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1-503rd loses two Soldiers in IED attack

CASERMA EDERLE, Vicenza Italy – Two Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, currently deployed as Task Force Bayonet in support of the NATO International Security Assistance Force, were killed near Forward Operating Base Curry, Paktika Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 12.

Killed were Staff Sgt. Michael

Gabel, 30, of Crowley, LA., and Cpl. Joshua C. Blaney, 25, of Matthews, N.C.

The two Soldiers, assigned to D-Co., 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, died of wounds sustained in an IED blast in Eastern Afghanistan.

A memorial ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the Caserma Ederle post chapel.



Staff Sgt. Michael J. Gabel



Cpl. Joshua C. Blaney

One Soldier's view

Afghanistan, its people, our Soldiers

AFGHANISTAN—Spc. Micah E. Clare, an Army journalist from the 82nd Airborne Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, spent some time with the Soldiers of the 1-503rd Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Paktika Province.

We present his photos and personal observations on the Soldiers and the people of Afghanistan in a special photo feature on pages 6-7 of this issue.



A medic from 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, watches as supplies dropped from an aircraft fall to the ground in Paktika Province, Afghanistan. The bundles contain humanitarian aid that will be passed out to the people of Charbaran, an area in eastern Paktika. (Photo by Spc. Micah E. Clare, 4th Brigade Combat Team PAO, 82nd Airborne Division)



Ring in holidays

Members of the SETAF Chorus, (L-R) Sgt. 1st. Class Beulah Patterson, Sgt. Lucky Tagaloa and Spc. Lashawndra Madison provided a musical interlude to the annual holiday reception held by Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, Southern European Task Force commander Friday. The reception is held each year as a thank you to friends of the Caserma Ederle community including local Italian and American military and civilian personnel. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th Army JMTC-TASE)

Emily Wooldridge gazes at the Camp Darby Christmas tree with her father, Senior Airman Joseph Wooldridge. The 30-foot tree was donated by the Pistoia Province President Gianfranco Venturi. The province has donated a tree to Camp Darby for the last seven years. (Photo by Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)



Ederle shares family readiness expertise with Alpini

Story by Jon Fleshman
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

CASERMA EDERLE, Vicenza—When the 2nd Alpini Regiment asked for an experienced guest speaker at its first family support group seminar the Vicenza Military Community sent one of its best to Cuneo this month.

Rita Bonamego of the Caserma Ederle Soldier and Family Assistance Center briefed, in Italian, Alpini commanders, Soldiers of all ranks and their spouses on the business and benefits of providing family readiness support to deploying units.

"She gave us incredible ideas and motivation and she did it in a calm, reassuring manner," said Cate Risi, wife of Col. Michele Risi, commander of the 2nd Alpini

Regiment, Taurinense Brigade of the Italian Alpini Corps. "She really connected to the wives and everybody wanted to talk to her afterward."

Bonamego, who has deployed six times herself and has almost three decades of experience between the American Red Cross and the U.S. government, explained to her hosts the variety of services and agencies the Army has in place to empower families to live successfully and allow Soldiers to focus on the mission.

"I suggested they try to build on Colonel Risi's efforts to establish civilian support for previously identified needs, such as childcare, by mobilizing additional community resources to assist the families for any unforeseen situations that might arise while the unit is deployed," Bonamego said.

She added that two members of the national Alpini association attending the briefing volunteered their association's assistance.

In addition to her discussions with the Alpini, Bonamego visited the Italian Red Cross (CRI) in Cuneo and talked about how a family assistance center works. She said the CRI agreed to assist in the setup and staffing of the regiment's family support center as part of its Cuneo operation.

Cate Risi said the 2nd Alpini Regiment is deploying to Afghanistan for the second time in two years and during its first deployment there in 2006 it lost five of its Soldiers.

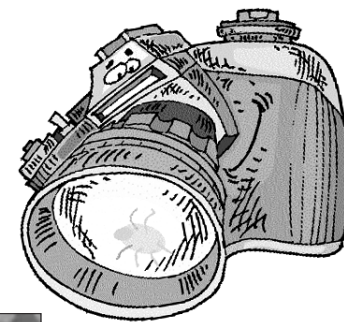
"Rita was inspirational and exactly what the families needed to hear," Cate said, and added that she hopes Bonamego can make a return visit soon.



Rita Bonamego
Deployment Mobilization
Program Director

"She gave us
incredible ideas
and motivation..."
Cate Risi

Community camera



Family members of Soldiers deployed with the 1-50r3rd Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, listen in during a video teleconference held at the brigade headquarters building. Lt. Col. Michael Fenzel and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Weik headed the conference from Afghanistan, where the unit is currently deployed. They covered topics ranging from the morale of the Soldiers to an open question and answer section. "The purpose of this meeting is to allow you to get a sense of what we are doing here in Afghanistan," said Fenzel. The conference also included a chance to see the "First Rock" Soldiers in action with a compilation slideshow of their progress so far. (Photo by Sgt. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)



(Above) Steven Vetarbo, second violin, performs the *Concerto No. 2, 3rd Movement* by Friedrich Seitz during the event. The Winter Concert featured the Beginning Band, the Concert Band, the String Ensemble, and the High School Chorus directed by Geri Shimabukuro, VHS Music director. Also participating at the beginning of the event, was the Vicenza Elementary School second, third and fourth grade partial immersion classes and third grade class.

(Below) Rosie Malone, left, and Bizzy Buffington sing *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!* by lyricist Sammy Cahn and composer Jule Styne during the Winter Concert at the VHS gym Dec. 12. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff).



