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Herald Union



Vol. XV, No. 8

Wiesbaden: Your home in Germany

Jan. 31, 2013

Identity

Community leaders celebrate customer service, role models during workforce meeting

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's workforce celebrated a yearlong effort to enhance overall customer satisfaction, recognize role models and

unveil further efforts to create a sense of identity in the Wiesbaden military community.

"When I first spoke here a year ago I talked about creating a home here — not just for Headquarters U.S. Army Europe, but for our 20,000 Soldiers, civilians and family members here in Wiesbaden," said Col. David Carstens, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, to the hundreds of Soldiers and civilians gathered in the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Jan. 25.

"And so, many people sitting in **See Identity on page 2**



Col. David Carstens presents community leaders with their new name tags.



Community members march to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s actions and inspirational messages on Clay Kaserne Jan. 17.

Words to remember

Marching in honor of Dr. King

"Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. That is the interrelated structure of reality."

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

During his lifetime Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood as a towering role model for doing

what's right in the face of discrimination, cruel injustice and a staggering silent majority.

After the civil rights leader was cut down by an assassin's bullet

See Dr. King on page 4

Aukamm residents warned to look out for wild boars

By Wendy Brown
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

The last time Spc. Darrell Cole felt safe letting his dog Dakota off her leash at night behind their home on Westfalenstrasse in Aukamm Housing was Jan. 13.

That was the evening Cole briefly let Dakota off her leash to use the bathroom, and she immediately ran to the fence and started barking. "I heard stuff crashing in the woods behind the fence," he said, "but I didn't see anything. I didn't know what it was, and then the following morning I came out in daylight and I saw that the ground was all rooted up."

Cole correctly surmised that a pack of wild boars caused the damage, and he alerted Col. James Brashear, director of the Defense Science and Tech-

nology Center-Europe, who sent out a warning about the animals. Other residents have reported seeing a pack of about three adults and four young boars in the area. They dig up the grass in search of insects to eat.

Residents who live in the area should keep their dogs on leashes and stay away from the back sides of the buildings at night, said Beate Zuber, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Directorate of Public Works building coordinator program manager. Wild boars are nocturnal and hide during the day.

Under no circumstances should anyone feed the boars or attempt to approach them, Zuber said.

Members of the Housing Office and DPW are aware of the issue and will work with the city of

See Wild boars on page 10



Photo by Wendy Brown

Spc. Darrell Cole walks his dog Dakota next to extensive damage that wild boars have caused in Aukamm Housing Jan. 23.

Our brand

By Col. David Carstens
Commander of the
U.S. Army Garrison
Wiesbaden



Welcome to Wiesbaden: Your home in Germany.

By now many of you have heard this friendly greeting from our Pond's guards as you pass through the gates of any of our 17 installations here in the Wiesbaden area. This salutation is part of a greater "branding" campaign to provide our community an organizational identity that creates a sense of community and belonging among our residents and our workforce.

We hope through this campaign to also give community members a sense of consistency and familiarity and build a relationship that is mutually beneficial to both our installation service providers and their constituency.

Among other efforts currently underway to implement this program is the "renewal project" at the Welcome Center to include visually portraying some important themes of your "Home" — serving, learning, sustaining, living, exploring and transforming. The appearance of "front-door service" offices will be standardized with doorplates, logos and operating hours.

The garrison is also rolling out a Customer Bill of Rights to let our residents know the level of great service they can expect from each of our service providers.

The campaign will be represented at the Community Open House on Feb. 5 and by the Welcome Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in late February.

Stay tuned for more on this story as we progress.



Command Sgt. Maj. Sa'eed Mustafa and Col. David Carstens recognize the dedicated efforts of Heinz Kaffenberger and his Directorate of Logistics staff — now part of the 405th Army Field Support Brigade.

Identity

Continued from page 1
audience have been spending a lot of time in the last several months trying to figure out what exactly does a home mean. And I think we've figured it out," he said.

Teams of garrison employees have been working for the past year researching different ways people communicate and obtain information, find out about the many opportunities both inside and outside the U.S. military community and obtain the support and services they relate to a sense of home wherever they reside.

"We already have a wonderful customer service culture," said the commander, pointing to among the highest satisfaction percentages and response rates Army-wide in the Interactive Customer Evaluation system and other feedback mechanisms such as the "Ask the commander" segments on the American Forces Network-Wiesbaden's radio, the *Herald Union*, commander's hotline and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

The goal is to inspire the entire workforce to continue a culture of outstanding service, he said.

"This is the end of a really long road of establishing what the vision is here in

Wiesbaden — the end state being "Wiesbaden: Your home in Germany," Carstens said. "Wiesbaden is about more than just serving." It's about living, sustaining, learning, exploring, transforming — all of the different things that contribute to a sense of home.

"It's not about creating anything new," he added, pointing to recognition of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden as the Army Community of Excellence in 2011 and being recognized again in 2012 for having sustained that level of excellence, but more about identifying how each individual and the community as a whole contributes to a positive sense of home for those first arriving in Wiesbaden.

During the Friday afternoon workforce gathering, community leaders recognized a handful of community employees for their "inspired leadership." These included Uta Russ, Master Sgt. Richard Jones and Quinton Harvey from the Directorate of Human Resources; Kevin Whitfield, Jose Faulk, Corinna Faulk and Kevin Iszard from the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Dirk Ulbrich from the Transformation Management and Stationing Office; Maria

Myers from the Directorate of Resource Management, Sgt. 1st Class Faustin Desir of the Religious Support Office; Chrystal Smith of the Public Affairs Office and Patrice Reinhard of the Directorate of Public Works. The assembled group also acknowledged the efforts of area logisticians, led by Heinz Kaffenberger, as the Directorate of Logistics has transitioned from being a vital component of USAG Wiesbaden to being a supporting agency as part of the 405th Army Field Support Brigade.

Among the highlights of the event was the rollout of an original video (*watch it on the garrison's YouTube page at <http://youtu.be/2hOUm9Daxss>*), logo and posters capturing the different aspects of life in the Wiesbaden military community, a unified name tag for all garrison employees and a live video feed with leaders of the Installation Management Command, based in San Antonio, Texas.

"I just want to thank you employees of the IMCOM workforce for everything you do every day," said Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, IMCOM commander. "You make it Army Strong and you make me proud. ... Thanks for your innovation and your energy every day."

Wiesbaden *Your home in Germany*

USAG Wiesbaden ARMY COMMUNITIES

LEARNING SERVING EXPLORING LIVING TRANSFORMING SUSTAINING

TRANSFORMING SUSTAINING

SERVING LIVING LEARNING

SUSTAINING LIVING LEARNING

LIVING EXPLORING

LEARNING SERVING

TRANSFORMING

SUSTAINING EXPLORING

Helping to build your home

Herald Union published by AdvantiPro

The *Herald Union*, printed exclusively for members of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, is an authorized, unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office. No payment is made for contributions. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for sale, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. This is a biweekly newspaper published by AdvantiPro GmbH and printed by Oggersheimer Druckzentrum. Circulation is 6,000 copies. **For display advertising rates** call Sabine Vogl at civ (0631) 3033 5537, email ads@herald-union.com; **classified advertising rates** call Isabell Smith at civ (0631) 3033 5531 or post at www.class-world.eu. Editorial offices are in Building 1205 on Clay Kaserne. **Address:** USAG Wiesbaden, Herald Union, Unit 29623 Box 60, APO AE 09005-9623; **Telephone:** mil 337-7405; civ (0611) 705-7405; **Email:** army.wiesbadenpao@mail.mil; **Home page:** www.wiesbaden.army.mil.

Command and newspaper staff

USAG Wiesbaden Commander.....Col. David H. Carstens
USAG Wiesbaden Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Sa'eed A. Mustafa
Public Affairs Officer.....Anemone Rueger
Editor.....Karl Weisel (mil 337-7405)
Associate Editor.....Chrystal Smith (mil 337-1400)
Reporter.....Wendy Brown (mil 337-5150)

News flash

Tax Center to open Feb. 4

The Wiesbaden Tax Center is set to open its doors Feb. 4 in Building 1043 (second floor) on Clay Kaserne at the Tony Bass Fitness Center. To schedule an appointment call mil 337-4755 or civ (0611) 705-4755.

Black History Month event

The Taunus Theater will be the site of a special Black History Month observance Feb. 6 starting at 10 a.m. with a presentation of the play, "The Elevator," by the Amelia Earhart Playhouse and followed by guest speaker Brig. Gen. Barry L. Price, director of the Army's Human Resources Policy, at 11:45 a.m.

Dental art contest

The Wiesbaden Dental Clinic invites youngsters to enter the "Smile Healthy Today" art contest for the chance to win prizes. Registration forms and contest rules are available at the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic front desk on online at www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/services/clinic.asp. Deadline to enter is Feb. 14. Call mil 337-5599 for more information.



Military Officers Association meeting Feb. 2

The First European Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America invites active duty, guard/reserve, former or retired commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services to a meeting of the membership Feb. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Restaurant Barbarossahof in Esselfurth (near Kaiserslautern). Stop by for lunch, check out membership benefits and meet members of the chapter. Get directions and make reservations by sending an email to feitmaker@t-online.de.

