200 smiling faces who work in the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation have completed mandatory training on customer service, and the rest are well on the way.

"No matter how bad a day you're having, it can always get better when a customer walks through the door," said Jason Lawor, a library technician and graduate of the one-day Operation Excellence training for all DFMWR employees.

The attitude carries the day, said Nancy Sieber, DFMWR training coordinator and main instructor for both the employees' and managers' training.

"I think it's the attitude you choose to have," Sieber said, describing the potential flashpoint when a customer and service provider meet one another on a bad day.

"Either you're going to have a good day or you're not. And it's up to you to have a good day," she said.

The courses are fundamentally about obtaining – and retaining – customers in DFMWR facilities, Sieber said.

"The focus of the OPEX is to provide excellent customer service within our facilities, based on the fact that we are a business. Whether we are government-paid or not, we are still a business," she said.

Like many communities, Schweinfurt has a customer base with a lot on its mind, said Sieber.

"We emphasize the fact that we're in a deployed state. And our employees have spouses who are deployed as well as our customers who have spouses who are deployed," she said, noting that such employees must deal with their personal tensions while attending to the customers'.

Training topics are different for the employees' and managers' sessions, but both courses remind the DFMWR team that they are just that – a team.

When assigning students to groups, Sieber deliberately breaks up "cliques," to capitalize on the diversity of services – and service providers – within the organization and to build strong teams.

"Because we're so diverse, I don't group them with their co-workers," Sieber said. "Everyone has someone different that they deal with."

The notion of interconnectivity among the employees – and customers – was not lost on Lawor, who believes the training should be required across the board.

"Everybody is somebody else's customer," he said. "Treat other people as you'd like to be treated."

Something else ties the USAG Schweinfurt employees together, Sieber said.

"The majority of them, I have found, enjoy their job. They enjoy the people in the community, and it makes them feel good if they can make a difference," she said.



Training aides remind employees about the value of a smile when with customers.

HR helps curb job application headaches

March 12 resume class may be answer to unemployment woes

Story and photo by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Sometimes looking for work and applying for jobs can be tedious and seemingly fruitless. What may start off as excitement about possibly entering the workforce might start to fizzle out as disappointment.

"It's so hard to find out how to apply for jobs over here in Europe," said Ron Betts, NAF human resources assistant, describing the frustration that some applicants experience.

Part of the problem may be the mess of paperwork that is required for some job applications. Schweinfurt's Non-Appropriated Funds human resources office wants to tackle

those applications with you as well as help refine your resume. By attending the Mar. 12 resume class at the Ledward education center, information will be provided on how to apply for NAF positions such as the jobs that are offered under Child, Youth, and School Services.

NAF positions are simply government jobs, Betts said. The word "NAF" explains the pot of money that is used to pay its employees.

"MWR rolls its own money back into the programs. We work with MWR," he said. But the application process isn't as simple as one might think.

"Our application process is different than the federal resume process. We still do things in hardcopy paperwork ... or by e-mail, but we're not set up on the Web site like 'click and apply,'" Betts said, explaining that applying for non-NAF

positions can be much simpler.

"We have more forms to fill out," said Elke Davis, NAF human resources assistant.

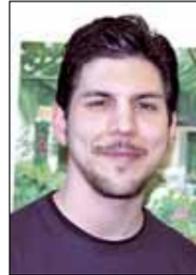
But not to worry, Davis and Betts both gave assurance that the human resources office is available to help "thumb through" all the necessary paperwork and encourages all to consider NAF vacancies, because there is always something to apply for as a job-seeker.

Those that attend the resume class can bring a copy of their orders and a resume to get started immediately on applying for open positions, Betts said. Going through the process step by step in class will help job applicants get a head start on finding employment.

For more information, or to sign up, call NAF human resources at CIV 09721-96-6884 or DSN 354-6444.



Davis



Betts

Teachers masquerade in Venice for Carnivale

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

A crew from American Forces Network paid a special visit to the home of a Schweinfurt Middle School teacher in January. With lights set up all over the living room and video camera rolling, they intended to portray the extraordinary hobby of several local teachers: costume-making for Venice, Italy's Carnivale season.