(Above) Francesca Ruta, of Vicenza's District 1, lays a bouquet of flowers at the foot of the Fallen Warrior Memorial in recognition of all U.S. Soldiers who have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom around the world, as Col. Salvatore Bordonaro, Italian base commander, salutes. (Photo by Spc. Kathryn Jorgenson, SETAF Public Affairs).



(Above) Students from the Vicenza All Stars Boys and Girls Honors Choir, consisting of fourth through sixth graders, in addition to kindergarten students from Vicenza Elementary School perform at a Christmas concert called "A Holiday Portrait" Dec. 12 at the post theater. The students sang a variety of holiday music, danced and acted out several skits to an almost full house. (Photo by Sgt. Maj. Kimberly Williams, SETAF Public Affairs).

Speak Out

"What is your New Year's resolution?"

By Laura Kreider



Staff Sgt. Kyle & Alissa Beyer, Co. A, 2-503rd

Our New Year's resolution is to spend more time together as a family.



Pfc. Billy Burgess

13th MP Co.
Get some college courses and work on completing my education.



Terry Forsyth

Family member
I don't make New Year's resolutions...I make resolutions every day.



Destany Schendel

Sixth grade
To be nicer to my sister and to be on the honor roll all four quarters.



Cecilia Truesdale-Little

Family member
I will try to have more patience with family, work and while I am driving.

Garrison news



Gino Orsini, Pisa Customs Simplified Procedures Program manager checks the VIN number for clearance under the simplified procedures. (Photo by Francesco Infante).

Keeping customs simple

By Francesco Infante,
839th Transportation Battalion,
Italy Detachment, Terminal
Manager

Recently, the 839th Transportation Battalion has begun the process of simplified customs clearance in Pisa (POVs & Hazardous Cargo) and the Port of Livorno (Break Bulk military vehicles). These are simplified environments where cargo is cleared in less than one hour of arrival. The customs simplified process has been afforded to U.S. Forces in Italy and allows us to move cargo expeditiously at no additional cost.

Thanks to simplified procedures a quick resolution to an unforeseen problem is always available. This avoids possible delays to cargo that may be vital to the success of a unit's mission or simply as important as finding fresh milk every day in the commissary cooler.

"No matter how technical our operations become or how wide our global missions expand, our people will continue to be our most treasured resource. Their initiative in getting this program implemented reflects greatly on their loyalty and dedication," says Lt. Col. Robert E. King, Commander of the 839th Transportation Battalion, which is headquartered in Pisa, Italy.

King adds that smooth custom clearances can only be accomplished when experience, professionalism, ability, and hard

work of the 839th Transportation Battalion personnel are joined together for the common goal of protecting the best interests of the U.S. Government while abiding by host nation rules.

This is not a small challenge. The U.S. Army's Water Terminal in Livorno, Italy, SDDC's 839th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion, has moved millions of tons of cargo since its creation back in the 50's. From supporting Allied Forces in Central Europe during and after World War II to the more contemporary SFOR/KFOR support in the Balkans Region. The biggest challenge has always been the customs clearance.

Around the world each sovereign country holds dear their customs program. The programs may differ slightly from one another but all have the same objective: The ability to control what comes in and moves out of the country while producing revenues mostly from imported goods.

Every country to a different extent applies importation monies that serve a dual purpose; Revenue and Deterrence. The latter mostly serves the purpose of protecting goods manufactured in that same country. The wealth of a nation can be seriously influenced if not enough attention is given to materials that are imported or exported. At Camp Darby, it is critical that we continue to seek ways to improve our role in customs clearance.

I can't believe I ate the whole thing

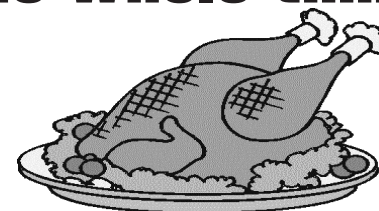
Holiday eating strategies by Barb Schneider,
RD/LD Dietitian, Vicenza Health Center

Have you ever found yourself feeling more stuffed than the Thanksgiving turkey? Are you fighting your own personal battle of the bulge?

With the holidays upon us, it's a good time to construct your holiday eating battle strategy. With all of the extra parties and celebrations, it's a good idea to plan ahead.

Don't go to a party hungry – you'll be able to keep your intake in check if you're not famished when you arrive. Remember that beverage calories count, too.

Try to choose low calorie or calorie free beverages (or at least alternate them with alcoholic or other calorie containing beverages). Scan the snacks before making your choices.



Look for low-fat options such as shrimp with cocktail sauce and fresh vegetables. Keep your party portions small. A single serving is plenty (remember, you didn't come to the event hungry).

Enjoy a sweet treat, but limit yourself to one per party or event. Exercise is another important strategy for maintaining a healthy weight.

Work some moderate exercise into your daily routine. It is a great way to burn some of those holiday calories as well as a great stress reducer. Plan ahead and win the battle of the bulge.

DFAC receives thanks from top

By Sgt. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

The South of the Alps Dining Facility received special thanks from Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, SETAF commander, for their efforts in preparing Thanksgiving dinner for Caserma Ederle during award ceremonies held Dec. 6.

During a senior leader's breakfast, Helmick presented 36 scrolls to various dining facility employees for their work on the event, which required the dining facility to be moved temporarily to Club Veneto to accommodate the crowds.

"Working long hours, this team demonstrated they are the best at what they do and would put aside everything until the job is done," said Marshall Fowler, dining facility manager.

The awards came at a time when the dining facility is undergoing major renovations.

The facility, which was temporarily only serving military members, is still on schedule to be finished in March, 2008, but Fowler decided to open it up to the whole community before completion.

