



Fox hunting
Germans and Americans share traditions, sport during Wiesbaden fox hunt. See page 16.

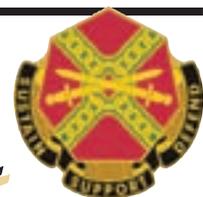


Sesame Street
Popular television characters coming to town. See page 17.



Heavy mettle
Boxers come from Baumholder and Vilseck to compete in Wiesbaden unit-level tournament. See page 18.

Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 24 Serving the communities of U.S. Army Garrisons Baumholder and Wiesbaden Sept. 10, 2009

H1N1 shots

Defense Department to start flu vaccinations

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

All military personnel will be vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus, and the vaccine will be available to all military family members who want it.

The H1N1 vaccination program will begin in early October, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wayne Hachey, director of preventive medicine for Defense Department health affairs.

The vaccine, which has been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration, will be mandatory for uniformed personnel, the colonel said. "What we want to do is target those people who are at highest risk for transmission," he said.

Health care workers, deploying troops, those serving on ships and submarines and new accessions are at the top of the list. "Any place where we take a lot of people, squash them all together and get them nice and close and put them under stressful conditions will get the vaccine first," he said.

The department will use the usual seasonal flu vaccine distribution chain for the H1N1, Hachey said, noting that while the mass H1N1 vaccinations are new to the general population, the process for vaccinating against seasonal flu is old hat for the Defense Department. "We've been doing this for decades," the colonel said. "The system is tried and true."

The department initially will receive 1 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine, and another 1.7 million doses later in October.

Officials don't know yet whether people will need

See H1N1 shots on page 4



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Back in the saddle

Smith Elementary School second-graders Jordan DeBoe, Nyha Benes, Milton Sawyer and Brennan Wilson settle in to the first day of school in Baumholder. Department of Defense Schools-Europe welcomed students in grades one to 12 back to classes Aug. 31. Photo right: Substitute teacher Elizabeth Montminy helps freshman Marco Dimed figure out how to read his schedule during the first day of classes at Wiesbaden High School.



Photo by Jennifer Clampet

Briefings prepare 1st AD Soliders, families for deployment

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

Before the three-hour pre-deployment briefing on Aug. 27 got underway, Maj. Gen. Terry Wolff, made one thing clear to members of 1st Armored Division's Special Troops Battalion.

"We're taking the entire team," said

the division's commander. "Remember you're getting paid to play."

Unable to say the exact deployment dates, Wolff did confirm that the battalion's deployment to Iraq will last at least 12 months. And he emphasized again that the "entire team" would deploy, most before the end of the year.

A comical and informative video

tour of Camp Liberty, Iraq, produced by the 1st Cavalry Division gave Soldiers in the Special Troops Battalion their first look at the "world's most secure trailer park" — the site where most of the STB troops are expected to spend their 12-month deployment.

The video mentioned three separate dining facilities, laundry services, an

Army and Air Force Exchange Service food court with a Popeyes, Taco Bell and Cinnabon restaurants and an indoor fitness center.

Delving into the sometimes complicated policies and procedures associated with military deployments, Wiesbaden garrison staff and 1st AD officials gave

See 1st AD briefings on page 3

Letter to the editor

Veteran recalls Wiesbaden in 1950s

I am John Kissner, and I was stationed there from June 1954 to January 1957. It was a long time ago, but I'll never forget it. I am sure you know it was called Wiesbaden Air Base at that time. I was in the Army Battery B, 63rd AAA Battalion; it probably doesn't exist anymore or it's called something else. I was a cook in the 63rd Consolidated Mess Hall. Looking at the base from the south, the Army was on the east side and the Air Force on the west. ... I would like to know if the base has changed quite a bit. According to the Internet they must have done a lot of renovating. ... My friends and I would go to the service club and they were serving free doughnuts and coffee, which was kind of nice. At that time they had the 8th Group Flaks for sports football in the fall and baseball in the summer, and I guess it was TDY for the guys who were playing. They were always fun to watch which I did as much as I could. I suppose you have something similar to that there now for your troops. I typed in Wiesbaden Air Base on the Internet and it told me that it had been renamed Wiesbaden Army Airfield and the 1st Armored Division was there now. ... I was thinking I sure would like to see the base again someday. If I were to come over there I would like to have a tour of the base to see how much it's changed — that's if it's possible for me to have a tour. That would remind me of the fond memories I have about the base. Do you have personnel who give tours like this? ... Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

John Kissner
New Ulm, Minn.

Dear Mr. Kissner,

Much has changed since 1957; not only in Wiesbaden, but within our Army also.

Colonel Jeffrey W. Dill

assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden June 11. It encompasses the communities of Wiesbaden, Mainz — Mainz-Kastel, Mainz-Finthen, Dexheim and Darmstadt, and U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder is assigned as a subordinate indirect-reporting garrison.

Currently, Wiesbaden Army Airfield is home also to the 1st Armored Division's headquarters — the maneuver brigades are in other communities, 5th Signal Command and 66th Military Intelligence Brigade. The units that were here during your tour have probably inactivated or deactivated and reactivated or reflagged several times, especially since the early 1990s when the first big restructuring took place after the end of the Cold War.

Under the current restructuring plan, Wiesbaden is designated as an enduring installation and will actually grow over the next few years. We are excited about the new opportunities and anxious to see our plans come to fruition.

Access to our installations is restricted due to the current security situation and the Status of Forces Agreement with the German government. American citizens who are traveling in or around Germany as tourists do not have access to U.S. Forces facilities. As a result tour requests should be coordinated through the Public Affairs Office for review and approval.

For more information on USAG Wiesbaden, log on to www.wiesbaden.army.mil or the FMWR website at www.armygermany.com.

Sir, thank you for your letter, it's always a pleasure to hear from a veteran, especially one who was stationed here.

On behalf of the garrison commander

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

By Ron Vitiello
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Equal Employment Opportunity
Office

Sept. 15 marks the beginning of Hispanic American Heritage Month. That day commemorates the anniversary of independence for five Hispanic countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Other Hispanic American countries of origin are Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and Spain.

Additionally on Sept. 16, 1810, Mexico proclaimed independence from Spain; although Mexicans didn't acquire independence until 1821.

There are more than 35 million Hispanic Americans in the United States, making them members of the largest minority group in the country. Hispanic



Americans are expected to make up 24 percent of the population by 2050.

The Hispanic culture within our country is diverse including, but not limited to, our large Puerto Rican community in New York, the growth of the Central American population in the Washington Metropolitan region, Mexican Americans who have a long history in California and Cuban Ameri-

cans in south Florida. Changing the face of America, Hispanic Americans are teaching us to accept ethnic diversity as well as racial differences.

Throughout our history, different groups have come to this country contributing their cultures, values and strengths to make the United States the strong diverse country that it is today.

Hispanic Americans continue this tradition. **(The Baumholder and Wiesbaden garrisons will feature various special Hispanic American Heritage Month events in the coming weeks. Be sure to turn out for Dancing with the Estrellas at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Oct. 2 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Ernestine Moya, USAREUR EEO officer will be the guest speaker at the Hispanic Heritage Month event at the Wiesbaden Dining Facility Sept. 29 at 11:30 a.m. Contact EEO for tickets.)**

September is Suicide Prevention Month

September is designated Suicide Prevention Month, and the Army's theme is "Improving Our Soldiers and Families Health: A Healthy Force Combating High Risk Behaviors."

This theme, according to an Army announcement, conveys the message that the Army is committed to a holistic approach to improve the physical, spiritual and behavioral health of Soldiers, families and Department of the Army civilians.

"Suicide is a complex issue, and it's a personal issue," said Michael Noyes, Installation Management Command-Europe's chief of the Army Substance Abuse Program. "Because it's complex, and because people react differently to certain situations, it's important that we focus on ... all needs, physical, spiritual and behavioral."

Garrisons throughout Europe will feature a variety of programs and events aimed at suicide prevention education, awareness and training to promote total health across the force by focusing on all aspects of health and wellness.

"The Army challenges and empowers all leaders, particularly first-line leaders, to make units, installations and communities models for suicide prevention awareness," said Noyes.

One of the most important things individuals can do is to know where help or more information can be found.

"A lot of this is about Soldiers helping Soldiers. Places to get help are Behavioral Health at the hospital clinics, chaplains, chain of command, etc," he said, adding that there is online information and support available at [\[source.com\]\(http://source.com\).](http://www.militaryone-</p>
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Common problems causing individuals to contemplate suicide include separation, disabling physical conditions, alcohol abuse, feared legal repercussions, emotional rejection or situations that seem overwhelming or inescapable.

Signs and symptoms can include withdrawal from society, giving away personal belongings or expressing sentiments of goodbye.

Noyes said he wholeheartedly agrees with the Army announcement that stated, "We have the responsibility and commitment to help fellow Soldiers, family members and Army civilians who need the strength of our team." **(Information courtesy of the Installation Management Command-Europe and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Public Affairs Offices.)**

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News flash

Sexual assault information sought

The Wiesbaden CID Office seeks anyone who may have information about a sexual assault that took place in the early morning hours of June 28, 2009. The incident occurred in the barracks (Building 1202) and the suspect was described as a light-skinned male (believed to be white), early 20s, with a heavy build, short dark hair and wearing jeans and a long-sleeve shirt. Anyone with information is requested to call mil 337-6552 or 6642.

American Citizen Information Night

Americans residing abroad and their immediate family members are invited to attend an American Citizen Information Night at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt Sept. 15 from 5-7 p.m. Learn about the various services offered and benefits handled by the U.S. Consulate. Be sure to bring passport or other identification. For more information and directions visit http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/info_night.

Analog to digital

The European Union Telecommunication Branch will transition select Defense Switch Network circuits from analog to digital across Germany, which will affect some military installation support facilities, off-post houses, offices and control systems. Sept. 30 will be the last day of analog support for any customer who currently has DSN phone service not directly connected to an Army switch via Army cable. Such customers, include but are not limited to commissaries, schools, universities, banks, Army lodging, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, off-post offices and off-post houses. This transition requires installation of new phone equipment to support digital DSN. Any customer who may be affected by this transition should contact his or her servicing signal director of information management or signal battalion before Sept. 15 to ensure continued DSN service. (5th Signal Command Public Affairs Office)



Sport bike safety course

Sport bikes are lighter, faster and more agile on the roads. These riders are the greatest at-risk population for vehicle accidents in Europe, according to Mike Schwarz, Installation Management Command-Europe chief of safety. "About 57 percent of the motorcycle ridership in U.S. Army Europe consists of sport bikes. IMCOM-Europe wants to ensure these riders receive the best available motorcycle training," said Schwarz, "so we're offering a new safety training course designed for sport bike riders." IMCOM-Europe's Safety Office began offering new Military Sport Bike Rider classes Sept. 1 at garrisons including Ansbach, Benelux, Grafenwöhr, Heidelberg, Hohenfels, Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden. Classes are also scheduled to be offered at Livorno and Vicenza in Italy. Check with your garrison Safety Office for more information. (IMCOM-E Public Affairs)

Military spouse quick hire

New hiring authority to ease employment process

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

Under a personnel rule that takes effect Sept. 11, some military spouses could be quickly hired for federal jobs without going through the usual competitive process.

The Office of Personnel Management issued the authority's final regulatory guidelines Aug. 12. They are posted in the Federal Register under the title: "Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses."

The intended effect of the rule, "is to facilitate the entry of military spouses into the federal civil service as part of an effort to recruit and retain skilled and experienced members of the armed forces and to recognize and honor the service of members injured, disabled or killed in connection with their service."

"Military spouse employment is a key to the quality of life of our military families," said Kathleen Ott, director of talent acquisition, development and management in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy.

The availability of jobs for military spouses contributes to the sustainment of the all-volunteer force, Ott said, citing a recent survey in which employed military spouses reported that their work income constitutes about 48 percent of total family income.

"But, it's really hard to keep a job if you have to move from station to station," Ott said. Federal employment, she said, offers military spouses a portable career with transferable benefits and worldwide presence.

"We thought, in order to help our military spouses continue their employment, it would be a good thing for us to facilitate their entry into the federal government," she said.

Eligible individuals, Ott said, include spouses of

active duty service members who have been called on to relocate. This includes spouses of guardsmen or reservists who've been called up for more than 180 days of active service other than training. Eligible spouses must be moving to another duty station accompanied by their service members.

Spouses of former service members listed as 100-percent disabled and separated or retired, as well as widows or widowers of service members who died on active duty and who have not remarried also are eligible.

The new hiring authority does not constitute a hiring preference for eligible military spouses, according to OPM. "This authority is a noncompetitive hiring mechanism; it does not establish or constitute a hiring preference for eligible spouses, nor does it create an entitlement to a federal job for an eligible spouse," according to regulatory documents listed in the Federal Register.

Applicants still must meet specific job-qualification criteria listed for individual positions, according to OPM documents.

