



THE Outlook

April 12, 2005

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Afghan terrain proves worthy but beatable foe



Over hill, over dale, as we hit the dusty, er...muddy trail...

Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Hof's vehicle makes its way through shallow mud flats. The mud flats become lakes of fine dust as the climate changes.

Story and photos

By Spc. Jon Arguello

173d Brigade Public Affairs

Beyond being host to the highest concentration of landmines on the planet, Afghanistan has been blanketed by a landscape rivaling the best man made obstacle courses, making conventional travel extremely difficult if not impossible. Its flat plains and valleys are no easier to navigate than its jagged hills or rocky mountains. The nation, approximately the size of Texas, also experiences extremes in weather ranging from sand storms to snow storms and choking heat to bone-chilling cold making travel that much more challenging.

However difficult the land may be, United States Soldiers have proven to be tougher than the terrain. Like true paratroopers, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion 508th Infantry (Airborne) Red Devils display the type of tenacity needed to get through even the most challenging environments on a daily basis, holding true to a common Army motto "drive on."

In March, a five vehicle convoy of scouts and headquarter personnel began the short,

but exhaustive, trip to Sharan Fire Base near the Pakistani border.

Because of rain and melting snow, the roads, or routes which sometimes resemble roads during the dry season, are nothing more than muddy or flooded paths beaten into the earth by "jingle" truck traffic. Jingle trucks got their nickname from all the bells on the vehicles.

"I have no idea how [Afghans] get through this terrain," said Spc. Jeremy Frye, a sniper with the 1-508th Inf (Abn) scouts and driver of one of the convoy vehicles. "I guess they have been doing it their whole lives and they have a good feel for it, and they have to have really tough trucks."

Convoys, with good reason, are one of the least-liked responsibility of Soldiers, but they do have advantages, said Frye.

"We can take a lot heavier weapons on a convoy," said Frye. "And we can move a lot faster. I would rather be [mounted] if the element is a big group. But if it's just a sniper team, I'd rather get dropped off and walk."

Exposing themselves to improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenade attacks and ambushes, the troopers from Task Force Fury, as the 1-508th Inf (Abn) is

named, are often seen loading up on their up-armored Humvees and moving through the gates of their fire bases to complete their mission.

Even without enemy contact or IED attacks, the trip is a test of the Soldiers durability and awareness as they scan the area for any type of danger.

"Being a little paranoid helps," said Spc. Michael Atchison, a TF Fury infantryman and the battalion commander's driver. "Any patrol exposes you to danger. You just have to be more alert and aware. You know that the enemy is going to try to take out your convoy so you have to be in a constant state of assessment. There's never a dull moment."

Drivers aren't the only Soldiers exposed to danger. Turret gunners sit on a strap that hangs from the vehicle ceiling so that they have the necessary leverage to man their weapons.

"It's not a bad seat, other than [the terrain] getting a little rough usually," said Mathew Buske, a M240 gunner on one of the vehicles. "I'd rather be there than in a seat when it gets flooded. Most importantly, I got eyes out and I'm the first to see something."

Buske agreed that all Soldiers run the risk of being injured but they also all have a part to play and as long as they are aware, they minimize risk to themselves and equipment.

"If something is going to explode, we all have a chance to go. You just always have to be aware of the situation," stressed Buske.

After approximately four hours on the road, more than a dozen river crossings and a seemingly endless series of climbs and descents through a landscape that resembled the moon's surface, the convoy approached a large plain surrounded by mountains and littered with stuck or soon to be stuck jingle trucks on their way to drop off or pick up their cargo.

The first vehicles the convoy passed were two tractors, one trying to free another from the grips of knee-deep mud. These mud flats are just another obstacle to vehicles in Afghanistan. It's a wonder any vehicles makes it across the deep mud where the tracks of jingle trucks crisscross dozens of times making it apparent that even the locals have to search for a safe path through the grasp of the mud that becomes dust as fine

as talc during the dry months.

The temperature would drop drastically and the paratroopers would don their night vision goggles before reaching Sharan Fire Base that evening.

The return was almost as difficult, having to cross the same river several times but this time, traveling on a warmer day, which meant less mud but higher water levels.

There is no doubt that the Soldiers who make these journeys are as tough as the vehicles they ride in. Atchison, who requested to be a driver because he believed it would help him to become a better Soldier because of the ability to make independent decisions, said he anticipated getting stuck because of the recent weather.

"I definitely expected to get stuck," said Atchison. "considering the terrain, it wasn't a bad trip."

There is far more to successful convoys than driving and riding however. During the mission, the vehicles had been thoroughly tested and although they all made it back, some had been pushed beyond the limits of

See Convoy on page 4



A 1st Battalion 508 Infantry (Airborne)convoy returns to Fire Base Orgun-e from Forward Operating base Sharan, where Lt. Col. Timothy McGuire met with Paktika Province officials. The five-vehicle convoy included the battalion sergeant major, a civil affairs representative and a squad of Red Devil scouts.

Road Closures

The Caserma Ederle community is advised of the following road closures:

Through April 27: 5th Street (behind the Dining Facility) is closed to all traffic from Olson Avenue to include Soldiers' Theatre parking lot.

Through April 25 - The Davis Hall loop road is closed. No traffic will be allowed in the parking areas surrounding the building.

Through April 25 - Traffic flow will be restricted on 6th Street and by the AAFES garage. No parking will be allowed on the sides of the street. There will be no overnight parking allowed in the AAFES garage parking lot.

Telephone Tax Exempt program ends on post

TTEP customers must transition service by April 30

Directorate of MWR
Press Release

For several years, the MWR Tax Relief Office provided assistance to telephone customers. The MWR Phone Program was called the Telephone Tax Exemption Program (TTEP). However, TTEP no longer provides savings to customers or a customer-friendly telephone package.

Therefore, the service provider *Telecom Top Business South* has been provided a cancellation notice and the program has been discontinued. The telephone program will no longer be handled by the MWR Tax Relief Office.