"It has been challenging and at the same time, rewarding," said Fowler about opening the



(Left) Ralph Thomas, a cook at the South of the Alps dining facility, works preparing the next meal for the Soldiers and civilians on Caserma Ederle. He is one of 36 DFAC employees recently recognized by Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick, SETAF commander, for their efforts on Thanksgiving Day. (Photo by Pfc. Crystal Abbott, SETAF PAO).

incomplete facility to the community. "I knew there were a lot of things closed on the post due to renovations and such, so I thought it would be nice to have the dining facility opened up to everyone again."

The dining facility has been going steady since, serving nearly 350 people a day after reopening the doors to the whole post.

Receiving scrolls of appreciation were: Marshall Fowler, Roxana Padro, Mark Knapp, Jennifer Cruz, Marian Bass, Hidra Smadi, Eviles Aviles, Albertino Bon, Domenico

Bonaparte, Giulio Rigodanzo, Poncato Mariachiara, Ulderico Strucco, Fraiol Matteo, Wilfried Thomas, Ralph Thomas, Torten Kunze, Jurgen Gltheimer, Michelle Deutschmann, Michael Wysowski, Dan tonita Cosma, Niculae Matei, Bernard Wackerroth, Roberto Cattaneo, Antonella Mengato, Donata Bortoli, Fosca Rossignoli, Luise Segnini, Massimiliano Titi, Massimo Vezzano, Maurizio Rovrena, Monia Pizzato, Robert Reed, Vincenzo Esposito, Anna Albanese, Angela Sartori, and Christian Segnini.

Call us, we can help



USAG Vicenza Army Substance Abuse Program counselors (L-R) Bern Vetter, Charlie Fields and Barbara Wegener

The USAG Vicenza Army Substance Abuse Program is staffed by licensed specialists and provides comprehensive drug and alcohol abuse programs. Services are targeted toward the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse, the early identification of abusers, assessment, rehabilitation, and treatment of identified abusers, to include referral to medical treatment facilities detoxification and inpatient residential treatments. Another program of ASAP is the Employee Assistance Program, which provides counseling to all U.S. employees and family members. EAP addresses all adult living concerns to include marital and parenting issues, elder care, stress, as well as alcohol or drug problems. ASAP counselors may be reached at 634-7554, or 0444-71-7554.

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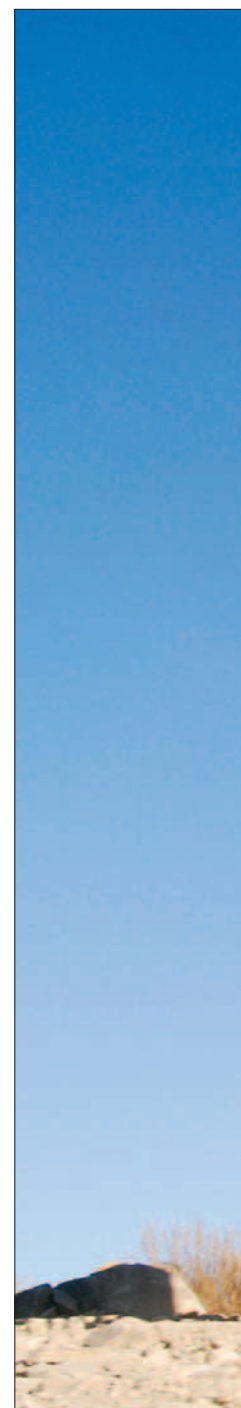
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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Circulation is 3,000 per week.

One Soldier's view of Afghanistan

(Right) At a Khost city girls school opening, this girl wouldn't stop peeking back to look at us. While the women seemed very interested in what provincial governor Arsalala Jamal had to say about the merits of education for girls, I got the feeling the girls were bored out of their minds. It was quite a sight though, a bunch of giggly, whispering girls fiddling around during the speech and their mothers on hand telling them to quiet down. Children are children, no matter where you go.

(Below) A paratrooper from 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, perches on a ridge for a better view of the surround area in the mountains of Paktika Province, Afghanistan.



(Above) While the 1-503rd is too big for the young girls, it is a common site in Afghanistan.



(Above) Of the many ethnicities in Afghanistan, perhaps the most striking are the Uzbeks. Having migrated into Afghanistan from northern Uzbekistan, they have earned a reputation for being fiercely formidable fighters. I've heard an old saying among other Afghans about them: "The anger of the enemy is the mercy of the Uzbek." Needless to say, they make great additions to the ranks of the Afghan National Army. Also adding to the nation's cultural richness is their own twist to typical middle-eastern music – a pulsing, electronic-sounding ballad – as opposed to the more acoustic, traditionally-sung Pashtu songs. These tunes can be heard everywhere the ANA are, from either their truck radios or on wind up portable radios.

Photo feature by Spc. Micah E. Clare
4th Brigade Combat Team
82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs

PATKITA PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN—Grayish, six-inch deep, powdered dust. Bleak, jagged, rocky mountains. Treacherous, narrow, and very steep "roads" leading up to majestic plateaus overlooking vast deserts.

"This must be what the moon looks like, except people live here," I think to myself when I'm traveling through Afghanistan's volatile Paktika Province, home to the paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

I'm Spc. Micah E. Clare, an Army journalist from the 82nd Airborne Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team, who ventures out every so often from the safe confines of Forward Operating Base Salerno in the nearby and relatively secure Khost Province.

