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USAG Vicenza Garrison Commander Col. Erik Daiga shakes hands with 173rd Soldiers as they depart from Aviano Air Base en route to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the NATO International Security Assistance Force.

# Final 173rd ABCT patroopers depart for Afghanistan mission

Story and photo by  
**ANNETTE FOURNIER**  
*USAG Vicenza Public Affairs*

The last of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Soldiers departed Caserma Ederle this week for their deployment to Afghanistan. The paratroopers' mission is to replace forces currently deployed to

Afghanistan to maintain the capabilities of NATO's International Security Assistance Forces, according to the Department of Defense.

They are among the first American Soldiers to arrive in Afghanistan since President Barack Obama's announcement of a troop surge, although their deployment was announced in July and is not a result of

the surge plan.

The majority of the troops are already on the ground in Afghanistan and are ready for their mission, said Maj. Steven Williams, 173rd ABCT rear-detachment commander.

"The Soldiers are absolutely motivated and prepared to go," Williams said. "Their morale is high. They are prepared to fight

See GARRISON Page 3

## Italian unions ready for new building, beginning

By **ADRIANE FOSS**  
*Outlook Editor*

Caserma Ederle's Italian union members gathered Monday at the post theater to usher in a new era of prosperity.

With a recent pay increase, improved retirement plan and the opening of the unions' newly refurbished offices, local FISASCAT-CISL union president Ronald Carpenter said he is looking forward to a good year for the installation's two unions and its members.

FISASCAT-CISL and UILTuCS-UIL represent the local national employees of the U.S. Forces in Italy on all installations.

See PAY RAISE Page 3



Photo by Graigg Faggionato

(From left) Caserma Ederle union leaders Roberto Frizzo and Ronald Carpenter, with USARAF Commander Maj. Gen. William B. Garrett III (center), cut the ribbon at the new offices Monday evening.

## H1N1 vaccine now available to all authorized beneficiaries

*ERMC Public Affairs*

Army health clinics will begin vaccinating all authorized beneficiaries with H1N1 Influenza vaccine using all existing stocks, Europe Regional Medical Command officials announced last week.

The decision frees immunization clinic staffs to use vaccine stocks regardless of whether or not they were purchased for uniformed service members.

"All authorized beneficiaries should check with their local immunization clinic for times and locations where the vaccine will be available," said Col. Theresa Moser, director, Force Health Protection, Europe Regional Medical Command.

She said clinics will be bound by the vaccine's FDA-approved age range. Those ranges are: Sanofi-Pasteur, six months and up; and Novartis, four years and up. Other than that, any beneficiary may receive either Sanofi-Pasteur or Novartis H1N1 vaccine without restriction.

More vaccine is on its way. This decision makes the vaccine available now for all beneficiaries. It's expected that the move will help reduce the risk of the spread of the disease during the holidays, Moser said.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Outlook and USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office would like to wish the community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and thank them for their tireless submissions which contribute to the overall success of this publication.

The first issue of 2010 will be published Jan. 8. Don't miss it!

## Command wishes community a happy holiday, New Year

The holiday season is a time to gather with our friends and families to enjoy the blessings in our lives. It is also a time to reflect on the passing year and look ahead to the future.

What an amazing year 2009 has been! The U.S. Army Africa team worked with our African partners to promote security, stability and peace in Africa.

Our garrison team continued to make Vicenza and Livorno the best place to live and work, and the Sky Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team stepped up to the challenge of another deployment to Afghanistan.

Now more than ever, our thoughts and prayers go out to the brave men and women who serve our country far from home.

As we look forward with optimism and hope to

Now more than ever, our thoughts and prayers go out to the brave men and women who serve our country far from home.

2010, we wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season and a new year filled with happiness.

Thank you for all you do. Happy holidays!

**Maj. Gen. William B. Garrett III**  
U.S. Army Africa Commanding General

**Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Bronson**  
U.S. Army Africa Command Sergeant Major

## AAFES extends holiday exchange/refund policy

AAFES news release

Military shoppers checking off their holiday lists at Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities between Thanksgiving and Christmas can breathe a little easier if gifts don't measure up as AAFES has extended its refund and exchange policy for the holidays.

While AAFES' policy states that items in new condition may be exchanged or returned within 15, 30 or 90 days with a receipt, the new holiday return/exchange policy will extend these guidelines through Jan. 31 for items purchased between Nov. 26-Dec. 24.

"With the great deals that AAFES offered over the Black Friday weekend, it's very likely that many purchases were for presents," said AAFES' Chief of Staff Col. Virgil Williams. "If the gift is the wrong size, fit or style, we want to ensure military shoppers get exactly what they want to enjoy through the New Year."

The extended holiday return and exchange policy will end Jan. 31 at which time the standard return policy will go back into effect.

## Drive carefully; black ice is on the way

USAG Vicenza Safety Office

Approximately a quarter of all automobile accidents in the United States are caused by adverse weather conditions.

Driving during the winter presents a number of hazards; the deadliest of all winter driving hazards is encountering

black ice.

### What is black ice?

It is a layer of ice on a road thin enough to be almost completely clear.

When this occurs it is nearly impossible for a driver to see. Often black ice will form in shaded areas, near lakes or rivers, in tunnels, on overpasses

and bridges and patches along the road. The possibility of encountering black ice is greatest when temperatures are near or below freezing.

Note that road surfaces can freeze long before water freezes; black ice can form on roads when air temperatures are 40 degrees F.

Drivers can help neutralize the risk by taking the following precautions:

- Identify and become familiar with areas prone to black ice during your daily travels.

- Check your tires; are they designed for winter driving and what's their condition.

- Increase separation between vehicles, prepare in advance for engaging intersections, traffic circles, turns and stops. Always forewarn others of your intentions.

- Keep your vision clear; clean and clear windows and lights allows better visibility.

- Slow down and buckle up.

