



The Outlook

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U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

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A look back

2005 year of deployment, transformation



Kelli Covlin
USAG Public Affairs

Editor's Note: Over the past year, there have been numerous events that have taken place on our installations as well as events that our units have been involved in. The following is a small compilation of some of the highlights that we have gathered through submissions from agencies and past Outlook articles. Thank you for all your hard work in making our communities successful!

Units on the move

With the excitement surrounding the initial return of some Soldiers from Afghanistan, it is easy to overlook some of the other units we welcomed back from deployments this past year. In January 2005 we celebrated the return of the 510th Personnel Services Battalion, and in February 2005 we cheered home the 386th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion. Both units returned from Iraq.

Shortly thereafter, we said good-bye to our friends and family members in SETAF, 173d Airborne Brigade, 14th Trans Bn, 509th Signal Battalion, 13th Military Police Company, 510th Personnel Services Detachment, 208th Finance Detachment, 24th Quartermaster Company, Armed Forces Network-South, Detachment 1, 4th Air Support Operations Group, SETAF Augmentation Unit, and 663rd Movement Control Team.

Here are some of the highlights that made these deployments successful movements of personnel and equipment:

Military Personnel Services assisted nearly 2,400 Soldiers through the Pre-Deployment Processing stations weeks prior to their departure for Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobility and Security mission was to totally support the combat readiness of SETAF and the 173d, ensuring all Soldiers and equipment were shipped and manifested properly for

deployment. DPTMS established an Installation Operations Center, a vehicle processing stations for outgoing vehicles and equipment, and the Arrival and Departure Airfield Control Group operations at Aviano Air Base. They also managed a manifest tent and worked with the 14th Trans Bn, dining facility, and AAFES to accommodate Soldiers while waiting to load buses.

Along with processing Soldiers, the Directorate of Logistics processed and deployed nearly 1,000 pieces of equipment from Vicenza to Afghanistan with the help of USAG Vicenza personnel, deploying units, Army and Air Force support elements, and outstanding host nation support.

In addition to the physical deployment, DOL coordinated storage of household goods for over 500 Soldiers, provided oversight for the temporary storage of 300 privately owned vehicles, and supplied special issue CTA-50 equipment to all deploying Soldiers.

Support on the home front

The Ederle Chapel hosted six "Spouses of Deployed Soldiers" retreats over the past year in support of families during deployments. They also planned activities for youth such as a ski retreat and programs through Club Beyond. The chapel held three ecumenical retreats to include the Family Life Conference led by Dr. James Hurley, noted author and professor from the United States.

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation always plays a large part in taking care of families. Here are some of their highlights over the past year in support of deployments.

DMWR organized the HomeFront parties for the units returning from Iraq.

They conducted service provider training for 75 participants. The training focused on alcohol and substance abuse prevention, Family Action Plan information, customer service refresher training, and information on DMWR support during the deployment.

They opened the Family Readiness Center to provide comprehensive deployment cycle support. The Family Readiness Center now houses all Army Community Service programs, the American Red Cross, Child and Youth Services Central Registration, and a remodeled lounge area open 24 hours a day with staff duty officers located near the entrance. Eight computers with Internet access, including four with Web cameras, are set up in the Communication Center.

The Family Assistance Center, an integral part of the Family Readiness Center, activated on Feb. 11, 2005. The FAC houses a 24-hour phone line with a toll-free number available from the states and other countries such as Germany. The FAC also operates an email address to respond to inquiries and concerns. During deployment, the FAC works with, and supports, Family Readiness Group leaders and rear detachment commanders to create a service delivery system of support, referral, and information dissemination.

Child and Youth Services at Camp Darby hosted two weeks of Operation Purple Camp, sponsored in part by the National Military Family Association. A total of 132 middle school youth participated in this very successful program. The inaugural Camp Purple Italia included trips throughout Italy, a community service project, and activities designed to support youth of deployed Soldiers.

The Mom's Day Out / Family Member Network program, sponsored by the Vicenza Health Clinic, the Ederle Chapel, and the ACS New Parent Support Program, provided free childcare for parents participating in the Family Member Network. FMN provided camaraderie, education, and support services for spouses of deployed service members.

DWWR also held deployment programs for the entire Vicenza military community including the Sidewalk Fair at the Ederle Library and Support Our Troops Day/Egg

Festival over the Easter weekend.

Growth and transformation

The Directorate of Public Works has been busy throughout the year with construction in support of the community. Here are some of their highlights:

New Barracks – 2005 marked the completion of the largest military construction project in the Vicenza military community. Two new barracks were constructed at Caserma Ederle. These new state-of-the-art facilities will house 300 single Soldiers. The new barracks are the first in the community to comply with the Army's one plus one barracks standard.

Barracks Renovations – This project directly contributes to increasing the quality of life for Soldiers living in barracks by renovating all 16 barracks buildings (over 400 rooms) on Caserma Ederle.

New Child Development Center – Construction of a new 99 person CDC was completed in June 2005. Some of the amenities found in the new facility are nine new classrooms, new playgrounds, administrative offices and a new kitchen facility.

Birth center – The Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion consists of two surgical rooms, two delivery rooms, two exam rooms, one two-bed patient care room and other administrative areas. The first baby born in the pavilion was on June 14, 2005.

Energy Savings Performance Contract – This contract entails five separate projects undertaken to reduce the amount of energy the installation consumes and thereby save money. The unique aspect of this contract is that it will cost the installation nothing to install this equipment. A private contractor will install and maintain the necessary equipment and then the installation will share the cost savings. The installation will save about \$230,000 a year and at that rate the projects will pay for themselves in about eight years.