"This is not a preference. We firmly believe that our spouses can compete on their own merits," Ott said, noting that the new hiring rules provide military spouses with "a streamlined, facilitated means of obtaining federal employment."

Use of the new hiring authority "is completely at the discretion of hiring agencies," according to OPM documents, and "it is one of many hiring tools agencies may use to recruit needed individuals."

Spouses who complete three years of continuous satisfactory service will be converted from a career-conditional appointment to career appointment, Ott said.

Military spouses can find out about federal job opportunities at www.usajobs.gov.

1st AD briefings

Continued from page 1

Soldiers a brief overview of topics ranging from housing and chaplain services to helpful hints offered by legal and postal service officials.

Capt. Matthew Reid of the Legal Assistance Office advised Soldiers not to take their cell phones with them to Iraq.

"There's the out of country roaming charges. It can cost \$7 a minute (to use your cell phones in Iraq)," Reid told the packed theater. "(The service providers) don't tell you that when you're making the call. You find out when you get the €1,300 phone bill."

Mark Daybell with Army Community Service called emergency savings the number one priority for military families during deployments. He advised families and single Soldiers to consider a laundry list of options to conserve and save "special pay."

Child, Youth and School Services staff offered



Photo by Jennifer Clampet
Maj. Gen. Terry Wolff discusses the upcoming Iraq deployment.

information on programs offered at discounted rates to families of deployed Soldiers. Those programs include 16 free respite care hours per child per month for families of deployed Soldiers, reduction of hourly care fees to \$2 an hour for hourly care beyond the 16 free respite care hours and credit toward instructional classes and team sports enrollments for families of deployed and rear detachment Soldiers. CYSS officials did note

that mission-level supporting documents are required to obtain the reduced fees.

The next pre-deployment briefing is planned for Nov. 4 at the Taunus Theater.

Deployment resources

Visit the garrison website at www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the Deployment Resources, Links and Information link.

DoD may ease employee leave rule for patient care

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

Defense Department federal employees could receive up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a military family member injured in the line of duty if an Office of Personnel Management proposal is adopted.

The proposal would allow eligible federal employees to take 26 "administrative work weeks" provided for under the Family and Medical Leave Act to care for a service member wounded in the line of duty, OPM officials explained during a telephone conference call.

The provision would extend to families of National Guard members or reservists injured while on active

duty, explained Jerry Mikowicz, OPM deputy associate director for pay and leave administration.

To qualify, the federal employee must be the spouse, child, parent or next of kin of the service member declared medically unfit to serve, he said.

The OPM proposal also would allow agencies to advance up to 30 days of sick leave to federal workers who care for wounded military family members.

OPM also has recommended other sick-leave regulation changes to help agencies better plan for outbreaks of pandemic influenza or other serious communicable diseases.

The proposed rule would allow for agencies to advance up to 13 days of sick

leave to care for a family member who has been exposed to a serious communicable disease and who health authorities say would jeopardize others' health.

Federal employees also could receive up to 30 days of advanced sick leave if they are exposed to or stricken by a communicable disease that could be further spread in the workplace, Mikowicz said.

The OPM proposals were published in the Federal Register, and the public has 60 days to comment on them.

OPM officials will review the comments before issuing a final rule, which will proceed through the regulatory process required before it is implemented, Mikowicz said.

H1N1 shots

Continued from page 1

one dose or two, Hachey said. "The assumption right now is that people will need two doses, 21 days apart," he said. "That may change."

FDA officials still are studying H1N1 and the vaccine, and the results should be known by the end of the month.

Seasonal flu vaccine already is available, and the Defense Department will begin giving those shots shortly, Hachey said. "That has been our message to immunizers: to try and get as many people as they can immunized against the seasonal flu early," he said.

Guidelines for giving priority to family members will follow those for the general population, Hachey said. The Department of Health and Human Services is buying millions of doses of the vaccine.

"Installations are going to register with each state as an immunizer," Hachey said. "They will tell how many people they care for. This includes dependents, retirees and so on."

The Centers for Disease Control will place the order and will ship the vaccine where needed. Family members will have multiple opportunities to get the vaccine, whether at Defense Department medical facilities or off post, Hachey said.

The CDC has established target groups for those at greatest risk for trans-

mitting or being affected by the H1N1. They include pregnant women, health care workers, those younger than 25 or older than 65, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Hachey said previous plans are serving the Defense Department well. "We have been preparing for pandemic flu because of its potential impact on the mission," he said.

Similar symptoms

The symptoms of the H1N1 flu are almost the same as the seasonal flu: fever, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, muscle aches and feeling rundown. The 2009 H1N1 virus — formerly known as swine flu — is a pandemic virus, according to the World Health Organization. U.S. officials call the virus "troubling" and urge everyone to take actions to mitigate the effects of it. The federal government is urging states and municipalities to begin preparing now for the fall flu season.

"As I said when we saw the first cases of this virus back in the spring, I don't want anybody to be alarmed, but I do want everybody to be prepared," said

President Barack Obama following a White House meeting. "We know that we usually get a second, larger wave of these flu viruses in the fall, and so response plans have been put in place across all levels of government."

But government cannot do it all, and the American people have a responsibility to stop the spread of the disease, Obama said. "We need families and businesses to ensure that they have plans in place if a family member, a child or a coworker contracts the flu and needs to stay home," he said.

"And most importantly, we need everyone to get informed about individual risk factors, and we need everyone to take the common-sense steps that we know can make a difference," the president said. "Stay home if you're sick. Wash your hands frequently. Cover your sneezes with your sleeve, not your hands. And take all the necessary precautions to stay healthy. I know it sounds simple, but it's important and it works."

The H1N1 is a never-before-seen combination of human, swine and avian flu viruses, officials said. First detected in Mexico in February, it quickly spread around the world. According to July WHO statistics, there have been 94,512 H1N1 cases worldwide, and 429 people have died from it. In the United States, 33,902 contracted H1N1, and 170 have died.

Local health workers also plan for flu season

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden; Child, Youth and School Services, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and Wiesbaden Health Clinic met Aug. 28 to conduct an Influenza Response Table Top Exercise.

The planning session, aimed at standardizing response and clarifying roles, addressed ways to help reduce exposure to H1N1 flu and other illnesses. Medical professionals shared their expertise and discussed ways to mitigate influenza-like illnesses.

Staying home when sick, covering mouth when coughing (using sleeve rather than hands), getting immunized and seeking medical attention when appropriate were all recommended ways to help in the effort.

For more information visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Influenza Information link.

From the blotter

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

Aug. 15

Baumholder: Two Soldiers were charged with trespassing after attempting to come on base with someone in the trunk.

Wiesbaden: A family member was charged with damage to private property after breaking into vehicles in housing.

Aug. 16

Baumholder: Two Soldiers were charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Aug. 17

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with being drunk on duty.

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged with being absent without leave.

Aug. 18

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with use of a controlled substance.

Wiesbaden: A senior noncommissioned officer was charged with assault after being involved in an altercation which turned physical.

Aug. 20

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with use of a controlled substance.

Aug. 21

Baumholder: A senior NCO was charged with owning an unregistered vehicle.

Wiesbaden: A family member was charged after using insults and profanity toward the Military Police.

Aug. 22

Baumholder: Two Soldiers were charged with assault after being involved in an altercation which turned physical.

Aug. 23

Baumholder: A family member was charged with assault after being involved in an altercation which turned physical.

Wiesbaden: An NCO was charged with driving while impaired.

Aug. 24

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with disorderly conduct.

Aug. 25

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with use of a controlled substance.

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

Aug. 26

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with larceny after pumping gas at a host nation station and leaving without proper payment.

Wiesbaden: Two Soldiers were charged with assault and resisting arrest after punching and kicking a local national.

News flash

Change in installation access

A change in access procedures to U.S. Army Europe military installations for people who have not registered their identification card in the IACS system requires a second form of photo ID and any supporting documentation (TDY orders or leave paperwork). If a second photo ID is not provided, access to the installation will be denied. (Courtesy of Master Sgt. William Trabucco, USAG Wiesbaden Directorate of Emergency Services)

Herald Union correction

Apologies to Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwood for the misspelling of his name in the last edition of the *Herald Union* about 1st Armored Division's change of responsibility.

102nd Signal honored

Wiesbaden's 102nd Signal Battalion was honored for outstanding achievement at the 2009 LandWarNet Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in August. The Wiesbaden-based unit joined the 5th Signal Command's 69th Signal Battalion in being honored in the Network Enterprise Centers awards category. (5th Signal Command Public Affairs)

New consul general

Consul General Edward (Ned) M. Alford assumed charge of the U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt on Aug. 19. Alford previously served as chief of staff to the undersecretary for management at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. (U.S. Consulate Public Affairs)

Memorial service

A memorial service will be held Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Benjamin Franklin Village Chapel in Mannheim for 5th Signal Command's Dale Franklin Maahs who died Aug. 25. Maahs, age 39, died of complications from a brain tumor. He is survived by his wife Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lanita Maahs, and sons Robert, Jonathan and Darcy. (5th Signal Command Public Affairs)



Win a grill at AAFES

ConAgra and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service have cooked up plans to give away nearly \$25,000 in grills before the end of September. Now through Sept. 18 approximately 236 exchanges are giving shoppers a chance to win a grill valued up to \$100. Enter at your local Post Exchange. Local exchanges will draw one lucky winner at each location on or about Sept. 30. (AAFES Corporate Communications)

Free Windows Vista training

The Army e-Learning Program offers free online Windows Vista training. Two courses — Getting Started with Windows Vista and Windows Vista User Experience — are available by logging on to <https://usarmy.skillport.com>. Users must be registered with Army e-Learning to access the courses. (5th Signal Command Public Affairs)



Photo by Robert Thomas

Welcome home from Iraq

Members of the 147th Postal Company's 3rd Platoon arrive back in Wiesbaden Aug. 23 after having served for 15 months in Iraq. The Soldiers served primarily at Camp Echo and were among members of several platoons from the unit, based in Kaiserslautern, deployed to Iraq.

Postal Service Centers

IMCOM-E initiative aimed at improving service

A new postal concept called the Postal Service Center is gaining momentum in Europe as part of Installation Management Command-Europe's postal transformation designed to improve postal service to authorized postal service customers.

The customer-focused initiative combines community mail rooms, official mail rooms and U.S. Postal Service entities into a "one-stop shop" for postal services, according to Monique Bagby, IMCOM-Europe postal transformation program manager.

"The bottom line we considered in developing this postal concept was: What can we do to make things better for the customer," said Bagby. "Under this new Army Europe PSC concept, customers will be able to take care of all their postal needs in one place and mail will get to their boxes sooner."

Bagby heads the IMCOM-Europe Postal Transformation Office, which is working with U.S. Army garrisons to implement transformation throughout Europe. In addition to postal transformation consolidating all postal functions under one roof, it also focuses on finding more efficient, quicker ways to handle, sort and deliver mail.

"Our goal is to transform Army Postal Operations in Europe to one-stop shop by enhancing design, optimizing distribution, reducing redundancy and leveraging resources," said Bagby. "There has been a tremendous amount of collaboration with U.S. Army Europe leadership to develop a way forward and ultimately give IMCOM-Europe the steering wheel to see this initiative through."

The operational Army is vested in the change in a short-term sense because it frees up Soldiers currently working in postal positions. In a long-term sense,

the initiative makes sense because the Army plans to phase out active duty postal units.

"As this transformation continues at garrisons in Europe, we believe customers will appreciate having all their postal service needs at one location," said Bagby. "Consolidating various postal operations and organizations into a Postal Service Center — or PSC — is a win-win situation for customers and the Army. Customers are able to satisfy all their postal needs in one location, and this saves taxpayer dollars by reducing resources."

At the crux of the Postal Service Center concept is the consolidation of a mixture of postal-like facilities: Unit Mail Rooms, Community Mail Rooms, Regional Post Offices, Army Post Offices and Official Mail Distribution Centers. PSC is one facility with UMR, CMR, RPO, APO and OMDC functions fully integrated.

The postal transformation changes that. Instead of talking about CMRs, UMRs or any other acronym for the varying types of postal facilities, customers need only say PSC.

"The driving factor behind establishing PSCs is enhancing postal operations to provide improved customer service," said Billy Smith, IMCOM-Europe postal transformation deputy project manager.

