



The Outlook

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U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

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Livorno Air Force unit gives stamp of approval on community service projects



Airmen of the 712th Red Horse squadron contribute in Camp Darby beautification by constructing new sidewalks around the installation. The unit stamps the Red Horse mark (photo insert) on each completed sidewalk. As part of a Combat Proud project, the Red Horse squadron is volunteering to pave the sidewalks to the newly renovated barracks and to build a pavilion behind them. Red Horse is normally involved with bigger projects, like the repair of air strips or the construction of full roads, but they still have enthusiasm left over for these community projects. "Normally we work on large-scale projects," said Air Force

Staff Sgt. Shawn Ballor, project manager for the unit. "Knowing this project will save the Camp Darby community thousands of dollars in contract costs and equipment rental and helping make the community nicer is, for us, a matter of pride. "This project lasted over two months," Ballor said. "The sidewalks are completed, but the pavilion is still under construction." When the paving is complete, the last step is to lay down the Red Horse stamp of approval. (Photos by Chiara Mattiolo, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

DoDDS-Europe to support early withdrawal requests

DoDDS-Europe
News Release

Schools will support military families by authorizing early withdrawal or early completion programs for students whose families are transferring or taking part in reintegration block leave at the school year's end.

The early withdrawal program is available to students who do not plan to return to DoDDS next year. The early completion program is available to students who will be returning to DoDDS for school year 2006-2007.

Normally, early withdrawal is only authorized for families with Permanent Change of Station Orders. However, in a letter to parents, Diana Ohman, director for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe, said that for the third year, requests for student early withdrawals or early completion will be considered for families PCSing or taking block leave associated with a family member's reintegration following a deployment.

The Department of Defense Education Activity warns however, that both programs come with two conditions. No more than 20 instructional days can be missed prior to the end of the school year and participating students must complete all required assignments in order to receive a final grade.

"The first condition," Ohman stressed, "is that the student must be in school all day – 21 instructional days before the end of the school year. The date varies in some areas, but for most students it means they must be in school all day on May 18th. The date can also be

determined by looking at each school's individual calendar." Any student who withdraws or departs prior to the 20-day limit will receive a "withdrawal" grade rather than a final grade, she added.

"The second condition is that the student must complete all schoolwork in accordance with the guidelines of the accelerated withdrawal/completion policy. Any student who does not complete all the assignments will receive an incomplete grade for that subject area," Ohman said. She added that it is for this reason she strongly recommends parents begin coordinating with schools early, or as soon as they have determined a departure date. "This will help ensure that the departing student has enough time to complete the assignments."

Although supportive of the program, Ohman emphasized, "These programs should only be used as a last resort. Students should be in school and attend everyday – above all else. They miss a lot when absent, even when they complete make-up work." She also points out that parents should discuss and strongly consider the timing of a student's absence and identify any conflicts that may impact negatively on a student's success, such as standardized testing, final exams or special events.

Requests for early withdrawal must be made in writing and delivered to the school, Ohman said, adding that each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For more information, contact the Vicenza Elementary School at 634-7710 or the Middle/High School at 634-7656/7072.

Drug problems affect more than just abuser

From the Office of the Provost Marshal
Special to the Outlook

We've all seen the television ads about smoking, drinking, and gambling and how addiction to these vices leads to deterioration of the body, which leads to deterioration of the team, and ultimately, to the deterioration of the Army and its mission.

A recent article in a local Italian paper warned that cocaine is still a problem in the Vicenza area and numerous raids and seizures have been carried out by the National Police, *Guardia di Finanza* and *Carabinieri*.

Drug problems are not new to the military, but with the transformation of SETAF and the 173d Airborne Brigade, and the USAG Vicenza taking on a larger role in the war on terrorism, the military's

stance on drugs has become even tougher.

"Distribution (or dealing) of drugs is a much more serious offense than use and typically brings a heavier sentence and punishment," according to Doug Yocum, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. "It is important to remember that the exact punishment and/or penalty will depend on all the circumstances and facts of a particular case."

However, according to the JAG, the maximum penalties for Soldiers are as follows:

1) Use – Dishonorable Discharge, Forfeiture of all Pay and Allowances, and depending on the substance and amount, anywhere from two to five years confinement.

See Drug Problems on page 3

Sexual Assault Awareness Month "No" Means "No"

Gen. David McKiernan
USAREUR Commander



Gen. David McKiernan

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is dedicated to raising awareness of sexual violence and promoting ways to prevent it.

Sexual assault and the attitudes that contribute to it have no place in our Army and will not be tolerated. This violent crime is incompatible with the Army Values, the Warrior Ethos, and our standards of discipline and professionalism. It also destroys morale and compromises unit combat readiness. Therefore, preventing sexual assault is everyone's responsibility and should be a top priority for commanders.

Sexual assault is the second most-reported felony in the Army in Europe. To help eliminate incidents of this crime, I want every commander and leader to educate Soldiers and civilians on ways to prevent sexual assault and how to help assault victims. Commanders must also create safe environments in which to live and work.

As a minimum, commanders must:

- Ensure that each Soldier and civilian receives scenario-based, small-group training each year on sexual assault prevention and response. This training should concentrate on sexual assault prevention, risk-factor awareness, appropriate dating behavior, how to avoid becoming an offender or a victim, the correlation between sexual assault and alcohol abuse, restricted and unrestricted reporting options and procedures, victim care and support services, and the consequences of committing this crime. Most of all, leaders must ensure that Soldiers adhere to the Army Values and understand that sexual assault is an expression of hostility and aggression (a behavioral act) and that the victims are not at fault.

