



# The Outlook

May 15, 2007

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

Vol. 40 Issue 19



## Rock on to Afghanistan

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team stand at attention during the casing of the unit colors in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan. (Center) Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Weik, 1-503d Inf (Abn) command sergeant major, folds the unit colors with help from Lt. Col. Michael Fenzel, 1-503d Inf (Abn) commander. Overseeing the activity is Col. Charles Preslyer, 173d ABCT commander. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th JMTC Photo Lab)

## Medical community, Soldiers kick in high gear to move out

By Sgt. Justin Nieto  
SETAF Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team get all the help they need before they head out to Afghanistan during their pre-deployment processing here.

The process involves documenting and updating the Soldiers' medical records, financial information and making sure they are well-prepared for their upcoming deployment.

"This process has evolved over the course of years since the first Gulf War," said Col.

Bradley Harper, commander of U.S. Army Health Center-Vicenza. "We found there was a need to monitor our Soldiers' health especially before they deploy."

Harper said the process also allows for Soldiers to condense their medical records for easy access while deployed.

"We want these guys to be medically ready for combat and be able to function within a mission-capable unit," said Harper, whose staff has seen to more than 800 Soldiers so far throughout the process.

"For the medical side, we start them off with briefings about smallpox, anthrax, heat and cold injuries and so on," continued Harper. "Then we also have them do some questionnaires to help assess their mental health and move them on to the various stations throughout the clinic for immunizations and other items."

Harper stated the relationship between the brigade, Vicenza High School and the health clinic has been excellent during the process.

"We've got excellent cooperation from those two," said Harper. "The high school let us use their gym for some of the stations and that helped immensely."

"It's like a dance; we do our part, they do their part and it all goes well," said Harper."



Spc. Joseph Armstrong, U.S. Army Health Center-Vicenza medic, administers a test to Spc. Noah Jones, 1st Brigade, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, during the predeployment processing. So far the Vicenza health clinic has processed more than 800 Soldiers in the past several week. (Photo by Sgt. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)

(Editor's note: The Outlook will highlight the work of other organization's responsible for helping deploy the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team in future issues of the Outlook.)



Sgt. Kirk Bolger, HHC, 173d ABCT loads equipment into a conex in preparation for the brigade's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. (Photos by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



Capt. Christopher Weld and wife, Christine, have one last photo taken before he deploys. Weld commands Easy Company, 1-503 Inf (Abn). (Photo courtesy of Christine Weld)

## Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration moved to Thursday, May 17

The Vicenza community is invited to celebrate the contributions made by Asian and Pacific Americans at an event Thursday, 4-5 p.m. in the fitness center gym.

Building on this year's motto, "Pursuing Excellence through Leadership, Diversity and Unity" the offices of Equal Employment Opportunity and Equal Opportunity

have put together a fun-filled event for the community.

Master Kim will demonstrate the moves of Tae Kwan Do, there will be an Asian Pacific American health and wellness exhibit, entertainment, and handicraft displays for the community.

For details about the event, call Master Sgt. Tamika Anderson, SETAF Equal Opportunity advisor, at 634-7093.

Tighten up post

# Don't leave children, pets in cars

The last thing anyone would want to purposely do is bring harm to a child. Yet, a serious problem exists in our society that sometimes ends up in the 100 percent preventable death of a child.

A study revealed that, from 1995-2002, about 125 children died as a result of being left in the car, and about another 42 children died when they crawled into unlocked cars and couldn't get back out.

These startling statistics are

reinforced by a SAFE-KIDS GM poll, which discovered that 18 percent of parents between the ages of 18-24, said they believed it was OK to leave their children unattended in a vehicle.

A child's core body temperature can rise three to five times faster than that of an adult. When the temperature outside reaches 93F, it only takes 20 minutes for the temperature inside the vehicle, even with the windows cracked, to reach 120F. A little over 40 minutes later it's 140F. A child left in this environment can suffer permanent injuries or die if left alone.

Let's not forget our furry friends. While Spot may love to go for rides in the car, the same rules that apply to your child, apply to your pet as well.

Below are some recommended ways to prevent children from being left in cars and accidentally playing in cars and getting caught inside.

- ◆ Never leave your child in an unattended car, even with the windows down. It's against Army policy.

- ◆ Check to make sure all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination,



USAG Vicenza Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Filipp

particularly when loading and unloading.

- ◆ Teach children not to play in or around cars.

- ◆ Keep car keys out of reach and sight.

- ◆ Always lock car doors and trunks, especially when parked in the driveway or near the home.

- ◆ Be wary of child-resistant locks. Teach older children how to disable the driver's door locks if they unintentionally become entrapped in a motor vehicle.

- ◆ Consider getting your vehicle retrofitted with a trunk release mechanism.

- ◆ If your child gets locked inside a car, get him out and dial 114 on post, or off post 0444-71-7114 or 118.

Don't let the death of any child in this community be the wake up call to change our busy lifestyles.



When the temperature outside reaches 93F, it only takes 20 minutes for the temperature inside the vehicle, even with the windows cracked, to reach 120F. Don't do this to Spot; leave him at home. (Outlook file photo)

## Yard of the Month winners for April



Yard of the Month contest for Villaggio residents has begun for this year. Congratulations to the Yard of the Month awardee for April, Staff Sgt. David Schendel, 3rd Platoon, 68th Transportation Company. Schendel, along with the first and second runners up received cash awards from AAFES and the commissary, along with certificates of appreciation.



Second place went to Cpl. Jose Arce, USAG Vicenza Dental Clinic.



Third place went to Staff Sgt. William Shimp, 14th Transportation Battalion.



Honorable mention to Staff Sgt. Carlos Muniz, HHC, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team.



Honorable mention to Sgt 1st Class Aaron Little, Headquarters Support Company, SETAF.



