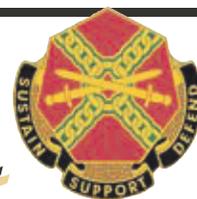




Students head to school Aug. 31 ... See stories inside

Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 23 Serving the communities of U.S. Army Garrisons Baumholder and Wiesbaden Aug. 27, 2009



Photo by Karl Weisel

Students in grades one to 12 head back to classes Aug. 31. Kindergartners will start school Sept. 8 and Sure Start classes begin on Sept. 15.

School starts: Renovated classrooms, several new administrators to greet students

By Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

“We’re looking forward to a great year,” said Danny Robinson, principal of Baumholder Middle High School, in anticipation of the start of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe classes next week.

While most students head back to school Aug. 31, kindergartners start Sept. 8 and Sure Start classes begin Sept. 15.

School liaison officers Peter Witmer in Wiesbaden and Pamela Johnson in Baumholder reminded parents who haven’t yet registered their children to contact their schools immediately. Even though Sure Start openings fill up quickly, said Witmer, Sure Start does

have openings throughout the year for families that meet the criteria.

“Child, Youth and School Services also have a wide range of programs for early development including the Strong Beginnings program which may meet your child’s needs,” said Witmer.

Baumholder schools

Baumholder Middle High School teachers and students will find a host

of school improvements when they return, said Robinson. “The building has been refurbished.”

“Workers spent most of the summer working on the middle high school,” said Johnson, explaining that new flooring, lockers and shower facilities are among the enhancements.

Robinson pointed out that Baumholder Middle High School now offers **See School starts on page 16**

Inside



Reader feedback

“Stick-to-it-tiveness,” is the most valuable lesson Baumholder’s Christopher Hercules said he learned in school. See page 2 for more feedback.



Transformation

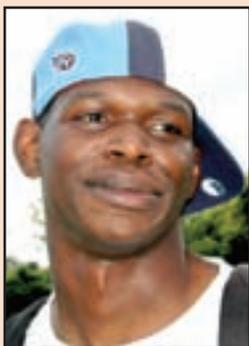
Wiesbaden community continues to evolve as construction projects go full steam ahead. See page 3.



Preparing for Iraq

Members of the 1st Armored Division thank local national leaders for their support during deployments. See page 7.

Feedback: What's the most valuable lesson you learned in school?



Sgt. Justin Brandon
66th Military Intelligence
Brigade, Wiesbaden

"Mathematics. That's the best thing you need to know and that you take away from school."



Gayle Fabiano
Baumholder Directorate
of Plans, Training,
Mobilization and Security

"What I learned is that school is more important than you realize and will affect your future in more ways than you can imagine right now."



Patrice K. McCray
Baumholder Plans, Analysis
and Integration Office

"I have found, the more I learn, the more I (realize) I really don't know much. However my professors have cultivated a hunger in me that drives me to become Dr. Patrice McCray. Soon I will be a cultivator of that same hunger in others."



Pfc. Ebony Martin
24th Military Intelligence
Battalion, Wiesbaden

"To get straight As. I learned it was better to have a higher grade point average to get into college."



Maj. Charlie Slosson
66th Military Intelligence
Brigade, Wiesbaden

"The most important thing I learned was time management ... you have to know how to balance all of your responsibilities."

Get involved in education

By **Lawanna H. Mangleburg**
Department of Defense
Dependents Schools-
Europe Kaiserslautern
District Superintendent



The Kaiserslautern School District welcomes you to the 2009-2010 school year. As a new or returning member of Team Department of Defense Education Activity, your contributions to the school and its programs are an important and meaningful part of our partnership in education.

As DoDEA and Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe continue to implement new initiatives and refine others, your involvement in all school/district education programs is essential and greatly appreciated.

In addition to our continuing efforts to study data to inform instructional practices, teachers will be involved with the pre-implementation and implementation of new curriculum materials in certain subjects, an ongoing renewal cycle for the

system to ensure we are using the most updated, research-based materials and best practices. All teachers will also be involved in the DoDEA initiative of differentiating instruction to ensure we reach all learners and meet the needs of all students in our schools. Our focus on ensuring for highest student achievement through continuously refining our professional practices is the focal point of our professional development and efforts.

I invite you to join the teachers and administrators, support staff and Kaiserslautern District Office personnel in forging a collaboration of common goals, values and priorities. Please come to our schools and become actively involved in the educational plan for your son or daughter. We welcome volunteers and hope you will get involved in the Parent Teacher Associations and Organizations, the School Advisory

Committee and School Board meetings.

The Kaiserslautern District is committed to providing every possible opportunity for each student to become a productive member of society and prepared for the 21st century. We need your help in making this goal a reality. Research clearly indicates that when parents take an active role in the education of their children, student achievement increases significantly. In order to ensure the development and continuation of quality programs and optimal educational opportunities for students, I encourage all members of the community to become involved in our schools.

It is our commitment to ensure that your child(ren)'s quality education is a top priority, that we do everything in our power to ensure the Kaiserslautern District represents American education at its best and that every action we commit is for the purpose of supporting our children.

Continuously improving schools

By **Frank E. Roehl**
Department of Defense
Dependents Schools-
Europe Heidelberg
District Superintendent



As we approach the 2009-2010 school year, I suggest we work in close partnership with you, our parents, to build a foundation for success in providing an exciting and challenging educational program for your sons and daughters. The administrators and teachers of the Heidelberg District schools in the communities of Wiesbaden, Mannheim, Stuttgart and Heidelberg are committed to enlist your support and feedback to give us a collective insight for continuous improvement.

We live and work in the transforming environment of the U.S. Forces in Europe. Our

primary purpose is to support the military and civilian personnel assigned to the communities in our district by providing a safe, secure and robust educational program to your school-age children — there is no higher calling. Your children's education is a high priority, quality of life program that is important to the accomplishment of the missions of the U.S. Forces. We take this challenge very seriously, but to ensure we are accomplishing our mission, we implore you to work with us by communicating your questions and suggestions to the teachers and administrators in our schools.

I encourage all parents and com-

munity members to support our students by visiting our schools and taking part in the multitude of opportunities and events the schools offer and by modeling for our students the importance of their education. A quality education should provide challenging, interesting, and relevant work for all students. This is only possible when all of the greater school community communicate and contribute to enhance programs for our students for their continued success as outlined in our DoDEA Community Strategic Plan.

I am honored to lead the Heidelberg District as superintendent of schools and look forward to a very successful school year for all of our students.



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News flash

Medical Ball

U.S. Army military and civilian medical professionals in Europe are invited to the European Army Medical Department Regimental Ball Sept. 19 at Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Social hour starts at 5 p.m. followed by dinner. Tickets are \$30 for O4s/E7s and above; \$25 for O1-3s and E6s and below. Visit <http://ermc.amedd.army.mil> for tickets and information.

Illinois veterans' bonus

A bonus of \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for foreign service is payable to a veteran who was a resident of Illinois at time of entering service, served at least 60 days on active duty between Sept. 16, 1940, and Sept. 3, 1945, and received an honorable discharge. Survivors are entitled to a benefit of \$1,000 if the veteran's death was service connected and within the period specified. A \$100 bonus is also payable to service members who served during one of the following periods — Korea (June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953), Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1961 to March 28, 1973), Vietnam (April 29-30, 1975), Persian Gulf (Aug. 2, 1990 to Nov. 30, 1995) or the Global War on Terror (on or after Sept. 11, 2001). The claimant must also be in receipt of one of the following medals — Korean Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary medal Vietnam Era or the Southwest Asia Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. The claimant must also have been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately before entering the service and received an honorable discharge. Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf may apply before discharge by also including the Armed Force Certificate. Visit www.veterans.illinois.gov/benefits/bonuspayment.htm for more information. (Courtesy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 27)

Public Affairs survey

Help us better serve you. Log on to www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the "Public Affairs Survey" link (bottom right) to let us know which products you rely on for information.



Transformation: Wiesbaden construction projects in full swing

Change is coming to the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden in the form of big projects with big price tags.

Through the summer of 2012 the Transformation Stationing Management Office will be overseeing more than 150 construction projects intended to transform the garrison at a cost of more than \$300 million.

"Wiesbaden is an enduring installation that needs new and renovated operational, housing and community support facilities to support the units and organizations assigned here," said Roger Gerber, the garrison's transformation and stationing officer.

As the U.S. military continues its reduction of troops stationed in Europe, American military bases are being consolidated.

The 5th Signal Command is currently moving from Mannheim to Wiesbaden, and the move will be completed by summer 2010.

The next notable phase of transformation for the garrison follows the 1st Armored Division's redeployment when the unit's headquarters will relocate to Fort Bliss, Texas.

Consolidation of the 7th Army headquarters and command aviation is expected to be the final phase of the Wiesbaden transformation.

Upgrades to community support facilities and housing, construction of new buildings and major renovations for operational facilities and overall improvements to infrastructure are underway as the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden is planned to support 3,200 military members, 3,300 civilian government and contract personnel plus their families.

Upgrades include:

Wiesbaden Army Lodge

Cost: \$32 million

The new 164-room hotel complex on Mississippi Strasse is within walking



Photo by Karl Weisel

Construction crews demolish one of four buildings in Hainerberg Housing to make way for future landscaping.

distance of the commissary, Hainerberg Shopping Center and the new Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Slated to open this winter, the four-story Army lodge will offer a fitness room, guest laundry areas on each floor and 92 family suites with separate bedrooms and kitchenettes. The new hotel will replace the existing American Arms Hotel in downtown Wiesbaden — used by the U.S. military since the 1950s to house visitors and PCSing Soldiers and their families.

Wiesbaden Entertainment Center

Cost: \$8.8 million

Next door to the lodge is the new 27,000-square-foot entertainment center which is expected to open in spring 2010. The state-of-the-art facility includes a 16-lane bowling alley, a restaurant, multi-purpose rooms for meetings and parties, a video game area and a Java Cafe. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District commander, Col. John Kem, called the center a "one-stop amusement zone."

New WAAF Housing

Cost: \$133 million

Up to 324 townhouses, duplexes and single-family homes will be erected on 101 acres on the southern edge of the Wiesbaden Army Airfield. The housing units — a combination of single houses, duplexes and townhouses —

will be the first Army-funded townhouse community in Wiesbaden. Work will begin on the new housing area roads and infrastructure in September. Vertical construction on the new housing is slated to begin in spring 2010.

New Child Development Center in Hainerberg

Cost: \$5 million

Funded as part of the Army Family Covenant initiative, the Hainerberg Child Development Center is one of four new CDCs to be constructed from the AFC funding in Europe.

Construction of the new Hainerberg CDC will begin this fall. The facility will be able to accommodate 105 children ages 10 and younger.

The new CDC will be built between the Wiesbaden Teen Center and the Hainerberg Chapel.

Other projects include:

A \$5.18 million multipurpose center for the Hainerberg Elementary and Middle Schools will be completed in March 2010.

A new ball field on the north side of Wiesbaden Army Airfield will soon be ready for play.

Various renovation projects throughout the Wiesbaden housing areas will add up to about \$50 million in improvements. The improvements are part of the Army's push to eliminate inadequate family housing in Europe.

For more on transformation in Wiesbaden and the latest impacts of ongoing construction and renovation work, visit the garrison's home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the Transformation Update link (bottom right). (Compiled by Jennifer Clampet and Roger Gerber)



Photo by Karl Weisel

Work continues on the new Wiesbaden Entertainment Center in Hainerberg Housing.

Housing crisis assistance offered

From the blotter

Compiled by
the U.S. Army
Garrison Wiesbaden
Directorate of
Emergency Services

Aug 6

Baumholder: A Soldier and his spouse were charged with assault and damage to property after striking each other and damaging the balcony door window.

Wiesbaden: A noncommissioned officer was charged in a traffic accident after striking a bicyclist.

Aug 7

Wiesbaden: Two Soldiers were charged with assault after an altercation turned physical.

Aug 8

Baumholder: Two Soldiers were charged with assault after an altercation turned physical.

Aug 9

Baumholder: An officer was charged in a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Wiesbaden: A family member was charged in a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Aug 10

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged in a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Aug 11

Baumholder: A family member was charged in a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Aug 12

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with use of a controlled substance after failing a urinalysis test.

Wiesbaden: An NCO was charged in a traffic accident after striking a vehicle.

Aug 13

Baumholder: A family member was charged with shoplifting.

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Aug 14

Baumholder: A family member was charged in a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Persistent stateside economic problems are hammering the U.S. real estate market. And many people within the Army community — service members and their families, along with civilian employees — are finding themselves unable to make monthly payments, rent homes or have loans where the appraised value of the houses is less than the mortgages.

In a recent memo to senior leadership, Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, commander of Installation Management Command, wrote: "The current housing situation continues to affect Soldiers who have purchased homes; those living in rentals; and (those making) government-directed moves for permanent change of station and Base Realignment and Closure relocations."

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

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has two programs to assist people, including those affiliated with the military: the Homeowner's

Assistance Program and the Making Home Affordable Program.

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

Recovery Act

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

The groups are:

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

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

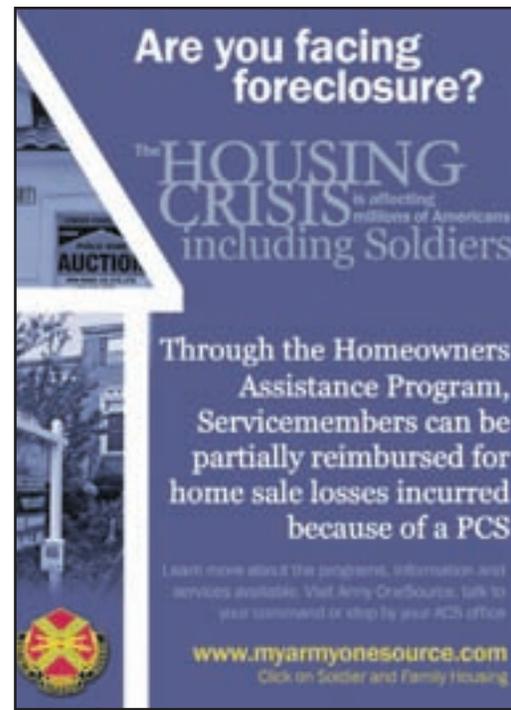
PCS: Normal permanent change of station moves, but only on a retroactive basis that covers PCS moves that occurred from July 1, 2006, through Dec. 31, 2009.