- Respond to all allegations of sexual assault expeditiously, verify that all incidents are investigated promptly and impartially, and ensure they are resolved quickly. Commanders are responsible for protecting and supporting victims. They must also take appropriate administrative or judicial actions based on the facts and circumstances of each case to hold offenders accountable. All leaders and Soldiers are responsible for reporting incidents of sexual assault to help victims and prevent offenders from assaulting someone else. They must also ensure that victims are aware of and have access to the numerous care and support services available in the Army in Europe. These include chaplains, installation and unit victim advocates, law enforcement officials, medical professionals, sexual assault response coordinators (SARCs), and deployable SARCs.

- Take proactive measures to provide a safe and healthy environment for those in their charge. These measures include providing an overview of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program to newly assigned Soldiers within 24 hours after their arrival, implementing stringent barracks policy to lower the risk of assault, increasing leadership presence in the barracks, improving the lighting in the barracks and parking lots, and insisting that entry doors remain locked.

- Develop a strategic plan that incorporates all aspects of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. This plan should begin with procedures for prevention and advocacy, and end with actions for ensuring offenders are held accountable.

Each of us has a responsibility to eliminate sexual assault in the Army in Europe. We can do this by taking proactive measures and ensuring our Soldiers and civilians understand that No means No!



Overnight Parking for ITR, TDY Personnel

Parking for Information, Tours, and Registration and personnel TDY is now located in the new parking lot on Hoekstra Field. It is on the flag pole side of the field. This is the only designated area for overnight parking. Vehicles left in other areas on the installation will be ticketed by the Military Police. For additional information or guidance, contact PMO Operations at 634-7248 or 634-8891. (Outlook file photo)

What is death to him?

Family life chaplain shares Easter message

Chaplain (Maj.) Leon Kircher

Family Life Chaplain, USAG Vicenza

I have a favorite picture I hang in my office. It's the Warner Sallman painting drawn in 1940. It's the traditionalist view of Jesus that many churches hang in their fellowship halls in the states. I'm not sure where I picked it up over the years but on the back of it someone had written these words: "What is death to Him?"

As a pastor and chaplain for many years, I have walked away from numerous fresh graves. The words of so many of those left behind is a constant strain, "Pastor, death is so final." We can only imagine the disappointment which gripped the hearts of the followers of Jesus that dark Friday when he was crucified. The men and women who followed him had been liberated by a gospel that shattered prejudice and bias. They watched his body removed by rough hands from a criminal's cross. They watched as his lifeless form was wrapped in burial dress and laid in a new tomb. They watched as the massive stone was rolled to seal the vault.

Only those who have turned from an open grave with the words of the minister's committal ringing in their ears can imagine what they felt. If death is so final, then why did the women go back to the grave site? How quickly the women learned that whenever you go searching for Jesus of Nazareth you can expect the incredible! Little did they realize the magnitude of what would be before their eyes.

I can't find anything nice to say about death. Death is an enemy – a destroyer. It is never right to say: "God took my loved one," or "God took my child." Only death took them. On that ugly Friday death waved its dark, ugly banner in triumph. Jesus cried, "It is finished," and walked through the valley of the Shadow of Death. But somewhere between the closing of the Jewish Sabbath, and the rising of the sun, another empire struck back.

Jesus had been taken captive, but it was to lead

captives free. He advanced upon his jailer in the world of darkness and snatched from him three keys; one to death, one to hell, and one to the grave. His spirit mounted from Hades and entered that body they had only recently taken down from the cross. Suddenly, a body no longer subject to time or matter or gravity walked through the stone walls of a garden tomb.

What meaning does this have for the world? For you? Martyrdom had reversed itself to become a victory. Preachers will preach: "It's Friday, but Sunday's Comin!" To me the name "Good" Friday is more aptly stated: "Triumphant" Friday. Thanks to Jesus we no longer live under the law but grace. Because of Christ we are no longer subject to the forces of darkness but light. Thanks to Jesus we no longer need fear those who would kill our body. The one who triumphed over death and the grave has once for all taken away from the enemy that power which he held over us. They can kill my body, but never my soul. Because of "Good" Friday I belong to another Master... Jesus Christ.

He's still here today, because of what happened on Good Friday. Wherever humanity is heavy-laden, wherever souls are sad, wherever bodies are burdened with sickness, wherever days are darkened, you will find him there. In the dens of poverty and despair you'll find the hands of God working through Mother Teresa, the Salvation Army and what was known as "kindertransport" in World War II. It's Soldiers building hospitals and clinics in faraway lands. It's youth building playgrounds in Slovakia. It's just the average person; running soup kitchens, building universities, delivering "Meals on Wheels," or simply holding the hands of the sick or elderly in hospital or nursing homes. He is far from gone from this world.

I thank God everyday for what happened on the cross. "What is death to him?" has become, "What is his death to me?"

Note: Easter services for the Ederle Chapel are listed on page 7.

Community

Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community.

If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.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 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.

The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar,

derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old 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 location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC will be April 26 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: Information, Tours, and Registration Trip to Brescia – On Feb. 20, I went on an ITR trip to Brescia. The trip was advertised at leaving post at 11:30 a.m. and arriving back to post at 7 p.m. Because the trip was free, and there was a Van Gogh exhibit in Brescia, I decided to attend.