See A Look Back and photos on Page 4-5

New TRICARE enrollment requirements for family members

By Barb Bragieli

TRICARE Medical Service Coordinator
U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza

With many family members returning from the states to welcome their Soldiers back from the deployment to Afghanistan, the TRICARE Service Center would like to advise the community of a recent change affecting TRICARE Overseas Prime enrollment for family members.

As of April 4, 2005, the new enrollment policy requires active duty servicemembers to provide a copy of command sponsorship orders for those family members who will be residing with them in Europe. If any of your family has left Vicenza for longer than 60 days, it will be necessary for them to show proof of command sponsorship in order to re-enroll in TRICARE Overseas Prime. In addition, command sponsorship must be shown for all "new" family members PCSing to military installations across Europe.

"Active duty family members who choose to reside overseas, but are not command sponsored, remain eligible for TRICARE

Standard, TRICARE Plus or space-available care at military medical treatment facilities when and where it is available," said Navy Capt. Mary Greenwood, TRICARE Area Office-Europe's program operations director.

Although the majority of family members in Vicenza are enrolled in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard is another option that's available to them.

While Prime enrollees rarely pay anything out-of-pocket for their medical care, TRICARE Standard operates a little differently. Standard beneficiaries have greater flexibility than their Prime counterparts when it comes to choosing doctors. However, that flexibility comes with a price. Unlike TRICARE Prime, there are annual deductibles and cost shares associated with TRICARE Standard when an individual gets outside care. Any services received at the health clinic are still 100 percent covered. For additional information, access www.europe.tricare.osd.mil.

If you have questions or concerns regarding TRICARE enrollment, contact Amber Heston or Barb Bragieli at 634-6656 or civilian 0444-71-6656.

Soldiers' Theatre Auditions

Soldiers' Theatre is looking for Soldier and civilian men to perform in the rock musical "Pippin."

"Pippin" tells the story of a young man searching for meaning in his life. He is the son of the famous King Charlemagne. The musical is a modern rendition of the medieval mystery tale.

The musical is woven together by a leading player and his troupe of entertainers. Roles for woman include Pippin's love interest and a wicked stepmother.

Auditions will be held at Soldiers' Theatre on Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in auditioning should contact Ross Daniels at 634-7281. Daniels will meet with newcomers prior to auditions.

"Pippin" will be entered in the USAREUR Tournament of Plays with performances at the end of March.

Musicians needed: Soldiers' Theatre is looking for a skilled pianist, percussionist, guitarist, and horn players for the production of "Pippin." Anyone interested should contact Ross Daniels at 634-7281.

Made for a Mission

The USAG Vicenza Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, "A Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation which you can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen your spiritual connection during the separation.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Sheil
Vicenza Community Catholic Pastor

As Soldiers we all understand the importance of "mission." Accomplishing our mission is very important to us. Right along with mission is "commander's intent," which usually defines the mission for us. Sometimes when we receive the mission it is pretty clearly laid out for us; just what we are to do and how we are to do it. Other times, the execution of the mission might be left pretty much up to us. Either way, the "commander's intent" is the guiding principle.

The creator has given each of us a mission. Here we look to the "creator's intent" which is made known to us in the scriptures, our particular religious tradition and our prayer life: Bring the creator's love and care to everyone everywhere. Aside from some general guidance, such as "love God with all you have and love your neighbor as yourself," how we accomplish our mission is pretty much up to us.

While each of us has the same mission, we accomplish it in different ways because each of us is a different reflection of the creator. This means we need to know the

creator fairly well on a personal level. An implied task for our mission is to open ourselves to prayer and to the possibility of entering into a deeply personal relationship with the creator. How we do this is influenced greatly by our particular tradition and approach to Christ, the living love of the father.

Our mission is by no means an easy one. We are called to execute it in circumstances that are not usually favorable. We need to be strong, to trust our training and rely on our equipment. Our strength comes from our own prayer life, our own attempts to be open to Christ and go wherever he calls us. Our training is what we learn in the presence of Christ, the prayerful study of the scriptures. Our equipment is grace, and nothing is more powerful than grace – the presence and power of God in our life.

Our mission is not for the fainthearted. It demands courage and hard work. At times we might be tempted to run from it. We confront the "enemy" almost on his terms, but we must respond on our terms. It would seem that people setting up the ambush have the advantage, but, when we do our best and commit ourselves to grace, the enemy has no chance. As did Christ, we will try to help those who do not want what we offer. Our mission is to be ministers of God's love. Accomplishing our mission does not depend on others accepting what we offer. It depends on our doing our best and leaving the rest in the hands of God.

In the execution of our mission, we encounter weakness and strength – our weakness, God's strength. Gradually, we move towards amazement and awe as we encounter time after time God's incredible love and care. We are humbly grateful that we have been part of it.

Community

Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect 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 CAC will be hosted at the Ederle Chapel on the following dates: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, and March 22 beginning at 9 a.m.

Issue: Water Main Break in Villaggio – Why wasn't the "Water Emergency" in Villaggio told to us sooner? My 10-month-old son, only likes water from the faucet, and I made him a bottle with the contaminated water, and didn't find out until 12 hours later! I came in and out of the gate several times throughout the day, the last time I came in at 4:45 p.m. No one mentioned anything to me about there

being a problem with the water. The post can print up fliers to tell me I have to change my driving patterns for construction but can not notify me when the water is bad? I know when it broke because I came through right after and they were scrambling to fix it. So why wasn't the front gate letting residents know? We have many people with young infants, young children, and I know I don't want to drink water that is not safe. Thank you for looking into this matter.