"We were able to quickly transform several garrison postal processes to the PSC system because the infrastructure existed at those locations," explained Smith. "Other locations present more of a challenge. We are committed to getting things right for the customer, so we are ensuring each garrison's unique situations are carefully considered." (Courtesy of the Installation Management Command-Europe Public Affairs Office)

WCSC opens doors to community

Lampighter's Bazaar scheduled for Oct. 2-4

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

Wiesbaden community members got an inside look at the wide range of resources, services and opportunities available in and around the garrison Aug. 26 at the Community Activity Center. The Community Fair, hosted by the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club, offered newcomers and

those who have been here for a while a chance to learn about everything from events in the city of Wiesbaden, courtesy of the city's Marketing Office, to upcoming WCSC programs.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about this great community," said Col. Jeffrey W. Dill, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, thanking the many agency representatives, "the backbone services of the community," who turned out

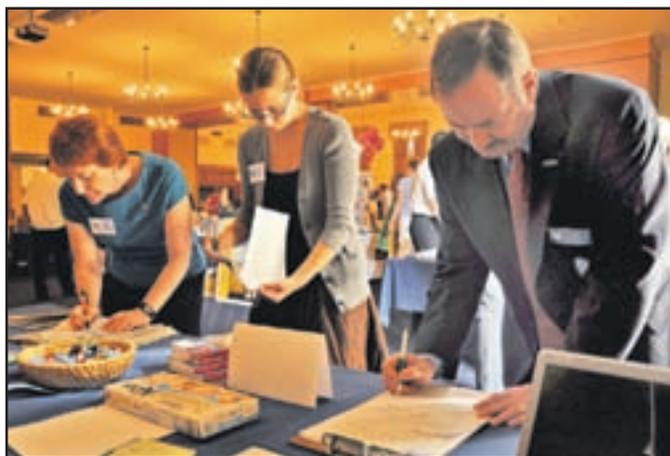
to support the fair. brochures, WCSC members handed out giveaways and described their upcoming events including a kick-off luncheon Sept. 16 (European Pottery Bingo) and the annual Lampighter's Bazaar Oct. 2-4.

"We still need volunteers for our bazaar," said Tasha Alvarado, WCSC publicity person, explaining that this year's event will be held in Hangars 1035 and 1036 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

The bazaar will feature antiques, jewelry, Italian and Polish pottery, wine, cheese, artwork, rugs, crystal and other items. Hours of the bazaar will be Oct. 2 noon to 7 p.m., Oct. 3 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WCSC organizers said it will be stroller friendly and is open only to U.S. ID cardholders. They added that while no euros will be accepted, credit cards will be taken.

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden will hold an Oktoberfest



Alyce Newton (from left), Tasha Alvarado and Mark Daybell fill out surveys during the fair.

bash in conjunction with the Lampighter's Bazaar Oct 2 starting at 4 p.m. and Oct. 3 starting at noon. It will feature live music and German food. Oktoberfest will be held in Hangar 1035.

"The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club is open to everyone. People can come as guests to the luncheons before deciding whether to join. Then they are voted into the club by the members," said Alvarado.

"The activities are really fun. Club membership offers a chance to get involved in great community service and the chance to meet new people," she added. "Last year we gave away more than \$40,000 in welfare grants."

For more information about the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club visit the garrison's home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/services/wcsc.asp.



Helmut Schartel of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Safety Office looks on as Robert Burrows tries out a motorcycle simulator during the WCSC Community Fair Aug. 26.

Girl Scout Twilight Camp

New and old scouts share week of fun activities

Story and photos by **Jennifer Clampet**
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

Katrina Whitten squealed as she slipped her feet into a bucket of ice cubes. The numbing cold on the 10-year-old's toes was a shock to her senses but a delight to her sense of adventure.

She wiggled her feet, held onto 16-year-old Catherine Leknes for balance and then triumphantly tossed a marble out of the bucket using her toes.

The game was simple — use only your feet to dig out five marbles. There was no prize for who did it the fastest or with the most skill. But after each round, groups of junior Girl Scouts compared techniques, coached others on the best maneuvers, laughed together and then moved on to the next activity.

And so went all the activities at the Girl Scout Twilight Camp during the last week in August.

"It's our welcome back to Girl Scouts after the summer vacation," said Cindy Fry, chairwoman for the Girl Scouts Overseas Committee in Wiesbaden. "New girls meet the current Girl Scouts. It's really about getting to know new friends."

About 50 Girl Scouts participated in this year's Twilight Camp held at the Aukamm Girl Scout Hut on Westfallen. The camps offered Girl Scout brownies, daisies and juniors a cycle of activities including creating tie-dye tube socks, learning what to pack for a hike and quiet time to sit and talk with friends about the summer.



Girl Scout ambassador Alyse Gooderham, 16, places a freshly tie-dyed tube sock on a clothes line during Twilight Camp Aug. 28.

Standing in front of the Girl Scout hut, 15-year-old Erin Fry smiled at her finished product — a splotchy, colorful knee-high sock that hung from a clothes line.

"This is what we'll be doing," she said turning to the younger scouts.

Questioning looks were exchanged before the girls peered into the shallow white buckets to see squeeze bottles filled with colorful dyes. They smiled as they dove into the box of plastic gloves and started squirting dyes on their brand-new white socks.

As the girls' squeals and laughter carried up to



Girl Scout Laura Gooderham shows a group of junior Girl Scouts what they might pack for a hike during the Wiesbaden Twilight Camp.

the second-floor meeting room of the Girl Scout hut, Cindy Fry looked pleased.

"And this is actually pretty quiet," she said noting that a group of brownie Girl Scouts earlier in the week was twice as loud. "It's been a good turn-out this year."

For more information on Girl Scouts in the Wiesbaden area contact Cindy Fry at wiesbadengs@yahoo.com.

'Are we equal yet ... the struggle isn't over'

Women's Equality event links personal, professional development

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

Aug. 26, Women's Equality Day, came and went for most with little notice.

Crafted from the struggles of women promoting suffrage and honed from the fight for equal rights, the day which celebrates the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution passed with little fanfare.

Camille Howes, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden customer service officer, compared the day to a classically trained violinist playing on a crowded Metro station platform in Washington, D.C.

She referenced the 2007 video-taped session of Joshua Bell — viewable on YouTube — performing intricate and complicated musical pieces in the midst of busy commuters.

As that cultural experiment by the *Washington Post* proved, the greatest of accomplishments are encountered every day by ordinary people too busy to notice.

"There are probably people out there that want to use their faculties for something great," Howes told her audience during a Women's Equality Day workshop on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

"It'd be a pity if we missed it because of the pace at which we run."

Howes showed black-and-white photos of women on picket lines, of men crowding the booths of a national association opposed to women's right to vote and of three women each bearing a likeness to Old Mother Hubbard rather than that of radical zealots they were vilified as for speaking out on women's rights.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the women's rights movement marched alongside abolition and civil rights, topics that stirred emotion, elicited threats and damaged reputations and careers.

The trailblazers of women's rights were women. They were mothers, wives, daughters and grandmothers. They were egged by opponents not only in the verbal ribbing sense but in a physically humiliating reality that sent yolk down the faces of activists such as Susan B. Anthony.

Each grainy photograph Howes showed reflected a stark picture of the fight for women's rights in the United States.

"Thank God they suffered so we wouldn't have to," said Howes, a former U.S. Air Force mechanic for F-15 fighter jets. "(Those activists) paid a price, and they were marked, forever marked."

Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1919. The amendment which prohibits state and federal governments from denying any citizen the right to vote because of a citizen's sex was ratified by the states in August of 1920. In 1971 Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day.

The Women's Equality Day workshop was the first for the Wiesbaden garrison and is part of an ongoing effort by the garrison's Equal Employment Opportunity Office to tie together personal and professional development.

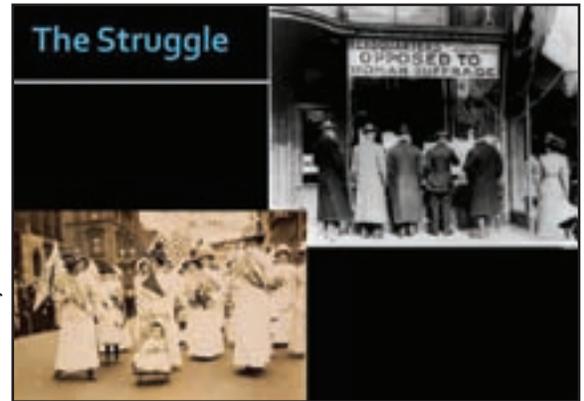
"(Howes' presentation) was an enlightenment and a reminder of what women in our history have gone through to get us to where we are today," said Equal Employment Opportunity specialist Ron Vitiello. "And second it was a reminder that the struggle isn't over yet."



Standing before the projected images of Secretaries of State Madeline Albright, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton followed by the images of inventions engineered by women, Howes clicked to the next slide.

"Are we equal yet?" The numbers displayed reflected a discrepancy in pay for white, black and Hispanic women as compared to men — 78 cents, 68.7 cents and 59 cents on the dollar earned respectively compared to men. Howes shared her own story of pay discrepancy.

Despite graduating in the top 1 per-



cent of her class from the University of Georgia, Howes was surprised and a little "ticked" to learn that a male classmate with a lower grade point average and none of her real-world experience was offered a higher paying job after graduation.

"So are we equal yet?" she asked. "Not exactly. Not yet."



Equal Opportunity Women's Equality Day contest winner

Photo left: The Army Community Service's Women's Equality display. Photo right: Alexandria Walker and ACS director Jan Meert accept the first-place prize from Col. Jeffrey Dill, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, for the Women's Equality Day display contest. ACS was recognized as the winner of the community display contest held in observance of Women's Equality Day.

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Jordan (left) and Karl Weisel

First round of Rising Star hits high notes

Story and photos by Jennifer Clampet
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

There were some missed notes and forgotten lyrics, boos from the audience and moments when the judges were simply lost for words — everything you'd expect at a singing competition.

Wiesbaden's 2009 Rising Star Competition kicked off Aug. 28 with 16 contestants who sang music a cappella — meaning without instrumental accompaniment — that ranged from opera to country and Spanish to R&B.

But is the next Army-wide winner of Operation Rising Star in the mix?

You never know, said the judges — Wiesbaden garrison's Equal Opportunity adviser Master Sgt. Mark Jordan, Wiesbaden Fitness Center personal trainer Maria Diaz and AFN Hessen's Liz Kinsella.

"I think you're going to be hard to deal with," Jordan told Samantha Werner, who sang Sugarland's "Stay."

But the twangy rendition wasn't the only performance to wow the judges. The night ended on a high-note with LaLaAlmonte singing Billie Holiday's "God Bless the Child."

Diaz noted that Almonte's performance set just the right tone for an intimate evening at home.

But the competition wasn't without its moments of stage fright. A four-letter expletive left Andrew Mullet's mouth as he stood on stage.

"I'm so sorry," he said. "I completely spaced on the lyrics."

As each contestant took to the stage, Leslie Gaylord of Family and Morale, Wellness and Recreation's



Ashley Postma sings a song from "Phantom of the Opera" during the Operation Rising Star Competition. Photo right: Dericklyn Russell-Parker sings "One Night With the King."



marketing office asked how far each wanted to go in the competition. Most replied, "All the way."

Showcased as a contest to find one extraordinary singer to win the grand prize of recording his or her own demo CD, Rising Star is only open to members of the active duty military, reserve and National Guard and military family members.

Last year was the first year the competition allowed family members to compete. The 2008 Rising Star winner was 24-year-old Joyce Dodson, a military spouse from Bamberg. Dodson's strong voice and gospel-style set her apart from her competition.

At the installation-level, Jordan said he is looking for a contestant who can show diversity.

"Music is the common language of all cultures, and it gives one the ability to transcend mind and hearts to one beat," he said. "I am looking for an artist who has the ability to connect with the audience that way."

The Wiesbaden area contest continues Sept. 11 at the Community Activity Center starting at 7 p.m. The final installation-level competition is Sept. 18. Family Readiness Groups and unit-level organizations can also cheer on their favorite singer and compete for a \$300 Spirit Award. The winning singer receives a \$500 prize and advances to the Army-wide finals by submission of a video of his or her performance. A winner from each of the 47 competing installations will submit an entry.

Twelve finalists will be selected from the videos and move on to the live finals at the Wallace Theater at Fort Belvoir in Alexandria, Va. The grand prize includes an all-expense paid trip for four to Los Angeles and time in a recording studio for the creation of a demo CD. The trip also includes vocal coaching, professional arrangement, sound engineering and tickets to a late-night talk show.

Dental clinic commander back where he started

The new commander for the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic is right back where he started.

After 22 years in the Army, Col. Preston Q. Welch has been re-stationed at the clinic where he began his military career.

Welch officially assumed command of the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic Sept. 1. He took over from Capt. Jennifer Elzinga, who served as the clinic's acting commander after the departure of Col. Troy Marburger earlier this year.

Borrowing from a popular Japanese proverb, Welch joked "Don't rejoice over him that goes before you see him that comes."

But with a heartfelt welcome, Welch said he foresaw his changeover to be a favorable one. Welch is a 1986 graduate of the University of Kentucky's doctoral dental medicine program and is a current diplomate of the American Board of Oral Maxillofacial Pathology and a Fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

Col. David Dubois, Landstuhl Dental Activity commander, thanked the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic staff and Elzinga for charging forward before Welch's assumption of command.

Dubois praised the clinic staff for its "high-operation tempo" in its daily activities to provide quality dental care to the Soldiers in Wiesbaden.