## EEO recruiting for special emphasis program managers

USAG Vicenza EEO Office

The EEO Office is recruiting for collateral duty Special Emphasis Program managers (SEPMs) to assist USAG Vicenza in managing the following programs: Federal Women's, Hispanic Employment, People With Disabilities and the Selective Placement Program for Individuals With Disabilities, Black/African American Employment, American Indian/Alaska Native

Employment, and the Asian American/Pacific Islander Employment Program.

SEPMs assist the commander and EEO staff in identifying and analyzing barriers to employment and career advancement for minorities, women and the disabled, including disabled veterans; sponsoring career enhancement activities and provide an avenue for an effective communication network amongst the targeted groups and workforce.

U.S. civilians (appropriated and non-appropriated fund) employees are eligible to apply. Family members may apply as committee volunteers. Minimum requirements include minimum grade of GS-04/NSPS or NAF equivalent, 18-24 months remaining in station, ability to be objective and willingness to help others, and an ability to plan programs and activities. An individual development plan will be developed to formally train

the SEPMs. Individuals interested in becoming a SEPM need to contact their immediate supervisor for approval, complete the nomination form and forward to EEO. Family members may apply as committee volunteers through the ACS volunteer office.

Contact Ramon Ayala at [ramon.ayala@eur.army.mil](mailto:ramon.ayala@eur.army.mil) or DSN 634-7084, or contact Irene Hopkins at [irene.hopkins@eur.army.mil](mailto:irene.hopkins@eur.army.mil), DSN 634-7976.

## Speak Out

### What is your New Year's resolution?



**Devyn Cade**  
7th Grade

"To get all A's and study more. Also to keep them like that."



**Tatiana Miranda**  
9th Grade

"To get better at jump shots."



**Sgt. 1st Class Sean Peterson**  
U.S. Army Africa G-3

"To be more patient."



**Diana Tagalao**  
Family member

"To try to quit smoking and to live life to the fullest."



**Daniel Weston**  
Family member

"Finish college and find a job."

## Local negotiations net pay raise, improved retirement

continued from Page 1

Carpenter and UILTuCS-UIL acting president Robert Frizzo (for Monica Brazzale) spoke to employees during the late afternoon gathering on a range of topics, including:

- a 4.72 percent pay raise which went into effect Sept. 1;

- a negotiated increase in the complementary retirement plan which increased employer contributions by 50 percent as of Sept. 1;

- and the unions' move to Bldg. 246.

Carpenter said what was previously a cramped office with inadequate privacy to conduct business has been replaced by two new offices, a conference room and storage area, with all new furniture.

He said there were times when up to 20 people would gather at the cluttered old one-room union office for meetings and many people would have to wait outside.

"It was too small. We couldn't fit them in. On a scale of one to 10, our old accommodations were zero and the new is a 10," laughed Carpenter.

Vicenza CISL provincial president, Luigi Copiello, also spoke at the employee assembly, highlighting the union's contributions to the City of Vicenza and the installation. Copiello gave a brief history of Dal Molin, a new military base that will house 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team barracks and offices, and explained how both the unions worked to help iron out issues surrounding the controversial project.

Copiello pointed out that the new union office is evidence of local negotiations, and that these should expand to cover other benefits, to reflect the prevailing practices in Italy which provide for a national and a local level of negotiation.

USAG Vicenza Garrison Commander Col. Eric Daiga addressed the audience in Italian, expressing his appreciation for the local national workforce.

Working closely with the U.S. military command on the Dal Molin issue is one of the reasons for the unions' improved U.S.-Italian relationship. Before Dal Molin, said Carpenter, the relationship between the union and the U.S. command group at Caserma Ederle was practically nonexistent.

Today, he called it a very strong, very

good relationship.

Tony Marino, a human resources specialist for the International Personnel Policy Division, is a U.S. liaison for the unions and said a full 50 percent of Caserma Ederle's host nation employees are paid union members, an important reason for good relations.

"The unions represent our host nation workforce and that host nation workforce is 75 percent of the total number of employees on our installations," said Marino. "They are the backbone of our operations. And the union representatives raise issues which affect these employees—their working conditions, labor contract, grading and so forth," he said. "Cooperation is essential to smooth operations."

## Garrison support eases deployment transition

continued from Page 1

and do what is expected of them."

After the Soldiers said final goodbyes to family and friends, they gathered in the Directorate of Logistics motor pool area to ensure one last time they had all necessary shots, and to check their dog tags and ID cards. Vicenza is the only garrison in Europe that provides full-spectrum deployment support operations to tenant units such as the 173rd, U.S. Army Africa forces and other units within its area of operation.

The support begins at Vicenza with staging, marshalling and container movement, follows on to preparing troops and families for deployment and finishes when the last aircraft touches down at its destination. As soon as all personnel and materiel are accounted for, Vicenza personnel start planning for the redeployment, according to Greg Hutcherson, operations

officer, Directorate of Logistics, USAG Vicenza.

From Vicenza, the troops went to Aviano Air Base, northeast of Vicenza near the Austrian border. USAG Vicenza manages the administration and operations area for arrivals and departures, and the personnel alert holding area (PAHA) at Aviano where Soldiers wait to board aircraft.

The PAHA is a deployment staging area where as many as 1,000 service members can wait in a comfortable, temperature-controlled environment. While they wait, they have access to meals and beverages, multiple televisions, showers and bathrooms and specially designed seating which allows paratroopers rigged to jump to sit comfortably while wearing all their equipment.

Nearly 700 Soldiers processed through the PAHA Dec. 9 when Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and the 1st and 2nd Battalions (Airborne),

503rd Infantry Regiment, departed Caserma Ederle.

Chefs from Vicenza's South of the Alps dining facility brought food to the PAHA so troops could have a hot meal before loading onto planes. The troops were also met by Air Force spouses and retirees taking part in Operation Yellow Ribbon.

The volunteers brought extra goodies for the troops, including homemade cupcakes, a roasted turkey, sandwich makings and other snacks. The volunteers in the Aviano chapter of Operation Yellow Ribbon have served thousands of service members in the past five years, said Noel Parks, an Air Force retiree who volunteers with the organization.