Recommendation: (1) Fliers could have been done. (2) We have a broadcast system in Villaggio. It works. It was used on Halloween. Why couldn't it have been broadcast a few times?

Response from the Directorate of Public Works: There are two points that need to be addressed upfront. First, the water at Villaggio was not contaminated. Second, only a small fraction of the residents at Villaggio were affected by the loss of water.

There was an isolated break in the water distribution system at Villaggio on Nov. 3, 2005, that affected 40 residences. In order to repair the system, the water supply was shut off to these buildings. The pipeline was repaired and hyper-chlorination was started. Hyper-chlorination means that extra chlorine, which is like adding bleach, was introduced into the system to kill bacteria. When the system was flushed to remove the hyper-chlorinated water a second leak was detected at a nearby valve.

This leak was repaired and the water turned back on around 7 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2005. The water was sampled for bacteria contamination around 9 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2005, and again around 2 p.m. Nov. 4, 2005. The results of both of these tests for bacteria contamination were negative.

The CAC issue brings up several valid points. As a precautionary measure during any waterline break or repair the garrison assumes that the water may have become contaminated. The garrison DPW, health clinic and environmental staff have reviewed our

installation procedures for notification during water emergencies.

In the future all notification messages and information to AFN will come from the Community Health Service. The Thursday night message erroneously stated that all of the Villaggio water supply was contaminated and was not potable. DPW personnel notified the occupants of the 40 residences that had no water service by going door to door on Thursday evening around 6 p.m. On Friday there were flyers at the main gate entrance to Villaggio. On Sunday DPW personnel delivered a flyer to every residence on Villaggio informing them that the precautionary measures were no longer necessary. Flyers were made and distributed. We will adjust our plans to address distribution of flyers in the future.

The use of the loudspeaker system at Villaggio is a great idea. We will coordinate with the Directorate of Emergency Services, Provost Marshall's Office for putting out information over this system in the future.

Issue: Unrestrained Dogs in Housing Area – Some residents in housing seem to be under the impression that it is acceptable that their dogs be unrestrained as long as they are outdoors with them. This careless behavior is nothing short of foolish. Everybody has the right to feel "safe" when walking the streets in housing. Housing regulations require all dogs be restrained at all times when outdoors. This rule is for everybody's safety.

If your dog were to bite someone, God forbid that someone be a child, you are setting yourself up for a lawsuit. I was recently strolling my granddaughter down Gioette Street one evening when I spotted a "Pitbull" standing on the sidewalk. The owner was standing outdoors by his door messing with his cellular and became very belligerent when I inquired about his unrestrained dog. If this dog were to make a "rush" this man would have never been able to restrain his dog in time. Please people, wake up!

Recommendation: Housing regulations are for everybody, nobody is the exception. If you desire to own a dog be responsible or take the consequences. I recommend two strikes and you're out; you and your unrestrained dog. This issue is way too serious to play.

Response from DPW: The USAG Vicenza Housing Policy for Occupants Handbook is provided to each sponsor upon government quarters assignment/check-in and is very clear regarding sponsor pet responsibilities. Pets must be constrained at all times and not allowed to run free out of doors. This policy was reinforced via USAG Vicenza Commander Policy Memo 05-03, Pet Ownership Responsibilities, stating that sponsors are responsible for the control of their pets at all times. This means they are not allowed to run free. Pets will be exercised a minimum of 50 feet away from buildings and be fed only inside the sponsor's quarters. Negligence in pet supervision can result in a command directive to remove the pet from the housing area. Residing in family quarters is a privilege that may be revoked by the command for failure to comply with housing policies established to promote housing area health, welfare, safety, order and discipline for the harmonious living of all concerned.

The CAC email was not functioning from Dec. 26, 2005-Jan. 10. If you submitted a CAC issue during this timeframe, please resubmit your issue as your community concerns are important to the command.

The CAC will be hosted at the Ederle Chapel on the following dates: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, and March 22 beginning at 9 a.m.

Avian Influenza

EUCOM, components prepare for pandemic flu

By Air Force Maj. Pamela Cook
EUCOM Public Affairs

STUTTGART, Germany – Officials are meeting in Stuttgart this week to plan for how best to deal with a potential outbreak of avian influenza that could mutate into a pandemic flu.

Conference attendees, including subject matter experts from throughout the region, are creating a comprehensive plan in coordination with U.S. European Command, host nations, the Department of Defense and other governmental agencies to deal with a possible pandemic caused by the mutation of the H5N1 influenza virus, more commonly known as “bird flu,” that is currently circulating through domestic and wild bird flocks around the world.

“Due to the serious consequences presented by a potential pandemic, and in support of U.S. government worldwide efforts, EUCOM is coordinating with appropriate organizations and governments to ensure that people are protected and informed,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Ron Sanders, the lead project officer for EUCOM’s pandemic influenza response team.

The DOD, Department of State, Health and Human Services, World Health Organization, and other governments and agencies are preparing for a possible pandemic – a global outbreak of disease – of avian influenza. These organizations are building on the knowledge and experience from other recent public health crises, including SARS and the 2001 anthrax attacks, to meet the threat of a pandemic outbreak. EUCOM and its component commands are continuing the planning process to protect their service members, family members and employees while maintaining operational readiness.