In a letter read by Elzinga, Marburger thanked the clinic staff for being a "fantastic team of individuals" and thanked his superiors for allowing him the "freedom to make mistakes and learn."

Elzinga welcomed Welch to his new command saying, "Welcome to our family. You are inheriting a top-notch clinic."



Photo by Karl Weisel

Col. David DuBois, Landstuhl Dental Activity commander, passes the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic colors to incoming commander Col. Preston Q. Welch.

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Housing market crisis hits home with Soldiers

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

Military homeowners are facing tough financial decisions in the current housing market. In the last year three Soldiers have approached U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Army Community Service financial counselors with questions about how to stay out of bankruptcy in association with their homes back in the United States.

“They can’t sell their homes. They can’t rent their homes,” said ACS financial counselor Mark Daybell referring to the depressed housing markets that some Soldiers have encountered during their permanent change of station moves.

Earlier this year President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which expanded the Homeowner’s Assistance

Program to include partial reimbursement for home-sale losses for Soldiers who had permanent change of station moves from July 2006 through December 2009.

Since 1966 HAP has assisted service members and civilian employees whose home values dropped because of Base Realignment and Closure relocations. According to the HAP website — <http://usace.army.mil>—the Department of Defense and Office of Management and Budget guidance for the recovery and reinvestment act expansion is still being finalized. Once finalized the Corps of Engineers will begin processing the expanded program applications.

But the eligibility dates for the ex-

panded HAP PCS services shouldn’t discourage service members from seeking help, said Daybell. Soldiers and their families should visit the HAP website and fill out the applications to determine their eligibility.

At local installations such as Wiesbaden, Daybell said financial counselors can also direct Soldiers

to helpful housing crisis resources and programs including:

Websites

- <http://hap.usace.army.mil>
- www.militaryonesource.com
- www.myarmyonesource.com
- www.militaryhomefront.com
- <https://onestop.army.mil>

www.ahrn.com
www.jagenet.army.mil

Local and installation resources include:

- ACS financial counseling and spouse employment counseling;
- Army Emergency Relief grants and loans for Soldiers who are renting off post;
- Housing Services Office’s Preferred Tenant Program and the Automated Housing Referral Network;
- Federal and state refinance programs such as the Making Home Affordable Program.

For more information on housing market crisis assistance contact Mark Daybell at mil 335-5254 or visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the housing market crisis link on the Links page. (IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs contributed to this story)



Rules of the German road: Form offers step-by-step information to handle traffic accidents in Germany

By Robert Szostek
U.S. Army Europe
Office of the Provost Marshal
Public Affairs Office

Getting into an accident on the road anywhere is a stressful event. Having an accident in Germany and being uncertain about what drivers are expected to do under German law can add greatly to that stress, and possibly lead to criminal charges.

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials are offer drivers help with the Army in Europe Form 190-1Y “What to do if you have an accident.” The one-page form offers step-by-step instructions describing what drivers should do if they are involved in car accidents in Germany. OPM officials recommend that USAREUR-licensed drivers fill out the form and keep a copy in each of their vehicles.

The form is available online from the USAREUR forms and publications library at www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/ (available from

computers on the .mil domain only).

The most important thing to know is that a driver should never leave the scene of an accident.

“Drivers who are involved in an accident must stay at the scene for a reasonable period and wait for the police,” said Dan Saavedra, policy adviser at the USAREUR RMV.

This is a serious criminal offense under German and military law that could also lead to loss of driving privileges or insurance coverage.

He advised drivers to take the following steps immediately after an accident:

- Turn on the vehicle’s emergency flashers and set up a warning triangle. Place the triangle 200 meters behind the vehicle on Autobahns or 100 meters behind the vehicle on other roads.
- Provide first aid to those who need it, but do not move any seriously injured persons.

Have someone call for medical help.

■ Call the Military Police for on-post accidents, and both the German police and MPs if the accident was off-post. Be aware that German police may take a long time to respond if no one is injured and damage is minor.

■ Drivers who damage property in a single-car accident must stay at the scene for a reasonable time and try to contact the property owner.

If the owner cannot be found, the driver should leave a note with name, address, telephone number and insurance information. Report the accident immediately to local MPs, and call German police if there ap-

pears to be more than €1,500 in damage.

■ Move the cars involved to avoid blocking traffic if no one is hurt and damage is slight. Take photos of the scene or mark the positions of the vehicles on the ground with chalk for police before moving them.

■ Exchange information such as name, address, license number, insurance company and policy number with involved parties.

Note the time and place of the accident and names and addresses of any witnesses.

■ Drivers should not sign any document unless they know exactly what it says. “Helpful”

people may appear on the scene and try to get drivers to sign powers of attorney, loan applications or car-rental agreements in the confusion.

He also explained German police may assess a fine — called *Verwarnungsgeld*—immediately at the accident scene. Drivers may refuse to pay, but risk being slapped with a more serious fine — *Bussgeldbescheid* — later.

In addition paying a *Verwarnungsgeld* does not influence the settlement of an insurance claim, but paying a *Bussgeldbescheid* could later be used as evidence that the driver was at fault, Saavedra said.



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Community notes ... Community notes

Single Parent Retreat

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Religious Services Office hosts a Single Parent Retreat to Phantasia Land Sept. 14-17. Transportation, lodging and food will be provided. Call Spc. Tara Young at mil 337-6867 for more information.

Dancing with the Stars

Come and show you are a shining star in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. A Dancing with the Estrellas (Stars) competition will be held Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. If you need dance lessons, check out the USO's Latin dance classes from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Call the USO at mil 337-5591 for more information.

Photo support online

To schedule visual information support such as Department of the Army, passport and command photographs, people must now use the online Visual Information Ordering System. This also applies to requests for graphics, signs, charts and audio-visual/media equipment loans or event coverage. Visit the garrison's home page and click on the "Training Support Center visual service request" link under Helpful Links (lower left) to submit a request.

Join Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 13 welcomes new scouts (grades one to five) and their families. Dens are now forming. To learn more about scouting with Pack 13 contact Karen Ravensbergen at kravensbergen@yahoo.com or

call civ (06122) 5333 782.

Reasonable Accommodation

Reasonable Accommodation procedure training for supervisors, managers, special staff and tenant organizations will be held Sept. 22 from 9-11 a.m. in Room 223, Building 1023E on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Call Ron Vitiello at mil 337-5616 for more information.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 27 will host a National Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day observance at 10 a.m. Sept. 18 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield's Veterans Park.

Red Cross classes

A Red Cross Volunteer Orientation will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 16. Administrative and management level positions are available. Check out volunteer job descriptions at MyArmyOneSource.com. A first aid/CPR/AED class will be held Sept. 15-17 starting at 9 a.m. each day. Cost is \$50. Call mil 337-1760 or stop by Room 308 in Building 1023E on Wiesbaden Army Airfield to sign up for classes.

Fitness Fair

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden hosts a Comprehensive Community Fitness Fair (Health Care Benefits and Wellness) Sept. 17 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fair will offer free health screenings and assessments, giveaways, children's

activities and opportunities to speak with health care providers and Tricare representatives.

Fall religious education kick-off

Learn more about U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden chapel services and fall religious education programs (and register for classes) at the fall religious education kick-off Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Commissary (outside). Call civ (0611) 408 0248 or mil 337-1370.

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will offer weekly Bible studies starting Sept. 15 Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel Sanctuary and from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Middle School (Room 160). Call Pam Kesling at civ (0611) 734 2845 for more information.

Delayed bank opening

Community Banks at Wiesbaden Army Airfield will open at 10 a.m. and Mainz-Kastel Storage Station at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 16 while staff participates in training. All ATM machines will be available for service. The Community Bank at Hainerberg will have regular hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., that day.

Wiesbaden recruiter

Need information about a career in the military. Visit the U.S. Army Recruiting Station Wiesbaden located at the Hainerberg Shopping Center. Call mil 338-7928 or civ (0611) 205-4960 for more assistance and information.

Make friends with Wiesbaden Kontakt

Members of the German-American friendship club, Kontakt, enjoyed a day of barbecuing in Wiesbaden's Crestview Housing Aug. 22.

The club, founded in 1984, offers people of various nationalities the opportunity to make new friends, learn about each other's culture and share experiences. Trips, get-togethers and other events are part of the Kontakt experience.

Members of the club meet at a Stammtisch every

first and third Tuesday of the month at the Brauhaus in Mainz-Kastel. The Brauhaus is located



Photo by Dericklyn Russell-Parker

Members of Kontakt enjoy a barbecue Aug. 22.

at Otto-Suhr-Ring 27.

"The German-American club strives to promote the cultural value of German customs, which is an opportunity for good outreach and fellowship," said Barbara Hennig, Kontakt Club president, "Gemütlichkeit."

For more information on upcoming club activities and how to become a member visit the club website at www.kontakt-wiesbaden.de or call civ (0163) 397 7693. (Information courtesy of Dericklyn Russell-Parker)

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1st AD museum moves to Fort Bliss

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

Being in the military, sooner or later everyone has to pack up and move. But what if your baggage includes numerous tanks, half-tracks, artillery pieces and a building full of old uniforms, weapons and other military paraphernalia? That's the challenge the 1st Armored Division Museum is facing as it relocates to Fort Bliss, Texas, along with the 1st AD and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

To help with moving the tanks and half-tracks, the US Army Garrison Baumholder called on the local Rech Crane Company. A massive red crane, one of the company's biggest, made simple work of loading the vehicles onto the waiting semitrucks.

Even though Rech employees operate cranes and move things for a living, moving World War II-era vehicles is not something they do every day. Several Rech employees as well as the truck drivers were training their cell phones and digital cameras on the movement.

Even the crane operator, Heiko Kunz, paused to capture the moment by snapping a photo from high atop his strategic location in the "driver's" seat.

"Today we are loading up some of our vehicles that will be located at Fort Bliss, Texas, in support of the 1st Armored Division moving to Fort Bliss," said Ryan Mayer, museum specialist.

"The museum follows the division, in support of the division, so when the division was relocated to Fort Bliss, the museum follows, as it did when the division deployed to Germany in the '70s. This is a natural kind of occurrence," said Mayer.

"These vehicles are tangible reminders, witnesses if you will, of the division's history, the division's long history," he said.

"It's important that these vehicles go with the division so they can continue to educate, inspire, 1st Armored Division Soldiers of their proud history. I look forward to seeing the new museum at Fort Bliss," said Mayer.

The actual name of the museum is the Old Ironsides Museum. It was first established at Fort, Hood, Texas, during the 1950s. Following the 1st Armored Division's move to Germany in 1971, the museum reestablished in Ansbach.

Museum curator Nicole Suarez is responsible for coordinating the museum's move to Fort Bliss. She said she feels confident with the support she has received.

"We're lucky to have the support of



Photo by Ignacio "Iggly" Rubalcava

Rech Crane Company employees maneuver a World War II-era tank into position before it is lowered onto the waiting truck. The tanks are being taken to port for cleaning and shipping to Fort Bliss, Texas.

the Baumholder garrison," said Suarez. "The logistics team here is amazing. They're true professionals, and we feel pretty comfortable with them moving our vehicles."

Suarez worked at the museum last year as a volunteer. When the curator left she took over as curator.

And although she has only worked a short time at the museum, she said she has an emotional attachment to these reminders of the past.

"It's hard letting go. They're like children. It's hard letting people take care of them for a while," said Suarez.

"But I think everything will be just fine. If things go like they have gone today we're going to be great," she said.

After the relocation of the 1st AD Headquarters to Bad Kreuznach in 1991, Baumholder was chosen as the new home for the museum.

The large installation size and high troop numbers made it a logical choice. Work began in 1992 and the museum opened on Baumholder the following year.

The Old Ironsides Museum now follows the division to its new home at Fort Bliss, Texas.

When the members of the division arrive after their deployment to Iraq, they'll find the museum ready and waiting to include the latest chapter of the storied unit's history.

"We're lucky to have the support of the Baumholder garrison."



Photo by Ignacio "Iggly" Rubalcava

A Rech Crane Company employee prepares an old half-track vehicle for hoisting onto a semitruck.

Congress revamps disability standards

Doing all the right things when dealing with disabilities or discrimination-related issues on the job is a daunting task. Fortunately, Congress recently revamped the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, making it easier for employees with a disability to request reasonable accommodation on the job.

The new rules offer broader coverage to individuals with disabilities and establishes new guidelines to define and interpret the law, including substantial limits to major life activities, mitigating measures, and in episodic or remission situations. For example:

- The “substantially limit” standard was lowered, making it easier to meet.
- Impairments only have to substantially limit one major life activity to be considered a disability.
- Impairments that are episodic or in remission are a disability if they substantially limit a major life activity when active.
- Ameliorative mitigating measures shall not be a factor when determining if an impairment substantially limits a major life activity, with the exception of ordinary eyeglasses or contact lens.
- A transitory condition is minor when its duration is six months or less.

