

Press Review – May 11, 2012

Also at <http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/hunion/GermanPressReview.pdf>

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German Press – Local

US Army V Corps deploys to Afghanistan for one year and will then deactivate

By Katja Rietze

Source: *Wiesbadener Kurier*, dated 11 May 2012

Translated by: Kerstin Kling, V Corps HN Relations



Before their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, US Army V Corps was bid farewell yesterday on Erbenheim Airfield. Under the command of General James L. Terry, the majority of the approximately 750 Soldiers will deploy to Hindu Kush within the next four to six weeks. The Soldiers are part of ISAF, the International Security Assistance Force, a NATO led initiative to support the Afghan government and security forces to "provide a secure environment for sustainable stability in the region" as stated by Terry just before the ceremony, which took place in the newly constructed gym on the Airfield. The Soldier will leave behind approximately 1250 family members in Wiesbaden. The duration of the deployment is one year.

According to latest information, this ceremony was the last official farewell ceremony for V Corps: V Corps will inactivate as a result of the austerity measures and force structure changes to the Army in Europe, announced by President Obama. By December 2013, V Corps will not exist anymore according to General James Terry. "The Soldiers will return to Wiesbaden, wait for their orders and then PCS to other assignments". The approximately 750 Soldiers and their families will then leave Wiesbaden, much to Terry's regret. He emphasized that "we look back on a long history in Germany and will always remember the good neighbors and partners in Wiesbaden" and that the relationship to Wiesbaden was extremely good.

In addressing the Soldiers, Terry stated that they would be part of writing an important chapter in American history. The troops were bid farewell with pathos, national anthems and a salute battery. At present, V Corps is the US Army's only permanently forward deployed Corps. It has been stationed in Germany since 1951 and in Wiesbaden since the 80s [sic]. Its deactivation had previously been scheduled for 2009, but was then cancelled. Only in January of this year, V Corps Change of Command took place between James L. Terry, who previously commanded US and NATO troops in southern Afghanistan, and Brigadier General Ricky D. Gibbs. V Corps' deactivation will have very little effect on the Wiesbaden Garrison.

<http://www.wiesbadener-kurier.de/region/wiesbaden/meldungen/11958318.htm>

It all started with an e-mail

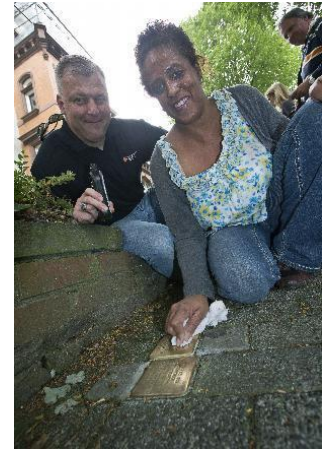
STUMBLING STONES Shaunna Davis-Fuller organized the maintenance of 463 brass memorial stones

By Hendrik Young

Wiesbadener Kurier, May 9, 2012

Translated by USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

WIESBADEN-- Seventeen more stumbling stones are reminding of the victims of national socialism in Wiesbaden since a few days. This increases to 463 the number of small brass cobblestones memorials in the city. American fellow citizens are now caring for their maintenance.



The two stumbling cobblestones that are reminding of the fate of William Dreyer and Ferdinand Blumenthal are shining like new again thanks to the American Shaunna Fuller-Davis. The 46-year-old has been living in Wiesbaden for eight years. Although she walks a lot around the city, she had not noticed the Stumbling Stones. When finally a friend brought it to her attention, she read on the internet that there is a lack of people to maintain the stones. So the management assistant at the Defense Contract Management Agency got the ball rolling.

"I sent one e-mail, and then it turned into a full-time job," she said beaming. Then the recipients of her message sent it further so that at the end not only Americans committed to the project but also Germans.

A total of 46 women and men are participating to include personnel from civilian and military organizations as well as American church groups. Then there are the "Boy Scouts" [in English in text] as they are called in the English language. All of them are taking care of certain stones, so that all of the 463 Wiesbadener Stumbling Stones built-in [on the walkways] since 2005 will be cleaned several times a year.

