

Bavarian News

Vol. 5, Nr. 15

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

July 29, 2009

GARMISCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Newest ACS center celebrates the organization's 44th year

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HOHENFELS

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Library program gets kids into summer reading

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ANSBACH

RECORD BREAKER

Community forms giant human desert ribbon

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SCHWEINFURT

THE BACKBONE

Year of the NCO series highlights role of the first sergeant

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ANNUAL VOLKSFEST

The 52nd annual German-American Volksfest at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr runs Friday through Sunday at Camp Kasserine.

Amongst the fun, the fest will include:

- Traditional German band and beer tent
- DJ and karaoke
- Carnival rides
- A variety of food

Hours are Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-12 a.m.; Sunday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Attend Friday and enjoy reduced priced rides during the fest's "Family Day."

For a full schedule of events, See page 12.

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PROGRESS

Europe AFAP issues forwarded for Army-level review

IMCOM-E Press Release

Two issues originating from garrison Army Family Action Plan conferences in Europe will be forwarded to the Department of the Army's AFAP for inclusion into its annual conference held January 2010 – and possible im-

plementation servicewide.

Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army in Europe, approved the issues for DA-level consideration as part of the Europe AFAP Steering Committee Meeting held July 17, when 14 concerns were reviewed.

The recommendations going for-

ward are:

■ Allow discretionary use of military spouse preference when applying for permanent federal jobs.

■ Allow restricted reporting for military family members, Department of Defense civilian employees and other DoD identification card holders

who are sexual assault victims.

Under the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, only active-duty Soldiers retain the option of restricted reporting, which does not trigger an investigation or command involvement. It was noted during a U.S. Army See AFAP Page 25

WELCOME!

MRAPs arrive in Europe



Photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie

A harbor crane lifts off a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle out of hull of the MV Marilyn Cargo Vessel in the port of Antwerp, Belgium, July 11. The 838th Transportation Battalion monitors the first major shipment of MRAP vehicles from Kuwait to be part of the Joint Multinational Training Command Mission Rehearsal Exercise fleet in the Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr Training Areas in order to increase the pre-deployment readiness of Soldiers. For full coverage, See page 11.

EXPANSION

Secretary of Defense calls for 22,000 more troops for U.S. Army

by **JOHN J. KRUZEL**
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced, July 20, plans to add up to 22,000 Soldiers to the U.S. Army's ranks.

The plus-up of active duty troops will take the Army from 547,000 to 569,000 forces in what Gates characterized as a temporary increase of the Army's

"end strength" for three fiscal years.

"This is an important and necessary step to ensure that we continue to properly support the needs of our commanders in the field while providing relief for our current force and their families," the secretary told reporters during a Pentagon news conference.

Gates pointed to escalating violence in Afghanistan and an added U.S. presence there, political turmoil in Pakistan and elimination of the so-called

"stop-loss" policy of involuntarily extending a Soldier's length of service as reasons behind the decision.

"The cumulative effect of these factors is that the Army faces a period where its ability to continue to deploy combat units at acceptable 'fill rates' is at risk," he said. "Based on current deployment estimates, this is a temporary challenge which will See MORE Page 25

RENOVATIONS

SRM funds improvements

by **MELISSA WOLFF**
Assistant Editor

Before World War II, in 1938, Vilseck's Rose Barracks were constructed for the German Army.

Today, many of the original buildings from 1938 still stand. Among these are six barracks that American troops now occupy which have only been renovated once since their original construction. They are in need of repair and modernization.

It is just this type of project that Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization funds aims to facilitate.

The six Vilseck barracks will be renovated to the tune of \$1.5 million each in the coming year. The SRM funds will allow a complete overhaul of the interior with new bathrooms, carpeting, flooring, windows and more.

These barracks, however, are not the only projects that this year's SRM funds will See QUALITY Page 25

REGISTRATION

Schools ask for early enrollment

by **ANN BRUENNIG**
USAG Grafenwoehr SLO

With the 2009-2010 school year approaching rapidly, there are currently only 1,775 students registered to start school on August 31 within the five U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr schools. This number is 1,000 less than the number of students who completed the previous school year.

The schools do their best to estimate how many students they will have for the upcoming year, however it is just that: an estimate.

The actual number of students is used to order supplies, hire teachers, make room assignments, create new classrooms or courses, and more.

Aside from supply, registering late may affect a student's schedule.

"If you don't re-register by Aug. 1st, you may not get the electives you want," explained Dr. Elizabeth Childs, Netzaberg Middle School principal.

It is especially critical that middle and See PARENTS Page 25

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Army Family Covenant, assessment increases *our* quality of life

The Army Family Covenant (AFC) states that the Army is committed to providing families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive. Since the covenant was sealed in 2007, we have been dedicated to "keeping the promise." Almost everyone in this community has been assisted by some aspect of the covenant, through either services or facilities, or housing and healthcare.



We are reviewing our progress and will release new AFC posters to highlight our quality of life initiatives such as sports programs, child care services, re-deployment activities and even hiring and education.

For information about AFC, visit www.armyonesource.com or our garrison home page at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.

Additionally, U.S. Army Europe will come to our community to assist us in evaluating how well we are meeting our needs and expectations through the covenant.

We will be conducting an assessment using focus groups comprised of two volunteer groups, Soldiers/Family members and civilians.

The Soldier/Family member focus groups will be conducted

Aug. 11, and the civilian focus groups will be conducted Aug. 12 at the Tower View Restaurant on Grafenwoehr's main post.

Through these focus groups, we can all make a positive impact by providing feedback on our programs and services.

Volunteering for the assessment is easy – just call our Customer Management Services (CMS) at DSN 475- 8881, CIV 09641-83-8881 or e-mail usaggrafenwoehr.cms@eur.army.mil.

Please take part in this important initiative; this garrison belongs to us!

If you can't take part in the focus groups, you can still provide your feedback through our ICE program.

Just fill out a card at the service facility you are using (e.g. Community Mail Room, vehicle registration, etc.), or go to the Web site http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=326.

Another way to be involved in our community is to know who your area or building coordinators are.

Each of us should be able to share our concerns with the area or building coordinator, and, likewise, we should fully support these appointed community leaders and do our part to improve our community.

If unsure about whom to contact, submit an ICE comment to report areas of concern such as trash, unkept houses, safety issues, etc. by using the above link and selecting "housing," "facility maintenance" or other appropriate link.

Please remember to give the address or specific location of the area of concern.

Whether we are monitoring our yards or our Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection situation, we must remain vigilant.

Please be aware that Germany holds its national elections on Sept. 27.

Coalition support for on-going missions in Afghanistan and Iraq remains a political issue for radical groups who may try to bring attention to their position through extreme means.

We have increased our random access checks and other security measures, so please remember to have patience with our guards, Soldiers and fellow community members if the wait to enter the installation seems a little longer.

Community participation and vigilance keeps us Army Strong!

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

ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

Grafenwoehr and Vilseck: Keeping the Promise

Ensuring excellence in services and quality of life



- Providing EFMP Respite Care for eligible Family Members
- Setting the Army standard for Warrior Adventure Quest Program; over 2,000 re-deployed Soldiers participate
- \$7.5M CDC/School Age Services Center; 300 new spaces. \$5.5M Youth Center; 195 new spaces
- Delivering new Child and Youth Programs: CYSSitters and Venture Point! HIRED!, EDGE! And Kids on Site
- \$70K free, reduced and expanded monthly childcare
- Enhancing the BOSS program through a variety of community services and recreation



CSM CORNER



Marriage counseling, financial help easily accessible during life's challenges

In the last few months, we have all undergone the Army's suicide prevention training and have learned to recognize and help those in need.

Many of us, however, may have issues that do not lead to suicide, but may make life seem overwhelming, and at times unbearable.

Marital and financial problems are often the root of such issues.

Having been married for 25 years, I know firsthand the stresses and joys that accompany a wedding ring. A military lifestyle – frequent moves and separations – often brings additional challenges to a marriage.

While I am not one to offer marital advice, I want everyone to know that seeking help is not only OK, but it shows a strength and dedication to one's relationship. Seeking advice is encouraged and easily accessible.

If you are having marital issues, and would like or need someone to talk to, both Grafenwoehr and Vilseck have Military Family Life Consultants, who do not keep records, Chaplains, who offer absolute confidentiality, and a Family Life Chaplain,



While I am not one to offer marital advice, I want everyone to know that seeking help is not only OK, but it shows a strength and dedication to one's relationship. Counseling is encouraged and easily accessible.

who specializes in family issues and also offers absolute confidentiality.

In Grafenwoehr, the Military Family Life Consultants are located in the Chapel Annex and can be reached at CIV 0152-0241-5226 or 0152-0293-4290.

In Vilseck, the Military Family Life Consultants are located in the ACS building and can be reached at CIV 0152-0294-0761.

Chaplains are also available in both communities to counsel couples or individuals.

If you are in need of help, call the Grafenwoehr Chapel office at DSN 475-1570, CIV 09641-83-1570. In Vilseck, call DSN 476-1570, CIV 09662-83-1570. The Family Life Chaplain can be reached at DSN 476-

3276, CIV 09662-83-3276.

The Family Life Chaplain, as well as unit and our garrison chaplain's office, offers marriage retreats that help to strengthen the bond between husband and wife.

The retreats also give couples tools to help better communication.

While I have mentioned Military Family Life Consultants, Chaplains and the Family Life Chaplain in regards to marital counseling, they are available to all Soldiers, family members and DoD employees for any range of issues. They are an excellent resource for all of us.

Another resource we can all use is the financial help and advice that can be found at Army Community Service in both Vilseck

and Grafenwoehr.

There, they offer financial counseling on an individual basis with certified financial counselors. In the coming months, ACS will also hold classes on basic investing and mutual funds. The next class, Money Management, will be held on Rose Barracks on Aug. 19.

If you are in need of financial help, or if you are living paycheck-to-paycheck and would like to learn how to better save money, call the Grafenwoehr ACS at DSN 475-8371, CIV 09641-83-8371; in Vilseck, call DSN 476-2650, CIV 09662-83-2650.

Whatever the reason may be, I strongly encourage anyone who is in need of help or counseling to get it.

I know that military life at times is difficult, but know that you are not alone and there are many people available to help.

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

Do YOU have a question you'd like to ask the garrison leadership? Send questions to mary.markos@eur.army.mil with "Question for command" in the subject line. All questions will receive a response, select questions will be published in upcoming issues of the Bavarian News.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Grafenwoehr increases Army's commitment to environment

by **BLAIR BENZ**
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Garrison Commander and the Directorate of Public Works celebrated the certification of the garrison's Environmental Management

System this month and hopes the community will join in the festivities by fixing leaky faucets, turning off lights and appliances when not in use, and walking or riding a bike for short trips.

DPW Environmental Specialist, Caecilia Meier, remarked, "The goal of the EMS is to act rather than react.

This system strives for continuous improvement and the sustainability of resources for the future."

In 2007, President Bush signed an executive order calling on federal agencies to take the lead in securing and preserving our nation's environmental and energy resources.

As a result of that order, DPW's environmental division was tapped to develop and administer Grafenwoehr's EMS.

Creating the EMS framework began with an evaluation of existing environmental policies.

Representatives from all functional or core business areas of the installation created a cross-functional team to discuss current practices, determine aspects of overlap and establish areas of improvement.

Capturing the scope of the environmental impact created by an organization with a footprint as large as Grafenwoehr's was quite an undertaking.

Working from the collected base of knowledge, the environmental division employed an existing system, the ISO 14001, as a model for the EMS as directed by the department of defense.

This method combines planning, implementation, feedback and review

in order to manage and improve environmental policies.

The process of data collection and vetting existing environmental conditions highlighted five areas of improvement: energy consumption, asbestos containing material, air emissions, expired hazardous materials, and spills and leaks of hazardous material.

Once identified, measurable targets were developed, using the EMS, for reducing the environmental repercussions for each of the five areas.

Additionally, the EMS works to establish a synergy between environmental concerns and Army management processes.

"This coordinated approach optimizes environmental management," said Environmental Division Chief Manfred Rieck. "Our goal is to find a compromise between military and environmental requirements in support of the mission."

Once the EMS framework was complete, a team of independent auditors was brought in to evaluate the resulting systems and programs.

An Army matrix set a deadline of December 2009 for certification of conformance.

Grafenwoehr passed the external audit and signed the self declaration of conformance six months ahead of the deadline.

The Garrison Commander's dedication to the EMS and subsequent supporting programs has increased awareness for the Army's commitment to environmental concerns outside the gate.

The garrison was recently nominated for a Bavaria-wide environmental award by the mayor of the city of Grafenwoehr.

A well designed EMS and top-level support are not enough to guarantee success of the program.

"The single person is important," concluded Rieck, "it requires the contribution of every single person to make an effective program."

Contributions large and small, at the unit level on down to the individual Soldier, all add up to a significant benefit for the environment.

For more information on Grafenwoehr's EMS policy and awareness training, visit the garrison Web site at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/usag_dpw/ems/ems.asp. Further inquiries can be made to Rieck, environmental division chief at DSN 475-7209, CIV 09641-83-7209.

You are an important part of the Environmental Management System. Here's how you can help:

- Fix leaky faucets
- Switch off lights and appliances when not in use
- Walk or take a bike ride for short distances
- Turn off your car when parking
- Turn in hazardous and unused household waste
- Close the shades on sunny days to keep the heat outside
- Take quick showers
- Don't keep the fridge door open too long
- Don't litter in your community
- Buy drinks in reusable bottles

Spouses of active duty Soldiers eligible to receive a grant of \$6,000 for college, training, certificates

by **JOY AWE**
Bavarian News

Beginning in May, all spouses of active duty Soldiers or activated reserve or guard qualify to receive a grant of up to \$6,000 to pay for college or vocational training and certifications.

The My Career Advancement Account grant can be used at any college or university or can be used to pay for professional certifications, such as a pilot's license or cosmetology school. The only requirement to receive the money is that the grant will be used to make the military spouse more employable in the future.

Unlike other financial aid programs, such as Army Emergency Relief, which can be used only by spouses of enlisted Soldiers, the MyCAA program is open to spouses of all ranks.

In addition, the money can be used to pay for graduate school and professional schools, such as law school and medical school, which are excluded from many government financial aid programs.

The grant is not merit based and will be given to any qualified applicant who applies, until the designated funds are exhausted. Applying for the grant is simple and takes about an hour. There is

I don't know how much (money) there is to go around, so I would definitely recommend signing up sooner rather than later, before this money dries up.

Dennis White, UMUC Representative

no minimum GPA requirement to apply and no standardized test scores are needed.

Although MyCAA can be used at any educational institution, University of Maryland University College, University of Phoenix, University of Oklahoma, and Central Texas College make the process especially easy because counselors are available at Education Centers throughout Europe to help students navigate the application process. Military One Source educational counselors are also available by phone.

MyCAA payments are allotted over a two-year period, and recipients can receive up to \$3,000 per year. When used in conjunction with AER payments, many enlisted spouses are able to receive up to \$11,000 in two years. When the military discounts offered by UMUC, UP, and OU, and CTC are taken into account, most

students are surprised to learn how inexpensive college can be.

Because MyCAA grant money can be used in combination with any other financial aid benefits, many students can receive a free education or even be paid to go to school. Receiving financial aid from AER, a Pell grant, or the GI Bill does not disqualify a spouse for MyCAA.

Those who are interested in applying for the grant should act fast. "We've signed up well over forty here, and at \$6,000 a whack, that's a quarter of a million dollars," said Dennis White, UMUC representative at the Grafenwoehr Education Center.

"If we can do a quarter million in this small little office, just for Maryland, I would imagine that all the big bases throughout the world are really getting a lot of spouses signed up," continued White. "I don't know how much there

is to go around, so I would definitely recommend signing up sooner rather than later, before this money dries up."

It is not necessary to be enrolled in an educational program already to apply for MyCAA. Applicants can list the school they plan to attend on the forms and start classes later. Although the grant money will appear in your MyCAA account, no money is sent to the student. When the student does register for classes, MyCAA will pay the school directly.

Those whose husbands are separating from the military soon should not hesitate to sign up now as well.

"My husband is getting ready to separate, so I thought I wouldn't be eligible," said Sara Wilson, counselor at the Vilseck Education Center. "But if you apply and get approved while your spouse is still on active duty, you can still get the \$6,000 even if he separates while you're still in the middle of school."

In order to receive the grant money, the applicant must have a current enrollment in DEERS.

The application, program details, and additional instructions can be found at <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/default.aspx>.

Transportation officials offer tips for summer move

IMCOM-E Press Release

The yearly "summer surge" season for permanent change of station moves has dawned. And with the expected high volume of Soldiers and families simultaneously leaving and entering the region during the next few months, Installation Management Command-Europe is providing tips for customers to help ensure their shipment of household goods goes smoothly.

That advice, said Vivian McBride-Davis, chief of the IMCOM-Europe Logistics Division, is being provided as the Permanent Change of Station busy season, coupled with the implementation of the new Defense Personal Property System, or DPS, poses a challenge when scheduling household goods shipments this year.

DPS – implemented worldwide throughout the Department of Defense last November – is a centralized, integrated system that provides a one-stop source for managing personal property moves. It is a next-generation, fully integrated, centralized Web-based system for management of personal

property DoD shipments, replacing the current legacy program called Transportation Operational Personal Property Standard System.

DPS is designed to provide the convenience of 24/7 access to personal property shipment information. Plus, McBride-Davis said, "it is a conduit for a direct relationship between DoD members and transportation service providers throughout the entire moving process."