Pet fees

Members of the U.S. forces community who bring their pets along when they arrive in Germany for assignment will be charged a fee by German authorities beginning Feb. 1. A €55 fee per pet owner will be charged during arrivals at Ramstein Air Base, and Frankfurt International Airport will charge a €35 per accompanied pet or €55 for an unaccompanied pet. Owners may pay the fee by credit card only. (USAREUR Release)

White House recruiters

The White House Communications Agency recruiting team will be at the Tony Bass Fitness Center on Clay Kaserne at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 5. The agency seeks enlisted Soldiers in these jobs: 12H, 12W, 12Y, 25B, 25C, 25E, 25F, 25L, 25M, 25N, 25P, 25Q, 25R, 25S, 25T, 25U, 25V, 25W, 25X, 35F, 35L, 35P(RU), 35Y, 36B, 42A, 88M, 91B, 91D, 91E, 91X, 92A, 92Y, 94E, 94W, 94Z, and Air Force enlisted in these jobs: 1A3X1, 1B4X1, 1N3X1(RU), 1S0X1, 2S0X1, 3D0X0, 3D0X1, 3D0X2, 3D0X3, 3D0X4, 3D100, 3D1X1, 3D1X2, 3D1X3, 3D1X7, 3E6X1, 3N0X0, 3N0X2, 3N0X4, 3S0X1, 3S2X1, 6C0X1, 6F0X1.

Inspiring young writers

Children's author shares tips, ideas for enhancing skills

Story and photo by Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

In what has become an annual tradition at Hainerberg Elementary School, students were inspired to expand their writing horizons thanks to a visit by a children's book author.

Jen. K. Blom, author of "Possum Summer," spent Jan. 14-18 at the school sharing and discussing tips on writing and illustrating with pupils in grades Sure Start through five.

"We've worked hard the last couple of years to find good ones," said Tricia Benz, Hainerberg Parent Teacher Organization president, recalling a visit by well-known children's author and wordsmith Brian P. Cleary in 2012.

"The teachers like this each year because it reinforces what they're teaching as far as language enrichment and writing," Benz said.

"They're (the children) outstanding," said Blom, "and everyone's really well behaved. It has just really been a great experience."

Blom, who hails from Oklahoma and lives with her husband and daughter in Berlin, said sharing her ideas about writing with the Wiesbaden Department of Defense Dependents Schools students was equally rewarding. "It's inspiring to be around these kids. ... They're really outgoing."

Benz, the mother of a third-grader at the school, explained that among the highlights of Blom's workshop was her approach to story writing, picking a topic and illustration.

"I always wrote," said Blom, about her development as an author. "I wrote my first picture book when I was in the sixth grade."



Jen K. Blom, author of "Possum Summer," talks about telling and illustrating stories during a workshop at Hainerberg Elementary School.

Because of her daughter's interest in horses, she has been inspired to write about that subject as well, she said, with her next book to be titled, "Blue Appaloosa." She is also writing English-language books for a publisher to be used in German schools, she said.

Perhaps Blom's most important lesson for her young students: "Read all the time and don't let anyone tell you you're not any good."



Recycling to be good stewards of the environment, resources

Maj. William McGlothlin (left) and Peter Zeisberger of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Directorate of Public Works deliver paper recycling boxes to offices on Clay Kaserne as part of an overall effort to encourage more recycling throughout the garrison. Recycling saves the Army money for other programs and services. For more information about refuse recycling, click on the Recycling Guide link on the garrison's home page — www.wiesbaden.army.mil.

Photo by Karl Weisel

From the blotter

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

Jan. 11

Failure to obey Regulation: An officer is being charged with failure to obey order or regulation/re-register a privately owned vehicle.

Traffic accident: A Soldier is being charged with a traffic accident: Inattentive driving.

Jan. 12

Traffic accident: A Soldier is being charged with a traffic accident: Improper backing.

Jan. 14

Traffic accident: A family member is being charged with a traffic accident: Failure to judge proper clearance.

Traffic accident: A noncommissioned officer is being charged with a traffic accident: improper lane change.

Jan. 16

Failure to obey regulation: A Soldier is being charged with failure to obey order or regulation/ re-register a POV.

Traffic accident: A Soldier is being charged with a traffic accident: Fleeing the Scene.

Drunken driving: A civilian employee is being charged with drunken operation of a vehicle.

Jan. 17

Drunken driving: A Soldier is being charged with drunken operation of a vehicle, aggravated assault and domestic violence.

Jan. 18

Assault: A Soldier is being charged with assault consummated by a battery and possession of marijuana.

Jan. 19

Assault: A Soldier is being charged with assault consummated by a battery and resisting apprehension.

Traffic accident: An NCO is being charged with a traffic accident: improper turn.

Jan. 20

Failure to Pay: An NCO is being charged with a failure to pay just debt.

Jan. 22

Failure to obey Regulation: An NCO is being charged with failure to obey order or regulation/re-register a POV.

Jan. 23

Tax evasion: A family member is being charged with tax evasion, misuse of ILS privileges, operating a home-based business, black-marketing of AAFES merchandise and civilian misconduct.

Tax evasion: A family member is being charged with tax evasion, misuse of ILS privileges, operating a home-based business, unlawful transfer of AAFES merchandise and unlawful transfer of items imported through APO/AE and civilian misconduct.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Taking a look at community support

Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr. (right) discusses child care availability in the Wiesbaden military community with Cecilia Kandler, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden chief of Child, Youth and School Services, during a visit to one of the Child Development Centers on Clay Kaserne. The U.S. Army Europe commander and his wife, Ann (center), toured various facilities during the visit Jan. 28.

Dr. King

Continued from page 1

in 1968 at the age of 39 in Memphis, Tenn., he left behind pages and pages of inspired eloquence that remain a guide for future generations to overcome differences and to seek solutions to life's challenges.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was uplifted by the energy and passion of his fellow citizens and praised the glory of America and democratic ideals that made the rights of speech, protest and assembly possible," said U.S. Army Europe Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Sean J. Rice.

The guest speaker at the fourth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative march on Clay Kaserne, hosted by the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, Rice thanked the roughly 100 Soldiers, civilians and family members who marched in the sub-freezing temperatures Jan. 17 and participated in the ensuing observance at the Tony Bass Fitness Center.

"Thank you all for being lighthouses with this wonderful community," Rice said. "When troubled waters occur, you bring excitement and hope to those in need."

Taking the time to remember the vision and legacy of Dr. King through the national observance is an important part of helping "energize and sustain



Command Sgt. Maj. Sean J. Rice talks about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy during the commemoration Jan. 17.

us for the journeys ahead," Rice said.

"All of us are a beautifully diverse crowd reflecting the many threads that weave together to create the fabric of nations and ideas," he added.

On the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's famous "I have a dream" speech from the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, Rice said King's ideas remain as important today as they were when first voiced.

Reflecting the celebration's theme, "Remember, celebrate, act—a day on, not a day off," the speaker said Dr. King's words still serve as a guide for dealing with the most critical issues of the day. Standing up for what's right at

personal risk, serving one's community and speaking out against wrong are as important today as they were during the civil rights movement's heyday. He asked listeners to not rest until Dr. King's "dream" becomes a reality for everyone.

In addition to the march and guest speaker, the Wiesbaden observance also featured several song selections by local community members, readings of Dr. King's speeches and an exhibit of posters created by Hainerberg Elementary School students.

The following Hainerberg students were honored as poster contest winners: Cassidy Hackenburg (first grade), Brooke Issler (second grade), Daliah Torres (third grade), Sabina Wamulumba (fourth grade) and Nina Oldenetta (fifth grade).

Respect taught at Wiesbaden Middle School Team of advocates visits school after letter incident

By Wendy Brown
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

When a sixth-grade boy at Wiesbaden Middle School gave a girl a letter filled with profanity and Julie Wahlers found out about it, she put on her victim advocate hat and responded.

Wahlers, victim advocate for the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program, put together a team of five advocates to speak to sixth-graders at the school, and they met with the students Jan. 16. Members of the team split up to speak to the boys and girls separately.

Master Sgt. Scott Penhollow, sexual assault response coordinator for 2nd Signal Brigade, Sgt. 1st Class Gerrine Garcia, also from 2nd Signal, and Earl McFarland, FAP educator and victim advocate, spoke to the boys in the gym, while Wahlers and Kari Ross, also FAP victim advocate, talked to the girls in the band room.

Their message? Respect one another and stand up for yourself if someone disrespects you.

"I was taught one time that respect, when I'm talking to somebody, is like air," said Penhollow to the group of about 60 boys. "Think about that. If I tell every one of you to hold your breath until the end of this assembly, what's the one thing that's going to be on your mind? Are you going to be listening to what I'm saying? No. You're going to be like, 'When can I breathe?'"

People don't listen to people who are disrespecting them, Penhollow said.

Wahlers and Ross also focused on respect during their talk with the girls.

With the girls' help, the group came up with their own definition of disrespect such as calling someone a bad name or otherwise saying mean things to them, calling someone stupid if he or she makes a mistake, spreading rumors about a friend, or ignoring someone on purpose.

"It is at this level that we can really start making a dif-

ference," Wahlers said. "These little girls can hopefully leave this talk and then when someone is disrespecting them, something will go off in their heads and they'll say, 'This is what they were talking about back there, and I have every right to say no.'"

It is important that students know their boundaries when it comes to respect, Wahlers said.