We were to meet at the bus for our return

trip at 5 p.m., but it wasn't until 5:30 p.m. when the last people arrived at the bus.

As we were leaving Brescia, the tour guide informed us, "We will spend an hour at the outlet mall." I immediately told her I did not want to go to the outlet, and I did not know it was part of the day.

We did not return on post until 8:30 p.m.

I feel when anyone signs up for an ITR trip they should not have to confront the tour guide because changes are being made that affect the return time.

On Feb. 21, I spoke with the ITR supervisor regarding this matter, and she saw no problem with the return time. She also mentioned they can not make everyone happy, and the trip was free.

If the ITR policy states changes will be made at any time, I will refrain from ever taking a trip with ITR again. Otherwise, I would like to continue enjoying one of the great benefits of ITR.

Recommendation: Itinerary changes should be put out in advance.

Response from the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to clarify our MWR Tour Policy. We apologize for the inconvenience of returning to post later than planned.

The late arrival was done with only good intentions to please the majority of people who wanted to stop in the outlet instead of our normal AutoGrill stop.

However, an unscheduled stop or diversion is not acceptable.

We have initiated a written policy with our tour escorts that emphasizes itineraries may not change during any trips. Our itinerary will be posted prior to the trips and will not change.

The only acceptable reasons for changing an itinerary are bus safety, force protection or medical emergency. Itinerary changes will be phoned in to the ITR manager and approved in advance.

Keeping children safe

PARENTS ALERT: Online predators pose real threat

Editor's Note: The following information is from a handout created by the Vicenza Criminal Investigation Division for the community titled "Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet." A copy of the brochure will soon be available at Army Community Services.

Provided by Vicenza Criminal Investigation Division
Special to *The Outlook*

Stationed overseas can be a hardship for many, and often, in today's world especially, the Internet is there to make transitions easier by providing a sense of being back with loved ones left behind.

The Internet can be a very helpful tool. It provides information and access to people around the world in a matter of seconds. But, it can also be a dangerous environment, filled with crimes and inappropriate acts. Most at risk for these acts are children, since their understanding of the Internet is vague.

The three main risks for children are; exposure to inappropriate material such as racist or hateful propaganda and sexually suggestive or explicit materials; exploitation by sexual predators; and becoming a victim of a con artist.

In the last year alone, one in five

children have received an online sexual solicitation or approach and one in four had unwanted exposure to pictures of naked people or people having sex. More alarming, one in 33 children received an aggressive sexual solicitation.

There are ways to spot these problems; first, is your child demonstrating secretive behavior such as changing the Web site when you enter the room or hiding disks or even deleting the Internet browser's histories? Second, are they spending excessive time on the Internet? Third, do they have a new online friend you do not know?

There are also ways to protect your children from these risks.

Here are some tips:

- Talk with your children about the dangers on the Internet.
- Keep the computer in a common room in the house.
- Establish ground rules about when your child can surf the Internet, for how long, and what sites he or she can visit
- Review your browser's history list.
- Make sporadic checks of your child's floppy disks and other storage devices.
- Invest in computer monitoring software. (Net Nanny, Cyber Patrol, Surf Watch, Cyber Sitter are a few

well known ones)

- Change the content settings on your Internet browser.
- Give children their own login profile that has limited privileges (i.e. cannot install new programs).

It is important to talk to children about these dangers and explain what to do in case such a thing happens. For more information there are online resources to help you protect your children from the dangers of the Internet.

Online Resources include:

<http://tcs.cybertipline.com>

Don't Believe the Type – An online guide for parents and their children produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

www.missingkids.com/adCouncil
Help Delete Online Predators

- www.netSMART.org
- www.protectkids.com
- www.netmom.com
- kids.getnetwise.org/tools

Local Resources available:

ACS also provides classes on Internet safety for children. They cover a variety of Internet information, from blogs to user-define Web sites, especially those most frequented by children.

No appointment is necessary, just stop by ACS for more information. They can create

classes for individuals, families and group sessions on a daily basis, or you can set up an appointment for a later date. For more information or to setup an appointment, call 634-7314.

The Internet is not a bad thing, said Tammy Wilbur-Hoistad, Victim

Advocate coordinator and Community Educator at ACS; it can be a very useful tool, especially to students.

Report sexual predators immediately

Contact the Vicenza CID Office at 634-8898 (0444-71-8898).