The intent of DPS, said Charles St. John, chief of the IMCOM-Europe Transportation Branch, is to improve the quality of life for servicemembers, civilian employees and families during household goods movements or relocations. However, he cautioned, "there are bugs in the system resulting, in some customers experiencing slow system performance."

Consequently, the IMCOM-Europe Logistics Division has developed work-arounds while working out the glitches.

And, St. John stressed, most shipping concerns are not DPS related. A common misconception among customers is that household goods

carrier capacity is unlimited. Instead, the Army has a limited number of contracted carriers available. This, coupled with the fact that these same limited carriers also support other services and industry, and the fact that there is normally a high demand for household goods transportation shipments in a very tight window, means customers must plan well in advance to reduce the chances of disappointment, St. John said.

Another customer concern, according to Joe Dunn, a personal property specialist with the IMCOM-Europe Transportation Branch, is carriers not showing up first thing in the morning; not showing up until late evening; or not showing up at all (a rare occurrence, but it does happen, Dunn said).

"Although the carrier can show up at a customer's residence anytime between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. on the scheduled pack-out date," Dunn said, "if the carrier hasn't arrived by noon, it's recommended that customers call the quality control officer to ensure there are no unforeseen delays."

When scheduling shipment appointments, the installation Personal Property Processing Office will provide the QC inspector's name and telephone number. If you are unable to contact the QC inspector, Dunn said it best to contact PPPO.

"The worst thing you can do," Dunn said, "is to not call to check what is causing the delay. There have been rare occasions when the carrier's truck broke down; however, the carrier makes every effort to ensure the customer is notified."

To make your move smoother, region transportation specialists recommend the following steps:

ORDERS ARE THE KEY

Orders are an absolute prerequisite; you must have orders in hand before scheduling pickup dates. If not, appointments will not be scheduled.

BE EARLY

Don't wait until the last minute, contact your local transportation office about 45 days before you would like to move. If you get your orders with less than 45 days, visit the transportation

office as soon as you receive them.

CONFIRMATION

Get a confirmed household goods pickup date before you make other plans. Commercial Travel Offices have been instructed to not issue flight reservations until the customer shows proof that they have received a confirmed pack out and pickup date from their local transportation office.

BE FLEXIBLE

Build some flexibility into your plan for household goods pickup dates. In addition to requesting a specific date, make plans for some alternate dates and be prepared to accept them.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Look out for your fellow Army families. Even if you want to report early to your next duty station, you may be asked to defer your pickup until a later date to make room for a family that must leave earlier. Consider this request carefully unless you have a compelling reason to report to your next duty station early.

For more, contact the transportation office in Vilseck at DSN 476-2668.

Archaeological excavation brings together Vilseck students, Rose Barracks history

Story and photo by
JENNY FRITZ

Special to the Bavarian News

Around 40 Vilseck Elementary School Enrichment Program students, ranging from 7 to 12 years old, visited the archaeological site of the former community of Altneuhaus, July 9.

Phillipp Kirsch from the Grafenwoehr Garrison Environmental Office explained the history and archaeological structure of the former village and iron production facility.

Several foundation walls still show the dimensions of the formerly significant community that was home to residents, as well as a fish nursery, farm and school house.

Ten-year-old Edward Powers was excited to learn about the history right in his backyard. "This is an

outstanding experience for us to learn about the history of where we are living here in Germany," he said.

The students toured the archaeological excavation site on Rose Barracks, between the main gate and Little Mike Lake.

Carmen Young, a teacher at VES, said, "We are living on top of several centuries of civilizations. We can learn where we come from by visiting places like that."

Altneuhaus dates back to 1326. The village was one of several important pillars of iron production throughout the middle ages. Iron ore was found on many locations around what is now the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

The community was evacuated because of the expansions of the GTA by the German Wehrmacht (unified

armed forces) in 1937. At that time, South Camp (Südlager) was also called Camp Altneuhaus.

Camp Altneuhaus was constructed in a record time of 11 months to house a (German) heavy Infantry Regiment.

The former Residence Facilities (Hammer-Schloss) of Altneuhaus also housed the Federal Forestry Office until 1951 when the facilities had to be cleared by order of the U.S. commander and were torn down.

The significance of the former community, and many more like it, lives on through the iron ore found in the GTA and the name of housing and community areas on Rose Barracks.

Housing areas today, like those of the past, include Altneuhaus, Langenbruck, Gruenwald and Kittenberg.



Vilseck students tour the archaeological excavation site of the former community of Altneuhaus July 9 on Rose Barracks.

Civilian watch commanders supplement Graf MP force

by **JOY AWE**
Bavarian News

Four new Department of the Army Civilian Police supervisory police officers arrived in Grafenwoehr in May, making U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr the first U.S. Army Europe installation to employ Civilian Police Watch Commanders.

The civilian Watch Commanders will operate in cooperation with local Military Police, working peak service hours, augmenting military police patrols in the garrison's area of operation.

Since the Watch Commanders are not deployable, they will provide an important factor of continuity to community law enforcement.

"Because of the increased operations tempo, Soldiers coming in and out of training, in and out of downrange assignments, the DACP will have a more constant presence," explained Capt. James Vaughn, operations officer for the DACP. "IMCOM-E regulations allow the civilian personnel to stay for three to five years, so it's a

IMCOM-E (Installation Management Command Europe) regulations allow the civilian personnel to stay for three to five years, so it's a more stable presence for the community and more stable for the guidance of the patrols, because they constantly have the same oversight.

Capt. James Vaughn, DACP Operations Officer

more stable presence for the community and more stable for the guidance of the patrols, because they constantly have the same oversight."

DACP Watch Commanders will have a supervisory role for the patrol functions of the Directorate of Emergency Services. All of the new Watch Commanders have experience working as DACP supervisors and civilian police training officers at posts in the United States and some are also retired MPs.

"The Watch Commanders have full military

law enforcement authority, just like the Military Police do," said Vaughn. "They're actually federal law enforcement officers and they'll be doing traffic stops and responding to calls and doing things that the patrols would do on a day to day basis, but they'll be providing some more guidance and oversight," Vaughn continued.

MPs and the new DACP officers have the authority to arrest or ticket anyone who is on an American military installation. Additionally, their authority extends to anyone who is

sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, including Soldiers, family members and civilian employees, regardless of their location.

While the DACP Watch Commanders have the same authority as MPs, they are easily distinguishable by their unique uniforms. DACP officers wear khaki uniforms unlike those worn by U.S. DoD contracted security guards or host nation police.

Lt. Sonya Jordan, one of the new Watch Commanders, served as a DACP officer at posts in the U.S. for five years before taking an assignment in Grafenwoehr. "Most of us come from a military civilian law enforcement background," said Jordan. "We do bring with us a lot of those experiences that we hope to pass along to the Military Police and help them in their day-to-day and with the efficiency of the paperwork and so forth."

While the DACP Watch Commanders are new to Europe, they have been a normal part of law enforcement on military posts in the U.S. for several years.

Army funded legal education program now accepting applications

JAG Press Release

The Office of the Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program.

Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 25 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense if funding

permits.

Selected officers will attend law school beginning the Fall of 2010 and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility.

This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active Federal service at the time legal training begins.

Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. § 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test.

Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at AHRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Ms. Yvonne

Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before 1 November 2009.

Submission of the application well in advance of deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact Major Jerrett Dunlap, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command deputy staff judge advocate, at DSN 475-8061 for further information.

Year of the NCO Spotlight

Master Sgt. Carl Childs

Age: 40
Current Unit: JMTC, Reserve Component Liaison
Current Position: Reserve Component Enlisted Advisor
Component: Army National Guard
Current Location: Grafenwoehr, Germany
Hometown: Hartford, Connecticut
Years of Service: 22

After 22 years of service, U.S. Army Master Sgt. Carl Childs is once again a private. "At my level, they keep it pretty simple with me," Childs said. He has spent most of his life protecting and defending the Constitution and the people of the United States as an Active Duty, Reserve and now Arizona National Guard Soldier. Now, that same selfless service and dedication carries through to his new position as Volunteer Firefighter for the city of Mantel, Germany. "This is my third time in Germany... I wanted to do something that would involve my family, and make the experience one we would never forget." He wanted to be involved in the community, said Childs. Now, he laughs at how he became a firefighter. Nearly two years ago, he attended a Bavarian festival – honoring the 140th anniversary of the Mantel Fire Department, along with his wife and three daughters. "I saw these guys with these red polo shirts on, and I asked how I could get one," he laughed. "They said you have to be a fireman, so I asked how, and when, and the next thing you know I was donning a suit." Along with the suit came many new challenges.

First – Childs had to learn everything that a firefighter needs to know: tying knots, working with hoses, learning the fire apparatuses and other basic skills. And then, there was working through the language barrier. "We never had someone on our fire brigade who did not speak German," said Stefan Lippik, Mantel's Deputy Fire Chief. "It was very interesting." Lippik said having Childs on the department was a way for his firefighters to practice the English language. "We improved our English, he improved his German." Senior Firefighter Willi Kraus agreed. "Every kid (in Germany) learns English in school from the fifth grade up," he said. "Most of the people on the fire department are mostly 20 to 25-years-old, and it's been more than 10 years, since they spoke English. So, speaking to Carl brings back all the words and sentences and things." In addition to helping improve the firefighter's English, having Childs as a member of the department is also beneficial to the community. Childs said as the community grows with more Americans, it is their responsibility to make changes for the better. "If you're a Soldier who is going to be stationed abroad, make sure you come over with an open mind," he said. "Don't get stuck on the American ways ... make sure you get out and enjoy everything that Germany has to offer, and your experience will be unbelievable."



www.army.mil/yearofthenco



Digital course prepares Soldiers for battlefield

Story and photo by

Spc. MICHAEL PFAFF

133rd MPAD Kentucky Army National Guard

Sweat is beading off his forehead. Sgt. Joshua A. Blazonis, a truck driver with the 41st Transportation Co. in Grafenwoehr, has located several threats of chemical attacks and it's of dire importance that his command and anyone else in the region know the location of such a deadly threat. Many lives are in this Soldier's hands.

He shifts in his seat and eyes the rugged-looking, green box next to him. A medusa's head of thick cables juts out of the casing and the vivid blue glow of the display illuminates Blazonis' face.

Housed inside this green box is the U.S. military's most advanced global positioning technology, known as the Blue Force Tracker.

Blazonis takes the stylus pen clinging to the side of the box and begins to quickly stab the touch-screen display with it, navigating through a series of menus. When he's finished, he has just input the location of the chemical attacks and yellow blips start to populate the map on his display, pinpointing the locations of these possible threats.

Via satellite, this information is networked back to his command, and to other trucks and coalition forces in the region.

Thankfully, they avoid the chemical attacks and it's quite possible Blazonis just saved someone's life.

Or, at least he would have if this were a real mission. Blazonis isn't in his gun truck. He's in a classroom at Joint Multinational Training Command's Digital University, Europe's premier training site for digital systems used in theater by all branches of U.S. Armed Forces.

Today is day three of the five-day Blue Force Tracker course and Blazonis has just conducted an ultra-realistic training simulation designed to develop or enhance service-members' knowledge of operating the BFT system.

"The BFT system is used for tracking vehicles, targets, enemy positions, and other things as they appear on the battlefield," said

Eddie Hill, a training instructor for digital systems at the Digital University. "The training here is extremely realistic. We put them into positions so they can actually use the system to help analyze the situation and make informed decisions about what is actually going on in the battlefield."

Training is done using the military's crawl, walk, run method and by the end of the five days, the students are conducting an operation that lasts close to four hours long.

The first phase is dedicated to introducing the BFT system and explaining how it helps troops in their working environment and the best ways to use the system. Students learn the system on a "white box" that is identical to the green box software but is housed in a more traditional computer.

Phase two is designed to teach the students how to get the system up and running and then input data into the system. And finally, by the third phase, students are learning how to customize the use of the system for their particular mission needs.

While engineered for service-members without any knowledge of BFT, the training is also tailored to teach combat veterans who have used the system on previous deployments more advanced techniques for utilizing the system.

"Having used this system for 15 months as a gun-truck commander downrange, I can tell you this training is very beneficial," Blazonis said. "There are also a lot of things that I didn't do while downrange that would have made things a lot easier that I am learning in this class."

When Blazonis finishes the course, he's issued a DVD that includes all the training he received in the class. The goal is for service-members to take this training back to their home unit.

The Digital University instructors have the ability to also come to the unit in the event the unit can't come to the Digital University.

"We do have the capability to take our laptops to their location, set up a classroom at their location, and they get the same training they can get in our classroom," Hill said. "We can actually export our training to their



Sgt. Joshua A. Blazonis, a driver with the 41st Transportation Co. in Grafenwoehr, operates the Blue Force Tracker system during a training course June 15 at Joint Multinational Training Command's Digital University training facility in Grafenwoehr, under the guidance of Eddie Hill, a digital systems instructor.

training site."

Not just limited to the BFT training, the Digital University is a treasure trove of incredibly valuable training for units preparing to go to war.

"In and out of the European community,"

Hill explained. "The Joint Multinational Training Command offers the only place U.S. military personnel can come into and get the training they need for real-time situations when using the digital systems in the theater of operations."

U.S. Soldiers make their mark at shooting competition



by Pfc. AUDREY GLYNN
172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs

It's a great day when officers and Soldiers from 16 different nations can come together to demonstrate their weapons proficiency and compete against each other in the spirit of partnership.

"Tag der Infanterie", or the "13th Day of the Infantry," is just that sort of activity. The two day celebration was hosted by the German Infantry School in Hammelburg, Germany on July 9-

Lt. Col. Eric W. Stetson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Task Force Shield Commander, takes aim during the individual G36 rifle competition July 10.

Courtesy photo

10. The event gave German and allied Soldiers a chance to see the latest developments in German doctrine and training as well as the chance to fire various weapons. Festivities included a conference of German commanders, a meeting of the Federation of the German Infantry and an international shooting competition with the German G36 rifle.

Team 1 from the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade based in Grafenwoehr and Schweinfurt, Germany, placed second in the international competition. The team members: Staff Sgt. Noah A. Plumb; Staff Sgt. Michael L. Silvestre; Staff Sgt. Steve C. Vasquez; and Spc. Michael Remauro said they were proud to bring home such a great honor to their brigade.

Vasquez said he was happy with the outcome overall, "I would like to thank the Soldiers for a job well done.

For such a short time to train with the weapon they did an outstanding job at the competition."

Lt. Col. Eric W. Stetson, 172nd's Task Force Shield Commander, took top honors in the individual G36 rifle competition.

"I knew I shot decently that day but had no idea I was in the running to place at all, I like that G36 rifle. More importantly, I really appreciate the Germans extending to us the opportunity to train with them and participate in the competition and show us their Infantry's capabilities; the Hammelberg Infantry School is a great supporter of our Brigade," Stetson said.

Stetson said he and his team are looking forward to continue the good relations with the German Infantry School and are eager to participate in next year's competition.

Strykers prepare for Joint Task Force-East, future deployments

Story and photo by

Spc. JERRY WILSON

2SCR Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from 2nd and 4th Squadrons of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment were working on the railroad all to live long day Thursday July 9 preparing for their upcoming deployment in support of Joint Task Force - East.

Troops spent the day learning the proper procedures for loading vehicles and equipment onto rail cars for transport.

Instructor Johann Witt walked the crew through the proper procedures to insure all equipment and vehicles were loaded safely.

"We went through it step by step," Witt explained. "We start with the safety brief and when that is done the rail team will begin prepping the cars."

From there Witt went on to explain the proper procedure for driving vehicles on and off the rail cars. According to Witt this lesson covered two very important areas.

"Ground guiding is one of the important things I always raise up to them," Witt said. "If you don't practice proper ground guiding you will always have problems."

The second issue is safety and how to drive onto the car. Following that the crews were

taught the various options for blocking and bracing the wheels.

"Basically we are preparing for our closer meter targets which are Romania and Bulgaria for JTF-East," said 1st Lt. Matthew Simon, unit movement officer for 4/2 SCR.

"We we are also working with Soldiers with longevity to prepare for future deployments as well," Simon said.

Simon was quite pleased with his Pale horse Troops performance throughout the training.

"We came out with a set crew with specific roles and responsibilities for the Romania movement," Simon said.

"Because we had predestinated ground guides and such, so we were able to focus in on uploading and walk away from today feeling comfortable with the hands on practice."

Simon said that the day's training was invaluable to his Soldiers.

"There are so many things that we do in the Army that is by reviewing the book," he said. "But, we always seem to close out training with some type of hands on experience."

"This really helps solidify what is involved with rail ops," he said.

"Ultimately important to make sure the guys do it safely and then everything gets to its destination in one piece."



A Soldier from the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment guides the driver of a truck off a rail car during the Railhead class.

Army Community Service celebrates 44 years of history, looks to the future

by **DORIS TYLER**

Special to the Bavarian News

As Army Community Service observes another year of dedicated service worldwide, the Garmisch ACS center threw a birthday party July 24 to celebrate their progress and look to the future.

"The Garmisch ACS has been a fantastic resource for me and my entire family!" said Chelsea Watson.

Watson's husband, Spec. Jonathan L. Watson, serves the garrison community as a military

policeman.

Since its inception in 1965, ACS has provided an ever expanding variety of programs and services to meet the needs of Soldiers and their Families. This month ACS turns 44, and Garmisch is proud to be part of its evolution, having established Europe's newest ACS Center in 2008.