"Boundaries are their own special rule book, and they have to write it," Wahlers said. "Nobody else can write it for them, and when they get that horrible gut feeling, then there's something wrong and they need to listen to it. There's something wrong and someone's stepping on their boundaries and they have every right to step up and say, 'Hey, that's not cool.'"

Alexa Williams, a student, said the talk was educational and she learned what to say if someone is disrespectful to her.

In addition, she will tell someone about what is going on if someone disrespects her, Williams said.

Salote Hussein, also a student, said she thought the talk was good because she did not know what to do in the past if someone disrespected her, but now she knows how to stand up for herself.

Penhollow asked the boys what they intended to do about disrespect in the school.

"I hear a lot of people saying, 'I would go up to this person, or I would personally tell them,' but what are you personally going to do, because sometimes it's not always about the person to your left or your right. Sometimes you've got to look in the mirror," Penhollow said, "and figure out what 'I' can do."

Daryl Guerra, a student, said he thought the talk was really good, and it was an interesting topic to talk about in regard to school. It made him think about subjects he might not otherwise have thought about, he said.

Ross said the group hopes to bring this important message of respect to all of the grades and already has plans to speak at the



Photo by Wendy Brown

Julie Wahlers, victim advocate for the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program, speaks with a student after a meeting with Wiesbaden Middle School sixth-graders about treating one another with respect.

high school.

McFarland said the group intends to return to the middle

school in May and ask the students if anything has changed about how students treat one

another. "If we don't follow up, then we have wasted a great opportunity here," he said.

Capitol Motors



Staff Sgt. John Lacroix ushers military and civilian first responders into the Viper Pit on Wiesbaden's Clay Kaserne during a training session. Photo left: German Army and Navy service members render tactical field care in the Viper Pit as trainers keep the pressure on in the high-stress environment aimed at creating combat-like conditions.

Viper Pit: Wiesbaden Health Clinic, Training Support Center team up to provide unique training environment

Story and photos by
Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

When members of the 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion moved from Wiesbaden to Baumholder in 2012, they took their tactical field care training facility with them.

Thanks to a joint effort by the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic and the Training Support Center, a brand new "Viper Pit" was established in the same location on Clay Kaserne offering Soldiers and other first responders a local opportunity to learn valuable lifesaving skills in a simulated combat environment.

"We basically rebuilt the Viper Pit with the help of the Wiesbaden TSC," said Staff Sgt. John Lacroix, who helped establish the original facility while serving with the 421st MMB before transferring to the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic. "The Health Clinic provided all of the medical supplies and the Training Support Center the training facility, medical aids/devices, and ancillary equipment.

"We take care of the personnel and teaching side," said Lacroix, explaining that the only money spent on rebuilding the facility was given by the Training Support Activity Europe for the Training Support Center to renovate the facility and the purchase of new training manikins and special effects equipment.

"We proposed taking on this mission



German Petty Officer Second Class Maat Patrick Bremer (from left), Seaman Jan-Philipp Hürster and Petty Officer First Class Robert Göbke look out for "enemy forces" as they head to a medical evacuation point.

to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center commander," he added, explaining that the proposal was met with enthusiasm. "Not only can we now provide world class health care at the WAHC, but we can also offer world class medical tactical training.

"This is the second group we've had come through since the Health Clinic assumed responsibility," said Lacroix, explaining that starting in February the Viper Pit will offer regular Combat Life Saving training sessions on the first and third Mondays of the month. The consolidated classes can support 40 people and are geared toward providing intensive "stress inoculation" training

whereby participants learn to render critical lifesaving aid in the face of any number of combat-like distractions.

While primarily for local units preparing to deploy, the trainers will remain flexible to open the Viper Pit to outside units and other NATO service members requesting the sought-after training.

"We're also mobile and very versatile," said Lacroix, explaining that the training has been taken to other European countries in the past. "We're trying to capitalize on the systems and assets that we have here. ... We're getting a lot of

support from everybody."

Over several bone-chilling days in late January, more than 30 German and Austrian service members and law enforcement officers repeatedly made their way through the training facility.

As Health Clinic trainers yelled instructions in the smoke-filled, machine-gun-rattled darkness of the Viper Pit, the military and civilian first responders worked feverishly on manikins, applying tourniquets and quickly assessing emergency care required. Then they transported the injured outside, established security, called in medical evacuation and headed to the prescribed "safe" pick-up point, all while negotiating IEDs, snipers and other obstacles.

"You can see them become more confident and self-assured each time they go through," said Bundeswehr Reserve 1st Lt. Oliver Oswald, who serves as an international liaison in coordinating the training between international partner forces and the U.S. military. "They gain confidence and learn to concentrate on providing the necessary care while under the stress of combat."

For more information about the Viper Pit training contact Staff Sgt. John Lacroix at mil 337-6637. (To view more photos from the Viper Pit visit the garrison's Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/wpao/.)

"You can see them become more confident and self-assured each time they go through."

Community opens doors to German-American visit

Teachers and students tour Clay Kaserne Fire Department

Story and photos by

Karl Weisel

*U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office*

Several American youths were among more than 30 kindergarteners from the Wiesbaden Obermayr School to visit the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Fire Department on Clay Kaserne Jan. 15.

The visit, part of a command effort to encourage more partnership and transparency between the host nation and U.S. military communities, offered the youths and teachers an opportunity to learn more about one another.

"We'd like to have more exchanges," said the school's principal, Bianca Fleck. "At this time we have many American parents and children and also an American teacher at the school. We'd like to build on this."

Fleck explained that as a trilingual school teaching in English, German and Spanish, "it's important for the children to see what else is here."

"It made us very happy to get this invitation and that so much time and energy was taken to make the visit possible," Fleck added. "The kids loved it and we teachers were also glad to see what's here (on Clay Kaserne)."

As the 4-year-olds (children ages 3-5 attend kindergarten in Germany) enjoyed "driving" firetrucks, spraying fire hoses and meeting McGruff the crime-

fighting dog, Capt. Jennifer Glover, USAG Wiesbaden's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander, talked about the importance of sharing U.S. military and host nation exchanges.

"This way we're able to create partnerships on a different level and demonstrate that we're good neighbors," Glover said. "The kids who are here today will be able to go home and talk about what they saw — about fire safety and McGruff the crimefighting dog."

Besides learning about fire safety from Fire Chief Daniel Corzelius and his fellow firefighters, the visitors also spent time with Wiesbaden community Military Police.

"We're creating 31 little relationships," Glover said, explaining that it's important for Americans to continue to nurture the more than half a century of outstanding German-American relations.

"We forget sometimes that there are other people here besides the military," she added, saying it's important for Americans to reach out and not be limited by too much time spent on the job rather than exploring and sharing with host nation neighbors. "It's important for the military community to get out into the host nation community."

(For more photos visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wpao/sets/72157632526774781>)



McGruff, the crime-fighting dog, joins the young visitors in a "be safe" shout-out.

Lillien Care



U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden firefighter Bjoern Christ helps youngsters aim a fire hose during their visit to the Clay Kaserne Fire Department. The students of the Obermayr school learned about fire safety, and one of the highlights of the visit was a ride in a firetruck.

Sponsorship program helping Soldiers

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden makes sponsorship a priority, achieves results

By Wendy Brown
*U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office*

Spc. Ezonica Castellano's transition to U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden went as smoothly as possible, largely because her sponsor was proactive and eager to help.

Not only did Sgt. Christall Pina contact Castellano before she arrived to answer questions, she had her room set up beforehand and gave her a tour of the area soon after she reported Jan. 11. "She was very informative and helpful," Castellano said.

Castellano's experience is one garrison officials are working to make the norm for every Soldier who arrives in Wiesbaden. Vanessa Rice, the garrison's sponsorship and benefits coordinator, said she is reaching out to Soldiers and commanders in an effort to get more people trained as sponsors.

Soldiers must receive sponsorship training before becoming a sponsor, and it is offered at 8:30 a.m. every Tuesday in the training room upstairs in the Tony Bass Fitness Center, Rice said.

"Anybody can go. We're trying to capture the Soldiers doing their inprocessing, so they will already have the training before they make it to the unit, but anybody who is already here can also go to that training," Rice said.

Also, sponsorship program managers from units can become trained to train other Soldiers in the unit, Rice said. Or, an Army Community Service representative will go to the unit and do the training.

Soldiers should be aware that the training must be renewed every year, Rice said.

Rice urges Soldiers to do their best as a sponsor, remembering that it is necessary to stay in touch before, during and after arrival.

"What makes a good sponsor is someone who is willing to be available," Rice said. "You should keep in contact. You should answer the emails, and if you can't answer a question, ask



ACS, your program manager or me. Just don't drop the ball and not answer the question. Be on time, assist and have a positive attitude."

Castellano said she has not only had a positive experience as a newcomer, but also being a sponsor.

As a sponsor at Fort Riley, Castellano said she had the opportunity to sponsor a Soldier who was new to the country and was extremely grateful for Castellano's assistance assimilating to the United States. "It's good to be able to help people," she said.

The standard operating procedure is that 100 percent of Soldiers in all units are supposed to receive a sponsor within 30 days of a permanent change of station, Rice said.

