

HeraldPOST

Serving the communities in U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg

Preston visits engineers in Iraq

18th Engineer Brigade

MOSUL, Iraq – Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston spent March 23 visiting Heidelberg-based Soldiers from the 18th Engineer Brigade as part of his battlefield circulation to talk to troops downrange about their concerns and life in the Army.

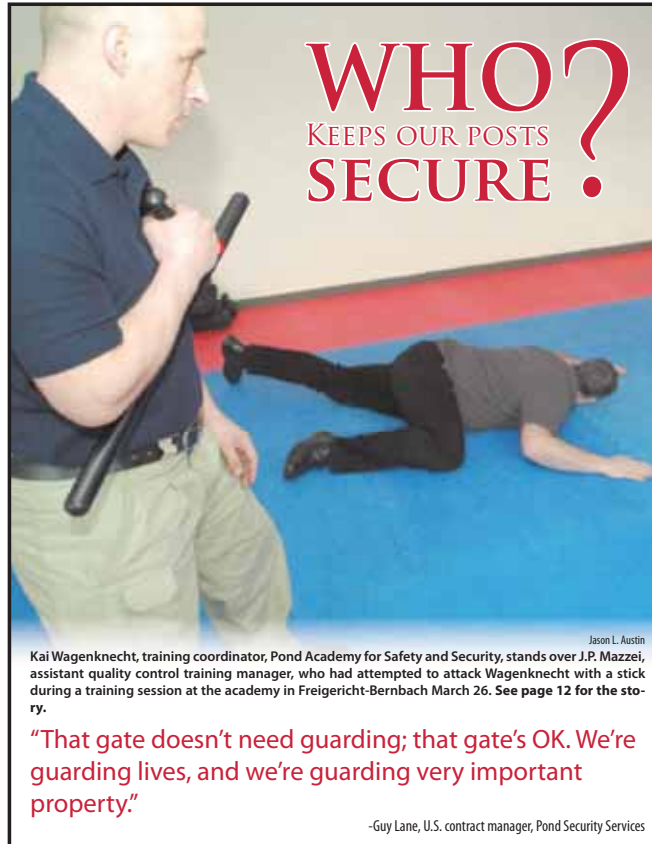
During the two-hour visit to Forward Operating Base Marez, Preston and his staff inspected equipment, discussed the way ahead in today's Army, and ate lunch with the troops to gain a more candid understanding of their take on the current state of the Army.

"Two weeks ago the president called a meeting of the senior enlisted personnel of all the Armed Services and asked about their concerns," Preston told the troops. "The president acknowledged that noncommissioned officers are the backbone of the republic and wanted to hear what we had to say. He also knew we wouldn't mince words.

"The president is a great listener, and he took our concerns seriously; he realized that taking care of our Armed Forces is their only way to keep our Armed Forces together."

This month marks the one-year anniversary of the 18th's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 18th is one of the last units to fall under the 15-month deployment cycle and should return to Germany this summer.

During his time with the 18th Engineer Brigade Soldiers, Preston told them President Barack see **PRESTON** page 16



Jason L. Austin
Kai Wagenknecht, training coordinator, Pond Academy for Safety and Security, stands over J.P. Mazzei, assistant quality control training manager, who had attempted to attack Wagenknecht with a stick during a training session at the academy in Freigericht-Bernbach March 26. See page 12 for the story.

"That gate doesn't need guarding; that gate's OK. We're guarding lives, and we're guarding very important property."

—Guy Lane, U.S. contract manager, Pond Security Services

7th TTSB preps for deployment

By **Spc. Ida Tate**
7TH TTSB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany – Troops from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade, stationed in Mannheim, trained at the Grafenwöhr Training Area March 19-22 in preparation for their slated deployment to Afghanistan this spring.

"Convoy live-fire was chosen to prepare the Soldiers of HHC, 7th TTSB," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel L. Brown, a signal manager in the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. "The Afghanistan terrain is so open that convoying is the primary means of travel."