"We try to meet every aircraft with deploying or redeploying troops," Parks said. "We want them to know we care, and if we can make them a little more comfortable while they're waiting, it's worth all the work."

## Holidays got you down? Help is a call away

Holidays are often a time of stress, not joy for those who are without close friends or family to lean on when the going gets tough.

If you are a teen, or have a teen, the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling service is available at 634-7127, or 0444-71-7127.

If you need someone to talk to, or are worried about a friend, the numbers below are available 24 hours a day.

The Military and Family Life consultant is a confidential shoulder to lean on. The consultant may be reached at 333-489-8967.

Other 24-hour counselors are:

### Army Community Service

634-7500, 0444-71-7500 from off post

### Family Advocacy Program

634-7500, 0444-71-7500 from off post

### Chaplain Hotline

634-KARE (5273) or 0444-71-5273 from off post

### Military OneSource

00-800-3429-6477

### Military Police Hotline

634-SAFE (7233) or 0444-71-7233 from off post

### Sexual Assault Hotline

634-JUST (5878) or 0444-71-5878 from off post

## Register now for UMUC

### UMUC news release

UMUC Europe's spring session 1 runs Jan. 18-March 14. Sign up now for the following courses:

BIOL160 Human Biology - Tues. and Thurs. 6:30-9:30 p.m.; BIOL161 Human Biology Lab-Sat. 1/30, 2/13, 2/27, 3/6 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; HUMN198B/398B 20thCE American Culture-Fridays (HYBRID) 9-11:45 a.m.; IFSM201 Intro. to Computer Systems-Sat. 1/23, 2/20, 3/6 (HYBRID) 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; ITAL111 Elementary Italian I-Tues. and Thurs. 5:30-8:30 p.m.; ITAL211 Intermediate Italian II-Mon.-Thurs. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.; PSYC353 Abnormal Psych-Tues. and Thurs. 5:30-8:30 p.m.; STAT200 Intro. to Statistics-Mon. and Wed. 5:30-8:30 p.m.; or WRTG101 Intro. to Writing-Wed. (HYBRID) 5:30-8:30 p.m.

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## At your service Family, Morale, Welfare & Recreation



**Josh Gwinn** is Caserma Ederle's Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation director.

"DFMWR covers a whole range of services for Soldiers, families and the community of Caserma Ederle," said Gwinn. "This includes everything from Child and Youth Services to Sports & Fitness and Army Community Service, all of which support a high quality of life and well being for everyone stationed here at Caserma Ederle."

"I provide support to our staffs so they have the tools and resources they need to continue to make our community the best place to live, work and play in Italy," he said.

Gwinn's office will be located in Bldg. 203. He can be reached Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 634-7740.

# Community Camera

A snapshot of events making news in and around the U.S. military community in Vicenza...



Photo by Laura Kreider

**O Christmas tree:** Community members gather after the tree lighting ceremony at Caserma Ederle Dec. 10.



Photo by Barbara Romano, JMTC photo lab

**Above and beyond:** Not your everyday mission essential task for 173rd ABCT paratroopers deploying to Afghanistan—changing the tire on their aircraft at Aviano Air Base. Greg Hutcheson of DOL keeps a close watch on the procedure.



Photo by Laura Kreider

**The nativity:** Vicenza Elementary School sixth-graders conclude the multi-traditional choral celebration, *A Holiday to Remember*, singing *Away in a Manger* and *Do You Hear What I Hear* at the Luna Bubble Dec. 9. The event was directed by VES music teacher Angela Hartwig and sponsored by VES Music, PTSA and EO.



Photo by Mayra Thompson

**Allegiance :** Mark Farfaglia, the overseas adjudications officer with the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services in Rome, administers U.S. citizenship oaths Dec. 8 to 173rd ABCT Soldiers before they deploy. The newly Americanized Soldiers were Spc. Luis A. Ayala Cordon of Guatemala, Pvt. David O. Clarke of Nigeria, Pvt. Galo Jaramillo of Ecuador, Sgt. Pavel Lazaridi of Kazakhstan and Spc. Julio Cesar Munoz of Mexico.



Courtesy photo

**Better not pout:** Elisabeth and Benjamin Bryant pose with Santa during the Exceptional Family Member Program Christmas movie bash Dec. 4. For information on EFMP, call 634-8582 or 634-7912.

## MPs, DES focus on security with active shooter training

By ADRIANE FOSS  
Outlook Editor

Dealing with deadly rampages was the focus of training for more than 30 military police and emergency service personnel from Caserma Ederle's 464th MP and Camp Darby's 511th MP platoons at Vicenza Friday.

Known as active shooter training, it featured classroom and hands-on scenarios designed to help prepare MPs for situations in which they may be unexpectedly forced to deal with extremely dangerous individuals.

"This training makes our MPs better able to protect our community and it also helps us to better support the local Carabinieri in any situation," said DES Deputy Director Adeal Frater.

After last month's mass shooting in which 13 people were killed and 30 were wounded at Fort Hood, Texas, the training seemed particularly relevant.

"This training primarily equates to saving lives. It teaches the MPs to be more aggressive and accurate when responding to an ongoing situation where lives are at stake," said Frater. "Although

we do not have primary jurisdiction in Italy, we will be able to support our host nation authorities better with this type of training."

The MPS started with several hours of classroom instruction covering real-life scenarios which demonstrated that if police had been schooled in active shooter training, they could have saved countless lives, said Frater.

The afternoon focused heavily on hands-on, fast-action shoot-and-move techniques in three to four-man teams to take out a hostile shooter in different situations. Building-search tactics, room entry and clearing at the installation's shoot house were also key training tasks.

"What's significant about this is that our military police want to know what to do in any given situation and it's up to us as leaders to ensure they get the equipment and training instruction they need," he said.