Customers who are currently enrolled in TTEP are receiving assistance in transitioning to services from *Telecom Italia*. This is done at no cost to the customer.

However, customers must fill out all necessary paperwork to transition their phone at the MWR Tax Relief Office by April 30.

From the time a customer fills out the paperwork, to the time a customer obtains their new telephone number, the process may take from three to 45 days, depending on the availability of TELECOM Italia technicians and the type of contract.

Customers should not lose telephone service during this transition. If a customer does lose service, he or she should contact the Tax Relief Office immediately. Tax Relief Office operating hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Staff can also be reached via e-mail at tax.relief@setaf.army.mil or call 634-7080.

Customers should note once again that their telephone numbers will change. TELECOM Italia will provide callers an automated message providing your new number for a period of forty-five days

following activation of the new line.

When a customer comes to the Tax Relief Office, you should bring the following information and documentation required for transition:

1. Picture I.D.
2. Validated Codice Fiscale (Italian Tax ID number). Plastic card or verified request will suffice. The Housing Division helps personnel assigned to Caserma Ederle acquire this document as they are required to the registration of housing leases.
3. An e-mail account that does not have a ".mil" domain. This address will be used by the technician for notifications and they are unable to forward e-mail to ".mil" addresses.
4. Cell phone or duty phone (optional).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does the TTEP closure affect me?

A. If you currently receive telephone service from the TTEP program you will be affected.

The easiest way to determine whether or not you are a TTEP customer is to verify that your telephone bill is written in English and billed in U.S. currency.

Q. Will I lose service during the transition?

A. TELECOM Italia will do everything possible to avoid the interruption of service, however, if service is lost during this time frame visit the Tax Relief Office immediately.

Q. I have requested transition and I still have not received notification from TELECOM Italia. What should I do?

A. There are a few steps to take:

1. Be patient. Local TELECOM Italia has been overwhelmed by this sudden influx of requests and, since this is not a normal

procedure for them they must use resources that otherwise would be working on other projects. Again, your telephone will not be disconnected on April 30, but you must fill out your paperwork by that date.

2. Make sure you have received an e-mail notification from the Tax Relief Office.

If you have, use the "reply to all" and request a status update.

If you have not received an e-mail notification from the Tax Relief Office, please call or stop by the Tax Relief Office.

3. Continue to stay in contact with the Tax Relief Office until the transition is complete.

Q. Are there any costs involved with this transition?

A. No. Based on coordination with TELECOM Italia, customers requesting transition before the closure of the TTEP program will not incur activation fees.

Customers who find themselves billed for a 150 Euro activation fee should contact TELECOM Italia immediately.

Q. Will I receive a closing bill from the Tax Relief Office and how long will it take?

A. TELECOM Italia Top Business South cannot provide a real-time closing invoice, thus, transitioning customers will continue to receive bills from the Tax Relief Office for four to five months after the telephone number has been changed at the residence.

The Tax Relief Office suggests retaining all invoices to ensure that no double billing takes place. Please visit the TRO with all invoices if you have questions.

Q. Will I lose Internet service during the transition?

A. This is dependent upon the type of service provider or internet access you have. If you are using a free dial-up internet provider you should not be affected by the transition, nor will you have to modify the

settings on your personal computer.

However, if your service is provided through a private dial-up ADSL service your service may be interrupted and you may need to communicate the new telephone number to your provider.

Q. I live in Villaggio, where the Italian Postal Service cannot make deliveries. How will I get my bills from TELECOM Italia?

A. Customers living in the Villaggio housing area must provide their CMR address. The TRO will provide TELECOM Italia information necessary to ensure the bill is forwarded directly to their CMR box on Caserma Ederle.

Please be advised that delivery to Caserma Ederle takes approximately three to seven days longer than delivery to a street address.

Q. With the transition request, can I add ADSL?

A. Availability of ADSL can be verified by contacting commercial service providers and providing them your new telephone number to verify coverage/availability in your area.

Customers should be advised that the Villaggio housing area has reached its maximum capacity and that no additional ADSL connections will be available until TELECOM Italia upgrades infrastructure.

Q. I am PCS'ing within the next six-to-nine months; I've been told that TELECOM contracts are a minimum of one year. Can this period be changed/waived?

A. TELECOM Italia has stated that customers who have transitioned from TTEP to a private line will not be held to the one year minimum.

Documentation from transition request should be retained and provided to TELECOM Italia in the event you request closure in less than one year.

Community

Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you would like to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group Web site at www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link.

This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed.

If you have any questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required.

Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Hall.

The next CAC is April 27 at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: *I am a Non-appropriated Fund employee. Like many NAFs, I'm interested in 'crossing over' to the GS side of the house, and can qualify for some GS jobs.*

I'm attaching a memo signed by Russell Hall, IMA-Europe director. The intent therein seems to state NAF employees should be included in the Area of Consideration for GS jobs in Europe. But many of the GS jobs advertised—even at entry-level grades—don't include NAF eligibles in the Area of

Consideration. So it seems contradictory from his intent.

Why are NAFs being excluded from AOC? I contacted three personnel offices (CPAC Vicenza, CPOC in Germany, NECPOC in Aberdeen, MD) regarding hiring policies, but can't seem to get an answer.

Response from Vicenza Civilian Personnel Advisory Center: On Sept. 21, 1991, the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Defense "Interchange Agreement" was established and designed to allow the movement of personnel between the GS system and non-appropriated funds within DoD.

Activities, subject to OPM rules and regulations, within the Federal Civil Service system have discretion in how vacancies are filled. The minimum Area of Consideration must be broad enough to ensure availability of a reasonable number of high-quality candidates.