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

The other initiative boosted by the Recovery Act, the Making Home Affordable Program, might fill the gap for people who

are affiliated with the military but are not eligible or do not qualify for HAP. MHAP helps homeowners with refinancing.

For more information on specific program criteria or to apply online if eligible, visit www.myarmyonesource.com/SoldierandFamilyHousing for links to HAP and MHAP. (Courtesy of the IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs Office and American Forces Press Service)



Express your views on customer service

By Camille Howes
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Customer Management Services
Program Manager

Customers who live, work or do business in U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden have an opportunity now through Sept. 18 to provide detailed feedback on all of the post's services. The 2009 annual Customer Service Assessment, which falls under Customer Management Services, is the Installation Management Command's annual Army-wide program for collecting customer feedback and using the data to evaluate and improve the delivery of installation programs and services. The assessment is intended to answer the all-important question affecting resource allocation in IMCOM — "What does it matter to Soldiers and to their families?"

Several installations partici-

pated in the survey in 2008 with more than 20,000 individuals completing the survey. The customers — leaders, Soldiers, family members, retirees, veterans, civilian employees and contractors — provided information about the importance of programs and services, as well as rating how well the installation is providing services for them.

The assessment is web-based and can be accessed at www.myarmyvoice.org.

When individuals take the survey, they will be asked to provide demographic data that will automatically direct them to the appropriate assessment questions. In that way family members or retirees, for example, will not be asked to rate services such as the Central Issue Facility or the



Ammunition Supply Point — two services used by Soldiers and their leaders.

Within the survey customers will be asked to rate service "performance" on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), and "importance," also on a scale of 1 to 5. The assessment will ask that all low ratings be explained so importance and performance issues can be clearly identified.

Data provided by commanders, command sergeants major, first sergeants, senior civilians and senior staff will also be captured. They will also rate the "performance" and "importance" of installation services but in relation to the accomplishment of their organization missions.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Soldiers and their

families to directly affect how services are provided at their installation. All customers will be able to rate how well the services they receive match their expectations. IMCOM can use this feedback to improve services, which should ultimately affect Soldier and family quality of life.

The more customers in each category who take the 10 minutes to complete the assessment, the more accurate and substantial the data collected. The data will be returned to the installation in November where it will be used to identify and document best practices and inform garrison leadership of services where customers say there are concerns.

For more information about the upcoming Customer Service Assessment call mil 337-7766 or civ (0611) 705-7766.

News flash

Amateur radio license exam

A test session for the U.S. Federal Communications Commission amateur radio exam will be held Sept. 26 at noon (arrive at least 30 minutes early) at the Feuerwehrhaus in Berschweiler (postal code 55777) near Baumholder. Bring your U.S. mailing address, Social Security number, a legal photo identification and a copy of any current FCC license or CSCE. Test fee is \$15. Email Jo Heyse at Joachim.w.heyse@exxonmobil.com or visit www.qsl.net/dl4vcw/vec.htm for more information.

Less AAFES shoplifting

High-tech surveillance systems and an aggressive youth shoplifting awareness campaign helped “take a bite out of crime” at Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities last year, according to AAFES officials. Shoplifting cases dropped 15.7 percent — from 7,635 in 2007 to 6,437 in 2008. The value of merchandise involved in the incidents also fell — from \$985,244 to \$686,000. AAFES, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to Air Force Services and Army Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus its efforts on reducing theft to maximize the investment authorized shoppers make in their exchange benefit. If shoplifting is suspected, AAFES loss prevention associates turn the issue over to local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act, which began March 1, 2002, allows AAFES to enact a flat, administrative cost (Civil Recovery) of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise. (AAFES Corporate Communications)

Army Family Covenant Survey available online

Army officials remind Soldiers and their families that they can play an active role in how tax dollars are being spent to improve their quality of life. By providing feedback about the services and programs supported through the Army Family Covenant, individuals help determine where services can be altered, expanded or reduced to better serve their local communities. Visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the “Army Family Covenant” link.



German-American friendship

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Bettencourt leads the 1st Armored Division Band at the opening of Wiesbaden's Rheingau Wine Fest. Mainz invites people to its Wine Market in the Mainzer Stadtpark Aug. 27-30 and Sept. 2-6.

Photo by Anemone Rueger

How to transfer Post-9/11 benefits

Education Center officials have provided helpful hints for service members interested in transferring their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

But before requesting benefits transfers, military members are encouraged to discuss their options with an education counselor. For more information call the Wiesbaden Education Center at civ (0611) 705-6205, mil 337-6205 or the Baumholder Education Center at civ (06783) 6-8893 or mil 485-8893.

To transfer benefits to a dependent:

☞ Apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill at www.vabenefits.gov/vonapp/main.asp. Be prepared to submit supporting documents such as verification of service with

mobilization orders, DD214, etc. The Veterans Affairs issues letters of eligibility detailing payment tier, eligibility dates and number of months entitlement.

☞ Go to the DoD website at www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB and complete the application to transfer benefits. Once the application is completed and submitted, service members should revisit the TEB site to check on the status of the request which can be found in the top left corner of the site.

☞ The military member's service will review the application to determine eligibility.

☞ After a request is approved, dependents should visit www.vabenefits.gov/vonapp/main.asp and click on start VONAPS. The

dependent will be asked to create a password. Then the dependent should select the VA-22-1990E from the drop-down menu and complete the application. Each dependent will receive an individual Certificate of Eligibility.

Are you eligible?

Requirements for transferring benefits include having served six years on active duty or in the select Reserve and be able to serve an additional four years. Transfers to spouses can be used immediately. But service members must complete 10 years before children can use the benefits.

What about those with 20 years of service and plans to retire?

☞ Eligible to retire before Aug. 1, 2009, and on active duty/select reserve on Aug. 1, 2009, would qualify with no additional service.

☞ Having an approved retirement date Aug. 2, 2009, through June 30, 2010, have no additional service requirements.

☞ Eligible after Aug. 1, 2009, but before Aug. 1, 2010, would qualify with one additional year of service after approval to transfer his or her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

☞ Eligible between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, would qualify with two additional years of service after approval to transfer.

☞ Eligible between Aug. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, would qualify with three additional years of service after approval to transfer.

Teach children about how to stay safe on way to and from school

By Christine Bruce

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Safety Office

With school about to start now's the time to sit down with your children to remind them about how to observe all traffic signals and rules to get to school safely.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children offers the following 10 tips for teaching children about school safety:

☞ **Instruct your children** to always take a friend, always stay in well-lit areas, never take shortcuts.

☞ **Walk the route** to and from school with your children pointing out landmarks and safe places to go if they're being followed or need help.

☞ **If anyone bothers your children** or makes them feel scared, teach them to trust their feelings, immediately get away from that person and tell you or another trusted adult.

☞ **Always provide supervision** for your young children to help ensure their safe arrival to and from school.

☞ **Instruct your children** to leave items and clothing with their names on them at home.

☞ **Ensure current and accurate** emergency contact information is on file for your children at their schools.

☞ **Teach your children** if anyone tries to take them somewhere they should quickly get away and yell, “This person is trying to take me away” or “This person is not my father/mother/guardian.”

☞ **Teach your children** if anyone follows them on foot to get away from that person as quickly as possible.

☞ **Instruct your children** to never leave school with anyone until they've checked with a trusted adult.

☞ **In the event your children may be lost** or injured, make sure they carry a contact card with your name and telephone numbers such as work and cellular. This card should be hidden from plain view.



Teachers ready for new school year



By Chuck McCarter
*Federal Education Association
European Area Director*

As the summer winds down, the Wiesbaden community focuses on the beginning of another school year.

Just as students and families prepare for the new year, so do teachers. After a summer that may have included travel and relaxation or course work and study, teachers focus on starting the year off right.

“I’m rested and had a great summer,” said Pat Best, fifth-grade teacher at Hainerberg Elementary School. “I read some fabulous books, traveled a little and enjoyed time with my family and friends. I’m ready for a great start to school year 2009-2010 and am looking forward to meeting and working with this year’s students and parents. This will be a good school year.”

Susan Lane, Hainerberg third-grade teacher said, “I am so proud to be a part of the DoDDS teaching force where so many teachers do not take the summer off, but go back to school (on their own time and at their own expense) so they can continue to challenge their students for the next school year, along with being re-energized with new ideas.”

Students in most DoDD schools will

begin on Aug. 31, while most teachers started back to work on Aug. 26. Schools use three days for meetings and planning, and teachers use the time to prepare their classrooms and lessons for the coming year. Many teachers will put in extra hours those days, as well as working through the weekend, to ensure the first day is a positive and successful one for students. Since teachers may teach from 18-150 students a day, being prepared and starting off the year right is important.

Research shows one key to success for students is supportive and involved families. Each school in Wiesbaden will host an open house. When parents attend, students see firsthand the partnership formed and that their parents are on board as far as classroom and school expectations.

As with many organizations, it is best to work through the “chain of command” when you have questions about your child’s school, starting with the teacher.

Teachers in the Wiesbaden area are represented by the Federal Education Association, which is a state affiliate of the National Education Association. There are a variety of resources available on

the NEA website for parents as well as teachers. One such resource is an Internet safety program offered by NEA’s Health Information Network. To access the free program and newsletters about helping families ensure students’ safety on the Internet, go to www.bnetsavvy.org.

DoDD schools are fortunate to have caring and dedicated teachers who are experienced in working with the needs of their students. They provide a stable and supportive environment for a transient population and for students whose parents may be deployed. DoDD schools also set high expectations for students and have been studied by other school systems and universities for our consistently high test scores and small achievement gaps.

As Susan Lane, a veteran of many years in the classroom explains, “At the Food Court recently, one of my students from last year’s third-grade class came barreling up to me ... almost knocking me over to give me a gigantic hug and smile. She then proceeded to ask would I “Pleeeeeeease” consider moving up to fourth grade to teach for this school year so she could have me as her teacher again. That’s what keeps me excited about teaching every year.”



Photo by Chuck McCarter

Wiesbaden Middle School teacher Donna Kimelman gets her classroom ready for the new year.

Operation Rising Star

Performers, spectators compete for cash prizes

Your vote counts in the selection of the local winners in the Operation Rising Star 2009 eliminations.

Similar to *American Idol*, you can support your favorite singer and have fun doing it. Be there on elimination nights and you have a vote.

This year’s Operation Rising Star competition kicks off Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Other dates are Sept. 11, 18 and 25.

Singers will compete for the chance to advance to the Army-wide finals by submission of a video of their performance to the Army Entertainment Division panel of judges.

The top 12 finalists will be selected from the videos and will move on to the live finals at the Wallace Theater on Fort Belvoir in Alexandria, Va., where they will be scored by a celebrity panel that includes music industry executives, recording artists and retired 12th Sergeant Major of the Army

Jack Tilley.

“I have been fortunate enough to judge this competition for four years, and every year it gets better and better,” Tilley said.

“With the deployment and stress on the military, I think it’s important to get the family members involved in the contest and showcase their talents. I’m always amazed at the quality of performances,” Tilley said.

Audience votes will make up 50 percent of the determining score at the local competition.

“It’s very important to have an audience at the local competition,” said last year’s winner, family member Joyce Dodson. “You could be a better singer than your opponent, but if they invite their whole brigade to cheer them on and you’re there with only your immediate family or a few friends, there’s no way you’re going to win.”

“I was working at the Schweinfurt In-and-Out-Processing Facility and my husband was stationed in Bamberg ... and I sent all of them emails

reminding them to turn out and vote for me,” she said.

Come out, be part of the audience and part of the fun, when Operation Rising Star kicks off. Every vote counts on your local star’s road to Hollywood.

Family Readiness Groups or a local unit might even take home the \$300 “Spirit Award” for turning out to vote. Participating locations, information about last year’s winner and additional promotional information can be found on the website at www.oprisingstar.com.

Hunting, fishing, sport shooting enthusiasts sought for programs

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation is further developing its Hunting, Fishing and Sport Shooting Program. The office is looking for hunters, anglers, sport shooters and archers to participate in the programs.

The Hunting, Fishing and Sport Shooting Program will offer the services traditionally provided by a rod and gun club.

By joining the Wiesbaden program, participants

receive reciprocal membership privileges at any rod and gun club in Germany. Those who sign up will also be able to participate in hunting, fishing and sport shooting opportunities offered in the community.

Once Outdoor Recreation develops the roster of participants, the office will ask for volunteers to serve as chairpersons for the hunting, fishing, sport shooting and archery disciplines.

Once those positions are filled, Outdoor Recreation will hold an election for the selection of leaders and the creation of an advisory committee for the program.

Stop by Outdoor Recreation at Building 1046 (near the Shoppette) on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, or call mil 337-5760 to ensure you are registered as a hunter, angler, sport shooter or archer.



Photos by Karl Weisel

Brig. Gen. Ralph O. Baker (right) and fellow Soldiers help local national leaders sample Meals, Ready to Eat during a visit to the 1st AD's Command Post Exercise on Wiesbaden Army Airfield Aug. 12. Photo left: Frank Schleehuber, government relations officer for 5th Signal Command, describes the operations center to the visitors.

1st AD trains for Iraq mission

Local national leaders thanked for support of Soldiers, families during deployments

By Jennifer Clampet and Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

Two new agreements between the United States and Iraq governments have changed the combat rules for American troops.