The act was signed into law on Sept. 25, 2008, and went into effect Jan. 1, 2009, and also provides employers a clearer path when dealing with employees who may be disabled.

The overall purpose of this new act

was to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Originally, the courts had interpreted the definition of disability so narrowly that hardly anyone could meet it – but the challenge now is understanding what the changes are and who is covered as of Jan. 1.

According to Congress, the ADA Amendments Act was passed “to carry out the ADA’s objectives of providing ‘a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination’ by reinstating a broad scope of protection to be available under the ADA.” In other words, the purpose of the original ADA was to eliminate discrimination. However, if hardly anyone was covered, then hardly anyone was actually being protected from discrimination.

So, in the Amendments Act Congress fixed the definition of disability to cover more people and as a result, prevent more discrimination.

That means that once the act went into effect, the question of who has a disability is no longer the main focus; instead, the focus is on whether discrimination occurred.

The basic definition of a disability as outlined in the original act is still the same:

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- A record of such an impairment; or

- Being regarded as having such an impairment.

What’s changed is how the words are interpreted. Congress wordsmithed the act and things such as “significantly limits” no longer means “significantly restricted.”

Congress told the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that “significantly restricted” is too high a standard and must be lowered so that it is easier to meet.

What supervisors need to understand is that the act gives the employee more leeway in requesting reasonable accommodation.

Another thing to keep in mind is the flexibility built into the reasonable accommodation obligation that employers have under the ADA. For example:

- Employers can choose among effective accommodation options and do not always have to provide the requested accommodation,
- Employers do not have to provide accommodations that pose an undue hardship,
- Employers do not have to provide as reasonable accommodation personal use items needed in accomplishing daily activities both on and off the job,
- Employers do not have to make an accommodation for an individual who is not otherwise qualified for a position, and
- Employers do not have to remove essential functions, create new jobs, or lower production standards as an accommodation.

The ADA does not require employers to hire unqualified applicants with disabilities nor does it require employers to retain employees who can no longer perform the essential functions of their jobs because of a disability.

However the ADA does prohibit employers from using unnecessary qualification standards to weed out applicants with disabilities, relying on inaccurate job descriptions to determine that an employee with a disability can no longer perform her job and failing to provide reasonable accommodations absent undue hardship.

Therefore, it is important for employers to review their job descriptions, qualification standards and accommodation procedures to make sure they comply with the ADA.

Also important for supervisors is that they should not pass judgment about the “disability” before getting all of the information needed. What may not have been covered previously may now be a disability under the amended law.

Supervisors and employers can get help online by visiting the Job Accommodation Network, or JAN, website. JAN provides one-on-one, free consultation about all aspects of workplace accommodations. For more information about JAN services, visit the JAN website at www.jan.wvu.edu.

People may also contact the community Equal Employment Opportunity Office on Smiths Barracks, Building 8664, or send an email to Roland Monsivais at roland.monsivais@eur.army.mil.

CARE Fair features German relief agency

This year’s CARE and Health Fair Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheinlander Convention Center will feature participation by the Federal Agency for Technical Relief of the Federal Republic of Germany. They will have vehicles on static display as well as information about the organization and their numerous humanitarian efforts.

Known as the Technisches Hilfswerk, or THW, the organization provided assistance during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, making it the first German organization to assist the U.S. in such a manner.

Its mission includes the provision of technical assistance at home and humanitarian aid abroad.

More than 76,000 volunteers and roughly 850 full-time employees work for the THW. Together they provide qualified technical assistance at home and abroad.

The group’s services are increasingly being called for by the United Nations in times of global catastrophes such as floods, tsunami, earthquakes and international terrorism because the potential of individual nations to cope or offer relief is often limited.

This cooperation means that the THW is an active part of the UN’s international relief system.

Some of the THW’s assistance in and outside of Germany include assisting in the Elbe flood, 2002; flooding in Arles, Southern France, 2003; earthquake in Bam, Iraq, 2003; tsunami in South-East Asia, 2004/2005; heavy floods in Romania, May 2005; Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, August/September 2005; and an earthquake in Pakistan, September 2005.

The THW has 6,000 vehicles of various types at its disposal. The diversity of its units reflects THW’s range of opera-

tions. For example, there are Technical Groups on the local level which focus on recovery, clearing, electricity, supply, water damage / pumps, management / communication, bridge building, infrastructure, water hazards, location, logistics, drinking water supply and oil damage and last but not least the special units SEEBA (Rapid Deployment Unit Search and Rescue) and SEEWA (Rapid Deployment Unit Water Supply and Treatment).

The functions of THW are defined in German federal law. These functions consist of providing technical relief in the sectors of civil defense, disaster relief and international humanitarian assistance.



Photo from Internet

A Technisches Hilfswerk volunteer “learns the ropes.”

The main fields of activity are rescue, salvage and rehabilitation of infrastructure such as water, electricity and sewage.

Come out to the CARE and Health Fair and learn more about this diverse organization focused on providing humanitarian aid.

Stressed?

Help could be a mouse click away

Been feeling consistently moody or sad? Can't relax or concentrate? Are you unable to eat or sleep? If so, you may be suffering from a mental health disorder. A free, anonymous mental health self-assessment is available at www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org.

The military is offering free online mental health and alcohol self assessments for a range of common emotional situations that often go undiagnosed and misunderstood. If you've been feeling disconnected and unlike your usual self lately, this program can help you put the pieces back together.

The self-assessment program offers self tests for depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. It is available at www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org. Questions included on the online assessment are:

Once the self assessment is completed you will be given information on where to turn for a full evaluation. Military Pathways (formerly the Mental Health Self-Assessment Program) is a voluntary, anonymous mental health and alcohol self-assessment and referral program offered to military families and service members affected by deployment. It is offered online 24/7, as well as through local in-person events. This program is offered free by the Department of Defense Office of Mental Affairs.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Open house

Wetzel Elementary School students look for their names on the class rosters posted on the wall during the school's open house Aug. 28. Wetzel Elementary held its open house before the start of the school year so that parents and students could get to know the students' new teachers.

Holiday greetings team coming to Baumholder

The holiday greetings team will be taping greetings starting at 9 a.m. Sept. 21 in front of the Post Exchange on Smith Barracks.

Soldiers are asked to come in duty uniform.

Soldiers and families are invited to share their holiday messages and greetings with friends and families in the United States.

Amateur radio exams to be held near Baumholder

Examinations for U.S. Federal Communications Commission amateur radio licenses will be held Sept. 26 at the "Feuerwehrhaus," (Fire Department House) in Berschweiler near Baumholder.

"Examinations start at noon; however, people need to arrive 30 minutes early," said Daniel Wolff, Region 11 director for the Army's Military Affiliate Radio System.

The "Feuerwehrhaus" is located roughly five kilometers (three miles) from the Freisen-Baumholder exit off Autobahn 62. Follow the signs to Baumholder. Before reaching the city there's an exit to Berschweiler. Drive into Berschweiler and continue under the bridge to the Feuerwehrhaus, located on Berggrube.

The GPS zip code is 55777.

Study material is available at www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/ and an online question pool can be found at www.qrz.com/testing.html and www.qrz.com/xtest2.html.

Local contact frequency is 145.350 (simplex). Nearby repeater is 145.675 (Idar-Oberstein repeater).

For more ARRL/VEC information in Europe, visit www.qsl.net/dl4vcw/vec.htm or call Wolff at mil 485-7112, civ (06563) 8405 or e-mail him at daniel.v.wolff@us.army.mil.

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 MOBILE: 0171 684 6926
www.joesat.com

Come out to get information on how to improve your health, well-being and learn more about Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, services and health care benefits in the Baumholder community. In partnership with the Baumholder Health Clinic. In observance of EUCOM Healthcare Benefits Awareness Month.

Saturday, September 12 at 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Rheinlander Convention Center
 Bldg. 8085 Smith Barracks, Baumholder

HEALTH

C.A.R.E. FAIR

Community Activity Registration Event



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

ACS info center closes

The Community Information Center has been closed until further notice. If you need assistance, would like an ACS calendar or would like to sign up for a class, go to Army Community Service in Building 8746 (Health Clinic Complex), or call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

CARE Fair, Health Fair

Get information on how to improve your health, well-being and learn more about Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, services and health care benefits in the Baumholder community at the CARE and Health Fair Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheinlander Convention Center. This program is 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 mil 485-6115 or civ (06783) 6-6115.

Support breast cancer awareness

The run is Oct. 3 and starts from the Hall of Champions. The one kilometer for children starts at 9 a.m. Walkers begin at 9:30 a.m. and runners at 10 a.m. Register for the event starting Sept. 12 at the Health and CARE Fair. Registration is \$10 and includes a T-shirt while supplies last. Contact the Baumholder Sports Office for more information at mil 485-6671/7418 or civ (06783) 6-6671/7418.

Operation Rising Star

Auditions for performers for Operation Rising Star will be Sept. 11. The first round will be Sept. 19 and finals are Sept. 25 at the Rheinlander Convention Center at 7 p.m. Registration is open to active duty Soldiers and/or their adult family members, ages 18 and older. Those who qualify may download forms from the Baumholder community website, www.baumholder.army.mil. Forms may be dropped off at Building 8680, second floor, in Room 211. U.S. ID cardholders and their guests are invited to watch entertainers perform on stage. For more information contact FMWR special events coordinator Catherine Dubosc at mil 485-6115 or civ (06783) 6-6115.

Best Spirit Award for FRGs, units

Win \$300 for your FRG or unit by shouting and clapping for your favorite singer at the Operation Rising Star competition. FRGs and other groups are welcome to come out and cheer on performers Sept. 19 and 25 starting at 7 p.m. at the Rheinlander. Judges will award the Best Spirit Award to the FRG or individual unit group with the loudest applause. Participants must be in attendance both days to qualify. Admission is free. For information on upcoming events contact FMWR special events coordinator Catherine Dubosc at mil 485-6115 or civ (06783) 6-6115.

BOSS Europa Park day trip

Travel with the Kaiserslautern BOSS group to Europa Park for some fantastic roller coaster rides and sample cuisine from around the world Sept. 19. This trip is great for single Soldiers, children and anyone who likes the adrenaline of theme parks. The bus leaves Vogelweh Bowling Center at 6 a.m. The group will stay at the park from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and return via bus to Vogelweh Bowling Center at approximately 10 p.m. There is a special price for adult BOSS volunteers of \$65; non-adult BOSS volunteers pay \$85; children \$60 and children age 3 and under 39 inches tall pay \$20. The price includes ticket and transportation. For more information call Catherine Dubosc at mil 485-6115 or civ (06783) 6-6115.

Professional framing

Frame your paintings, prints or military art at Baumholder Creative Art Center and get assistance from professional framer Kathleen Lee. Let her show you what is possible. She can advise and assist in making your treasure a true work of art. Call mil 485-6687 or civ (06783) 6-6687.

Plaque shop now available

Need plaques for your farewell, unit award of excellence or athletic activities? Call Anastasia Ward at the Creative Arts Center to place an order. Plaques range from 7 by 9 inches to 15 by 13 inches and are usually available within a week. Customers may also request 48-hour service for an extra charge. Call mil

485-6687 or civ (06783)-6-6687.

Baumholder Book Club meets

The Baumholder Book Club meets every fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. Everyone is invited. For more information call the library at mil 485-1740 or civ (06783)6-1740 or visit Building 8106.

Free inter-library loans

Need a specific book or are you searching for a favorite author? If the library does not have what you are looking for, the library may borrow it from another library. For more information call the library at mil 485-1740, civ (06783) 6-1740 or visit Building 8106.

Guitar lessons for all

Beginner and advanced guitar lessons are available for adults and youth. Individual or group lessons are offered. Call the Creative Arts Center at mil 485-6687 or civ (06783)-6-6687.



Story time for pre-school children

Keep the little ones entertained and educated every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the Baumholder Library. For more information call the library at mil 485-1740 or civ (06783) 6-1740 or visit Building 8106.

Outdoor Recreation scuba classes

Scuba certification is offered. Cost is \$325. Outdoor Recreation offers classes every weekend. All dive gear and study materials are supplied. Instruction and five open-water dives are at Kronau Lake with the SSI Pros also included. Advanced certification is also available.

Fishing course

Learn the skill of fly-fishing from a certified German fishing guide with a one-day Rod and Gun Club introduction course. The cost is \$80/\$180 per person. Tackle and day pass are included. Course requires an eight-person minimum to make the course a go. Outdoor Recreation also offers intensive three-day courses.

Host nation ... Host nation ... Host nation ... Host nation

Around the town

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

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

Sept. 13, Farmers market at Berglangenbach

Sept. 18-21, "Wurstmarket" 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

Sept. 20, Airfield Fest, Hoppstädten-Weiersbach

Sept. 26, Team Duathlon, Kusel

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.

Community notes ... Community notes ... Community notes

Yard sale

The second semiannual community yard sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 12 in all of Baumholder's military housing areas. All sales are open to U.S. identification cardholders only and all property must be removed

by 6 p.m. For more information call mil 485-6080/7255.