Wiesbaden is currently at 66 percent, but the numbers are a little skewed because of the number of people moving to Wiesbaden from Heidelberg who are familiar with Germany and feel they do not need a



sponsor, Rice said.

Rice and the unit program managers are diligently working to reinvigorate the sponsorship program to ensure all Soldiers and family members receive a warm hospitable welcome as they transition to their new home in the Wiesbaden community.

Wiesbaden also has a rela-

tively new Spouse Sponsorship program, and 15 spouses are trained to be sponsors to fellow spouses, said Jodie DeLeon, ACS relocation technician and head of the Spouse Sponsorship program.

Nearly all the trained spouses have either begun sponsoring or have sponsored incoming spouses, said DeLeon. The

Spc. Ezonica Castellano, who arrived in Wiesbaden Jan. 11 and has had an exceptionally helpful sponsor, listens to an American Red Cross briefing during inprocessing in a conference room at the Tony Bass Fitness Center Jan. 25. Photo left: Jodie DeLeon, Army Community Service relocation technician and head of the Spouse Sponsorship program, conducts a sponsorship training session with incoming Soldiers Jan. 22 at the Tony Bass Fitness Center.

Photos by Wendy Brown

next training will take place at 9 a.m. Feb. 4 at the ACS Center in Building 7790 on Hainerberg Housing (across the street from Army Lodging).

For more information on sponsorship and the many resources available for sponsors, visit www.militaryonesource.mil/moving?content_id=266791.

Thrift Shop gets new home in Mainz-Kastel

More space to raise funds that support welfare grants, scholarships

Story and photo by
Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

Looking for a bargain and a way to help the community? Both can be accomplished easily in one simple visit to the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club's new Thrift Shop on Mainz-Kastel Storage Station. The store, which recently relocated to Building 4013 (from next to the Community Bank to across from the shop-pette), now offers six times as much space, allowing for a much wider display area and expanded offerings.

And every sale generates money that is returned to the community in the form of WCSC welfare grants and scholarships.

"You never know what you'll find here," said Thrift Shop Manager Lilly Parkos. "It's really important for Soldiers and their families because they can get things cheaper here than on the economy. They can also earn money for their used items."

"Last year we made about \$90,000 that went back to welfare and grants," Parkos said.

With the move and more



Lilly Parkos (left), Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop manager, and Patricia Holt, WCSC Thrift Shop chair, talk about some of the special Valentine-themed items on sale in the new store location on Mainz-Kastel Storage Station.

space than in the past, the volunteers and staff have been able to create more of a department store-type atmosphere, the manager said. "You'll find merchandise from all over the world including clothes, unusual costumes, transformers (costing considerably less than at the Exchange), 220-volt appliances, souvenirs and a big furniture selection. There are designer clothes, masks from Africa and a lot of children's clothes and toys."

Parker said that when she originally started working at

the Thrift Shop as a bookkeeper, the stock quickly grew faster than the available space in the former location.

The move was a "win-win situation for everyone," Parkos said, especially the volunteers who now have a "much better work environment." She explained that the store relies on the dedicated staff of about 20 volunteers and four paid staff members. "Without them we would not be able to exist."

She added that the Thrift Shop currently has an opening for a paid consignment clerk

position. "We're also always looking for new faces — people to serve as volunteers. It's a great working environment. Volunteers learn people skills, sorting, stocking, displaying and decorating."

Anyone interested in connecting with the Thrift Shop can call civ (06134) 1888 388, email [wscsthiftshop@yahoo.com](mailto:wcscthriftshop@yahoo.com) or visit WCSC Thrift Shop on Facebook. People can also check out photos, sales and other Thrift Shop news on the Facebook page, she said.

The manager asked that

people only drop off consignments during operating hours and never leave items out in front of the facility. "People can bring up to 12 items on one working day (limited to up to six clothing items). They name the price, we ticket it and it remains for six weeks on the floor. We keep a 30 percent commission of the sale," Parkos explained.

Although the Thrift Shop staff held a soft opening in their new Mainz-Kastel Storage Station location in early January, everyone is invited to the grand opening on Feb. 2 at noon.

"We'll have some giveaways and some Thrift Shop vouchers for the first 15 customers," said Patricia Holt, WCSC Thrift shop chair.

"We've had some amazing volunteers help us with the move," said Holt, mentioning members of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Boy Scouts and others. "That's really why we're having a grand opening — to make sure we thank everyone who helped us. We met a lot of new friends."

Parkos added that live entertainment will also be featured during the grand opening.

So the next time you're shopping for a bargain, don't forget to stop by the Thrift Shop. The store is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There's no time like snow time

Wiesbaden Middle School students Briyanna Gardner, Jarred Edwards and Anevay White sled down the hill by the Wiesbaden Commissary in Hainerberg Housing during their gym class Jan. 16.

Wiesbaden military community youths have had plenty of time to enjoy getting out for some winter recreation with the temperatures remaining in the 20s and 30s.

Photo by Wendy Brown



Wiesbaden Dental Clinic to increase capabilities

Full root canal therapy and crown, bridge, implant and denture procedures on the way

The Wiesbaden Dental Clinic, along with the community, will undergo some changes as the transformation process draws to a conclusion. A new dental facility or expansion of the clinic has not been planned for the foreseeable future. Present staffing exceeds the Dental Command's staffing model, with additional providers focusing on pediatric and orthodontic dentistry.

Col. Derrick R. Carter, Dental Command commander, said, "The change in demographics and closure of Heidelberg will result in increased capabilities for the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic. The clinic will have as a permanent fixture an endodontist and a prosthodontist. This means full root canal therapy will be performed at the clinic. Likewise, crown, bridge, implant and denture procedures will be performed at the clinic instead of being referred to the Landstuhl area. It is a totally good news story."

The new capabilities do not affect the priority of care by the clinic. They will allow a quicker conversion of service members to a state of oral wellness (Dental Readiness Classification 1), with all dental needs being met. The overall impact will increase access and availability to dental appointments for family members and retirees.

The size and growth of the community make it imperative that family members and retirees enroll in the Tricare Dental Program. The clinic can provide comprehensive examinations, to include orthodontic evaluations, to all beneficiaries. However, service member priority of care limits the delivery and timeliness of treatment. Family members and retirees are strongly encouraged to seek oral wellness or health without delay.

"The clinic continues to look for ways to increase availability of clinic appointments," Carter said. "Family member and retiree appointments are space available, and can't be guaranteed for a given time. Tricare Dental Program,



Photo by Wendy Brown

Dr. Nadia Halimi examines a patient at the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic in 2012.

either MetLife or Delta Dental removes the uncertainty."

All service members with family members must elect to enroll in the program. Family members enrolled in the program in the continental United States should maintain their enrollment. OCONUS coverage is more extensive and removes all of the co-payment for fillings, root canals, gum therapy and extractions. A statement of non-availability is not necessary except for orthodontic services. The statement of non-availability may be obtained from MetLife or from the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic. Anyone interested in receiving more information about Tricare insurance can visit their web page at www.tricare.mil or contact the dental clinic at mil 337-1720 or civ (0611) 705-1720.

"We know many people hesitate

visiting a dental office on the German economy for fear that personnel will not speak English. Wiesbaden is really lucky because several offices in close proximity have reached out to our needs. The Wiesbaden Dental Clinic has a list of offices with English-speaking personnel that cater to Americans in the area. The off-post clinics meet the standards of Tricare and preferred providers have state of the art facilities," Carter said.

"Dental problems can worsen quickly, and it is important for community members who are not service members to receive regular exams and prompt dental care. That is not always possible at the clinic," he said.

"Delays in treatment may lead to increase in cost for treatment, more discomfort for a given condition, and more time at the dental office. A six-

month wait for a filling, for example, can cause a small to moderate, easy-to-fill cavity to turn into a large hole requiring extensive work," Carter said.

It is very important to remember that both MetLife and Delta Dental plans cover emergency care. These programs do not cover active service members. Service members who experience a dental emergency when the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic is closed should call the Military Police desk at mil 337-5096, 337-5097 or civ (0611) 705-5096, (0611) 705-5097.

Service members who fail to seek care on-post, and receive emergency dental care off-post will have to pay for all treatment out of pocket. Family members and retirees may use either option for emergency care. (Courtesy of the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic)

Wild boars

Continued from page 1
Wiesbaden to eliminate the problem, Zuber said. There is no plan to hurt any of the boars.

As soon as possible, housing personnel plan to replace a section of the fence where the boars can enter the housing area from the wooded area behind it, said Peter Zeisberger, DPW Operations and Maintenance

solid waste manager.

It is likely the boars will leave on their own by spring, and if they do not, the garrison will work with German forest officials to shoot them away from the area, Zeisberger said.

It is also possible the boars will leave if the ground becomes too frozen for them to dig up, Zeisberger said.

In the meantime, however, people should be careful and not create reasons for the boars to hang around.

For that reason, it is important to keep trash cans inside the trash condos so the boars do not try to get at food inside the containers, Zuber said.

Wild boars avoid people and active areas, but if injured or

threatened, they could become aggressive, said Brashear.

Wild boars can also become dangerous if they have piglets, Brashear said.

Since the boars have been reported to have young ones with them, it is important to never get between a mother boar and her babies, Zeisberger said.

Cole noted further damage

Jan. 23 in an area one building up from the one in which he lives. One resident saw an adult boar in the area that morning before the sun came up. The damage was about 20 feet wide by 40 feet long.