The nonbinding strategic framework agreement and a security agreement have carved out a different mission and a whole new playing field for 1st Armored Division troops set to return to Iraq by the end of the year.

"We're doing less and less combat operations," said Brig. Gen. Ralph O. Baker, 1st AD deputy commander, during a Command Post Exercise tour Aug. 12 attended by several local German leaders.

"This time next year (August 2010), there will be no combat operations (by U.S. troops in Iraq)."

The 1st AD will head to Iraq this winter for its third deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In preparation for assuming command and control operations of U.S. forces around Baghdad and in western Iraq, 1st AD is holding a series of training events.

"We're a command and control headquarters for many other units," said Lt. Col. Eric Bloom, 1st AD's public affairs officer, explaining that 1st AD's Headquarters will replace 1st Cavalry's when it deploys sometime around the December time frame and will serve under III Corps from Fort Hood, Texas.

Bloom explained that with Iraqi security forces having taken control of Iraq's cities, American forces are providing an advice and assistance role.

"They are a growing army becoming a very professional army," said Bloom, "and they have been able to take control of their own security. ... If the Iraqi security forces ask for our assistance, then we will be there to help and train them."

Baker explained that in the new strategic framework agreement, the United States has pledged to work with the Iraqi people to help sustain the country during political and cultural issues.

The security agreement gives the U.S. legal authority to operate in Iraq, requires U.S. troops to use the Iraqi legal system to detain and arrest anyone in Iraq and also sets Dec. 31, 2011, as the date the United States must have combat troops out of Iraq.

"We will judge success by us doing less and the Iraqis doing more. And we're very close to that already," said Baker.

With a "crawl, walk, run" approach to the division's latest training, Bloom said 1st AD leaders began the process with a battle-command seminar by sharing lessons learned with the current unit in Baghdad, holding a Command Post Exercise on Wiesbaden Army Airfield Aug. 17-21 and will head to the Joint Multinational Training Command in Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels for a Mission Readiness Exercise in late September/early October.

"We're doing numerous battle drills," said Bloom, explaining that the training exercises in Wiesbaden and Grafenwöhr are intended to train and familiarize division staff members with current Multi-National Baghdad procedures to fully understand how to operate within the assigned sector in Iraq. "We're checking what every person must do to be effective. It's a very precise process to coordinate."

Bloom added that 1st AD's area of responsibility, to be known in the future as U.S. Forces Central, will include al Anbar province (the region to the west of Baghdad) with U.S. Marines relinquishing that task "We're expanding out," he said.

Walking into the intelligence cell of the 1st AD's CPX command post, Baker explained the progression of Iraq's intelligence gathering.

"We used to (gather all of the information) ourselves and capture the insurgents all by ourselves. Then we started giving this information to the Iraqis. Now we're teaching Iraqis to do this themselves,"

said Baker.

During the division's projected 12-month deployment it will also be expected to take on a large, logistical mission, said Bloom. With current agreements between the United States and Iraq calling for U.S. forces to leave the country by the end of 2011, withdrawing equipment will take extensive planning.

Baker noted that by Aug. 31, 2010, the U.S. troop numbers in Iraq are expected to be downsized from 130,000 to 50,000.

"All of the things we brought in we'll now have to get out of the country. We'll have to work very closely with our logistical folks to move our equipment out of Iraq to ports in Kuwait and Jordan. ... That's a major endeavor," Bloom said.

"We wanted to stress how much we appreciate all of the support we receive from the local national communities. The community relationship we have is wonderful. Our families will still be here when we deploy and that support is something we really do appreciate."

Members of the division are expected to return to Wiesbaden after the deployment and then begin preparing for the division's eventual move to Fort Bliss, Texas.

On Aug. 12 local national leaders including Claus Baum of Wiesbaden

Citizen Affairs; Georg Weitzmann, president of the Erbenheim Am Wasserwerk Garden Plot Association; and Mayors Regina Maass, Wolfgang Reinsch and Rainer Pfeiffer of Delkenheim, Erbenheim and Nordenstadt respectively spent several hours with Baker touring the unit's CPX.

After a demonstration of how the division headquarters will operate in Baghdad using a downed helicopter computer simulation as an example, the local leaders were invited to sample Meals, Ready to Eat rations.

"We wanted to stress how much we appreciate all of the support we receive from the local national communities," said Bloom, about the mayors' visit. "The community relationship we have is wonderful. Our families will still be here when we deploy and that support is something we really do appreciate."

New system streamlines moving with the military

The backbone of the new Defense Personal Property Program gives customers 24-hour access to personal property shipment information throughout the entire moving process.

For service members, military civilians and their families, permanent change of station moves are a stressful reality of military life. To streamline the process and promote quality of service, the Department of Defense created the Defense Personal Property Program.

The main component of that program is the Defense Personal Property System which was designed to automate and simplify the PCS moving process.

Local Personal Property Processing Offices can help customers set up their Defense Personal Property

System accounts. The Wiesbaden garrison's Personal Property Office can be reached at mil 337-6472 or 6892.

Customers can also click on the "Defense Personal Property" link under helpful links at www.wiesbaden.army.mil for step-by-step instructions to set up customer accounts online. Once the account is established, customers can manage their personal property shipments, request deliveries, file claims and complete customer satisfaction surveys.

Customers can receive email notifications throughout the moving process; thus customers are encouraged to maintain email addresses that are valid both at the beginning and end of the moving process.

An important feature of this new program allows

service members to have a direct voice in determining the quality of movers they and their fellow service members receive. The system captures customers' assessments of their moving process in a 12-question evaluation called the Customer Satisfaction Survey. The evaluation scores are used to rank moving companies awarding top performing companies with more shipments.

Before beginning any household goods self-counseling in the Defense Personal Property System, customers must first contact their Personal Property Processing Office to determine if the type of shipment they have is eligible for movement in the system. *(Courtesy of the Wiesbaden Personal Property Office)*

Garrison rewards employees for customer service

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden leaders in cooperation with Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Commissary Agency and Medical Command officials awarded the following employees for excellent customer service for the month of July. All awardees

received a certificate of appreciation; civilian employees received an on-the-spot cash award; Soldiers received a three-day pass. The following people were acknowledged for providing a consistent level of customer service, and their performances were dually noted

by customers who submitted comments to the Interactive Customer Evaluation system and coworkers:

Master Sgt. Walter Cuebas, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security;

Kari McCormick, Wiesbaden

Health Clinic readiness specialist;

Joe Gladney, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation assistant;

Israel Deschaine, Directorate of Logistics food service worker;

James Nemes, Directorate of Logistics food service worker;

Yolanda Fernandez, Human Resources Office passport agent;

Henry Mims, Human Resources Office administrative assistant;

Dante Pasetto, DFMWR recreation assistant at the Auto Skills Center;

Joseph Cooper, DFMWR facility manager at the Auto Skills Center.

Nominations are submitted monthly to the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office and are evaluated by a special committee that includes representatives from garrison directorates and staff agencies. Employees become eligible after completing customer service training.

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Training, Soldiers and laughter

An American Soldier's tale of training with the German forces

By **Sgt. Brandon Moreno**
1st Armored Division
Public Affairs Office

After seven days in the field with a squad of German soldiers, I learned there are things about the military that bridge countries and cultures.

I had conducted a pre-deployment exercise to train on weapons and tactics at the Lager Aulenbach Baumholder training area with German soldiers from the Zentrum Operative Information.

I'm sleeping on what?

At the training area I was met by a noncommissioned officer who issued me some linen and a G36 rifle — a German 5.56mm assault rifle. On the way to the training site, the roads turned from pavement to brick and from brick to gravel.

We arrived at a clearing and what looked like an old horse stable. It turned out I would be sleeping in that structure. The German soldier who drove me spoke only a few words of English, but it was clear from the way he pointed and waved that he wanted me to grab my gear and follow him.

After setting down my gear, we tore trash bags off of a roll and started filling them with hay.

Oberfeldwebel (Staff Sgt.) Christian Lill, a broadcaster with Zentrum Operative Information Dezernat Betreuungsradi, told me this would be my bed for the next two nights.

I was skeptical. But before I could say anything, Lill looked at me, smiled and said "this is very comfortable sleep. You will see."

I looked at the neatly arranged plastic-covered pillows of hay before falling on to them like I would on to a mattress. Hay exploded into the air. I lay there while my squad laughed at me. Sure enough the makeshift bed was more comfortable than my own bed.

By my second beer ...

The wet rainy day quickly went by as we trained on various patrol tactics. By midnight my squad members and I finished the shift, and we were allowed to sleep.

At 4:30 a.m. we were awak-

ened by loud music local to Afghanistan. Day two was a lot of the same training with the addition of pulling myself across a metal wire and tying knots.

By the end of the day most of my squad members were tired, bruised and ready to go to bed. The leadership had other plans. The smell of burning wood and marinated chicken filled the air as soldiers set up disc-jockey equipment.

I sat at a table tearing a piece of chicken apart when Oberfeldwebel (Staff Sgt.) Dominic Kilger, a broadcaster with Zentrum Operative Information Dezernat Betreuungsradi, asked me if I wanted a beer. I stopped what I was doing and looked at him unsure if he was serious.

The thought of drinking alcohol during a training event seemed so alien to me. I told him "No I don't think that is such a good idea."

"Why don't you want to drink with me?" Kilger asked furling his eyebrows. I didn't want to upset my new comrades so I grabbed the Weisbier and took a sip. By the second beer I found myself exchanging patches with the soldiers. Three hours later I was in a complete German uniform.

Grenades get laughs

Two days later back at the base I was introduced to my new team members — five privates who had just graduated from basic training. They all seemed slightly intimidated by the whole situation. Every attempt at getting any kind of candid answer or a smile seemed pointless.

Sometime in the late morning, we pulled up in a bus to lush rolling hills where we would throw practice grenades. The new privates all went first, and when it was time for me to go, I was kind of nervous. I can't throw things very well.

I tried my best, but sure

enough when I attempted to throw a fake grenade left it went right. Later that day my soldiers stated they were kind of nervous about throwing real grenades, and I told them "just be scared when I throw them." They all broke out in laughter.

Shoot like a German

When it came time to fire the G36, I was excited. I had never fired one before. But after a few ranges, I was pretty comfortable with the German rifle. I even convinced the NCO to let me fire the German machine gun, the MG3.

Without too much instruction I was able to figure out the weapon. Lill asked me if I was ready, and I said "yeah." He pointed to the top of a five-ton truck and told me to get in.

I climbed to the top and secured myself, and the truck took off on the bumpy dirt road. When our team leader gave me the go ahead to let some rounds off, I shot at the targets in three- to five-round bursts until I was out of ammo.

We finished the scenario, and Lill told me he was very impressed. "You shoot like a German," he said with a smirk.

"I shoot like an American," I replied in a sarcastic tone.

We both laughed.

Laughter was the same

During the seven-day training event, I really bonded with my group.

By the end, the German soldiers said everything in English even to each other. I started to feel like one of them. Those moments of feeling like the strange foreign guy had passed.

I think it's rare to meet a team that clicks so well especially one that has cultural differences to overcome. But what it really came down to is that even though the jokes might have been different, we all laughed the same way.



Photo by Oberfeldwebel (Staff Sgt.) Christian Lill
Sgt. Brandon Moreno, with 1st Armored Division
Public Affairs Office, fires a G36 rifle during a German
pre-deployment training exercise.



Photos by Jennifer Clampet

Having a ball



Soldiers of the
66th Military
Intelligence
Brigade enjoy
a game of flag
football during
Organization
Day Aug. 13 on
the Wiesbaden
Army Airfield.
Photo left: First
Lt. Arturo Avila,
2nd Military
Intelligence
Battalion, walks
his dog Cash,
a 1-year-old
French bulldog,
on the parade
field during or-
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Community notes ... Community notes

Hot water outages

The ESWE heat supplier will perform emergency work on the main heat distribution line in Aukamm Housing Sept. 2, 3 and 9. The following buildings will be without hot water starting at 9 a.m. Sept. 2 — Wuerttembergstr. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13-23, 25, 27, 29, 31, Schleswigstr. 17-19, No. 07267 (Aukamm Elementary School area). The following buildings will be without hot water Sept. 3 starting at 9 a.m. — No. 07238 Wuerttembergstr. 2 and No. 07240 Wuerttembergstr. 4. The following buildings will be without hot water Sept. 9 — Hamburgstr. 1-31; Rheinlandstr. 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58; Bremenstr. 1, 3, 5, 7. All efforts will be made to restore hot water by 5 p.m. For more information call Mr. Robinson at civ (0611) 705 5344.

Closed for Organization Day

Many of the garrison's Directorate of Logistics offices will be closed starting at noon Sept. 4 for Organization Day activities. This includes the Personal Property Processing Office, Central Issue Facility, Installation Property Book Office, Driver's Testing and Transportation Motor Pool. The

(Wiesbaden Dining Facility and SATO Travel Office will have normal hours that day.

Tax Relief Office moves

The Value Added Tax Office has moved from Outdoor Recreation to Building 1023E, Room 211 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

PWOC Fall Kick-off

The Wiesbaden Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all military community women to join their Fall Kick-off Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel. Enjoy fellowship, sing songs, meet friends and learn about upcoming fall Bible studies which start Sept. 15 with morning studies at 9:30 a.m. at the WAAF Chapel and at 6 p.m. at Hainerberg Middle School (Room 160). Contact Pam Kesling at civ (0611) 734-2845 or email Wiesbaden-pwoc@hotmail.com for more information.

Fire Department Open House

The Wiesbaden Fire Department invites Soldiers and families to its Open House Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its location on Sankt Florian Str. 1 (next to Mainz-Kastel Housing). It will feature demonstrations, children's events, food and drink stands.

Marriage Retreat

A Marriage Retreat, sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Chaplains Office, will be held Sept. 8-11 at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch. Transportation, lodging and food will be provided. Call mil 337-6867.