The minimum AOC for positions serviced by the Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe Region (CHRA-E) include:

- (1) CHRA-E serviced employees or in-service employees in the organization or directorate with the vacancy;
- (2) Persons with Military Spouse Preference living within the commuting area of the vacancy, whether or not on Leave Without Pay;
- (3) Family members on LWOP living within the commuting area of the vacancy;
- (4) Current Department of the Army (DA) employees with competitive status, and eligible DA Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System employees who are otherwise outside the minimum area of consideration;
- (5) Veterans Employment Opportunity Act applicants; and,
- (6) Interagency Career Transition

Assistance Plan eligibles.

The minimum AOC may be expanded, at management's discretion, to include other recruitment sources, such as:

- (1) Family members who are eligible for a Schedule A, 213.3106(b)(6) appointment;
- (2) Transfer eligibles;
- (3) Reinstatement eligibles;
- (4) VRA eligibles;
- (5) 30-percent Disabled Veteran eligibles;
- (6) NAF employees eligible for appointment under the OPM/DoD Interchange Agreement;
- (7) DCIPS Interchange Agreement employees; or
- (8) Individuals eligible under other special appointing authorities, as appropriate, (e.g. in-service permanent VRA and/or Overseas Limited Appointment (OLA) candidates, Individuals with Disabilities, Outstanding Scholars, etc).

The Installation Management Agency – Europe Region Office memorandum dated July 9, 2004 is applicable to vacancies that belong only to IMA-E, (the 22nd ASG and Area Support Team-Livorno).

This memorandum does not apply to other activities located in Vicenza or Livorno.

Because of administrative oversight, interchange eligibles were not included in recent announcements.

In the future, the 22nd ASG/AST will ensure that the AOC is expanded to include interchange eligibles.

On very rare cases, the command may use their discretion and limit the AOC, however, this is not expected to occur, except in extremely rare situations.

We will prepare a letter to be signed by the commanding general encouraging all other hiring agencies on post (Dental Clinic, Health Clinic, etc.) to include interchange eligibles on all their future job announcements.

Issue: *We are aware that there are plans for the pools on Caserma Ederle. Is there a time line in place for this work?*

Response from Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation: There are no plans to renovate the Fitness Center pool for the 2005/2006 season.

Afghanistan helicopter crash claims Caserma Ederle Soldiers

This tragedy is a great loss to the community and our hearts and prayers go out to the affected family members, relatives and loved ones.

The courage of each individual lost will be remembered and their sacrifice will be honored by continuing the commitment of the U.S. to bring peace, security and prosperity to the Afghan people.

The investigation will gather the facts surrounding this incident, and the command will take all steps necessary to help enhance safe operations.

There will be a Memorial Service in the Post Chapel at 1 p.m. April 19.

Community members are asked to contact the Family Assistance Center at 634-7500 for times and dates of family visitation.

Soldiers benefit from Savings Deposit Program

By Diana Bahr

22nd ASG Public Affairs Office

Although there's not much to recommend being deployed, one benefit that often goes unnoticed is the Savings Deposit Program.

What is the SDP?

The SDP is a savings account where money deposited by deployed Soldiers can earn 10 percent interest – yes, 10% – which is pretty good considering that most savings accounts, money markets and certificates of deposit currently earn around 3 percent – or less.

So how does one reap such a profit?

The service member must be participating in an approved Operation (e.g., Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, etc.) to be eligible. The Soldier must be on active duty and either have served at least 30 consecutive days in the area of responsibility (AOR) and be contemplating duty for more than 90 days, or have served at least one day in each of three consecutive months in the AOR.

Are deployed Reservists,

civilians and National Guardsmen eligible?

Unfortunately, reservists who are mobilized and stationed at Caserma Ederle or Livorno are not eligible for the SDP. Deployed civilians are also not eligible for the SDP.

What are the eligibility requirements?

In order to be eligible for the SDP, the service member must be receiving Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay and be serving in a designated combat zone or in direct support of a combat zone for more than 30 consecutive days or for at least one day for each of three consecutive months.

How do you start the SDP?

Soldiers who want to enroll in the SDP can either start an allotment, or make check or cash deposits on a cash collection voucher.

Can my spouse take care of my SDP payments?

Spouses can enroll in the SDP only if they have a power of attorney giving them permission to start, stop or change allotments. If they have this included in their

POA, they can enroll in the SDP at our Military Pay Office by starting an allotment, or through a cash collection voucher.

How much can be deposited at one time?

Soldiers may deposit the amount of money received on the payday immediately before the date of deposit – less authorized deductions and allotments.

Unless the service member received a special continuation pay, reenlistment bonus, travel allowance on discharge, or pay and allowances for unused accrued leave for the period they were in the Combat Zone, the member may not make \$10,000 lump sum deposits into SDP.

Deposits can be made in cash, by personal check, money order, or through an allotment (active-duty only, not mobilized reservists)

Allotments may be discontinued at any time.

How does the SDP work?

If you make a deposit on a cash collection voucher on or before the 10th of the month, interest is accrued beginning the 1st of the month. But if you make a deposit

after the 10th of the month, you don't begin accruing interest until the 1st day of the next month. So it pays to deposit early.

Additional SDP contributions must be in increments of \$5. The SDP earns 10 percent interest per year, and is compounded quarterly to the tune of 2.5 percent per quarter. The maximum amount that may accrue interest is \$10,000. Once per quarter, individuals may request the money in their account in excess of \$10,000.

What happens when Soldiers leave the AOR?

Once the Soldier has permanently departed the designated area, they may close the account and receive the entire amount. Should the Soldier delay closing the account, the SDP will continue to draw interest up to 90 days after the individual has departed the area. However, no interest will accrue after the 90-day period.

What if something happens and I need the money?

Should an emergency arise, the Soldier may request a withdrawal. To receive the money, the Soldier

must write a letter requesting the funds and include the following information: full name, social security number, start and stop dates of tour of duty, and proper mailing address.

If payment by electronic funds transfer to a bank is requested, also furnish the account number, type of account, routing transit number, and name and address of the bank. This letter should be sent to the following address:

DFAS Cleveland Center
ATTN: Code FMCS
1240 E. 9th Street Toll Free:
Cleveland, OH 44199-2055
POC: Mr. Robertson

Can I find out my SDP balance?