Instruction, provided by Special Agent Nick Ivanovic of the Kaiserslautern Criminal Investigation Division Office also covered rescue team tactics, approaching and breaching buildings

and low-light, close-quarters conflict.

Frater said the MPs leave the course with a better knowledge of their weaknesses they need to work on and confidence in their ability to find and engage an active shooter.

Although all law of the garrisons'

enforcement personnel were unable to attend, "the training was conducted in such a way that the MPs who attended can go out and train others. It was train-the-trainer," said 1st Lt. Daniel McCarey, MP operations OIC for Vicenza and Livorno.



Photo by Laura Kreider

Caserma Ederle and Camp Darby MPs, along with DES personnel, participate in active shooter training at the Ederle shoot house Friday.

## CAs celebrate century of service

### A local Soldier's journey as a chaplain assistant

Story and photo by  
**JOYCE COSTELLO**  
*USAG Livorno Public Affairs*

On Sept. 10, 2001, Tokovia Sanda was a bank manager at Bank of America headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her path in life would change forever the next day.

Sanda's sister, Desiree Rahman, was in one of the World Trade Center towers during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. After the planes crashed into the building, Rahman jumped from the building, surviving with broken bones and managing to render first aid to other victims before she walked from Manhattan to Brooklyn.

Sanda said she waited anxiously to hear from her. Watching all of the military and first responders working together rescuing people from the wreckage changed something in Sanda's heart that day.

"I felt a strong calling to serve my country and knew immediately I wanted to be a Soldier and do my patriotic duty," said Sanda. "I didn't care about the loss of money or prestige. I wanted to join the Army and follow my spiritual calling."

At the time Sanda was a Muslim.

Within 30 days of going to a military entrance processing station, she went off to basic training to become a chaplain assistant. And to her drill sergeant's dismay, she arrived in the style of the 1981 Private Benjamin film starring Goldie Hawn—with her pajamas, lingerie, facial cream and perfume all packed in stylishly matched luggage.

"I was 34 and really didn't know what to expect, but by the time basic was ending, I asked my drill sergeant if I could march my company back on the final ruck march," said Sanda.

During her advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, S.C., she learned about the different religious services and how to conduct peer counseling and suicide intervention. She learned to pull security for her chaplain whenever in a combat area as chaplains do not bear arms. While



Sgt. Sanda Tokovia, USAG Livorno chaplain assistant, listens to a young Soldier.

still undergoing training at Fort Jackson, she had to prevent her fellow Muslim roommate from committing suicide.

"There's more to being a chaplain assistant than handing out Bibles and counting church attendance," said Sanda. "You have to be versatile because you can be assigned to any unit and you deal with all ranks that are having problems. Part of the job is to be approachable and visible. You've got to be the one people come to and trust because of your confidentiality."

Sanda recounted how during her first duty station at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., with the spiritual guidance of Chaplain Mizernai, a Masonic Jew, she converted to Christianity.

Afterwards, she went to Suwon, Korea, where she quickly learned how to deal with a lot of suicide attempts, alcohol abuse and abuse relationships.

"I would go on street patrols with my chaplain and help round up drunk Soldiers and offer help," said Sanda. "There I lost

a Soldier who got struck by lightning and died in my chaplain's arms as we were administering the last rites."

"When you're dealing with suicides and abuse, it's important to remember that you can be sympathetic and empathetic, but you can't take on other individuals' problems," she explained. "I strengthen my mind with prayer and staying in the Word and my body with exercise so I can advise and council to the best of my ability."

Dec. 16 marked the 100th anniversary of chaplain assistants in the military. Sanda, a six-year veteran, said she's proud to be a member of the chaplaincy and knows there's nothing she would rather do.

"I am proud to be a part of the awesome historic accomplishment of providing help to others spiritually" said Sanda. "This defines what we are about and how in the past we gave honor to Soldiers and families."

Sanda and her family will leave Camp Darby in January for her next assignment in Heidelberg, Germany.

## Darby Dates

### New parent support group group

ACS is hosting an interactive and educational playgroup for children 0-3 years Dec. 23.

Call 633-7084 for more information.

### Karaoke night set Thursdays

Sing along with Bibi at karaoke night every Thursday at the Community Club.

Call 633-7855 for more information.

### ITR trips

**Wine, wine, wine:** Looking for Chianti Classico? Join us Dec. 20 for a guided tour of the grounds and vineyards of Tenuta Agricola Torre in Cenaia and a horse and carriage ride before tasting some of the region's most prestigious wines.

After, enjoy a light lunch made with locally produced foods and still have the chance to pick up any last-minute gifts. Call 633-7589.

**Rome trip:** Rome at Christmastime is spectacular. See for yourself Dec. 22. Call 633-7589.

**Florence trip:** Spend the day in Florence Dec. 23 and enjoy the holiday spirit in this lovely city. Call 633-7589.

### Free trip for BOSS

All BOSS members are invited to take a free trip to Abetone Dec. 22 to ski or just enjoy the mountain weather. Call 633-7775 to RSVP.

### Holiday story hour

Guess who's coming to visit during the special Christmas story hour Dec. 23? If you guessed Santa Claus, you're right.

Enjoy story hour with Santa at 10 a.m. for children ages 3-5 in Bldg 601. Call ODR for more information at 633-7775.

### Darby Religious activities

For details, call the chapel at 633-7267 (050-54-7267).

**9:40 a.m.:** Catholic Reconciliation

**10 a.m.:** Catholic Mass

**11:15 a.m.:** Protestant worship

Protestant **Sunday school** starts at 10 a.m.; Catholic CCD at 11:15 a.m.

The chapel is collecting cardboard, robes, children's plastic swimming pools and cardboard rolls from paper towels and toilet paper.

Community members can contact the Catholic education coordinator to find out when the next confirmation will take place.