Honorable mention to Staff Sgt. Douglas Mitchell, HSC SETAF.

## Organizations recognized for supply excellence

Story and photo  
By Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

As part of 26 Army logistics units, two supply units from Vicenza were honored in Heidelberg, Germany April 17 in the USAREUR/IMCOM-Europe level Chief of Staff, Army Award for Supply Excellence.

They competed and took runner-up, respectively, the 173d ABCT/SETAF in the Category Level II (A) Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) Property Book Operations, and the USAG Vicenza Supply Support Activity in the Category Level IV (B) Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA).

"This is the first time we received this award," said Warrant Officer Jessica Lee, SETAF Property Book officer after receiving the award. "We manage property book accountability, order, receive and distribute equipment.

The operation consists of six employees including Soldiers, American civilians and Italian employees.

To Staff Sgt. Antonio Sanchez, former 173d Property Book NCOIC, the award - on display at the entrance of the unit's office - came as a surprise.

"It was an honor and a privilege to receive the award on behalf of the office," he said. "The office went through a lot of changes with new personnel and transformation, reconstitution and the MTOE changes...everybody did a great job of pulling together making it happen."

Also participating in the ceremony were members of the USAG Vicenza Supply Support Activity. SSA staff members are old hands at the awards - having placed first or second for their category since 1997.

"All personnel, including our new Accountable officer Sandra Gillespie-Bernecker and a total of 19 Italian employees including Stock Control supervisor Carmen Civarelli, work daily accomplishing the mission with a lot of dedication and professionalism," said Gilberto Berdin, USAG Vicenza SSA lead supply technician. "Currently, we are busy and focused on providing support for the deployment."



Sgt. 1st Class Emory Perkins, combined 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team/SETAF Property Book Office NCOIC, (left) and supply technicians Hannelore Gomez, and Antonio Bedin (standing) look over equipment orders. "The dedication and motivation of the staff was just amazing," said Warrant Officer Jessica Lee, SETAF Property Book officer. "That's why we received the award."



Col. Virgil Williams (front, center), USAG Vicenza commander, with (front row l-r) Sgt. Matondo Tandu and Sgt. Stanley Bleus, both with 173d ABCT; Franca Tessare and Sandra Gillespie-Bernecker, both with USAG Vicenza SSA and Maurizio Luca, USAG Vicenza DOL, IMMA. (Back row l-r) Antonio Bedin and Staff Sgt. Antonio Sanchez, both with 173d ABCT/SETAF PBO and Angel Roche-Santiago, IMMA. All are members of the post logistics community who were honored April 17 at the USAREUR/IMCOM-Europe-level Chief of Staff, Army Award for Supply Excellence in Heidelberg, Germany. (Photo courtesy of USAREUR)

## CAC, Information Exchange May 23

The next CAC/Information Exchange is May 23, 10 a.m. in Club Veneto.

Come and hear what's happening on Caserma Ederle from those who make it happen.

# Soldier\$ receive extra pay entitlement\$ while deployed

**Capt. Nicole Fischer**  
**Commander, Det. B, 208th Finance Bn**  
*Special to the Outlook*

Soldiers and family members new to the military, or to deployments, may find the following pay information useful:

**a. Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay** – HFP/IDP is authorized to Soldiers deployed to a designated location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers present for official duty in any designated area for one day or more in any given month are entitled to \$225 for that month.

**b. Combat Zone Tax Exclusion** – CZTE is authorized in support of OEF and OIF. Officers and enlisted Soldiers present for official duty in any designated area for one day or more in any given month are exempt for federal taxes for all federal tax earnings. Officers are federal tax exempt for earnings up to the Command Sergeant Major of the Army's monthly earnings.

**c. Hardship Duty Pay-Location** – HDP-L is payable to officer and enlisted Soldiers

deployed to designated areas. The current approved amount for Afghanistan is \$100 per month and \$3.33 per day for any partial months.

**d. Special Leave Accrual** – SLA authorizes Soldiers to carry forward up to 90 days of leave (60 normal accrual days plus 30 additional SLA days) at the end of a fiscal year if they are not allowed to take leave because of lengthy deployments or periods of hostility. SLA is credited for use only, not for payment. Soldiers who earned SLA while in a HFP/IDP area must use their SLA within three years; all other Soldiers must use their SLA within one year.

**e. Savings Deposit Program** – SDP is a Department of Defense savings program for service members to deposit up to \$10,000 and earn interest at 10 percent per year. Service members must be on an active duty assignment for more than 90 days and have served at least 30 consecutive days in a HFP/IDP Area Of Responsibility (AOR) or have served at least one day in each of three consecutive months in the AOR. Participants may deposit up to their un-allotted pay and

allowances each month, not to exceed a \$10,000 total balance. Although accrued interest may cause the overall balance to exceed \$10,000, interest is only earned on amounts up to \$10,000. Eligibility for deposits stops the day the participant permanently departs the AOR, however interest may continue to accrue up to 90 days beyond departure.

**f. Per diem** – Soldiers deployed under Temporary Change of Station orders and Unit Movement Orders are entitled to a per diem of \$3.50 per day. Soldiers will receive their per diem after completing a final travel settlement voucher (DD Form 1351-2) at home station upon redeployment.

**g. Family Separation Allowance** – Soldiers with dependents are entitled to FSA-Temporary when involuntarily separated from their dependents for more than 30 continuous days while in a TDY or deployed status. Soldiers married to Soldiers with no dependents are also authorized FSA-T when separated under the same conditions. However, only the Soldier in receipt of orders is entitled to this allowance. If both Soldiers

are deployed at the same time, only the most senior Soldier receives the allowance. FSA-T is payable at \$250 per month.