"They go for grubs in the ground and roots. We have all this nice grass here, and it's like a salad bar to them," Cole said.

Protect your motorcycle from theft

Although the cold winter months are upon us, in a very short time you may be getting ready to take the tarp off your favorite motorcycle and cruise the Autobahn. In the meantime, while the wind is too bitter and the bike is too cold to ride, you can take measures to protect your interests in that favorite pastime of yours.

Here are some helpful hints from the Wiesbaden Area Claims Office to let you know how to be in a better position in filing a claim if your motorcycle is stolen this year.

For claims that do not arise from permanent change of station shipments, your insurance is the first resource for recovering money on a stolen motorcycle. You must file with your insurance before you can file a claim with the Claims Office. For that reason, while your motorcycle is safely locked indoors, take the time to check your insurance policy.

It is a common mistake to believe because you have full coverage on your car or truck, your motorcycle which is on the same policy has the same coverage. Frequently, insurance compa-

nies do not cover motorcycle theft because it is high risk in the sense they are easily stolen, unlikely to be recovered, and cost thousands of dollars to replace.

If you are not found to be negligent, and your insurance will not cover the theft, the Claims Office can typically pay a maximum of \$3,000 for a stolen motorcycle. Further, in addition to your insurance, for a motorcycle to be legally on post or at government quarters it must be registered as described under local regulation.



If an unregistered motorcycle is stolen, it is almost always a non-payable claim.

There are two significant burdens that any potential claimants must prove if they wish to claim for a stolen motorcycle. The first burden is showing that the loss of the motorcycle occurred on the installation or at assigned quarters and was the result of theft.

This can be accomplished in several different ways to include witness statements, immediately filed police reports, and security camera footage, usually taken together with whatever other means exist to show that

the motorcycle was located at these authorized locations. However, the second burden is far more important and can be far more difficult to prove.

According to Department of the Army Pam-

phlet 27-162, paragraph 11-6c(4)(j), a claimant is expected to keep a motorcycle indoors or chain it to a fixed object if reasonably available. Further, DA PAM 27-162 states that merely locking the handlebars does not provide sufficient protection. Therefore, if your motorcycle is parked on the street with only the handlebar locks engaged, and is stolen, you would be facing a non-payable claim through the Army.

To prove that your motorcycle was properly secured could be extremely difficult as well.

If the thieves leave behind the cut security chain, it should be retained as evidence. If you can prove that the motorcycle was cut away from another object, pictures of that object should be taken and provided to the Claims Office.

In short, you must prove that you secured your motorcycle before any claim can be paid for its theft.

Should you want to gather more information or address concerns regarding the ability to claim motorcycles or other stolen goods, an appointment should be set up to speak with a member of the claims staff at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

The Legal Assistance/Claims Office is located at the Clay Kaserne Legal Center, Building 1023N. For more information, call mil 337-4725 or civ (0611) 705 4725. (*Courtesy of the Wiesbaden Area Claims Office.*)

USAG Wiesbaden

Fifth Signal Command hosts NCO induction ceremony

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Rodan
5th Signal Command
Public Affairs Office

More than 100 Soldiers from nine units based on Lucius D. Clay Kaserne passed through an arch highlighting a time-honored tradition of induction into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps Jan. 17.

“This NCO induction is extremely special and filled with a rich tradition of customs and courtesies,” said 5th Signal Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald L. Tyce. “Today is also a training opportunity as we educate on

the customs and traditions of the NCO Induction Ceremony. It’s a custom and tradition that we must uphold.

“I remember the many NCOs and officers that attended my NCO induction so many years ago that left me with a commitment and fire to be a leader and trainer of Soldiers,” Tyce said.

Soldiers from 5th Signal Command, V Corps, 2nd Theater Strategic Signal Brigade, 102nd Signal Battalion, Wiesbaden Dental Command, 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, 43rd Signal Battalion,

39th Signal Battalion, and 52nd Signal Battalion participated in the event.

“As our Army and community embrace The Army Profession Campaign, we must hold to the standards and discipline within our ranks as noncommissioned officers,” Tyce said.

More than 100 Soldiers from nine units based on Clay Kaserne passed through an arch highlighting a time-honored tradition of induction into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps Jan. 17 at the Taunus Theater.



Garrison recognizes outstanding customer service

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden leaders visited with 13 employees this month and surprised them with certificates and \$250 awards.

Guadalupe Alvarado, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security training and support specialist, not only had a 100 percent ICE satisfaction rate from numerous responses over the past 75 days, but he looks two steps ahead to always identify potential problems customers might encounter and does what is necessary to avoid those problems.

Werner Csisko, Directorate of Public Works electrician, saved the garrison a significant amount of money by recognizing a problem with electrical outlets in the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center and fixing it without the need to hire an outside contractor.

Abner Davila, Wiesbaden Post Office postal finance clerk, goes out of his way to ensure the best customer service possible, and one example is when he redirected more than 4,000 letters and parcels to make sure the Soldiers and family members from Heidelberg and Mannheim received them quickly once they moved to Wiesbaden.

Malcolm Webster, postal finance clerk, consistently supports the garrison and its mis-

sion, as well as going the extra distance to get the job done. Most recently, he helped his coworkers process more than 50,000 parcels in one week due to the transitioning of Soldiers and family members.

Lawrence Torres III, Fifth Signal Command public affairs officer, helped the garrison create a “Welcome to Wiesbaden” video that is state of the art. Specifically, Torres created a three-dimensional introduction to the video that has impressed everyone who has seen it.

Sgt. Edgar Morales-Torres, Fifth Signal Command public affairs, also helped the garrison create the “Welcome to Wiesbaden” video by taking several hours to recreate almost every unit logo into a high resolution file using Adobe Illustrator.

Sgt. J-Asia Earth, paralegal and noncommissioned officer in charge of client services at the Wiesbaden Legal Center, is a shining star in the Wiesbaden garrison community who is well known and always courteous, professional and helpful. She runs a high intensity office with a big smile and a calm demeanor.

Beate Korz, paralegal at the Wiesbaden Legal Center, diligently serves German civil and criminal court documents

— as well as traffic tickets — in a timely manner, and by doing so, greatly assists the government in fulfilling its obligations under the Status of Forces Agreement and Supplementary Agreement.

Marcus Ebert, Directorate of Logistics supply technician, continuously makes issuing furniture easier for the garrison’s units, directorates and organizations by looking to see what furniture and equipment is available.

Guenther Langer, Directorate of Labor motor vehicle operator, is always available whenever there has been a shortage of drivers or a special commitment, and he recently made an extra effort to make sure Soldiers got home safely in a snowstorm.

Leroy Hale, recreation specialist for special events at Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, is not one to ever turn down a request to help others, and he is always instrumental in the success of community events such as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Basketball Championships, the Kinder Fest and egg hunt, Victory Day and the recent Community Fall Bazaar, said Joe Harris, his supervisor and head of special events for FMWR.



Alvarado Csisko Davila Webster



Torres Morales-Torres Earth Korz



Ebert Langer Hale Trabucco

Annikka Trabucco, Army Community Service outreach coordinator, has taken on new projects, such as managing a Facebook site; maintaining a website; implementing community outreach events and distributing program materials throughout the garrison and ensuring these materials are bilingual.

Chrystal Smith, public affairs specialist U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public

Affairs Office, not only does a great job taking pictures and writing stories about the garrison, but **Smith** has also stepped up to become her office’s webmaster. In the past few months, Smith has developed a new website for the garrison and has done an exceptional job.



Smith

Community notes ... Community notes

Holly-Eva Blood Drive

Give from the heart and come out and support the second annual Holly-Eva Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Tony Bass Fitness Center. Holly-Eva is a dog that veterinarians said needed human blood to survive, but could not receive any because of blood shortages. She miraculously lived anyway, and this is the second blood drive her owner, 1st Sgt. Clark Kuhling, has organized in her honor.

Easter services

The following religious services will be held as Easter approaches: **Ash Wednesday** Feb. 13 Clay Chapel at noon Catholic Mass and a Protestant service at noon at the Hainerberg Chapel; **Maunder Thursday** April 4 Catholic Mass at noon at the Clay Chapel, Protestant service at noon at Hainerberg Chapel; **Good Friday** April 5 Catholic Mass at noon at Clay Chapel, Protestant Service at noon at the Hainerberg Chapel. Call mil 335-5248 or civ (0611) 408-0248 for more information.

New shoppette hours

The Clay Express (shoppette) will have new hours starting Feb. 1. The store will be open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Call of Duty

Join fellow Soldiers in meeting some of the stars behind the figures in Call of Duty Black Ops II — Kamar de los Reyes (Raul Menendez), Rich McDonald (Dave Mason) and James C. Burns (Sgt. Frank Woods) Feb. 2 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers' Warrior Zone on Clay Kaserne (Building 1214). A gaming session will follow from 5-7 p.m. For more information call mil 337-5042 or civ (0611) 705-5042.

Library happenings

The Wiesbaden Library holds preschool story time every Thursday at 10 a.m. Interested in a library orientation? They are available every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. by request.