"It's a different kind of craft," said Nancy Dauber, SMS teacher. "It's not like fasching here or not like New Orleans."

The word "costume" may bring to mind outfits worn by teenagers on Halloween, but these particular Carnivale costumes are nothing of the sort. In fact, they take up to a year to construct and sew, some with 20 meters of fabric and nearly half as much fancy trim.

Shopping for materials takes them from florist shops to hardware stores, including browsing some flea markets and dollar stores. They have even found formal dresses on clearance that serve as foundations for a few of their costumes.

"Some people that don't understand think we're crazy," Dauber said, explaining how their type of shopping may seem odd to people who know nothing of their craft. "We're like kids in a candy shop."

Ideas are gleaned from everywhere to help visualize the end product of their costumes. Dauber once found a Barbie photo in a waiting room

magazine that had a look she wanted to capture.

"It's (about) the glitz. That's what catches the photographer's eye," said middle school teacher Karen Rose, explaining that many professional photographers attend Venice's

Carnivale each year to build up their galleries of masqueraders.

The teachers traveled with one or two costumes to Venice on the holiday weekend in February. In the early morning hours, as the sun was rising, they posed themselves with dozens of

other masqueraders near the docks of St. Mark's Square.

Over the years, the teachers have gained enough recognition for their costumes that they have received invitations to other cities and countries— some including expenses

paid travel and accommodations.

While they claim the hobby of costume-making to be a lot of fun, sometimes wearing them can be a lot of work.

"You sweat a lot. When we went to Zurich, we were in our costumes for seven or eight hours. Our masks get really soft from all the sweat," SMS teacher Sara Maka said about one of their trips to Switzerland.

But even so, the attention and celebrity status gained by wearing such a costume is a thrill, they said. In the light of fame, they remain anonymous with no clue given to onlookers of their true identity behind the masks.

"Most of the people that (wear costumes) are not young— we are the younger ones," Rose said, adding that they were given the opportunity to meet other masqueraders out of costume. Many times while in costume they have been mistaken for local Italians and hardly ever assumed to be American, she said.

Holding that element of surprise is one of the attractions that keeps the teachers coming back for more each year, and several others have joined in the festivities.

They've been participating in the event for so long now that they begin making new costumes for the next year immediately after they return from Carnivale.

"I can't imagine not doing it," Dauber said.

"It's a great hobby; it's fun," Rose said.



Hidden underneath her costume, Sara Maka (right) adjusts Karen Rose's costume as they try on their outfits for Venice Carnivale. They, as well as several other teachers from Schweinfurt Middle School, spend each year making their costumes from scratch to wear for carnivale season.

derby time

Photo by
Sandra
Wilson



Dylan Hopson (right) and Axel Delgado (center) give their homemade racecars to David Hurley (left), the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby race manager. Hopson garnered the first place medal for the fastest racing car. Twenty Cub Scouts participated in this year's derby which took place Jan. 31 on Conn Barracks. Scouts were given the blocks of pinewood in December to turn into personalized racecars for the derby. "The parents and children ... work on the cars together," said Joe Garcia, cub master. Scouts also received badges for their work.

Reading to children key to literacy

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Starting kindergarten may be a monumental day in any child's life, but every year, 35 percent of American children begin school without the language skills they need to learn to read, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics Web site.

The significance of reading to children at a young age is paramount to the success of any child in school, AAP emphasizes, and what parents do pre-kindergarten is crucial. To stress the importance of reading aloud to children, the Ledward library offers a children's story hour every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

"One of the things we noticed ... is that literacy is so important. We hope that starting this young, we can help the kids be more literate, because it affects every corner of their lives," said volunteer storyteller Alison Koralewski.

Alison and her husband, David, were sent by their stateside church on a mission to Schweinfurt and took on volunteering at the Ledward library for the story hour each week. Their backgrounds include work as librarians.

"We're just interested in seeing that the kids have a good time and learn to appreciate the books," David said.