The project initiator Shaunna Fuller-Davis and her colleagues from the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) in Wiesbaden are responsible for Alexandrastrasse and for the newly built-in Stumbling Stone that commemorate Albert Stein. "Dr. Stein had volunteered to serve in World War I. He was wounded in 1915 and since then was 30 percent war-disabled", said Inge Naumann-Goetting from the Stumbling Stone initiative of the "Aktiven Museum Spiegelgasse" [active museum Spiegelgasse]. In 1938, the doctor lost his license. In 1943 he was finally arrested and deported to Auschwitz where he was killed the same year.

Fifteen other residents of Alexandrastrasse 6-8 lost their lives as it was one of the so-called "Jewish houses" where Jewish families were stationed before their deportation. The 1938-born Gudrun Schirmer, who has assumed the sponsorship of the new Stumbling Stone, lived in this house. "My parents moved to Wiesbaden in 1941 and were given an apartment here," she said. She did not know that the house which now houses the Hessian College used to be a "Jewish house". In 1945 the German family had to move out again because the U.S. Army confiscated the house.

"I'm glad that now the Stumbling Stone has been placed," said Gudrun Schirmer. The irony of the story is that it will now be maintained by Americans.

STUMBLING STONE

The artist Gunter Demnig commemorates the victims of the NS-regime by inserting in the sidewalks in front of their last freely chosen residence bronze cobblestones. In the meantime there are Stumbling Stones

in over 500 locations in Germany and in other European countries.

„A human is not forgotten until his/her name is forgotten“ said Demnig. With the Stones in front of the houses the memory of the people who once lived there will remain alive. For 120 Euros, anyone can sponsor the manufacture and installation of a new Stone.

More information at www.stolpersteine.com

<http://www.wiesbadener-tagblatt.de/region/wiesbaden/meldungen/11950261.htm>

Scared abandoned dog Animal protection: Retriever was tied to a tree and had only 50 centimeters room to move

EDITOR: Gabi Vogt

SOURCE: Nahe Zeitung, May 4, 2012

TRANSLATED BY: BERND U. MAI, USAG Baumholder, Public Affairs Office

Police cannot say yet for how long the obviously pure-bred Golden Retriever was helplessly exposed which was found a couple days ago tied to a tree between Mettweiler and Breitsesterhof. A dog lover had found the animal. The approximately 5 to 6 year old male was tied to a tree with a leash of 1.5 meter length which left the animal about 50 centimeters room to move.

The scared animal which showed behavioral disorders is not chipped and was turned into an animal home. Striking is the leash with a beige-colored writing BAUWOOF on black background – the first three letters of the writing applied thickly – on which the police expects to receive information on the owner. Whether the Golden Retriever was a pet of a US Soldier who, while returning back to the United States, has separated this way from his animal, could not be confirmed by the police. The abandonment of pets is recognized as an offense by the American Military Police. The regulations for the re-entry with dogs are precisely defined. The pet-owner needs a statement of a conducted vaccination against rabies or a statement of rabies harmlessness (rabies-free zone), and a health certificate which proves that the animals are free of diseases transferable to humans. This is pointed out to the Soldiers, explains the Public Affairs Office at the US Garrison. The withdrawal of the 170th Infantry Brigade has started already.

Before the Soldiers leave, they have to work a checklist. This includes for example the cancellation of the phone contract, termination of an account up to the vaccination of the pet. The transportation of a dog to the US has to be coordinated with the airline, and costs between 200 and 400 Euro.

Pets of Americans are chipped up to 99 percent, said Ulla Kronauer, chief of the animal home Oberstmuhl at Idar-Oberstein which is run by animal protection association of the County of Birkenfeld. Within the past years, the animal protector has made good experiences with pets of US Soldiers. During the past one and a half year she accepted 17 dogs and twelve cats from Americans. “They were medically well treated”. She found new homes for all of these animals, because she knew what character of the dog or cat had. “The situation has improved compared to earlier years”, said Kronauer and believes that this results in the conducted educational work of the animal protection association within the past years. Sadly, still a small problem exists. The animal home does not receive money for the handed over animals. All efforts in this direction remained unsuccessful. “I also don’t see money when animals are found. In the interest of the animals and the future animal owners I prefer that they are handed over to us in a correct manner.

Information about the owner of the leash shall be forwarded to the Kripo Idar-Oberstein at 06781-5610.