Once I get among the brave "1st Rock" paratroopers in Paktika though, all I hear are stories of intensely-terrifying rocket attacks, mass charges of Taliban insurgent fighters, overwhelming roadside ambushes, and weeks on end spent defending remote combat outposts.

Their dedication in keeping the people of Afghanistan free from the tyranny of the worst kind – a reign of fear at the hands of the Taliban – never ceases to amaze me.

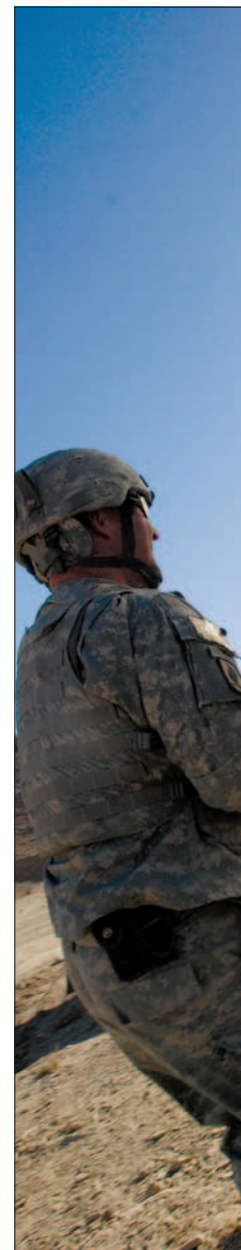
"Do these Afghans care, or even understand what we're doing for them," I've asked myself many times. "Do they understand we're taking the brunt of the enemy's fight against freedom?"

Not always, I'm sure.

But everywhere I go, people are free like never before. Men dance at public meetings and boys laugh and play as they fly kites. Women show their faces in public and girls attend school, all of which were banned from this country less than 10 years ago.

The Taliban are being defeated at every turn, but it wouldn't be that way without the brave men and women who say goodbye to their homes, family, and friends, to come to this country and do their best to make it happen.

I hope my images convey to those left behind what their best efforts are accomplishing.



Afghanistan, its people, our Soldiers



While the 1-503d were guarding a new district center construction site in Paktika province, I woke up one morning to see two boys playing near our circle of Humvees. Their bikes were far from new, but they were having loads of fun running up a steep hill and coasting down on them again. The bikes also have lots of flowery decorations and metal bells, another tradition in Afghanistan. When a truck, tractor, bike, or even camel, is decorated with such décor, they're dubbed as being "jingled." Afghans seem to jingle anything that has moving parts.



(Above) During a humanitarian aid drop in Ghazni Province, several local townspeople came out to help unload the trucks laden with flour, beans and clothes. They formed a chain and tossed the bags from person-to-person. During all of this, most of the bags leaked flour and beans which flew over everyone. (Left) Sgt. Mike Fogleman, a mortar team squad leader from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-503d, 173rd ABCT, struggles to keep a parachute from blowing away after it was detached from the supplies it carried to the ground in Paktika province.

Out & About

By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Seasonal events in Vicenza

A living nativity, *Il presepe vivente*, can be seen on Dec. 22 starting at 5 p.m. The procession starts from the St. Michele church located near the main square downtown, goes down Corso Palladio, Piazza Castello and Contra' Vescovado. If inclement weather see the 'nativity scene' at the same time on Dec. 23.

An unforgettable gospel night, *memorable notte gospel*, Dec. 22 in the Auditorium Canneti with the Tribu' Gospel Singers at 8:45 p.m.;

Rides with Santa Claus, *Babbo Natale*, in the town center starting from Piazza S. Lorenzo from 3 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 26.

New Year's Eve celebrations in the main squares downtown starting at 10:30 p.m.;

In Piazza Castello at 4 p.m. on Jan. 5 the Nicola Ferrarin Quartet will play swing, jazz and blues.

Markets

Vicenza: In Giardini Salvi until Dec. 24 stalls open on weekdays from 3-8 p.m., weekends 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Also find an ice-skating rink set up open weekdays 3 p.m.-midnight; weekends 10 a.m.-midnight until Jan. 10, cost 8 euro which includes the rental of skates;

Christmas market in the main squares Dec. 22-24; craft market in Piazza Castello through Dec. 24; the Epiphany market Jan. 4-6 in the main squares;

Verona: Medieval market in Piazza delle Erbe, with vendors in medieval costume Jan. 5-6.

Montegalda: Christmas market Dec. 22-23 open 2:30-8 p.m., Dec. 24 2:30-7 p.m.;

Schio: Christmas market Dec. 22-23 also find rides and activities for children;

Lonigo: Christmas village and market in Piazza Garibaldi through Dec. 24; also find an ice rink open through Jan. 20 from 10 a.m.-midnight each day;

Venice: In Campo Santo Stefano find 30 vendors selling their Christmas wares. Open everyday from 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. until Dec. 23.

Asiago: Christmas market located in the park downtown in some small wooden chalets. Vendors sell local products including Christmas sweets, decorations, candles and many gifts ideas. At some food stands it is also possible to taste *vin brule'*, spicy wine, and pastry. Open until Jan. 6 from 10 a.m.-12:30 and 3:30-7:30 p.m.

In the square, *Piazza Carli*, it is

also possible to visit the little house of Santa Claus.

Website: www.asiago.to (only in Italian)

Ice rink in the *Stadio del Ghiaccio* open daily from 10 a.m.-noon. On Tuesday-Thursday also open in the afternoon from 3:30-5 p.m. On Saturday open from 10 a.m.-noon, 3:30-5:30 p.m., and 9-11 p.m. (only when the local hockey team does not play). On Sunday, open from 10 a.m.-noon, 3-6 p.m.