The Garmisch center now offers an entire menu of services on site to our community as part of the Army Family Covenant and the ACS "Right Sizing" initiatives.

For several years Garmisch had a one-deep

ACS office; many Garmisch firsts have happened over the past 16 months since the center was established.

Soon after converting empty offices into an inviting center, ACS established a weekly children's playgroup. Within the first month, 20 percent of the children in the community had experienced the fun with their parents.

"It is very convenient to have a full service ACS in our community. When we needed ACS, they were right there for our family," said Verlie Gibson, wife of Staff Sgt. Derrick Gibson, a Soldier currently serving at the NATO School in Oberammergau.

The center also became an official Army Emergency Relief Section in July 2008. Since then, more than \$12,000 in loans and grants have been issued, some to visiting Soldiers who needed assistance while traveling away from their home posts.

ACS partnered with the chapel, garrison and tenant unit leadership to organize the holiday assistance program in November and December 2008, coordinating donations and providing aid to the community.

The first U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Army Family Action Plan Conference was held last February, addressing more than 40 issues identified by community members.

Financial Readiness Program Manager Patty Pearce hosted a "Save and Invest Forum" in March to provide critical financial information in a time of global fiscal uncertainty.

Pearce also coordinated with many other European installations to have the forum offered at their locations.

"We honored our many community volunteers recognizing their contribution of more than 3,175 documented hours of service in a seven-month time period," said Steve Gauthier, FMWR Director. "While Garmisch does not host combat units, our mobilization and deployment program manager assisted and supported Soldiers and their families before, during and after their deployments."

Exceptional family members now have

Kari Sharpe as their local advocate in the community.

Thanks to her continuing efforts, families visiting Garmisch can ensure loved ones enjoy their vacation by having the appropriate services available to meet their needs.

Sharpe is also the USAG Garmisch Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. She and the five local unit victim advocates make it possible for victims of sexual assault to get immediate assistance, no longer having to await arrival of this critical support from neighboring installations.

Garmisch ACS also collaborated with the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort and the military family life consultant program, to provide active duty members on rest and recuperation leave a personalized message of support upon their arrival.

Part of Garmisch ACS's mission is to convert to a Family Assistance Center in times of emergency.

When activated the FAC becomes the central information hub and support network for the entire community.

Since opening, the center has converted into a FAC for two installation force protection exercises, helping the center to fine-tune their abilities to respond in times of crisis.

Focusing on the future, the ACS team is working toward becoming an Accredited Center in 2010, an Army requirement of all ACS Centers.

Working to enhance and expand the services to the community, Garmisch ACS will be adding a new parent support program in September 2009 to provide support and educational classes to expectant families and those with young children in the home.

"The Army Family Covenant embodies that we are all part of the Army family. This garrison is appreciative of the many community organizations, volunteers and family members that have assisted ACS in accomplishing The Garmisch ACS mission," said Karin H. Santos, Garrison manager.

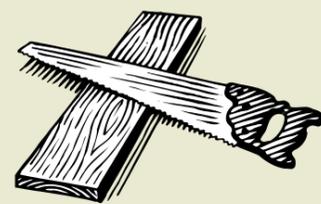


Photo by Steve Gauthier

Army Community Service Director Doris Tyler serves an ACS birthday cake to the children of Sgt. Christopher J. Fimpel and Spec. Jonathan L. Watson July 8.



Garmisch Crafts Tree summer activities



Wood shop safety class:

A prerequisite to use the shop's power tools/machines.

Fee is \$20.

Classes are on Tuesdays 1700-1900 and Sundays 1500-1700 hrs. Please reserve in advance.

Custom furniture upholstery

Drop off your furniture in need of repair at the Crafts Tree and we will give you a cost-free estimate.

If your project is too large to bring it in, schedule an appointment for an estimate at your home (Garmisch area only).

Repair fee: \$20 per hour & materials

Furniture upholstery class

To learn this skill, bring a piece of furniture in need of upholstery, which will be your class project.

The class runs over three two-hour sessions, six total hours of instruction and is taught by personal appointment.

Fee is \$35 (materials not included).

Basic wood carving class

Learn to carve by making a sign for your desk with the lovely Garmisch mountain range and your name on it.

Sample is on display at the Wood Shop. Beginners class, wood shop safety class not required.

Call the shop to set up an appointment.

Fee is \$20 (materials included).

Wood shop class: knife making

New! Make your very own beautiful knife handle. Choose a type of wood (oak, beech, maple,

etc.) for your handle.

Students will need to bring their own blade (i.e. 3" hunting knife) and will receive professional guidance. The class is ongoing each Thursday evening.

Fee for materials for your handle and instruction are \$30.

Please schedule an appointment.

Beginner quilting class

This workshop consists of 5 evenings, 3 hours each and explores blocks in different sizes and various techniques.

For those who took the previous class: each block will be machine quilted, then we will finish the quilt with the "quilt as you go" method.

This class is perfect for newcomers: you will learn how to finish a quilt the traditional way.

Please sign up in advance.

Fee is \$89. Level: Beginner

Family portrait studio

Indoor or Outdoor Appointments - Family, Group, or Individual Portrait Sitzings. Call to book your appointment.

Silk painting class

For children and adults, beginners and advanced students. Two sessions, for the cost of \$15, with the first session always on a Tuesday from 1600 to 1800.

Schedule an appointment in advance.

Watercolor painting class

Two evening or two afternoon classes for \$20 with materials included. The first session is always on a Thursday from 1630 to 1830. Please schedule an appointment in advance.

Oil painting class for beginners

This class includes three weeks of instruction and oil paints and canvas. Date and time: every Wed. 1500-1700. Please schedule an appointment in advance.

Fee is \$69 (materials included).

Basic ceramics pouring class

Learn how to pour and finish ceramics. You will make one easy class project to take home. Advance sign-up is required.

Fee is \$20 (includes materials, slip, paints and glazes, shop and firing fees

for one small project).

Piano instruction

For adults and children, beginners and advanced students. Open slots are available now! Instruction takes place in the music practice room at the Crafts Tree in Bldg. 263.

Fee for a two-month lesson package is \$135.

Become an instructor!

The Crafts Tree is looking for new instructors and contractors.

Do you play an instrument or know

about drawing, painting, portraiture, digital photography, and textile crafts or do you have any other special skill?

Use your talents while making some extra money!

Contact the Garmisch Crafts Tree staff today!

The Crafts Tree is located in Bldg. 263, Artillery Kaserne.

For more, call DSN 440-3475, CIV 08821-7503475 Tue, Wed, Thu, 1000-1300 & 1500-1900, Sun 1300-1700.



Michelle Schneider, director of the Garmisch Crafts Tree, shows off a customer's matted and framed collection of manhole covers from around the world. The Crafts Tree can create your project or help you do-it-yourself.

Photo by John Reese

Children hit the books, 'get creative' with library summer reading program

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

In the wide array of images the word 'summer' conjures up in the minds of schoolchildren - afternoons at the pool, nights spent catching fireflies and staying up past bedtime - enjoying a good book outside of the classroom might not be at the top of many lists.

However, for many children at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, summer is a time to do just that: read, and have fun doing it.

A typical weekly meeting in the library's six-week Summer Reading program starts with children bringing their reading logs to Violetta Grant, program coordinator at the USAG Hohenfels library.

They brag to her about how much they have read in the last week and receive stars to place on the wall for a certain number of minutes or books read, depending on the age group.

Some might turn in optional homework for extra points in the hopes of becoming the grand winner in their group.

Then it's on to the week's activities inspired by this year's theme for all Army libraries: Be Creative at Your Library. Grant might have the children play a game, do a craft or write a poem.

She said it is all in the hopes of making them more enthusiastic readers.

"This is all to get them involved and show

them reading can be fun," said Grant. "There's less pressure than at school because they can pick whatever books they want. I don't have them sign a contract to read a certain amount or anything like that, it's all up to them. If you just start challenging them they want to show you that they can do it."

Her strategy seems to be working.

"I'm reading almost every day now," said Jasmine Stojanovich, 8. "It actually became fun to read."

Gavin Sain, 8, said the program has led him to find books he enjoys.

"This is fun. I love reading, and it keeps me away from playing video games," said Gracie Moats, 9.

Keeping the children reading between school years is vitally important, said Grant.

"You have to train readers because they will forget. And this gets kids interested who are not usually interested in reading," she said, adding that the program benefits the children in ways far beyond their reading skills.

Grant said the program also allows children to interact with others their age and work on their social skills, something especially important for the many children who are new to Hohenfels each summer due to a permanent change in station and may not yet know anyone.

One child, five-year-old Hailey Moats, started off the summer not being able to leave her mother's side. As the weeks went on, she became more and more independent and can now stay in



Sophie Phelps, 9, squeezes in a few last minutes with her Lemony Snicket book before the weekly Summer Reading program meeting starts at the Hohenfels library July 15.

the group by herself, something Moats is very proud of, said Grant.

Those social interactions do not stop with the children, Grant said. Parents also get a chance to meet and interact while their children are in the program, which is especially helpful to those parents new to the Hohenfels community.

"This usually falls around PCS times which is perfect," said Grant. "It helps build community."

Of the almost 80 participants in this year's

program, three will be named top readers in their age group.

"There's a special surprise if you win," said Seth Moats, 11.

Though the program runs for six weeks, Grant said most children miss at least one week due to family vacations and other summer activities.

Regardless of how many sessions they attended, all participants were invited to the final party July 24 complete with games, prizes, certificates and awards.

Bazaar to bring holiday cheer to Hohenfels earlier in 2009

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

The Christmas Market is a longtime German tradition that allows communities to enjoy the company of friends while sampling traditional food and beverages and browsing wares brought from vendors near and far.

That tradition is honored every year at the Hohenfels Holiday Bazaar when vendors from throughout Europe gather at the event hosted by the Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club and by U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

This year however, those traditions

will come a bit early.

The 2009 Holiday Bazaar will run September 10-12, a change from years past when the bazaar came in mid-November.

This year's bazaar chair Cyndi Hartfield said the decision to hold the event earlier was one both of necessity and opportunity.

"We could have chosen to hold our bazaar the same weekend as some of the large installations and compete with them, or we could do it in September and not only not have to compete, but also get first pick of all the vendors' merchandise," said Hartfield. "We chose to be first."

Heather Bruce, HCSC president, said the earlier dates offer patrons numerous advantages.

"Two really great bonuses for having the bazaar in September are that our customers will be getting first dibs on the vendors' merchandise and also get their holiday shopping done early with plenty of time to ship back to the states," said Bruce.

Hartfield said parents will also have an extra advantage this year. Vendors will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, allowing parents two days to shop while their children are in school.

Hartfield said though construction in the Community Activities Center

will mean a slight reduction in available floor space, "we are going to have a full house this year."

According to Hartfield, as of press time, more than 30 vendors had signed contracts to appear, with 5 more having expressed verbal commitments.

"I am really excited about HCSC's Holiday Bazaar this year. Cyndi Hartfield and her amazing committee have pulled out all the stops to make this bazaar the best one yet.

"You will see vendors you know and love, some you haven't seen for a while, and some you will shop for the first time," said Bruce.

Hartfield said many favorite vendors that had been unable to attend in recent years jumped at the chance this year, perhaps due to the earlier date.

Many antique and furniture vendors will attend, including some from Italy.

"With so many new people in the community, this is a great introduction to the culture and hopefully with get them excited to go out and see other things," said Hartfield.

The annual Holiday Bazaar is a major fundraiser for the HCSC that last year awarded \$13,000 in scholarships to the community and more than \$28,000 in grants to fellow community organizations.

According to Bruce, the 2008 Holiday Bazaar was the most successful bazaar on record, contributing almost \$14,000 to the more than \$50,000 total the club raised that year.

"Our Holiday Bazaar is a huge part of our fundraising efforts," said Bruce. "The funds it raises allow us to give back to the community throughout the year, which is what HCSC is all about."

During the 2008-2009 board year, grants were given to community organizations such as school groups, family readiness groups, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and more.

"Last year's bazaar was the most successful ever, and none of it would have happened without tons of volunteers. The same is true this year," said Jennifer Fisher, volunteer chair.

"The community really pulls together to put this on and it's the community that reaps the benefits."

Fisher said volunteers are still needed for almost every shift over the three days.

Interested volunteers should fill out one of the volunteer forms found at the Thrift Shop, online at www.hohenfelscsc.com, or at many locations throughout post. People may also email Fisher at tjmfisher@aol.com.



Courtesy photo

The 2009 Holiday Bazaar will run Sept. 10-12, featuring more than 30 vendors from throughout Europe selling wine, cheeses, furniture, jewelry, clothing, antiques and more.

Authorized Swimming locations in the Hohenfels area

- Breitenbrunn – Schwimmbad
- Burgwallbach – Burgwallbachersee
- Dietfurt/Altmuehl- Schwimmbad
- Beratzhausen – Schwimmbad
 - Regen – Schwimmbad
 - Rieden – Schwimmbad
 - Roetz – Schwimmhalle
- Stammsried – Schwimmbad
 - Velburg – Badeseen
 - Berching – Freibad
- Burglengenfeld – Schwimmhalle, Schwimmbad
- Grossbissendorf – Freibad *ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED*
- Kehlheim – Kelderado
- Neumarkt – Hallenbad, Schwimmbad
- Parsberg – Schwimmhalle, Wellenbad
- Regensburg – Hallenbad, RT Schwimmbad, Westbad
 - Schwandorf - Schwimmbad



First Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles in Europe arrive at Hohenfels

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

The first major shipment of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles into Europe arrived July 11 at a port in Antwerp, Belgium, on their way to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

"Although this is not the first time an MRAP vehicle was offloaded in Europe, we are honored to be part of the team that made it possible for Soldiers to have MRAPs in Europe to train on and better prepare them for combat," said Michel van Marle, marine cargo specialist with the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's 838th Transportation Battalion.

The vehicles were the first of 40 MRAPs that will be used at the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Areas to train troops headed for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The arrival of the MRAPs into the U.S. Army Europe theater allows units to train and gain maneuver proficiency before deployments," the USAREUR safety office release said.

According to the release, the vehicles were first created in response to urgent requests by battlefield

commanders looking for ways to protect their Soldiers from "improvised explosive devices, mine blasts, small arms fire and other threats."

While the vehicles are designed to protect troops in such attacks better than traditional High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, they are larger and handle differently, requiring proper training before use during deployment.

"Without proper drivers training, operating MRAP vehicles are a challenge for Soldiers resulting in deaths and significant injuries most directly attributed to vehicle rollovers," the release said.

The plan is to decrease those risks by providing the opportunity at JMRC for the troops to train on the MRAPs.

"The MRAPs are currently being used in Iraq and Afghanistan. The inclusion of the MRAP to the JMTC's arsenal of training equipment demonstrates how the Army continues to adapt to the current operational environment using new tactics, techniques and procedures to help Soldiers better prepare for the challenges they face in the current theater of operation. A key element of MRAP training is knowledge of the vehicle's safety features and their

proper use," said Lt. Col. David Ray, senior trainer with the JMRC Raptor team.

Though they were sent to Hohenfels, Ray maintains that the MRAPs will be used wherever they might be needed.

"Though the vehicles will be based and maintained here, they will be available to support individual unit level training across U.S. Army Europe as directed by the Joint Multinational Training Command G3," said Ray.

"I expect nearly every unit that will deploy from USAREUR to Iraq or Afghanistan will utilize this new asset to train personnel," said Ray.

The first unit to do so will be the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team from Vicenza, Italy, during their Mission Readiness Exercise beginning in August.

Before the 173rd arrives at JMRC, an MRAP new equipment training team for operators and maintenance will arrive from the United States to conduct training with trainers and users on how to safely operate and maintain the equipment.

Beginning July 28, the new equipment training is a combination of hands-on and classroom training. There is no simulations training involved.



Photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie

Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles are aligned, ready to be lifted out the hull of the MV Marilyn Lift On - Lift Off vessel in the port of Anwerp, Belgium, July 11.

Community remembers Soldier as dedicated commander

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Capt. Mark Garner, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment - a loving husband, avid traveler and admired commander - was killed in action in Afghanistan July 6 when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, killing him and another passenger.

Family, friends and fellow Soldiers attended a memorial service July 22 at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels theater to honor Garner's life.

Whether they knew him as a boy, saw him grow into a man during his time at West Point, met him during one of his two tours in Iraq, or knew him in his most recent assignment with 1-4 Inf., everyone who knew Garner said they will never forget his trademark "thousand-watt" smile and his selfless spirit.

"It didn't matter what kind of situation we

were in, how bad the firefight was or how much he was getting complained to about the circumstances of the deployment, he always had a smile on his face and always assured us that it would be okay and he would work to help and make things better for us," said Spc. Christopher Spositi, a Soldier in 2nd Plt., Co. B, 1-4 Inf.

"He was always smiling and would talk to anyone, no matter who you were. If you found yourself in a situation where you could have a one-on-one with him, he was more than happy to talk with you," said Sgt. Robert W. Newman III, another 2nd Plt. Soldier who remembered one mission in particular that he said exemplified Garner as a leader.

"He kept trying to take some of the weight from the guys who were hurting real bad under the load of their gear. However, no one could give up their weight to the CO. He knew that, but he asked anyway," Newman said.

Maj. Sean Fisher, executive officer of 1-4 Inf. when Garner took command of Co. B, said it was both his selfless spirit and his quiet professionalism that made Garner such a dedicated officer.