Health/Wellness Fair

Stop by the Wiesbaden Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 17 to pick up a wealth of information on health care benefits and wellness opportunities.

Andrews seeks staff

Andrews Federal Credit Union has openings for a full-time teller and a human resources generalist. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Apply at www.andrewsfcu.org.

Casualty assistance training

Sergeants first class to command sergeants major, chief warrant officers 2-5 and captains and above must attend Casualty Notification Officer and Casualty Assistance Officer training sessions to be certified for CNO and CAO duties. U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden will conduct CNO training Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Building 1032, Classroom 4 on the Wiesbaden Army Airfield. CAO training will be conducted Sept. 10 in the same location from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Once the formal classroom training is completed, certification is provided and annual refresher training is then completed by the individual using the CNO and CAO training programs located on the DA Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center website. For more information contact Sean Crady at mil 337-7668 or by email at sean.cradyc@eur.army.mil. Unit reps should email Crady and provide a list of unit attendees by Sept. 4.

AAFES/DeCA Advisory Council

The AAFES/DeCA Advisory Council will meet Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. in Building 1023W, Room 210 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. The council meets to discuss issues about the exchange and commissary.



Photo by Jennifer Clampet

New 1st AD senior NCO

Maj. Gen. Terry Wolff (center) hands a saber to new 1st Armored Division Command Sgt. Maj. William Johnson during a change of responsibility ceremony Aug. 14 at Memorial Park on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Johnson takes over from Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwell who served five years in his post with 1st AD. Wolff referred to both men as having college degrees and common sense in abundance. Blackwell reflected on the ceremony's setting saying, "We must always remember those who have fallen."

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Program helps protect endangered species

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

A number of endangered or protected species such as the swallowtail butterfly, sand lizard, yellow iris flower and the exotic *Zygaena carniolica* moth are thriving on Baumholder's military training area.

Baumholder's Directorate of Public Works Environmental Office has developed and implemented an Environmental Management System that helps protect the environment that serves as a habitat for these endangered species.

Baumholder's Environmental Management System is mission focused and compliant with international standards as outlined in ISO 14001, "which is an organized, formal approach to managing an organization's environmental risks. It is based on a proven business model for continual improvement consisting of four parts: plan, do, check and act," said Dominic Mutinda, environmental branch chief. The standard aims to reduce the environmental footprint of an organization and to decrease the pollution and waste it produces.

"We now need to sustain our EMS and continue to improve our environmental programs," said Mutinda.

The EMS is not a new program. "It's a program that is used in industry. The main purpose of it is to try to eliminate or minimize environmental risks," said Mutinda.

Having an EMS that conforms to international standards is not the end of the story. "Now that we have a compliant EMS, we need to maintain it," said Mutinda. Control mechanisms have been built into the system to help keep Baumholder's EMS on track.

Reporting tools

"One of them is that on a quarterly basis we report through the environmental quality report program how we are doing in our EMS program.

"Also, every year we have an internal EMS audit that we conduct to control ourselves and see if we are doing what we said we would be doing," said Mutinda.

So why does Baumholder need an Environmental Management System?

"Number one, we consider aspects, aspects of things we do here that have a potential to impact the environment, positively or negatively. Then we prioritize them and set up objectives and targets to try to minimize the risks that are associated to the things that we do

here," said Mutinda.

"Currently we have four significant aspects that we want to consider. One is solid waste management. We have chosen this because with the closure of our landfill we pay a lot of money to dispose of solid waste. So if we start conducting an aggressive recycling program we will be able to eliminate some of the recyclables that would normally go into the solid waste containers. The end of it is we'll be paying less if we do a good recycling program," he said.

"The other aspect is hazardous waste and hazardous material management programs. The environmental office selected these programs because the majority of negative findings during an external audit appear in this area. Most of them are violations to the host nation environmental laws, so we want to minimize those risks because otherwise we will run into the danger of getting notices of violations, which is a bad thing to get," said Mutinda.

"The last one is managing medical waste. Medical waste has been a program where the disposal of regulated medical waste has not been tracked. Our plan is to implement this program

and manage it so that any time medical waste is removed from garrison we can document it, and we can trace where it was taken," said Mutinda.

Having an environmental management program is only half the battle. "Our concern is to get the people within the garrison to understand the importance of EMS. We're doing this by outreach programs, awareness, training, training that reaches the Soldiers and the civilians who work at the garrison," said Mutinda.

"This is not only for garrison personnel. It also includes contractors who do work on behalf of the garrison. The main thing is to make them aware that anything we do on a daily basis has some impact on the environment either negatively or positively.

"The idea is to have a continual improvement of our environmental programs so that we can sustain our natural resources and meet our needs today and allow future generations to enjoy the natural resources that are given.

"I think it is important for all of us to be aware of the environmental management systems. The key thing to remember is the natural resources that we have can be exhausted if we misuse them," said Mutinda.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Ciara Grant and her mother Sarah enjoy a "coffee break" at the new Parent and Tot Playgroup.

Iron Kids relocates

Playgroup opens at Wetzel

The new Parent and Tot Playgroup opened Aug. 17 in Building 8884 in the Wetzel Housing area, just down the road from the Wetzel Child Development Center.

The Playgroup held its grand opening Aug. 17 and offered cake and refreshments for all visitors, parents and children.

Playgroups meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-11:30 a.m. Additional playgroups meet Monday and Wednesday from 3-4:30 p.m. for those who cannot attend a morning session.

The playgroups are for children up to age 4. Sponsored by the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program, the playgroups are forums where parents and their children can enjoy quality time and meet other parents and children. Parents are expected to attend with their children.

The playgroup also offers a coffee break session for the parents every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon while their children enjoy themselves in the play area. The playgroup also schedules guest speakers during the weekly coffee breaks.

The Parent and Tot Playgroup is actually the former Iron Kids Playgroup which was located in the basement of the legal office and somewhat isolated from the housing areas.

The new location is much closer to the Wetzel Housing area and offers ample parking for parents.

"It is a great location because now we have an outdoor area for the children," said Kim Hennessy, family advocacy educator. "We're still in the middle of setting that up. We're closer to housing now, and we have a classroom, we have a great kitchen and we have different sections within the playground."

"Besides playgroup we also offer parenting classes in this building. We offer One Two Three Magic, we offer a Family Morals and Values class, and the new parent support group uses this building. So if you're part of new parent support, you're more than welcome to come over here as well," said Hennessy.

For more information about the new Parent and Tot Playgroup call Army Community Service at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783-6-8188).

MWR roundup ... MWR roundup ... MWR roundup

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation is offering the following trips, certifications and courses.

- Sept. 3-7, Croatia Labor Day Weekend
- Scuba certification every weekend
- Hunting Course
- Fishing Course

For more information and prices call mil 485-7182 or civ (06783) 6-7182.

Rolling Hills pool

Swimming lessons are being offered for youth and adults at the Rolling Hills pool. In addition the new swimming and water safety program will start in August. Various times and levels will be offered.

Water aerobics classes on Wednesdays and Fridays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. are now available.

Call civ (06783) 6-6575 or mil 485-6575/7093 for more information.

Hall of Champions renovation

The gym floor at the Hall of Champions is closed for renovation, but the weight room, sauna, lockers and dressing room are available from 6-9 p.m. Monday to Friday and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from noon to 8 p.m. with access through Strikers entrance.

The cardio room is open for physical training Monday through Friday from 6-8 a.m. with access through rear door.

Mountaineer Fitness Center hours

The Mountaineer Fitness Center is open Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; training holidays 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Unit-level flag football tournament

There will be a unit-level flag football tournament Sept. 14-17 at Iron Soldier Fields I and II at 6 p.m. Call the Sports Office at civ (06783) 6-6671 or mil 485-6671/7176/6615 for more.

Team soccer practice

Team soccer practice is held from August to September for coed teams each Monday and Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m. at Minick Field.

Personal training now available

Individual or packaged sessions for personal training are now being offered. To make an appointment with a professional trainer and to find out more on prices and appointment times contact the Baumholder Sports Office at civ (06783) 6-6671 or mil 485-6671/7176/6615.

Certified fitness instructors needed

Are you a certified group exercise instructor or



personal trainer? Do you teach martial arts classes? For details on becoming an instructor here in Baumholder call civ (06783) 6-6671 or mil 485-6671/7418.

Bowling Center tournament schedule

Strikers Bowling Center has a Monte Carlo Tournament Aug. 29; a 9-Pin, No-Tap Sept. 29; and a Halloween Tournament Oct. 31. All tournaments begin at 2 p.m. You must be 18 years or older to participate. There is a \$20 entry fee that includes three games, shoe rental, prize money, fountain drink and trophy for top three places. For more information call civ (06783) 6-6569 or mil 485-6569.

Shooters Sports Bar and Diner

Shooters Sports Bar and Diner is now open. Menu items include pizza, nachos and chicken wings in a classic-style sports bar setting. Shooters Diner is open every day except Wednesday from 5-11 p.m. The bar is open the same time as the diner and stays open from Thursday to Saturday until 2 a.m. and on American holidays from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. Shooters is located on Ruschberger Strasse in the same building as Outdoor Recreation.

Shooters also delivers to Smith and Wetzel Housing. Call civ (06783) 6-4242 or 185-2771 to place your order.

SKIES Unlimited classes

SKIES Unlimited is offering conversational German, sewing, knitting, traditional ballroom dance, keyboard, piano, aikido, tae kwon do and gymnastics classes. Call Child, Youth and School Services for class schedule and to register at mil 485-7003 or civ (06783) 6-7003.

SKIES instructors needed

Make money tutoring or teaching children skills you have firsthand knowledge or experience with. Contact SKIES at mil 485-7276 or civ (06783) 6-7276.

Strong Beginnings Pre-K

Register your child for a daily three hour program designed for 4-5 year-olds entering kindergarten in the fall of 2010.

Strong Beginnings will be in Building 8046 on Smith Barracks. Registration is under way at Child, Youth and School Services Central Enrollment in Building 8743, dispensary.

Elementary School special classes

Wetzel and Smith Elementary Schools offer the following special classes in September.

Sure Start: Child must be 4 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2009.

Kindergarten: Child must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2009.

Call your school for more information: Smith Elementary School, mil 485-7589 or (06783) 6-7589 or Wetzel Elementary School, mil 485-6416 or civ (06783) 6-6416.

CARE Fair/Health Fair

The CARE Fair and Health Fair will be held Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheinlander. The event gives community members information on how to improve their health and well-being and learn more about Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, services and health care benefits in the Baumholder community.

The fair is held in partnership with the Baumholder Health Clinic and the Safety Office and is open to U.S. ID card holders and their guests. For information on upcoming events contact FMWR special events coordinator, Catherine Dubosc, at civ (06783) 6-6115 or mil 485-6115.

CYSS launches new program, Hired!

Youth employment is available with the CYSS Hired! Workforce Preparation and Apprenticeship Program.

Youths must be between age 15 and 18 to participate in the job training. This career exploration program is offered in 12-week terms four times per year.

Students earn a cash award and a certificate from Kansas State University upon completion of the term. Additional educational incentive awards are available for 17- and 18-year-olds.

Call Child, Youth and School Services for more information at mil 485-6810/6756 or civ (06783) 6-6810/6756

Host nation events ... Host nation events

Around the town

The following host nation events are scheduled in the nearby communities.

Aug. 29-30, Castle fest at Kyrburg Castle, Kirn

Sept. 7, Market at Kirn, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sept. 4-8, Kusel Fall Fair

Sept. 5-8, Prämienmarkt at Birkenfeld

Sept. 5, Flea market at Hom-burg/Saar

Sept. 11-15, "Wurstmarkt" at Bad Dürkheim (largest wine fest)

Sept. 13, Farmers market at Berglangenbach

Sept. 18-21, "Wurstmarkt" at Bad Dürkheim (largest wine fest)

Sept. 18-19, International Mountain Bike Marathon at St. Wendel

Sept. 19-20, International Jazz Days at St. Wendel Saalbau, entrance fee

Sept. 19-21, Baumholder city fair with a market on Monday

Keep up to date with host nation events by watching the Baumholder Information Channel and checking www.baumholder.army.mil for updated community information.

Call the Public Affairs Office at mil 486-1600 for more host nation information.



Claims Office on award-winning streak

By Stacy Theresa Graham
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office

Receiving the General's Excellence in Claims Award is challenging. Receiving the award six years in a row is very rare.

The Baumholder Claims Office has not only received this award for fiscal 2008 and six times in a row but eight times since 1999.

On Aug. 5 U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder commander, Lt. Col. Paul R. Pfahler, and USAG Command Sgt. Maj. Earla L. Reddock visited the legal office and participated in a presentation ceremony for the Claims Office. Members of the Claims Office during the award period include Monique Berthon, supervisory claims examiner, Brigitte Schanz-Hachenthal, claims examiner, and Karl Sawallisch, claims examiner.

"We submit an application annually that is reviewed based on a number of criteria," said Pamela J. Cater, chief of client services.

Cater explained a few areas in which the Claims Office members excelled.

They were judged on their timely claims processing and the experience of their personnel along with pro-activity of the office, their planning for upcoming claims issues and keeping current on claims information. The Baumholder Claims Office has been very active with community outreach by making and distributing claims packets and writing

articles for the *Herald Union*. The Claims Office gets the word out to Soldiers and the community.

"We have an annual claims conference that we send employees to, and we also have training in the office," said Cater.

The Claims Office has established relationships and interacts with other agencies that might be involved in some of their claims. "Knowing the contacts like the dental clinic, PX, commissary, working with transportation and the medical clinic helps our office be the best we can," said Cater.

The amount of offices that receive this award varies year to year.

"It's wonderful; it is a wonderful reflection of our efforts because our office has always been focused on trying to help the Soldier and the other people in the military community. We try to make sure they are taken care of and this tells us we are doing a good job by taking care of the community. It is really good feedback," said Cater.