"Stories originally come from inside of

people," he said, and they try to help children understand that as well.

Picking up a few story books, David sat in the kids' corner at the library, and the children gathered around to listen, and even participate at times, during the storytelling. Once the stories were finished, the kids moved to the craft table to use their artistic side.

With 18 grandchildren back in the U.S., they see themselves as "surrogate grandma and grandpa." Their audience ranges between 18 months to 5 years old with as many as eight kids some days. Stories and crafts are a mixture of levels to appeal to all of the ages.

The weekly story hour is only a sampling of some of the things that parents can do at home with their children to promote childhood development and enhance family bonds before beginning formal education in a school setting.

"It is important to read out loud. (The children) will automatically connect the words they hear with the pictures they see. Their vocabulary and their future reading skills will easily develop," said librarian Christine Willis.

"I was very grateful that (the Koralewskis) arrived in Schweinfurt," Willis said.

"They immediately jumped in and the program continued. There was almost no interruption in service," with the weekly story hour, she said.

Wuerzburg students visit schools, broaden knowledge

Story and photo by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

Student teachers from the University of Wuerzburg visited Schweinfurt Elementary School Feb. 3 in efforts to continue developing a partnership that began last year after the closing of Wuerzburg Elementary School.

"At the university, we have a seminar called 'comparing systems internationally'. The visits give my students a bigger perspective since they were all raised in German schools. If you don't know something different, you can't imagine it," said Simone Gutwerk, a professor at University of Wuerzburg.

Four groups of college students dispersed at the elementary school and visited different classrooms, toured, and spent one-on-one time with teachers. The day offered the students insight and a better understanding of different styles of education across cultural lines.

"Our main interest is seeing the programs that Germans don't have ... they're very functional here," Gutwerk said, explaining that an ongoing exchange of ideas and teaching materials is valuable to the education and development of student teachers.

"The biggest difference is there is no integration of students in Germany like there is here. There's always a school for special needs in Germany and everybody's together here. So

it seems when there's a problem, that problem will be solved," said Julia Hoffman, a student at the University of Wuerzburg who is studying to become a special education teacher.

Tanja Hoch, another student teacher from Wuerzburg, thought the easy access to computers within the classroom was different.

"We didn't have programs like that in German school. It wasn't like that in my time," Hoch said.

Teachers of SES enjoyed the visit and think the trip will enhance the students' teaching abilities.

"(Visiting schools) benefits all teachers or soon-to-be teachers to explore as many learning environments as possible. Exposure to lots of learning situations enriches all teachers' lives in and out of the classroom," said Cathy Lagasse, teacher at SES who welcomed a group of German university students into her class.

Wilma Holt, SES principal, agreed that visiting the school allowed the Germans to engage in professional dialogues about teaching and discover new teaching ideas.

"It allowed the student teachers to view the educational practices and philosophies of an American school in action. The students were very impressed," Holt said.

"When I think of the spirit of American schools, two words come to mind: democracy and pragmatism," Gutwerk said.



University of Wuerzburg Professor Simone Gutwerk (left) interacts with Brianna Alonzo during the university's visit to Schweinfurt Elementary School Feb. 3.

JMRC Ops Group wins Commander's Cup

by KRISTIN BRADLEY

Bavarian News

A year's worth of competition for the Commander's Cup came down to a single moment.

That moment was the competition's last event—when overwhelming participation from the Blacksheep Observer/Controller team during the last fun run of the season in November gave the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Ops Group the points they needed to edge out Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment for the coveted title.

The trophy is awarded every year to the unit that earns the most points through participation at community sporting events and by winning those events.

First place teams move up to the Installation Management Command-Europe level of competition. Placing third or better there will earn them additional points for the Hohenfels standings.

HHC, 1-4 Infantry's victory at the IMCOM-E flag football championship is what advanced them to second place for the Commander's Cup, according to Bill Craven, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation sports programmer.

For participation each unit

receives 10 points per person with a maximum of 50 points so that larger units like JMRC Ops Group do not have an unfair advantage over smaller units like U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, which came in third this year.