**h. Overseas Housing Allowance** – OHA with or without dependents continues as long as Soldiers maintain their lease agreements or mortgage contracts. There is no change to the OHA with dependent rate if family members depart USAREUR or SETAF on a temporary basis, provided they maintain their lease agreement.

**i. Basic Allowance for Subsistence** – BAS continues for all Soldiers receiving this allowance prior to deployment. Soldiers with meal deductions will have the deductions stopped for the length of their deployment.

**j. Cost of Living Allowance** – COLA with dependents will continue at the same rate as long as command-sponsored family members remain in Europe. If family members depart Europe for more than 30 days (either permanently or temporarily), COLA will be reduced to the 'without dependent' rate for every day over 30. COLA will not change for Soldiers receiving the 'without dependent' rate or barracks rate of COLA.

## Tips for shipping second privately-owned vehicle

**Installation Management**  
**Command-Europe**  
*Public Affairs Office*

Normally, Soldiers and Department and Defense civilians with permanent-change-of-station orders are entitled to ship one privately owned vehicle at government expense from overseas locations.

However, many people nowadays have two vehicles, wanting to return home with both. If so you will be paying out of your own pocket for it, said Robin Brown-Jones, Installation Management Command-Europe logistics division.

Plus, she said, preparing your car beforehand and finalizing all requirements "is a must."

Brown-Jones suggests the following tips to ensure your second U.S.-specification POV is readied for shipping:

**Prior planning is a must.** There are several private commercial shipping companies available. But due to the high volume of summer moves, you should contact the commercial shipping company as soon as are certain that you will ship your second POV.

**Get a free rate quotation.** A PCS move can be costly. Knowing the cost of shipping a second POV, months before you move, allows planning a budget accordingly. The price is normally all-inclusive and includes inland transportation costs to a port, German and U.S. port charges, and customs fees.

**Have proper documentation.** Documentation normally needed to ship a POV from overseas is: PCS orders, vehicle registration, military or DoD identification.

**Ensure the vehicle is clean.** All vehicles must meet U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection requirements prior to shipping – this is the law. Specifically, vehicles must be free of dirt, soil, plant life, animal life and other organizational hazards. This means the

exterior, interior, engine, engine compartment and radiator. The entire interior of the POV must be vacuumed, including the trunk area, and all personal effects must be removed from the vehicle, even air fresheners.

"If your vehicle does not meet these standards, Brown-Jones stressed, "it will not be shipped."

**Drain fuel tank.** Ensure your vehicle has no more than a quarter tank of fuel at time of shipment.

**Check your stickers.** The POV must be a U.S.-specification vehicle and have both the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Transportation sticker affixed

The EPA sticker should clearly be visible in the engine area. It's usually white with the word *catalyst* listed on the bottom.

The DOT sticker should be clearly visible in the door jam area. It, too, is usually white with the vehicle identification number and the month and year of manufacture listed at the bottom.

If your vehicle is missing either of these

stickers, normally due to extensive body work, repainting or customization, you must prove the vehicle was registered stateside, or provide a letter from the manufacturer to verify the vehicle is U.S. manufactured and complies with U.S. requirements.

As for European-spec vehicles, they must be shipped through a stateside certified independent commercial importer. A list is available from the EPA.

"This, however, can be an expensive process because the vehicle must also conform to EPA and DOT safety requirements," Jeff Schott, IMCOM-Europe's transportation office.

He added that it is important to remember that European-spec vehicles cannot be modified to U.S. standards while physically located overseas.

"Many European companies claim they can convert European-spec POVs to U.S. specifications while the POV is still in Europe," Schott said. "These claims are false."



**All vehicles shipped stateside must meet U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection requirements, especially cleanliness. (Photo by Christine June)**

## May 16 deadline to apply for Summer Enrichment classes

**Department of Defense**  
**Education Activity**  
*Press Release*

**ARLINGTON, VA** - The Department of Defense Education Activity is offering a free four-week, half-day summer program to many of its space-required students in grades K-8 again this year.

DoDEA recently received additional funds from the Office of the Secretary of Defense to operate the program.

The planned summer program will be offered based on the level of interest from families and confirmed enrollment.

Applications for Vicenza Elementary and Middle School are available on the school Web site: [www.vice-es.eu.dodea.edu](http://www.vice-es.eu.dodea.edu). Click on the Summer Enrichment link.

If you don't have access to the Web site, contact the school: Vicenza Elementary School, 634-7579, or Vicenza Middle School 634-7656.

**No late registrations will be accepted.**

Classes will be held in Vicenza Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon, July 2-27.

The summer program curriculum features academic-enrichment classes emphasizing math and language arts.

Transportation and lunch are not provided. This will be the fourth year DoDEA has offered a Summer Program.

Curriculum materials will again be provided by Voyager Expanded Learning.

Through the Voyager programs, students in Kindergarten- 5th grade will experience the primary and intermediate levels of Mysteries, and students in grades 6-8 will participate in Media Magic.

Classes offered are not part of a remedial program (meaning they are not for credit) nor are they specifically designed to improve below-average skills.

The classes are designed to enrich and reinforce student learning through engaging in high-interest, hands-on activities focusing on reading, math skills and science content.

## The Outlook

May 15, 2007 Vol. 40, Issue 19

**SETAF Commander**  
 Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick

**USAG Vicenza Commander and Publisher**  
 Col. Virgil S. L. Williams

**Editor**  
 Diana Bahr

*The Outlook* is an unofficial publication authorized and provided by AR 360-1.

All editorial content of *The Outlook* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Public Affairs Office in building 3 on Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. Telephone

DSN 634-7000, FAX 634-7543, off post at 0444-71-7000, fax 0444-71-7543.