"Mark took every task I threw at him and gave it his very best. He went about things so quietly

and professionally and you just knew he was going to get it done on time, every time ... Our Army has recognized how vital these traits are to our mission and this is why Mark was always so well liked by his peers, subordinates and superiors. For me, you just couldn't help but to be drawn to him and the potential he had. You wanted to be a part of what he was about in some way or another," said Fisher.

A respected professional in uniform, friends said no description of Garner would be complete without his dedication to his wife and his love for travel.

"Mark and Nickayla were more in love than any two people I've ever known," Lauren Sullivan, friend and former neighbor of the Garners, said. They loved being ambassadors of the United States on their travels throughout the world.

"Their house is a testament to the exciting trips they were always taking together, covered in pictures of the two of them taken in every corner of the globe," said Sullivan.

Garner had visited 52 countries in the past 12 years including Indonesia, China, Bulgaria,

Transdniestria and Albania.

"After company command Mark wanted to be a Foreign Area Officer. There is no doubt that he would have been perfect for the job given his experience. He was someone I most definitely would want representing our country in a foreign land," said Capt. William Bradley, executive officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-4 Inf.

It was that adventuresome spirit, that love for life that family and friends say they will always remember.

"We were all blessed to have known him in whatever ways he touched our lives," said Fisher. "Whatever it was, I am sure those with whom he worked, laughed and loved are forever indebted to Mark for his special way of living life."

In lieu of flowers, the family has established the Capt. Mark A. Garner Scholarship fund.

"It was Mark's wish that the scholarship provide financial assistance for a local student to pursue a bachelor degree and enrich their lives with education and travel," the family said in a release.

Tax deductible donations may be made to: Capt. Mark A. Garner Scholarship Fund, 105 Westover Drive, Elkin, N.C. 28621.

AFTB gives spouses tools to overcome challenges of military life

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Any new spouse knows that the Army can seem like a foreign world with its own language, culture and customs.

Instant immersion in that world can be difficult, even for the most seasoned of travelers.

That's why the Army created Army Family Team Building, a three-part course designed to acclimate spouses with Army life and help build strong families capable of integrating the Army mission with that of their family.

"AFTB is geared toward empowering Army spouses, starting with giving you the tools you need to be independent while your spouse is deployed, which also helps the Soldier have better peace of mind," said Carol Stone, AFTB program manager at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Army Community Service.

Stone, who has been an Army spouse herself for many years, said the courses may start out basic with topics such as how to read a Leave

AFTB is geared toward empowering Army spouses, starting with giving you the tools you need to be independent while your spouse is deployed, which also helps the Soldier have better peace of mind.

Carol Stone, USAG Hohenfels AFTB Program Manager

and Earnings Statement and going over common acronyms and jargon, but the free seminars still have something to offer more seasoned spouses.

"Just because I've been in (the Army) with my husband for 16 years doesn't mean I can't learn something, even from a level one class, because I do learn something new every time I teach a class," she said.

Learning about life in an Army family is not limited just to spouses, said Stone. Many Soldiers take the class to learn about the Army from a different perspective, with the possibility of earning four promotion points in the process.

Soldiers can earn those promotion points if they attend all three levels,

said Stone.

After covering topics in level one such as introduction to family readiness groups and financial readiness, students can choose to move on to level two which focuses on growing personal skills such as time and meeting management and effective leadership. In level three the spouse learns skills needed to serve in leadership roles in the community or in their own careers.

"People really like the leadership sections," said Lori Starnes, AFTB instructor. "You learn a lot about leadership in the home and in various community roles."

"It truly makes you feel like you're empowered and are ready to get involved

in your community," said Stone.

After completing the courses, Stone said some students choose to begin that community outreach by becoming more involved with AFTB.

The AFTB instructor course is offered multiple times throughout the year and helps prepare former students to teach the course.

"In instructor training we teach you how to be an instructor, and not just for AFTB. When you're done you can pretty much instruct anything," said Stone.

The course covers topics such as how to set-up a classroom, how to plan a class or follow scripted lesson plans.

Stone said it is a great way for people to improve their public speaking

skills. Each instructor candidate must give a three to five minute presentation to Stone and a few other instructors.

"I keep it small the first time so you can ease into it. This is a great way to improve your confidence if you don't naturally like public speaking," she said.

For Starnes, becoming an instructor two years ago was her way of sharing her knowledge with other Army spouses.

Married to a Soldier for 19 years, Starnes said she encourages people to take the courses as a couple.

If Soldiers or spouses can't make it to class, she recommends completing the course online at www.myarmyonesource.com.

"Do it for your own personal benefit so you can be ready as an Army spouse to take on any challenge that might come up," said Starnes.

"I believe, as someone who found out the hard way, that you should give yourself the chance to be educated," said Stone. "AFTB allows you to learn from other people's experiences, build friendships, develop and grow as a person."

NEED COVERAGE FOR AN EVENT OR HAVE AN IDEA FOR A STORY?

Call the Hohenfels Public Affairs Office at DSN 466-4917 and tell us about the issues that matter to you.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

German-American Volksfest

The 52nd annual German-American Volksfest will take place Friday to Sunday at Camp Kasserine in Grafenwoehr. Food, fun and much more.

There will be traditional German band & beer tent, a DJ, Karaoke, carnival rides, a variety of delicious food and much more.

Times are Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m.-12 a.m., Sunday, 11 am.-11 p.m.

New dinner hours

Starting July 20, the Grafenwoehr Dining Facility will have new dinner meal operating hours. Current hours are 4:30-6 p.m. and will change to 5-6:30 p.m. (Mondays through Saturdays) all other meal hours will remain the same.

Also starting at the breakfast meal, there will be a second entrance for customers to use located on the side of Bldg. 101 closest to the Physical Fitness Center.

Family Rodeo Fair

There will be a Family Rodeo Fair for all 2/2 and 4/2 2SCR Soldiers and their family members Aug. 5 and 6 in Bldg. 134.

Hours on Aug. 5 are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Aug. 6 from 1-7 p.m.

Many service agencies will be present to discuss program offerings and answer any questions you have concerning your upcoming deployment. Get prepared to make this the most productive deployment you could experience.

Teen deployment education

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

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

FAST classes

The Vilseck Ed. Center will be conducting FAST Classes Monday through July 31. For more, call DSN 476-2753 or DSN 475-6786.

American Legion

If you are interested in joining the American Legion in Grafenwoehr, call CIV 0960-592-5770, or e-mail georgie.t@t-online.de.

ITR and ODR day trips

- Sunday: Prague
- Aug. 9: Chiemsee

- Aug. 15: Poland Pottery
- Aug. 16: Dachau & Munich
- Aug. 22: Europa Park
- Aug. 23: Linderhof Castle
- Aug. 29: Holiday Park
- Aug. 30: Two Castles

For more, call DSN 475-7402, CIV 09641-83-7402.

School physicals

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

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

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

Welcome to Bavaria

There will be a newcomers orientation from Aug. 10-13.

Call ACS today to sign-up or for more in Grafenwoehr at CIV 09641-83-8371 or Rose Barracks at CIV 09662-83-2650.

Parent advisory committee

Join CYSS today from noon to 1 p.m. at the Rose Barracks, CYS Services Bldg. 224. The PAC provides two-way feedback about CYSS and provides input for establishing & changing CYSS procedure.

For more, call DSN 476-2760, CIV 09662-83-2760.

Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Donald D. Hartkemeyer of Grafenwoehr Germany, should contact the summary court martial officer Mark A. Hickernell, DSN 476-2509 or e-mail mark.a.hickernell@eur.army.mil.

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

AL-ANON

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

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

For more, call CIV 0171-983-9151.

Army Family Covenant focus

A focus group will meet to determine how well the Army Family Covenant is being implemented and executed in the Europe region for Soldiers, family mem-

bers, and civilians who have been in the here for at least one year.

The meetings will be Aug. 11 and 12 at the Tower View Restaurant.

There are three focus groups. Soldiers/family members and civilians meet on the 11th, single Soldiers on the 12th; each will be two to three hours in length.

Is the Army Family Covenant working for you? Do you have feedback you want us to hear?

To Reserve a spot in the AFC focus groups please contact Melynda Weaver and Greg Fobell at usaggrafenwoehr.cms@eur.army.mil or call CIV 09641-83-8881.

Summer camp program

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

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

Seventh Day Adventist

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

Karaoke night

Come to Karaoke Night at "The Zone" Sports Bar at the Landenbruck Center in Vilseck Aug. 14. It begins at 9 p.m. Songs range from adult contemporary to old-school R&B, and everything in between. Music by DJ Mark Carr.

Wheelchair athlete

In partnership with Warrior Transition Unit and USAG Grafenwoehr Equal Employment Opportunity, the Grafenwoehr Library Presents four-time Gold Medalist in the Paralyzed Veterans of America Para-Olympics, Dr. Rory Cooper Aug 21 at the Vilseck Chapel Sanctuary, 2 p.m.

Dr. Cooper will talk about his research and contribution to OIF and OEF injured Soldiers and Veterans and his support of a new program for Families of Wounded Warriors.

A question and answer session will follow his presentation.

Graf VFW open house

There is an open house each Wednesday at 6 p.m. Business meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more, contact POC Commander, James Holliman at CIV 0160-91423858 or Post Adjutant Joe Livingston at CIV 01515 88 24074.

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>

Craft Shop activities

- Bracelet set class, Aug 7, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
- Flip-flop photo frame, Aug 13, 2-4 p.m., kid's class ages 10-14
- Tie-dye pillowcase class, Aug 14 at 1-4 p.m.,
- Ages 13 and up surprise class, Aug. 13 at 12:30-3:30 p.m.
- Earring class, Aug. 22, noon-2 p.m.
- Bracelet class, Aug. 29, noon-2 p.m.
- Framing class, held the second Wednesday each month from 6-9 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of the month 9 a.m. to noon. Sign-up in advance.

For more or to sign up for classes, call CIV 09641-83-6101.

Hohenfels Briefs

KONTAKT Club Hohenfels

Check out your local German-American friendship organization, KONTAKT Club in Hohenfels. The following activities are scheduled for the club.

Backofenfest in Raitenbuch will be Friday - Sunday. A game of Tug of War will be played on Friday.

Pizza / Backofenfest in Raitenbuch Saturday. Meet inside the main tent at 3 p.m.

Monthly bowling night will be Aug. 5 at Lane 17, from 7-9 p.m.

KONTAKT Club (Outreach) Hohenfels will be holding Board elections Aug. 8 at Bldg. 743 at 4 p.m.

Submit your name if you are interested in

running for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Chair, Youth/Teen Activity Coordinator, or member at large.

For more or for directions to the events contact Anna Maynard at CIV 0160-528-1872 or e-mail anna.maynard@eur.army.mil or Christina Wilson at DSN 466-4294 christina.n.wilson@eur.army.mil.

Testing at the Ed Center

The ACT will be given at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 5. The initial test is free for the military. This test usually takes six to eight weeks to get the results back.

The DLAB will be given at 9 a.m. Aug. 12. You must have a DA Form 4187 signed by the commander. For more, call Bobbi Jensen at DSN 466-4040.

Testing Services are offered in Bldg. 351.

Kids and teens newcomers

If you are just getting here and are looking for an entertaining way to familiarize your kids with Hohenfels, sign them up for the ACS Kids and Teens Newcomers orientation, held Aug. 10-13.

Aug. 10 is an exclusive day just for grades 1-3; Aug. 11 is for grades 4-6; and Aug. 12 is just for grades 7-12.

The orientation will include a language and culture overview, a bowling party, a hamburger lunch, a guided tour and orientation of the post and a trip to the Parsberg Eis Café. Plan on having your kids attend this valuable event.

Call ACS to sign up at DSN 466-4860.

Crocodile Dock

The Hohenfels Chapel Community is looking for adult and teen volunteers to participate in Crocodile Dock, this year's Vacation Bible School, Aug. 10-14. Training and materials will be provided.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Ginger Sain at ginger.sain@eu.dodea.edu or Brynn Fiedler at DSN 466-1570 or brynn0132@hotmail.com.

Blood drive

The Health Clinic is still taking names for the blood drive Aug. 11. The health clinic encourages applicants to pre-register to donate.

By donating one unit of blood, you could save three lives.

For more, call Sgt. Christopher Black at DSN 466-4006 or e-mail christopher.black2@amedd.army.mil. Help save fellow Soldiers' lives.

Youth sports fall enrollment

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

Offered this fall will be "Start Smart" soccer and flag football for ages 3-5; soccer for ages 6-15; tackle football for

ages 8-14, cross country for ages 8-15, bowling for ages 7-16 and cheerleading for ages 7-10 and 11-14.

Enrollment cost ranges from \$35 to \$85 depending on the sport. Fall sports enrollment will continue past the deadline, but 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 Nov. 15.

Babysitter's training class

Youth ages 11-15 years who are interested in babysitting should sign up for the next Babysitter's Training class held Aug. 15. Several slots are still available.

Students will learn basic first aid and how to supervise children and infants, choose age-appropriate games and toys, perform basic child-care skills and more. The class will be held in the SAS bldg. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$35 and slots are reserved when the fee is paid. For more, visit the Red Cross office in Bldg. 10 or call DSN 466-1760.

Hohenfels Youth Center

- Aug. 4: Geiselwind. Cost is 25 Euro.
- Aug. 6: Regensburg Pool. Cost is 10 Euro.
- Aug. 8: 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Cost is to be announced.
- Aug. 11-13: Venice. Cost is 50 Euro.
- Aug. 15: High School all-night party. Cost is \$10.
- Aug. 18: Europa Park. Cost is 25 Euro.
- Aug. 20: Nuremberg Zoo. Cost is 15 Euros.
- Aug. 23-25: Keystone Camping Trip. Cost is \$25.

The Youth Center is offering lower prices on some of the summer trips. For more, call the Hohenfels Youth Center at DSN 466-4492.

Learn life-saving skills

Combined CPR and first aid Aug. 22 will provide attendees with the knowledge and skills necessary to help sustain life in an emergency. CPR certification is valid for one year, and first aid certification is valid for three years.

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

For more, visit the Red Cross office in Bldg. 10 or call DSN 466-1760.

Estate claim

Anyone having any claims on or obligations to the estate of Capt. Mark A. Garner of Company B, 1-4 Inf., should contact the summary court officer, 2nd Lt. Daniel Meegan at DSN 466-4141.

July 31-August 2

52nd Annual, German-American




Volksfest

Camp Kasserine, Grafenwoehr, Germany

<p>Friday, July 31 11 a.m.</p> <p>11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. 2 - 4 p.m. 6 p.m. - 12 a.m. 8 p.m. - 12 a.m.</p>	<p>Opening Ceremonies Family Day, reduced prices on rides Traditional German Band, Beer Tent DJ Variety Music, MWR Tent Karaoke, MWR Tent Traditional German Band, Beer Tent Live Band Donny Vox, MWR Tent</p>	<p>Sunday, August 2 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. 2 - 5 p.m. 12 - 10 p.m. 6-9 p.m.</p> <p>6:30 - 11 p.m.</p>	<p>DJ Variety Music, MWR Tent Karaoke, MWR Tent Traditional German Band, Beer Tent Live Band Smokestack Lightnin' Rock'n Roll, Country Twang, Rhythm Blues, MWR Tent Traditional German Band, Beer Tent</p>
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VARIETY OF DELICIOUS FOOD, CARNIVAL RIDES AND MUCH MORE!



Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center presents:

Disney's Aladdin Jr.

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

August 7-8, 7 p.m. August 9, 2 p.m.

Special ticket price of \$5 per person
under age 5 is free

Tickets can be purchased at the door
starting 30 min. prior to show time on
the day of the performance.

"Produced by special arrangement
with Music Theater International, Inc."




For more information contact DSN: 475-6426 CIV: 09641-83-6426 or email: joline.powell@eur.army.mil

What's Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Now hiring

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club Thrift Store is hiring for various positions. People interested should stop by the store on Katterbach for an application.

The Ansbach Thrift Store is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m. For more, call CIV 0176-631-07391.

Foster parents needed

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program is looking for interested families to become emergency foster care providers.

The EPC program provides substitute family care for children over a planned period of time when children's own parents are unwilling or unable to care for them. If you are interested, call DSN 467-2146, CIV 09802-83-2146.

Self help Saturdays

The Self Help stores at Storck and Katterbach are open Saturdays during a test period now through Aug. 30. Store hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The stores are closed on Mondays.

For more, call DSN 467-3408, CIV 09802-83-3408.

Clinic offers physicals

The Illesheim Health Clinic offers child and youth services and Department of Defense Dependent Schools health assessments and sports physicals Mondays-Thursdays now through Aug. 31.

Spots are limited, so people should call and arrange for an appointment as soon as possible. Walk-ins are not accepted.

People taking advantage of the physicals should bring current shot records, and fill out an Infant, Child and Adolescent Health Assessment Form before the appointment. The forms are available at the Storck Barracks Child Central Enrollment Office, elementary or high school and at the clinic.

For more, call DSN 467-4512, CIV 09841-83-4512.

Sunset Paddling

Ansbach Outdoor Recreation offers the Sunset Paddling Program Wednesday evenings through Aug. 5.

The program features after-work sunset paddles on the Altmuhl River. The trip goes from the mouth of the Altmuhlsee to Ornbau and takes about an hour

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

Cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children and \$59 for families.

For more, call ODR at DSN 467-3225, CIV 09802-83-3225.

Vacation Bible School

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

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

With Operation Kid-to-Kids, children experience a sense of purpose and lots of love as they make a pair of soft and snuggly Comfort Critters!