Throughout the year teams compete in numerous events like golf tournaments, fun runs, and what Craven calls FMWR's core sports: basketball, softball, football, and volleyball.

Participation for Soldiers is optional, but Blacksheep Sgt. Eric England said participating in the events has many advantages.

"It helps relieve stress from the workday when you go and compete in things like this," he said, adding that it is a way for Soldiers of all ranks to enjoy themselves.

"It gets rid of the rank structure. We are all just out there to play and compete."

"For officers, it gets us closer to the Soldiers," said Capt. Patrick Considine, JMRC HHC commander.

Sgt. Nathan Ashroberts, also a Blacksheep, said not everyone on a team participates in every event.

He said though they of course prefer to win, interacting with each other outside the workplace increases unit morale.

Craven said that boost in morale is the purpose of the program.

"It's esprit de corps. We do it for the Soldiers. That's our whole purpose in life, to support the Soldiers. And since we're sports-minded, we do sports," said Craven.

"It helps relieve stress. They're playing as a team. There's no rank on the field in team sports. They play and work as a team," he said.

Competition for the most recent trophy began with flag football in 2007 and ended with the Turkey Trot in November 2008.

The trophy itself, which Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, USAG Hohenfels commander, presented to Considine during a ceremony Feb. 12 at the Community Activities Center, is currently in the possession of the winning team, though Craven said when the post gym renovations are complete it will be moved and put on display there.

FMWR is currently hosting community basketball, which will be the first event counted towards the next trophy.

For Commander's Cup purposes, each unit receives participation points for only one team in events like basketball where large units typically enter multiple teams. Dates for the community basketball tournament have yet to be determined.



Photo by Troy Darr

Cordell Gailliard of the Grizzlies goes up for a two-pointer during the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels unit-level basketball championship Feb. 28, 2008. The Grizzlies win over HHC, 1-4 during the basketball championship foreshadowed their victory over the same team for the Commander's Cup.