E-mail: [editor@setaf.army.mil](mailto:editor@setaf.army.mil)

*The Outlook* is published weekly by the USAG Vicenza PAO, Unit 31401, Box 10, APO AE 09630. It is printed by Centro Stampa Editoriale SRL, Grisignano (VI) 0444-414-303.

Editorial publication is an authorized section for members of the U.S. Army overseas. Contents of *The Outlook* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Installation Management Command-Europe, U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza or the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force.

**Submissions:** Send all submission for publication to [editor@eur.army.mil](mailto:editor@eur.army.mil). Submissions should be made via e-mail and must be received by Wednesday at noon for the following week's publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Circulation is 2,500.

### Did you know?

*The rate of breast cancer among young female smokers is double the rate among nonsmokers? (International Journal of Cancer)*

*For more information call Charlie at 634-7554.*

**From the USAG Vicenza Health Promotion office**

## Vicenza High School twins graduate, begin lives as individuals



(Above) Vicenza High School senior Crystal Buhler, a cadet with 10th Battalion, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, undergoes an inspection April 17 by Col. Gordon Davis, SETAF chief of staff. Gordon conducted a walk-through inspection of cadets during the Commander's Review which is held every spring semester. (Photo by Pfc. Crystal Abbott, SETAF Public Affairs) (Below) Crystal's twin, Jessica, (left) and friend Jared Rolland, work the Vampire Bar during the Haunted Path on Villaggio last October. (Far right) A family photo with Jessica on the left, Crystal on the right. The girls graduate in June and enter different universities this fall. (Outlook file photo)

By Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Vicenza High School seniors Crystal Buhler and her older-by-45-seconds twin sister, Jessica, are not only leaving their parents for the first time in their lives, but each other. The slender, dark-haired, brown-eyed 18-year-olds contemplated what the future holds.

"This will be the first time my twin sister and I have attended separate schools," said Crystal. "I do believe it will be emotionally difficult to be away from my sister; however, I feel it would benefit both of us to be seen, for once, as separate individuals, instead of always being compared and guided into constant competition."

Jessica agreed saying, "I am terrified. I have never started a new school without Crystal by my side. I think it will be difficult because I never had to worry about making friends. I didn't really care if I did or not because I knew I would always have Crystal, but now I will not have that security. On a lighter note it will be a benefit for us both to experience being recognized as individuals rather than being compared as twins."

The girls came to VHS as freshmen and have enjoyed taking part in numerous extra-curricular activities such as soccer (Crystal is team captain), Project T.R.U.S.T (teens, reaching, understanding, and supporting teens), National Honor Society (Jessica is the current president) and band.

The twins do go their separate ways in some activities. Crystal is a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp where she is a cadette corporal and on the color guard and rifle teams and Jessica is a Cooperative Work Experience student at the health clinic.

Crystal will be leaving Vicenza for the University of Vermont, where she hopes to put big plans into action.

"I want to save the world," said Crystal "Which is a huge task that I know I can not do alone, so to be more realistic, I plan to have a career in environmental sciences, where I can work with people as passionate about the environment as I am. I chose this path because I have a love

for nature and compassion for humans and animals. I sometimes lie awake at night and pray that the world could magically heal itself from the damage caused by its inhabitants."

Little more down-to-earth plans are in Jessica's future, who has been a Cooperative Work Experience student for the past several years, working under Dr. (Capt.) David Meltzer, an optometrist with U.S. Army Health Center-Vicenza.

"Dr. Meltzer definitely influenced me because he showed me that there is more to optometry than meets the eye; and for that I thank him because I would have never thought of optometry as a career path," she said. "I will be attending Christopher Newport University located in Virginia," said Jessica. "If everything works out, I hope to transfer my third year to New England College of Optometry."

"I think she's got what it takes to excel," said Meltzer. "She's got good grades, she's good with people and she's willing to learn. She can do everything my eye techs can do – from screening patients to performing visual acuity tests and intraocular pressure to taking retinal photos to cornea mapping. I wish I could take her to my next duty station at Fort Sam Houston."

Ever-practical, Jessica has another plan in her pocket, should optometry not work out. "I really enjoy interior designing, which I can continue at Christopher Newport," she explained.

Fortunately for parents, Staff Sgt. Kevin and wife, Sherry Buhler, the twins have each received partial scholarships, which takes some of the financial burden off their shoulders.

"Crystal received three scholarships," said proud mom Sherry Buhler. "She received a Presidential Scholarship, which gives her \$2,000 a year for four years, a University of Vermont scholarship and a scholarship from the Vicenza Military Spouses and Civilians Club."

"Jessica received two scholarships," continued Buhler. "She received a VMSCC scholarship, too, as well as a one-year scholarship to Christopher Newport University."

As the girls get ready to graduate and depart Italy to establish separate identities in the states, they agree that living in Italy has been one of the greatest experiences in their lives.



The USAG Vicenza Adult Volunteer of the Year and USAG Vicenza Youth Volunteer of the Year, with the awards they received during the Volunteer Recognition ceremony held May 9. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook staff)

## Garrison recognizes outstanding volunteers

By Diana Bahr  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Vicenza community members took time out from a busy deployment schedule to thank post volunteers for their hard work during the past year at the annual Volunteer Recognition ceremony Wednesday evening at Club V.

"We are fortunate the Volunteer Corps are an army of family volunteers who make our quality of life the best of any Army in the world," said Lt. Col. Darryl Owens, keynote speaker for the event. "Your volunteer contributions range from Army Community Service to Soldiers' Theatre to Girl and Boy Scouts, Child and Youth Services, Family Readiness Groups and more. However – these outstanding volunteers before us tonight are representative of the hundreds of people whose hearts and good deeds are quietly carved in the bedrock of this community."