The presence of even a limited number of human cases of avian influenza has raised concerns that the current situation could become a pandemic if the virus develops the ability to spread from human to human. If such a situation should occur in Europe, the EUCOM

plan suggests individuals should be prepared to increase good personal hygiene practices such as hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette, and care in food preparation. In the event of an epidemic avian influenza outbreak, social distancing, isolation and quarantine procedures may have to be implemented. Social distancing includes limiting social gatherings and interactions such as attending school, churches, civic clubs and groups, and work activities. Local commanders and health officials will notify personnel of specific procedures on their installations.

Some existing antiviral treatments are available to possibly mitigate a pandemic influenza virus. There is currently no vaccination available to counter the virus in its existing form. Once the bird flu virus has mutated to where it can be passed from human to human, experts estimate that it will take at least six to nine months to develop an effective vaccine. However, the mitigating antiviral medications have proven somewhat successful at blocking the replication of the virus if treatment begins within 24 to 48 hours.

While it is unusual for people to get influenza infections directly from animals, sporadic human infections and outbreaks caused by certain avian influenza viruses are cause for concern. These sporadic human infections, however, rarely result in sustained transmission among humans. Avian flu currently does not have the ability to be transmitted through human to human contact.

In order for the bird flu virus, or any virus for that matter, to cause a pandemic, several factors must be present. According to a town hall meeting on the subject hosted by the American Consulate General in Frankfurt, Germany, the most notable factors include the ability for the virus to replicate itself in humans and to be efficiently able to transmit from human to human. When the human population does not have immunity against such a virus, a pandemic is possible.

Even though the bird flu and human flu

viruses are different, they are spread in the same way, and experts are unsure whether the current strains of avian influenza will evolve into a pandemic strain. However, it has shown the ability to mutate, so it is a concern. While there have been changes in the virus over time, there is currently no indication that the virus has changed to a form that could result in a pandemic. This possibility is being closely monitored by numerous health organizations around the world.

In that vein, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, awarded two contracts to support the production and clinical testing of an investigational vaccine based on the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. Before a pandemic strikes, there is no way to tell what the particular strain of virus will be. Research studies to test a vaccine to protect humans against this strain began in 2005.

Conference attendees stress that it is extremely important that people remain calm about the potential for a pandemic. While no vaccination for this strain of flu currently exists, individuals can take precautions as simple as getting a regular flu shot, maintaining good health practices such as eating balanced diets and exercising, and cough and sneeze etiquette.

Travelers to areas with identified outbreaks of avian flu are encouraged to take necessary precautions to prevent the contraction and spread of this disease. It is believed that most cases of bird flu infection in humans have resulted from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces. Most of the proven cases have occurred following close contact with infected birds or a massive ingestion of undercooked infected chicken meat or chicken blood. International travelers should visit the State Department’s travel Web site at www.travel.state.gov to determine the travel restrictions in their destination country.

For the most up-to-date information on avian influenza and pandemic flu, check out the following links:

Official U.S. government site for avian influenza and pandemic flu – www.pandemicflu.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic and <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>

World Health Organization – www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en

State Dept. – www.state.gov/g/oes/avianflu

Minimize risk of contracting Avian Influenza

While there is currently no vaccination for the H5N1 virus that causes avian influenza, maintaining good basic hygiene practices remains the best defense. Other health precautions useful to minimize risks of viral infection or of contracting H5N1 include:

- Remain calm, the virus in its current form is passed by direct contact to humans from infected birds or their droppings
- Practice basic hygiene practices such as hand washing, cough/sneeze etiquette and avoiding crowded places with poor ventilation
- Get the seasonal flu shot to help maintain an overall healthy immune system
- Maintain good health practices such as eating a balanced diet, exercising, avoiding tobacco, getting adequate rest and maintaining adequate indoor ventilation
- Avoid going to bird parks, poultry markets and farms in countries with H5N1 outbreaks
- Avoid fresh animal markets and live poultry in countries with H5N1 outbreaks
- Avoid touching birds and poultry, and particularly their droppings
- If contact has been made with birds or poultry, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water
- If traveling to high-risk countries, clean hands regularly with soap and water or a waterless alcohol-based hand-rub
- Cook all poultry products thoroughly (160-degrees Fahrenheit), including eggs
- Practice safe food handling procedures when preparing poultry products, and ensure thorough cooking
- Buy food from approved sources
- Phone your health provider if you develop fever, breathing difficulties and cough after returning from a country with avian influenza outbreaks

What is Bird Flu?

“Bird flu” is an infection caused by avian influenza viruses. These flu viruses occur naturally among birds. Wild birds worldwide commonly carry the viruses in their intestines or respiratory tracts but usually do not get sick from them. However, bird flu can be contagious among birds and can make some domesticated birds – including chickens, ducks, and turkeys – very sick and kill them. Most recently, avian flu was found in birds in Romania, Turkey, Croatia, Greece, and Russia.

The first reported case of human infection with avian flu was in 1997 in Hong Kong. The H5N1 strain of the avian flu virus has pandemic potential, since it might ultimately adapt into a strain that is contagious among humans. Once this adaptation occurs, according to the World Health Organization, it will no longer be a bird virus – it will be a human influenza virus. Influenza pandemics are caused by new influenza viruses that have adapted to humans.

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Submissions: The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Submission should be made via email and must be received by Wednesday at noon for the following week’s publication.

Circulation is 2,500.