Hurricanes take Tyrolean title

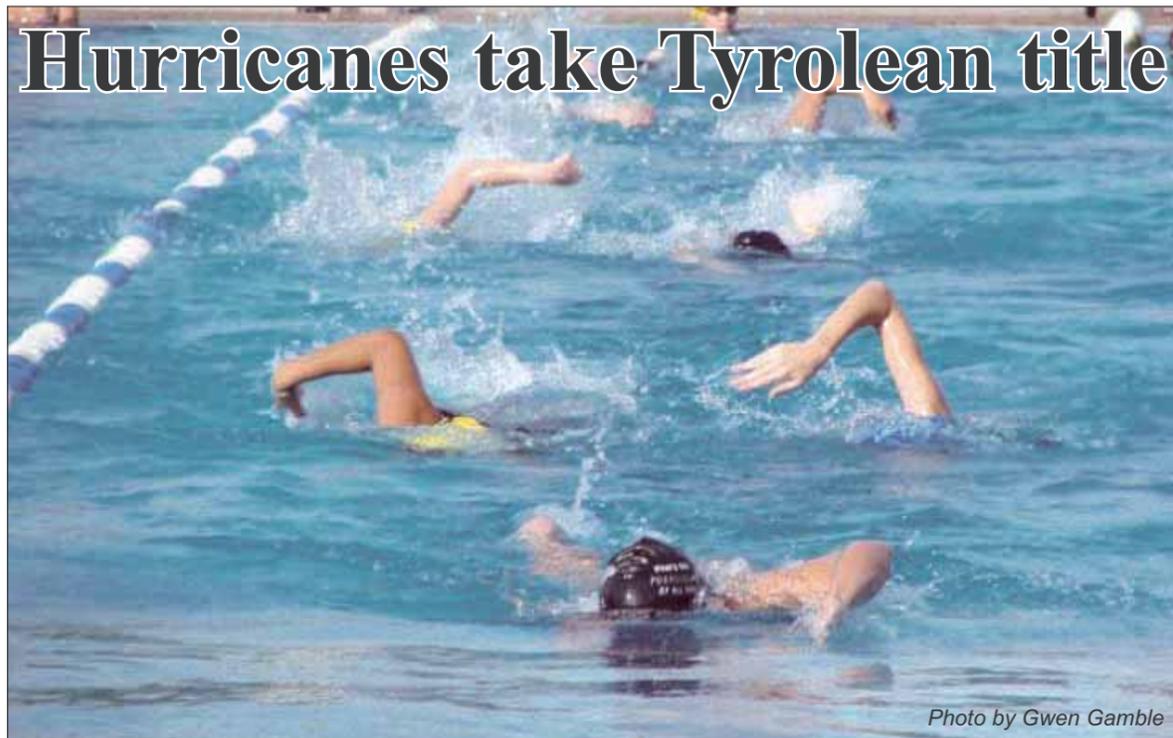


Photo by Gwen Gamble

In January, the Hurricanes (shown during practice last fall) won their second Tyrolean Divisional title against teams from Bamberg, Eifel, and Wiesbaden.

by KRISTIN BRADLEY

Bavarian News

A large team from a small town has won the 2008-2009 Tyrolean Divisional title for the second year in a row.

Members of the Hohenfels Hurricanes swim team cite favorable numbers and strong relays as top reasons they were able to claim their second victory against division teams from Bamberg, Eifel, and Wiesbaden.

"We swam our hearts out and did the best we possibly could hoping we would win again," Charlott Hammer, a seventh-grader with two years on the team, said of the team's January win.

Though the team typically practices only three times a week and parents must shuffle between whatever pools are available, often splitting up the team between pools to fit everyone in, the swimmers make up in determination what they lack in pool time.

"The kids have worked really, really hard this year," said Beth Hoeh, the Hurricanes head coach, who was a member of the Western Michigan University swim team.

"The kids that compete were very consistent. We had a really good technical year," said Hoeh. "We had less practice time (than we might like) but the kids were so consistent, that is what really made the difference."

Ninth-graders Meggie Rodman and Manassas Greene agreed that though their practices are short, they

are intense, and many feel the drive to do well.

"The team really wanted it (another divisional win). We wanted to win again because it's a pretty big thing," said Greene.

Indeed, the competitive spirit seems to be alive and well within the Hurricanes. Any conversation about swimming amongst members quickly becomes a friendly battle about who has the best times in which event or who will manage the most improvement on their personal best at the next meet.

Swimmers Stephanie Larumbe, Will Hammer, and Courtney Cochran, each earned a medal at the European Forces Swim League Championship in Berlin Feb. 7th - 8th; teammate Anna Muzzy earned four.

Though after a round of well-meaning banter about times and strokes, the swimmers will begin to talk about the many other reasons they stay with the team.

"It's good exercise. When I swim if I haven't been in (the pool) in a long time I feel so much better," said Rodman, adding that "at meets you get to see kids from all over Europe so you meet lots of different people."

Ian Sellers, a 10th-grader who has been with the team for more than four years, said he is getting much more than a good workout with the team.

"It's saved my life literally. I'm diabetic and it helps lower my sugars," he said.

Many team members cited

friendships they have made on the team as one of the biggest perks.

"The families are all really close," said Greene, noting that after a stressful day she looks forward to working out her frustration in the pool.

Hoeh also said that for many families the swim team is more than just another activity to shuttle children to and from.

"I think it is something families can join and really get involved," she said. "It is really a family affair. We need lots of volunteers for meets to run."

Hoeh said the team has been growing in popularity.

This start of this season was the first time they stopped accepting registrations after all slots were filled with eager children and teens, both beginners and experienced swimmers.

"They need to be water safe," Hoeh said about the team's requirements for taking young and new swimmers. "But really, as long as they can get from point A to point B in the pool (at the beginning of the season), we're not really concerned with how they do it. We can work with them."

The Hurricane's six month season begins in mid-August and runs through January when typically only swimmers who qualify for championships will continue to practice.

Hoeh said the team will start advertising in July and kick off the season with a family picnic that anyone interested in learning more about the team is invited to attend.