Owens, assisted by Randie Gibson, Army Volunteer Corps coordinator, then called out names of the outstanding volunteers and presented them with certificates and plaques. The big moment came when the Adult and Youth Volunteer of the Year were announced. This year the honors went to Tech Sgt. Jennifer Wessner, AFN Vicenza, and to Stephanie Meyers, Vicenza High School student.

The awarding was based on criteria where points were given on how the volunteer impacted the community by their actions, who benefited by the volunteer work, special achievements, awards and

accomplishments and volunteer hours.

Wessner was honored for her service to the American Red Cross (where she is a Health and Safety Instructor trainer who teaches many of the First Aid and Babysitter training classes), for working with youth at Vicenza High, Middle Schools and Child and Youth Services, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and a local motorcycle social club nicknamed the MOB (Mostly Older Bikers).

Meyers is a fixture at Girl Scout meetings and Club Beyond meetings and events. She took it upon herself to take an official Girl Scout Leader training course that is usually intended for adults. She is also involved with Red Cross, Project T.R.U.S.T. (Teens, Reaching, Understanding, Supporting, other Teens) and helped with the Haunted Path event held in October.

Other outstanding volunteers nominated for Adult Volunteer of the Year were: Comel Rooms, Camilla V. Obmerga, Lisa Campeau-Fenzel, Jim Miller, Nancy Hacker, Peggy Schadler, Edward Parkins, Michael Kenney, Katie Honsberger, Laura Jones, Monica Gutierrez-Gammon, Stephanie Stoner and Sharon Newton.

Also nominated in the Youth Volunteer of the Year were: Angelique Muellner, Mia Segura, Victorian Inman and Kathryn Gosciewski.

After the awards were handed out, Owens was presented with a check for \$513,580 that represented 33,656.20 documented volunteer hours, which equals 16 full-time employees at a GS-7 salary.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Randie Gibson, USAG Vicenza Army Volunteer Corps coordinator, at 634-7942.

# Van Gogh lives again in seaside village

Story by Chiara Mattiolo  
Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs



A painting by Danila Ferretti who's inspiration is Vincent Van Gogh.

When community members and visitors walked into the Camp Darby Library during National Library Week, a blast of bright colors exploded against the background of books aligned neatly in rows.

Sunflower paintings with free-forming lines and vivid colors might lead one to believe that Vicent Van Gogh was reincarnated, living in Tuscany, painting sunflowers and relaxing by the sea.

It turns out the mild-mannered library technician who quietly straightens up book shelves after an army of children have torn through the aisles, is a passionate artist with a zest for bright colors.

"I studied at the Pisa Institute of Arts when I was in high school," said Danila Ferretti. "But when it came time to go to college, I had to decide what was better for my career and decided to pursue a

degree in computer science."

While in college, Ferretti went to work at Camp Darby, first in the commissary and later at the library.

"I like my job and the team at the library because we are a group of friends more than colleagues," she said. "Working part time at the library gives me time to go to school and study. More importantly, working at the library gives me a chance to look at a larger variety of art books and tapes."

Ferretti adds that her paintings are inspired by Camp Darby's surrounding landscape.

"My real passion is painting. I love painting, I love bright colors, I love flowers; painting is what I do when I am in a good mood and want to relax," reflects Ferretti.

Although she took up painting only two years ago, she says her family has always supported and encouraged her.

"My boyfriend gave me an easel one day as a present and my brothers gave me paint box filled

with oil colors," she said. "They believed in me and this encouraged me to set a goal to continue painting and to find ways to publicly display my art work."

Her colleagues at the library wanted to see the art she spoke of with such great passion, so they suggested she hold an art exhibit in the library.

Shortly afterward, friends from her university invited her to join them in a public exhibit. She joined members of the artistic group "The Puzzle" and had her second showing at the Gambacorti Room in the Pisa City Hall.

"I would love one day to be able to have a separate art exhibition here, maybe at the community club," Danila explained. "I am a quiet person, but painting with the bright colors like my idol, Vincent Van Gogh, can really leave you with a bright impression of life."

Danila will receive her degree soon, but plans to continue painting.

## Camp Darby Briefs

### Blood Drive

May 16-18, 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., the Italian Navy will hold a blood drive open to all Camp Darby personnel. Sign up with Capt. Feagin at the Camp Darby Health Clinic.

nutritionist, dietitian, or nurse at Camp Darby.

For details on requirements contact Elaine Barnes at 632-7473 or via e-mail [ebarnes@choctawarchiving.com](mailto:ebarnes@choctawarchiving.com).

### Outdoor Rec

The Darby Pool is now open on weekends from 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

The pool will open daily starting May 26. Pool and beach passes are available.

May 25 is Darby Day: A special day just for Camp Darby residents.

Enjoy free food, free entrance and chairs and a live AFN Livorno radio broadcast at the beach.

### Fitness Center

Free beginners Pilates class is now available every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the fitness studio.

### MWR facilities update

Softball field lighting project: Beneficial Occupancy Inspection is scheduled and work should be completed by mid-May.

### Army Community Service class

Army Family Team Building class: May 22- 23, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

During this two-day course, learn Army culture, acronyms and how to read a Leave and Earnings Statement. This course is designed especially for new military spouses. Call ACS to sign up at 633-7084.

### Darby Community Club

May 18: Camp Darby's very own live band "Drunken Mistake" will play their first DCC performance at 7 p.m.

### Job Opportunity

There is currently a part-time opening (one day a week) for a

### Darby Chapel

**8:30 a.m.:** Catholic Reconciliation  
**9:30 a.m.:** Catholic Mass  
**11:15 a.m.:** Protestant worship

Tennis court resurfacing: This has been done and the courts will open once the drainage grills have been replaced by the Directorate of Public Works.