Entrance fee 4.50 euro, possibility to rent skates: 3.50 euro; discount for families (at least four people) and groups (at least 15 people).

Bassano: Christmas market, find over 40 chalets between Piazza Garibaldi and Piazzotto Montevicchio open everyday from 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. closed on Monday mornings until Dec. 24; also find a train for the young and old alike to take a ride around the city center on Dec. 22 and 23; in Piazza Libertà' enjoy an antique roundabout.

Bussolengo: Christmas village open everyday 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. closed the mornings of Dec. 3, 10, 17 to open at 3 p.m. Closed all day Dec. 25.

Adopt a UNICEF doll

The doll Pigotta, hand made by volunteers and sponsored by UNICEF, can be found in Vicenza at the UNICEF office, 10 Via Torretti.

Adopting a Pigotta can help UNICEF supply a child of Guinea Bissau, amongst other items: vaccinations, vitamin A, antibiotics and mosquito nets. The cost of a doll is a minimum of 20 euro.

The office is open Dec. 22 and 29 from 10 a.m.-noon; Dec. 23: 3-7 p.m.; Dec. 24: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. and every Tuesday from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Christmas cakes in Italy

You will find the food stores in Italy full of Christmas cakes, nowadays found with chocolate, lemon, orange or some other fruit filling. But the traditional Italian usually chooses from two different varieties of traditional Christmas cakes, which, to a casual observer, might seem quite similar.

The more famous of the two is *panettone*, though the other type, *pandoro*, is catching up in fame. The basic ingredients used in the cakes are similar: they are both made with flour, eggs, yeast, sugar, and lots of butter.

However, *panettone* comes crammed with candide zest and

plump sultanas and is covered by a distinct crust, the spongier *pandoro*, golden bread, is lighter, paler in color, more delicate and, with its heavy mantle of confectioners' sugar, sweeter.

From a historical point of view, the only thing that is known for a fact about *pandoro* is that it was developed by master pastry chefs in Verona at the end of the 19th century, under the influence of Viennese bakers, and is still associated mainly with that city.

On the other hand, *panettone* is of Milanese origin, and there are several theories as to how it developed and got its name.

One of the most popular legends is that it was invented by a baker called Antonio, who worked at the court of the Sforza family. He saved the day at an important banquet when the chef burnt the main dessert and he produced his offering made with the leftover dough.

The guests loved it and it was promptly christened *Pan di Toni*, 'Tony's bread'.

Both cakes should be brought up to room temperature before serving to allow that full flavor of the buttery dough to develop; both can be served with a glass of Italian Spumante.

So, whichever one you choose, tuck in and enjoy a taste of Italian Christmas.

Midnight mass

Every Christmas Eve, the Pope gives Midnight Mass in St. Peter's Square.

The Christmas Eve speech is broadcast in over 40 countries and prayers given in a variety of languages during the service, including Swahili. Naturally the service will be shown on Italian TV.

If you decide to visit Rome during the festive season be sure to visit St. Peter's Square in the run-up to the event, where an enormous nativity scene crowned by a towering Christmas tree brings the occasion to the streets.

In imitation of the Three Wise Men, Italians donate a bizarre assortment of gifts to the manger scene - from homeless peoples' sleeping bags to football team shirts for the Virgin Child.

New Year's Eve and Epiphany

In Italy at midnight on Dec. 31 there are substantial public fireworks put on by most communities just like everywhere else in the world. Plus most ordinary Italians from the North to the South

will be setting off an abundance of sparklers, firecrackers, cherry bombs which are ready available from all stores.

The cities of Rome, Milan, Bologna, Palermo and Naples put on huge outdoor events with pop and rock bands that attract thousands of revelers and are televised on the national channels.

In downtown Vicenza the festivities will be held in some of the main squares, starting at 10:30 p.m., in past years fireworks, at the stroke of midnight have been set off on Mount Berico.

An old custom that still takes place in the South of Italy is to throw old things out of the window, plates, glasses, furniture, anything that is

of no use anymore.

The significance is the readiness to accept the New Year, so if you are in that part of Italy watch where you park your car and if you are caught in the streets run for cover at the stroke of midnight. Special care should also be given to your pets, make sure they are indoors the evening of Dec. 31.

On Jan. 6, which is an Italian holiday, is the Feast of the Epiphany where in Italy an old 'good' witch called the Befana visits, and for those who believe, children leave socks out on the eve of that day in anticipation of her goodies, and not only, for several, it is not a surprise to find a lump of coal for those who have been a little naughty.



A lighted Christmas tree stands in the *Piazza Carli*, in downtown Asiago, near the *Municipio*, the Town Hall. The building was completely destroyed during World War I. In 1927 the clock was installed in the rebuilt tower along with a 1,600 kilogram (more than 3,500 pounds) bronze bell. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Dec. 19	The Heartbreak Kid (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 20	We Own the Night (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 21	Why Did I Get Married (PG-13)	6 p.m.
	I am Legend (PG-13) (1st Run)	9 p.m.
Dec. 22	Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)(1st Run)	3 p.m.
	Michael Clayton (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 23	Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)(1st Run)	3 p.m.
	Rendition (R)	6 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Dec. 20	We Own the Night (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 21	Why Did I Get Married (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 22	Rendition (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 23	This Christmas (PG) (1st Run)	2 p.m.