She explained the Baumholder Claims Office is a fairly high-volume office. In fiscal year 2008 989 claimants visited their office.

Capt. Jess Rankin, administrator law attorney, works with the Claims Office. He assists in reviewing claims due to the high number the office takes in. He also works with command to help the Claims Office move along.

"Ms. Cater and the examiners do a



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Brigitte Schanz-Hachenthal is congratulated by U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder commander, Lt. Col. Paul R. Pfahler, after she and Karl Sawallisch were presented with the General's Excellence in Claims Award. In the background Sawallisch is congratulated by USAG Baumholder Command Sgt. Maj. Earla L. Reddock.

good job of following through and calling the claimants and checking on the status. Some people get intimidated by the process so they wait, and if it gets close Ms. Cater and the examiners will call to check on them to see if they want to follow through with the claim. They help walk the claimants through the process and do not treat them like a number," said Rankin.

Rankin has worked at other claims

offices and does not recall them having received this award but said they were very good offices. He explained that the Claims Office staff is very proud of their awards and has them displayed outside the office door.

"I think the most important thing is the timely processing of the claims. We put in a lot of effort from the start with the initial interview with the claimant," said Cater.

Soldiers, spouses reach out to each other for support

By Stacy Theresa Graham
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs Office

Why am I like this? Am I the only one feeling this way? These are just a couple of questions Soldiers ponder when returning from a 14-month deployment with a mild traumatic brain injury.

Landstuhl social worker for the Department of Neurology Jeanne Jahosky is currently holding two support groups for Soldiers and spouses every Monday at the Baumholder Health Clinic to help those in need and to let them know they are not alone.

According to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, a traumatic brain injury is a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in TBI. The severity of such an injury may range from mild — a brief change in mental status or consciousness — to severe — an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after the injury. A TBI can result in short- or long-term problems with independent function.

Since there is a small TBI team at the Baumholder Health Clinic, Jahosky comes to Baumholder once a week to save Soldiers and family members from having to travel to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to get this kind of support. In addition Jannan

Polk, nurse with the TBI program at the Baumholder Health Clinic, sits in on the support groups for additional questions and support.

All service members are now screened for post-concussions when they return from a deployment. They are asked if they were in a blast along with other questions of symptoms they may have from the blast.

The support groups offered in Baumholder are structured but act as just one way to receive therapy. Jahosky wants Soldiers and family members to get the information they need about MTBI.

"Each case is different but there are groups of similar characteristics among the symptoms of MTBI, which is a post-concussion," said Jahosky.

She wants Soldiers and spouses to know it is a struggle but they can work through it. Jahosky offers ways to cope with memory loss such as leaving a basket by the front door near a charger so Soldiers do not forget where their important items are.

She also suggests Soldiers use a PDA to help with remembering important information such as appointments or errands.

Post-concussions and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder go hand in hand most of the time. They are both treatable and manageable if one is willing to go through the process of getting better.

The first support group was held July 27 at 10 a.m. for spouses and 2 p.m. for Soldiers. It acted as a way to find out what the community would like to know and how Jahosky can help.

Jahosky can answer questions and hand out useful sources of information. At the first meeting she explained what a post-concussion is, what causes it, symptoms of MTBI and concussions, how to prevent another blast to your head, where to get information, who is at the highest risk for it, the long-term consequences and ways to recover from a post-concussion.

The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center states symptoms of MTBI or concussion often resolve within hours to days and almost always improves over one to three months.

However, if symptoms persist without improvement, medical treatment should be sought.

"There are other service members that feel the same way and you are not alone in feeling the way you do. We are here to support you and will be talking about educational topics and different experiences Soldiers may be having," said Jahosky.

It is not necessary to sign up for the support group. You can just show up.

For more information contact Jahosky at mil 486-5734.

Year of the NCO: Focus on three outstanding NCOs in Baumholder

By Stacy Theresa Graham
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office

Editor's note: In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of the nation, the secretary of the Army established 2009 as the Year of the NCO. Highlighted below is a look at some of the noncommissioned officers in the Baumholder community.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Staff Sgt. Danny Lundberg holds a training session for Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

1st Sgt. George Corbett

First Sgt. George Corbett has been in the Army for 15 years, has been a first sergeant for six months and is currently assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry.

He was a platoon sergeant for two years and a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson. Corbett has had various squad leader jobs and has been a team leader since 1994 when he entered the Army, he said.

"All of my time has been with Soldiers and I would like to keep it that way. My job is with the Soldiers in the company. I am here to help them and make sure that the platoon and the four subordinate NCOs who work for me have everything they need to get their jobs done and can take care of their Soldiers," said Corbett.

Corbett deals with more layers of subordinate supervisors than he has had in the past but it is still a challenge for him. "Not all of them always know the best way to handle situations they encounter, so I am mentoring them and making sure they can accomplish their mission," he said.

Throughout his military career a lot has changed for Corbett. When he was a young sergeant he viewed himself as a bit more selfish and thinking about what he could do to have the best team.

"Now as I get further up as a first sergeant I realize it is not about me. It is about the people underneath me, and if they are successful then I'm successful. I really need to worry about their success," said Corbett.

As long as the needs of his subordinates have been met then everything is OK, he added.

Being an NCO gives Corbett the opportunity to share what he has learned over the last 15 years of service. He said his age and experiences let him share his life lessons, not just military experiences but also life in general. This presents Corbett with the opportunity to help less experienced people get through difficult times in their lives.

Corbett lives in Baumholder with

his wife Sarah.

"The deployments have strengthened our marriage because we work as a team," said Corbett.

"I think that all Soldiers should want to be NCOs so they can reach their full potential. I do not think a Soldier as a member of an organization like the Army can say they met their full potential and did everything they can until they are in a position where you can help other Soldiers," said Corbett.

Staff Sgt. Jarrod Koski

Koski is a sniper with 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, and has been in the Army for almost seven years.

He does not have family in Baumholder and is serving his second continued overseas tour. Koski led a squad of snipers downrange.

"The decisions you make while on the ground are your decisions. You answer to the battalion commander and the battalion sergeant major," said Koski.

Being an NCO is all about leading and training troops, Koski said. He explained it is a greater responsibility to be an NCO, but it is also a better reward.

"I have been a sniper for four years and I have been with small groups of Soldiers who want to be there. They are self-motivated because they want to be there," said Koski.

Since the Soldiers he worked with were in small groups downrange it gave his squad the opportunity to do better missions and they were able to go out with fewer people.

Koski said it is good to move around

between NCOs while you are a private or specialist. "You can see different leadership styles if you move around. Sometimes it is not bad to be under a bad NCO for a little bit so you know the difference between a bad NCO and a good one," he said.

In Koski's opinion good NCOs take care of their Soldiers; they look out for them; the Soldiers are their number one concern. A good NCO tries to help his or her Soldiers with any problems they may encounter.

In comparison Koski gives examples of bad NCOs. "Bad NCOs are selfish, looking out for themselves and are not around very much," he said.

Staff Sgt. Danny Lundberg

Staff Sgt. Danny Lundberg, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, is a squad leader as well as the retention NCO for his company. He's also the unit movement officer for his platoon.

He has been deployed two times to Iraq and currently does not have family living in Germany with him.

Lundberg organizes the physical training program, trains Soldiers and has various administrative duties.

"It feels great to be an NCO. I have been an NCO for five years. It means everything to me to be a leader," Lundberg said. "I always strive to be more than what I am, and it's hard. You have to know yourself. You have to know that you have faults, and you have to try to fix your faults. There is never perfect. There is always room to improve on

everything. I show the Soldiers what they can be, and I am a mentor for the junior Soldiers, leading by example, teaching them and being a leader. It is great," said Lundberg.

He explained the job never stops. It is acceptable to take a break, but some service members think once you have the rank you do not need to do as much. "Some people get their stripes and think they do not have to do as much work. But it is more. The higher the rank the more responsibilities you have," said Lundberg.

If Lundberg were to give motivational advice to Soldiers to encourage them in becoming NCOs, he would tell them to look at all the leaders. "Every leader has good traits, even those we consider bad. There is always something you can pick out of everyone. Find all the good traits and use them," he said.

When Lundberg was a private he thought he could be an NCO as a private, but in time he realized it takes experience and a lot of learning.

"From a junior Soldier till now I didn't look into the big picture. I followed my orders, tried to do my best, tried to shoot expert, get a 300 on my PT and just tried to be at the right place at the right time.

"But now it is so much more than that because I have to get my Soldiers into that mentality. I need to make sure they are in the right place and doing the right training, keeping up with things. It is a lot different, but it is so much more rewarding if you look at the aspect of being an NCO," he said.

Schoolbits

School links

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil, click on the “Links” button at the top of the page and then the “DoDEA (With links to local schools)” link for a wealth of valuable information and resources, including school calendars, links to local schools and more.

News for Baumholder Bucs

Students can pick up their schedules at 12:30 p.m. Aug. 28 with school starting Aug. 31. Parents who haven't yet registered their children should call the school at civ (06783) 6-7590.

Master of Business Administration

The University of Phoenix-Europe starts classes for a Master of Business Administration degree Sept. 22 at the Education Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Classes meet one night a week for six weeks. Contact Rachel Scharbach at mil 337-5940 or Rachel.Scharbach@phoenix.edu for more information.

Wetzel Open House

Wetzel Elementary School holds an Open House Aug. 28 starting at noon. Class lists will be posted on the front door. Meet the teachers and enjoy lunch provided by the Parent Teacher Organization. There will be a drawing for school prizes, open house in the classrooms and a new family orientation. To register students for school call mil 485-6416 or civ (06783) 6-6416.

Free/reduced lunches

Families eligible based on family size and income can apply for the free and reduced-price school lunch program. Pick up an application at your child's school or from the school liaison officer in Baumholder at mil 485-6968 or Wiesbaden at mil 335-5129.

College alumni sought

The annual Kaiserslautern College and University Information Night will be held Oct. 8. Alumni from different universities are sought to represent their schools at the event. Contact Larry Zani at Larry_Zani@compuserve.com.

Military Divorce Manual

The Federal and Military Scholarship Group offers a free copy of the publication, “2010 Military Divorce Manual,” which addresses issues such as how getting a college degree could be affected through a military divorce. Visit www.federalmilitary.com for information on that and other scholarship aids.

Registration, book awards

The University of Maryland University College Europe holds registration for its fall 2009 session 1 online classes through Aug. 30 with classes starting Aug. 31. The university also offers two \$100 book awards for active duty enlisted service members, their spouses and families. More scholarship money is also available. For more information on registration, book awards and scholarships stop by your local Education Center or visit www.ed.umuc.edu.



Helen Frassman looks through the coming year's home-school curriculum with her children Samuel, 3, and Emma, 7.

Photo by Jennifer Clampet

Some opt to home-school

By Jennifer Clampet

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

Recognized in the United States as a “back to the future” education trend, home-schooling is growing in popularity among parents stationed overseas who fall under Status of Forces Agreements.

Under the Germany SOFA about 100 military and civilian families in the Wiesbaden garrison community are home-schooling their children.

“And the Wiesbaden home-school community is a growing community,” said Helen Frassmann, coordinator of the Wiesbaden Area Teachers of Children at Home, also known as WATCH.

In 2007 the number of home-schooled children in the United States was estimated to be about 1.5 million — an increase of about 77 percent from an estimated 850,000 home-schoolers in 1999.

And according to home-school enthusiasts, the numbers continue to climb.

In 2003 and 2007 the National Centers for Education Statistics asked parents why they chose to home-school. The top three reasons given were concern about the school environment, to provide religious or moral instruction and dissatisfaction with the academic instruction available at other schools.

Military families have one more to add to that list: stability.

Today's military children can have a constant pick-up-and-go lifestyle. But some parents don't want to see constant transitions interfere with a steady and quality education.

According to Department of Defense Education Activity policy, “the agency does not encourage or discourage DoD sponsors from home-schooling their minor dependents. DoDEA recognizes that home-schooling is a sponsor's right and can be a legitimate alternative form of education for the sponsor's dependents.”

Frassmann, a spouse of a Department of Defense Dependents Schools employee, is entering her second year of home-schooling.

Unhappy with her then 6-year-old daughter's long bus ride to and from

the DoDD school and the co-mingling of kindergarten through 12th-graders on the bus, Frassmann said she and her husband made the decision to home-school.

In her first year of home-schooling, Frassmann taught everything from reading and writing to art, history and cursive writing.

“My daughter can tell you about The Great Depression period better than most 15-year-olds. It's amazing what children can do, and it's not about making them into an Einstein. Children rise to your expectations,” she said.

Critics of home-school education have questioned the social effects on home-schooled children — removing them from a classroom setting thus limiting their interactions with children their own ages. Frassmann said that that's where WATCH plays an important part.

Providing a support group for home-schooling parents answering questions on everything from curriculum options to tough lesson plans, WATCH also provides a social environment for Wiesbaden home-schoolers to interact.

Also by registering with DoDDS as nonattending, home-schoolers still have access to auxiliary DoDDS programs — those services include library usage, after-hours use of school facilities and access to music and sports programs and other extracurricular activities.

But perhaps the most common concern for parents considering home-schooling, said Frassmann, is can you as a parent be a good teacher.

“The first six weeks are exciting but also challenging. You start to wonder will my child and I be able to mesh throughout the year. Can I be both the caretaker and the school teacher? It's a much more intense role. But in the end, we (Frassmann and her husband) were extremely pleased with the results,” she said.

For more information on the DoDEA policy on home-schooling, guidelines of home-based education or auxiliary services offered to home-schoolers, visit www.eu.dodea.edu/nondod/homeSchool.php.

Wiesbaden Area Teachers of Children at Home meeting Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. in the Wiesbaden Library

School starts

Continued from page 1

eight Advanced Placement courses, with the addition of AP physics. "We've gone from three to eight in the last three years," he said.

The school welcomes a new assistant principal, Richard Jimenez, who most recently served as an assistant principal in Bamberg.