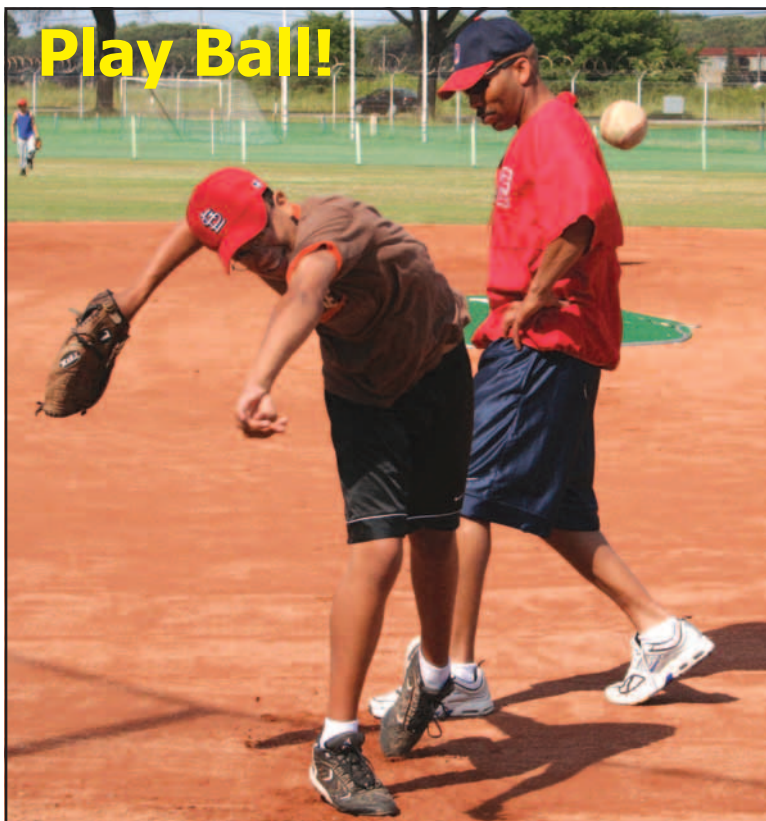
Sea Pines Recreational facility: Phase III is ongoing and scheduled to be completed in mid-June.

School Age Services: SAS is scheduled to move into bldg 730 mid-to-late June once additional work identified during the initial building inspection has been done.

Child Development Center: The renovation will be performed in three phases. First, the Performing Arts Center will be vacated.

A minor renovation will start in July on bldg 601 to bring it up to Child Safety standards.

CDC will operate out of Bldg. 601 while bldg 726 undergoes renovation.



A pitcher for Camp Darby Cardinals Juniors team practices with his coach, Master Sgt. Evedard Oliver. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs.)

## Camp Darby offers community new telephone speciality store, eatery



Giampaolo Zanetti explains to a customer how the new interactive computer makes recharging cells phones easier. The new AAFES phone concessionaire can activate land line services to include internet and DSL, activate Sky TV services, provide photo processing and sells phones, faxes and accessories. They are open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m - 4 p.m. This is their third store on a U.S. military installation in Italy.



Chef Enton Quesari prepares the special of the day at Camp Darby's newest eatery addition, Ciasa de Gahja. They offer German, Mexican, American and Italian cuisine along with an American style breakfast, Italian pastries, smoothies and American and Italian coffee throughout the day. They also have daily specials and pizza by the slice. Located in the old Burger King building, they're open Mon-Fri from 7:30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. Summer hours will change on Memorial Day weekend. The restaurant's unusual name comes from the name of the street of their first restaurant and hotel outside of Aviano Air Base. Prices are in Euros. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs.)

# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Exhibitions

May 19-20: In the gardens of *Villa da Schio*, located in the town of *Costozza* near Longare, there's an exhibition and market of rare plants and flowers. Also included is garden furniture, gardening books (in Italian) and paintings.

More than 50 exhibitors will show and sell orchids, water plants, sweet-peas, geraniums, grass seed, fruit trees and more.

You'll also find dried and decoupage flowers, engraved flowers on glass and flowers in natural soap – it's not too early to think about seasonal gifts.

The gardens will be open daily 9 a.m. to sundown. Last year's entrance fee was 6 euro.

The biggest all-round free exhibition, *85th Campionaria*, will be held at the *Padova* exhibition grounds through May 20.

Entrance is free and you'll find everything for the home, vacations, hobbies, sports, cars, motorbikes, garden furniture, swimming pools, camping equipment and more.

There are also demonstrations on spinning, horseback riding, music shows and more. Open weekdays, 4:30 p.m. to midnight and weekends, 10 a.m. to midnight.

Directions: Take the A4 autostrada, exit at Padova est and follow signs for '85th Campionaria.'

If going by train, the exhibition center is 500 meters from the Padova train station.

## Medieval event

The town of *Sanguinetto*, in the province of Verona, holds their annual medieval event *The Palio and Toro Festival* May 19-20.

Main events:

May 19-20: Cooks start cooking the bull on a spit at 6 a.m., it's served daily starting at noon in food tents.

May 19: A medieval military camp sets up at 4 p.m. in the castle's trench and a craft market opens.

A costumed procession in the market area begins at 8:30 p.m.

## Classified Ads

**NOTE: The Outlook does not take classifieds; sellers must place ads on [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com).**

**Buyers must go to the Vicenza MWR Web site, [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com) for details about items for sale below or call 634-7343 or 0444-71-7343 from off post.**

Wanted baby stuff and baby girls clothes: Will pay reasonable price.

Gym shoes: Two pair, ladies, new. Call for price.

Iron gazebo and ceiling fan wanted.

Bicycles: Youth, \$30; toddler's, \$15; and mountain bike, \$40.

Game Boy Advance: Good condition. \$60.

Nintendo 64: Good condition w/ 5 games. \$100.