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

Movie Synopsis

RENDITION - Reese Witherspoon, Omar Metwally
A thriller that centers on Isabella El-Ibrahimi, the American wife of Egyptian-born chemical engineer Anwar El-Ibrahimi, who disappears on a flight from South Africa to Washington. Isabella desperately tries to track her husband down, while a CIA analyst at a secret detention facility outside the U.S. is forced to question his assignment as he becomes party to the man's unorthodox interrogation. Rated R (torture, violence, language) 122 min.

www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace

Community notes

Holiday mail dates

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages to the U.S. by Christmas, mail must be sent by the dates below:

Dec. 20-Express mail

The post office has extended holiday hours until 6 p.m. Mon-Fri.

CMR extended holiday hours

CMR annex is open for parcel pickups, Sat., Dec. 22 – Mon. Dec. 24.

Sat. Dec. 22 CMR annex open for pickups 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mon. Dec. 24, 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

This will be the last possibility to receive packages before Christmas. The 24th is a federal holiday and no mail will be received. The CMR will be opened the 26th normal hours.

U.S. Army Health Center holiday hours

Dec. 21, Friday Open 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed for the rest of the day for holiday party)

Dec. 22, Saturday Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dec. 23, Sunday, Closed

Dec. 24, Monday, Closed (USAREUR Training Holiday)

Dec. 25, Tuesday, Closed (Christmas Day)

Dec. 26-30, Wed-Sun, Normal duty hours.

Dec. 31, Monday, Closed (USAREUR Training Holiday)

Jan. 1, Tuesday, Closed (New Year's Day)

Jan. 2, Wednesday, return to normal schedule.

For urgent concerns when the clinic for medical emergencies at any time, you may go directly to the San Bortolo Hospital Emergency Room. Call the Patient Liaisons at 0444-75-3300 or 0444-928166, DSN 634-8384.

Pregnant patients with any concerns can call the Benincaso Pavilion at 0444-71-6667 (DSN 634-6667).

For an ambulance call 0444-71-7114 from off-post, or 114 from any DSN phone on post

For further information call the clinic patient advocate at 634-7952 (commercial 0444-71-7952), or e-mail VZHCPatRep@amedd.army.mil.

Vicenza Commissary holiday hours:

Mon. Dec. 24 – Store Open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tue. Dec. 25 – closed

Wed. Dec. 26 – 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Mon. Dec. 31 – 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tue. Jan. 1 – closed

December MOMS Club

Everyone is invited to join in. Exercise class (bring kids) at the Post Gym 2nd Floor Dec. 21, 1:30 p.m.

For more information regarding MOMS Club and our activities please email momsclubofvicenza@yahoo or contact Deanna at 0444945105 or Amber at 3347008443.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

The PWOC invite you to join us every Tuesday morning at the Post

Chapel from 9:15 a.m.-11:30. Join in Bible study groups while enjoying the fellowship of others. Childcare provided for infants 6 weeks through age 5.

Wednesday evening study group are at the Post Chapel from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Call Antoinette Samuel asamuel.csamuel@hotmail.com for further information.

Join the Vicenza PWOC at the Post Chapel for a very special program day titled "The Light of Christmas" on Dec. 18, 9:15 a.m.-noon and Dec 19, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Pentecostal program

The Vicenza Pentecostal Full Gospel is hosting Present Your Gifts program on Dec. 20, in the post chapel at 7 p.m. It is an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the gifts and talents God has blessed us with. All are welcome to come out, enjoy, and fellowship with us.

Get Your Dance On

January evenings is the time to hit the dance floor and learn some new moves in a variety of dance styles. Soldier's Theatre leads the steps for advanced and beginners, but adults only. Cost: \$7 per class. Call Soldier's Theatre for details, 634-7281.

Benvenuti, welcome to Vicenza

Allow ACS to treat you to four days of free fun, culture, orientation and adventure—including a trip to Venice. Call ACS at 634-7500 for information and reservation.

I Love Deployment

Um, yea. About that. Truth is, you don't love deployment. It's tough. No way around that. But why go through it alone? ACS invites you to hang with others who understand the unique battle you're fighting daily on the home front. Take "The Journey Series" a free series designed to educate, build life-skills and empower your self-reliance, making the time apart go faster. Call Catherine Hurst at 634-6162 for details.

Kick off your New Year's resolutions now

Setting up a budget, managing a check-book, nailing an interview – ACS equips you with "hands on" workshops to build up those life-skills, Dec. 18-28. Get a head-start on your New Year's Resolutions, call ACS at 634-7500 for details.

Café Centrale hours change

In order to better serve the community, Café Centrale's new hours include: Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Closed Sunday.

University of Phoenix

Univ. of Phoenix is offering an onsite Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at the Vicenza Education Center starting in January 2008.

Classes will meet one evening a week at the Education Center. Registration is now open.

Additionally, the university offers continuous enrollment for MBA and Master of Arts in Education programs online.

For more information, contact Ana Laforgia in room 211 at the Education Center, call DSN 634-8928 or send an email to: Ana.Laforgia@phoenix.edu.

UMUC open for registration

UMUC registration will run till Jan. 18. Term runs from Jan. 21 to Mar. 15. Register early, before the holidays, and you won't have to worry about school till next year.

Enroll in a UMUC class today. For more information and assistance contact: Mike Leahy at the UMUC office, DSN: 634-7055, COMM: 0444-717055 or E-mail: mleahy@ed.umuc.edu.

Dental Clinic holiday hours

Closed Dec 24, 25, 31 and Jan 1
Open normal hours the rest of the days. For after hour dental emergencies contact the MP desk at DSN 634-7233 or Comm 0444-71-7233.

Rustic Weekend in Tuscany

Take advantage of where you are—Italy. That's why your friends at ITR have made all the arrangements for a full weekend, Jan. 19-21, enjoying guided tours through Florence, Uffizi Museum, Montenaro Sanctuary, Carnevale of Viareggio, and local vineyards of Tuscany.