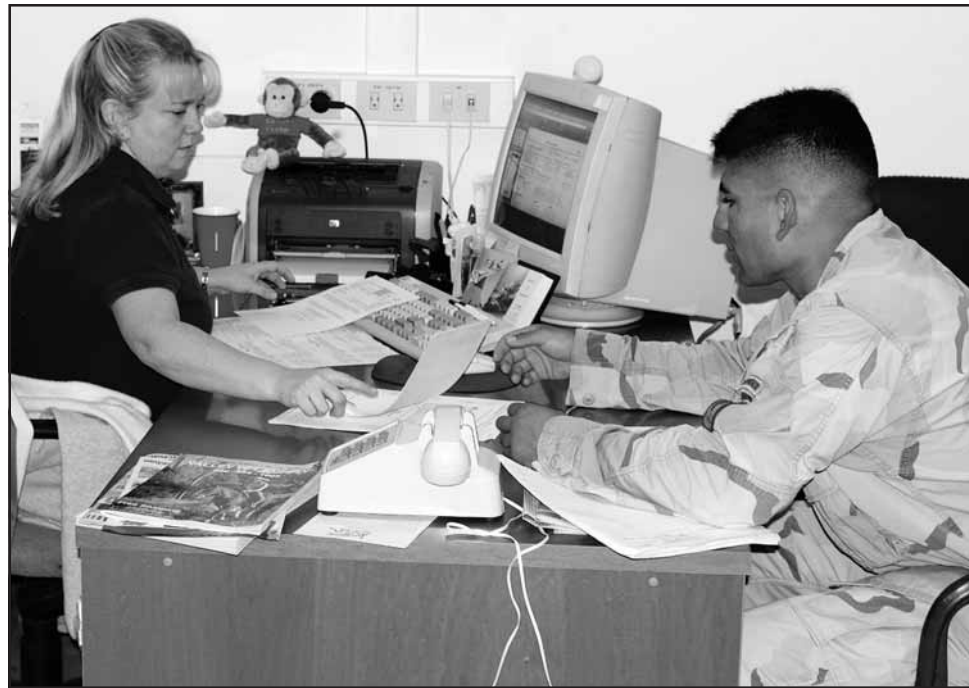


GoArmyEd.com - Online tuition assistance

A Soldier attends one of the Tuition Assistance briefings held by an education counselor at the Vicenza Education Center Wednesday. The briefings cover the new GoArmyEd.com online registration and tuition assistance program, and they take place every Wednesday at the center from noon-1 p.m.

"This new GoArmyEd program is important because in order for Soldiers to attend college for free, they will need to request Tuition Assistance through this new Web site," said the counselor. For more information on the online program, visit GoArmyEd.com Web site of stop by the education center on Wednesday at noon for one of the briefings. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Overseas personnel have filing, not paying taxes extension



A tax assistant and a Soldier prepare and file his taxes at the Tax Center. Soldiers returning from deployment have an extension of 180 days from the day they leave the combat zone for filing their taxes and for payment of any taxes due. The Tax Center will accommodate for this by extending their days of operations until June.

Story and photo by Sgt. Carlos Lazo
SETAF Augmentation Unit

April 15 is the deadline for filing taxes, but for servicemembers and civilians stationed overseas that deadline is extended by two months to June 15th.

For those servicemembers returning from a combat zone, that extension is actually 180 days, which begins from the day after they leave the combat zone.

To accommodate this and to allow all those who still haven't done their taxes, the Tax Center will remain open until June. Afterwards, people will still be able to do their taxes by bringing their tax information to the legal assistance office, but will need to wait for a call back from the office for a later date to file them.

Mark Christensen, chief, Legal Services at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, said while the deadline to file your taxes may be extended (by overseas duty), the deadline for paying any taxes owed is still April 15. The only exception is for those individuals who were on deployment; their deadline coincides with their deadline for filing taxes (180 days after leaving combat zone).

Christensen also advises everyone to remember to bring all necessary documents when filing their taxes. This includes but is not limited to copies of your W2s, 1099s from banks or investment institutions, and both spouse's and children's social security numbers.

In case your spouse is a foreign national, a tax payer number is required. If your spouse works for the Italian economy, then a document demonstrating that they pay Italian taxes is also necessary, Christensen added. In most situations, this will increase the amount of the return you receive, and never decrease it, he said.

A check from your bank may also be necessary to acquire your account number and a routing number for the direct deposit of your return.

It usually takes about 10 days for your return to be deposited in your account, said Christensen, and filing your taxes at the Tax Center doesn't cost a cent.

In fact, the Tax Center has saved members of the community nearly half a million dollars from fees for filing their tax returns.

For more information you can the Legal Assistance Office at 634-7041.

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DRUG PROBLEMS: Drug problems affect more than just abuser

From page 1

2) Distribution – Dishonorable Discharge, Forfeiture of all Pay and Allowances, and depending on the substance anywhere from 10 to 15 years confinement. Five years of confinement can be added to these amounts if the offense(s) is committed under certain circumstances (e.g. receiving special pay, while the person is on duty as a lookout, etc.)

Also, in addition to the above penalties, an enlisted person can be reduced to E-1, and an officer can receive a dismissal, according to Yocum.

Civilians and family members are covered by Army in Europe Regulation 27-9, dated October 27, 2003, "Misconduct by Civilians." The regulation breaks this offense down into the possession for personal use and possession of amounts sufficient for distribution. In either case they may face early return to CONUS and/or a bar to USEUCOM installations.

Other possible actions could include suspension of privileges, community service, participation in alcohol and drug counseling and more.

"Soldiers, civilians, and family members could also possibly be subject to prosecution by the Italians depending on how, when, where the offenses occurred," said Yocum.

The bottom line is: Stay away from drugs and those who do them. If you have a drug problem, or know someone who does, contact the counselors at the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program at 634-7554.

NASCAR fan uses memorabilia to put Soldiers at ease

Story and photos by Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Most recruiters' offices are simply furnished with the basics: chairs, desks, a scale, measuring tape for those who flunk the weight test, and information about the different jobs available to those interested in reclassification.

But walking into Master Sgt. Scott Spigelmyer's office is more like entering a NASCAR shrine. Two of the walls are adorned with slices of actual NASCAR autos – autographed by various drivers like Richard Petty – along with a desk top where about 40 model cars sit, and they too, have been autographed.