1998 Honda Civic and 1990 Fiat Tipo: Must sell! Make offers.

1995 Saturn SW2 wagon: \$1,800, OBO.

Graco Pack n Play: Good condition. \$20

Fisher Price Aqua Wonders highchair: \$50.

Sony stereo receiver and Pioneer speakers: \$50.

At 9 p.m. enjoy a representation of a medieval banquet inside the castle, with music, jugglers, knights, archers, swordsmen and others.

May 20: At 9:30 a.m. the four teams participating in the Palio meet in front of the castle.

The craft market opens at 10 a.m. with more than 100 vendors.

The palio starts at 3:30 p.m. in the trench of the castle with medieval games, archers contest with bows, crossbow contest, an exhibition of flag throwers and games for children.

The award ceremony is held at 6:15 p.m.

For a full program and directions, go to the Web site: [www.fierafesta.deltoro.it](http://www.fierafesta.deltoro.it) (in Italian only). *Sanguinetto* is located 72 km from *Vicenza*.

## Ferrara Palio

Claiming to be the most ancient *Palio* in the world, the town of *Ferrara* holds its palio every May.

In a tribute to the Renaissance, when Ferrara was capital of Italy, a month's worth of exciting activities ensue, eventually leading up to the famous rides that takes place the last Sunday in May as homage to St. George.

The main events to catch include the historical procession May 19 at 9 a.m. consisting of more than 1,000 people wearing typical Ferrara costumes of the 15 century.

The procession is followed by the registration for the *Contrade* at 9:30 p.m.

May 27 at 4 p.m. the Palio begins. It involves running four separate horse races on the historical *Piazza Ariostea*. Details are on the Web site: [www.palio.diferrara.it](http://www.palio.diferrara.it) in English and Italian.

## Vintage car race

A spectacular road race, *Mille Miglia* (1,000 miles) features 375 racing cars built between 1927 and 1957 streaming through many cities in Italy.

The original event was held annually from 1927 to 1957 when it was discontinued because of an equally spectacular crash.

Revived in 1981 it has continued to attract hundreds of competitors from throughout the world.

This year the race starts May 17 and finishes May 20.

The start point for the race is *Brescia* and the course runs through *Desenzano*, *Verona*, *Ferrara*, *Rome*, *Siena*, *Bologna*, to end in *Brescia*.

For a complete list of race history, competitors, times and route go to: [www.millemiglia.it](http://www.millemiglia.it), available in English.

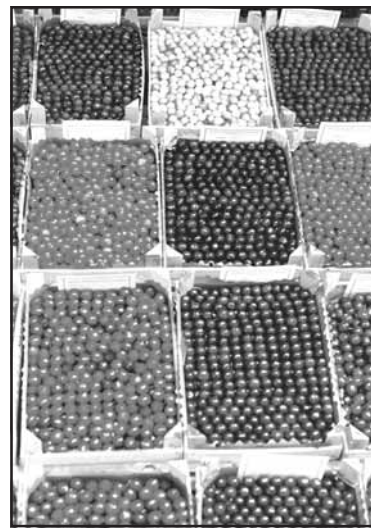
People living or going to visit any of the cities the race passes through, should check out the times that the vehicles will be going through the cities as roads could be blocked off for a period of time.

## Cherry festivals

May 19-20 the town of *Pianezze*, near *Marostica*, holds a Cherry festival and 27th exhibition of local crafts. May 19 the event is open, 4 p.m.-midnight and May 20 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4 p.m.-midnight;

May 27: *Villa Barbaro* in the town of *Maser*, holds a Cherry festival from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

May 27: The towns of *Marostica* and *Castegnero* hold Cherry festivals.



Cherries on display at a local Cherry festival.

## Now Showing

### Caserma Ederle Theater

May 15	CLOSED	7 p.m.
May 16	Spiderman 3 (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 17	300 (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 18	Dead Silence (R)	7 p.m.
	I think I love my Wife (R)	9:45 p.m.
May 19	Premonition (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Lucky You (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 20	Premonition (PG3)	4 p.m.
	I think I love my Wife (R)	7 p.m.
May 21	CLOSED	
May 22	CLOSED	

### Camp Darby Theater

May 17	Wild Hogs (PG13)	6 p.m.
May 18	Fracture (R)	6 p.m.
May 19	I think I love my Wife (R)	6 p.m.
May 20	Premonition (PG13)	2 p.m.

### Movie Synopsis

**300 - Gerard Butler, Lena Headey.** Set in the midst of the Persian-Greco war during the Battle of Thermopylae, where Spartan king Leonidas led his army of 300 soldiers into battle against the invading Persian army. According to legend, their valor and sacrifice inspired all of Greece to unite against their Persian foe, leading to the origins of democracy.

**SPIDERMAN 3 - Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst.** Peter Parker has finally managed to strike a balance between his devotion to M.J. and his duties as a superhero. When his suit suddenly changes, turning jet-black and enhancing his powers, it transforms Peter as well, bringing out the dark, vengeful side of his personality that he is struggling to control. Forced to choose between the seductive power of the new suit and the compassionate hero he used to be, Peter must overcome his personal demons.

**PREMONITION - Sandra Bullock, Julian McMahon.** Linda Hanson has a beautiful house, a loving husband and two adorable daughters. Her life is perfect, until the day she receives the devastating news that her husband has died in a car accident. When she wakes up the next morning to find him alive and well, she assumes it was all a dream. She soon realizes it wasn't a dream, and her world is turned upside down.

**I THINK I LOVE MY WIFE - Chris Rock, Kerry Washington.** Richard Cooper has it all. His wife, Brenda, is beautiful, intelligent and a fantastic mother to his children—but there's just one little problem: he's bored out of his suburban businessman's mind. Richard can't help but fantasize about having nearly every woman he sees. Still, it's only fantasy. Then, one fateful day, an alluring, free-spirited, not to mention stunning, old friend, Nikki, suddenly appears at his office door, putting him to the ultimate test. Just how much is Richard Cooper willing to risk when temptation comes after him? After all, he really does love his wife—at least he thinks he does.