To inquire about account balances, Soldiers may call the following numbers:

DSN: 312-580-6545/fax 6310,
commercial phone: 216-522-6545/
fax 6310, Toll Free:
800-624-7368 or 800-624-7368.

For further information about the program, contact your military pay section or Detachment B, 208th Finance Battalion, at 634-7254 in Vicenza, or at 633-7516 in Livorno.

Volunteering helps develop communities, individuals

Army Community Service

Special to the Outlook

The Army Volunteer Corps promotes and strengthens volunteerism by establishing volunteer partnerships, enhancing volunteer career mobility, uniting community volunteer efforts, and promoting lifelong volunteer commitments.

It also supports professional management, and fosters opportunities for individual volunteers' personal growth.

The Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator, Angela Donald, provides a professional approach to volunteer management to include: recruitment, orientation, training, performance, and recognition.

The AVCC empowers volunteers and encourages their personal and professional development.

As an advocate for volunteers, the AVCC reinforces the concept that volunteer service is critical to the well-being of the Army community and the readiness of the force. This is done by promoting a culture that values volunteers as equal partners with paid staff, working to accomplish the Army mission.

National Volunteer Week is April 17-23 and there are several activities planned during the week.

Among the events are a Volunteer Wellness Luncheon and a Volunteer Bingo Afternoon.

The week will culminate with the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held April 25.

The Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will be held at the Ederle Theater, followed by a buffet and social at Club Veneto.

The past volunteer year covered from April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005.

During this period, more than 435 active volunteers contributed to a total of 52,814.25 hours.

The outstanding contributions of these volunteers saved the American government \$773,728.76 in labor costs. This savings equate to salary of 25 full-time GS/7 employees.

Volunteers have contributed to various organizations such as Army Community Service, American Red Cross, the Post Chapel, Soldiers' Theatre, Family Readiness Groups, VMSCC, and many more.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Army Volunteer Corps at 634-7942 or e-mail angela.donald@setaf.army.mil.

The AVC office is located in the Davis

Family Readiness Center, Room 45. We can discuss your interests and skills in order to determine a suitable place of employment.

Official volunteer documents must be completed before one can volunteer. Volunteers must be U.S. ID cardholders.

The AVCC has a library of books to assist volunteer supervisors with many volunteer issues.

Organizations can borrow books, as well as attend the quarterly Volunteer Advisory Council meetings to learn more about volunteer issues and regulations.

However, National Volunteer Week is not the only time volunteers should be honored. Recognizing volunteers should be on-going.

On behalf of the entire Vicenza Military Community, "Volunteers, we thank you for all that you do and will continue to do for this community."

The Outlook

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Task Force Fury Soldiers take on Afghan terrain

Convoy from page 1

their capabilities, leaving transmissions, equipment racks and other parts hanging on for life.

"The roads – well, they're not roads," said Pfc. Thomas Glassmire, a TF Fury mechanic. "They're the worst I've ever seen. I think [the Humvee] is a great vehicle, even for the terrain, but you got to take care of them if you want them to last."

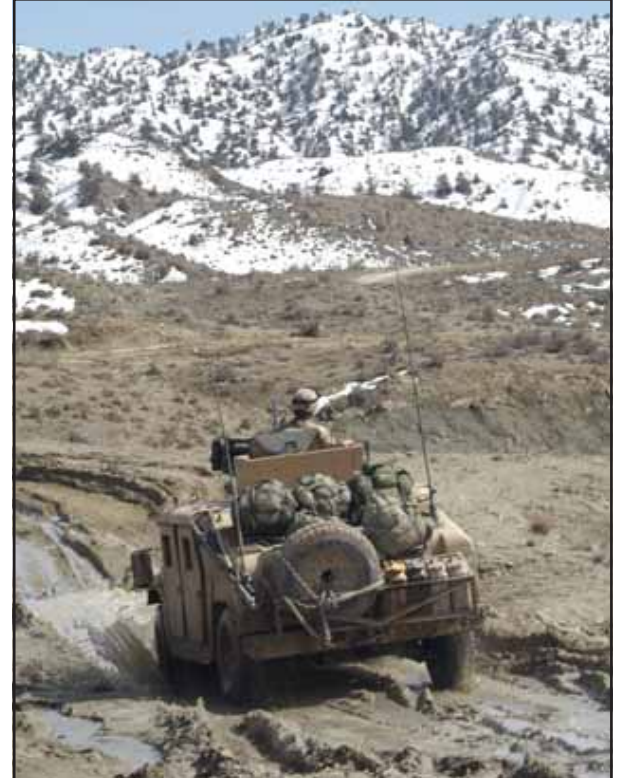
As tough as the terrain may be, the vehicles are excellently adapted said Spc. Jason Boone, another of 1-508th's mechanics. "I think they'll hold. We'll keep our trucks up the best we can."

Maintaining and repairing the hard pressed vehicles of the battalion is exactly what these Soldiers have been doing since arriving in Afghanistan. Their mission is one of importance and it's a mission they are determined to complete successfully.

"We will make sure we keep the trucks up to 10-20 standard," said Boone. "Fully mission capable."

"After all, if you don't have vehicles, you can't go on missions," added Glassmire.

As tough as the terrain may be, these airborne troopers have proven it takes more than tough terrain to slow them down. The seriousness with which these young Soldiers take their individual responsibilities is a demonstration of what makes the United States Army a fearful fighting machine and the country it serves so great.



Top: Spc. Kyle Seitz mans his .50 cal. machine gun while pulling security for the convoy during a brief stop on its way to Forward Operating Base Sharan. (Photos by Spc. Jon Arguello, 173d Brigade Public Affairs)

Above: Spc. Mathew Buske (turret gunner) and driver Spc. Aaron Auckland scan the horizon during a brief stop on their way to FOB Sharan.

Right: A Humvee navigates through mountain trails on its way to Forward Operating Base Sharan. The roads gradually became worse as the convoy approached its destination, Forward Operatin Base Sharan. Keeping the vehicles running is a top priority for the mechanics.