These cute turtles say "God Cares," and include a pocket to store a friendly note. These critters are given to disaster relief organizations who in turn pass them along to kids in crisis.

Medical appointments online

Katterbach Health Clinic patients can now make appointments online. People who wish to avoid the cost and wait associated with making an appointment over the phone can log on to the Web site <http://www.tricareonline.com> and register. After that, just follow the instructions, said clinic officials.

Garmisch Briefs

A day on the "Bavarian sea"

Join us August 8 for a trip to Chiemsee, Germany's largest lake and one of Bavaria's most beautiful places.

We will visit the two ethereal islands in the middle of the lake. The first is home to "Mad King" Ludwig's "Mini-Versailles" castle. The second is home to a Benedictine convent and a cozy fishing village. Cost is \$39.

Conquer the Zugspitze

Take the challenge August 1-2 for \$120. Cost includes accommodation in a beautiful historic mountain hut and trip down the mountain on either the cogwheel train or a cable car with a spectacular view.

The Schachen castle

Travel to King Ludwig's other castle August 22 for \$85. Cost includes accommodation in a in a beautiful historic mountain hut, tour of the castle, and certified guide. This truly is the experience of a lifetime!

Theme park mania

Join the folks from Garmisch Outdoor Recreation for trips to two amusement parks.

- August 15 - Gardaland
- September 19 - Holiday Park

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

Rock-n-Rollick playgroup

Join in on all the fun at our weekly playgroup, each Tuesday from 1000-1130 at the Pete Burke Annex.

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

Schweinfurt Briefs

Teen summer stress buster

The annual teen summer stress buster event is tomorrow at Kessler Field from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Come out and enjoy recreational activities, music, free lunch, and more. For details, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Free lunch for teens

The Ledward Chapel now offers free lunch for teens Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. until July 28. For more, call 09721-96-1370.

Learn German

Want to learn how to speak German? Sign up for Army Community Service's free beginning German language class starting Aug. 3. Class is held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at Ledward's Yellow Ribbon Room and runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 two-part series, "Birth-n-Babies" at Ledward ACS Aug. 12 and 14 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, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Bulk trash

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Aug. 4 and 18. 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 information, call the SORT coordinator at DSN 354-6201, CIV 0162-270-9403.

Deployment support group

During the current deployment, many community members may need to seek guidance and support. The ACS Deployment Group meets Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

This support group is open to all Soldiers and spouses who want to share thoughts, exchange coping strategies, voice concerns, ask questions, and get feedback. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Shopping or wine

Join Outdoor Rec on a shopping trip for Polish pottery Aug. 1 or a winefest trip to Ziel am Main Aug. 2. Polish pottery trip departs at 4 a.m. and returns 11 p.m. for \$50.

For the winefest, departure is at noon and return at 5 p.m. for \$10. Call to sign up at 09721-96-8080.

Newcomers orientation

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, then the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program is the fit for you from Aug. 3-7. Free childcare is available the entire week.

For more, call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

Football for high school

High school students are invited to join the Eastern European football camp Aug. 18-21.

For more information, pick up an information packet in the Commons or call CIV 09721-96-6414.

Vacation Bible School

Children ages 4 years old to fifth-

grade are invited to join the week-long Vacation Bible School at Ledward Chapel Aug. 17-21. "Crocodile Dock" has fun in store for everyone and runs each day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Volunteers ages 14 to adult are also needed for the week. For more, call the chapel at CIV 09721-96-1370.

Actors needed

Calling all actors and volunteers for behind-the-scenes: Auditions for the next community theater play "The way of all fish" takes place at the Abrams Center Aug. 18 and 19 at 1 and 6 p.m.

For more, call CIV 0162-296-2776.

Pregnant?

Come to Army Community Service's class "OB orientation" Aug. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon to learn about your pregnancy, nutrition, resources in the community and more.

Mothers and fathers are encouraged to attend. Call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Operation Rising Star

Are you a singer? Operation Rising Star is an Army wide competition looking for the best singer out there.

Come join in the fun by signing up at the Main Exchange Tuesday for the competition held at Rohr's Diner starting Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. Sign-ups are also taken by calling CIV 09721-96-6225.

Swimming for teens

Middle and high school students are invited to join Club Beyond on trips to the local Silvana Schwimmbad Aug. 5 and 12 from 2-4 p.m.

For more information about carpooling, call DSN 354-8620, CIV 0175-666-3339.

Community volleyball

Registration for community volleyball ends Aug. 10. It is open to all I.D. cardholders age 18 and over and not in high school.

This is a co-ed team that travels on the weekends. For more information or to sign up, call CIV 09721-96-8234.

Animal park visit

Women and their children are invited to come to the Schweinfurt wild animal park Aug. 14 at 11 a.m. Bring a lunch or euro to buy lunch.

Event is sponsored by Protestant Women of the Chapel. Playground and water play is accessible for kids. For a ride or more information, call CIV 09721-942-7641.

Bamberg high school tour

Will this fall be your teen's first year attending Bamberg high school? Attend the Bamberg High School tour Aug. 5 or 12 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Community and downtown tour is also included. Depart from the Askren Manor late activity bus stop. To register, call CIV 09721-96-6517.

Write a civilian resume

For those who are job searching or updating their resume, attend Army Community Service's class, Civilian Resume 101, at the computer lab in bldg.

206 on Ledward Barracks Aug. 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

This computer workshop will provide information on the three most common types of civilian resumes.

For more information, or to sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Learn to control anger

Do you know your anger style? Come to Army Community Service's class on anger management at Ledward ACS building 242 Aug. 11 and 18 to find out ways to deal with and control your anger. The class runs from 3 to 5 p.m.

For more information or to sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Smooth move seminar

Leaving the community? Army Community Service wants to help "smooth" your transition. Attend a seminar at Ledward ACS Aug. 12 from 9-11 a.m. to get tips on packing, shipping, moving with pets and more.

For additional information, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Federal resume class

By attending Army Community Service's class "Federal Resume 101," you can learn about the Army's civilian personnel online Web site and understand how to upload and view your resume for possible federal employment.

Class is held Aug. 13 in Ledward bldg. 206 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. To sign up, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Sponsorship training

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

By attending Army Community Service's "Sponsorship Training" class Aug. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m., you will obtain skills to become a valuable resource to Schweinfurt newcomers.

Call CIV 09721-96-6933 for more.

Library book club

The library book club will meet tomorrow at 5:15 p.m. to discuss "One Thousand White Women" by Jim Ferguson. Coffee, tea and treats will be served.

For details or to join the club, call the library at CIV 09721-96-1740.

Asperger's & Autism support

Come speak with others living with Asperger's and Autism Friday 10-11:30 a.m. and expand your current support network. Class is held at ACS. For more information, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Build a volunteer portfolio

Not sure how to make your volunteer experience work for you?

Let Army Community Service show you how in a class at Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room Aug. 18 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Bring any certificates, memos, scrolls, awards, job descriptions, and pictures from past volunteer experiences and learn to put it all together in a book that highlights strengths in order to show off to family members or to apply for a job.

For more, call CIV 09721-96-6933.

Child, Youth and School Services

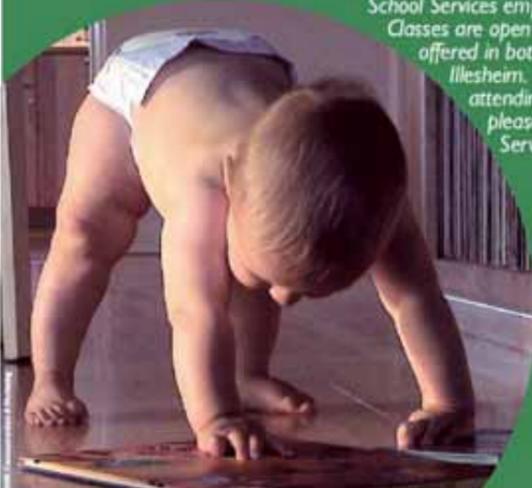
PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES

Introduction to Baby Sign Language | Ages and Stages
Child Growth and Development | Special Needs Awareness
Character Counts | Effective Guidance Practice

These parent education classes are offered on a regular basis as part of our Child, Youth and School Services employee orientation program. Classes are open to all parents and are offered in both Katterbach and Illesheim. If you are interested in attending one or more of these, please contact the CYS Services Outreach Director at:

09802.83 2531

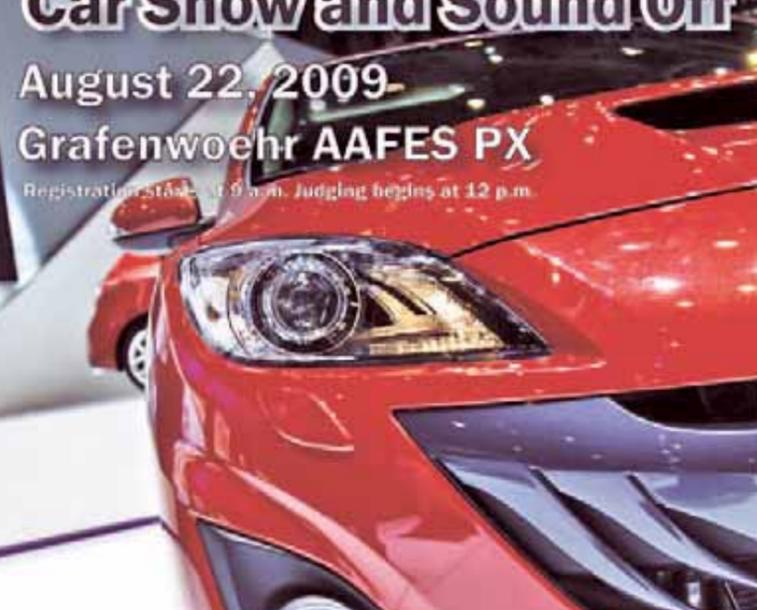
Hourly care may be available for registered CYS patrons.




7th Annual BOSS Car Show and Sound Off

August 22, 2009
Grafenwoehr AAFES PX

Registration starts at 9 a.m. Judging begins at 12 p.m.





Approaching Vernazza via the trail from Corniglia brings you to one of the most photographed views in the park.

Story and photos by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Take a moment to mentally list the places you would like to visit while living in Germany. For most, and I must admit that I also fall into this category, the list would mainly consist of cities: Paris, London, Rome, Prague, etc. There might be a few countryside locations thrown in there: the Champagne region of France perhaps, or the hills of Tuscany.

Still, it seems many of us flock to the cities first and as a result have seen little of the impressive European countryside.

Though a small region in one country is certainly not indicative of this diverse continent as a whole, Cinque Terre is a perfect place to start experiencing Europe outside of the cities.

Five Lands

Five remote towns on the Italian Riviera, the Cinque Terre, or Five Lands, remain remarkably authentic.

Though tourism is a major source of income in the region and tourists roam the streets, they do so side-by-side with locals. No high-rise hotels have squeezed their way between the colorful villas; no Starbucks awnings mar the quaint alleys.

Cinque Terre is, in many ways, tourism perfected.

The easiest way to reach these secluded gems is by car. Arriving by train or plane is possible, but would most likely require numerous connections. While probably a bit much for a normal weekend, the seven to eight hour drive from Hohenfels is quite manageable for a four-day weekend.

Remember to bring plenty of cash along for the ride. You must purchase a sticker upon entering Austria and will pass through a few tolls there and in Italy, all of it adding up to around 75 Euro one way for a car.

If you do run out of cash, don't panic. Each tollbooth, all of which are easy to understand and navigate, have credit card lanes if necessary.

Deciding where to park your car is less clear-cut. Some rooms advertise free parking spaces for their guests, though this is rare.

Parking inside the towns in scarce and winding your way out to them can be treacherous, so almost all visitors opt to park in either La Spezia or Levanto and take the inexpensive and frequent train into the towns. (From West to East the five towns are: Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore. Levanto lies West of Monterosso; La Spezia is the next town east of Riomaggiore.)

Cinque Terre card

Most travelers will find it extremely worthwhile to purchase a Cinque Terre Card Treno. The Cinque Terre park, established in 1999, charges a fee to use the coastal path (and some others) that links all five towns.

A Cinque Terre Card will allow you usage of shuttle buses and public lifts, access to the coastal trail, entrance to various museums and cultural displays, three hours free usage (upon availability) of bikes on the high paths, and a discount at park stores. The Cinque Terra Card Treno includes all this and unlimited train rides on the Lenanto to La Spezia route.

Sold in 1-, 3- or 7-day increments, access to the trail and trains alone makes the card well worth the price (a three-day pass with train costs 19.50 Euro per person.)

Trains run frequently and until late at night, so you could go back and forth between the towns all day and night if you wish; they are so close that for most it takes less than five minutes by train to get from one to the other.

Finding a place to stay within one of the towns requires a bit more work than most locations. Type 'Cinque Terre' into hotels.com and you won't find a thing in any of them (trust me, I tried.)

Yes, having to find a room by sending countless emails can be tiresome, but this is what keeps Cinque Terre so special. There are very few big hotels, none of them international megachains. Some B&Bs may have 10 or so rooms, but the majority of accommodations you'll find are small rooms (with private entrances and bathrooms) connected to a home and let by the homeowner.

There are very few places where you can sit on your porch and simultaneously watch a tourist walk back from the beach while local children

play soccer in front of the town church. Cinque Terre is one of them, and the result is magical.

The rest of the magic of the region can be found right outside of the villages, in the hills above them.

The best way to experience the scenic and historic beauty of the area is by walking from Riomaggiore to Monterosso (or vice versa) via the coastal trail (#2). It passes through family farms and each of the towns, allowing hikers to marvel at the thousands of miles of stone walls locals built over hundreds of years while they terraced acres upon acres of land. The stubborn will of man to make his land his own, while still respecting its natural beauty, is awe-inspiring here.

Not all sections of the path are traversable by every tourist, however. The section between Riomaggiore and Manarola, called the Via dell'Amore or Lover's Walk, is flat, short, and suitable for anyone while still offering amazing views.

From Manarola to Corniglia is lightly strenuous, though not suitable for small children as the path is uneven, narrow in places, and runs close to the cliff.

Corniglia to Vernazza and Vernazza to Monterosso are where the challenge lies, but so does the reward.

No matter which direction you hike, leaving town involves a steep climb up the hillside. At places the trail becomes so narrow you must place each foot in front of the other instead of side-by-side to make it through. (It is here you see how the trail must require constant maintenance and do not mind paying a small fee for the Cinque Terre Card so the park can maintain it.)

Try not to do either of these sections in the hottest part of the day, and absolutely do not take small children. Parents with babies on their backs should be very cautious as it is easy to lose your balance here. Wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring plenty of water and lots of sunscreen.

Also try to avoid the peak summer months if you really want to enjoy the trails. They are about as crowded as is comfortable in May; June

through August must be unbearable.

After you hike from one end of the Cinque Terre to the other you will most likely be hot, dusty, and ready for a swim.

You won't find many beaches here, the largest and most popular is in Monterosso, but any place where the water meets land is fair game for a dip.

The water's edge becomes crowded as people of all ages lounge on boulders and piers, having just as much fun jumping off the rocks as they would wading in from the beach.

A private beach

If you are willing to work for some privacy, a small rocky beach outside of Corniglia is well worth the effort.

From Corniglia, take the #2 trail out of town towards Vernazza. During the steep 20-minute climb you will see signs, mostly marked on rock, directing you to the beach.

When you almost reach the summit of this trail, you will see a rope tied to a tree that seems to lead down a hole into nowhere. Grab hold of the rope and ease yourself down an almost vertical drop (needless to say this is an adults-only adventure.) You will spend a good 30-minutes negotiating your way down an extremely steep and impossibly narrow path that barely hugs the cliff. Try this only during good weather: a rainy day and a slippery path could find you tumbling down the cliff.

When you finally reach the beach—where clothes are, well, optional at best—you will be more than ready for a swim in the Mediterranean to cool you down.

The beach itself, apart from the fact that it is the most secluded one you will find, is not terribly impressive, but the views on the way down are more than worth the effort.

An outdoor paradise, beach bums and foodies will also find more than enough to satisfy in Cinque Terre. The unique atmosphere of the park lies in the rare and seamless way locals and tourists manage to co-exist and that can be seen either on the trails above the town or at a restaurant table within them.

Making your way down to this secluded beach is strenuous, but well worth it for the amazing scenery.



Nowhere is the unique symbiotic relationship between tourists and locals in Cinque Terre more evident than in Riomaggiore.

Medical experts continue to monitor, stress prevention of H1N1 influenza

ERMC Press Release

Preventive medicine specialists monitoring H1N1 influenza encourage military community members to continue practicing good personal hygiene to help mitigate spread of the virus.

"We recommend following Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines: thorough hand washing, covering sneezes and staying home if you are sick," said Lt. Col. John Maza, lead epidemiologist and preventive medicine physician at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine – Europe. "Though simple, these are effective preventive measures that will help contain spread of the virus."

According to the World Health Organization, 94,512 laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported worldwide as of July 6. WHO director Dr. Margaret Chan has described effects of this flu as "moderate."

The Department of Defense reports 2,459 cumulative cases as of July 10. The number includes all U.S. military services worldwide. Though some H1N1 cases have been confirmed in U.S. military communities in Europe, Maza said there is no cause for alarm.

"CDC and DoD-approved procedures are proving to be effective in detection and treatment," he said.

Maza said appropriate steps have been implemented to track H1N1 within the U.S. military population in Europe, including surveillance, laboratory identification, testing and treatment.