Looking for Girl Scouts

Baumholder Girl Scouts are looking for girls and adults to help build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. People

interested in joining or in learning more about Girl Scouting may email Lalita Crenshaw at gsbaumholder@yahoo.com for more information.

Soldier dies while on leave

Pfc. Lawrence G. Gowell II, of Company A, Warrior Transition Unit,

died July 18 while on leave in the United States. Gowell was a former member of 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, in Baumholder. Anyone having claims on or obligations to Gowell's estate should call the Summary Court Martial Officer, Capt. Nicholas R. Linse, at mil 485-8674.

Schoolbits

School open houses

Wiesbaden Middle School holds an open house Sept. 10. Wiesbaden High School invites parents in for an open house Sept. 17 at 4 p.m.

Upcoming school closings

Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe will be closed Oct. 12 for Columbus Day, Nov. 6 for a teacher work day, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day, Nov. 26-27 for Thanksgiving, Dec. 21 to Jan. 1 winter recess, Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 29 teacher work day, Feb. 15 Presidents Day, April 9 teacher work day, April 12-16 spring recess, May 31 Memorial Day and June 18 teacher work day. (Courtesy of DoDEA)

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.

Home-schooler's WATCH

Wiesbaden Area Teachers of Children at Home, a group of home-schoolers using many different styles, methods and curricula, meets Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Library. Beginner and experienced home-schoolers are invited to join. Call Helen at civ (06131) 588 8991 or email watch.info@yahoo.com for details.

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.

Tuition Assistance guidance

Soldiers registering for end-of-year college classes through the GoArmyEd website must do so before the Army's fiscal year closeout Sept. 29. This does not impact registration for courses starting Oct. 1, or later FY10 enrollments, according to Installation Management Command-Europe Army Continuing Education Services officials. "This is something that happens at the end of each fiscal year that impacts people registering for end-of-fiscal-year classes," said Ruth Foster, IMCOM-Europe ACES education services specialist. "The important message for Soldiers is that if they plan to take a class starting Sept. 30 or sooner, they must register prior to Sept. 29." GoArmyEd will not be operational Sept. 30 for fiscal year cutoff. Ruth said individuals seeking more information should visit the GAE portal at <https://www.goarmyed.com/Login.aspx> or contact local Education Centers. (IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs)



Kaiserslautern District Superintendent Lawanna Mangleburg welcomes teachers during a reception in Baumholder's Rheinland-er Convention Center.

Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Focus on teachers

Leaders address crucial role of DoDDS educators

By Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office

Teachers and administrators were welcomed to Baumholder and Wiesbaden during special events.

"As a newcomer to the community and a new commander who will have a child in one of the Wiesbaden schools, I was pleased to hear nothing but good things about these schools," said Col. Jeffrey Dill, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, while welcoming Wiesbaden Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe teachers and administrators at an event held in the Wiesbaden High School Aug. 26.

As school staffs took time out from working on their classrooms in anticipation of opening day, several new administrators were introduced. In Wiesbaden that included Hainerberg Elementary School Assistant Principal Bradford "Brad" Seadore, Aukamm Elementary School Principal Sue Gurley and Wiesbaden High School Principal Sharon O'Donnell. Baumholder welcomed new school administrators Principal Dr. Darren Johnson and Assistant Principal Michelle Woodfork at Smith Elementary School, Wetzlar Elementary School Assistant Principal Cathy Marziali and Baumholder Middle High School Assistant Principal Richard Jimenez.

Dill described the ongoing transformation efforts to improve DoD schools in Wiesbaden as part of the overall transformation of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

"The good news is, we're getting improved facilities," he said, telling the teachers about renovation and construction work including a new multi-purpose building that will provide lunch services for Hainerberg Elementary and Wiesbaden Middle School students and new facilities at the high school. "Work going on at the high school will make it an even better facility."

But with the ongoing

transformation comes some inconveniences, he added, such as decreased traffic access and the hustle and bustle of ongoing construction.

During a teachers welcome at Baumholder's Rheinland Lt. Col. Paul Pfahler, USAG Baumholder commander, and Kaiserslautern District Superintendent Lawanna Mangleburg introduced new teachers and welcomed them to the new school year. Mangleburg charged the educators to remain focused on their students.

Dill also described the Army Family Covenant efforts providing invaluable services and resources aimed at improving the overall quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

Heidelberg District Superintendent Frank Roehl asked the teachers to continue "to set high expectations" for their students but to remember that with ongoing deployments and other challenges brought on by military life, they must continue to be sensitive to the needs of students "to put to rest the concerns of those deployed service members. It's important for the school to be that solid place where they can go day after day.

"We can't have any higher calling than being a teacher — but doubly so of supporting the needs of our Soldiers and their families," said Roehl. "My challenge to you is to be open-minded."

During the Wiesbaden teachers welcome school liaison officer Peter Witmer also introduced representatives from the schools' partner units. This year

Hainerberg Elementary School is partnering with the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, Aukamm Elementary School with 102nd Signal Battalion, Wiesbaden Middle School with the Corps of Engineers (Europe Division) and Wiesbaden High School with 1st Armored Division.

"Welcome back," concluded Dill, "from a well-deserved vacation. I look forward to a great year."



Photo by Karl Weisel

Col. Jeffrey Dill, USAG Wiesbaden commander, welcomes teachers.

Things to do . . . Things to do

Gospel concert

The Installation Management Command-Europe presents the "Lift Up Your Spirit" tour featuring gospel music artists Trin-I-Tee 5:7, Deitrick Haddon, Damita Haddon and Spensha with an appearance from 2008 Operation Rising Star winner Joyce Dodson Sept. 20 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. Log on to www.mwr-europe.com for more information.

Shooter's grand opening

Baumholder's Shooter's Sports Bar and Diner holds a grand opening Sept. 18 from 5-7 p.m. Free finger food, live music and more will be featured. Shooter's also features pizza home delivery. Shooter's is located in Building 8167 on Smith Barracks. It is open daily from 5-11 p.m. (except Wednesdays). The bar stays open until 2 a.m. Thursday to Saturday. For delivery and to reserve party space call civ (06783) 185 2771.

One-act plays evening

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse features a "riveting mix of new American plays," "Danger (times five)," Sept. 24-27, Oct. 1-4. Pick up tickets at local USO offices or call the playhouse at civ (0611) 816-2473 for reservations.

Ramstein, Heidelberg bazaars

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 Spouses Club Welfare Committee. Visit www.ramstein-bazaar.org for more information. Heidelberg holds a Holiday Bazaar Oct. 9-12 at the Village Pavilion in Patrick Henry Village. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 10 and 11, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 12.

International Women's Club

Wiesbaden's International Women's Club holds a potluck Sept. 10, a tour of the State Parliament Sept. 24, general



Sesame Street/Holiday Greetings

People of all ages are invited to enjoy free shows by the cast of Sesame Street Sept. 25 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center at 3 and 5:30 p.m. While enjoying the antics of the Cookie Monster and friends be sure to tape a holiday greeting to be aired on national television in your home town. A holiday greetings team will tape greetings at the fitness center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day.

meeting and election of new board members Oct. 8 and a visit to the Wartburg Theater Oct. 22. Visit www.derfrauenclubwiesbaden.de for more information about the German-American and International Women's Club Wiesbaden.

Travel with the USO

Rhein Main Area USOs offer the following upcoming trips: Paris Express Sept. 12, Bad Dürkheimer Wurstmart Sept. 12, Riesling Route with Eric the Red Sept. 13, Würzburg by Train Sept. 19, Munich Oktoberfest Sept. 19 and 26, and Homburg-Efze Oct. 4. Stop by the USOs at the Hainerberg Shopping Center or on Wiesbaden Army Airfield (Building 1023W) to make reservations. Call civ (0611) 731 301 for more information.

Spirit Award

Win \$300 for your unit or Family Readiness Group by turning out in force at the Operation Rising Star competition. Upcoming contests are Sept. 19 and 25 at Baumholder's Rheinland and Sept. 11 and 18 at Wiesbaden's Community Activity Center. Call Baumholder special events coordinator Catherine Dubosc at mil485-6115 for more information.

Outdoor Recreation highlights

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation offers scuba certification for open water (cost is

\$325 per person) and Holland fishing Sept. 18-20 (\$175). Call mil 485-7182. Wiesbaden Outdoor Rec features paintball Sept. 12, an open-water scuba course Sept. 12, trip to the Bad Dürkheim Wine Fest Sept. 12, Lego Land Sept. 12, paintball tournament Sept. 18-20, Oktoberfest/Neuschwanstein Castle Sept. 19-20 and 26-27 and a fishing class Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. Call mil 337-5760 for details.

Wiesbaden City Fest

Wiesbaden holds a City Festival Sept. 24-27 on its downtown squares. A Fall Market will be held Sept. 25-27 in conjunction with the fest featuring seasonal fruits and vegetables, wine and more.

Frankfurt Dippemess

Frankfurt holds its pottery fair and carnival Sept. 11-21 at Ratsweg (by the Eisssporthalle) next to the Ostpark. The huge fair features pottery items for sale, roller coasters, beer tents and more.

Live at the Irish Pubs

Wiesbaden's Irish Pub (located at Michelsberg 15) features karaoke Sept. 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29. Live bands include Eight Balls Sept. 12, Mad Mac Sept. 17, Bad Boyz Sept. 24, Geena Jones and the Wicked Sisters Sept. 25, Cris Cosmo Band Sept. 26. Visit www.irish-pub-wiesbaden.de. Mainz' Irish Pub (Weissliengasse 5) offers karaoke Sept. 10, 14, 17, 21 and 28. Live bands take the stage Sept. 11 Eight Balls, Sept. 12 Timmy Rough and the Rangers, Sept. 16 Mark Bennett Duo, Sept. 18 Macy's Mob, Sept. 19 Geena Jones and the Wicked Sisters, Sept. 23 the Capones, Sept. 24 and 25 Java Shrine, Sept. 26 Chris Cosmo Band and Sept. 30 Richard Morse. Visit www.irish-pub-mainz.de.

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.



Michael Boehme (from left), his son Daniel and Lt. Col. Matthew Mattner blow traditional German hunting horns in tribute to the game and to signal the hunt's conclusion. Germans and U.S. hunters from several military communities traveled to Wiesbaden to join in the fox hunt.



Hunters keep watch on the perimeter of a cornfield for any fleeing foxes while drivers make their way through the corn stalks. Photo right: German and American hunters and beaters make their way through a sugar beet field near Wiesbaden Army Airfield where foxes have been sighted raiding nearby farmers' chicken coops.



Hunting horns and leather pants are common sights on hunts in Germany. The pants help protect against brambles and thorns when stalking game in the brush.

Fox hunting

German and American hunters share traditions during first Wiesbaden community event

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

It was a great day for a hunt, as members of Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation's Hunting, Fishing and Sport Shooting Program joined fellow German and American hunters near Wiesbaden Army Airfield Aug. 30.

The hunters were in search of foxes in the nearby corn and sugar beet fields after local farmers reported a growing population of the wily red-fleeced mammals having repeatedly raided chicken coops in the nearby village of Delkenheim.

First community hunt

"This is our first real hunt as a community, and the main thing we want to demonstrate is that we're safe hunters," said Michael Boehme, Hunting, Fishing and Sport Shooting Program manager, as he welcomed the hunters and offered advice about the upcoming hunt.

"I feel there's no better way to teach the new students than by doing," said Boehme, referring to several of the participants who are currently enrolled in the hunting

course — and the young hunters who had recently completed the 100 or so hours of classes and testing required for a German hunting license.

The day before the fox hunt, several of the hunters had volunteered to help build high seats in the forest for a local German forester. That action was part of ongoing cooperation between members of the German and American hunting groups to help in environmental stewardship and conservation.

"It's a great pastime," said 5th Signal Command's Bob Sanchez, who has helped Boehme teach hunting classes in Wiesbaden. "The camaraderie, the friendship, the meshing of the two cultures is great. Plus the hunting opportunities over here are phenomenal."

Having an active hunting, fishing and sport shooting program in U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden offers single Soldiers, spouses and other enthusiasts a great opportunity, Sanchez said, giving a lot of credit of the success of the program to Boehme, who launched it by volunteering his time to teach the hunting classes last year. "He's very knowledgeable and has opened up a lot of

areas" through his contacts with local national hunters and hunting area managers, Sanchez said.

"This is my first time hunting in the Wiesbaden area," he added, saying, "I've already had the opportunity to meet a lot of the local nationals."

The 102nd Signal Battalion's Capt. Joseph Billingsley, who was deployed to Iraq when he sought details about hunting in Germany, said he was happy to get information from Boehme by email. "The first thing I did when I returned from deployment was take the Wiesbaden hunting class."