Brown felt the training was effective over the two days of convoys. "All the Soldiers received knowledge of traveling in a hostile



Spc. Vanessa Garcia-Rincon, a chemical biological radiological nuclear specialist with the 7th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade, conducts vehicle security during convoy live-fire training at the Grafenwöhr Training Area March 19-22.

area, unloading a military vehicle with live ammunition, calling in nine-line medical see **7TH TTSB** page 16

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Defense Details

SHARED GOALS

A meeting of chiefs of defense in Washington re-emphasizes the shared commitments of Central Asia and the United States to security and stability in the region, the commander of U.S. Central Command said Tuesday. Gen. David H. Petraeus told the defense chiefs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan the meeting will help all involved better address their common interests.

SUPPORT IN AFGHANISTAN

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the first day of talks at the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan Tuesday calling for renewed, but patient international support for the country, emphasizing that success or failure there will have far-reaching impacts across the globe.

Army news: www.army.mil

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COMMENTARY

Don't forget to be aware of the 'hidden effects' of child abuse

By Drew Andersen
USAG MANNHEIM FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Department of Army has shown its concern for the most vulnerable members of the Army Family – our children – by setting aside every April as the month for a focus on the prevention of all forms of child abuse.

Because a child must depend on adults for care and nurturing throughout its infancy and early childhood years, it is particularly disturbing to see a child abused in any manner.

Most people are aware of the more alarming aspects of child abuse such as physical or sexual abuse by adults, which make headline news when they are exposed in the media.

But in 2009, the Army asks us to also focus on the often "hidden effects" of child abuse that have, sadly, become so commonplace, that they have lost visibility: ordinary neglect.

Yes, child neglect is also a form of abuse. Although it may not show the visible scars of wounds from beatings or torture that produce scary headlines, there is an effect that is far worse

in some respects: invisible scars.

These are the scars that are psychological in nature. They are found in children who are neglected by their primary caregivers – their own parents. These are the children who are poorly clothed, inadequately fed, ashamed of their home environment (either because of poor housekeeping or unsanitary living conditions), lacking in age-appropriate toys, books or stimulation; never taken to any outside entertainment by their parents whether it be a movie, play, concert, zoo or just a simple outdoor picnic; rarely, if ever, to a place of worship.

These children often exhibit behavioral problems that are noticed by others, whether it be their neighbors, playmates or teachers. Their studies often suffer because they have not been given any positive reinforcement or taught the values of self-discipline in their own homes. These are the children whose parents have never met with school personnel unless there is a problem. They often have difficulty making friends or behave in a shy or withdrawn manner in the presence of others. Because they can-



Ina Stewitz
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fletcher, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim, signs the proclamation on the "Act Now and Prevent Child Abuse/Neglect" campaign, which is part of April's Child Abuse Prevention Month at the Mannheim Child Development Center on Benjamin Franklin Village.

not interact in healthy relationships within their own peer groups due to deficient communication skills or poor self-image, they 'act up' in inappropriate ways or become involved in 'gang behaviors' that are antisocial or negative. In a word, these children are lacking in love.

Sadly, as an adult, you may remember being one of these children. Because you lacked good behavior modeling in your own home, you are unable to provide it to your own chil-

den. You encounter problems in your own married, social or business life because you, too, are lacking in love.

How can you break this cycle? Seek professional help. You owe it to yourself, your partner and your military community. But most of all, you owe it to that child whom you have brought into this world. Try to see that wounded part of you in that hurting child and give them the kind of love that you missed at that age and still ache for.

COMMENTARY

He's not hiding in the bushes – you probably know him

By Michele Barber
USAG HEIDELBERG FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

There are dangerous myths about sexual assault. Too many people believe that it is a rare opportunistic crime that occurs in dark alleys or by a stranger who jumps out of the bushes.

The facts are much more alarming than the myths. Sexual assault is not a spur-of-the-moment act, but a carefully planned crime. In the U.S., every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted. In 73 percent of sexual assault cases, the rapist is a friend or acquaintance of the victim.

As many as one in six women and one in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. It is very likely that sexual violence has impacted you or someone you know and care about – a friend, family member or coworker.

So how can you reduce your risk?