Wrestling is more than just tustling, sport gives children good workout

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON

Bavarian News

Wrestling season has begun and young athletes with youth sports are getting a chance to compete with the skills they have learned during practice in the month of January.

Coach Nick Timms wrestled competitively for seven years and now finds enjoyment in coaching the youth in Schweinfurt.

"I'm sitting in the barracks, going on the internet and to clubs and it gets boring," Timms said. "I wanted something else to do with my time—something productive."

Wrestlers meet twice a week for an hour and a half practice at Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks. Mondays are focused on wrestling technique and Wednesdays are purely a time of intense cardiovascular exercise.

The "cardio" is particularly important for maintaining weight and building endurance, Timms explained. You can be a good wrestler but still get beat because you don't have enough energy to wrestle hard the whole

match, he said. Despite it being a lot of hard work, the kids shared numerous times about how much they enjoy the sport.

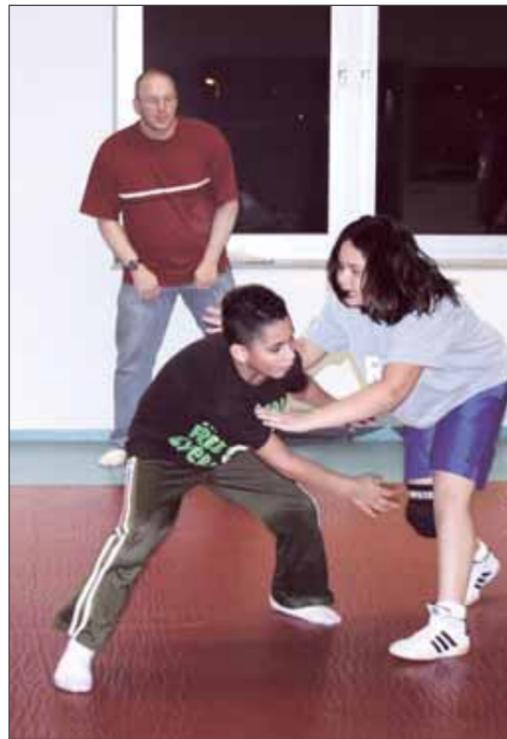
"It's fun. It keeps me busy, it keeps me active, and overall it's just great. Keeps me in shape," said fifth-grader Quan Dasalla, team leader.

"First time I had practice, the next morning I couldn't walk," said sixth-grader Christian Percifield, laughing. "It's actually really fun."

The wrestling competitions take them out of town nearly each weekend throughout February and March. According to the coach, they all show "good improvement." Some of them have never wrestled before as Timms encourages anyone interested to join the sport.

"I'm just really psyched that they'll be able to put everything together that we've been teaching them—and helping them out with—and see them win a match," Dasalla said, explaining her role on the team with her three years of experience.

"From the season I just want a few wins, but really just want to have a good time," said Christopher Agius, assistant coach.



Fourth-grader Max Alonso (left) and fifth-grader Quan Dasalla wrestle during a scrimmage match at the end of an evening practice.

709th MPs case colors

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Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Kirk, 92nd MP Company, explained the mission focuses of working as a proactive, not reactionary force.

"We're going to train (the Afghan police) in what you call problem orientated policing, which focuses more on prevention as opposed to simply reacting," he said. "We will teach them how to gather intelligence... how to properly maintain security, how to properly secure their areas, (and) how to go around and talk to people."

Training for the mission began more than eight months ago and encompassed what Dillon called a two-prong approach.

"One of our deployment tasks that we've concentrated on is security—being able to conduct a combat patrol mounted, dismounted, conduct a checkpoint, protect yourself, force protection, secure and defend their location, which might in this case be a police station. That was our basic foundation of what we wanted every Soldier to be able to do."

"Within that, and supporting that," Dillon continued, "we tried to take

it one level up. As we've been in Afghanistan and Iraq for about four to five years now, and you can only teach them to put handcuffs on so many times.

"It is now time to take it to the next step, and the next step is higher level police management, getting them in line with some of the progressive things that police do in the United States."