As volunteers made their way through the corn and sugar beet fields, clapping hands and calling out, the hunters kept a close watch on the perimeter for any escaping flashes of red fur. After working through two fields with no sign of prey, the hunters, led by the German hunting area manager, Dr. Rudolf Hettner, circled a patch of six-foot-high wild flowers and weeds while the beaters again paced through the undergrowth. Earlier Hettner had advised

the hunters "to look both ways, like a chameleon — if you look to the right, the fox will come out on the left."

Fox in sight

On the second pass of the beaters, German hunter Roswitha Holtorf sighted a fox heading for higher ground, took aim and brought the animal down.

After another hour of combing the nearby habitat, Boehme

signaled *Hahn an Ruh* with the traditional German hunting horn to signal cease fire, collect the game, and to reunite for the traditional closing ceremonies. While the hunters had only felled one fox for their several-hour-long efforts, they shrugged it off saying "some days the foxes win and some days the hunters win."

As the hunters gathered around the fox, the hunting area manager said a few words over

the prey, brushing it with a twig and awarding the pine branch to the successful shooter. Boehme, his son Daniel and fellow Wiesbaden community hunter Lt. Col. Matthew Mattner of the Wiesbaden Health Clinic once again hoisted their Jagdhorns and signaled melodies marking respect to the fox (*Fuchs Tot*) and the conclusion of the hunt (*Jagd Vorbei, Halali*).

As the German and American

Heavy mettle at Wiesbaden bouts

Unit-level boxers battle for bragging rights at 102nd Signal Battalion-sponsored tourney

Story and photos by

Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

Wiesbaden's Unit-level Boxing Championship opened with a bang Aug. 29.

Baumholder's Michael Halman and Wiesbaden's Nathaniel Leusch came out of their corners swinging, bouncing off the ropes and even managing a wrestling throw to the canvas during the first round.

But by the second round Halman had run out of steam and Leusch took control before Ed Hickman stopped the contest awarding the gold to the Wiesbaden puncher.

Bout 2 was a marked contrast to the opening fight with Wiesbaden boxers Portukalian Josiah and Roy Hammonds cautiously working the ring, throwing jabs and looking for holes in their opponent's defense. After Hammonds rocked Josiah with a couple of solid shots to the noggin in Round 2, the referee once again stepped in in Round 3 to stop the contest and award Leusch the victory.

Hosted by the 102nd Signal Battalion, Wiesbaden's Boxing Championship



Vilseck's William Baker sends Wiesbaden's Rigoberto Gutierrez-Garcia II reeling during their heavyweight bout. Baker won the fight on points after going three rounds with the 102nd Signal Battalion boxer.

featured nine bouts.

One of the unit's own, Deangelo Whitfield, looked strong in the first round against the 501st Military Police Company's Kerry Harris, driving the MP around the ring and into the ropes several times.

But with the bell still ringing to start Round 2 Harris took over, and the referee eventually called a stop to the pounding giving Harris the win.

Bouts four and five went down to the wire with Darmstadt's Kelly Cowan winning a three-round decision against Wiesbaden's John Von-Behren and the 255th Signal Detachment's (102nd Signal Battalion) Tighe Barlen winning on points against

24th Military Intelligence Battalion's Matthew Stephens.

"It was exhausting — only six minutes," said Barlen after claiming the gold.

Explaining that as his first time in the ring, with very little training, he knew he had the fight by the second round — "when I backed him up a couple of times and got in a couple of good shots."

Two semi knock-downs in Bout 6 by 1st Military Intelligence Battalion's Brittnee Howerton left no doubt that the fighter in the red corner was going home with the gold against Special Troops Battalion's Maili Fuller.

"I loved it," said Howerton about the

experience. "I'm doing it again — it was amazing. I went out there with my best intentions."

Howerton said she plans to box again Oct. 3 during Wiesbaden's Hispanic Heritage Month Boxing Smoker.

Wiesbaden's Jonathan Cortez dominated the scoring against the 1st Armored Division Special Troops Battalion's Daine Watson in Bout 7, and Vilseck's William Baker won a decision over 102nd Signal Battalion's Rigoberto Gutierrez-Garcia II in Bout 8.

The final fight of the night saw heavyweights Lance Wahl of Company A, Special Troops Battalion, facing off against 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion's Jarmil Taylor. With both fighters throwing hard, pounding body blows, it was Wahl who came out on top after the referee stopped the contest in the third round.

"I've taken harder," said Wahl after the fight when asked about the hit factor, giving credit to his coach for six weeks of outstanding training. "We've got a really good coach who teaches us to weather the storm."

Team trophies were handed out to close out the night — 501st MP Company taking the gold and 1st Armored Division's Company B, Special Troops Battalion, claiming the silver.

Boxers and fight fans will get another helping of ring action Oct. 3 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center during the Hispanic Heritage Month Boxing Smoker.

Call civ (0611) 705-5541 for details.



Brittnee Howerton stands over Maili Fuller after sending her to the canvas. Howerton won when the referee stopped the contest.



Wiesbaden boxers Jonathan Cortez (left) and Daine Watson trade blows in their three-round bout. Cortez won the decision and the gold.



Photos by Pfc. Kim Wilkins and courtesy of Outdoor Recreation

Bikers make their way around the course. Photo right: Fred Proctor celebrates victory.

Mountain Bike Championship

Proctor wins Wiesbaden race

By Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Offices

From the finishing times at Wiesbaden's U.S. Forces Mountain Bike Championship Series Race Aug. 22 you might assume Stuttgart's Mariah Overfield was the fastest biker on that course. But that's only because she was first in the Youth Bambini (under age 10) category completing her two laps in 26 minutes and 46 seconds.

Wiesbaden's Fred Proctor sped around the wooded course near the Jagdschloss in the Wiesbadener Stadtwald 20 times in a time of 1:30:09 to claim the fastest time of the day and first place in the Men's Seniors category. Wiesbaden's Jacob Skugard was second overall in a time of 1:31:33 and first in the Men's Open category. Fastest in the Men's Masters category was Heidelberg's Larry Purdue in 1:39:07.

On the women's side, Heidelberg's Larry Nix completed the required 10 laps for the women in a time of 1:01:36 to take first place. Wiesbaden's Jan Meert was second in 1:10:48 and Tahroma Skugrud claimed

third place in 1:18:20.

Other Wiesbaden top finishers included Armin Hess, third in the Men's Seniors; Wiesbaden's Steve Cullen, second Men's Masters; Wiesbaden's Erin Boehme, third place Bambini; and Daniel Boehme, second Youth Junior.

"I've been riding since I was a teenager," said Proctor, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden command security manager, adding that this was the first competitive mountain bike race he had done in some time.

Proctor said having started out fast, by the end of the race, "I felt it. I was riding about 25 percent of my strength."

Having only entered because it was a local event, Proctor added, "Next year I think I'll race the whole series."

"I really enjoy the outdoors and my own little mental world I can get into when I go for a ride," said second-place men's finisher Skugrud. "The race experience is a good social event and also a chance to ride a well-marked trail in a different area of Germany. I also like the thrill of going fast, and it is even more fun with trees and

rocks around."

"Saturday turned out to be a great day, and the weather played along quite well, keeping the temperature just right for racing with no sight of rain," said Joseph Harris, USAG Wiesbaden's Outdoor Recreation and Education Program director. "Besides the occasional biker spills, we had no reportable accidents, but had plenty of refreshments and snacks for all participants. ... We not only took out trash left behind from our event but trash previously left along the paths by other hikers and bikers."

Harris thanked the participants from across Europe who took the time to travel to Wiesbaden for the event and German and American volunteers who turned out in support.

The Installation Management Command, Europe Region, Mountain Bike Championship Series continues with races in Garmisch Sept. 12, in Oberammergau Sept. 13 and Sept. 26 in Hohenfels. For more information visit armymwr.com online or call Jim Mattingly at civ (06221) 57-7944. (Pfc. Kim Wilkins contributed to this story)

Sports shorts

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.

Sports physicals

Wiesbaden Health Clinic will conduct Child, Youth and School Services physicals and sports physicals Sept. 12 from 8-10 a.m. Care will be provided on a walk-in basis; no appointments are necessary. People should bring shot records, recent immunization notes from school nurse and any paperwork needing completion (other than CYSS forms).

Soccer League

Baumholder Sports Office oversees the Army-Europe Community-level Soccer League which meets now through Oct. 18. Call mil 485-6671 for details.

Racquetball Tourney

Ramstein Air Base will be the site of a U.S. Forces Racquetball Tournament Sept. 26-27. Call the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-6671 for more information.

Fishing courses

U.S. forces fishing courses will be offered Sept. 28 to Oct. 2 and Oct. 26-30 from 6-9 p.m. at Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation. Cost is \$65 for ages 12 and up. Call mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760 for details. Baumholder Outdoor Rec features a one-day introduction course and three-day courses with a certified German fishing guide. Call mil 485-7182 or civ (06783) 6-7182.

Race for the Cure

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.

Wiesbaden 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.

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.

Exercise classes

Take part in Zumba dance, spin in the dark, cardio kickboxing or punk rock yoga at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Call mil 447-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541 for class times.

Baumholder walk/run Oct. 3

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 Sept. 12. Registration is \$10 including a T-shirt (while supplies last). Call mil 485-6671 or civ (06783) 6-7418.

Unit-level flag football

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

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 trainer Bob Sullivan and also plays in the local German men's league. For more information contact Ken Robinson at civ (0172) 626-3642, email admin@badenbruins.com or visit www.badenbruins.com.

Swim clinic

Olympic-qualifying Coach Deb Krueken shares a group hug with Wiesbaden Wahoo swimmers during their swim clinic in preparation for this year's season. The Wahoos face the Kaiserslautern Kingfish in Baumholder Sept. 12.

Photo courtesy of Karen Ravensbergen





Movie plots

Whiteout (R) — Carrie Stetko (played by Kate Beckinsale), the lone U.S. Marshal assigned to Antarctica, investigates the continent's first murder, which draws her into a shocking mystery. Carrie must solve the crime before Antarctica is plunged into darkness.

Brüno (R) — Flamboyant Austrian fashionista Brüno is fired in Vienna and decides to find his true calling in America. His journey takes him into the world of child actors and stage parents, celebrity charities and professional wrestling. Stars Sasha Baron Cohen.

All About Steve (PG-13) — A brilliant crossword constructor (Sandra Bullock) decides a CCN cameraman is her true love. Because the cameraman's job takes him hither and yon, she crisscrosses the country, turning up at media events as she tries to convince him they are perfect for each other. Also stars Thomas Haden Church and Bradley Cooper.

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) — Clare (Rachel McAdams) has been in love with Henry (Eric Bana) her whole life. She believes they are destined to be together, even though she never knows when they will be separated because Henry is a time traveler — cursed with a rare genetic anomaly that causes him to live his life on a shifting time line, skipping back and forth through his life span with no control.

Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs (PG) — Characters from the original Ice Age movies are back this time in the land of dinosaurs. The sloth gets in trouble when he creates his own makeshift family by hijacking some dinosaur eggs; and Diego, the saber-toothed tiger, wonders if he's growing too soft hanging out with his pals. On a mission to rescue the hapless Sid, the gang ventures into a mysterious underground world, where they have some close encounters with dinosaurs, battle flora and fauna run amok — and meet a relentless, one-eyed, dino-hunting weasel named Buck.

Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince (PG) — The war against Voldemort is not going well; even Muggle governments are noticing. Dumbledore is absent from Hogwarts for long stretches of time, and the Order of the Phoenix has already suffered losses. In the sixth installment Harry searches for the full and complex story of the boy who became Lord Voldemort to find what may be his only vulnerability.

I Love You Beth Cooper (PG-13) — A nerdy valedictorian proclaims his love for the hottest cheerleader in school during his graduation speech. Much to his surprise, the ridiculously popular cheerleader shows up at his door that very night and decides to show him the best night of his life.



Gabriel Macht (played by Robert Pryce) and U.S. Marshal Carrie Stetko (Kate Beckinsale) face off while Stetko investigates a murder in Antarctica in "Whiteout."

At the movies Sept. 10-24

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

Sept. 18 — The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 19 — Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs (PG) 4 p.m. Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince (PG) 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 — The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 4 p.m. I Love You Beth Cooper (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 21-24 — Closed

Wiesbaden, Taunus

Sept. 10 — Closed

Sept. 11 — All About Steve (PG-13) 7 p.m. Brüno (R) 9:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 — Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs (PG) 4 p.m. All About Steve (PG-13) 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Sept. 13 — Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs (PG) 4 p.m. All About Steve (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 — All About Steve (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 — Brüno (R) 7 p.m.

Sept. 16 — Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs (PG) 7 p.m.

Sept. 17 — Brüno (R) 7 p.m.

Sept. 18 — I Love You Beth Cooper (PG-13) 7 p.m. Whiteout (R) 9:30 p.m.

Sept. 19 — Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince (PG) 4 p.m. Whiteout (R) 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Sept. 20 — Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince (PG) 4 p.m. Whiteout (R) 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 — Whiteout (R) 7 p.m.