- Trust your instincts. If you are uncomfortable in a situation, leave immediately.
- Be careful about inviting someone into your home or going to someone else's home.
- Be aware of date rape drugs. Don't accept beverages from open containers, people you don't know, and don't leave your drink unattended.
- Don't use drugs, and watch your alcohol consumption. Alcohol is the number one date rape drug.
- Avoid individuals who don't listen to you, ignore your personal space and boundaries, or try to make you feel guilty for resisting sexual advances.
- Communicate. Think about what you want before you get into a sexual situation, and talk about your expectations clearly with your partner.
- Be assertive. Respect yourself, and don't give in when someone tries to coerce you into doing some-

thing you don't want to do.

Sexual assault is never the victim's fault. Offenders need to be held accountable, and victims have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program ensures that Soldiers who have been sexually assaulted can get the support they need.

A victim advocate is on call 24 hours a day to provide confidential assistance. Those who have been sexually assaulted may seek restricted reporting, which allows them to obtain victim advocacy, counseling, chaplaincy services and medical care without notification of their chain of command or initiating an investigation.

To learn more about how to end sexual violence, join ACS and guest speaker, Russell Strand, at the Sexual Assault and Prevention training at 8:30 a.m. Friday at the Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks.



Commander, U.S. Army Garrison
Baden-Württemberg:
Col. Robert J. Ulse
Public Affairs Officer:
Lira Frye
Editor:
Kelli Bland
Reporters:
Jason L. Austin, Baden-Württemberg
Christine June, Kaiserslautern
Kristen Marquez, Baden-Württemberg
Ina Stewitz, Mannheim
Webmeister:
Juan Meléndez Jr.

Contact information:
Herald Post
Building 107, Patton Barracks
373-7277/7243 or 06221-17-7277/7243
usaghd.post@eur.army.mil
Baden-Württemberg Public Affairs
373-1400/1600 or 06221-17-1400/1600
usaghd.pao@eur.army.mil
Kaiserslautern Public Affairs
493-4072 or 0631-3406-4062
usak.pa1@eur.army.mil
Mannheim Public Affairs
380-1600/385-3369 or 0621-730-1600/3369
usagmpao@eur.army.mil

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Reporting for duty

Heidelberg High School student balances time between studying, serving his country

By Sgt. Phillip H. Valentine
7TH CSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

While most high school students typically spend their weekends going out with friends, playing video games, or preparing for college, Christopher A. Cioppa finds time to serve his country.

Cioppa is a Harrisburg, Pa., native and currently attends Heidelberg High School.

He is also known as Pfc. Cioppa, who is awaiting an authorized assignment to the 457th Civil Affairs Battalion. The 457th is being filled with Soldiers for its official activation in 2010. The unit will be a subordinate unit of the 7th Civil Support Command, an Army Reserve command in Europe.

"I believe everyone who is capable should serve in the military," Cioppa said. "I'm doing this because I believe it's the right thing to do, I'm doing it for the Soldiers who gave their lives for this country."

With the current trend in military deployments, some parents may have problems with their children going into

"I'm doing this because I believe it's the right thing to do. I'm doing it for the Soldiers who gave their lives for this country."

-Pfc. Christopher A. Cioppa, HHS student and member of the Army Reserve

military service, but Cioppa said his family supports him.

"My family is all for it. My father is a colonel in the Army, so I go to him for advice and guidance," Cioppa said. "My mom and sister are scared for me, but they are always going to be supportive."

Cioppa's father, Col. Armon A. Cioppa, the U.S. Army Europe chief of personnel who has served more than 25 years in the Army, said he is immensely proud of his son.

"I sincerely believe, especially in a time of national crisis as we face today, it is everyone's duty who is physically capable to serve in uniform," Armon Cioppa said. "Also, I am very proud that he has chosen to continue our family's tradition of military service. I hope Chris gains a sense of self-pride and confidence. Most important of all, I hope he enjoys the immense

camaraderie that can only be experienced when participating in a profession that fosters selfless devotion. I hope he has, as I have, the time of his life."

Currently, Chris Cioppa is in his fourth year in the Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program, which is offered by his American high school in Heidelberg, and holds the rank of cadet major.

Retired Lt. Col. Felix M. Pedraza, a JROTC senior Army instructor, said Chris Cioppa is an outstanding student.

"He is dedicated, caring and fully committed to academics and the JROTC program," Pedraza said. "He cares for subordinates and peers."

Although his JROTC training has taught him much, attending weekend battle assemblies in his Army Reserve unit is something different.