A look back at 2005

Editor's Note: We would like to take a moment to mention some of the highlights from this past year, but we realize there are many more activities and organizations that made tremendous contributions throughout this last year that we were not able to mention here. Thank you for all your hard work!

January

SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade participate in Unified Endeavor, a mission rehearsal exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany, in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan (1)

Jan. 13 – 510th Personnel Services Battalion return from deployment in Iraq

Jan. 14 – The Verona Sub-Community is officially turned over to the Italian government

Jan. 18 – Davis Family Readiness Center opens (2)

Jan. 21 – AAFES opens the renovated Family Hair Care facility

February

SETAF advance party deploys to Afghanistan

Feb. 3 – 386th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion, returns home from deployment in Iraq (3)

Feb. 11 – Family Assistance Center, Army Community Services, starts first phase in preparation for Afghanistan deployment

Feb. 18 – Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation holds community wide *Expand Your World* multicultural fair

Feb. 23 – SETAF holds a casing the colors ceremony in preparation for deploying to Afghanistan (4)

Feb. 28 – Charley's Steakery opens (5)

March

Main body begins deployment to Afghanistan. Soldiers board an aircraft headed downrange (6)

March 12 – 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), unfurls its colors at Forward Operating Base Orgun-E, Afghanistan

March 15 – Supply Support Activity, Directorate of Logistics, 22nd ASG, is awarded the 2005 IMA-Europe, Chief of Staff Army Supply Excellence Award for the fourth year in a row

March 17 – Combined Italian American Organization holds annual women's conference

March 26 – Support Our Troops Day takes place on Caserma Ederle (7)

March 28 – Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth Preston visits Caserma Ederle

April

April 1 – U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza officially dedicates the Dr. Frank V. Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion

April 3 – 173d Support Battalion (Airborne) unfurl their colors during a transfer of authority ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

April 6 – Maj. Edward Murphy, Staff Sgt. Ramones Woodard, Cpl. Daniel Freeman, and Cpl. Sascha Struble perish in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. They are the first SETAF casualties of the deployment.

April 10-16 – Youth with Vicenza Club Beyond spend spring break in Slovakia building playground for children

April 10-16 – Missoula Children's Theatre holds week-long workshop for youth and performs "Wiz of the West" on final day

April 11 – 14th Trans Bn unfurl their colors and assume duties as the Joint Logistics Command Movement Control Battalion in Afghanistan

April 25 – Exceptional volunteers honored during annual Volunteer Recognition ceremony

April 29 – American Forces Network-South celebrates 50 years of service

May

May 5 – Community gathers at chapel to celebrate National Day of Prayer

May 7 – *Metamorphosis*, Spouse Appreciation Day is held at the Davis Family Readiness Center to honor military spouses

May 16 – Vicenza High School inducts eight members into the National Honor Society

May 17 – Camp Darby opens doors to Yellow Ribbon room

May 29 – Soldiers, veterans, and civilians participate in Memorial Day ceremony at the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial

June

Camp Darby Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program takes top honors in IMA-Europe



(1)



(2)



(3)



(6)



(5)



(12)



(8)



(4)



(11)



(10)

- June 13 – Vicenza High School says good-bye to graduating seniors
- June 14 – Army celebrates 230 years of service to our nation
- June 14 – Emily Allen is first baby born in new Benincaso Mother and Infant Pavilion (8)
- June 20-25 – Caserma Ederle Chapel holds Serengeti Trek vacation Bible school
- June 20-25 – Soldiers' Theatre holds Summer Theater Workshop for youth
- June 21 – American Red Cross participates in annual torchlight procession from Solferino to Castiglione della Stiviere marking the birth of the Red Cross organization

July

- July 4 – Independence Day celebrations
- July 6-11 – Command group and key members of the 22nd ASG visit deployed Soldiers in Afghanistan
- July 11 – Congressional delegation visits 1-508th troops in Afghanistan
- July 14 – Actor Stephen Lange performs "Beyond Glory" about eight Medal of Honor recipients at Ederle Theater
- July 17 – First group of Operation Purple Camp Italia arrive at Camp Darby (9)
- July 20 – Tae Bo creator Billy Blanks visits post and leads community in classes
- July 29 – Army Community Service turns 40

August

- Aug. 11 – Col. Virgil S.L. Williams takes command of the 22nd ASG
- Aug. 15 – Post begins scanning ID cards for entrance into installation

September

- Vicenza Auto Skills, Entertainment and Livorno Outdoor Recreation all awarded IMA-Europe MWR Outstanding Recreation awards
- SETAF units reach deployment midpoint
- Sept. 18 – Afghanistan holds historic parliamentary elections (10)

October

- Oct. 11-16 – Vicenza Middle and High School celebrate Spirit Week and Homecoming
- Oct. 13 – IMA-EURO redesignation ceremony takes place officially changing ASGs to U.S. Army Garrisons
- Oct. 21 – USAG Livorno holds annual Run to the Tower race
- Oct. 25 – SETAF turns 50 (11)

November

- Nov. 8 – Vicenza community tests emergency response procedures in exercise Lion Shake (12)
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day ceremonies take place all over the world in memory of those who have served in the U.S. military
- Nov. 16-17 – Army Family Action Plan conference takes place in Vicenza
- Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving celebrations
- Nov. 30 – Gen. John Abizaid, commander, U.S. Central Command, visits Soldiers and presents awards during visit to Afghanistan

December

- Dec. 2 – Vicenza and Livorno communities kick off the holiday season with tree lighting ceremonies
- Dec. 7 – U.S. Ambassador to Italy Honorable Ronald Spogli visits Caserma Ederle
- Dec. 11 – Gen. David D. McKiernan takes command of USAREUR and 7th Army
- Dec. 16 – Army Family Team Building celebrates 11 years of service

A Look Back from Page 1

Not only DPW has been involved in growth and transformation. Here are some other changes that have taken place during 2005:

DMWR opened the Body Shop fitness annex in May, which houses all strength training equipment including free weights and Cybex equipment. This state-of-the-art facility also boasts a spinning room and fitness rooms for instruction.