Spigelmyer, the SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade Senior Reserve Component Career counselor, has been a NASCAR fan since he attended his first race in Hickory, N.C., in 1983.

“My dad worked at a dirt track in Selins Grove, Pennsylvania, while I was growing up,” said the soft-spoken Spigelmyer. “They ran sprint and modified race cars, but I wasn't all that interested at first. It wasn't

until I went to a real track – then I was hooked. There's something about the sounds, the smell, and the sights...it's incredibly exciting.”

Unlike Formula One racing, where the cars are owned or sponsored by car manufacturers like Ferrari, Toyota, etc., NASCAR is run by groups that may have several cars and drivers on their team, and are seldom sponsored by auto manufacturers, according to Spigelmyer, who is a fan of the Roush Racing team.

“In the early days of NASCAR, it was pretty much a regional and southern sport,” he said. “The typical fan loved the fast-paced action and usually followed a specific driver. But in the mid-1990s, when it started to get a lot of play on television, it gained popularity with mainstream Americans. Now, the sport has gotten so expensive that it's hard for many folks, who are long-time fans, to afford a day at the races. A family of four could easily spend \$300-\$400 going to a race.”

But it's the widespread popularity of the sport that also makes it easier for Spigelmyer to ply his trade as a career counselor, as one of the pieces of NASCAR



The office of Master Sgt. Scott Spigelmyer, the SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade Senior Reserve Component Career counselor, is full of NASCAR memorabilia – from actual pieces of vehicles to model cars – all of which have been signed by various NASCAR drivers. Spigelmyer has been a NASCAR fan since childhood.

Left: Staff Sgt. Matthew Roberge (left) takes the oath of enlistment from Capt. Dirk Riggerberg on Hoekstra Field March 15. Roberge is leaving active duty, and Spigelmyer placed him into the Kentucky Army National Guard, where Roberge will work in the Counter Drug Task Force.



memorabilia includes a piece of the NASCAR Chevrolet, U.S. Army-sponsored #1 car, driven by “Front Row” Joe Nemechek.

“Since it's mandatory for Soldiers to visit my office for counseling if they are leaving the

military, walking into an office that is filled with items other than recruiting posters puts them at ease,” said Spigelmyer. “And [for] Soldiers [who] are NASCAR fans and familiar with Joe Nemechek – it's a great ice-breaker.”

With the return of the Soldiers from Afghanistan, Spigelmyer's office will be busy with advising Soldiers on their options on entering the Reserves or National Guard, and chatting about the upcoming NASCAR season.

History students take top honors in Europe-wide competition

By Tom Buffington
Special to The Outlook

On March 30, middle and high school teams from all over Europe gathered in the Patrick Henry Pavilion in Heidelberg, Germany, to compete in the DoDDS-Europe National History Day competition under the theme “Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events.”

Two teams from the Vicenza Middle School competed, which advanced from the Mediterranean District level to the Europe-wide competition.

Eighth Graders Matthew Williams and Thomas McGuire and 7th Grader William Chambers won first place in Junior Documentary, a highly competitive category, for their entry “Prohibition: The Noble Experiment or The Great Disaster,” earning a spot in the prestigious National

History Day competition that will take place in Washington, D.C., in June.

Second place was also scooped up in this category by VMS 8th Graders Elizabeth and Jackson Buffington for their entry, “Lewis Hine: A Hero in the Eyes of a Child – America's Crusade Against Child Labor.”

“We are so very proud of our young students,” said History Teacher Michael Smith, who also served as one of the students' sponsors with Dana Keller, school librarian. Keller worked with the students in developing their topics and preparing the videos, while Smith accompanied the students to the competition and provided important guidance and support.

This is the second year in a row Vicenza students have walked away with top honors in the competition.

Soldiers take inside-out look at local cadets

Bi-annual event evaluates every facet of the school's JROTC program

Story and photos by Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

After weeks of steadfast preparation, the students of the 10th JROTC Battalion of the Vicenza High School stood tall during a bi-annual formal inspection here Wednesday.

The inspection is a big deal for the school and the program as a bad review could result in the closing of the JROTC here. Fortunately for the students, the program is in the top 10 percentile of all JROTC programs in the DoDDs system.

"It's here to check the direction of the program," said retired Maj. George Smailes, the senior Army instructor of the JROTC program. "It's aimed at the students, mostly. It gives the cadet leadership a goal and a set of standards to follow."

And the cadets performed to those standards during the inspection, which began with a brief for the inspectors by the JROTC leadership detailing each cadet leader's role, responsibilities and activities the battalion has been a part of over the past two years.

Col. Dan Vargas, Master Sgt. William Jones, Staff Sgt. Earl Rhoden and Staff Sgt. Helen Anderson, all with the 7th Army Reserve Command, were the inspectors responsible for grading the battalion. This was just one of the seven programs they are responsible for evaluating this year.

Following the brief, the inspectors took a look at the cadets in formation, observed them as they performed drill and ceremony steps, and inspected the color guard.

The final portion of the event involved going over the unit's report, which details everything the battalion has been up to for the last two years.

"A unit can just pass, or be an honor unit if they are in the top 25 percent of schools," said Smailes.

"Or they can be an honor unit with distinction if they are in the top 10 percent. We are in that 10 percent most of the time."

Judging by the amount of awards and decorations for the JROTC program lining the walls, Smailes is not exaggerating.

However, the cadets will not know how well they did this time around until a few weeks from the inspection, since the Reservists still have schools yet to inspect.