"This is a lot different than



Courtesy Photo

Pfc. Christopher A. Cioppa, a member of the 7th Civil Support Command based in Kaiserslautern and a student at Heidelberg High School, stands with Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve.

cadet training," Chris Cioppa said. "It's nice being able to have a unit and learn from them before I go to basic (combat) training. I like the friendships and experience that I get with the 457th."

To get ready, Chris Cioppa hits the local gym to concentrate on the physical demands he will have to face in the future. Since attending the weekend battle assemblies with the 457th, he has a head start in military knowledge, and is preparing himself for the rigors of basic combat training he's expecting in June.

High school itself can be a challenging obstacle to overcome, but explaining why he joined the military to other students can be just as diffi-

cult.

When fellow students ask Chris Cioppa why he joined the military, he says, "I want to be a Soldier, and I'm willing to do anything for my country. I'm glad to be an American, but I'm proud to be an American Soldier."

During his second battle assembly weekend, the private first class had the opportunity to have his photograph taken with Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, and Army Reserve Command Sgt. Maj. Leon Caffie during their recent visit to Europe.

Chris Cioppa plans to stay in the Army Reserve through college and eventually make a career in the active Army as an officer.

Spring Break Photo Contest

Going somewhere cool for Spring Break?
Pack your camera and share your photos in the new virtual community. The top photos will be published in the Herald Post.
While you're at it, join the "Spring Breakers" group to swap stories about your Spring Break hot spot.

<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

Photos must be submitted by April 16. Use the tag "springbreak" to identify the photo for the contest. Contestants must be students at a school located in the military communities of Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern or Mannheim.



QUESTIONS? ESN 374-7203, CIV 08224-17-7243 or usaf@nd.pw.mil/bwnowmy.ning

90 years of the American Legion



U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Fred Gamblin

A color guard team from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command participates in a commemoration ceremony at the Arc de Triump in Paris March 21 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the American Legion.

National Health Care Decisions Day is April 16

LRMC Public Affairs

Most Americans recognize that April 15 is an important calendar date for their finances.

In recent years, however, a grass-roots initiative has created another significant date in April – National Health Care Decisions Day. In 2009, National Health Care Decisions Day falls on April 16.

The goal of National Health Care Decisions Day is a simple one. Its message is that all Americans need to think about advanced planning for their health care. In particular, it's time to ask how desires should be communicated to health care providers in the event that you could not speak for yourself. If you were suffering from a terminal illness, would you want artificial life support removed?

Two legal documents can help ensure the patient's intentions are known, even if he is incapacitated.

The first is what is known interchangeably as an "advanced medical directive" or a "living will." This document is intended to memorialize wishes regarding health care should the patient be suffering from a terminal illness or be in a persistent vegetative state.

The second document is known as a "health care power of attorney." This document is a bit broader in scope. It often repeats the instructions found in a living will, but also

... It's time to ask how desires should be communicated to health care providers in the event that you could not speak for yourself. If you were suffering from a terminal illness, would you want artificial life support removed?

nominates an agent who can communicate health care wishes on the patient's behalf.

Ideally, an individual should have both documents (as long as the two do not conflict with each other). A living will is intended for end-of-life medical care. As noted above, a health care power of attorney often contains language addressing end-of-life situations, but can also be used anytime a patient cannot express his own health care decisions.

During routine surgery, for example, doctors may find a patient has another condition that could be corrected during the same procedure. A health care power of attorney would allow them to consult the patient's agent for instructions on whether to do so or wait until the patient can inform the doctors himself.

The form of a living will or health care power of attorney varies from state to state.

Each state has statutes relating to health care powers of attorney or living wills that may be cited in the text of the document. Some states

allow both to be combined into one document, and each state has very strict rules as to who can act as witnesses for the documents.

Army legal assistance attorneys can draft these documents for eligible clients. The process is very similar to that of obtaining a last will and testament. It will involve completing a questionnaire and being interviewed by an attorney. A good legal assistance attorney will also review the document with you to ensure that you understand all of the "legalese."

As April 16 approaches, give some thought to advanced medical planning. Living wills and health care powers of attorney are not intended only for retirees or the elderly.

Traffic accidents and other misfortunes may strike at any age, often leaving families with the unexpected burden of being asked to authorize the removal of life support.