Promotional Tour at Washington Politics: Minister of Interior and City Mayor begin their trip to the US

EDITOR: Gabi Vogt

SOURCE: NAHE ZEITUNG, May 5, 2012

TRANSLATED BY: Bernd U. Mai, USAG Baumholder, Public Affairs Office

He may not need the prepared presentation of Baumholder. Nevertheless City Mayor Peter Lang has saved "his" city on a USB stick. For good measure he took it along during his trip to Washington on which he escorts Minister of Interior Roger Lewentz.

There, Lang is allowed to participate in all meetings of the Minister and can gain his own impression of the situation and the current mood at Washington. Lang will wherever it is possible and wherever they will listen to him promote the Garrison Baumholder. "I am elected to commit myself for an upkeep of the Garrison", he said, even though he knows that the American Military will not be influenced by arguments of a German Mayor. Regardless.

The fact that Baumholder, after the announced closure of the Garrison in 2004, became an enduring Garrison, he relies on the good contacts. And that card needs to be played. The Mayor does not see an alternative to the Army. In this economically weak area the Army offers work to many people.

The strengthening of the tourism as an additional economic pillar progresses only slowly. In the past years no new company has settled. And the perspective for a new settlement at the Westrich region is uncertain. Lang knows this and therefore he fights for the Garrison. The city contributes in the costs for the trip. Lang travels in the economy class for 571 Euro. He does not know which people the delegation of Rheinland-Pfalz will get to talk to. "The detailed decision will be made on short notice".

But one informal meeting is definite. Lang will meet Mike Tucker privately. "He became a friend. We have arranged a date via email", Lang is looking forward to the meeting after a long time. In June of 2006 Brigadier General Michael S. Tucker, who at that time was the Assistant Commander of the 1st Armored Division, had left Baumholder. In 2007 he attended the Rheinland-Pfalz Tag. In the meantime Tucker has continued to make his career in the Army. Today he works at the Pentagon and is responsible for personnel issues, knows the Mayor.

Many of those who have been stationed at Baumholder in the past have today important jobs in the US Army or the Pentagon. For example Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army, announced in January the withdrawal of two Combat Brigades from Germany. He knows Baumholder, and he signed the Golden Book of the city. He is a good friend of Herbert Grimm. The caiman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, top military advisor of the President was stationed at Baumholder (sic). Dempsey was the Commander of the 1st Armored Division and commanded the Armored Division in Iraq. Today he is chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The delegation from Rheinland-Pfalz may not get to see these representatives. But you never know....

Large Exercise by the US Army

SOURCE: Nahe Zeitung, May 4, 2012

TRANSLATED BY: BERND U. MAI, USAG Baumholder, Public Affairs Office

The US Forces at the Garrison Baumholder exercise together with German and American security and rescue forces in the course of a large exercise today, Friday 4 May and Saturday 5 May. The goal is the coordination of the engagement and the improving of the cooperation of German and American emergency responders. The notification and alarm system will also be tested. The exercise is not tied to any possible threat or changes in the threat level at the USAG Baumholder, according to the Public Affairs Office of the Garrison. An increase of the force protection condition may cause traffic problems at the entrance gates. The Garrison asks for everyone's understanding.

PA Note: the information was also aired at radio Idar-Oberstein and SWR 1

Links for German press news in English & others

Press Office, U.S. Embassy, Berlin, Germany –

Headlines

Frankfurter Allgemeine headlined: "Merkel Continues to Stick to Austerity Course in Europe," while Süddeutsche Zeitung discussed record tax revenue under the headline: "State Collects More Than 618 billion in Taxes." Die Welt addressed a possible power blackout under the headline: "Only Ancient Power Plants Prevent Blackout." Tagesspiegel addressed the delay in the opening of Berlin's new airport under the headline: "Residents Near Tegel Airport Must Expect More Noise" and Financial Times Deutschland headlined: "German Savers Are making European Banks Happy." Editorials focused on President Obama's remarks on homosexuals and on the Greek government crisis. ZDF-TV's early evening newscast heute opened with a report on the formation of the new government in Greece, while ARD-TV's early evening newscast Tagesschau led with a story on bomb attacks in Damascus.