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

## Spaces still available for Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge

IMCOM-Europe  
Public Affairs  
Press Release

There are still a few spaces available in this summer's Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge City Adventure. Applications for these sessions have been extended until May 25 or until all slots have been filled, Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials announced today.

City Adventure is one of four summer camp sessions being hosted this summer by IMCOM-Europe MWR which are designed specifically to meet the needs of teens and middle-school youth with one or both active-duty parents deployed.

Middle school and high school students in grades 6 through 12 (during the 2006-

2007 school year) whose active-duty Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine parent deployed between June 1, 2006, and February 28, 2008, are eligible to apply. Complete information and the application form for Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge are available online at [www.mwr-europe.com](http://www.mwr-europe.com). Applications are accepted online only.



Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge Tall Ship Adventure for youth in grades is held July 27-Aug. 1.

# Mini poker run combines fun, safety for community bikers

Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

Dark skies threatening rain and cool temperatures didn't dampen the spirits of the motorcycle enthusiasts who took part in the first AAFES Mini Poker Run.

"It all began with an idea from an AAFES customer and avid bike rider, Les Gunderson," said Stephanie Ferretti, AAFES Car Care Center manager.

"Gunderson proposed a 'Mini Poker Run' where motorcyclists would follow a prescribed course stopping at different locations where they pick up a playing card. The riders would then meet back at the post

exchange and the rider with the best hand would win a prize.

Almost 30 participants took part in the event including members from the M.O.B. (Mostly Older Bikers) group, other Americans and 13 Italian riders.

The route included stops at the Ederle Inn, the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza, AFN offices, the post chapel, Vicenza Car Care center, and PX.

"Our mission was to provide motorcycle safety information to our customers in a fun-filled venue," continued Ferretti.

At the meeting point, one Harley-Davidson leather jacket was awarded to the rider with the best hand. The award went to

John Parker (FOB Europe, Detachment Vicenza) who won with a straight.

"He is going to give the jacket to his wife for a Mother's Day present," said Ferretti. "He also assured me he had lots of other gifts for her, too."

The second jacket went to the rider with the most impressive looking ride judged by four judges present at the event. Each of the judges picked three motorbikes based on some criteria such as overall look, safety equipment and maintenance and custom add-ons, just to name a few.

The first place went to Richard Chapman with his 2006 Dyna Glide.

Other prizes were awarded to participants such as the youngest and oldest riders and the only lady motorcycle rider.

A Motorcycle Safety Rodeo held at the Vicenza

School bus parking lot, sponsored by the SETAF Augmentation Unit, followed the award ceremony.

"The riders who participated in the event really got an eye-opener as far as their individual abilities," said Bryan Dorman, Motorcycle Safety Foundation manager and motorcycle rider coach. "I think they are clear on what they can do to improve their motorcycling skills."

"Kudos to Bryan's proactive participation and for coming up with a creative and innovative concept for the Cycle Safety Challenge and dedicated his free time to facilitate our Motorcycle Safety Event," said Ferretti.

"Our goal was to heighten motorcycle safety awareness combined with a fun event and thanks to his unique approach I strongly feel that we accomplished our mutual goal" she said.



(Above) Bryan Coleman (right) and Keith Wenner and Jennifer Wessner ride their Harley-Davidsons – respectively 1999 Custom Softail and 2003 Wide Glide – while participating in the Mini Poker Run, which took place on Caserma Ederle May 5. The flags on the motorcycle represent the Italians and Americans who participated in the mini poker run, those who are going downrange and those who have already served, said Wenner, who works at AFN.



(Above) Daniel Agostini, one of 13 sponsored Italians who participated in the event, rejoices after receiving one of the prizes offered at the end of the Mini Poker run. Exchange New Car Sales and Harley-Davidson Military Sales manager, James Toone, offered a safety awareness DVD produced by Harley-Davidson Military Sales. The DVD covers various motorcycle safety tips. The packet also included a patch and a pin with the Military Riders Academy Cycle Safe insignia.

## Students inducted into National Honor Society

Story and photo by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

During a ceremony held in the Hall of Heroes May 9, the Vicenza High School Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed five new members.

The 2007-2008 NHS inductees are: Federica Wade, Anna Vallery, Derrik Arthur, Jane Helmick and Janette Prados.

"I am extremely proud to have been accepted into National Honor Society, I find it really exciting to be part of it," said 10th-grader Federica Wade. "In order to be selected you keep a positive attitude about grades. I know it may be difficult being a military kid but if you keep a positive attitude you can accomplish a lot."

The National Honor Society is the

nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students.

"The NHS members are very service-oriented," said Vicenza NHS advisor Desiree Henry. "Sometimes the projects that they come up with involve doing things in the community, helping out like in Club Beyond or with the Red Cross, and sometimes they create things or help with projects such as playgrounds for any kind of community improvement."

She also added that, within the school, the NHS members perform school service projects by helping teachers with different activities that include helping the elementary teachers by assisting them with tutoring. The selection for NHS is based on criteria that includes not only academics, but also extra curricular activities.

## *I scream, you scream, they all screamed for ice cream at USO Appreciation Day*



Melissa Parkins, USO assistant, right, adds some whipped cream to top off a fudge sundae. The free ice creams offered by USO during the USO Appreciation Day took place at the Teen Center pavilion May 5. More than 100 people participated in the event and made their own ice cream sundaes. The event also included activities for the children such as 'Create a picture frame' and face painting, and a performance by Elvis (alias Kevin Boucher) singing well-known songs. Some bicycles were also given as prizes during the event. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)