"We weren't exactly super, but we were excellent, I believe," said Cadet Maj. Noel Fernando Jr., cadet commander. "The inspectors said we did very well, so that's good."

Fernando said for many of the cadets, it's only their second semester of JROTC and nervousness could have been a factor for some.

"This is our grade, to put it bluntly," said Fernando. "This is a culmination of all the hard work of the leaders and students here, so to perform well and receive a good review would be great for us."

"A bad review could be bad... they could shut a program down for that," said Fernando.

"Even though we are relatively small, we are still a big force," said Fernando, who pointed out although the school is small compared to other schools in the DoDDs system, they maintain one of the best JROTC programs around.

The inspectors agreed.

"The cadets here are very knowledgeable," said Rhoden as he and fellow inspectors read over reports of the JROTC program's activities. "This program is very involved and goes above and beyond to make sure everything is properly maintained."

Despite whatever marks the students and the program receive, the impact the JROTC program has had on them is visible.

"Being in this program has taught me a lot," said Fernando. "There's just something about this class that makes it not your ordinary classroom experience. It has been very good for me."



A cadet cases the colors as part of the color guard's inspection drill.



The Vicenza 10th JROTC Battalion Color Guard stand in formation during the program's formal inspection held Wednesday at the high school.



Master Sgt. William Jones (center) and Staff Sgt. Helen Anderson, both with the 7th Army Reserve Command, inspect Alexandria Savusa, a cadet with the JROTC program here. Left: Cadet Maj. Noel Fernando Jr. (foreground) leads the JROTC drill team as they perform during the battalion's bi-annual inspection.



Staff Sgt. Earl Rhoden, 7th Army Reserve Command, observes the JROTC's Drill Team during the program's bi-annual inspection Wednesday.

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Photography exhibition in Vicenza

In the Basilica located in the main square a photo exhibition, "Landscapes," is taking place. Photos by Andres Serrano, Luigi Ghirri, Mimmo Jodice and more will be on show. Open 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.

Butterfly House & Fairy Woods

In the Butterfly Arc, near Padova, you can see more than 400 beautiful butterflies from throughout the world. You will be able to observe all the stages involved in their development, from the egg to the caterpillar and the chrysalis to the butterfly. You can also learn the difference between diurnal butterflies and nocturnal butterflies (moths) and more.

In the same location is the fairy woods where you can see and learn about different fairies.

Before you visit, check out their Web site www.casadellefalle.it and click on the English version for full information on the butterflies and fairies you can see. Or you can visit www.butterflyarc.it, where you will also find pages on the butterflies and fairies under the "Special for Teachers" link.

Open April through September, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2:30-5:30 p.m. Entrance fees are 7 euro for 13 years old and older and 5 euro for children 4-12 years of age. Also find a store at Butterfly Arc where you can buy butterflies.

Directions: To get to Montegrotto Terme leave the

autostrada at Padova Ovest (west) and follow signs for Terme Euganee, then follow the signs for Butterfly Arc. You can also find directions on the Web site.

Birth of the Celestial Empire

La via della seta: la nascita dell'Impero Celeste, The Silk Route: The Birth of the Celestial Empire, held at the Treviso museum *Ca' dei Carraresi*, will be the first of four shows about China. The collection is made up of drawings, bronzes, clothes, silk fabrics, earthenware and statues between 221 B.C. and 970 A.D. The exhibit is open Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; other days from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; and closed on Mondays except for Easter Monday. It runs through April 30. Entrance fee is 9 euro.

Upcoming sport event& concerts

The following events all take place in Milan:

The Harlem Globetrotters will play on June 2. Due to their popularity in Italy, it is expected to be an early sellout.

Ricky Martin will perform on May 6; Tool on June 19; The New York Dolls on June 28 and in Rimini on June 30; the Irish rocker Bob Geldof on July 21 and in Rome on July 22; and Iron Maiden on Dec. 2. Tickets already on sale.

The Heineken Jammin' Festival, to be held at the racetrack in Imola on June 16-17, will see Depeche Mode on June 16 and Metallica on June 17 performing.

Seasonal feasts, events for Easter

Easter Feasts: In a country still bound to tradition and to the produce of the land, Italian tables at Easter obviously favor a combination of seasonal and symbolic ingredients that welcome in the spring as much as they celebrate the Christian feast of Easter. Tender green vegetables play an important role, whether they appear in delicate savory tarts as starters or in the form of sauces or stuffing for first courses.

The most classic tart is the Torta Pasqualina, layers of puff pastry covering a ricotta and artichoke mixture with the added surprise of whole eggs baked into the filling. Tender spinach leaves can be used instead of the artichokes, and the effect is again that of springtime freshness.

The first course for an Easter dinner is often composed of rich egg pasta, such as ravioli stuffed with spinach and ricotta, or a subtle dish of lasagna filled with asparagus, another of the seasonal delights.

The main course will almost inevitably be lamb, at its most tender and succulent this time of year. Whether in the traditional guise of roast leg of lamb, flavored with rosemary, thyme, and white wine; as a visually impressive *corona di carré d'agnello*, rack of lamb shaped into a guard of honor; or in a mouthwatering casserole with artichokes: it provides a delicious highpoint for a family occasion.