**Choir practice** is at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday before Mass.



Photos by Chiara Mattiolo

A Mouse Christmas, a holiday musical about the birth of Jesus was held at the Livorno post chapel Sunday during the Protestant service. Under Laura Gjere's artistic direction, the actors (above) performed for the community. "I think it is important for children's development to stage the birth of Jesus. This will help them to get a better understanding of the true meaning of the festivities," said Gjere. "The children have worked diligently to prepare for the play and I am happy to see such large participation," said Kelly Porter, U.S. Army Garrison Livorno Chaplain. (At left) Rachel Porter and her baby, Kate, perform as Mary and the baby Jesus during the performance.



Photos courtesy of City of Vicenza

**Buon Natale:** City of Vicenza Mayor Achille Variati during the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Piazza dei Signori Dec. 5. Several holiday events are planned throughout Vicenza. See below for a listing.

## Italian holidays

**Dec. 26** is an Italian national holiday. It is the Feast of St. Stephen (Santo Stefano), the first Christian martyr.

**Jan. 6** is another national holiday in Italy, which celebrates the visit of the Magi (The Wise Men) to the infant Jesus. It's also known as "La Befana," which is a kind, ugly and old hunchback witch with a crooked nose. She is dressed in rags and travels straddling a flying broomstick, carrying a self-replenishing sack full of presents for children.

## City of Vicenza events

**Corri Babbo Natale Corri,** or Run Santa Run, will be held Saturday in Vicenza. The Vicenza Press Association and the City of Vicenza are co-sponsoring the fourth annual Corri Babbo Natale

Corri charity fundraiser downtown 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., starting and ending at Camp Marzio, the park near the main train station.

The Euro 8 entrance fee includes a lightweight Santa suit to run in and hot chocolate and cake at the finish. Individuals and groups of all ages are welcome and there is special recognition for the agency or association with the most participants. The course is under two miles and may be easily completed walking. Groups may pre-register to receive their costumes before race day, or persons may sign-up and pay the day of the event. All the money raised goes to Italian charities. Call Shay Morris at 634-8879 for info.

**Give joy at Christmas.** The City of Vicenza has made an appeal for food donations for local needy families. Donations will be collected Dec. 19-20 at 12 local supermarkets. The commissary is the collection point for the Caserma Ederle starting Thursday.

## Christmas markets and nativity

■ Piazza San Lorenzo and Giardini Salvi, ongoing though Dec. 24. Small wooden chalets open on weekdays, 3-8 p.m. and weekends, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

■ Piazza dei Signori, Piazza Castello, Piazza De Gasperi, Dec. 19-24 in Vicenza.

■ Viale Milano, Dec. 20 in Vicenza.

■ Epiphany market Jan. 2-3 in Vicenza's main square downtown.

■ Dec. 19-24, 3:30-9 p.m., in Sandrigo, Piazza SS. Filippo e Giacomo, about 9 miles north of Vicenza. Dec. 24-25 free hot chocolate and mulled wine for everyone.

■ Ongoing through Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., in Bassano del Grappa, Piazza Garibaldi e Piazzotto Montevicchio, about 22 miles northeast of Vicenza. Antique wooden Carousel in Piazza

Libertà, where Santa and his elves will transform the historical center in a fairy-tale world. Saturday, Sunday and holiday afternoons a miniature train will take children and adults around the historical center.

■ Traveling Live Nativity Scene, Vicenza, Saturday, 7 p.m. It departs from San Michele ai Servi Church, Piazza Biade, 23.

■ Artistic Nativity Scenes Exposition Dec. 19-Jan. 17 weekdays 10 a.m.-noon and 5-7 p.m., Sunday and holidays 10 a.m.-noon and 3-8 p.m.; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. In Thiene, Villa Fabris, about 18 miles north of Vicenza. Free entrance.

■ Live Nativity scene Dec. 24, 5:30-8 p.m., in Schio, Via Almerigo da Schio 8, 16 miles northwest of Vicenza. Christmas songs and mulled wine for everyone.

■ New Year's Celebration Dec. 31 in Vicenza, Piazza dei Signori. It starts at 10 p.m. Music, dances and more.

■ Christmas in Verona, about 38 miles west of Vicenza.

## Free concerts

Gospel singer in Concert, Saturday, 9 p.m., in Vicenza, Auditorium Canneti, Via Levà degli Angeli.

Christmas concert, Saturday, 9 p.m., in Vicenza, San Paolo Church, Via Carducci, 13.

Christmas concert, Saturday, 8:30 p.m., in Magrè (Schio), S. Leonzio and Carpofofo Church, Piazza Cesare Battisti, about 16 miles northwest of Vicenza.

Holiday Hand bell concert, Saturday, 8:45 p.m., in Vicenza, S. Antonio Church, Via Prandina, 8.

Explore the sky, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., in Arcugnano, Astronomical Observatory, Via S. Giustina, 127 - about five miles south of Vicenza. View the sky and the planets in great detail with the observatory's telescope.

Gospel Concert, Saturday, Saturday, 9 p.m., in Torri di Quartesolo, Sports Center, Via

Aldo Moro, about 4 miles southeast of Vicenza.

Christmas Concert, Dec. 27, 6 p.m., in Schio, Giavenale Church, Piazza Servi di Maria 1, about 16 miles northwest of Vicenza.

Christmas Concert, Dec. 29, 8:30 p.m., in Torri di Arcugnano, Sports Center, Via Padre Maruzzo, about 5 miles south of Vicenza. The concert is presented by the Corale dei Berici, El Soco and the Accademia del Secolo XXI from Legnano.

New Year's Concert, Dec. 31, 10 p.m., in Vicenza, Piazza dei Signori.

New Year's Concert, Jan. 1, 5 p.m., in Vicenza, Chiesa di San Pietro, Stradella San Pietro.

## Outdoor Recreation

Cortina Ski/Snowboard day trip Saturday; Nice, France, day trip Saturday-Sunday; and Florence at Christmastime Wednesday.

Obereggen Ski/Snowboard Dec. 26; Asiago and hot chocolate Dec. 27; and Winter in Gardaland Dec. 30. Includes entrance ticket.