Robinson invited all community members to get involved in the school as volunteers and put a special plug out for coaches for the school's sports teams. Anyone interested can call the school at mil 485-7590, civ (06783) 6-7590 for more information.

Parents are invited to a general meeting and open house at Baumholder Middle High School Aug. 28 starting at noon. The event will feature a cookout, class schedule pick-up and a chance for parents to visit their children's classrooms.

Wetzel Elementary School welcomes back Principal Helen Balilo and new Assistant Principal Cathy Marziali, who joins the staff after having served DoDDS-Europe students in Italy.

Like the high school, Wetzel Elementary School invites parents for an open house Aug. 28 starting at noon. "Class schedules will be posted on the front door, and lunch will be provided by the Wetzel Parent Teacher Organization," said Baumholder's school liaison officer. "There will also be a drawing for back-to-school prizes at 12:40 p.m., an open house in the classrooms from 1-1:30 p.m. and a new family orientation in the Information Center from 1:30-2 p.m."

Smith Elementary School welcomes Dr. Darren Johnson at the helm, assisted by Assistant Principal Michelle Woodfork.

Parents are reminded that pupils must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2009, to be eligible for Sure Start and 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2009, to be eligible for kindergarten. They can call the school at mil 485-7589 or civ (06783) 6-7589 for more information on

either program.

"I know a lot of parents are looking forward to the start of the school year," said Baumholder's school liaison officer, adding that those families eligible for the free or reduced lunch program should stop by her office in Building 8743 (Dispensary Building), second floor to enroll.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wiesbaden schools

Aukamm Elementary School saw various renovations during the summer months including upgrades to meet safety codes and National Fire Protection Agency standards, according to DoDDS Heidelberg District Facilities representative Randy Frye. Other enhancements include newly renovated rooms for the school nurse and counselors, server room upgrades and increased server power capacity.

Principal Sue Gurley took over from Mark Benham who left following the 2008/2009 school year. The former member of the DoDDS Europe Education Division and DoDDS-Europe chief of staff has 23 years of experience as an educator and administrator with DoD schools.

Aukamm invites parents for a new student orientation Aug. 28 at 11:15 a.m. and an open house Aug. 31 starting at 2:30 p.m.

Hainerberg Elementary School welcomes back Principal Dr. Barbara Hickman and new Assistant Principal Bradford "Brad" Seadore. Seadore, no newcomer to Wiesbaden, has lived in the area for the past six years, working as a behavioral health specialist in Mannheim and Wiesbaden. The Vietnam War veteran also served as assistant principal in Mannheim.

School improvements over the summer included painting, new floors, ceilings, lights and cabinets in the special education and art rooms, said Frye. A new multi-purpose building, currently under construction,



Photo by Sara Goodeyon

With schools set to open Aug. 31, students can look forward to renovated classrooms, several new administrators and another year of academic excellence, according to Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe officials.

will provide lunch services for Hainerberg Elementary School and Wiesbaden Middle School.

Hainerberg hosts a new student orientation Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. and open house Sept. 3. Call the school at mil 337-5160 or civ (0611) 705-5160 for more information.

Wiesbaden Middle School sees the return of Principal Alexia Venglik and As-

stant Principal Ken Younklin.

Students and teachers will notice various improvements including installation of "smart" boards and "in-focus" machines in several classrooms. Other work during the summer months included security and server room upgrades, said Frye.

The middle school holds a new student orientation Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. and an open

house Sept. 10.

Wiesbaden High School was the recipient of new lighting in the corridors of the main building, an upgrade to the emergency lighting system, painting in several rooms and the conversion of the former cosmetology room into a conference center.

After Principal Eric Goldman's departure at the end of last school year, Wiesbaden

High welcomed new Principal Sharon O'Donnell. The former Mannheim High School principal and "proud Army brat" led the Mannheim school for five years and has taught for DoD schools as a science and language arts teacher at various levels. She also served as assistant principal at Wiesbaden High School from 2001-2004.

Colleen Larkin returns as the school's assistant principal.

Wiesbaden High holds a new student orientation Aug. 27 at 4 p.m. and an open house Sept. 17 at 4 p.m.

Volunteers wanted

Both Baumholder and Wiesbaden school liaison officers stressed that parents are encouraged and always welcome to get involved in their children's education. Whether it's reading to them and keeping up on their academic progress through the online Grade Speed program or playing a role in the school, every little bit helps.

"With a typical 30-percent turnover in our population from year to year, our PTAs, PTOs, Booster Clubs and parent-teacher organizations really welcome people willing to get involved," said Witmer.

"Sometimes there's a reluctance to get involved," he said, "but everyone is welcome. . . . There are plenty of opportunities for you to participate in the schools in one shape or form — retirees, spouses, everyone. There are so many different programs in the schools."

For more information on getting involved check with your local schools, said the school liaison officers.



School, district and bus office contacts

Below is contact information for school principals, school liaison officers, school bus offices and district superintendents who steer Department of Defense Dependents Schools in U.S. Army Garrisons Baumholder and Wiesbaden. The Heidelberg District Superintendent's Office is responsible for the four schools in the Wiesbaden area and the Kaiserslautern DSO oversees the three schools in the Baumholder area.

District Superintendents

Heidelberg District: Frank Roehl, mil 388-9383, civ (05221) 759-02312.

Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Deborah M. Berry.

Kaiserslautern District: Lawanna H. Mangleburg, mil 489-6339/6848, civ (0631) 536-6848/6339.

Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Elizabeth Dunham.

USAG Baumholder

Schools Officer: Pamela Johnson, mil 485-6968, civ (06783) 6-6968.

Smith Elementary School: mil 485-7589, civ (06783) 6-7589.

Principal: Dr. Darren Johnson; Assistant Principal: Michelle Woodfork.

Wetzel Elementary School: mil 485-7492/6416, civ (06783) 6-7492/6416.

Principal: Helen Balilo; Assistant Principal: Cathy Marziali.

Baumholder Middle High School: mil 485-7590, civ (06783) 6-7590.

Principal: Danny Robinson; Assistant Principal: Richard Jimenez.

School Bus Office: Located in Building 8801, Room 14 at Baumholder Middle High School. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (once school begins). Call civ (06783) 3054.

USAG Wiesbaden

Schools Officer: Peter Witmer, mil 335-5129; civ (0611) 408-0129.

Hainerberg Elementary School: mil 337-5160/5873, civ (0611) 705-5160/5873.

Principal: Dr. Barbara Hickman; Assistant Principal: Bradford "Brad" Seadore.

Aukamm Elementary School: mil 337-6261, civ (0611) 705-6261.

Principal: Sue Gurley.

Wiesbaden Middle School: mil 337-6251, civ (0611) 705-6251.

Principal: Alexia Venglik; Assistant Principal: Ken Younklin.

Wiesbaden High School: mil 337-6319, civ (0611) 705-6319.

Principal: Sharon O'Donnell; Assistant Principal: Colleen Larkin.

School Bus Office: Located in small, red building next to the Wiesbaden Middle School entrance in Hainerberg Housing. Hours are 8:20 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and 3:10-4 p.m. (once school begins). Call civ (0611) 380-7143, mil 338-7143.

Keeping youngsters safe on the way to and from school

Students must be registered, follow DoDDS-Europe rules to maintain privileges

Ten basic bus safety rules parents should discuss with their children

1. Always obey the driver or adult on the bus
2. At bus stops wait three steps away from the curb. Enter and exit the bus safely and always show the driver your bus pass. Take three steps away from the bus when exiting.
3. Never cross the street in front of or behind the bus.
4. Stay properly seated and use seat belts when available.
5. Keep your hands, feet and other body parts to yourself.
6. Do not throw objects on the bus or out the window.
7. Talk quietly and do not disturb the driver or other students.
8. Don't be the cause of profanity, indecency, smoking, prohibited items or vandalism.
9. No eating, drinking or chewing gum on bus.
10. Be responsible and safe. (Courtesy of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe)

Going to school again is like riding . . . well a school bus. You never really forget the rules.

But for parents of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe students who are new to the system, there are a few school bus rules that make riding in DoDDS-Europe a different experience.

Your child needs a bus pass

First parents need to register their children for bus passes. The distance from the residence to the assigned school determines whether children walk or ride the

bus to school. The distances are one mile for elementary students and 1.5 miles for secondary-level students. Just over 50 percent of the 36,000 children attending DODDS-Europe schools ride a school bus. To register for a bus pass, visit the Wiesbaden or Baumholder school bus offices.

What happened to the yellow school bus?

DoDDS-E does not own buses or employ drivers. The buses transporting DoDDS students are European-style tour or transit coaches marked with international school bus signs. For the

most part, DoDDS-E contracts with host-nation commercial companies for transportation services.

The school bus driver

Bus drivers are not required to speak English, only the host-nation language. Buses are equipped with two-way communications linking drivers to the contractor's central control station. Drivers are also not responsible for enforcing good order and discipline on the bus. The driver's job is to operate the bus safely.

The traffic won't stop

In Europe vehicle traffic is

not required to stop for loading and unloading school buses. American children are reminded to never cross the street in front of or behind the school bus.

DODDS-E also reminds parents that bus transportation is a privilege and not a right or entitlement. A student's behavior will result in disciplinary action to include temporary or permanent suspension of bus privileges.

Additional bus safety information can be viewed at www.eu.dodea.edu/transportation. (Courtesy of the DoDDS-Europe website www.eu.dodea.edu/transportation/newcomer.php)



Photo by Karl Weisel

Parents and students should be aware about some of the unique features of riding a school bus in Europe.

Take a hike: A guide to volksmarching in the Baumholder/Wiesbaden area

By Donald Seltzer
U.S. Army Garrison
Wiesbaden Volksmarch Editor

Volksmarching notes

✧ Readers are asked to pick up extra event brochures and to mail them via MPS to: Donald Seltzer, CMR 467 Box 5533, APO AE 09096.

✧ Look for additional event choices in the online version at www.wiesbaden.army.mil/hunion/Takeahike.htm.

Weekend of Aug. 29-30

Kirchberg (55481) — Enjoy seeing the Hunsrück region's oldest

town in one of Germany's most scenic areas. From points east use Autobahns 3 or 67, then Autobahn 60 to Bingen and 61 toward Koblenz. Exit at Rheinböhlen and use B-50 and B-421 to Kirchberg. From Bad Kreuznach and Idar-Oberstein, use B-41 (toward each other) and B-421 north to Kirchberg.

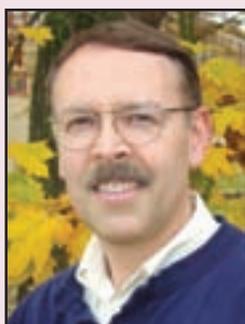
Start: Stadthalle on Gartenstrasse **Saturday and Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Trails:** Slightly hilly (with a steep hill following the last control); neighborhoods, woods and fields **Award:** From previous events.

Ober-Ramstadt/Rohrbach (64372) — The host club changed the date of this very scenic event from July to the end of September and now to August. By doing so, participants enjoy the beautiful Odenwald countryside in the more comfortable temperatures of summer. Use the Eberstadt exit of Autobahn 5 and B-426 or the Reinheim/Roßdorf exit of B-26. IVV signs will lead to the start at Rohrbach.

Start: Bürgerhaus Rohrbach at Dr.-Horst-Schmidt-Strasse 2 **Saturday:** 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (5 and 11 km) and 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (21 km) **Sunday:** 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 11 and 21 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, fields **Award:** Model truck.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

Grolsheim (55459) — Celebrate the start of another school year by taking the family to this



event. From Darmstadt and Wiesbaden, connect with Autobahn 60 to pick up B-50 at Bingen. Take this south toward Bad Kreuznach and follow IVV signs. From Idar-Oberstein use B-41 and B-50 toward Bingen to find the start at Grolsheim.

Start: Nahelandhalle on Aspisheimer Weg **Wednesday:** 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly flat (short trails) or hilly (long route), mostly fields, some woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of Sept. 5-6

Kümbdchen (55471) — This walk is in the Hunsrück region northwest of Bingen. Volksmarchers from Idar-Oberstein will have a straight-forward drive to reach this event; others should consider it in good weather. From the Bad Kreuznach area use B-41 toward Idar-Oberstein, and a secondary road from Waldböckelheim through Bockenau, Winterbach and Tiefenbach, ending at Simmern. From Idar-Oberstein use B-41 toward Bad Kreuznach to follow the same directions once reaching Waldböckelheim.

Start: Turnhalle **Saturday and Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, woods and fields **Award:** Weizenbier glass.

Namborn-Eisweiler (66640) — This walk is just down the road from Neubrücke. From Neubrücke, head south on B-41 toward St. Wendel, then briefly using a secondary road toward Namborn. From Idar-Oberstein, use B-41; from Baumholder head over to Neubrücke in order to pick up B-41.

Start: Liebenburghalle on Liebenburgstrasse in Eisweiler **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Unknown, expect fairly hilly, woods **Award:** From previous events.

St. Julian (66887) — From Baumholder, head east to connect with B-420 toward Bad Kreuznach. From Idar-Oberstein, use routes B-41, B-270 and B-420 as if you were

heading to Baumholder. **Start:** Turnhalle at An der Lenschbach 1 **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6, 10 and 20 km) **Trails:** Fairly hilly, woods **Award:** From previous events.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Bockenau (55595) — This event is due west of Bad Kreuznach on the year-round, permanent Hunsrück trail system. Use B-41 toward Kirm to pick up a secondary road at Waldböckelheim to head northwest to Bockenau. From Idar-Oberstein use B-41 toward Bad Kreuznach to connect with the secondary road at Waldböckelheim.

Start: Bockenauer-Schweiz-Halle **Wednesday:** 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of Sept. 12-13

Fürth/Odenwald (64658) — This walk is midway between Darmstadt and Heidelberg in the scenic Odenwald area. Use Autobahns 67 or 5 to pick up B-460 (at the Lorsch or Heppenheim exits, respectively), then head east to connect with B-38 for the final few kilometers.