Training at the next level with a strong foundation, Dillon said, has prepared the troops for Afghanistan, which has seen increasing violence.

"To be the best you can possibly be trained is the way to deal with uncertainty like that or increasing attacks," Dillon added.

It is the training, said Kirk that allows him to feel confident going into the mission without fear or apprehension.

"I have all the faith in the world that our Soldiers from the lowest ranking private, to the senior person in our company, can go out and do the right thing, make the proper decision to protect the Afghan people, to protect ourselves and bring us all back," he said.



Photo by Melissa Wolff

Lt. Col. Robert Dillon (right), commander 709th MP Battalion and the Battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. William Chambers (left) participate in the 709th MP Battalion Casing of the Colors ceremony Feb. 12 at the Grafenwoehr Field House in preparation of their deployment to Afghanistan.

IPB helping command group plan for future of installation

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Van Patten explained that in addition to the directorate heads and other installation stakeholders that attend the meetings, there are 46 forums that feed into the IPB—everything from Environmental to Family Readiness, Customer Management System, and Land Management.

"It's a good opportunity to get everyone involved," he said. "It lets them see all pieces of the installation. They get info on how the garrison is proceeding with planning, but it also gives them an opportunity to

provide input on near- and long-term planning—what programs and projects and facilities they need considered, mission requirement that they have they want considered for possible approval by commanders.

He said the IPB was not just another bureaucratic layer, but a vital part of sound planning, giving all IPB members the big picture.

According to its Department of the Army charter, the IPB is a key forum to obtain local consensus on the installation master plan, vision and priorities.

While it is not a decision-making

body, it is an efficient method for the command group to receive tenant feedback and concerns. During the board meeting, concerns are discussed and integrated into installation's strategic planning.

"Decisions are made after further analysis," then submitted to (USAG Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Chris Sorenson and Brig. Gen. David Hogg, commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command) for approval.

One of the biggest single items discussed during USAG Grafenwoehr's Feb. 3 meeting was the ongoing development of the garrison.

"There are two major stationing actions that have occurred since 1990," explained Van Patten "One was the buildup that occurred to support the Legacy Brigade, and then the Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr," \$700 million in military construction to support the stationing of a brigade combat team among many other stationing requirements.

"The planning here is not just something done off the cuff," said Van Patten.

"It's a deliberate process that takes into consideration our limited resources for the future."

German traffic fines skyrocket

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and countries such as the Netherlands and Sweden, all of which are highly rated for road safety performance, had fines for dangerous driving offenses considerably higher than those in Germany.

OPM officials said German highway police have a large fleet of fast unmarked vehicles with video cameras discreetly mounted front and back to follow and film reckless drivers and speeders.

When an offender has been identified, police will flash blue lights, overtake the vehicle waving a red and white signal disk and escort the offending vehicle to the nearest parking area.

A folding electronic display is often installed in the back window of these police cars that displays the words, "STOPP, POLIZEI" or "POLIZEI FOLGEN" when the police want you to follow them.

Thomas Gallei, a policeman and public affairs officer at the nearby Eschenbach police station, reinforced the national findings.

He said that especially since traffic has increased in the Grafenwoehr area, so have violations.

Gallei said that while Americans generally have the same rate of violations as do local German drivers, American drivers account for half of the area's DUI infractions despite the fact that Americans represent well under 50 percent of the total

population.

Gallei said many of the DUI violations involve a blood-alcohol level just barely over the German limit of 0.5 percent.

He said it's important to remember, however, that as fines go up and tolerance goes down, that Germany's blood-alcohol limit is easier to reach than the United States limit of 0.8 percent.

Additional fine increases worth noting include:

- Failure to keep to the right: 80 € (was 40 €)
- Tailgating: 75-400 € (was 40-250 €)
- Speeding in populated area: 80-760 € (was 50-425 €)
- Speeding outside "built up"

areas: 70-600 € (was 50-375 €)

■ Dangerous overtaking (passing): 80-250 € (was 40-125 €)

■ Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs: 500 € for first offense, 1,000 € for a second offense, 1,500 € for a third offense* (was 250-750 €).