With transportation, lodge, and tickets included in the package, it's an easy decision, don't miss this! Call ITR, 634-7163.

Job opportunities for you

Family Computer Center Coordinators needed. Two Mon.-Fri. (8 a.m.-3 p.m. & 3 p.m.-10 p.m.) and one weekend (10 a.m.-10 p.m.) shifts are available.

Necessary skillset: customer service (1 year experience), fluency in English, Basic computer and online skills (1 year experience), must be able to access Caserma Ederle. Call NAF Contracting @ DSN 634-7234 or CIV (0444) 71-4234.

The NAF office also has a variety of special vacancy positions available including: Marketing assistant (Flexible; NF-1101-3), \$21,500-\$21,500 annual; Closing date Jan. 4, 2008. Marketing assistant (Flexible; NF-1101-2) \$8.39-\$8.39 hourly. The closing date is Jan. 3, 2008.

We also have numerous open continuous positions available.

Stop by our office for an application or email us your resume to: Vicenza.NAF@EUR.army.mil.

For detailed information about these and other positions please visit our website at: <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm>, or call us at 634-7290/7349.

Our office is located across the street from Gate # 2 on Viale Della Pace. Our hours of operation are Monday-Friday 9am-4pm and closed 12-1pm and Thursday mornings.

The Art of designer shopping

ITR follows the fashion straight off the runway and into the Barberino Designer Outlet on Jan. 13. Featuring 100 European and American boutiques at prices reduced to up to 70 percent. Reserve your spot with ITR, call DSN 634-7094.

American Red Cross

Now is the time to become a certified babysitter.

In conjunction with CYS, for a limited period, the babysitter's training course will be offered for free to the youth of the Camp Ederle community. Visit our office for more details on this course and other services offered.

Tues., Jan. 8: Volunteer orientation, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 10: First Aid, 5-9 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 12: Adult, child and infant CPR, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 26: Babysitter's training, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The American Red Cross, Vicenza open: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Davis Hall Bldg 108, Room 47

For further information call DSN: 634-7089 or Comm: 0444-71-7089.

An emergency communications caseworker can be reached 24/7.

The USO is moving

The USO will be temporarily closed. The new USO will open soon in building 9A (across from the dining facility) with all new computers, wireless internet, game room, lounge and much more

Beginning Italian, Level 1: cost \$112; starts Jan. 7-Mar. 10.

Stocking Contest: pick up a free stocking from Capitol Motors, decorate it and then return it no later than Dec. 21 for a chance to win a \$50 AAFES Gift Card

Mediterranean Cooking Classes: cost \$296 for 8 sessions (ingredients included in price); starts Feb. 1-May 16.

For more information call USO Director Linda Lorenzana: 347-635-

Religious Activities

Ederle Chapel

For details call the chapel at: 634-7519 (0444-71-7519).

Weekday Mass

Mass is now held at noon Wednesday-Monday.

Saturday services

4-4:30 p.m.: Sacrament of Reconciliation, or by appointment
5 p.m.: Roman Catholic Mass

Sunday services

9 a.m.: Catholic Mass
10:45 a.m.-noon: Catholic Religious Education
11 a.m.: Protestant worship
1:30 p.m.: Full Gospel Pentecostal worship and Children's church
4 p.m.: Lutheran Services
6 p.m.: Contemporary worship

Muslim services

The khutba and prayer will take place in the post chapel conference room Fridays, just after noon.

Chanuka

Traditional Shabbat meals and services will be at the Novembers the last two weeks of December. For more information, please e-mail them at november6@msn.com

Club Beyond

For details about Club Beyond youth activities, contact the chapel or Jocelyn Cary at 340-385-3476.

Darby Chapel

For details call the chapel at: 633-7267 (50-54-7267).

8:30 a.m.: Catholic Reconciliation

9:30 a.m.: Catholic Mass

11:15 a.m.: Protestant worship

6508.

Finance office hours

The Finance Customer Service office located in Bldg. 28 will be open from 9 a.m.-noon on Dec. 26-28 and on Jan. 2-4.

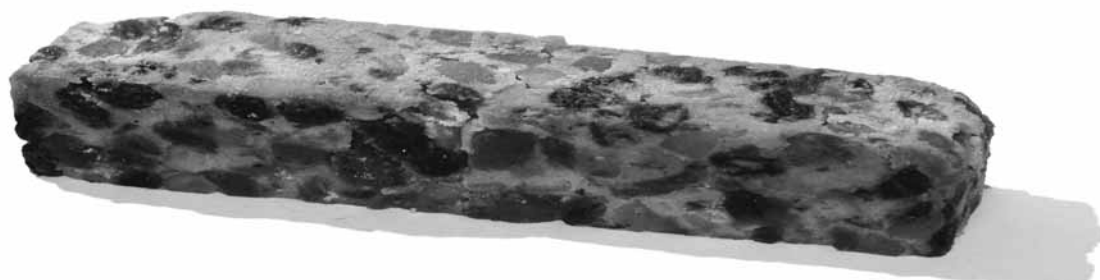
The Cashier Cage located in Bldg. 28 will be open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Dec. 26-28 and on Jan. 2-4.

The Finance office located in the Golden Lion will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to provide finance support to all in-processing Soldiers and to answer any other customer service inquiries on Dec. 26-28 and on Jan. 2-4.