Start: Heinrich-Böll-Schule at Schulstrasse 10 **Saturday and Sunday:** 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6, 11 and 20 km) **Trails:** Very hilly, woods **Award:** None.

Weekend of Sept. 19-20

Heidelberg-Hasenleiser (69126) — Join the Heidelberg International Wandering Club at this popular event. The 22-kilometer trail passes the picturesque Heidelberg Castle as it offers an interesting tour of the area. The start is near the Army hospital; participants with U.S. ID cards may use its parking lots. Use Autobahns 67 and 656 into Heidelberg, then follow IVV and U.S. Army signs for Campbell Barracks and the hospital.

Start: Internationale Gesamtschule on Baden-Badener-Strasse **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5, 11 and 22 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 11 and 22 km) **Trail:** Family (5 km) trail is flat, other trails are hilly, fields and wooded areas **Award:** Beer mug.



Things to do ... Things to do

Ramstein bazaar

The 45th annual Ramstein Welfare Bazaar will be held Sept. 17-21 featuring more than 130 vendors from all over Europe. Proceeds go to support the Kaiserslautern military community in the form of scholarships, welfare grants and charitable donations managed by the Ramstein Officers



Photo by Karl Weisel

Frankfurt's Museumsuferfest takes place Aug. 28-30 featuring music and more.

Spouses Club Welfare Committee. Visit www.ramstein-bazaar.org for more information.

Contemporary worship service

Trinity Lutheran Church invites people of all ages to its contemporary worship service Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. featuring the Praise Band and vocalists. Services are in English. The church is located in Frankfurt (60318) at Nibelungenallee 54.

Music lessons

Learn guitar at the Baumholder

Creative Art Center. Individual and group lessons are available for all levels. Call mil 485-6687 or civ (06783) 6-6687 for more information.

Pool tournaments

Stop by the Cappuccino Casino at the Hainerberg Shopping Center every Friday night starting at 8 p.m. for pool tournaments. Top three winners are invited to the semi-annual pool championship.

Live at Irish Pubs

The Mainz Irish Pub features **Gear Down** Aug. 29, **open stage** Aug. 30, **karaoke** Aug. 31, **Rockhouse** Sept. 4, **Gelon** Sept. 9 and **Eight Balls** Sept. 11. Visit www.irish-pub-mainz.de for more information. Wiesbaden's Irish Pub features **Bad Boyz** Aug. 29, **karaoke** Aug.

30, **open stage** Sept. 2, **Timmy Rough** Sept. 3, **Just Janitors** Sept. 4, **Rockhouse** Sept. 5 and the **Capones** Sept. 10. Visit www.irish-pub-wiesbaden.de for details.

One-act plays evening

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse features an evening of one-act plays, Thursday through Sunday Sept. 24 to Oct. 4. Sunday performances begin at 6 p.m. while all others start at 7:30 p.m. Pick up tickets at local USO offices or call the playhouse at civ (0611) 816-2473 for reservations.

Paintball tournament

A paintball tournament will be held Sept. 18-20 at the Rheinblick Small Arms Range. Call Outdoor Recreation at civ

(0611) 705-5760 for details.

Foreign Film Night

Wiesbaden Library features "The Sea Inside" as this month's Foreign Film Night selection Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. Bring your own snacks.

Travel with USO

Rhein-Main Area USOs offer a trip to **Mosel castles** Sept. 4 and **Black Forest and Triberg** Sept. 5. Stop by the USOs on Wiesbaden Army Airfield or at the Hainerberg Shopping Center for more reservations.

Conversational German

Baumholder's SKIES program offers conversational German classes for children ages 3-18. Classes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Building 8046. Call mil 485-7003 or civ (06783) 6-7003.

Kicking it with old friends

Soccer unites German, American athletes

By Chrystal Smith

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

Kicking around a soccer ball brings Wiesbaden communities together in the spirit of camaraderie.

A friendship that began 25 years ago between Clair Austin and PSV Grün Weiss is the catalyst for teaming up members of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community squad and a local German soccer club.

“One day I had a thought to contact the club,” said Austin, USAG Wiesbaden soccer head coach, who said he invited the manager to come scout a few players who had the potential to play with the club.

“They said, ‘you are like a god-sent gift. ... Bring them all,’” said Austin recounting the response he received from the club’s manager and trainer.

Though the team was looking to rebuild its roster, Austin was merely trying to create an opportunity.

“It was great. The people were really friendly. ... It was such a good experience for me, and I thought it would be a good experience for some of the community players to get while they are here,” said the Air Force veteran, whose initial acquaintance started while being stationed at Lindsey Air Station in the 1980s.

But the experience is not just for the garrison’s players.

“I want people to see the true American,” said Austin. “The general American is usually friendly and open, and the military tends to mirror America.”

And while friendships will grow out of the experience, there are other benefits the club and players could potentially receive.

“It will raise the level of play,” said Austin who

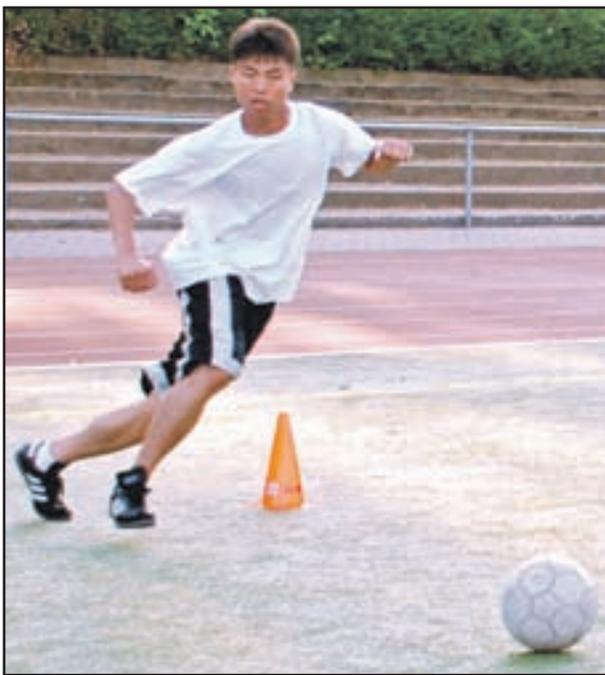


Photo by Chrystal Smith

Raymond Ku maneuvers through drills during a training session at PSV Grün Weiss.

said the players receive FIFA player cards to make them eligible to play in the German leagues against a wide variety of skilled players.

And while it is an experience geared at teaming soccer players, Austin encouraged non-players to support the club with game attendance.

“If you’re here in Germany, you’ve got to see a game.”

The season runs from August to May with a six-week break in late fall. Contact PSV Grün Weiss for more information about the season schedule.

Wiesbaden military community members can look forward to soccer action with the German-American friendship soccer game Sept. 22 at 5 p.m. on Minue Field (Wiesbaden Army Airfield) pitting community players against a Hessen government team.

Smoker slated for Aug. 29

Boxing leads to ‘new realization’

By Jennifer Clampet

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

Handing out flyers for the Aug. 29 Wiesbaden Boxing Smoker, Staff Sgt. Samuel Lee, 102nd Signal Battalion, keeps his eye out for the “big guys,” the ones with attitude and muscular physiques. But it’s not that they make better boxers, said Lee.

During Lee’s first boxing match eight years ago, he lost to “a little guy.” “The guy beat me up pretty bad,” he admitted. And that breakdown of his image pushed Lee to learn more about the mental aspect of the sport.

Lee said he has the same hopes for the next generation of Soldiers — not the get beat up part but the part about a new realization of self.

The upcoming boxing smoker has rounded up 26 Wiesbaden Soldiers, and the invitation for inexperienced boxers has been extended to the Baumholder garrison. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center.



Photo by Jennifer Clampet

Boxing coach William Suddeth gives Pfc. Daine Watson, 1st Armored Division, some pointers during a sparring practice.

Sports shorts

Golfing/Race for the Cure

The Heidelberg Golf Course hosts the annual Rally for the Cure tournament Aug. 29. The day-long outing begins at 7 a.m. with all proceeds supporting Susan G. Komen foundations in Germany and the United States. For more information visit www.rallyforthecurehd.com. Frankfurt hosts its annual Race for the Cure run and walk Sept. 27. For more information about taking part visit www.komen.org or email race-frankfurt@komen.de.

USO golf scramble

The USO’s annual Golf Scramble will be held Sept. 19 at the Rheinblick Golf Course. The sign-up deadline is Sept. 15. Entry fees are \$45 or €45 per person. Fees include a welcome bag, golf cart, green fees, range balls, dinner and great raffle prizes. To register, visit www.uso.org/rheinmain or any USO in Wiesbaden. For more information contact civ (0611) 721-010 or mil 337-5591.

Baumholder walk/run

Baumholder’s Hall of Champions will be the starting point for a Breast Cancer Awareness walk/run Oct. 3. A one-kilometer children’s run starts at 9 a.m., walkers begin at 9:30 a.m. and runners take off at 10 a.m. Register at the Health and CARE Fair starting Sept. 12. Registration is \$10 including a T-shirt (while supplies last). Call mil 485-6671 or civ (06783) 6-7418 for more information.

Unit-level flag football

A unit-level flag football tournament will be held Sept. 14-17 at Iron Soldier Fields 1 and 2 starting at 6 p.m.

Half marathon Sept. 26

Wiesbaden Sports hosts its Sizzling Summer Half Marathon Sept. 26. Entry is \$20 including a T-shirt. Registration starts at 7 a.m. with the run starting at 9 a.m. Call the Wiesbaden Fitness Center at civ (0611) 705-5541 for more information.

Hispanic Boxing Tourney

A Hispanic Heritage Month Boxing Tournament will be held Oct. 3 with doors opening at 6 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Call the fitness center at civ (0611) 705-5541 for details.

Team soccer practice

Baumholder soccer players are invited to join in coed soccer. Practice is each Monday and Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m. at Minick Field. Call mil 485-6671 or civ (06783) 6-7418 for details.

Bodybuilding Championship

The 2009 U.S. Forces Europe Bodybuilding Championships will be held Sept. 12 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. It is open to all U.S. ID cardholders. Call civ (0611) 705-5541 for details.

All-Army hockey team

The 2008 USAFE hockey championship team, the Baden Bruins, is looking for experienced ice hockey players for its upcoming season. The Bruins are coached by former NHL player Bob Sullivan and also play in the local German mens league. For more information contact Ken Robinson at civ (0172) 626-3642 or email admin@badenbruins.com or visit www.badenbruins.com.



Movie plots

Post Grad (PG-13) — Eternal optimist Ryden Malby (Alexis Bledel) has the most brutal of wake-up calls when she graduates from college and can't find a job, forcing her back home to live with her oddball family. Frustrated and confused about how her life is supposed to turn out, she soon realizes her longtime platonic best friend is the only one who makes everything in her crazy life make sense.

Imagine That (PG) — A financial executive (Eddie Murphy) who can't stop his career downspiral is invited into his daughter's imaginary world, where solutions to his problems await.

My Sister's Keeper (PG-13) — Sara and Brian live an idyllic life with their young son and daughter. But their family is rocked by sudden, heartbreaking news that forces them to make a difficult and unorthodox choice in order to save their baby girl's life. The parents' desperate decision raises both ethical and moral questions and rips away at the foundation of their relationship. Their actions ultimately set off a court case that threatens to tear the family apart while revealing surprising truths that challenge everyone's perceptions of love and loyalty. Stars Cameron Diaz and Alec Baldwin.

The Final Destination (R) — Nick and friends head to the racetrack for the weekend to watch a car race. Suddenly a car flies into the audience at 180 mph smashing into spectators and destroying the stadium. Then Nick discovers it was just a vision that's about to happen, and he gets himself and about 12 other people ejected from the stadium. But death returns to finish off the survivors, with the freak accidents being more brutal than ever.

Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen (Pg-13) — The battle for Earth has ended, but the battle for the universe has just begun in this sequel.

Up (PG) — Carl Fredricksen (voiced by Ed Asner) spent his entire life dreaming of exploring the globe and experiencing life to its fullest. But at age 78, life seems to have passed him by, until a twist of fate (and a persistent 8-year-old Junior Wilderness Explorer named Russell) gives him a new lease on life in this animated feature.

The Proposal (PG-13) — When high-powered book editor Margaret (Sandra Bullock) faces deportation to her native Canada, the quick-thinking exec declares she's actually engaged to her unsuspecting put-upon assistant Andrew (Ryan Reynolds), who she's tormented for years. He agrees to participate in the charade, but with a few conditions of his own. The unlikely couple heads to Alaska to meet his quirky family and the city girl finds herself in one comedic fish-out-of-water situation after another.



Yara Shahidi (left) plays Olivia Danielson who invites her dad, Evan (played by Eddie Murphy), into her imaginary world to help solve his problems in the real world in "Imagine That."

At the movies Aug. 27 to Sept. 10

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel
Theater is closed through Sept. 16 for renovations.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- Aug. 27 — Closed
- Aug. 28 — Imagine That (PG) 4 p.m. Post Grad (PG-13) 7 and 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 29 — Up (PG) 4 p.m. Post Grad (PG-13) 7 and 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 30 — Imagine That (PG) 4 p.m. Post Grad (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 31 — Post Grad (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Sept. 1 — My Sister's Keeper (PG-13) 7 p.m.

- Sept. 2 — The Proposal (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Sept. 3 — My Sister's Keeper (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Sept. 4 — The Final Destination (R) 7 p.m. Public Enemies (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Sept. 5 — Transformers: Revenge Of the Fallen (PG-13) 4 p.m. The Final Destination (R) 7 and 9:30 p.m.
- Sept. 6 — Imagine that (PG) 4 p.m. The Final Destination (R) 7 p.m.
- Sept. 7 — The Final Destination (R) 7 p.m.
- Sept. 8 — Public Enemies (R) 7 p.m.
- Sept. 9 — Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Sept. 10 — Closed



Abigail Breslin plays Anna and Jason Patric is Brian in "My Sister's Keeper."