* Depending on the situation, drivers could lose their license on the spot for some violations.

A complete list of new fines can be found in English at the German Transport Ministry Web site at www.bmvbs.de/en/artikel-1872.970156/Schedule-of-Fines.htm.

USAG Grafenwoehr Bavarian News assistant editor Melissa Wolff contributed to this article.

USAREUR commander stresses need for more troops

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-ny remain in Europe.

The command's Soldiers deploy like those of any other unit in the Army. At any given time, the command has about one-third of its Soldiers deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo or other areas of the globe. USAREUR also supplies personnel and expertise to the newly established U.S. Africa Command.

A second mission is to work with partner countries to build their military capacity, Ham said. "That's a real and vital mission for us," the general said.

Ham, who visited Europe many

times in his career before assuming command of USAREUR, said the biggest change he noticed in the command was "how just about everything we do has a multinational flavor to it."

For example, he said, American forces train constantly with their Bulgarian and Romanian counterparts.

"We've got a major training scheme set up for this coming summer that is larger in scale than it has been in previous years, and we think that's an important consideration," he said.

NATO forces also use USAREUR's Joint Multinational Readiness Center

facilities in Hohenfels, Germany, to train the operational mentoring liaison teams that have been successful in Afghanistan. Another command mission is to continue the transformation from the Army Europe of the Cold War to a more nimble joint task force headquarters.

The command would be the joint task force headquarters for any major land operation in the U.S. European Command area of operations, he said.

Ham said he wants to ensure the right force posture is in place in his command to accomplish the missions.

"We're at about 42,000; by about 2013 or '14, the current plan is that we would get to 32,000, based principally on two brigade combat teams, one Stryker and one airborne, that we'd retain in Europe," he said. "There are also presently two heavy brigade combat teams. Those are currently scheduled to come back to [the continental United States] in 2012 and 2013.

"I've recommended to my operational boss, Gen. John Craddock, commander of European Command, that we revisit those decisions," he continued. "It is my estimation that in order to accomplish the missions that

Find out how you can save on car import tax

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save federal duties and taxes, but state taxes on imported vehicles can be high. You can obtain state tax information from the relevant department of motor vehicles and Internet links to these can be found at http://www.hqusaureur.army.mil/rmv/stateside_dmvs.htm.

Call a military customs office to find out more about federal customs exemptions or your local transportation office to learn about shipping procedures and fees.

Location & hours of operation for customs offices:

Bamberg

Bldg # 7011, Rm 124 & 125
Phone: DSN: 469-9312,
CIV: 0951-300-9312
MON – FRI 08:00 – 12:00
and 12:30 – 15:30

Garmisch

Bldg # 209 MP Station
Phone: DSN: 440-3601,
CIV: 08821-750-3601
TUE – FRI 13:00 – 16:00

Grafenwoehr

Bldg # 621, Rm 102
Phone: DSN: 475-7249,
CIV: 09641-83-7249
MON – FRI 09:00 – 12:00
and 13:00 – 15:00

Hohenfels

Bldg # 10, Rm 118
Phone: DSN: 466-2012,
CIV: 09472-83-2012
MON – FRI 08:00 – 12:00
and 13:00 – 16:00

Schweinfurt

Bldg # 289
Phone: DSN: 354-6842,
CIV: 09721-96-6842
MON – FRI 08:00 – 12:00
and 12:30 – 15:30

Vilseck

Bldg # 161, Rm 127
Phone: DSN: 476-2105,
CIV: 09662-83-2105
MON – FRI 09:00 – 12:00
and 13:00 – 15:00

we have, we need a different force posture in Europe than is currently proposed."

The two brigades -- one based in Baumholder, Germany, and the other based in Schweinfurt, Germany -- are remaining in place for now, and Ham has recommended they stay there.

Ham said the Army presence on the continent is a visible commitment of America's commitment to the NATO alliance and to European allies.

The full transcript of Ham's press briefing is available on the Department of Defense Web site at www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=4352.