Italian, American Soldiers exchange training, culture

**By Maj. Jose Garcia
Commander,
173d Support Battalion
Special to the Outlook**

We all know that Italy offers exquisite wine and pasta. But for the Soldiers of Charlie Company, 173d Support Battalion, 173d Airborne Brigade, Italy also offered the opportunity of a unique military experience

as they learned on the eve of their deployment to Afghanistan.

We all know that the Italian Armed Forces are a great ally to our country and Soldiers, and the medics of Charley Company experienced it, up close.

It all began with a casual conversation among Italian Army Sgt. Maj. Gennaro Noviello and Charlie Company, 173d SB 1st Sgt. Drake Sladky, Staff Sgt. Abraham

Medina and the battalion's S-3 Air, Capt. Charles Diggs.

The conversation resulted in an exchange of culture, training, and camaraderie.

After an accelerated process of coordination because of the 173d Airborne Brigade's upcoming deployment, our Italian counterparts offered to train 25 of our combat medics on their way of conducting an Airborne Operation.

In exchange, our Soldiers pledged to provide them an enhanced Tactical Combat Casualty Course for 60 of their Soldiers.

The experience allowed our medics the opportunity to go up on a G-22 with Italian crew, Safeties, and Jumpmasters executing the airborne operation.

Although the commands were in Italian, it was clear that we shared much in common. After a successful Parachute Landing Fall, each of the medics earned the coveted Italian Wings.

In exchange, the Italian Soldiers benefited from the medical training our Sky Soldier medics imparted. Training that will serve our Italian comrades well during their upcoming missions to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Again, this training showed Soldiers from



Italian Sgt. Maj. Gennaro Noviello served as the interpreter for Staff Sgt. Abraham Medina, Charlie Company, 173d Support Battalion, Battalion Operations NCO and Instructor. (Photo by Sgt. Angel Sanchez)



Spc. Baker lays on the floor and acts as a casualty while medic Spc. Jeremiah Marstella, Charley Company, 173d Support Battalion, 173d Airborne Brigade, demonstrates resuscitative techniques to a gathering of Italian Army Soldiers. The class was given in exchange for the Italians to provide training in Italian airborne operations. (Photo by Sgt. Angel Sanchez)

both countries that we all share the same ideology when it comes to taking care of our own.

The only dilemma was deciding who got the best of the deal. Each party felt they did. Personally, I think we should continue this exchange until the disagreement is resolved.

Meanwhile, the discussion will have to resume after our return from Operation Enduring Freedom.

Perhaps it can be settled over their fine wine and pasta.

Vicenza powerlifter proves prowess in competitions

Story and photo
By Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Some sports may require more intensive physical and technique training than others.

One of these is Powerlifting, and brought Vicenza some successes in the past two months.

“Sergeant [Brandon] Hutson, approached me on several occasions this past December,” said Ricky Jackson, 22nd Area Support Group Community Sports programmer.

“I always listen and seek to support athletes, players and teams who want the opportunity to challenge their skills in certain sports, ranging from individual to team championships at various levels of competition. Again, in January, he followed up with the Sports Office regarding his interest about attending and participating in the February 2005 U.S. Forces-Europe Powerlifting Championship, in Heidelberg, Germany,” Jackson continued.

Hutson came back from that trip placing third in the 198 lbs. category, a feat he was not expecting, since it was his first competition.

“I started [powerlifting] four years ago, but I have never competed in this type of event,” said Hutson, who works at the Vicenza Health Clinic. “I was

surprised, I did not think I would place, because this was totally different than I thought it would be.”

Before this event, Hutson practiced by entering small bench competitions at the Fitness Center, but he never combined the three events which are the Squat, Bench and Deadlift all in the same day.

“It takes a lot of energy,” he said. “You really need to go from one event to the next one and still try to push yourself to your max competing against the other participants.”

“The hardest for me was the squat, because it is difficult to build up your legs, to get enough strength to actually lift that much weight,” he continued.

It still surprises Hutson how a person can lift twice as much as his or her own body weight.

“What I think is good about this sport is to see the improvements and how much weight one can actually lift. There are days when you cannot just lift the weight any more, or you’re tired, and did not get enough rest. But after struggling trying to lift this weight, the next week you can come back and actually improve and lift it.”

The results of the first competition was good experience for Hutson, who went back to Heidelberg again in March, and advanced to the higher level in the Military World Championships.

“After sergeant Hutson’s accomplishment in the U.S. Forces-Europe Powerlifting Champion, his motivation, can-do attitude, and the support of the sports office encouraged him to compete in the Military World Championship,” said Jackson.

“He has performed very well in both championships – for his first time competing in this level of official competition,” added Jackson.

“After the first event I felt the difference because, after seeing the techniques that the other participants were using, I gained experience,” said Hutson. “In March lots of people from other bases, either from Germany or the states – such as Fort Hood, Fort Gordon, even one person from Alaska – were there.”

According to Hutson, he was the only member from Vicenza, and now one of his goals is to form a team from Vicenza to participate in other events.

“This is a sport open for everybody,” he stresses. “If anybody wants to get started, please come out, because we need a team in Vicenza.”

“It would be nice if participants would participate on all our community-level sports teams,” Jackson said.

The door is always open for anyone – or any team – who wants to participate in the Vicenza Sports



Sgt. Brandon Hutson proudly displays the medals he’s won for his powerlifting prowess.

and Fitness programs, or higher level competitive programs. The staff in the Sports and Fitness Office can also help those who have good skills and experience in a certain sport, and may want to put their ability to test by competing in higher-level competitions in IMA-Europe or All Army Sports, which could be their ticket to the Olympics as well as a professional career, according to Jackson.

Jackson also explained that the Sports & Fitness Office also provides support by ensuring that all necessary documents are prepared and submitted in a timely fashion to the required office. This includes providing directions, submitting registration forms and

rosters, ensuring Force Protection requirements are met, preparing Permissive TDY orders, coordinate for lodging, reimbursement of fees and making all possible transportation arrangements.