BOSS members-only ski and snowboard trips begin Saturday.

Call ODR for more information at 634-7453, or visit [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com)

## Paid concerts

**Anthony Morgan's Inspirational Choir of Harlem** Dec. 23, in Milan, Teatro Smeraldo.

**Stryper** Jan. 19 in Milan, Alcatraz.

**Michael Bolton** Jan. 20 in Milan, Arcimboldi Theater; Jan. 23 in Mantova, Palabam.

**Europe** Jan. 26 in Milan, Alcatraz; Jan. 28 in Rome, Atlantico; Jan. 29 in Nonantola (Modena), Vox Club; Jan. 30 in Padova, Gran Teatro.

Tickets available at Media World in the Palladio Shopping Center, online at [http://www.greenticket.it/index.html?imposta\\_lingua=ing](http://www.greenticket.it/index.html?imposta_lingua=ing) or <http://www.ticketone.it/EN/>.

## Now Showing



Ederle Theater		
Thursday	Jennifer's Body (R)	6 p.m.
Friday	Couples Retreat (PG-13)	6 p.m.
	Pandorum (R)	9 p.m.
Saturday	The Princess and the Frog (G)	3 p.m.
	Invictus (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Sunday	The Princess and the Frog (G)	3 p.m.
	Invictus (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Wed.	Couples Retreat (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 24	Cloudy with a chance of Meatballs (PG)	6 p.m.
Camp Darby Theater		
Friday	Pandorum (R)	6 p.m.
Saturday	Couples Retreat (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Sunday	Old Dogs (PG)	1 p.m.
Dec. 24	The Blind Side (PG-13)	6 p.m.

**Admission: Age 12 and over \$4, under age 12, \$2. The Ederle theater box office opens one hour prior to show.**

Looking for the movie synopsis? Visit [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Movie Schedule.

**Looking to buy or sell items? Check out MWR's Marketplace at [www.mwrmarketplace.com](http://www.mwrmarketplace.com).**

## Vicenza Chapel holiday schedule

**Dec. 24**

3:30 p.m.: Catholic children's Christmas pageant

4 p.m.: Catholic family mass

5:45 p.m.: Lutheran service

7:30 p.m.: Protestant candle-light service

Midnight: Catholic midnight mass

**Dec. 25 - 10 a.m.:** Catholic mass

**Dec. 31**

5:30 p.m.: Catholic New Year's Eve mass

11:45 p.m.: Gospel watch night service

## Holiday closures

**Health Center:** The Vicenza Army Health Center will have the following hours of operation during the holiday's: Closed Friday for safety stand down and holiday party; Open Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Closed Dec. 24 - 27 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 2. Please call DSN 634-7952 or 0444-71-7952 for more information.

**DFMWR:** Visit [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com) for an extensive list of holiday hours.

**DPW:** Offices, to include housing, will be closed noon-5 p.m. Friday for a holiday luncheon. Personnel will be on call for emergencies at 634-7491. Normal operations will resume Dec. 21.

**DES:** Offices, to include vehicle registration, pass and badge will be closed Friday from noon- 5 p.m. Please call the MP desk for emergency assistance at 634-7626 or 0444-71-7626.

## AAFES hours to change

Beginning Jan. 1, AAFES will reduce their hours of service for most facilities. Hours are:

Post Exchange Main Store - 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday -Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday  
Shoppette - 6 a.m.- midnight Monday- Sunday

Villaggio Shoppette - 11 a.m. -7 p.m. Monday -Sunday (no change)

See signs at PX or check with individual concessionaires for other changes to hours.

## Spouses appreciation gift wrapping session

Learn how to wrap gifts and enjoy wrapping your gifts with other spouses. Healthy snacks will be provided and supervised children welcome. Join us Friday at the arts center, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free. Call 634-7074 for more information.

## MOMS Club events

■ Friday: MOMS Night Out 7 p.m.

■ Monday: Monthly Meeting/Holiday Celebration 10 a.m.

■ Tuesday: Toddler Playgroup 10 a.m.

■ Dec. 30: Pre-school Playgroup 10 a.m. *Note earlier time.*

For more information, visit [momsclubofvicenza@yahoo.com](mailto:momsclubofvicenza@yahoo.com).

## CYS Services

**Art Exhibit:** Vote for your favorite artwork at the Boys & Girls Club of America National Fine Art Exhibit from now to Jan. 1. Support Vicenza's youth by

stopping by the post library and casting your vote.

**Saturday childcare:** There is Saturday care available through Child Development Center Bldg. 395 Jan. 9 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Space is limited. Reservations can be made two weeks in advance at 634-7559.

**Parents' Night Out** on Jan. 15. Sign up for CDC care from Dec.28 - January 8. Space is limited. Call 634-7219.

## School winter break

**Winter break:** Winter break for the Vicenza schools will be Monday - Jan. 1, starting back on Jan. 4 with a "Gold" day: periods 5-seminar.

## Power outage

There will be a power outage on Caserma Ederle Dec. 22-23 from 11 p.m.-3 a.m. This outage is to connect the second loop of electrical service to the new Enhanced Health Services Center.

## Italian classes

USO Vicenza is offering Italian Language Level I courses. No previous knowledge of Italian is required. Classes are Jan. 25 - March 21 every Monday & Wednesday from 5: 45 - 7:45 p.m. Cost for the course is \$138, payable in cash only. The book will be sold the first day of class for 11 euro.

See Gigi or Torie at the USO to sign up. Space is limited. For more information, call DSN 634-7156, CIV: 0444-71-7156, or e-mail: [tgotaas@uso.org](mailto:tgotaas@uso.org).

## Arena happenings

**Wild West/Country Music and Dance Night,** Friday at 8 p.m. in the Lions' Den. Hosted by DJ Adrian. Come try out our new dance floor! Call the Arena, 634-8257.

**Deployment \$\$ Daze:** Bowling Sunday Specials at the Arena; \$1 bowling games and \$1 shoe rental, every Sunday until the end of the year, from 1 p.m. to close.