Photo by Wendy Brown

Recognition for customer service

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Command Sgt. Maj. Sa'eed Mustafa presents Sgt. Timothy Jenkins with a coin in the garrison command building Jan. 23. Mustafa recognized Jenkins and Spc. Eugene Collado for their excellent service at the Wiesbaden Health Clinic.

Community Open House

A Community Open House will be held Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Stop by and learn about the many support and service agencies available in the Wiesbaden military community.

BOSS happenings

Wiesbaden's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers holds a Super Bowl party at the Warrior Zone, in partnership with the USO, Feb. 3 from 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. The event is free for BOSS members and single Soldiers. BOSS heads to the Black Forest for skiing and snowboarding on the Feldberg Feb. 16. For more information visit the BOSS home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/mwr/boss.asp or call mil 337-5042.

'Trash Condo' project

The "Trash Condo" project is part of a larger trash project for Army Family Housing to improve recycling, security (stop dumpster diving) and improve curb appeal. The intent is to provide trash islands for each of the multi-story Family Housing buildings (stairwell type) in Aukamm, Crestview and Hainer-

berg. The concrete trash condos will simultaneously be removed as they are broken, failing and in some cases a safety hazard. Additionally trash condos will be provided to duplex houses (same as in Newman Village) to standardize the garrison, keep trash from blowing across lawns, stop dumpster diving and also improve community curb appeal. The work is set to start this spring.

Family Child Care

Do you love working with children? Interested in working from home? Looking for an earning potential from \$26,000 to \$40,000 annually? Become a Family Child Care provider. Call civ (0611) 4080-329 or mil 335-5383 for more information.

Culture College

New to the Wiesbaden area? Learn about getting around, German culture, community resources and lots more in the monthly Culture College. The next one is scheduled for Feb. 11-13. Call mil 335-5254 or civ (0611) 4080-254.

Transition Center briefings

The Wiesbaden Transition Center holds pre-separation briefings for honorably transi-

tioning Soldiers (not retirees) no later than 90 days before transition date. Briefings are scheduled for Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon in Building 1023E on Clay Kaserne. Pre-retirement briefings for Soldiers and family members are conducted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 1023E on April 17, July 17 and Oct. 16. Career Status Bonus and Redux Retirement briefings will be Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. Call mil 337-6296 for more information.

Help is waiting

Need someone to talk to about stress, depression or anger

management issues. Military Family Life Consultants offer free, private and confidential support. No records are kept and help is available from a licensed and certified psychologist. Call civ (0175) 617 5799. After hours and weekend appointments are available.

Cub Scouts in Wiesbaden

Pack 13 is a year-round, active pack with more than 60 years of experience in the Wiesbaden area. Cub Scouts is open to boys in the first to fifth grades (or 6-10 years old). Scouts participate in everything from building and racing derby cars to hiking and camping. Pack meetings are generally the third Thursday of the month. For information about upcoming summer activities visit <http://sites.google.com/site/scoutpack13/home> or email Mandi Love at thelovetribe@gmail.com.

Girl Scout volunteers

Girl Scouts provides volunteer opportunities for women or men ages 18 and over to share their skills and experiences while learning and working with others. Girl Scouts provides a safe and nurturing environment where girls from all backgrounds, ages 5-17, can develop confidence, determination and skills needed to thrive in today's world. Positions available include management (Overseas Committee chair), troop leaders and coleaders, event coordinator, public relations and camp director. Training is provided. Send an email to cindykayfry@yahoo.com or wiesbadengs@yahoo.com for information, job description or an application.

Chinese Restaurant Mayflower

Schoolbits

FAST classes

The Wiesbaden Education Center offers Functional Academic Skills Training classes for qualified Soldiers from March 11 to April 2, May 13 to June 4 and July 29 to Aug. 20. Classes will be held weekdays from 7:45-11:45 a.m. A pre-TABE test is required within two months of the start of each class and can be taken at the Education Center. Dates for upcoming tests are March 8, May 10 and July 26. The goal of the class is to prepare Soldiers for more advanced schooling, increase reenlistment options and enhance trainability. To be eligible to take a class Soldiers must have a GT score below 110. Soldiers can call mil 337-5559, email Jason.m.thorp.ctr@mail.mil or speak to a counselor at the center in Building 1023E (Room 120) on Clay Kaserne for more information.

Valentine's Bingo

Friends of the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade invite families to Valentine's Bingo at the Hainerberg Elementary School Multipurpose Room Feb. 9. Sales start at 4:30 p.m. with bingo from 5-8 p.m. cost is \$3 per card or \$10 per four pack. Pizza and drinks will be available for purchase.

School closure, weather information

Parents are reminded to listen to the American Forces Network radio or to check the garrison home page for the latest school closure and traffic delay information. Visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the Road/Weather/School Closure Information link.

Need a tutor?

U.S. military families can get around-the-clock assistance from a professional tutor through www.tutor.com/military. The free service is funded by the Department of Defense Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library Program. (Courtesy of the Wiesbaden Middle School's Wildcat Update)



Dr. (Maj.) Kevin Parker captivates his Hainerberg Elementary School audience during a yo-yo demonstration Jan. 15.

Teaching physics with a yo-yo

Army dentist shares his championship skills, know-how

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

Dropped jaws and mile-wide smiles greeted Army dentist Dr. (Maj.) Kevin Parker at Hainerberg Elementary School Jan. 15.

Not the expected reaction from a visit by tooth care expert?

That's because the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic pediatric dentist and school parent came to share his yo-yo know-how.

"We have a very special guest today — someone who is sharing a hobby that he is passionate about," said Hainerberg Principal Penelope Miller-Smith in introducing the former yo-yo champion to the auditorium full of Hainerberg youngsters.

Parker, who said he first grew interested in yo-yos after his father showed him a trick as a boy and later crafted his own yo-yo in school shop class, was the Southwest Yo-Yo Champion in 1997. He said he was also inspired by the Smothers Brothers television show.

"I like it for meditation," Parker said, explaining that a 15-minute session while in college was a great way to unwind and relax during a strenuous

study session. He said he also occasionally pulls out the yo-yo to break the tension with nervous young patients. "I'll pull it out and show them a few tricks and they think it's pretty cool."

With the assistance of his daughter, Lauren, who provided a running commentary, Parker demonstrated the full range of possibilities with the spinning sphere — running quickly through such mainstays as walking the dog, the loop-de-loop, sleeper, cradle, forward pass and other favorites.

He also described the history of the yo-yo — from its first appearance in ancient Greece, possible use as a weapon in the Phillipines, various innovations over the centuries and recurring interest in the United States in the 1920s and '60s.

"Now there's kind of a cult following," he said.

"The draw in the old days was that you could keep it in your pocket," Parker said, speculating that with so many other attractions these days — video games and the like that can also be transported easily — the yo-yo's popularity may have diminished somewhat.

"Ever hear of the term inertia," asked Parker while



demonstrating the idea with a water-filled bucket swung over the crowds' heads — "the yo-yo works the same way."

While most yo-yo enthusiasts grew up practicing with the dime store model — a cheap light-weight wooden yo-yo — Parker said that the spinning orbs range in price and sophistication.

"Guess what the record is for a yo-yo to 'sleep' (continue spinning while being suspended)? It's 21 minutes," Parker told the crowd.

Parker, who said the yo-yo helped pay for his honeymoon to the Bahamas (through performances and demonstrations), gave up competitive yo-yoing to study dentistry.

"In the old days it was eight basic tricks," he said, describing the competitive yo-yo environment. "Now it's freestyle, which often includes music and more showmanship."

His advice for anyone interested in improving his or her yo-yo skills?

"Get a nice beginner yo-yo and practice the basic tricks. There are tons of videos available online," he added, saying that he wished Youtube had been available when he first grew interested in yo-yoing.

As the roomful of future yo-yo enthusiasts expressed their appreciation, Parker told them to always keep safety in mind when practicing. "The first thing to talk about is safety, because yo-yos are hard. I've gotten black eyes from practicing. Make sure you keep a circle of safety around you." (Editor's note: The Wiesbaden Dental Clinic invites youths to compete for prizes in the "Smile Healthy Today" dental art contest. Deadline to enter is Feb. 14. Visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/services/clinic.asp for the registration form and contest rules.)

Busy flu season on the way

While the peak of the flu season hasn't hit Europe yet, signs from the U.S. indicate it could be one of the worst in recent years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention track influenza activity year-round and publish a report weekly on Fridays. According to this surveillance, the proportion of people seeing their health care provider for influenza-like-illness in the United States has been elevated for four consecutive weeks, climbing sharply from 2.8 percent to 5.6 percent during that time. Last season, which was relatively mild, ILI peaked at 2.2 percent.

"While we can't say for certain how severe this season will be, we can say that a lot of people are getting sick with influenza, and we are getting reports of severe illness and hospitalizations," said Dr. Joe Bresee, who is chief of the

Epidemiology and Prevention Branch in the CDC's Influenza Division.

Influenza is rampant across the United States with 41 states reporting widespread flu activity. Several have declared public health emergencies. With the busiest part of the season — typically February and March — still ahead, Europe Regional Medical Command officials expect to see cases of influenza ramping up here in the near future.

The geographic spread of influenza activity in Europe was reported as widespread in five countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Norway and the United Kingdom). Nine countries reporting increasing trends, according to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

The H3N2, or Type A, flu strain that is prevalent this year tends to be more severe



than others, medical officials said. Children, older people and pregnant women are especially susceptible to the disease, ERMCC Force Health Protection officials said.