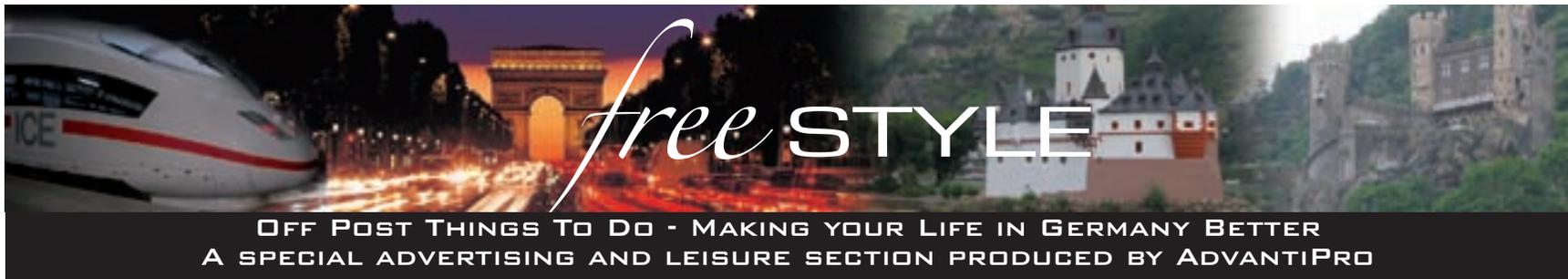
Sept. 22 — Public Enemies (R) 7 p.m.

Sept. 23 — I Love You Beth Cooper (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 24 — Brüno (R) 7 p.m.



Sandra Bullock trails a television cameraman all over the country to convince him they belong together in the romantic comedy "All About Steve."



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“Wein ist für die Seele” or “If you think you know German wine, drink again”

Story by Morgen Wright

Travelers from all around the world come to Germany's southern wine regions to experience fine wines, delicious food and the beautiful countryside – and you are right in the middle of it all. Germany produces two-thirds of the world's Riesling and is home to the famous Mosel Riesling, according to the Deutsche Wein Institute.

Germany is also the third-largest producer of Pinot Noir, a full-bodied red wine. You are, by car, within easy driving distance of four of Germany's most renowned wine regions: The Mosel, Rhineland-Pfalz, Rhineland Hessen and Rheingau, said Michel Städter, Chat Sauvage Winery general manager.

Further north than most wine-growing countries, German wines are uniquely refreshing and aromatic, according to a video on the Deutsche Weine Insitute Web site. The video, which was provided by the Wine and Spirit Education Trust, also mentioned that the longer growing season allows the grapes

to maintain a fruity acidity and natural sugars.

For those who have always wanted to go wine tasting but never knew where to look or how to ask, look no further. The German Wine Institute's Web site, www.deutscheweine.de, can tell you everything you want to know about the country's wine regions, festivals, visitor-friendly wineries, grape varieties and more, according to Chuck Emerson of Media Services. And don't worry, they provide an English version of the Web site as well.

With a lively atmosphere and affordable prices, wine festivals (weinfest or winzerfest) are a great way to taste and learn about new wines while enjoying German culture. These festivals take place from April through the summer, and some regions will have festivals during and after the harvesting season, which takes place from September to October. Determining which festivals to attend is easy as well.

First, visitors need to determine which wine region they are interested in seeing. Visitors should base their decision on things such as time of travel, weather and the characteristics of the wines in that region. The Wine Institute Web site is a one-stop-shop for any information about wine or local wine festivals.

However, Germans native to the Pfalz region will say visitors need to look no further than the Deutsche Weinstrasse.

At the Edenkoben Winzerfest, Mackenbach locals Steffi and Michael Ender said they were loyal Pfalz wine drinkers and go to the Pfalz weinfests every year. "We have a saying in Germany: 'Wein ist für die Seele, Bier ist für den Kopf,'" Mrs. Ender said.

For all of us English speakers, that means, "Wine is for the soul, and beer is for the head."

For more serious wine drinkers, one can also go directly to the winery to taste the wines. Most wineries welcome walk-ins and wine tasting is often free. Most Germans will come to the winery after having a meal out or eating in the restaurant to taste the wine and bring a bottle home, said Mathias Scheidweiler, Schamari-Muehle winery vineyard manager. No matter which region one visits, wine tasting is a German experience that shouldn't be missed.

For more information on Weinstrasse festivals taking place this year, visit www.deutsche-weinstrasse.de/.



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Berglangenbach 2009

by Petra Lessing, 86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Berglangenbach, a village in the Baumholder Union Community, sponsors its 10th farmers and arts and crafts market Sunday, September 13.

From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., more than 100 regional farmers and vendors will present their products and merchandise, such as potatoes, vegetables, fruit, wurst, marmalade, mustard, oil, vinegar, cheese, honey, juices, tea, coffee, wine, pasta, schnaps and liquor.

Artists will present their hand-crafted items, including ceramics, wooden items, artificial flower bouquets and wreaths and baskets. Craftsmen such as smiths, turners, roofers and basket makers will also demonstrate their skills.

Chimney sweepers will be available as traditional lucky charms. A lumberjack will present how to safely work with motor saws. He will also demonstrate his skills of "carving" figures.

The photo club Tele Freisen will be taking photos of visitors in historical costumes.

The market also includes a vintage tractor show and animal show, which presents farm animals, rabbits, horses, donkeys and birds of prey. Children can ride ponies.

Farmers and vendors offer all kinds of food specialties: fish brötchen, fried potatoes, spring rolls, gyros, steaks, plum cake, waffles and cakes. Regional music associations will provide the musical entertainment.



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DIRECTIONS:

- To get to Berglangenbach, take A62 north to Freisen, then L133 direction Baumholder, which turns into L384 direction Berschweiler/Fohren-Linden.
- Turn left twice until getting to L347. A few kilometers after Fohren-Linden, you will see the sign to the farmers market.

MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.berglangenbach.de or www.bauermarkt-berglangenbach.de



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Viana Bella Noguera

Born at 4:18 p.m. August 16 at the Paulinen Klinik in Wiesbaden, Germany. Viana was 9 pounds, 2 ounces and 21 inches long. She was born to Sgt. Christopher Noguera and Helen Noguera. The family is stationed in Wiesbaden.



Jack Robert Hans Klein

Born at 12:56 a.m. August 1 at Dr. Horst Schmidt Klinik in Wiesbaden, Germany. Jack was 6 pounds, 4 ounces and 20 inches long. He was born to Alexis and Andrew Klein. The family is stationed in Wiesbaden.



Eric Jayden Stevens

Born at 6:27 p.m. May 21 at Lahn-Dill-Kliniken in Wetzlar, Germany. Jack was 7 pounds, 11 ounces and 20 inches long. He was born to Miriam and Victor Stevens. The family is stationed in Baumholder.

Send your birth announcement to the Herald Union.

Include your baby's name, time and date of birth, hospital name, weight and length, parents' first and last names, and the place where your family is stationed, along with a JPEG photo. Send information to: pictures@herald-union.com



Position: Tours Manager
Location: USO Rhein Main Area

The United Service Organizations (USO), is actively recruiting for a Tours Manager for USO Rhein Main Area.

Key responsibilities include planning, organizing and overseeing sightseeing and newcomer orientation tours offered through the USO for the Mannheim and Heidelberg Military communities. Duties include:

- ★ Plan, develop and execute tour programs
- ★ Research tour destinations and create viable itineraries; arrange all details for tours, including negotiation of contracts with vendors
- ★ Supervise tour guides
- ★ Track costs, monitor and report on financial results
- ★ Market tour programs through writing and submitting tour descriptions for publication, maintaining written materials for distribution, and scheduling radio interviews to promote tours
- ★ Maintain USO vehicles used for tours, and train drivers on safety and emergency procedures

The position requires knowledge of the local area and travel destinations, with tours management experience a plus, and:

- ★ Strong communication skills to include public speaking; must be bi-lingual in English and German
- ★ Must have experience managing a budget and managing vendors
- ★ Must have experience supervising and directing staff
- ★ Must be able to drive an 8-person van when necessary
- ★ High level of attention to detail, strong organizational skill and be fully proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- ★ This is a part time position, working 30 hours per week. Occasionally, evening and weekend work may be required based on tour schedules.

USO staff embrace the mission of the organization and advance its cause in the workplace and the community by representing the USO professionally and with pride.

The USO is a mission-driven organization, which offers a competitive compensation and benefits package. For immediate consideration, please apply online at www.uso.org (go to the Career Opportunities page) or send resume and salary requirements to gcurrie@uso.org.

it begins with you



Youth Activities

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

Welcome back to school



Courtesy photos

Third-grade teacher Mrs. Paula Pierce reads to her class the first week of the 2009/2010 school year.



Courtesy photos

Wiesbaden Middle School student Scott Ricks opens his locker.



Courtesy photo

Anthony Jordan and Daniel Bretfeld read in Ms. Pat Best's fifth-grade classroom the first week of the school year.



Courtesy photo

Hainerberg Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Pat Best has her class reading to start the school year.

Baumholder "Home of Champions"

Youth Activities

Baumholder Middle School and Teen Program



Courtesy photo

Brittany Neal, Sofia McCormick, Artiste Broussard, Aaliyah Kaiser, Monica Rodriguez, Raeachel McCormick, Danielle Kujowski Quadra Boyd, and Jade Thompson, along with Smart Girls advisor Brenda Jennings, enjoy snacks after being inducted into the Smart Girls Program.



Courtesy photo

Paladin Turner, Jessica Fontanez, Kevin Coffell, Janie Javier, Selina, Stanley, Bana Tesfay, Ashley Tweed, Milen Tzegal, Devanni Uriegas, Miranda Uriegas, Luis Labrador, Anthony Cannon, Hannah Vieira, Christopher Beck, Destiny Bryant, DiAndria Donaldson, Makel Gadson, Jennie Javier, James Milledge, Destiny Sanders, Phillip Sanders and sponsors Emma Donaldson and Nate Watson visit Tropical Island in Krausnick-Berlin, Germany.



Courtesy photo

Paladin Turner, Jessica Fontanez, Kevin Coffell, Janie Javier, Selina, Stanley, Bana Tesfay, Ashley Tweed, Milen Tzegal, Devanni Uriegas, Miranda Uriegas, Luis Labrador, Anthony Cannon and sponsors Alisha McGuire, Brenda Jennings and Nate Watson visit the Berlin Wall in Berlin, Germany.



Courtesy photo

Xavier Baca, James Young, Jared Young, Kalie Soller, James Sadler and Ashley Williams discuss joining the Boys and Girls Club of America Torch Club with Assistant Program Director Sandra Guyette.



Courtesy photo

David Adamchick, Kevin Alicea, Craig Bobie, Anthony Cannon, Kristi Coffell, Tiffani Contino, Mariah Cross, DiAndria Donaldson, Kyra Eckert, Kendrick Hairston, Dominick Hinkleman, Shanavia Howard, Luis Labrador, Ivette Pinedo, Jasmine Poole, Monica Rodriguez, Austin Sandoval, Nolan Sandoval, Jordan Shuck, Kalie Soller, Miranda Uriegas, Ashley Williams, Kyla Williams, Rebecca Williams and middle school and staff Sandra Guyette and Brenda Jennings visit Sea-Life in Oberhausen, Germany.



Vacation Photos



Photo by Brandy Severson-Jackson

Amber Reyes visits the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Pisa, Italy.



Photo by Edna Miller

Maj. Kent Snyder, Marnie Snyder, Kemma Snyder, Tia Snyder, Kent Snyder J. and Kai Snyder visit the Academie Nationale de Musique in Paris, France, in July.



Photo by Lori Williams, camp counselor.

Erin Boyer, Erin Fry, Caitlyn Anderson, Maddie Smith and Katie Paris travel with Girl Scout Camp to Venice, Italy.



Have you been on a trip lately?
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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

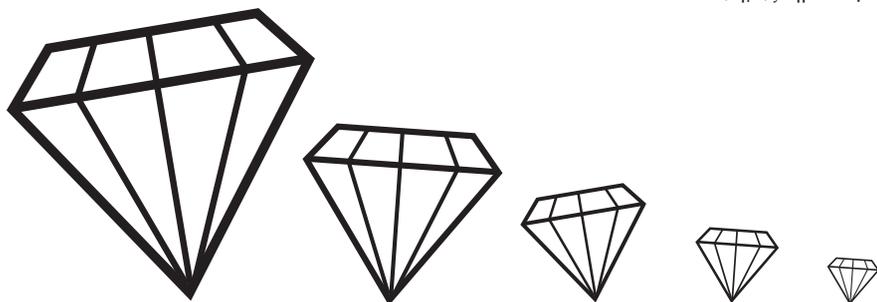
The Diamond

A rich old lady died and left all her money to her grandchildren and her children. At the end of the will she stated that she had one last thing to give away: her precious diamond.

She gave a clue to where it might be. She said "it's in a cylinder surrounded by a thousand squares."

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Answer: In a roll of toilet paper.



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