Any active duty personnel or U.S. ID cardholder who is 18 years old or older and out of high school who is interested in participating in Powerlifting are welcome to contact the Vicenza Sports & Fitness Office at 634-7009 or contact Hutson at 634-7078.

“Hutson is not quitting now; his next challenge is the U.S. Air Force Powerlifting Championship, April 30 in Mildenhall, England,” said Jackson.

Vicenza students take history to a new level

By Tom Buffington
Special to the Outlook

In its first year of participation, Vicenza Elementary and Middle School students excelled in National History Day competitions, first at the local school level, followed by the Mediterranean

District. Nine Vicenza students went to the All Europe finals in Heidelberg, Germany March 30.

In the program, sponsored by DoDDS Mediterranean District Office with Sebastian Michelena as the driving force, students had to select a topic, do extensive research, decide on a presentation

format, complete and present the project.

Projects were judged on content, quality of presentation and interviews on the subject matter.

Four Vicenza 7th graders, working under the guidance of teacher Dana Keller, wowed the crowd and took top prize for all Europe with their documentary, “War! What is it good for?”

The hard-hitting documentary, using 70’s era music, was about the freedom of speech and the Vietnam War protests.

It was written and produced by Elizabeth Buffington, Tom McGuire, Darren Eldredge and Kiah Rashid.

Under the direction of Karen Williams, VES 6th grade teacher, winning student Krista McBride performed “A History Lesson for Bobby,” and Shantevia Lane, Rachel O’Neill and Alexandrite Savusa performed together, “What Culture Wrote First: Many Theories, Few Answers” in dramatic presentations.

Haley Richardson produced a documentary “Tap me the news” and competed all the way to Heidelberg. Krista McBride also won first place, Individual Performance, in the Junior Division.

The hard work of all the students was evident in the quality of the projects presented and the ability to answer questions during the interviews. Students are excited and looking forward to competing again next year when the winners from Europe will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals against the 50 state winners.



The Vicenza Elementary School National History Day winners and Mediterranean District winners.



Vicenza Middle School winners of the Mediterranean District and All-Europe National History Day competition.

Donate books for Soldiers



Ron Reynolds, chief, Information Service, looks over some of the many books that have been donated by the Post Library and the community to send to our troops in Afghanistan. So far, Reynolds, and other members of VFW Post 8862, has sent 19 boxes of books downrange and is sending an additional 15 boxes soon. Persons wishing to donate books, CDs, DVDs and VCR tapes may drop them off at the Official Mail and Distribution facility, located by the Finance Office. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell, 173d Airborne Brigade)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Running of the bulls and band tattoo

Running of the Bulls: It's not too early to make plans for a visit to Pamplona, Spain to see, or participate in the festival of San Fermin that takes place July 7-14.

Each year, this festival, which is shown on TV worldwide, often surprises, impresses or shocks the spectators as they watch the spectacle of bulls running through the streets of the town, and the hundreds of young men and women, usually dressed in traditional white shirts and red belts, running ahead of them.

The race of 825 meters is run along certain stretches of the streets of the town along with six bulls, as well as two herds of tame bulls.

The race starts at 8 a.m. every morning, although runners must be ready at the start line at 7:30 a.m.

Thousands of people participate in the races yearly and security measures are in place throughout the bull run. Nevertheless, statistics show that since 1924, the time that official records have been kept, there have been 15 deaths and 240 horn injuries of which, last year, included six Americans.

Details on the race, and the dangers, are at www.pamplona.net.

International Military Band Festival: The 14th edition of the International Military Band Tattoo will take place July 4-9 in the city of Modena.

Padova marathon

The Saint Anthony Marathon this year will be held April 24. The start time is 9 a.m. in the town of Veduggio, province of Treviso, and eight hours is the time limit to finish the race. During this time, all roads will be closed to traffic.

Lots of events will be taking place before and after the marathon in Prato della Valle, Padova, which claims to be the biggest square in Europe.

Other mini races will take place at the same time to include a two kilometer race for children that starts from the square.

The registration cost for the children's marathon is 5 Euro and includes bib, marathon medal, refreshments and insurance policy.

If you buy your bib in advance (it's sold in Ali and Aliper supermarkets) you will receive the official T-shirt of the Saint Anthony marathon for free.

Full information and registration is available at the Web site: www.maratonasantantonio.com.

A thousand sails

The Italian Yacht Club presents its traditional regatta called 'Millevele,' a thousand sails, in the city of Genova Sunday. Start time for the regatta is 11 a.m.

The spectacular regatta, held in the Porto Antico bay area every year, brings in sailing enthusiasts from all over the Tyrrhenian Sea and France.

Car and bike parts market

In the town of Villafranca, province of Verona, there will be a 'Mostra Scambio Auto Moto Cicli'

market, or 'Exchange- Market of Antique, Car and Motorbike parts' this weekend.

This is the place to find spare parts for your vintage car/bike.

The event is held in the fruit and vegetable market area. The market is open 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. each day. Entrance fee is 5 Euro. Villafranca is located a short way from the Verona north autostrada exit.

Get a ticket before you go

Have family or friends visiting this summer? You can avoid really long lines if you plan to visit major museums by buying your ticket online.

For example, to see DaVinci's 'The Last Supper' in Milan, call 02 894 211 46. Tickets cost 6.50 Euro plus 1.50 Euro commission for each ticket. English is spoken.

The visit is limited to 15 minutes and only 25 persons are allowed in at a time.

In Florence, to see David at the Accademia, the Uffizi Gallery or other museums, the Italian Tourist Agency recommends calling the number 055-294-883 for ticket. English is spoken and they add an extra 3 Euro for each ticket purchased.