Sorting, recycling the law in Germany

by Senior Airman Kali L. Gradishar, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Do you put it in the yellow bag, the gray bin or the blue bin? Or do you dispose of it in a bin downtown? Upon arriving at Spangdahlem Air Base or moving off base, it is important for servicemembers, civilians and families to understand how to dispose of waste properly.

Disposing of waste in Germany is very different from what most servicemembers are familiar with at stateside locations. Here, only certain materials may go in the yellow recycling bags, paper goes in the blue bins and non-recyclable items go in the gray bin. After sorting those items, it may still be necessary to locate another type of bin in a nearby town.

Recycling is the law in Germany, so it's important to consider the consequences of throwing a recyclable item in the trash.

"Most active-duty members, civilians and their families are disciplined, so we have very few cases of people getting into trouble with German law," said Johanna Bromme, 52nd Fighter Wing Legal Office German legal advisor. "Many people see the necessity of

disposing (of their waste) properly here. It requires more effort, but it's necessary for the environment."

If it is difficult to remember what goes where and on what day, there are multiple resources to peruse for more information.

For those toting a common access card, log onto the Air Force Portal, click the Base A-Z listing under the Bases-Orgs-Functional Areas link, and search for Spangdahlem Air Base. You will find the Recycling Information link under the Arriving, Living and Leaving Here tab.

For people without a CAC, there are still ways to obtain this information. The base housing office keeps a stock of recycling and waste schedule pamphlets. If none are there, ask a housing representative for a copy.

From these resources, one can learn there's a lot more that can go into the yellow bag than expected, or that certain paper items are discouraged from ending up in the big blue paper bin, such as a greasy paper plate.

The following is a list of common items to place in the yellow bag: aluminum foil; foil trays; biscuit tubes; coffee cans;

plastic utensils and straws; soda cans; and Styrofoam and wax cups.

To obtain extra yellow bags, simply leave a note the next time recycling pick-up comes through town that says, "Bitte gelber Sack. Danke."

The blue bins are reserved for paper items such as advertisements; catalogs and magazines; junk mail; coloring books; paper bags; computer and notebook paper; detergent boxes; cat or dog food bags; envelopes; newspapers; paperback books; poster board; cereal boxes; gift wrap; and clean paper plates and cups. Note that in some locations, it may be required to bundle these items with rope.

Glass items, to include wine and soda bottles, glass jars and other glassware, must go in the containers most often found in nearby towns.

Larger items may be placed outside prior to bulk trash pick-up. Bulk items include, but are not limited to, furniture, bicycles, carpet, suitcases and other items too large to place in the gray trash bins.

Don't be surprised, though, if someone rummages through the bulk-pick-up pile. What may not be useful to one person may be useful to someone else.

Times and locations for bulk pick-up are noted on the portal or you may contact the Environmental Flight for information.

So, what happens to those who don't get rid of their rubbish in the correct manner?

If everything goes in the trash, the penalties may not be too extreme.

The trash pick-up company will likely not collect the garbage, forc-

ing that person to dispose of it personally and pay the disposal fee, but it depends on the situation, said Ms. Bromme.

"There are more serious issues that could result in court appearances or expensive fines," she said. "There are a wide range of possibilities with improper disposal. If you put your trash into your neighbor's bin you may be fined a small amount, but if you dispose in an area where it may contaminate ground water you may get a fine of at least €1,500."

For more information about recycling in Germany, contact the Environmental Flight at 452-7257 or 06565-61-7257.

Law or not, recycling is beneficial to the preservation of the planet.

For those who need a reason to recycle, the National Recycling Coalition, a U.S. advocacy group dedicated to improving recycling, waste prevention, composting and reuse, has ten.

Recycling:

1. is good for the economy.
2. creates jobs.
3. reduces waste.
4. is good for the environment.
5. saves energy.
6. preserves landfill space.
7. prevents global warming.
8. reduces water pollution.
9. protects wildlife.
10. creates new demand.



TAKE YOUR PETS BACK HOME



Staying informed, planning ahead makes taking pets stateside simpler.

by Robert Szostek, U.S. European Command Customs Public Affairs

People moving stateside this summer may take most types of pets with them if they plan ahead. However, endangered species laws prevent people from taking some turtles, birds and reptiles to the United States.

"Dogs must be free of disease and be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before they reach the (United States)," said Bill Johnson, director of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency. "Puppies younger than three months and dogs in rabies-free areas such as

the United Kingdom are exempted, however." Unvaccinated dogs will be inoculated upon arrival and quarantined for 30 days at the owner's expense. Cats must show no signs of disease and a rabies vaccination is required in most U.S. states. People who wish to ship pet birds should consult the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site for the latest information on shipping birds, as the procedures may change on short notice due to Avian flu. Go to www.aphis.usda.gov and enter the search term 'non U.S.-Ori-

gin pet birds.' Hawaii is the only place in the United States that is permanently free of rabies. Personnel PCSing to there should go to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Web site to find out about their special quarantine requirements for pets at www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/aqs/info. For more information on shipping pets and on endangered species legislation, visit a military customs office or consult the CBCA Web site at www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/pets.htm.



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Meat can harbor diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease and mad cow disease, and is therefore one of the many items banned from import in the United States. The U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection issues fines ranging from \$300-1,000 to first-time offenders who attempt to send banned food products stateside, which also include fresh fruits and vegetables.



KNOW WHAT'S BANNED FROM IMPORT BEFORE SHIPPING

By Robert Szostek, U.S. European Command Customs Public Affairs

People moving to the United States this summer should start preparing by finding new homes for items that are banned from import.

It is also a good idea to apply early for import permits on restricted items since the process can take months, customs officials advise.

Import laws are strict, especially for foodstuffs. The U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection issues fines ranging from \$300-1,000 to first-time offenders who ignore the strict rules that apply to sending food products stateside.

"Red meats, sausages, pates and salami can harbor disease viruses – even if canned – and are therefore barred from import," said Bill Johnson, director of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

Even pasta or soup mixes that contain dried meat are not allowed, he added.

Foot-and-mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease, are diseases that can be brought into the United States through contaminated food.

Fresh fruits and vegetables may also not be sent stateside because they can contain the eggs of voracious pests. The Mediterranean fruit fly is an example of an insect that can hide in citrus fruit to beat our defenses. However, you can ship processed fruit and vegetable products such as canned fruit, olive oil, mustard and canned or processed sauces.

There are no restrictions on fish or mushrooms either, Johnson added.

Dried herbs and spices, tea, roasted coffee, cured cheeses, cakes, candies, cookies and roasted nuts are also OK.

As for shipping other items stateside from an overseas location, the rules are clear.

"(Other) prohibited items include ... plants and destructive devices,"

Mr. Johnson said.

Other items may not be banned, but require special permits.

"If you're planning on shipping firearms, ensure you have proof that you owned them in the states or have an import permit," Mr. Johnson said.

Other important points to remember are:

Owners of vehicles, including mopeds and motorcycles, not made to U.S. standards, must ship them through commercial importers registered with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency.

However, vehicles more than 25 years old are exempt from this rule.

All vehicles imported into the United States must meet U.S. safety and pollution standards and must be free of dirt, insects and

vegetation. Wine collections can only be shipped with advance approval from the transportation office.

Endangered-species items, such as ivory and some furs, may only be shipped if owners can prove they were previously owned in the United States or are antiques more than 100 years old.

State attorneys general must approve imports of gambling devices. These devices must be registered with the Justice Department

in Washington.

To find out more about importing food, plant and animal products into the United States, go to the CBP Web site at www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/travel/clearing/ and click on "Bringing Agricultural Products Into the United States".

For more information about U.S. customs, go to the local military customs office or go to the military customs Web site at www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/uscustoms.htm.

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Youth Activities

Wiesbaden: Point your children in the right direction ... and when they're older they won't be lost!



Chapel youth summer activities

The Oasis Chapel youth group, along with a team of students with Liberty College, poses for a group shot after they help clean the WAAF Chapel. The groups have also completed many other service projects for the Wiesbaden community and the Hainerberg Chapel.

Courtesy photo



Wiesbaden youths spend a day racing go karts at the indoor Superkart track in Hemsbach.

Summer activities

Wiesbaden Youth Services spent some time on the road this summer. Youths traveled two or three times each week to some great cultural and fun places in Germany and around Europe.



Wiesbaden youths visit the Sanssouci Park in Postdam during a trip to Berlin.



Wiesbaden youths Maria Buzbee and Kourtney Nummery enjoy a day at the Ramstein Air Base, Germany, swimming pool.



Wiesbaden youths visit Buckingham Palace in London.

Baumholder "Home of Champions"

Youth Activities



Photo courtesy of CYSS Teen Center

Baumholder Middle School teen program youths Amanda Rivera, J.R. Rivera, Xavier Cage, Chris Beck, DiAndria Donaldson, Aaron Howe, Paladin Turner, Selina Loewe, Selina Stanley and Damon Warner, and sponsor Sandra Guyette, visit the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy.



Photo courtesy of CYSS Teen Center

Baumholder Middle School teen program youths Christine Fantuzzi, Alex Erickson, Aaron Howe, Bradley Howe, Tessa Irwin, Gabriella Jones, Selina Loewe, Gregory Moses, Prince Owusu, Amanda Rivera, J.R. Rivera, Erik Sherman, Maria Sherman, Cullen Sonnefeld, Selina Stanley, Paladin Turner, Eric Wardell, Damon Warner, Adrian Watkins, Nathan Beatty, Chris Beatty, Xavier Cage, Anthony Cannon, Elijah Carter-Salisbury and DiAndria Donaldson, and sponsor Sandra Guyette, visit the Vatican City in Rome.



Adrian Julien shows off his new skateboarding skills, which he learned from skate camp instructor Doug Des Autels.

Skate Camp



Photo courtesy of CYSS Sports Dept.

Christian Thomas, Nolan Sandoval and Kyong Nam Ku attentively watch the demonstrations given by professional skate camp instructors at the Baumholder Skate Park.



Photo courtesy of CYSS Sports Dept.

Tamerc Blockmon, Calum Thomas and Samuel Richards take a break after learning new skills at the Baumholder skate camp.

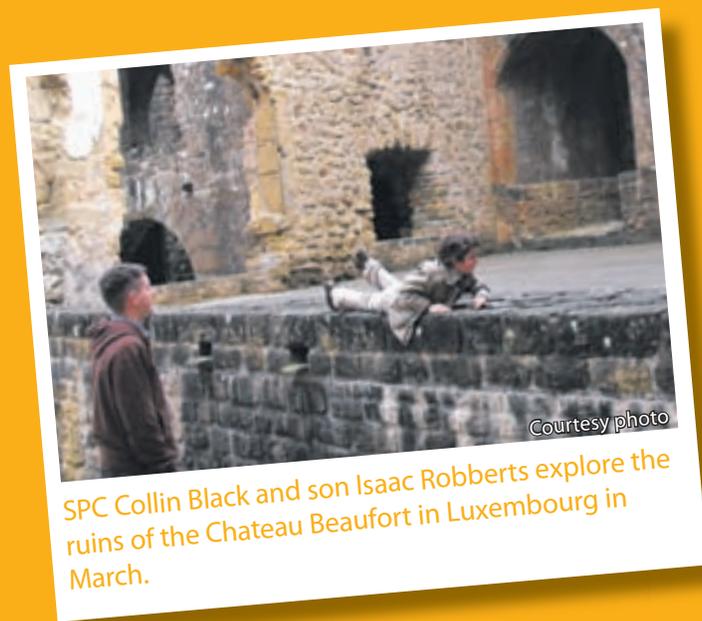


Vacation Photos



Photo by Brandy Severson-Jackson

Amber Reyes and Martika Hernandez visit Cologne, Germany on a Community Youth Services trip Aug. 1.



Courtesy photo

SPC Collin Black and son Isaac Robberts explore the ruins of the Chateau Beaufort in Luxembourg in March.



Photo by Nikki Marshall

Kathy Marshall visits Kinderdijk, The Netherlands, with her grandson Patrick Marshall in May.



Photo by Brandy Severson-Jackson

Mason Suarez visits a Russian Orthodox Church in Wiesbaden, Germany, July 21.

Have you been on a trip lately? Send information to: pictures@herald-union.com

Submit your JPEG photo and include the name of the photographer, the date of the photo, first and last names of anyone in the photo, and the location of where the photo was taken. Write "Destinations" in the e-mail subject line.

Brain Teaser

The Treasure

Jenny's aunt recently passed away. In her will it said that there was a treasure for Jenny, if she could figure out the directions. Jenny's aunt was a great scholar and she loved a good teaser. In the directions she wrote:

My dear Jenny,

To find the treasure that I have left you, you just have to follow some instructions that I have for you. please do exactly everything that I tell you to and you will find the trasure. It will be wrapped tightly in a small package ready for you. I trust you, because I know that you are very intelligent and you will find it for sure.

Even if you don't find it, I know that you would have at least tried. I know that its really hard for you to figure thiss letter out, but do try. The pakage will be waiting for you there. You have been wonderful person to be vith. So, keep trying and you will find that treasure!

Sincerely, Your Aunt



Answer: The treasure was in a place called Peggy's Cave. Jenny's aunt, as mentioned before was a great scholar, so she wouldn't have made all those mistakes in her writing. All the spelling and grammatical mistakes put together will spell Peggy's Cave. ...for you, please... (P) | ...find the treasure... (e) | ...a small package... (g) | ...very intelligent... (g) | ...at least tried... (y) | ...that its really... (s) | ...this... (s) | ...The package will... (C) | ...been wonderful person... (a) | ...to be vith... (v) | ...Sincerely... (e)



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