If a patient presents with influenza-like symptoms - a temperature of 100.5 degrees or higher, a runny nose, cough or sore throat - a clinician should do a nasopharyngeal swab or nasal wash and submit the sample to the



Photo by Steve Davis

Members of the U.S. Army Europe/Seventh Army H1N1 Working Group conduct a teleconference with other members throughout Europe at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany. Hosted by the USAREUR/7th Army Office of the Command Surgeon, the weekly teleconference provides updates and collaborates with preventive medicine and garrison officials from across Europe, as well as with host nation and international surveillance organizations.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center laboratory for Respiratory Virus Panel testing. If the lab result is probable for H1N1, Landstuhl sends the sample to a host nation lab for confirmation or to a U.S. Air Force lab in Texas capable of performing confirmation testing, or both.

The Landstuhl infectious disease laboratory

expects to have CDC-approved confirmation processes in place later this summer to expedite the confirmation process.

Europe Regional Medical Command Preventive Medicine Consultant Col. Evelyn Barraza said patients with probable or confirmed H1N1 cases may be treated with antiviral

prescription drugs. She said priority is given to hospitalized persons and those at risk for influenza complications.

"We have been monitoring seasonal influenza for several years in the U.S. European Command area of responsibility," said Maza, a member of several pandemic working groups that monitor the H1N1 situation. "Though novel H1N1 adds a new dimension by appearing out of what is typically considered the normal influenza season, numerous international civilian and military organizations are monitoring it closely."

Maza said U.S. military services are sharing information among themselves and host nation health authorities.

The Department of Defense has also has an H1N1 influenza global surveillance "watch board" at <http://fhp.osd.mil/aiwatchboard> that is updated regularly.

The Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine – Europe maintains and updates its own pandemic influenza watch board at <http://www.chppneur.healthcare.hq.usareur.army.mil> with current clinical information and health advisories, as well as links to the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Maza advises community members to not over-react to confirmed cases or rumors of confirmed cases in their communities.

"Though H1N1 has appeared in military communities in Europe, the good news is that we can alleviate its spread through simple, yet effective, personal and community preventive measures to minimize its spread," Maza said.

For more information, visit www.pandemicflu.gov or the H1N1 flu page at www.eucom.mil. The Europe Regional Medical Command Web site at <http://ermc.amedd.army.mil> also has links to H1N1 influenza information.

Katterbach welcomes new clinic commander

Story and photo by
JENNIFER WALSH
BMEDDAC PAO

Maj. Timothy Switaj took command of the US Army Health Clinic, Katterbach from Lt. Col. Christopher Christon July 13 at the Katterbach High School.

Christon, who served as clinic commander for two years, led the clinic through a Joint Commission accreditation survey, garnered resources for warriors in transition and improved Katterbach's health care facilities.

According to Col. Steven Brewster, Bavaria Medical Department Activity commander, the clinic managed to achieve success while balancing both the needs of deploying service members and the needs of the families in the community.

"Your clinic successfully provided medical support in the deployment and re-deployment of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade without degrading patient services in the community," Brewster said. "You always kept your eye on the most important task - providing quality health care and service to those who sacrifice so much in the service of our country."

Christon, who thanked the clinic staff for their hard work and dedication,

also acknowledged the Katterbach community for their support during the past two years.

"The support as well as the patience and understanding of the community was - and still is - outstanding," Christon said. "Together we've been able to make many significant improvements to our clinic and to our local health care system."

As Christon heads to Mannheim to take command of their health clinic, Switaj steps into the role of commander for USAHC Katterbach.

"Thank you for this opportunity," Switaj said. "Although I've faced many challenges in my career to this point, the challenges I face here will be unlike any I've had in the past."

Switaj comes to Katterbach from Stuttgart, where he served as the Command Surgeon for the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

His other military assignments include an internship in Child Neurology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Surgeon for the 1st Squadron, 6th US Cavalry; and a residency program in family medicine at the Dewitt Army Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va.

His overseas assignments have included tours in Korea, Germany and multiple operational deployments.

According to Brewster, Switaj's diverse background makes him ideal to command the clinic.

"Your education and broad experience in Army medicine coupled with your strong leadership ability places you in good standing to command this fine organization," Brewster said. "And while we are somewhat different than the Special Forces community you left, you will find that making a patient's encounter in your clinic the best in Europe will be as exciting as jumping out of an airplane."

To close the ceremony, Switaj thanked Christon for his leadership during the past two years and the steps he took to improve the clinic.

He also thanked the clinic staff for their commitment to the mission and left them with his initial goal.

"I can only hope that I can step in and continue to move the clinic forward to being the best in Army medicine," Switaj said.

USAHC Katterbach's mission is to provide and facilitate compassionate, high quality care to warriors and their Families; monitor and coordinate care provided to beneficiaries in German hospitals and clinics; and support the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade and US Army Garrison Ansbach in terms of medical readiness.



Maj. Timothy Switaj assumes command of the US Army Health Clinic, Katterbach as he receives the clinic's guidon from Col. Steven Brewster, Bavaria Medical Department Activity commander, July 13 at the Katterbach High School.

Make your health clinic appointments online

It's easy to get started! Simply do the one-time registration by following these steps:

- (1) Go to www.TRICAREOnline.com
- (2) Read the Online Privacy and Security Policy and click "I Agree"
- (3) Click "Site Registration"
- (4) Read the disclaimer and click "I agree"
- (5) Follow the directions on the screen to complete your registration.



In addition to web-enabled appointments, the TRICARE Online website also provides a wealth of information and services.

Exemption allows veterinary command to care for pets of DoD civilian employees

ERMC Press Release

An exemption policy recently approved by Europe Regional Veterinary Command allows space-available preventive care for pets of some Department of Defense civilian employees at Army veterinary clinics in Europe.

The space-available exemption went into effect July 1. Preventive care may include vaccinations, health certificates and parasite control measures.

Clients may be referred to a host nation civilian veterinarian if there is no space available and for conditions requiring more involved medical treatment.

According to Army Regulation 40-905, Veterinary Health Services, an Army veterinary clinic is authorized to provide veterinary services

to animals owned by personnel enrolled in the Defense Enrollment/Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS.

This includes active duty, activated reservists or retired military personnel or other DEERS enrollees.

Those DEERS enrolled individuals must have "medical" authorized on their Common Access Card or retired military ID card.

Non-DEERS enrollees - including certain DoD civilians, school teachers or contractors - may receive an exemption on a space-available basis only. If an appointment is not available, a list of local host nation veterinarians can be provided.

For more information, call your local Army veterinary clinic or visit <http://vetcom.amedd.army.mil/commands/europe.html>.

172nd helps Army Special Forces load up, move out of Camp Tarlovsky, Iraq

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

Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade, 172 Support Battalion braved triple digit temperatures as they loaded equipment and supplies of the U.S. Army Special Forces at Camp Tarlovsky here June 27 to ensure the quick and safe relocation of the elite unit to a nearby base outside the city of Najaf, Iraq in accordance with the much publicized security agreement.

The 172 Support Bn. completed the relocation operation within 24 hours while utilizing forklifts, cranes and nine trucks moving in and out of the base with machine like precision from one secure location to another located a few miles outside the city.

Moving an Army camp is no easy task and requires planning, multiple types of equipment and the Army version of an over the road truck driver.

"We have come down here from Forward Operating Base Kalsu and have been working at this base since 9 a.m. this morning, but we expect to complete our mission by late this evening," said Spec. Gregory Stohel, Company A, 172 Support Bn. Soldier.

"Our truck is loaded down with equipment and load pallets and we're ready to move," added Stohel, a Sandy Utah resident, as he climbed inside the cab of a loaded truck headed for the new base at Forward Operating Base Endeavor.

The importance of a quick move



Spec. Gregory Stohel, Company A, 172 Support Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, jumps into a fully loaded truck and rolls away here June 27.

and meeting of timeline was briefed throughout the formation. It is important for Soldiers to be able to break-down, pack and move necessary equipment quickly, so that it can be redeployed and operational as soon as possible.

"We've got to move and shutdown this base, while getting them out of

the city before the security agreement date of June 30," stated 1st Lt. Katie J. Parke, Company A, 172 Support Bn., transportation platoon leader. "We don't leave until it's closed," added Parke.

Temperatures soared to 117 degrees Fahrenheit as one truck after another pulled in for loading and a

quick exit down the road that was lined with Iraqi combat vehicles providing security for the U.S. Army, which helped make the mission more efficient according to Parke, a Cambridge, Maryland resident.

Even during the heat of the day, Iraqi children ran and played along the secure movement route. The chil-

dren often smiled and gave thumbs up to Soldiers as they passed by.

Despite the recent quiet months that have occurred at the camp, which adjoins an Iraqi university and housing area, the Army chose to close the base by the end of June.

"Everybody knows about the Americans who live over by the university," said Capt. Tom Visel, commander of a detachment of soldiers once located at Camp Tarlovsky.

"It will probably do a lot of good that we are moving," he said.

Camp Tarlovsky, once known as Camp David, was a small-arms range to train the Iraqi Army, the National Iraqi Intelligence Agency Antiterror unit and a personal security group assigned to the Governor of Najaf," said Visel, a native of San Antonio, Texas.

The buildings at the camp looked like parts of a ghost town with only a few old posters or pieces of paper tacked to the walls. The camp's namesake, Capt. Michael Y. Tarlovsky, former U.S. Army Special Forces detachment commander, was killed in action in Najaf. His painting hung proudly still as his comrades accomplished their mission once again.

"It is just awesome what these Soldiers are doing by loading and lifting, while wearing their gear at times, in the heat from 4 a.m. to maybe after midnight, exclaimed Parke. "It has also been great working with the Special Forces Soldiers; there isn't anything we have asked them do that they haven't done."

Preventive medicine team ensures health, safety of Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu

by Pfc. BETHANY L. LITTLE
172nd Infantry Brigade

Many jobs are overlooked and underappreciated even though the fruits of their labor are evident all around. For example, the small preventive medicine staff at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, helps keep military personnel and civilians safe.

"We do a lot of different things here and other locations," said Spc. Matthew B. Hintermaier, preventive medicine technician, Charlie Company, 172nd Support Battalion. "We help protect the forward operating bases from food borne, water borne and vector borne diseases."

In order to protect the residents of the FOB, the preventive medicine team conducts a variety of tests and studies on things such as the mosquito population and water sampling.

"We keep a water log to check for escherichia coli, phiclgrhme and mineral levels," said Hintermaier an Anne Arbor, Mich., native. "To determine if the water is usable for humans, we look at the Military Exposure Guidelines for acceptable contamination levels."

The Military Exposure Guideline is designed to allow commanders to conduct risk assessments and determine acceptable levels of chemical exposure in a deployed environment.

A bigger part of preventive medicine teams job is to protect residents from insects and the possible diseases they carry.

"Here on this FOB, there are three different types of mosquitoes and one type of sand flea or sand fly, both can be dangerous to humans," said Hintermaier.

To protect the people on the FOB, the preventive medicine team sets up light traps that attract mosquitoes and sand flies, at 12 different sites, which have a high concentration of people. Setup at night and retrieved in the morning, the traps are then placed in a freezer for a few hours to be sorted 12 hours later.

"I use a microscope to sort through the insects that were collected in the traps. I look to see how many mosquitoes and how many sand flies there are," Hitermaier said. "When I'm finished sorting them, I place them into bottles based on the type of insect, label the bottle and then put it in a box with 60 other samples."

When the preventive medicine team finishes sorting and packaging, they send the samples up to be tested in Baghdad.

The traps are set up and sorted three times a week to ensure the safety of the FOB residents.

If any threat is found from the sampling, preventive medicine contacts vector control from the Kellogg Brown and Root Company here,



Spec. Matthew B. Hintermaier, preventive medicine technician, Charlie Company, 172nd Support Battalion, sorts through the insects caught in one of the light traps. After sorting through the insects, Hintermaier puts the sand flies and mosquitoes into small vials that are sent to Baghdad to be tested for diseases.

Photo by
Pfc. Bethany L. Little

and tells them where the threat is and then vector control uses a chemical pesticide at night to fog the area.

Residents can protect themselves from mosquitoes and sand flies by wearing the proper clothing and putting deet on exposed areas of skin.

"The insects tend to go for the thinner areas of skin, for example, someone's wrists or ankles," said Hintermaier.

Insects are not the only things taken care of on this FOB; preventive medicine also works with Vector Control to maintain the animal and vermin population here.

"Since the 25th of June, two stray cats and one dog have been caught on the FOB," said Bill Patsch, vector control, Kellogg Brown and Root Company.

Other animals found on the FOB include porcupines, hedgehogs, snakes, jungle cats, foxes and rabbits.

The preventive medicine job seems like an easy one, but there is a lot of hard work that is involved in what they do.

"We go to several different FOBs and work all over the Blackhawk area of operation," said Hintermaier.

The places that preventive medicine goes to are broken into two separate tiers. Tier one

includes patrol bases and joint contracting command posts, which are at a higher risk for problems because the only support the areas receive are from the preventive medicine staff here. Tier two locations are the bigger FOBs like Echo, Scania, Delta, and Rio Hillah, that don't need as much attention because KBR helps with protecting them.

"We try to focus on the Tier one locations because we're the only ones who can test and help protect those areas," said Hintermaier.

Along with taking care of other FOBs and insect control, preventive medicine also conducts inspections in various areas of the FOB. They look for possible health risks such as food contamination, safety hazards and the cleanliness of an area.

Areas that are inspected include the dining facility, Greenbeans, Pizza Hut, the barbershop and the gym. "Many people don't know what our capabilities are and don't know how to utilize us as an asset," said Hintermaier.

Many things that residents here take for granted are taken care of by the preventive medicine team. By educating the command and showcasing their expertise, the preventive medicine team hope to make an even greater impact on keeping personnel here safe from food borne, water borne and vector borne diseases.

Vector Control from Kellogg Brown and Root sets traps for all sorts of animals such as dogs and cats to prevent diseases at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.



Photo by Bill Patsch

'Unity through community' breaks new record

by **RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.**
Bavarian News

By putting a little unity into community, Ansbach reclaimed the unofficial Department of Defense record for a human formation for troop support during the Largest Desert Ribbon Event July 10 at Strock Barracks.

USAG Ansbach and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers, family members, civilian employees, local nationals and distinguished guests from the surrounding German communities united to gather more than 3,000 people into a troop support ribbon on the flightline of the installation near Illesheim.

The unofficial record breaking has its history among three communities, according to extensive Googling by the Ansbach Public Affairs staff.

Miramar Marine Corps Air Station started things off in 2005 with a formation of 800 people. Ansbach threw its hat into the record-breaking ring with a formation of 1,385 people in May 2008.

Fort Knox, Ky., got into the mix in November 2008 with a formation of 2,200 and now the record is back at Your Army Home - Ansbach.

And despite ominous storm clouds and the occasional references likening lining up the formation to "herding cats," the process went off fairly smoothly in about a half an hour.

But it wouldn't have happened at all without the efforts of all segments of the Ansbach community, said Col. Robert Doerer, 12th CAB commander.

"Unity through community," he said, noting that when everyone joins together to make events like this happen - stopping to recognize, honor and show appreciation for spouses, families and troops - it sends a powerful message.

"Everyone likes a pat on the back. It is all about the community, and at that point, it is putting the unity back in the community - a team effort."

The point was re-emphasized by Col.



Photo by Pfc. Sonya McNair

More than 3,000 Ansbach community members gather July 10 at Strock Barracks to form the largest human formation for troop support.

Christopher Hickey, USAG Ansbach commander, who said he was impressed with the turnout.

"It is great to have our Soldiers here, our garrison workforce and local German officials," he said. "It is a sign of that unity here at Ansbach between all the various groups."

While the community has experienced significant turnover in the past year, there were some who remembered last year's event and compared it to the 2009 version.

The big difference? Soldiers.

"We have a lot more people than last year for sure—a lot more guys," said spouse Jennifer

Smith. "We were very female heavy last time—it was cool to be a part of the event with my husband this time."

Her husband, Staff Sgt. Jody Smith, 2-159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, who was deployed last year, was just as happy to be a part of it.

"I'm in it!" he said about the formation. "It was an honor to be a part of it with my family."

But the ribbon formation was just one example of the unity of the day as the event also featured food, fun and entertainment, and

a special ceremony recognizing community spouses for their sacrifices and support during a Freedom Team Salute.

Smith said she was touched by The Freedom Team Salute—especially the opening comments about how important spouses are and how Soldiers could not do their mission without their support.

"It was really cool because the spouses getting pinned were getting recognized for their contributions. It is important...I cannot really explain it, it just is," she said. "It gives us a sense of pride and accomplishment - in that we are important, too - and now we are in the limelight."

In addition, single Soldiers were fired up to be a part of the day, as well, said Sgt. Wallace Marks, Ansbach Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers acting president.

"We were not involved last year because of the deployment, so this year we got to reap the benefits of it," he said.

"It is great because we are here with the people we work with, the families and the garrison staff—all the benefits that come from just being home and not being deployed."

"The interaction amongst people and their families—just look at the families and kids running around, you obviously can't get that when you are deployed," he added.

Ansbach's show of strength in numbers reaped many individual rewards, said spouse Tammy Doerer.

"This is great because it really shows what the community can do as a whole," said Tammy Doerer. "It takes more than a household and more than a unit - it really does."

"If we have the opportunity to stop and take the time to recognize people - deployed, not deployed, family members, spouses, Soldiers - it is all the better," she said.