To avoid this, think about the question set forth above and contact your servicing legal assistance office if you desire a living will or

Army Emergency Relief: An Army Strong Charity

The following is a question and answer session with Heidelberg's Army Emergency Relief Campaign Chairman Sgt. 1st Class Mark L. Grimsley.

Why is it important for Soldiers and retirees to give to AER in 2009?

Your participation is needed. The year of the NCO is a great time for us to think about Army Emergency Relief and what it means to Soldiers. Army Emergency Relief is one of the best tools leaders have to help Soldiers, regardless of their pay grade. It provides real help to Soldiers with real emergencies and, in addition, AER helps Soldiers educate their family members.

This charity speaks to the basic responsibilities of an Army NCO. The NCO Creed states "My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind – accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers." First, a warfighter needs to know there is real help available in the event his family has an emergency. It is difficult for a Soldier to stay mission focused if he is worried about his family back home. Secondly, an NCO must be able to respond to the emergencies that Soldiers face.

AER grants and loans help leaders a great deal when it comes to maintaining the welfare of their Soldiers. Clearly, AER can be an NCO or officer's best friend when it comes to responding to their Soldiers' emergencies.

What type of help can Soldiers expect from AER?

AER is in the business of finding reasons to help Soldiers. AER will help Soldiers, family members, Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers, retired Soldiers and the family members of fallen Soldiers. Emergencies may involve personal disasters, emergency travel, rent requirements, dietary requirements, utility needs, clothing, automotive repairs and more.

If you have questions, contact your chain of command, local AER Office or check out its Web site at www.aerhq.org. Our Heidelberg chapter may be contacted at DSN 370-6975, civ. 06621-57-8014.

How much help did the Heidelberg community receive last year?

The AER Campaign 2009 is especially important. Worldwide the economy is shrinking. The economy in the United States is 6 percent smaller than it was last year at this time. With this in mind, I am glad that AER is a strong organization and able to meet the needs of Soldiers worldwide. It is up to us to keep it strong. We do this by giving meaningful donations. Last year, Soldiers in the Heidelberg footprint received \$149,000 in aid. In years to come, we can expect that need to be greater.

How much did the Heidelberg community members donate to AER in 2008?

In 2008 Heidelberg community members contributed \$44,500 to AER programs. This year, your participation is needed to help meet our goal of \$45,000. I am amazed at the excitement already demonstrated on the part of our leaders. It is remarkable, and the Heidelberg AER Campaign has just started. The Heidelberg Campaign began Wednesday and runs through May 15.

How can community members donate?

The bottom line up front is that your participation is needed. Soldiers and retirees wishing to donate to this year's AER Campaign should contact their unit representative. Your unit representative will explain the various donation options that are available. Generally, we are collecting cash and/or allotments. Civilian employee participation is highly valued and appreciated. Civilian donations must be cash or check. Presently, AER does not have the ability to draw allotments from civilians.

When it comes right down to it, Army Emergency Relief is all of us. It is the Army taking caring care of its own. Army Strong!



2009: Year of the NCO

SGT. ANDREW METZINGER



Sgt. Andrew Metzinger has been in the Army for five years. He currently works at the Heidelberg Provost Marshal Office as the Heidelberg community's D.A.R.E. officer helping and teaching kids to resist drugs and violence and to make healthy decisions.

How has being an NCO impacted your life?

Being an NCO has impacted my life in the military because it has shown me another level of service and sacrifice of myself, my time and my talent for my country. No Soldier in the Army, whether they be officers or junior enlisted, sacrifices more for their country than a Soldier in the NCO Corps.

Why did you want to join the Army?

To serve my country and defend it from foreign and domestic threats, as any good Soldier does, and to better myself with the unique skills and experience you can only acquire in the Army.

What one military experience stands out most?

My deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A fellow NCO told me that if you compare the Army to football then training is practice, and deployment is game day. This is what Soldiers do.

Who do you look up to most in your life?

I look up to Christ whose perfect example is the only one you can look up to that never lets you down. Soldiers should imitate his work and words from the book of John 15:13, which states "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends."

What do you enjoy most about living in Europe?

The castles, of course!

Anything you'd like to add?

I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service, and my country.