The Ederle Chapel established a Family Life Center for the first time on Caserma Ederle. They also renovated the sanctuary along with renovation of office space and the new Family Life Center.

The security office assisted in the Army wide implementation of the Joint Personnel Adjudication System by populating all personnel files within the USAG Vicenza with their Non Disclosure Agreements. This allows for individuals to travel from organization to organization with their clearance intact.

MWR launched the vicenzaMWR.com Web site, which includes a gateway to all Vicenza MWR programs via

electronic media. They also began a monthly MWR insert "HomeFront News" which is inserted in *The Outlook*.

In October, 2005, the Computer Support Team, Plans and Operations Division, DOL, expanded its operations assuming the Garrison Tier 3 computer repair mission. With this mission, the Computer Support Team provides total computer hardware repair for the entire Vicenza community.

Installation of excellence

As the IMA garrison structure has taken the place of the Area Support Group, the Security Managers Office still handles intelligence for the command. This ability to protect the garrison was outlined during the Lion Shake exercise that took place in November, 2005, when the Security Managers Office earned kudos for its superior intelligence product.

The Military Personnel Services section was commended for their establishment of a proficient and detailed Casualty Notification System for the Vicenza military community. The efforts of the team in reviewing and coordinating the actions of the Casualty Coordination Working Group ensured that

the casualties and family members received the dignity, respect, and support they richly deserved.

There were also numerous individual, organizational, and unit awards that were received throughout 2005. Here are just a few: Vicenza Auto Skills, Entertainment and Livorno Outdoor Recreation all awarded IMA-Europe MWR Outstanding Recreation awards; Supply Support Activity, Directorate of Logistics, USAG Vicenza, awarded the 2005 IMA-Europe, Chief of Staff Army Supply Excellence Award for the fourth year in a row; Staff Sgt. Danielle Font, European Region Dental Command NCO of the Year; Spc. Christopher Meadows, AFN-Europe Soldier of the Year; Sgt. Lawrence Born, IMA-EURO NCO of the Year; Becky Barron, DoDDs Mediterranean District Teacher of the Year; Robert Portillo, Army Lodging Supervisor of the Year; David Sherrick, Army Lodging Manager of the Year; Mark Santaw, Army Information Assurance Professional of the Year; and Patricia Salerno, DoDEA Teacher of the Year.

Keep up the good work in 2006!

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Exhibitions

Padova—The 12th International Bikers Expo this year will be held on Jan. 20, 21 and 22 at the exhibition grounds. Among its many novelties, this edition is characterized by the increased importance given to Road and Racing Motorbikes and Accessories with the presence of motorcycle companies and of many teams operating in the sporting sector of the two wheels of every field, from cross-country motorbikes to GPs to super bikes.

You will also find sections with clothing, customizers, airbrushes, accessories, tattoos, books and magazines. There will also be special events to include contest bike shows. Included in the show are exhibitors from countries such as France, Holland, Germany and the USA.

The full program can be found on www.bike-expo.it Open each day from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance fee is 12 euro. The grounds are located after exiting the Padova east autostrada exit and following the signs for the "International Bikers Expo."

Verona—*Viva la Casa* an exhibition of furnishing, home accessories and wedding articles, including sections of contemporary furniture and design, is scheduled at the exhibition grounds for Jan. 21-29.

Last year this exhibition was visited by over 40,000 individuals. Open weekdays 4-10 p.m. Entrance fee 4 euro. Weekends 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Entrance fee 7 euro.

Wednesday and Friday, entrance is free for women and children younger than 12 years of age. The exhibition grounds are located near the Verona south autostrada exit.

Photography and art shows

Vicenza: Two art exhibits are taking place downtown the first in the church of SS. Ambrogio e Bellino on Contra S. Ambrogio. See 20 works by Vicentino artist Bonizza Modolo, who at the time lives in Creazzo. Open Tuesdays-Sundays 3-9 p.m. until Feb. 5.

The second is in the Gallerie di Palazzo Leoni Montanari, located on the street Santa Corona. You can admire five Russian icons from the 15th and 18th centuries dedicated to Christmas. The exhibition *Tradizione del Natale nell'Oriente Cristiano*, Christmas Traditions of Christians of the Orient, also has documentation on Christmas customs in Russia. Open everyday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. until Feb. 26. Closed Mondays. Entrance is free to both exhibitions.

In the town of **Quinto Vicentino** there is a photo exhibition called "New York," being held in Villa Thiene, which is also the town-hall. The photos, over 80, taken by Vicentino Attilio Pavin, are an assortment of black and whites and colour. Open Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. (Fridays in the morning only.) Weekends 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3:30-7:30 p.m. until Jan. 31. Entrance is free.

A different sort of nativity scene can be seen in Duomo of Saints Peter and Paul in the town of **Castelgomberto**, 14 kilometers from Vicenza. There are over 50 nativity scenes with over half of them representing the Orient.