"It really helps and means a lot when a community does recognize you. Plus, it makes you really proud to be an American."

Military Police dedicate kennel to fallen comrade

by **RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.**
Bavarian News

Soldiers from Ansbach's 527th Military Police Company dedicated their new kennel building July 8 to one of their own who was killed in the line of duty.

The kennel for military working

dogs in Oberdachstetten was named in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Allen Rodriguez, who was killed in the line of duty supporting Operation Enduring Freedom last September, said Maj. Craig Schuh, director of emergency services for Ansbach.

"It made sense," said Schuh. "Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Rodriguez was a

member of our kennel who deployed to Afghanistan with his dog, Joko, last year. To have the new facility and move it, dedicating it in his honor, just made absolute sense."

"It was the right thing to do," said Col. Christopher Hickey, Ansbach garrison commander.

"We are very proud of this facility and we pledge to keep it in top-notch condition because that is what our military police dog handlers deserve - nothing but the best. They go into harm's way with the dogs to make sure our Soldiers are safe, so they deserve the best."

Schuh added that the unit is proud of all Soldiers who deploy and sacrifice overseas in their critical missions. The unit also seeks to memorialize its fallen warriors.

"Whether they are dog handlers, aviators or whatever, if we can somehow thank the family by dedicating something to the fallen Soldier, then that is something that will go on through history," he said.

"The family will always remember that, the community will hopefully always remember that and it will be something everybody is proud of - we have honored that fallen Soldier by dedicating a building after him."

And the Rodriguez family recognized the honor.

"To me it is a special honor to

have this kennel dedicated to my husband," said Laura Rodriguez, who was flown back to Germany with their three children for the dedication. "The memory will always be there, to everybody - leaving a legacy, a reminder of who he was and how he was, and what he loved to do."

Rodriguez added that her husband had a passion for his work and was a dedicated Soldier. He told her he had the best job in the Army, as well as saying he loved what he did - playing and training with dogs all week long.

"Sergeant Rod's" troops also remembered him at the ceremony, saying he was not only a great leader, but a mentor and a good friend.

"He was a guy we worked with, but not just a Soldier we worked with and worked for, he was a friend," said Sgt. Ronald Cochran, a specialized search handler with the 527th.

However, Cochran said Sergeant Rod was tough, too. "You may not have always agreed with him, but he did have valid points and he made you look at your own points sometimes," he said. "He was a jokester. No matter what your day was, good or bad, Sergeant Rod wanted to make you happy - he wanted to make you smile."

"Sergeant Rod would come into work singing," he continued. "One of his things was, 'If you got to be at

work, you might as well have fun with it,' he would say."

Another unit Soldier spoke of his memories of Sergeant Rod.

"It is a great honor to have this building named after him because he was a unique dog handler," said Spc. Samuel Johnson. "He would set the example, as well as fight for Soldiers and getting them training."

"I learned a lot of things from him—he instilled a base foundation for me and from then, a close bond built on everything I have learned from other handlers," he added.

The new facility, renovated between November 2008 all the way up to the weekend before the dedication, cost about 930,000 Euros, according to Ansbach Directorate of Public Works estimates.

"They had to move it because of the Umlas development and because the old, tiny, substandard facility needed an upgrade," said Schuh. "The Oberdachstetten kennel has all the amenities the kennel at Umlas was lacking."

"It has a bigger obedience course in a fenced-in area; separate offices for different sections, allowing for administration and privacy needs; and compared to the six individual kennels before, there are now 21 kennels at the new facility, allowing for separation of the more aggressive dogs," he said.



Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

Maj. Craig Schuh, Ansbach director of emergency services, and Col. Christopher Hickey, garrison commander, place a wreath at the entrance of the new military police working dog kennel.

MPs seeks to reward kids for doing the right thing

by **JIM HUGHES**
USAG Ansbach PAO

Ansbach's Provost Marshal, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service are teaming up to help keep community youth safe with a little positive reinforcement.

For the second straight year, the PMO-driven Summer Safety Shoutout seeks to "Reward Kids for Doing the Right Thing," by having military police patrols identify children riding bikes, skateboards, rollerblades, roller skates and kick scooters the right way, said Maj. Craig Schuh, Ansbach Provost Marshal.

Since July 11, MP patrols start the day off getting a handful of coupons and while they're out on regular patrols they are on the lookout for children riding with the proper safety gear, Schuh said.

"If they see a kid riding a bike or a skateboard

and they have the right gear on, they ask them to pull over, thank them for doing the right thing and give them a coupon," he said. "When possible, we also try to do it in front of parents so they can see the positive reinforcement."

To provide the positive reinforcement, MWR donated 50 free bowling coupons, and AAFES provided a number of coupons for various goodies like free movie rentals, free matinees and more - with the promise to provide more if needed, Schuh said.

But exactly what is doing the right thing? According to Army regulations, everyone riding a bike should wear a helmet, and light-colored clothing or a reflective item such as a physical training belt. Skateboarders, rollerbladers, roller skaters and kick scooter riders need to add knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards.

While he doesn't have any statistics to back up his assessment, Schuh feels the program did a lot of good last year.

"We saw a noticeable difference in the number of kids out there with helmets and more parents making sure that their kids were out there doing it the right way," he said. "It's about more than coupons - you never know when an accident is going to happen. If people have the proper protective gear on, then the possibility of a serious injury goes way down."

Many community parents and children gave the program great reviews last year, but there are other fans of the program, as well - MPs.

"They love it," Schuh said of the people who patrol the community. "It gets them out there talking to parents and kids, and it helps put a positive face on people who are often viewed in a negative light because of the nature of the job."

"It helps people see that we aren't just here to write tickets and put people in jail - we're here to protect people as well."

For more on the program, call the PMO at DSN 468-1580 or CIV 0981-183-1580.



Ledward chapel summer camp, Bible study helps youth, adults develop spiritual insight

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Summer brings around kids' camps of all sorts and the Ledward chapel has jumped on board with a special program for first- through fifth-graders every Wednesday through Aug. 19.

"Genesis Journey" has already begun, but it's not too late for your child to join in the fun from 9 a.m. to noon.

Concurrently with the kids' camp, Protestant Women of the Chapel hosts a ladies Bible study also at the Ledward Chapel which is open to the community to attend.

"We intentionally planned it so that we could help out the mothers who wanted to attend PWOC. If the mothers want to go to PWOC, child care is provided," said Donna Hilley, religious education coordinator.

She also added that children can still attend the camp even if the mothers don't attend the Bible study.

"It's open to the community, but we have limited space."

For those women attending the Bible study who have children in kindergarten or younger, watch care services are provided, free of charge as well, in a different room down the chapel hallway.

While the women discuss and watch a DVD each week about the patriarchs of the Christian faith, the children in the kids' camp will learn about the beginning of mankind.

"(The kids) are going to be fed with the word of God at the same time the women are going to be fed. And it's free," said Catherine Gutierrez, president of Schweinfurt Protestant Women of the Chapel.

The first camp established the routine of the remaining Wednesdays throughout the summer.

"The part that was my favorite is when we did praise and worship," said Amethyst Mason, 9 years old. "There's just a whole lot of activities for the kids. Everybody pretty much

loved it."

The three hours for the kids consist of music, prayer, a Bible lesson, arts and crafts, games in the Ledward gym, and cooking snacks.

"It's pretty routine. We may throw in a few special things here and there. We're going to keep it very simple so the kids know what to expect each week and so that the parents feel comfortable," Hilley said.

"We cooked ants on a log ... (and) biscuits," said Allison Medina, 8 years old, about one of the morning camp meetings.

"My favorite part is when we did the crafts and when we prayed," said 8-year-old Deja Deborja.

"We made a book ... about God creating the earth," 10-year-old Nicholas Kennaugh said.

"Our goal is always to develop spiritual knowledge and integrity and also to help the kids be in a safe and fun social environment. Going through the Bible stories is just really an important part of growing," Hilley said.



Susanna Mason, left, shows her friends, Deja DeBorja and Olga Morales, the book she illustrated about God's creation of the world in the chapel summer camp that is held each Wednesday. The camp is open to all kids in the community.

Community prepares for Operation Rising Star

by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

Operation Rising Star is looking for contestants for the 2009 competition beginning Aug. 14.

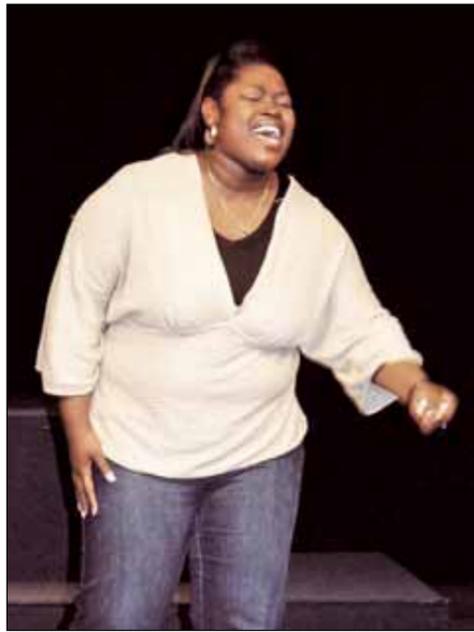
Those interested can sign up now for the opportunity to showcase their singing talent in front of a live audience.

Open to all Soldiers and family members who are ID cardholders over the age of 18, sign-ups run until Aug. 11.

"Besides being heard and sharing your talent, it's just fun. It's a once in a lifetime experience," said Garland Travis, Schweinfurt entertainment director.

Joyce Dodson, overall winner of the 2008 Operation Rising Star competition, sings after the Schweinfurt community theater performance in October 2008. Soldiers and family members are encouraged to sign up for the 2009 Operation Rising Star competition beginning Aug. 14.

Photo by Sandra Wilson



Performances start Aug. 14 at Rohr's diner beginning at 7 p.m. and run every Friday, same time and location, until a local winner is determined. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

The Schweinfurt winner will receive \$500 and advance to the televised finals. The final competition winner earns an all-expenses paid trip for two, a vocal coach and their very own three-song demo CD, explained Travis.

In addition to benefits bestowed upon the winner, local family readiness groups or units who show the most support by attending performances and casting their votes will be awarded \$300.

"It's a great event for the community to be part of. Up until last year, it was only for active duty Soldiers and reservists. Now Operation Rising Star allows spouses and family members, so we hope to have more involvement," Travis said.

To sign up, visit www.oprisingstar.com, or go to the PX Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. where a table will be set up with registration information and sign-up sheets. For more information, call CIV 09721-96-6225.

AFC continues the 'cycle of giving'

by **MARK HEETER**
Schweinfurt CI Chief

"We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive"
-- The Army Family Covenant

Capt. Joshua Buchanan and 1st Sgt. Billy Cook, the rear-attachment command team for the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, "Black Scarves," surprised two employees of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt housing division with battalion certificates of appreciation and commander's coins for their work with the battalion's families July 14.

"We just wanted to recognize two people that help out the Black Scarves a lot," Buchanan said, before honoring customer service representatives Wendy Finster and Hubert Roth in front of their colleagues.

"Every time we come over, you're very helpful and always with a smile on your face," he said, addressing Finster.

"I channel everything through Mr. Roth, because he's one of those helpful people in the Schweinfurt community," Buchanan said.

Since the covenant was sealed in October 2007, Army leaders around the world and the employees who work with them have offered concrete and measurable support to the whole Army family.

"We are in the customer service business," said Drake Gibbs, director of the USAG Schweinfurt Directorate of Public Works, which includes the housing division. "And we're here to serve and proud to be acknowledged by the people we serve."

Especially when their Soldier is deployed, families face a number of challenges and know where to turn for help, according to Buchanan.

"They have these subject-matter experts in the community that they can go to and help them with the problems – and do it in a helpful positive way," he said. "It's something they're motivated to do, and that motivates us in turn – a cycle of giving."

Finster looks at herself as part of the Army Family, she said.

"I think we're all one," she said of her approach to customer service.

"That's my thanks back. They become a friend, a brother, a sister. One family," she said.

For more information on the Army Family Covenant, go to www.armyonesource.com.

Storms bring need to secure outdoor property

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Storms come and with them heavy downpour and wind. Outdoor furniture and property can easily be lost or damaged. In addition, flooding in lower levels of residences can also occur.

With summer thunderstorms frequently forecasted, it's a good idea to know steps to take in order to safe-guard your belongings.

"Most of the time, the weather warnings are out soon enough for you to collect your things," said Gerti Mathis, Schweinfurt claims examiner.

Storm warnings and weather updates are regularly announced on American Forces Network radio and television as well as German stations and channels.

"If you look outside and it's really black ...

the common sense rule applies," Mathis added.

In preparation for any storm, individuals should secure their belongings that could take flight in gusts of wind or bring items inside away from danger.

"Either take it off the balcony or tie it to something," said Regine Stinson, Schweinfurt claims examiner.

If the item is heavy, it may just need to be pushed up against the walls for security, Mathis added. If personal property, such as a table umbrella, causes damage or injury to others, the owner of the item is responsible.

Damage of any kind that occurs due to negligence of the owner will result in personal responsibility.

When flooding takes place within a residence, individuals are urged to move belongings out of the water to dry immediately.

Leisure travel, vacations require tourist passports

by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

Taking a vacation in another country with a no-fee passport may cause trouble at the borders. Some of this trouble is due to the fact that many people aren't aware of the differences between a no-fee passport and a tourist passport.

Soldiers and their families stationed overseas are under what's referred to as a status of forces agreement with their host country, which defines the legal status of those members in the territory of another nation. To comply with SOFA, a no-fee passport is issued to service members and their families who are serving overseas, said Dennis Randall, human resources specialist for

the military personnel division.

Randall explained that people are not to use these no-fee passports for leisure travel throughout Europe, but to use a tourist, or regular-fee passport instead.

"With tourist passports, you can travel anywhere in Europe while a no-fee passport is issued by the government for you to be on official business outside the United States while your (Soldier) is stationed overseas," he said.

Recent confusion on which passport is used for what type of travel has caused problems for some Schweinfurt residents.

"We had a family get stuck in Austria with their no-fee passports and they had to pay a visa fine right there," said Nacomias Jones, MPD

customer service supervisor.

To avoid the stress of random border checks when traveling, be sure that each individual traveling is in possession of a tourist passport. Randall and Jones further suggest travelers bring both passports, just to be on the safe side.

"If you're outside of Germany with only a no-fee passport, with no tourist passport, and they just happen to have a border check, they're going to ask you what official business you are doing in that country," Randall said, adding that each country will respond to the situation based on their own national policy.

To obtain a passport, whether it is a no-fee or tourist, visit the MPD in building 40 on Conn Barracks. For more, call 09721-96-8829.

First sergeant: Train the lieutenants, take care of families, the rest falls into place

Story and photo by
MARK HEETER
Schweinfurt CI Chief

Editor's note: This is the sixth in a series of stories and items devoted to noncommissioned officers throughout the Year of the NCO.

Recalling the "light green, crystal clear" lake at the foot of the Bavarian Alps rushing toward him, 1st Sgt. Jake Stockdill truly enjoyed his latest jump – a water landing.

"It was absolutely fantabulous. It was off the back ramp of a CH53, so you walk off," Stockdill said. "Aw, man, it was awesome."

Admitting he should probably know the exact number of jumps he has made in his career – somewhere between 19 and 21 – Stockdill, with Anvil Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), seems to be enjoying jumping from aircraft as much as training his fellow Soldiers – and superiors.

"Back in the day, when I was a young Cav guy growing up, first sergeant had 140 dudes in the troop, or more. He was that one guy," Stockdill said. "He was the man."

Still, it was his platoon sergeant at the time, now a sergeant major, who taught him at least two important lessons that guide him to this day.

"I just remember him always telling me, our job as NCOs is to train those young Soldiers and train that lieutenant. Mentor that lieutenant," said Stockdill, who relishes the opportunity to help young officers develop into future commanders.

"I'm my commander's partner. He's training platoon leaders to be

future commanders. Well, that's part of my job too," he said. "If I want to take care of Soldiers, I need to take care of those lieutenants."

The second lesson: send your subordinates home in time to enjoy time with their families.

"You've got to get home and take care of your family. Because if you get home and take care of your family, and that part's good, this part in the office is going to be easy. Because you're going to be focused," he said, noting that anyone whom he outranks goes home at the same time he does.

Stockdill considers himself fortunate to have the broad experience of having been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, but, understanding the toll deployments can take on families, demands his Soldiers devote time to their families.

"There's going to be exceptions to that all the time. Especially when we get close to the deployment, close to packing out. Yeah, I'm going to have days when I'm not going to leave the office until 2100. I know that. But if I make up the time now, the Soldiers will be focused when that time comes," he said.

Younger noncommissioned officers are quick to point to Stockdill as an example, their model NCO.

"The thing I respected most about 1st Sgt. Stockdill is that he really cared about us, and you could see that," said Sgt. Donnie Bass, who deployed with Stockdill.

"He was like our big shield, like, stop, boom, no way," Bass said, during a training exercise in March.

"He taught me so much, and he actually took the time out of his day to



1st Sgt. Jake Stockdill, Anvil Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), talks terrain with Capt. Nick Talbot in the Camp Robertson Training Area during an exercise in March.

get with us and teach us," Bass said.

As the Airborne Cav prepares again to deploy, Stockdill stresses to his Soldiers – and young officers – that they focus on basics of their skill that can be applied to any combat theater.