Let's go shopping

There are several factory outlet centers in Italy – to name a few:

Mantova — find the 'Fashion Outlet.' This complex was completed in October of 2004 and inside you'll find the latest in clothes, shoes, sportswear and more, with brand names such as Miss Sixty, Calzedonia and LJ.

Men's fashions include Gucci, Valentino, Tommy Hilfiger and others.

There are more than 54 stores, along with bars and restaurants where you can relax and grab a snack.

Fashion Outlet is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and has ample parking.

Directions: Take the A4 west to the A22 south. Leave the autostrada at Mantova sud, south, and follow signs for 'Fashion Outlet.'

Serravalle Scrivia: Italy's first designer outlet village 'McArthur Glen Outlet' is located in the town of Serravalle Scrivia.

You'll find more than 130 stores, including some of the world's best-known names in fashion, sport and housewares to include Clarks/Lacoste, Invicta, Levi's/Dockers, Nike, Fiorucci and La Perla.

It's open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Check out www.serravalle.mcarthurglen.it and click on 'Center Info' for directions.

Fox Town: Located on Via Maspoli 28, in the town of Mendrisio, this outlet center is very close to the border between Italy and Switzerland.

There are 140 top Italian and international brands including Gucci, Versace, Richard Ginori, and Samsonite. Take time out from shopping at the bars or restaurants.

Fox Town is open everyday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Check out the Web site: www.foxtown.ch for directions.

A little nearer, but much smaller, is a factory outlet by the Max Mara group located in the town of S. Pietro di Legnago, in the province of Verona.

To get an idea of prices and what is on sale, check out the Web site: www.diffusionetessile.it, although it's in Italian, it's easy enough to understand. Click on 'punti vendita' for directions.

The store is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7:30 p.m., open all day on Saturday, closed on Sunday and Monday morning.

Remember prices of all the above have items that are all discounted by 5 to 50 percent. For example, in the Nike store they have products from the previous seasons, which are discounted below recommended retail prices.

Permanent exhibitions

Bolzano: Oetzi – The Ice Man — Over 5,000 years ago, a man climbed up to the icy heights of the Schnalstal glacier and died.

He was found by accident in 1991, with his clothes and equipment, mummified and frozen, and quickly became an archaeological sensation and a unique snapshot of a Copper Age man.

The 'iceman,' Oetzi, named after the Oetzal valley where his body was found, can be seen in the city of Bolzano's South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology.

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Monday. Entrance fee: 8 Euro. Visit the Web site: www.archaeologiemuseum.it/index_f.html

Maranello, Modena: Ferrari enthusiasts can visit the Ferrari Galleria located in the small town of Maranello, just south of the city of Modena, on the street Via Dino Ferrari.

This building houses exhibits of both racing and road cars, as well as the many trophies won by Ferrari racecar drivers all over the world.

If you go on a weekday, there is a chance you will find it is less crowded, and there is also a possibility of being there while they're testing their Formula One car at the test track located nearby.

The gallery and gift store are open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance fees are 12 Euro for adults and 7 Euro for children 6-10 years.

Directions from Vicenza (158 km): Take Autostrada A4 west, the A22 south to the A1 and exit Modena Nord (north), follow signs for the town of Formigine, and then find Maranello on the SS9.

Formula One

The 25th Gran Premio di Formula Uno di San Marino is held at the Imola race track April 24.

Time trials take place April 22 and 23.

Tickets for the trial and or the race are available online from the Web site: www.autodromoimola.com. Go Schumi!

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

April 13	Hide and Seek (R)	7 p.m.
April 14	Alone in the Dark (R)	7 p.m.
April 15	Constantine (R)	7 p.m.
	The Wedding Date (PG13)	10 p.m.
April 16	The Wedding Date (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Phantom of the Opera (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Constantine (R)	10 p.m.
April 17	Phantom of the Opera (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Constantine (R)	7 p.m.
April 20	The Wedding Date (PG13)	7:30 p.m.

Spring Break Schedule

April 12	Finding Nemo (G)	4 p.m.
April 13	Finding Nemo (G)	3:30 p.m.
April 15	Brother Bear (G)	3:30 p.m.

Family Nights

April 20	Scooby Doo: Monsters Unleashed (PG)	5 p.m.
April 27	Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)	5 p.m.

Admission for Spring Break Schedule and Family Nights: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$1.25.

Wednesdays and Family Night will be on a trail basis. Response from the community will determine continuation.

Camp Darby Theater

April 13	Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)	3 p.m.
April 15	Hitch (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 16	Boogeyman (PG13)	7 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

CONSTANTINE - *Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz.* Based on the DC-Vertigo comic book "Hellblazer", Renegade occultist John Constantine has literally been to hell and back. He teams up with skeptical policewoman Angela Dodson to solve the mysterious suicide of her twin sister. Their investigation takes them through the world of demons and angels that exists just beneath the landscape of contemporary Los Angeles.

ALONE IN THE DARK - *Christian Slater, Tara Reid.* A supernatural detective named Carnby travels to Shadow Island to solve the mystery of a friend's death. While there, he discovers the secrets of the Abskani, an ancient tribe that worshiped demonic forces which gave them incredible powers. Carnby's findings suggest that the Abskani are poised to return to take over the world. With the help from his former girlfriend, an archeologist who has the knowledge to stop the demons, Carnby must now fight against their attempts to take over his mind as well as their attempts to conquer the Earth.

HIDE AND SEEK - *Robert DeNiro, Dakota Fanning.* As a widower tries to piece together his life in the wake of his wife's suicide, he discovers that his young daughter is coping with the death in a strange and scary manner. His daughter, Emily, finds solace by creating a creepy, maniacal imaginary friend with a terrifying vendetta.