For dessert, Italians enjoy a slice of *Colomba*, a delicate dove-shaped sweet cake that originally came from Lombardy. This yeasty dough comes with fragrant candied fruit and a crunchy topping of almonds and sugar and is a perfect way to round off a meal, accompanied by a glass of a sweet dessert wine.

One of the best-loved Italian customs is known as taking a *ponte*, literally a bridge, which means to work vacation days around a public holiday in order to end up with an extra-long weekend. This month offers Italians three such opportunities – most welcome at a time of year when the country is looking at its best and just begs to be visited. Easter Monday, April 17, provides the first long weekend, and you don't even have

to use up any of your precious vacation allowance. Just eight days later comes Liberation Day, April 25, which falls on a Tuesday so Monday will see offices deserted. Labor Day, May 1, is the last of the trio. This year it's a Monday. Of course, foreign visitors to Italy during these periods will face lots more homegrown competition to see the sights, though at least they can enjoy the added local color as they jostle for position in queues!

Events: Bevilacqua, province of Verona – Enjoy an Easter lunch in the

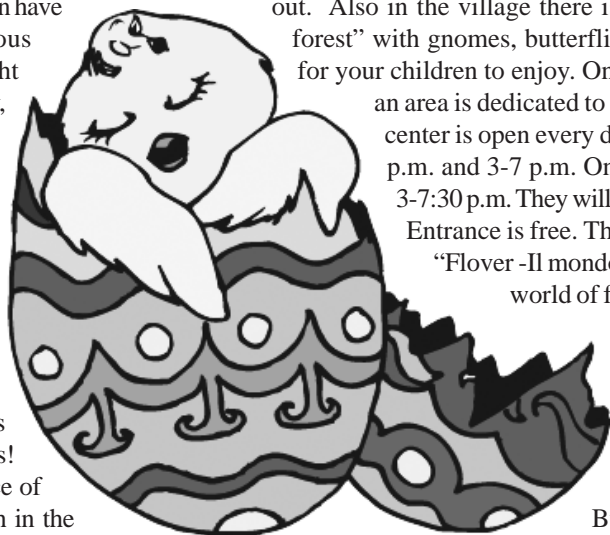
castle located in this town on April 16 at 12:30 p.m. Cost per person is 40 euro for adults, 20 euro for children 5-10 years of age and children younger than 5 years are free. Beverages included. For reservations call 0442-93655 or 649521.

Florence celebrates Easter Sunday not only with solemn religious ceremonies but also with a colorful spectacle known as the *Scoppio del Carro*. This centuries-old tradition sees an ornate three-tier cart being drawn by oxen through the streets of Florence, escorted by various dignitaries in medieval costumes. When it reaches *Piazza del Duomo*, the cart is parked outside the cathedral and a metal cord is stretched up and into the main altar inside. At the precise moment when the Resurrection is proclaimed during the solemn Mass held in the cathedral, the priest takes "holy fire" to light a fuse on a papier-mâché dove, which then sweeps along the cord to ignite the cart outside. As the name of the event suggests, the cart goes up in flames, to the joy of the crowds massed in the square, and the dove goes back up his cord. For some reason, this rite was supposed to assure good harvests for the following year. The *scoppio*, explosion, happens at 11 a.m.

Assisi: On Good Friday there are two major events on schedule. The "Three Hours of Agony," which sets the stage for the Lord's Passion, will be held in the afternoon at 3 p.m. at the church of S. Maria Maggiore. The "Procession of the Dead Christ" will start at 7:30 p.m., taking place along the streets of the town. Dressed in medieval costumes, the Confraternities carry the Madonna of Sorrows along a torch-lit path from the Cathedral to San Rufino to the Basilica of Saint Francis and then walk back to the Cathedral with the statue of the Dead Christ.

Spring Village: At the Spring village in Bussolengo you can find all you need to decorate your home or dinner table at Easter. Also find items for the traditional Easter Monday picnic, by the way – expect very heavy traffic on the roads on that day as it is a tradition for friends and or family, no matter what the weather, to set out for the lake, beach or mountains to spend a day out. Also in the village there is a small "enchanted forest" with gnomes, butterflies and small animals for your children to enjoy. On a more serious note, an area is dedicated to the life of Christ. The center is open every day from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. On Mondays open only 3-7:30 p.m. They will be closed April 16-17. Entrance is free. The village is located in

"Flower -Il mondo dei fiori," Flower - A world of flowers garden center, 16 Via Pastrengo in Bussolengo, Verona. Exit the autostrada at Verona nord and follow signs to Bussolengo.



Now Showing

Caserna Ederle Theater

April 11	Tristan & Isolde (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 12	Glory Road (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 13	Tristan & Isolde (PG13)	7 p.m.
April 14	Big Momma's House 2 (PG13) Freedomland (R)	7 p.m. 10 p.m.
April 15	Big Momma's House 2 (PG13) Freedomland (R)	7 p.m. 10 p.m.
April 16	Big Momma's House 2 (PG13) Freedomland (R)	4 p.m. 7 p.m.
April 17	CLOSED	
April 18	Underworld: Evolution (R)	7 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

April 12	Big Momma's House 2 (PG13)	2 p.m.
April 13	Hoodwinked (PG)	2 p.m.
April 14	Annapolis (PG13)	6 p.m.
April 15	Nanny McPhee (PG) Firewall (PG-13)	2 p.m. 6 p.m.
April 16	Big Momma's House 2 (PG13)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 - *Martin Lawrence, Nia Long* - The continuing adventures of master-of-disguise FBI special agent Malcolm Turner. This time he must go undercover as Big Momma to nail his ex-partner's murderer. While undercover in the house of the suspected criminal, Malcolm grows attached to the suspect's three children.