All finance activities will be closed on Dec. 24, 25 and 31 and on Jan. 1

*if this is starting to look good to you,
you're too buzzed to drive.*

**Call a sober friend or the Military Police
at 0444-71-7626 or 800-064-077.
Stay safe this holiday season, don't drink and drive.**



Cougar wrestlers take second in local tournament

Story and photos by
Laura Kreider,
Outlook Staff

The Vicenza High School wrestling team hosted their only home tournament this year in the fitness center gym, Dec. 15.

"This week the only team competing at home is the wrestling team. This is their only regular season home event," said Garrett Barton, Vicenza Middle/High School athletic director.

After starting their season in with some injuries in Rome last week, the Cougars had the chance to again meet the American Overseas School Rome, Aviano, Naples and Sigonella. They fought to second place in their home meet. Nearly 70 wrestlers participated in the event.

Some of the Cougar wrestlers taking first place after pinning all of their opponents included: Shaun Mahadeo, Tim Loney and Kyle Kaus, while Derrick Arthur took first place in the 145 pound class after wrestling for the second time.

Loney took first place in the 160 pound class after pinning Stephen Torregrosso of AOSR, and Tyler Reed from Sigonella.

"I am really excited," Loney said after his last match. "I am looking forward to competing in the next meet."

Another Cougar wrestler was satisfied after competing three of his four matches.

"I thank my coaches, my parents and my friends for motivating and keeping me going this year," said Kyle Kaus after pinning Gianni Greager from AOSR. "Our next match is in Aviano where there will also be the two high school teams



(Above) Vicenza High School wrestler Kyle Kaus, center, grapples with Gianni Greager of the AOSR team in the 171 pound class. Kaus and Loney both placed first in their weight class after pinning their opponents.

of Vilseck and Hohenfels coming down as well.

"It will be nice because we will have the chance to see how they are going to wrestle before going to the Europeans," Kaus explained.

The Cougars will travel to Aviano, Jan. 12 and Naples Jan. 19.

The European tournament that will take place at Wiesbaden, Germany on Feb. 15-16.

Team scores for the Vicenza Invitational Jamboree Dec. 15.

1st place	Naples	125
2nd place	Vicenza	105
3rd place	Sigonella	73
4th place	AOSR	51
5th place	Aviano	41.



(Below, Right) VHS Cougar wrestler Tim Loney prepares to turn Sigonella wrestler Tyler Reed in the 160 pound weight class.

Sports Shorts

Italian soccer league

Play adult community soccer for free Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., until April 1. Round up all your soccer friends and enjoy this opportunity to play in the Italian soccer league.

New Year's Day Folgaria ski trip

Join Outdoor Rec for skiing at Folgaria, New Year's Day, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. The \$15 cost includes transportation. Equipment is available for check-out from ODR. Reserve your spot by Dec. 26.

Ski in perfect peace at Panarotta

Located near a tranquil spa town, skiing at Panarotta offers an ideal experience for those who wish to relax and ski. Join Outdoor Rec, Jan. 19-21, from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The \$200 cost includes transportation. Equipment is available for check-out from ODR. Reserve your spot by Jan. 5.

Free fitness instructor certification

Sports & Fitness has contracted a team of professional, internationally-acclaimed trainers to provide certification courses for the following: ACE personal training exam preparation, Schwinn indoor cycling-instructor training, BOSU complete workout system, mastering muscle, and bump fitness.edu.

Not only are the courses being offered for free, but this incredible opportunity equips the attendee with invaluable certification for job opportunities here and abroad. Sign up no later than Jan. 4, call today 634-6240.

Bike around Vicenza

Starting Jan. 9, Outdoor Rec equips you with the know-how of basic bicycle maintenance with \$15 classes (\$5 for additional classes). Then hit the streets and mountains of Vicenza with your smooth ride. Look for the calendar around post or call ODR at 634-7453.

Martin Luther King Jr. 5K Fun Walk/Run

Come out Jan. 12 for a 5Km Fun Walk/Run at North-40 track, 11a.m. (pre-briefing 10:45a.m.). It's free and fun. Sign up by Jan. 9, call 634-7009.

Camp Darby holds charity soccer tourney

Story by Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

Camp Darby recently hosted its first charity soccer tournament to help the Association of Parents of Children Affected by Leukemia or Tumors.

The Pisa soccer team, a professional team in the Italian series B league; Pisa Grande Cuore, a team formed by the local Mayor and town hall administrators; and the Camp Darby community team played in the round-robin tournament.

The Pisa team has been practicing on Camp Darby for the last four months. They normally draw crowds of people sitting outside of the gate who watched the team practice. Col. Raffaele Iubini, Italian base commander, said this tournament was an additional opportunity to open the base to the public.

"We had 200 guests visit the base to watch the tournament," said Iubini. "We consider Camp Darby to be an integral part of the community and our goal is to continue to build positive relationships with the local communities, population and local authorities."

Lt. Col. Steven Cade, Livorno commander added that the



Pisa soccer team and Pisa Grande Cuore battle for control of the soccer ball during the Camp Darby charity soccer tournament. The Pisa Soccer team won the tournament. (Photos by Fabio Muzzi).

tournament underlined the friendship between the Italian and American people.

"This was a great event that shows the personal and working relationships between the countries of Italy and the United States of America," said Cade.

"This small tournament of three

teams confirms, through the popular game of soccer, the strong ties of friendship and brotherhood between Italians and Americans. It is important as individual ambassadors, that we (Camp Darby community members) take the time to share our own fortune and blessings with others. It felt good

to be able to present the AGBALT with a check for 800 Euro to help children suffering from leukemia."

The check that was presented at the beginning of the soccer tournament was raised from a golf tournament sponsored by 31st Munitions Squadron and by a donation from Global Credit Union.