**New Year's Eve Family Cosmic Bowling** Dec. 31 from 5 - 8 p.m. The package costs \$49.95 for three hours of bowling, shoe rental, a pitcher of soda, a large cheese pizza, party favors and an apple cider toast.

**Adults only New Year's Eve Cosmic Bowling** Dec. 31 from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. The package costs \$59.95 per lane for as many as six people per lane. The price includes four hours of bowling, shoe rental, a pitcher of soda, a large cheese pizza, party favors and a champagne toast.

**Adults only New Year's Eve dance party** from 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. in the Lions' Den. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and are on sale now. Dance

## Community Calendar Highlights

### Check holiday hours

**Today:** Quarterly Awards Ceremony in the post theater  
**Dec. 21-Jan. 1-** Winter break for schools

**Dec. 24:** Training holiday

**Dec. 31:** Training holiday

**Jan. 1:** AAFES hours change

to R&B with a DJ, enjoy a small food buffet, party favors and a toast at midnight. Space is limited to 200 people.

**New Year's Day Football** on the Lions' Den big screens from 5 p.m. - midnight and enjoy food and drink specials. Call the Arena at 634-8257 with any questions.

## Army Community Service events

**Army Family Action Plan** is looking for delegates for the 2010 USAG Vicenza AFAP Conference Jan. 12-14. AFAP is a grass roots process that gives the community an opportunity to voice concerns that affect the quality of life in Vicenza and the Army.

As a delegate, you will have the opportunity to process issues submitted locally. You may also have the opportunity to assist in the processing of issues at the regional and Department of the Army levels. Free childcare, snacks and lunch provided. If interested, please contact ACS at 634-7500.

**New Parent Support Group:** ACS will host a playgroup Wednesday and Dec. 30 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Youth Services Bldg on Villaggio.

**Infant Massage:** ACS will host infant massage Friday from 10-11:30 a.m. Learn how to soothe a cranky baby and create a closer bond. Reservation required.

**Communication during Deployment:** A class focused on strategies that help couples keep the lines of communication open despite distance and technological challenges will be held Friday at 11:30 a.m. in ACS.

**EFMP Bowling:** The Exceptional Family Member Program invites EFMP members to come bowl for an hour at a discounted price on Monday at 3 p.m. in the Arena. The price includes shoe rental.

**EFMP Roundtable:** The EFMP Roundtable will be held Tuesday at

11 a.m. in ACS. At each gathering, a recipe will be prepared and shared with the group. Be prepared to laugh, talk and eat.

**Playgroup:** The New Parent Support Group hosts a playgroup Wednesday and Dec. 30 at the Youth Services Building at Villaggio from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Enjoy this wonderful opportunity for children to interact with others their age and bring parents together.

**Financial Readiness:** Learn the difference between good and bad credit on at 9 a.m. Tuesday with Financial Readiness at ACS. This workshop teaches how to use credit wisely.

**Debt Management:** Learn debt management Dec. 29 at 9 a.m. at ACS. Learn how to build wealth by liquidating your debt to your best advantage.

## Illinois voter registration deadline

The Illinois State Primary will be held Feb. 2. Non-registered voters must register by Tuesday to be eligible to vote. Register at the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). For more information, call 634-7899.

## Library events

**Holiday Bake-Off:** Celebrate the season Wednesday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, enter the holiday bake off, or vote for the winners.

**Story Time:** Pre-School Story Time is taking a break. It will begin again Jan. 6 at 11 a.m.

## Adult Eagles needed

Several local Boy Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle and would like for adult Eagles to participate in their upcoming Court of Honor, as well as possibly serve on an Eagle board of review.

Contact BSA Troop 295 Scoutmaster Chuck Calabrese at [scoutmasterbsatroop295@gmail.com](mailto:scoutmasterbsatroop295@gmail.com) or 328 344 9570.



Courtesy photo

**USO Thanksgiving:** Chief Warrant Officer Jim Holderby, U.S. Army Africa G3, serves Sgt. Timothy Donovan, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, a serving of ham at the Thanksgiving Day celebration at the USO. A group of 25 volunteers prepared the dinner.

## Religious activities

### Chaplain Crisis Line

To speak with a chaplain after hours call **634-KARE** (634-5273).

### Sunday services

8 a.m.: Sacrament of Reconciliation, or by appointment

9 a.m.: Roman Catholic Mass

(Daily Mass is held weekdays at noon)

9 a.m.: Protestant Sunday school and AWANAs (September through May in Vicenza High School)

10:45 a.m.: Catholic religious education (Sept.-May in Vicenza High School)

11 a.m.: Protestant worship

1:30 p.m.: Full Gospel Pentecostal worship

4 p.m.: Lutheran worship

6 p.m.: Contemporary Christian service

### Mondays

Noon: LDS scripture study

### Tuesdays

9:15 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

### Wednesdays

3 p.m.: Praise Dance practice

3:30 p.m.: Middle School Club Beyond meets in VHS cafeteria September-May

5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice

5:30 p.m.: PWOC evening Bible study (beginning Sept. 8. Child care offered for children ages 6 weeks to 4 years)

5:30 p.m.: High School Club Beyond meets at the Teen Center September-May. Call 340-139-4073.

5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice

6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

### Thursdays

9:30 a.m.: Catholic Women of the Chapel

5:30 p.m.: Gospel service choir rehearsal

7:15 p.m.: Gospel service Bible study

### Faith group contacts

**Islamic:** Spc. Kasimov, 329-034-3511.

**Jewish:** Sandy Schoenberg at 634-6202 or [sandy.schoenberg@eur.army.mil](mailto:sandy.schoenberg@eur.army.mil).

**Latter Day Saints:** Scripture study is held each Monday, noon-1 p.m. at the chapel. Sunday services, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. downtown. Call Sean Peterson at 335-821-9492.

Call the Caserma Ederle chapel at 634-7519 (0444-71-7519) for religious activities.