"Our common ground has become wider and wider and wider," he said, explaining the challenges that such a heavily deployed and experienced force

brings from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This fight's going to end. If they don't know how to establish an OP, an observation post, to set and establish it and know what equipment to take, because they've been so focused on kicking in a door, when that time comes for them to be a staff sergeant, what good are they?" he asked. "If they don't understand the principles of

reconnaissance and the fundamentals of security, when this fight is over, they're not going to be any good," he said.

In addition to having the experience of fighting in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Stockdill has been a Ranger "leg" and a member of a mechanized Cavalry Squadron.

All that before jumping into lakes in the heart of Bavaria.

Black Scarves rear detachment team tackles mission stress through classroom training, physical activities

Story and photo by
EMILY ATHENS
Bavarian News

During deployments, the rear-detachment command of any unit must work long hours to accommodate the needs of Soldiers and families

while maintaining support for the forward command operating downrange.

According to Travis Reynolds, outreach program coordinator for Army Community Service, it's important for the rear detachment to not only stay focused on the things they're responsible for but to also take some time to

think about their own well-being.

In an effort to highlight the importance of stress reduction, Reynolds visited the rear-detachment personnel of 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, the Black Scarves, July 10 where he conducted a brief class on the nature of stress, its effects and symptoms and how to fight it.

"I want to make sure the awareness is still there. I've been on rear-d myself and the important thing to know is not to feel like you have to resolve everything by yourself. It's a huge responsibility, and it's very easy to get overwhelmed by what your mission is and what your duties are and forget about yourself," Reynolds said.

Cpt. Joshua Buchanan, Company D commander of the Black Scarves, explained that the stress class is a step towards proactively taking care of those working with the rear-detachment team.

"We have a small team here that takes on a big mission for a long period of time. It's important that we take the time and resources out over the course of that period to take care of ourselves. The rear-d needs to sustain their own well-being so they can help support the

families and Soldiers across the community," Buchanan said, adding that those who attended the class had the opportunity to share stories, receive advice, take a step out of the office and briefly recharge for the mission at hand.

"We do a lot of teaching, but (in the class) we do less teaching and encourage more dialogue. What makes the difference here is that people have an opportunity to express themselves as opposed to listening to someone," Reynolds said.

Following the classroom portion, the Soldiers took a trip to Conn Barracks to play paintball.

According to Reynolds, paintball and other activities of the sort encourage assembly and cohesion of the group.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Purcell, who attended the stress relieving activities, explained how the break from work was beneficial.

"It just helps you explore ways to deal with stress that you might not have already worked through as a group. Not only do we sit down and work through some of it ourselves, but it's the realization that there's a program Army wide that's being used to address the situations of stress," he said.

Travis Reynolds briefs the rear-detachment team of 1st Battalion 2nd Infantry Regiment July 10 about the different aspects of stress and how to overcome it.



Schweinfurt alcohol and drug control officer receives top award

by **EMILY ATHENS**
Bavarian News

One of the programs aimed at maintaining Soldier readiness is the Army Substance Abuse Program, an Army wide program to reinforce Soldiers' physical, mental and emotional well-being.

The guidance of the alcohol and drug control officer on each installation encourages encouragement and fosters success. From Army garrisons worldwide, one

such ADCO stands out.

Gerry Warner, with the USAG Schweinfurt, was recognized by the Department of the Army as the ADCO of the year during an annual ceremony at the Texas Behavioral Health Institute in Austin, Texas, July 6.

"I'm honored to accept the award, but I accept it on behalf of my team because they are really out there accomplishing the goals that we've set forth through the years," Warner said.

To be considered for the award, an individual must be nominated and fulfill various eligibility requirements. Nominations then work their way up the chain of command to the Department of the Army, explained Warner, adding that she would not have been recognized without command support.

Warner joined the Schweinfurt

ASAP in 2002 as the clinical director. After five years, she assumed her current position where she manages and monitors the program, which entails taking care of budgets, evaluating prevention and training, and setting and implementing program goals.

"ASAP is all about prevention, intervention, deterrence, and treatment. We're here to educate about how substances can physically have an impact on individuals.

"We're trying to be innovative about getting the message out about health and wellness. And I'm approachable if they have a problem and don't know how to get through the barriers," she said.

Three prominent objectives of the ASAP program stand out and deserve more focus, according to Warner.

"One goal is to break the stigma, and that's a tough goal until society can look at alcoholism as a brain disease instead of a moral issue.

"Another goal is to reduce the health problems that are caused from overindulgence and reduce the number of legal problems. And then the ultimate goal is readiness. We want to give the commanders Soldiers that are ready to go," she said.

Having been a military spouse of 30 years, Warner realizes the sacrifices that Soldiers make, and she remains committed to their health, putting them on the top of her priority list. In addition, she acknowledges the hardships families may face alongside their Soldier.

"Serving Soldiers is my number one priority. I'm dedicated to the military.

My love for my country, my love for the Soldier, and also the families and the sacrifices they make... I want to set them all up for success," she said.

Being recognized as the Army ADCO of the year demonstrates that her proactive contributions to ASAP have not gone unnoticed.

"Ms. Warner is dedicated to the Soldiers, family members, and civilians of USAG Schweinfurt. She is constantly on the alert for options to enhance well-being and to promote an environment that encourages prevention of drug and alcohol problems.

"She is outstanding in her management of the ASAP program and the community is richer for her being a part of our community," said Dr. Catherine Manos, USAG Schweinfurt ASAP prevention coordinator.



Warner



U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Will Jones competes in the Peeewe division long jump competition July 18 at the Child, Youth and School Services track meet.

Grafenwoehr track meet highlights skills, builds confidence in youth

Story and photos by
JOY AWE
Bavarian News

Ninety young athletes from military posts around Germany gathered July 18 at the Grafenwoehr

Fitness Center for the final meet of the Child, Youth and School Services track season.

The competitors ranged in age from 6 to 15 years old and were divided into four age categories, including Peeewe (6-7), Minor (8-9),

Bantam (10-12), and Junior (13-15).

Each age division ran a 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, 800 meter, 1600 meter and 4x100 relay. A 50 meter dash was held for the Peeewe division as well. The kids also competed in discus, shot put, softball throw and long jump field events.

The Kaiserslautern, Heidelberg, Hohenfels, Schweinfurt and Grafenwoehr/Vilseck military communities were represented at the meet.

Medals were awarded to the first, second and third place finishers in each age division for every event, and everyone who took part in the meet received a participation ribbon.

Although there were many winners in the individual events, no overall winning team was chosen at the meet.

"When it comes to determining a winner overall, we don't do this with CYS because it is a friendly environment and everybody wins," said meet organizer Alaire Highsmith, acting director of CYS Sports for U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

Peeewe, Minor and Bantam athletes were allowed to compete in up to three events, while Juniors had the option of competing in a fourth event.

Parents and volunteers were a crucial part of the event's success.

"There's a lot of planning that goes into this. It all depends on getting a lot of volunteers," said Highsmith. "If I did not have that, I don't know what I would have done."

While parents from each installation were present in the stands to cheer on their team, the Schweinfurt parents were particularly noticeable, having a great time and cheering very loudly as their team members won many of the events.

"It's so much fun, it's a lot of



Competitors admire their medals July 18 at the Child, Youth and School Services track meet held in Grafenwoehr.

team work," said Jamie Mazza of Schweinfurt, who was there to cheer on her two children, Kylee, 10, and Cody, 13. "It's a lot of fun for them, you get to meet new people, and just enjoy yourself and travel."

At the conclusion of the meet, four men from Grafenwoehr's Noncommissioned Officer Academy took part in an exhibition 4x100 relay race, competing with a girl's and a boy's team from Kaiserslautern.

The boy's team from Kaiserslautern won the relay in 52.99 seconds, beating the NCO team by nearly a second. The girls finished in 58.28

seconds.

Regardless of who won, participants said they went home happy and tired from a long day of running and cheering on their teammates. Organizers said they hoped the children took more than medals home with them.

"It's a confidence booster," said Highsmith. "They strive for the best always, and with them coming out here and running, they can not only make friends but they can know how to compete. I think it really helps moral and confidence and brings the kid's self-esteem up a lot," she added.



Above: Zachary Kamara, Grafenwoehr, competes in the Peeewe division long jump competition. Below: Competitors race to the finish line July 18 at Child, Youth and School Services track meet held in Grafenwoehr.



YOUR TEAM IS IMPORTANT TO US!

If you're having a team or unit function let us know! Contact your local public affairs office today.

BDENTAC welcomes new commander

Story and photo by
MELISSA WOLFF
Assistant Editor

Col. Theresa Gonzales took command of the U.S. Army Dental Activity Bavaria July 15 in a ceremony in front of numerous distinguished guests at the Rose Barracks Memorial Gym. She takes command of the BDENTAC which is composed of two detachments and seven dental clinics throughout Bavaria.

Gonzales replaces Col. John Etzenbach, the commander of the BDENTAC for the past three years.

During his time in command, Etzenbach facilitated many transitions, and while three dental clinics needed to be closed, Etzenbach and his team were able to transfer personnel such that not

a single member of the team lost their job. At the same time, Etzenbach moved his own headquarters from Wuerzburg to its current home in Vilseck, a transition that was described by Col. Randall Ball as seamless and particularly impressive considering "the immense geographic dispersion of his clinics"

Ball, commander, Europe Regional Dental Command, praised Etzenbach particularly for his talents as a leader, his "leadership under periods of adversity and masterful management of delivering care during a period of enormous increase in support requirements has been nothing short of outstanding."

Gonzales takes command with experience as a clinician, researcher,

and teacher.

Gonzales specified the values and goals which she wishes to instill in her unit as she addressed the audience, "What needs to be done is a renewed commitment to this organization in the advancement of this DENTAC in this region and responsible stewardship of the dental profession in general.

"This demands a commitment to live and defend the climate and the culture that we want to permeate our ranks and our profession," she said.

And as the Bavarian DENTAC moves forward, Ball passed the advice along to its new leader, "It is all about the people, lead with the talent, the purpose, and the instincts that have brought you to this point in your glorious career."



Col. Randall Ball, commander, Europe Regional Dental Command, passes the guidon for U.S. Army Dental Activity Bavaria to incoming commander Col. Theresa Gonzales July 15.

AFAP suggestions may influence Army policies

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Garrison Vicenza, Italy, AFAP conference that others in community – family members and civilians – are not afforded the same opportunity.

In an information paper that went to all participants of the USAREUR steering committee, it was noted that "the risk of public knowledge and retaliation affects the number of reported cases, decreasing the number of those who seek treatment, thereby adversely affecting the Army's overall mission."

"The restricted reporting option," the paper stated, "allows victims to come forward and seek medical treatment, a forensic exam and counseling services without triggering an investigation ... thus minimizing the stigma experienced by most victims of sexual assault."

"Frankly, I was astounded when I heard about

this difference in the reporting of a crime that is so devastating to victims," Ham said. "It needs to be changed."

As for spousal preference, military spouses currently are not permitted to choose when and if they invoke such status when applying for permanent federal employment.

During the application process, spouses are automatically listed MSP eligible, and when the wife or husband of a servicemember accepts or declines their first job opportunity, MSP is lost.

This issue was brought up during an AFAP conference at USAG Schinnen, Netherlands, where it was noted that the inability to selectively use MSP hampers the financial and professional goals of military spouses.

"Again, this is another family matter that deserves a review at the highest level," Ham said, "which is why I'm approving for it to be forwarded

to the Army's DA-level Army Family Action Plan General Officer Steering Committee."

This is the 25th anniversary of AFAP, which in that time has brought about 107 legislative changes, 154 policy changes and 173 improved programs or services, including:

- Increased military annual leave carryover;
- Expanded Exceptional Family Member Program respite care;
- Creating the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program;
- Establishment of Military Thrift Savings Plan;
- Authorized dental and vision insurance coverage for federal employees.

The latest approved AFAP issue is the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which goes into effect Aug. 1 and is the biggest military educational benefit since

World War II. Under this bill, servicemembers' spouses and children may be eligible for education benefits.

"It is this type of result that makes the Army Family Action Plan such a worthwhile endeavor," said Jane Helfrich, chief of Installation Management Command-Europe Army Community Service. "The people involved with AFAP help to ensure the standards of living in the military keep pace with changing times."

Overall, the AFAP process allows commanders "to hear the voice of people in our communities," added Bonnie Thomas, coordinator for the 2009 Army Europe Army Family Action Plan Conference held in June, which delivered the 14 issues considered by the Europe AFAP Steering Committee.

"It's a process that let's community members identify issues and possible solutions."

Quality of life gets upgraded with SRM

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make possible at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

New roofs, modernizations, solar panels and building expansions along with many smaller projects will take place at USAG Grafenwoehr under the SRM grants, distributed yearly by Installation Management Command Europe to garrisons for just this purpose.

Robert Hasty, chief of the Department of Public Works engineering division, who is responsible for implementing the funds, said their goal is to "give the Soldiers the ability to better accomplish their mission ... by providing the comforts of home." He went on to explain the importance of understanding and addressing the needs of the community. The funds, he said, are an important part in their job as engineers to maintain the garrison.

While the distribution of the SRM budget is a yearly occasion, each year certain projects receive a primary focus, such as the barracks renovation, and other exclusive funding. These "augmented"

grants ensure that more substantial modernization and renovation projects have adequate money set aside, but also that smaller but necessary projects aren't lost in the budget.

In addition to augmented funds, \$1.5 million has been allocated for numerous "small" projects of less than \$100,000; while \$11 million has been allocated to 37 "large" projects requiring more than \$100,000 to complete.

Large projects will also include the installation of new energy producing photovoltaic cells on barracks roofs. Photovoltaic cells, which are solar panels that have the ability to directly convert sunlight energy into electricity, will reduce the cost of utilities as well as produce enough electricity to sell back to the electrical grid. Approximately \$1.5 million have been allocated through SRM funding at USAG Grafenwoehr for this and other energy-specific projects.

More visual impact of the SRM money will be seen through the renovations made possible by

the community-specific funds. In Grafenwoehr, \$4.5 million will be set aside for community projects.

Building 103, recently converted into the garrison's performing arts center, will be renovated to better support Moral, Welfare and Recreation and the new performing arts program.

The installation of air conditioning and other essential upgrades to building 103 will do much to modernize one of the oldest buildings on post.

The Community Mail Room and Post Office are also expected to expand to allow for 500 to 1,000 more mail boxes with the possibility of up to 100 package boxes.

The funding will also support numerous small projects that range from increasing handicap accessibility to the gym to scoreboards for the softball fields near the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center.

In all, nearly \$31 million will be put into the USAG Grafenwoehr infrastructure this year through SRM.

More troops to provide relief for U.S. Soldiers

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peak in the coming year and abate over the course of the next three years."

Some 130,000 American forces are in Iraq and 58,000 are in Afghanistan, where an influx of deploying troops will bring the number to 68,000 by the end of this year, defense officials said.

"These additional forces will be used to ensure that our deploying units are properly manned, and not to create new combat formations," the defense secretary said, adding that the decision was made after consulting with the Army's top military and civilian leadership and with the backing of President Barack Obama.

Gates, who has described the defense budget as "zero sum," said the cost of the Army increase would be absorbed in funding already allocated

in the budget for the next two fiscal years.

"We will take that money from someplace that isn't as high a priority as (adding) more Soldiers and taking some additional steps to relieve the stress on the force," he said. "This is a very high priority."

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared alongside Gates, and also weighed in on the decision.

"I've grown increasingly concerned over the last year and a half about stress on the force and our ability to meet the demands out there," he said.

"This temporary increase helps us address that concern. It will also help us get a better handle on (time at home between deployments) and boost the number of people we can deploy with the capabilities our commanders most need."

C'mon in!

Ana Wallace, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr food service officer, Pvt. 2nd Class Matthew Perry, 615th Military Police Company, and Patrick Sonneman, supervisory food services specialist, cut the ribbon to a new entrance to the USAG Grafenwoehr Dining Facility, July 20.

The new entrance, near the DFAC parking lot, coupled with future enhancements to the serving lines will allow the DFAC to handle an increase in customers anticipated in the fall.

Photo by Andy Bailey



Parents encouraged to register students early, lock-in resources

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high school students register early as there are seven classes that must be fit into each students' schedule.

Duane Werner, Viseck High School principal, expressed similar urgency, saying, "We had 74 percent of our projected enrollment registered last week. As classes are assigned, students who are not yet registered may not get the classes they want if they register late."

While some parents may not realize the importance of registering early, others that worry about hassle are assured by Tonia Ramer, mother of a 10th-grader and 2nd-grader, that "it took no more than five minutes at each school to re-register my boys."

To make the process easy, parents must ensure they are prepared with the proper information and paperwork.

Parents of returning students should have updated phone numbers for work, home and cell phones; home address; and two updated emergency contacts if previous contacts have moved.

Having updated shot records on hand

will allow the school to ensure the student is immunized.

New families, in addition to the above listed items, will also need a copy of orders with dependents listed, students' birth certificates, previous school records and one state-wide emergency contact.

If living off the installation, parents will also need to visit one of two school bus office locations at either Netzaberg Elementary School or Vilseck High School.

To receive a bus pass, they will need to bring their physical address and the name of the school that the student will be attending.

All schools are open to take registrations for the remainder of the summer.

Parents are advised, however, not to wait until the last week before school to get students enrolled.

If parents have not registered their students for the 2009-2010 school year, they are encouraged to do so by Aug. 1 to ensure that their student has a place to hang his or her backpack on the first day of school.