Proper hand washing and covering your coughs and sneezes are also effective in helping prevent the spread of

influenza, but the flu vaccine is the best way to prevent the disease or, if a person does catch it, to help minimize the effects, officials explained. This year's vaccine is effective against Type A, Type B and Swine Flu variants of the disease.

Full protection against the

flu takes about two weeks after receiving the vaccine, so people should get it as soon as possible. Eligible beneficiaries should contact their local military treatment facility or host nation health care provider to receive the vaccine. *(Courtesy of the Europe Regional Medical Command)*

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It's Fasching time

By Wendy Brown
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

It's that time of year to shout a big "Hellau" and embrace the parades, costumes and hilarity of Germany's Fasching season.

Fasching officially started on the 11th day of the 11th month, as it does every year, but it gets into full swing in early February. It leads up to Ash Wednesday and the 40 days of Lent. The occasion is a weeklong party where people hold parades, costume parties and other events to blow off a little steam before the solemn time of the year.

If you happen to be male and wear a tie, watch out Feb. 7, which is called Weiber Fastnacht and is the traditional time when women have the say and have been known to carry a pair of scissors to cut off the ties of men.

Wiesbaden residents are lucky to have easy access to the Fasching activities in two German state capitals. Wiesbaden is the capital of Hessen, and Mainz — a short drive from Wiesbaden — is the capital of Rhineland-Pfalz.

The children's festival in Wiesbaden starts at 10:33 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 in front of the pedestrian area downtown. The children's parade starts at 3:33 p.m. at Luisen Platz, and ends at the Rathaus. The big Fasching parade in Wiesbaden starts at 1:11 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 and Wilhelm Strasse is a good place to see the parade.

The high point of the festivities in the area Monday is the Rose Monday parade in Mainz that starts at 11:11 a.m. Feb. 11 on the Reduit Mainz-Kastel — the city's main square.

The Mainz parade is popular, but crowded. Those looking for a good, yet more subdued parade might prefer the one Saturday in Wiesbaden.

Fasching is a great time to get out and mingle, enjoy the carnival atmosphere and join in shouting "Hellau" along parade routes, but a few commonsense safety tips are recommended.

• Leave the car at home — parking is extremely difficult in the inner cities on parade days and public transportation offers a convenient alternative. Never mix drinking and driving.

• Keep an eye on younger parade-goers who may want to get too close to horses' hooves and tractor wheels while trying to catch candy and other goodies thrown from parade floats.



Photos by Anemone Rueger
A man in an ape costume "carries" himself in a cage during the Rosenmontag parade in Mainz 2012. Photo top: Wiesbaden Lord Mayor Dr. Helmut Müller (left) and Fasching officials kick off the festivities in Wiesbaden in 2012. Photo right: A costumed reveler waves to the crowd during the Rosenmontag parade in Mainz 2012.

- Dress warmly as parades continue for several hours.
- Don't be offended when an overly excited reveler decides to share his or her enthusiasm (and alcoholic beverage) with you at one

- of the parades.
- Shout whatever the locals are shouting as the floats pass and keep your eye out for candy and other items thrown your way. You don't want to get hit unaware.

Porto, Portugal: A perfect weekend

Story and photos by
Luz Medeiros
Special to the Herald Union

In Porto, Portugal, I could wander around for days without ever getting bored. It is also the perfect destination for a weekend.

The city has so many things to offer, and visitors are pleasantly surprised by the friendliness of the locals, the stunning (if somewhat decaying) architecture and the delicious, mouthwatering menus. The city has wonderful shops and fabulous eating and drinking places at reasonable prices. And, of course, there is the famous Porto wine.

The local people in Porto are always willing to help you have the most wonderful vacation, but I would recommend taking a yellow bus sightseeing tour through the city. Its two routes give you the opportunity for a full taste of the city as they take you around the new town, the old town as well as to see the beautiful ocean views. It's definitely an excellent value for the money.

When you're done with the bus tour, there are a few places you should visit.

A visit to a wine cellar is a must. No one should travel to Porto without visiting and learning about the local wine. The wine cellars are located on the other side of the Douro River, opposite from the city center.

The Calem wine cellar is a great choice. It is located right on the riverside and takes about 20 minutes. The tour is not detailed but visitors get a good tasting at the end.

Sit in a cafe and people watch

Another must-see is the Cais da Ribeira, which is made up of medieval streets and goes down to the riverside. It is truly a delightful experience to sit at the cafes and watch people while they walk and enjoy the breathtaking views from either side of the river.

The Duoro River boat trip is another must do. The many relaxing boat trips along the river in an old style river boat are definitely an exciting experience. On the river shores are terraces with a beautiful view over the other shore where a lot of Porto wine shops are located.

Some of the wine shops provide free transportation from the bridge to their place. If you are unable to buy wine at Porto, know that almost the same wines can be found at the Porto International Airport with a small difference in prices.

In addition, travelers might enjoy visiting the Crystal Palace Gardens that overlook the river, the gorgeous Sao Francisco Church, which is entirely covered in gold, and the Serralves Museum, which includes a spectacular collection of art and is surrounded by a beautiful park.

For around two euros a person can travel from the lovely modern airport using the new Metro service into the city center.

Dining out in Portugal is always a treat. In Portugal the meal is one dish, but the restaurants



The San Ildefonso Church in Porto, Portugal, was built in the 18th century and is located near the Batalha Square in the heart of the city. The church is made of granite and includes tiles by artist Jorge Colaco. Photo below: An ornate building in the Praca da Liberdade is part of a must-see square in the city of Porto.



usually put a variety of food samples on the tables when you sit down. Do not think this is a complimentary appetizer; it will be added on your bill.

Porto is a city ideal for a weekend visit. Even though Porto can be pleasantly warm during winter and just a light jacket will be needed,

it's highly recommended to visit it in spring or summer. Also, it is important to wear comfortable, flat shoes because the streets are cobbled and hilly.

For more information about the bus tours visit www.yellowbustours.com. For more information about visiting Porto visit www.goporto.com.



Photo by Wendy Brown

Wiesbaden's Tommy Collins takes on three defenders from Schweinfurt during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Tournament at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Jan. 18.

Wiesbaden teams win basketball tournament

Both men's and women's teams champs of Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Tournament

By Wendy Brown

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

Daszmar Lockhart is going out on top as the coach of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden basketball teams.

Both the men's and women's teams, which Lockhart coaches, were champions of the Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Tournament held at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Jan. 18-21.

The teams are members of the Community Basketball League, which includes teams from military installations throughout Europe. Lockhart said he is moving to North Carolina soon, and the tournament was his last with the teams.

Players from both teams said they will miss Lockhart.

"Coach Lockhart is the heart of the team and he will be greatly missed," said Porsche Mitchell, the women's team most valuable player for the MLK Basketball Tournament. "His commitment and contribu-

tions to the women's and men's basketball teams will be hard to replace."

Lockhart, an All-Army basketball player in 2001, not only sparked her passion for excelling at basketball, but that of other members of the team, Mitchell said.

Willie Sanders, the most valuable player for the men's team, agreed.

"He's definitely going to be missed," said Sanders. "He knows what he's talking about and it pays off."

Berlyn DeVera, an all-tournament player for the women's team, said the women's team plans to keep doing the fundamentals that Lockhart taught them, as well as the plays he taught them to execute.

In November, the men's team won the Thanksgiving Supershootout basketball tournament, and the women's team — which Lockhart had just taken over as coach — came in second.

Mitchell said Lockhart

helped the women's team make significant improvements in terms of conditioning and mental awareness. "Our key to success has been putting more effort into practice and improving team chemistry," she said.

In this month's tournament, the men's team beat Kaiserslautern to win the title, and the women's team beat Spangdahlem, Lockhart said.

The men's all-tournament players were Sean Molvig and Tavares Gilliam. Octavia Brown was also an all-tournament player for the women's team.

The teams' season runs from November to April, when the All Forces Tournament will determine the league's champions, Lockhart said.

Anyone interested in coaching the teams should contact Kevin Ringgold or Robbie Green at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. The number is mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

Sports shorts

Boxing in February

Head to the Wiesbaden Fitness Center on Clay Kaserne Feb. 9 to enjoy an evening of explosive boxing action during the Black History Month Boxing Tournament. Call Coach Martinez at mil 337-7766 or email adam.c.martinez.mil@mail.mil if interested in getting involved with the Wiesbaden boxing team.

Applying for All-Army sports

Applications are now being accepted for all-Army sports. Upcoming deadlines are Feb. 15 for bowling and Feb. 26 for volleyball. All-Army sport applications will be accepted for the following on the dates indicated starting on: Feb. 1 for soccer and April 1 for softball, marathon and the Army 10-Miler. Apply online at <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/apprac> or contact U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden sports director Kevin Ringgold at mil 335-5322 or civ (0611) 4080-322 for more information.

Hunting course

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation hosts a German hunting course Feb. 19 to April 17. Cost is \$200. Call Outdoor Rec at civ (0611) 705-5760 for more information.

Boys soccer camp

An NCAA college soccer recruitment camp will be held next year in Bitburg, April 5-7, featuring representatives from colleges ranging from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point to the University of Dallas. Coaches will run six to eight sessions, provide feedback to players and explain the recruitment process. Cost is €300. Send an email to collegesoccercamp@gmx.de for more information.