HITCH - *Will Smith, Eva Mendes.* Most men have difficulty finding love because it's hard to be yourself. That's where Alex "Hitch" Hitchens comes in. Alex is a "date doctor" who claims to be able to find customers their perfect romantic match in three dates or less. Sara, meanwhile, is a gossip reporter for a daily tabloid who decides to write an expose on Hitch's condescending methods. However, Sara finds her professional life and personal life on a collision course as she finds herself falling for Alex while investigating his dubious claim. She also makes Hitch re-evaluate his game, and rethink love in the process.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time. Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Red Cross training schedule

The American Red Cross offers the following classes for the Caserma Ederle community:

CPR/First Aid Training - Dates offered are Wednesday and Thursday from 5-9 p.m.; and April 30 and May 7 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 and includes materials.

Babysitter's Training is offered Friday, and again May 7. Classes are held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and cost \$25 and includes materials.

Classes for CPR/First Aid and Babysitting are held in Davis Hall.

Call the American Red Cross to register at 634-7089 or 7898.

A Lifeguard training class is scheduled for this week in the Fitness Center pool from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost is \$90.

Call the Fitness Center to register at 634-7616 or the Fitness Center Pool at 634-8642.



COLLECTORS' ITEMS

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Collecting items such as coins, postcards, mugs and shells gives people the opportunity to display them on specific albums, showcases or jars.

But when one collects wine corks, the way to put them on display may be different.

The Vicenza Art Center offers a class to help find an original way to keep together all the corks and, at the same time, create an unique board to hang anywhere.

The class that the center held the past month was certainly appreciated by Earl Barron, who's lived here since 2001, and has been collecting wine corks for the past 10 years.

"It will take about six hours to complete the board," Barron said, after taking the class and after positioning the first 68 corks on his board.

At the end of his project, he may place a total of about 700 corks on his frame, including pieces that come from special wine bottles from all over the world.

Barron has collected corks from bottles produced in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bosnia, Chile, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Morocco, and Tunisia.

"I purchase mostly red wine and Champagne-types," he continued, "and probably the most particular corks belong to the '97 Pasqua Amarone di Valpolicella [near Verona], the '72 Baron Philippe de Rothschild [France] and the '91 Champagne Cristal." These corks have the name and special landmarks on them.

Even for those who haven't been collecting wine corks for as long, and do not have as many corks as Barron, the Vicenza Art Center is offering another opportunity to recycle the old corks on April 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants can learn how to create a uniquely-designed bulletin board with the corks they may have collected from different wines they have had.

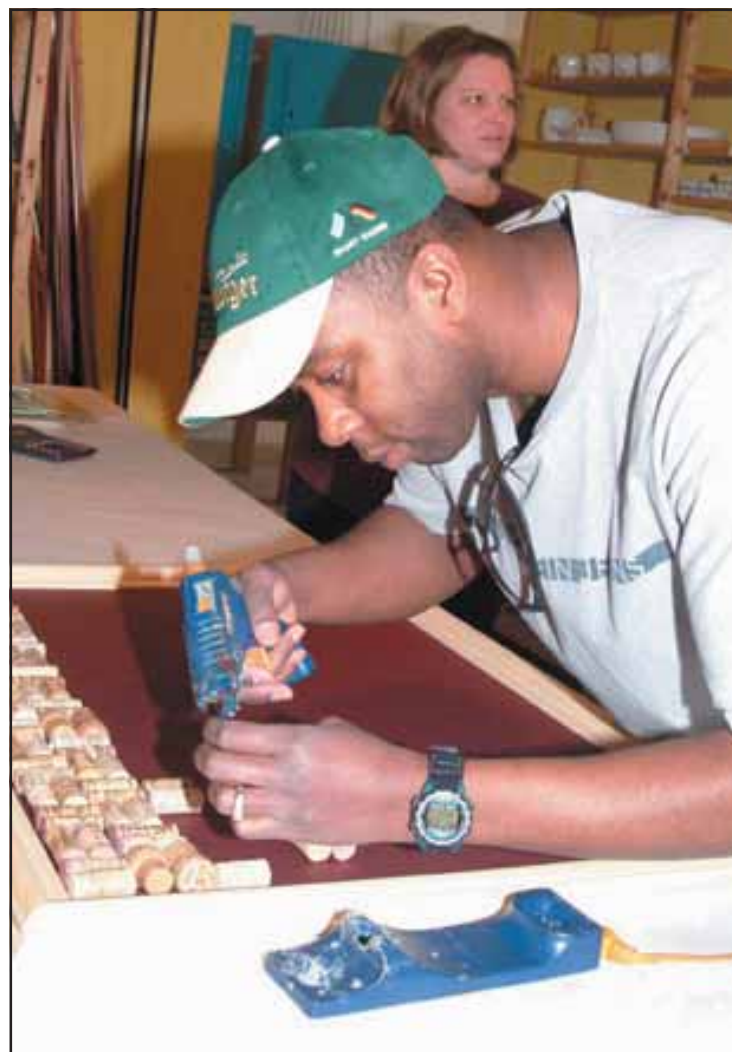
It will be a chance to preserve the memories of drinking Italian wine with family and friends or to create a gift. Cost is \$15 plus supplies such as the wood frame and the board. Registration and payment is required prior to all classes. For more information on the class, or any other program offered by the Art Center, call 634-7074.



Top: Detail of the wine cork board.

Above: One of the class participants holds four of his rare corks from precious wine bottles.

Right: A class participant uses a special glue to attach the corks on the board. Behind him, is Margaret Wilson, class instructor.



Left: Participants of the class work on their board while a member of the Art Center Staff watches

The Vicenza Art Center offers the next Wine Cork Class on April 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost of the class is \$15 plus the cost of supplies. The size of the frame and the board are selected before starting the class. For information about the class and any other program or volunteering call the center at 634-7074.



A participant of the Wine Cork board class at the Vicenza Art Center works on his bulletin board.

Vicenza Art Center

April 2005 Classes

<p>April 16</p> <p><i>Intro to Pottery I</i> 13-17</p>	<p>April 21</p> <p><i>Intro to Pottery II</i> 16-19</p>
<p>April 21</p> <p><i>Intro to Picture Framing</i> 13-17</p>	<p>April 30</p> <p><i>Parent/Child Ceramics</i> 10-12</p>