**DON'T BE LATE: E-mail briefs to [editor@eur.army.mil](mailto:editor@eur.army.mil) noon Monday or by Friday at 4 p.m. if Monday is a holiday.**

James Jones, 12, swims in the freestyle race during the Mako Sharks' first home meet Sunday at the town pool in Vicenza. The team placed second overall and scored more than 400 points, the team's best showing so far.



Photos by Anna Calabrese

## Mako Sharks dive into first home meet

By CINDI UNGER  
Special to the Outlook

The Vicenza Mako Sharks hosted their first home meet Sunday at the Vicenza town pool, placing second overall



Maj. Gen. William B. Garrett presents a yellow rose to Michelle Hughes, swim coach, Sunday at the Mako Sharks' meet in Vicenza. The U.S. Army Africa commander wanted to recognize volunteers and family members whose spouses are deployed.

and scoring more than 400 points for the first time.

As swimmers from Vicenza, Aviano, Naples and Sigonella prepared to race, Maj. Gen. William B. Garrett, U.S. Army Africa commander, thanked everyone for participating. He also presented a yellow rose to the parents and volunteers whose spouses are deployed, in recognition of their continued support.

"At the end of the day, it all comes down to recognizing the efforts and personal triumphs of our community children and the accomplishments they make, individually and as a team," said Justine Aubrey, head coach.

Kyla Hallam, 10, qualified in the 100 individual medley, 50 freestyle and 50 breast-

stroke.

Several swimmers scored personal bests. Jessica Klinkam, 9, and Ian Christie, 10, both cut seconds off their times and placed for the first time this season, Christie taking blue ribbons in the 100 freestyle and 200 relay.

The Sharks also competed Saturday in Aviano where they placed 3rd.

"These children have worked so hard," said Sandy Segura, volunteer statistician for the swim team. "I'm so proud of them, really proud."

The Mako Sharks will now prep for the Southern Divisional Championships in Sigonella in January, and the European Championships in the Netherlands in February.

"We could not have done this without the help of the parents and coaches," said coach Michelle Hughes.

Visit [www.makosharks.homestead.com](http://www.makosharks.homestead.com) for more information.

### Calling college football fans

Enter the College Bowl Games Contest 2009-2010 with Sports, Fitness & Aquatics. Pick a team and predict the winner. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place correct entries. Adults only. Turn in free entry form by Friday to the Fitness Center. Call 634-7009 for information.

### Many more youth basketball coaches needed

The Child, Youth and School Service program needs several volunteers to coach youth basketball or many Vicenza children will be turned away from playing this season.

There are many children registered but not enough coaches to place them. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Alex Ruiz at CYSS Sports & Fitness, DSN 634-6151, 0444-71-6151 or by email at [alex.ruiz5@eur.army.mil](mailto:alex.ruiz5@eur.army.mil).

### VMHS winter sports schedule

Jan. 16: 10 a.m. at the post gym

#### Basketball: boys and girls

Jan. 22, vs Naples at 5:30 p.m. at the post gym

Jan. 23, vs Naples at 10 a.m. at the post gym

The cheerleaders and the step team will perform.

#### Rifle team: away matches

Jan. 9: at Vilsek

Jan. 23: at Ansbach

### Youth ski/snowboard days return Saturday

Day trips include San Martino, Folgaria, and Kron Platz. Maximum of 20 spots available per trip. Call 634-7659 to register for grades 6-12.

Overnight trips include Garmisch Dec. 29-31 and Feb. 19-21 for youth in grades 7-12.

### Become a CYSS basketball or cheerleading coach

Attend a coaches clinic to earn certification Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon. Call 634-6151 to register or for more information.

### Wellness center classes

Jan. 14: Principles of Strength Training, 10-11:30 a.m.

Jan. 20: Stress Relief for a Healthy Lifestyle, 9-10:30 a.m.

### 3-part course schedule

Jan 14: Part 1, The Diet noon-1:30 p.m.

Jan. 21: Part 2, Supplements Q&A, noon-1:30 p.m.

Jan. 28: Part 3, Commissary tour, noon-1:30 p.m.

Space is limited. Call 634-8186 or 0444-71-8186 to register. Classes are free and open to the entire community.



Photo by Viki Frey

Kyle Kaus pins his Aviano opponent Dec. 12 at a meet in Aviano.

## Cougars wrestle in Aviano, Naples

By BESS WILLS  
Special to the Outlook

The Vicenza Middle/High School wrestling team brought home wins in both Aviano and Naples Dec. 12 and 13. They scored 14 team points in Naples and 42 team points in Aviano.

In first place in their weight classes were Kyle Kaus, 2009-10 record 3-0, and Wyatt Overman, 2009-10 record 4-0.

In third place in their weight classes were Jeremy Huller, 2009-10 record 2-4, and Kyle Leanheart, 2009-10 record 2-2.

Jeremy Huller became the high school Wrestler of the Week, and Richard Handran earned middle school Wrestler of the Week.

The first home meet is set for Jan. 16.



Photo by Laura Kreider

**Bon voyage:** Michael Weston (left) is ready to receive the ball during the Vicenza High School basketball game played against the American Overseas School of Rome Saturday. VHS defeated AOSR 77-48. This was Weston's last game before departing for the United States Sunday. He will be attending Rogers High School in Puyallup, Wash., with the hope that he will have a better chance of getting noticed by U.S. colleges. "My dream is to be able to one day play college basketball in the U.S.," said Weston. Weston began playing basketball at 5, both with the Youth Services in Verona and Vicenza, as well as local Italian teams. In Vicenza, he played with the Bantam League and was varsity as freshman and sophomore at Vicenza High School.



Photo by Laura Kreider

## One more game:

Spc. Ben Cardoza, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment (right), runs with his blocker as he makes the last touchdown during a friendly game played at the North 40 Dec. 11. The A Company Soldiers got together for the football game the day before they deployed to Afghanistan.