FREEDOMLAND - *Julianne Moore, Samuel L. Jackson* - A white woman blames an African-American man for the death of her son, but a white reporter and an African-American detective think otherwise.

NANNY MCPHEE - *Emma Thompson, Colin Firth* - A new nanny enters the household of the recently widowed Mr. Brown and attempts to tame his seven exceedingly ill-behaved children. The children, led by the oldest boy Simon, have managed to drive away 17 previous nannies and are certain that they will have no trouble with this one. But as Nanny McPhee takes control, they begin to notice that their vile behavior now leads swiftly and magically to rather startling consequences.

ANNAPOLIS - *James Franco, Jordana Brewster* - A young man from the wrong side of the tracks has his dream come true when he is accepted to the Naval Academy. But once there he is not sure he measures up against the best and the brightest.

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.

Spark* for Spouses Workshops

Reintegration is for spouses too! Come to a special workshop program called Spark*. Spark* workshops will be conducted in the Davis Family Readiness Center. Free childcare is available for children infant to preschool. Kindergarten through 12th-grade children and youth are encouraged to participate in Spark* for Kids.

All participants must pre-register for both Spark* for Spouses and free childcare at least seven days prior by calling 634-7500 or stopping by the Davis Family Readiness Center.

Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services in order to participate or to be cared for by CYS. To register, call CYS Central Registration at 634-7206.

Sessions focus on information from community agencies, marital communication and some individual pampering activities such as makeup tips, cooking classes, travel ideas, and manicures/pedicures.

Spark* workshops are scheduled for April 22, and 28 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 634-7500 to register.

Extension for Summer Enrichment Program

The deadline for applications has been extended to April 17. If you don't have an application, stop by the reception office at the Vicenza Elementary School to pick one up. The summer program is a wonderful opportunity for students to build on what they've learned this year and get a jump-start on the next grade level. If you have any questions, call the school at 634-7710.

SAC members needed for 2006-07

Vicenza Elementary School – The Vicenza Elementary School Advisory Council is looking for parents interested in serving during the 2006-2007 school year. This is a great opportunity for parents to actively participate in their children's education and make a difference. The SAC meets once every month throughout the school year to discuss issues with the principal on all policies affecting students and parents. Members are able to voice their ideas on administrative procedures, instructional programs, educational resources, pupil services, standards of conduct/discipline and school transportation. For more information or to volunteer to serve on the council, contact the school at 0444-71-7710 or 634-7710.



Some details of positioning (above) and cutting (below) mats during the recent Framing Refresher Class.

Framing at the Art Center



Story and Photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

A Vicenza Art Center employee supervises some steps of the Reintegration Framing Refresher Class with a Soldier who is one of the class participants. (Also below)

The Vicenza Art Center offers a variety of classes and supplies to the community that can help beginners and also advanced participants.

Among these classes, Intro to Picture Framing is held twice-a-month and allows students to learn how to do their own custom framing. This is a great way to learn a new hobby and save on the costs of custom framing.

Framing classes teach participants how to cut mats, measure and make frames and how to put everything together.

"I love having part of the picture be something I've made," said Kim Messer, a family member who attended Intro to Picture Framing this past March. "They [the pictures] mean more to me then."

After participating in the class, Messer started going to the center and has framed several family photos.

"There are many things I didn't realize before attending the class," she continued. "Things you don't see. For instance, the double matting, which pulls more from the picture and makes it more dramatic."

The Intro to Framing course is required in order to use the Frame Studio in the Art Center, and the next class is scheduled for April 22 from 1-5 p.m. Participants must be 16 years old or older, and the cost is \$29 plus supplies.

For reintegrating Soldiers, there will be a free Intro to Framing class on Thursday and May 18 from 4-8 p.m. The class is free, but participants are required to purchase supplies.

For all classes, it is recommended to register at least one week prior to attending. Classes may be canceled if minimum enrollment is not met. Participants should wear long pants and shoes which cover the whole foot for safety reasons.

In addition to framing, the Art Center offers other classes such as Intro to Quilting, Intro to Pottery, Ceramics, Mini Scrapbooks and Woodworking.

Woodworking certification is offered the first Saturday of every month and is required in order to use the center's wood shop.

A free woodworking certification class for



Soldiers returning from deployment will be held April 21 from 4-6 p.m.

Other reintegration specials include free studio fees in the Framing, Woodshop, and Pottery Studios and 10 percent off custom framing.

Open Studios are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Stop by and pick up an Art Center calendar for all the specific dates and times of open studios and classes.

The Art Center, which is located near the post theater parking lot, is open from Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. except on Thursdays, when it is open from noon-8 p.m. It's closed on Sundays and Mondays.

For more information about upcoming classes and registration, call the center at 634-7074.



A family member works at the frame cutter.

Right: A family member works on framing a large print.

Vicenza Art Center April Classes	
Reintegration Framing Class	April 13 – 4-8 p.m.
Intro to Quilting II	April 13 – 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mini Scrapbooks	April 19 – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Intro to Quilting III	April 20 – 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reintegration Wood Certification	April 21 – 4-6 p.m.
Intro to Picture Framing	April 22 – 1-5 p.m.
Intro to Quilting IV	April 27 – 5:30-7:30 p.m.