Free zumba classes

Head to the Army Community Service cafeteria in Hainerberg Housing every Monday and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. for free zumba classes. Call ACS at mil 335-5254 or civ (0611) 4080-254 for more information.

Fitness classes

Get toned up and fit during one of the Wiesbaden Fitness Center's many classes — Zumba, spin, body tone, Plyometrics, H.E.A.T. and more. Call civ (0611) 705-5541 or stop by the fitness center on Clay Kaserne for more information.

DoDDS-Europe Championships

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Wrestling Championships Feb. 15-16 and Basketball and Cheerleading Championships Feb. 20-23 to be held in Wiesbaden. Come out and cheer on DoDDS top teams and athletes.

One of the most outstanding wrestlers this year is senior Andrew Hempstead who is the 160-pound weight class and is undefeated. Another talented wrestler is senior Jesse Davis, who is also in the 160-pound weight class. If Hempstead and Davis



Photo by Michelle Hempstead

Wiesbaden's Andrew Hempstead (left) goes head-to-head with Jesse Davis, also of Wiesbaden.

meet at the European championship, the match will be a clash of titans. Sophomore Dante Thomas, at 132 pounds, also holds great promise for the championship with a 14-0 record. He could be the first Wiesbaden wrestler to be a three-time champion.

Things to do

'The Elevator'

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse features "The Elevator," an award-winning, one-act play Feb. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. Call mil 336-2474 or civ (0611) 816-2473 for reservations.

Night Fire concert

The Army rock band, Night Fire, performs at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center Lounge in Hainerberg Housing Feb. 2 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

USO trips

The Rhein Main Area USOs offer trips to **Brugge, Belgium**, Feb. 2; **Frankfurt** Feb. 2; **Heidelberg** Feb. 9; **Cologne's Carnival** Feb. 9; **Tropical Islands Holiday Resort** Feb. 16; **Auerbach Castle Knight Banquet** Feb. 16; **Innsbruck and Swarovski Crystal World** Feb. 23; **Paris** Feb. 23; **Wiesbaden** Feb. 23; **Luxembourg** March 2; **Berlin** March 2; **Amsterdam** March 9 and **Triberg in the Black Forest** March 9. Stop by any Rhein Main Area USO office or call civ (0611) 731 301 for details.

Live at the Staatstheater

Wiesbaden's Hessisches Staatstheater features the opera "Don Pasquale" Feb. 1, the Richard Wagner opera "Lohegrin" Feb. 3, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" Feb. 4, Giacomo Puccini's opera "Turandot" Feb. 9 and Gioacchino Rossini's opera "The Barber of Seville" Feb. 17. Visit www.staatstheater-wiesbaden.de for tickets and more highlights.

Bingo at the WEC

Head to the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center in Hainerberg Housing Feb. 3 for bingo. Sales start at 4 p.m. and games start at 5:30 p.m.

Irish Pub gigs

Wiesbaden's Irish Pub features live music and karaoke throughout the month of February. The pub, located at Michelsberg 15, hosts **Gear**

Down Feb. 1, **Timmy Rough Duo** Feb. 2, karaoke Feb. 3 and 5, open stage night Feb. 6 and 13, **Steven McGowan** Feb. 7, **Macy's Mob** Feb. 8, **Sven Ruppert Band** Feb. 9, **Capones Band** Feb. 10, **Timmy Rough** solo show Feb. 14 and **Geena Jones Band** Feb. 15. Visit www.irish-pub-wiesbaden.de for the complete schedule.

'Almost, Maine'

The Wiesbaden English Language Theater presents the romantic comedy, "Almost, Maine" Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gemeinschaftszentrum Georg-Buch-Haus (Wellritzstr. 38 in Wiesbaden). The play by John Cariani and directed by Keith Greenleaf, set in the mythical town of Almost, Maine, explores the mysteries of the human heart. Visit www.wiesbaden-english-language-theater.de for ticket information.

Wiesbaden volksmarchers wanted

The Heidelberg International Wandering Club is looking at starting a new IVV volksmarch club for the American community in Wiesbaden — the Wiesbaden International Wandering Club — to continue the longtime tradition of volksmarching in Heidelberg and Mannheim. The new club could offer members bus trips to European volksmarches, an annual children's volksmarch and more. If you are interested in becoming a future member of the Wiesbaden club, email hiwc@yahoo.com. Provide name and contact information. For more information about the Heidelberg club visit www.hiwc.de.

SKIES classes

Wiesbaden's Child, Youth and School Services feature a range of SKIES programs including drums and percussion, piano, guitar, tae kwon do and mixed martial arts. Call Parent Central Services at mil 337-7928 or civ (0611) 705-7928.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam Martinez

Boxing action

Spc. Rubin Stackhouse (right) and **Nathaniel Barnd** spar at the Boxgymnasium in Heidelberg Jan. 23 in preparation for the Wiesbaden Black History Month Boxing Tournament, which will take place Feb. 9 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center.



Straight shooters

Michael Boehme, a member of the garrison's hunting, fishing and sport shooting community, holds the "Ehrenscheibe" plate of honor he won during the New Year's Shooting Competition at the Wiesbaden Shooting Association Jan. 19. His son, **Daniel** (right), came in second.

Photo Steve Steininger

U.S. Youth Soccer



Jeremy Renner and Gemma Arterton star as a brother and sister fighting witches and worse in "Hansel And Gretel: Witch Hunters."

At the movies Jan. 31 to Feb. 14

Wiesbaden, Taunus Theater

- Jan. 31 — The Man With The Iron Fists (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 1 — Hansel And Gretel: Witch Hunters (R) 7 p.m. Parker (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Feb. 2 — Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 4 p.m. Hansel And Gretel: Witch Hunters (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 3 — Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 4 p.m. Parker (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 4 — Hansel And Gretel: Witch Hunters (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 5 — End Of Watch (R) 7 p.m.

- Feb. 6 — Argo (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 7 — Alex Cross (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 8 — Hotel Transylvania (PG) 7 p.m. Bullet To The Head (R) 9:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9 — Hotel Transylvania (PG) 4 p.m. Warm Bodies (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 10 — Hotel Transylvania (PG) 4 p.m. Stand Up Guys (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 11 — Stand Up Guys (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 12 — Killing Them Softly (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 13 — End Of Watch (R) 7 p.m.
- Feb. 14 — Alex Cross (PG-13) 7 p.m.



Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly) wants to be the good guy for a change in the animated comedy "Wreck-It Ralph." Photo right: Dracula (voiced by Adam Sandler) runs the unusual "Hotel Transylvania," which caters to the likes of Frankenstein, the Mummy and the Invisible Man. But trouble brews when an ordinary guy stops by and takes a shine to his daughter Mavis.



Movie plots

Killing Them Softly (R) — Three dumb guys who think they're smart rob a mob-protected card game, causing the local criminal economy to collapse. Brad Pitt plays the enforcer hired to track them down and restore order. Also stars Ray Liotta, James Gandolfini and Sam Shepard.

Alex Cross (PG-13) — A young homicide detective/psychologist meets his match in a serial killer. The two face off in a high-stakes game of cat and mouse, but when the mission gets personal, Cross is pushed to the edge of his moral and psychological limits. Stars Tyler Perry, Rachel Nichols, Jean Reno and Matthew Fox.

The Man With The Iron Fists (R) — Since his arrival in China's Jungle Village, the town's blacksmith has been forced by radical tribal factions to create elaborate tools of destruction. When the clans' brewing war boils over, the stranger channels an ancient energy to transform himself into a human weapon. As he fights alongside iconic heroes and against soulless villains, he must harness this power to become savior of his adopted people. Stars Rick Yune, Russell Crowe and Lucy Liu.

Hansel And Gretel: Witch Hunters (R) — After getting a taste for blood as children, Hansel (Jeremy Renner) and Gretel (Gemma Arterton) have become the ultimate vigilantes, hell bent on retribution. Now, unbeknownst to them, Hansel and Gretel have become the hunted, and must face an evil far greater than witches ... their past. Also stars Famke Janssen.

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) — Ralph (voice of John C. Reilly) longs to be as beloved as his game's perfect good guy, Fix-It Felix (voice of Jack McBrayer). Problem is, nobody loves a bad guy. But they do love heroes ... so when a modern, first-person shooter game arrives featuring tough-as-nails Sergeant Calhoun (voice of Jane Lynch), Ralph sees it as his ticket to heroism and happiness. He sneaks into the game with a simple plan, but accidentally unleashes a deadly enemy that threatens every game in the arcade.

Argo (R) — Based on true events, "Argo" chronicles the life-or-death covert operation to rescue six Americans, which unfolded behind the scenes of the Iran hostage crisis — the truth of which was unknown by the public for decades. On Nov. 4, 1979, as the Iranian revolution reached its boiling point, militants stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran, taking 52 Americans hostage. But, in the midst of the chaos, six Americans managed to slip away and find refuge in the home of the Canadian ambassador. Knowing it was only a matter of time before the six were found out and likely killed, a CIA exfiltration specialist named Tony Mendez (Ben Affleck) came up with a risky plan to get them safely out of the country. Also stars Alan Arkin and John Goodman.

Freestyle

Freestyle