Open only on the weekend, Saturday 2-6:30 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-noon and 2-6:30 p.m. until Jan. 29. Entrance is free.

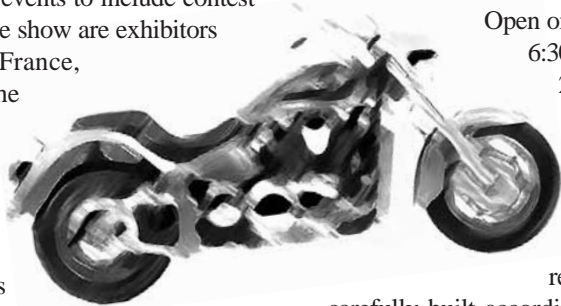
In the town of **Novoledo**, province of Villaverla, the nativity scene is considered historical because everything represented in the scene has been

carefully built according to historical references. The visitor can watch the various scenes, that are placed in a circle that is synchronized. It is accompanied by a narration and background music. A complete circle lasts eight minutes. The scene is located behind the Church of S. Andrea located in the town. Open everyday 10 a.m.-noon and 3-8 p.m. until Jan. 29.

The "Dance of the Avant-gardes" is the name of the exhibition that is taking place in the Modern and Contemporary Art Museum in city of **Rovereto**. More than 1,000 works, paintings, sculptures, costumes, stage-set designs, drawings and photographs tell the tale of the magical, extraordinary cross-fertilisations between dance and art. Works by, to name a few are Picasso, Miro, Matisse, Exter, de Chirico, Keith Haring and Degas have their works on show. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. until Dec 31. Closed Mondays. Entrance fee 8 euro.

Visit a museum

On the top of Monte Gemola in the town of **Baone**, province of Padova, you can visit Villa Beatrice, the ex-nunnery of Beata Beatrice d'Este, which today is home to Naturalistic Museum of the Euganean Hills. There you can see a rich collection of specimens and photographs of dehydrated plants and stuffed animals. This ancient monastery, which was turned into a Venetian villa, is open Sundays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Saturday in the afternoon only. Entrance fee 2.60 euro, children younger than 8 years of age are free. The town of Baone is located 46 kilometers from Vicenza.



Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Jan. 17 | Closed | |
| Jan. 18 | North Country (R) | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 19 | Doom (R) | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 20 | Yours, Mine, & Ours (PG) | 7 p.m. |
| | Prime (PG13) | 9:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 21 | Yours, Mine, & Ours (PG) | 4 p.m. |
| | Prime (PG13) | 7 p.m. |
| | The Weatherman (R) | 9:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 22 | Dreamer: Inspired by a true story (PG) | 4 p.m. |
| | The Weatherman (R) | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 23 | Closed | |

Camp Darby Theater

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| Jan. 20 | Get Rich or Die Tryin' (R) | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 21 | Walk the Line (PG13) | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 22 | Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG13) | 2 p.m. |

Movie Synopsis

YOURS, MINE AND OURS - *Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo* - A widow and widower fall in love and get married, but the resulting combined eighteen children make for a hair-raising situation under one roof.

PRIME - *Meryl Streep, Uma Thurman* - Rafi is a recently divorced 37-year-old career woman from Manhattan and Dave is a talented 23-year-old painter from Brooklyn who falls in love with her. Part counselor, part Jewish mother, Rafi's therapist Lisa is gingerly helping Rafi out of her post-divorce slump and through the urgent alarm of her ticking biological clock. Although doubtful that Rafi's new fling is an appropriate partner in the long term, Lisa encourages her patient to enjoy it and have fun. But once Lisa accidentally discovers that Rafi's new boyfriend is, in fact, her son, Dave, she finds it increasingly difficult to act the good therapist while hearing intimate details of her son's love life.

THE WEATHER MAN - *Nicolas Cage, Michael Caine* - Popular Chicago weatherman, Dave Spritz, has a shot at the big time when a national morning television show calls him for an audition. Professionally, Dave is on the top of the world, but his personal life is in complete disarray. Dave's painful divorce, his dad's illness and trouble with his kids have him poised on the knife's edge between stability and disaster. The harder he tries to control events, the more he finds life, like the weather, is completely unpredictable.

GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' - *50 Cent, Jay Bryant* - An orphaned street kid (Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson) makes his mark in the drug trade, but finally dares to leave the violence of his former life behind to pursue a promising career in the music business as a rapper.

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.

Reintegration News

Health Clinic Redeployment Schedule

As part of the redeployment process, the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza will see every returning Soldier to complete post-deployment screening and health assessments. Since the timing of the Soldiers' arrival is not known until 48 hours prior, the clinic must be ready to meet their needs on short notice. The clinic anticipate caring for 100 Soldiers daily from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. when redeployment is in full swing.

Although the clinic will remain open for regular services, it will be on a limited basis from now until the end of March. Clinic hours, to include night clinic and Saturday clinic, will not change but may be processing Soldiers on Saturdays and Sundays.

The clinic staff appreciates your patience and understanding during this unique time. They have made every effort to streamline the process so they can accommodate everyone's needs, but expect some minor inconveniences.

For the months of February and March, all appointments will be available one to two days in advance - meaning you will most likely call for an appointment to be seen that day.

If no appointments are left for that day, or the clinic is processing redeploying Soldiers, they may ask you to call back the next day for a routine problem.

If it is an acute minor problem, you may be instructed to walk in and see the Nurse of the Day.