Nominate a community member

If you would like to nominate someone in the community to be featured in the "Who's Who" column, e-mail the person's name, contact information and a brief description to usaghd.post@eur.army.mil.

21st TSC Public Affairs wins Army-level award for Web site

By Sgt. Maj. Cameron Porter
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 21st Theater Sustainment Command's Web site won a Department of the Army-level journalism competition award March 20.

The Web site, www.21tsc.army.mil, was selected as the third best Web-based publication in the Army by a panel of experienced military and civilian print and broadcast journalists during the 2008 Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards Competition.

Mike Bowers, the webmaster for the 21st TSC Public Affairs Office, did a complete redesign of the site in July soon after being assigned to the command. Bowers served for 20 years in the Air Force as a public affairs specialist and culminated his active-duty service as an instructor at the Defense Information School. He also served as a sports reporter for the European edition of "Stars and Stripes" and has been an Army civilian public affairs specialist since 1994.

Sgt. Jonathan Pruett, a broadcast journalist with the 21st TSC PAO, received two U.S. Army Europe first-place awards and one honorable mention in the radio and television spot production categories. Pruett has served in the 21st TSC for more than three years, his whole career. He is also an accomplished musician, singer and songwriter. He is currently taking classes with American InterContinental University online in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in visual communications and digital design.

Staff Sgt. Tyrone Basnight, a member of the Kaiserslautern military community's Warrior Transition Unit and a volunteer at the 21st TSC PAO, received a first-place USAREUR award for single or stand-alone photo provided to a publication by a stringer. Basnight has more than 20 years of active Army service and volunteers with the KMC youth sports programs.

Angelika Lantz also received a first-place USAREUR award in the print news category of the competition. Lantz is a local national employee at 21st TSC PAO, an accomplished Army journalist and public affairs specialist, and a life-long native of the Kaiserslautern area.

Sgt. Fay Conroy, a 21st TSC PAO print journalist, received two USAREUR honorable mention awards in the categories of single or stand-alone photo and print news. Conroy served in the 8th Army PAO in Korea before being assigned to the



21st TSC in September. Conroy is working on her bachelor's degree in history with the University of Maryland University College.

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, the 21st TSC's commanding general, recognized Bowers, Pruett, Basnight, Lantz and Conroy in a short awards ceremony March 24 on Panzer Kaserne.

Fontaine presented the awardees with plaques from the competition along with commander's coins, praising the 21st TSC PAO for its hard work and stating that these individuals receiving the awards are "what great strategic communications is all about."

The annual competition recognizes military and civilian-employee print and broadcast practitioners and products for journalistic excellence. The contest is named for a World War II Medal of Honor recipient and former Army chief of information who was killed in action in Vietnam while serving as the 1st Infantry Division commander.

Kaiserslautern students use FBLA project to give back

While preparing for this week's Future Business Leaders of America conference in Garmisch, Kaiserslautern High School students embarked on a mission that would do more than fulfill their conference project requirements – it would help wounded troops and their families, too.

The students converged on the Vogelweh and Ramstein commissaries Jan. 31-Feb. 1 to gather donations for the Fisher House at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. They worked in shifts, ensuring maximum participation to receive as many donations as possible.

The focus was on supporting their community, injured troops and their families, according to the

KHS FBLA sponsor, Debra Hipes. The students had originally planned to work two consecutive weekends, but they did not need to because of the generosity of the Kaiserslautern military community in just two days.

The FBLA members collected paper products, cleaning supplies, plastic ware and hygiene products totaling more than \$11,500. After boxing up the donations, Hipes, parents and students, along with a van donated by Vogelweh SIXT Car rental made the trip up to the Fisher House to present the items to U.S. Army Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Mechelle Hale and Fisher House Manager Cathy Gregory.

SOURCE: Master Sgt. Chris Lockwood



Courtesy
Monique Lockwood and Alan Lehto collect donations for the Landstuhl Fisher House outside the Ramstein commissary.

Month of the Military Child



Jason L. Austin

Spc. Andrea Banac, who works at the Patrick Henry Dental Clinic, dances with Kaitlynn McAbee and Analisa Banac before the Month of the Military Child kickoff event Wednesday at Patrick Henry Elementary School. The event included singing by the PHES kindergarten classes and the PHV Child Development Center children along with the reading of several proclamations. Because of the Army Family Covenant, more services are readily available for families, especially children, of Soldiers. Families with a deployed service member receive 16 free hours of child care per month, which is just one way the Army Family Covenant has worked to improve the quality of life for Army families. More photos of the parade are available online at www.flickr.com/heraldpost.