President Obama – Same Sex Marriages

All media carried lengthy reports on President Obama's decision to endorse same-sex marriages, quoting him as saying: "At a certain point, I've just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married." Spiegel Online reported that Foreign Minister Westerwelle, who is married to a man, praised Obama's statement "in the name of the German government" as a "brave step forward." Justice Minister Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger also praised Obama for his endorsement, adding that same-sex marriages should enjoy the same legal rights as marriages between a man and a woman.

Iran

According to Die Welt, the Iranian People's Mujahiddin has revealed detailed information about an extensive Iranian research program for building a nuclear bomb. In a report, of which Die Welt claimed to have a copy, the Mujahiddin referred to seven research offices in the Iranian Defense Ministry and eleven research institutions which are taking part in the development of the nuclear bomb. The paper also wrote that the report dismissed U.S. assessments that Iran stopped its systematic efforts to build the bomb in 2003.

U.S. Troops in Germany

The regional edition of Frankfurter Rundschau carried an article on the history of USAG Baumholder, concluding that it would be sad for the region to lose the U.S. troops. "If you stand on the hills of the city and imagine that the shining U.S. ship departs, you realize that an almost dark spot would be left behind. However, it would today be even darker and more intolerant if the Americans had not once brought here the land of unlimited opportunities."

The regional FAZ and Wiesbadener Kurier reported on the farewell ceremony for the V. Corps, whose 750 troops will be deployed to Afghanistan. After their return to Germany, the V. Corps will be dissolved. Wiesbadener Kurier quoted V. Corps Commander General James Terry as saying "we will always remember fondly the great friendship and partnership with Wiesbaden and its citizens."

THE LOCAL www.thelocal.de

DEUTSCHE WELLE www.dw-world.de

DER SPIEGEL www.spiegel.de/international

Our stories in international media, Army platforms

<http://www.army.mil/news/>

Toppers: Baumholder, Wiesbaden community theaters among the best in Europe

May 8, 2012

By [Karl Weisel \(USAG Wiesbaden\)](#)

WIESBADEN, Germany - The lights ... the glamour ... the stunning performances.

That's what members of the U.S. Forces Europe communities were treated to April 21 in Heidelberg's Village Pavilion during the 2012 Tournament of Plays Awards Show. After an evening that showcased the best on Broadway and local military community stages, Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse and Baumholder's Hilltop Theater were recognized with a total of 19 of the coveted Topper statuettes honoring outstanding work both on and off stage.

http://www.army.mil/article/79428/Toppers_Baumholder_Wiesbaden_community_/



Soldiers shave heads to raise money for Army Emergency Relief

May 8, 2012

By [Wendy Brown, USAG Wiesbaden](#)

WIESBADEN, Germany (May 8, 2012) -- People will pay a lot of money to see their supervisors bald.

That has led Company A from the 24th Military Intelligence Battalion in Wiesbaden to raise thousands of dollars for this year's Army Emergency Relief campaign.



It started when Capt. Justin Brown and 1st Sgt. Robert Gardner said they would shave their heads for cancer awareness and to raise money for the campaign, said Lt. Julio Torres, Army Emergency Relief, or AER, project officer for the 24th Military Intelligence Battalion of the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade.

http://www.army.mil/article/79436/Soldiers_shave_heads_to_raise_money_for_Army_Emergency_Relief/



Social media – a wealth of options for sharing information, feedback.

http://www.facebook.com/usagwiesbaden?skip_nax_wizard=true

Your ideas and contributions do count – make them heard.

European Stars & Stripes

www.estripes.com

New AFN video clips

<http://hessen.afneurope.net/>

AFN Wiesbaden Update: May 11, 2012

On this edition of the AFN Wiesbaden Update: There's a record breaking movie at the Taunus Theater this weekend and Sergeant Marlon Styles talks motorcycle safety. That's what's happening on today's AFN Wiesbaden Update.

[Download Video](#)

Topper Awards 2012

Chris Knoblauch follows The Amelia Earhart Playhouse at this year's Topper Awards.

[Download Video](#)

Americans Visit the Past

There are many memorials and remnants of concentration camps in Germany offering a glimpse of what holocaust victims and survivors had to endure. Army Sergeant Marlon Styles shows us some soldiers who were able to take a walk through the past.

[Download Video](#)

STEMposium

When you take some of the smartest kids from DODDS schools across Europe and let them work together they can come up with a solution to any problem. Specialist Charles Probst has more.

[Download Video](#)

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