If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency then you will be directed to the San Bortolo Emergency Room or the clinic staff will assist you in calling for an ambulance.

For routine medication refills, or questions for your doctor, it may be easier to leave a telephone message for your provider and he or she will return your call or refill your medication within three working days.

Again, they clinic apologizes for the inconveniences that may occur over the next few months. However, given the joyous occasion of redeployment they appreciate your understanding.

How to be a Global Citizen in one easy lesson

George Hanby's 7th grade World Geography classes stepped outside the classroom at the **Vicenza Middle/High School** to demonstrate some of the attributes of a global citizen. Over a two-day period (Jan. 11-12), three classes of students spent 30 minutes during their class period picking up trash from the grounds around the two schools and the sidewalks around the post exchange and shopette. In a lesson designed to show connections between both Science and Social Studies, Hanby's classes used this experience to explore and analyze the causes of pollution (trash) and how to maintain a healthy environmental quality through personal responsibility (pick it up and recycle in the proper receptacle). As an added bonus, customers at the Post Exchange found an extra 43 shopping carts inside the store because students also retrieved these shopping carts from the sidewalk and parking lot of the exchange.

Some global citizen ideas: returning your shopping cart to the inside of the PX for other folks to use; making sure that trash is thrown away and items that are recyclable are put into the correct container; and throwing cigarettes away, not on the ground. (Photo provided by George Hanby)

Bassano del Grappa

Story and photos
by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

While walking through the just restored wooden bridge and enjoying the view of the snow covered mountains during the day, or at night the reflections in the *Brenta* River, visitors may not imagine how the atmosphere of this symbol of the city of *Bassano del Grappa* may have been in the past.

The *Ponte Vecchio*, old bridge, was first mentioned in a document in 1209. It carried a vital importance for the city throughout the centuries because it connected the inhabitants of Bassano and Angarano. The river itself held significance as a “water road” that linked this city to Venice and also was used to provide energy to the several silk mills, spinning mills and sawmills built along its sides.

The city, about 35 kilometers north east of Vicenza, was annexed to Italy only in 1866 after the Austrians were defeated during the Third War of Independence.

In 1908, a railway link started connecting Bassano to Venice, and in 1910 to Trento and Vicenza.

The two World Wars had very strong effects on the city. In WWI, Bassano was considered a war-zone as soon as the hostilities broke out and only to understand the proportions of the situation of the conflict, in three days at the end of December of 1917, around 7,000 people left their homes, 30 air-raids were counted, about 530 bombs were released, 330 people died and 250 houses were either damaged or destroyed.

In WWII, with the arrival of the German troops, the situation did not appear easier.

Bassano was once again a war zone. Due to the strong defense, the support of the city, and the tragic events that occurred in the last period of the conflict, in 1946, Bassano was awarded the “Gold Medal for Military Value.” Honoring “all the sacrifices



View of the *Ponte Vecchio* or *degli Alpini* covered with snow. The first document mentioning a bridge on the Brenta River dates 1209

made during the last two years of the war.”

After the wars that the city experienced in the last century, the names of the city and the bridge changed. In fact, “del Grappa” was added to the name of the city and the bridge became “degli Alpini,” a special unit of the Italian Army, who also helped to rebuild the bridge after being bombed.

Throughout the years, though, the bridge also knew the violence of the water, the *Brentana*, a term that means a strong Brenta flood. It was always rebuilt in wood except once in 1524 when—rebuilt with stones—it survived only a couple of years.

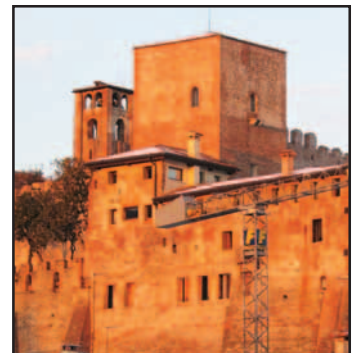
During its long life, a project was also commissioned to the architect Andrea Palladio in 1569. The covered bridge went through some works of restoration during this past summer.



Above: The statue of San Bassiano, on the left, sits in *Piazza Liberta'*. It was created by Orazio Marinali, one of the most famous sculptors of the Vicenza area in the 1700s. Bassano celebrates this saint, who is the patron of the city, on Jan. 19.



Left: View of *Piazza Liberta'*, one of the three squares in downtown Bassano from the *Torre Granda*, big tower, (pictured above) located in *Piazza Garibaldi*. The tower was built in the 1300s and restored a few years ago. It is open to the public.



Far up: View of a tower in the area of the *Castello Superiore*, the upper castle, which was the first walled area of the city since probably the 10th century. In the background, the bell tower of the *Duomo*, which was built on a previous tower of the 12th century. Above and left: Stands of the weekly market that takes place in downtown Bassano twice a week on Thursdays and Saturdays.



Above: View of *Piazza Garibaldi* with the central fountain created in 1898 by Carlo Spazzi. On the southern side of the square is located *San Francesco*, a Romanesque-gothic style church built in 1287. The cloister next to the church has been partially rebuilt after WWII, and is the entrance of the *Museo Civico*, one of the oldest museums in the Veneto region, renowned for paintings of the 16th century and some works by Antonio Canova, famous sculptor of the late 1700s.

Museo del Ponte Degli Alpini

The *Museo del Ponte degli Alpini* is a museum located on the western side of the historical bridge. On display there are some photographic documents and items of the two World Wars. The entrance is from the *Taverna*.