MOMC Events

Heidelberg

Family Movie Day: "The Tale of Despereaux" for free at 2 p.m. April 6 at PHV Theater

Heidelberg Zoo Family Outing: Children 3-18 can enjoy a free day at Heidelberg Zoo 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 8 (Tickets are at ACS on a first-come, first-served basis)

Child Lights: Protect and Celebrate Children 6-8 p.m. April 16 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion

Kaiserslautern

Outdoor Sidewalk Chalk Party: 1-4 p.m. April 10 at Landstuhl Child Development Center

Celebrity Readers: 4:30 p.m. April 10 and 2:30 p.m. April 21 at Miesau Child Development Center; 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. April 16 at Landstuhl Child Development Center

Eggstravaganza: 11 a.m. April 11 at Pulaski Park

KMC Month of the Military Child Celebration: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. April 25 at Pulaski Park

Children's Parade: 9 a.m. April 27 at Miesau Child Development Center and April 30 at Landstuhl Child Development Center

Mannheim

Kinderfest and Community Easter Egg Hunt: Hunt begins at 9:30 a.m. April 11 on the Sullivan sports field, followed by the Kinderfest 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sullivan Gym. Activities include face painting, Operation Missing You, make and take Easter baskets and hats, demonstrations by Fischertechnik, Double Dutch, and Tae-Bo and a graffiti competition sponsored by Youth Services.

In Memoriam – Bill Miedema

The Heidelberg community lost a great friend and a former employee when William (Bill) Miedema succumbed to an illness in March.

He was the senior force protection officer and security officer for the 26th Area Support Group and U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg for 13 years, and medically retired in 2007.

Former commanders and friends from across the Army have called the garrison to pay their respects and recognize his loss to his family and to the community.

Miedema had a wide variety of friends and professional acquaintances throughout Europe. He was a retired Air Force security and special operations officer, and his training and skills paid great dividends to the force protection posture in Heidelberg and subordinate garrisons in Darmstadt, Mannheim and Kaiserslautern.

An avid baseball fan, he was also a consummate bowler and golfer and led numerous Heidelberg bowling teams and golf events. He will be missed for his quiet humor and high degree of professionalism.

He is survived by wife Laura, a Department of Defense Dependents Schools professional; two daughters, Jennifer and Katherine; and five grandchildren.

Pennsylvania Guard to teach 21st TSC Soldiers life saving skills

By **Angelika Lantz**
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It might be the difference between life and death.

More than 400 Soldiers from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command are scheduled to be certified or recertified Combat Life Savers through June 5.

In addition to the large number of Soldiers receiving the training, the program is unique because it is being taught by a mobile training team from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Medical Battalion Training Site.

It's not too common to have Guard Soldiers teach active-duty Soldiers overseas, especially something as critical as CLS skills. However, Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, the 21st TSC's commanding general, wants to ensure that all the 21st TSC Soldiers are CLS certified, said Lt. Col. Martin Davis, the assistant chief of staff for National Guard and Reserve Affairs at the 21st TSC.

With that goal in mind, Davis contacted the Office of the Surgeon of the National Guard Bureau to request assistance.

He was successful.

Four teams of three medical instructors will each teach three courses for 21st TSC Soldiers in Kaiserslautern, Bamberg, Stuttgart, Baumholder and Grafenwöhr Mondays through Thursdays. On Fridays they will recertify Soldiers who have already taken the CLS training. During the recertification process, the Soldiers have to demonstrate their proficiency in the life-savings skills they have previously gained.

Having the medical training teams on location makes it possible to bring highly-qualified medical instructors right to the Soldiers.

"It's a great opportunity for us to assist in training war-fighting units, especially because the students here are very attentive and appreciate the vital importance of this course," said Sgt. 1st Class Ronald James, a senior medical instructor with the PAARNG and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the CLS training course. "As instructors, it's important that we give them the best training we can to make sure they all come back from

downrange."

In an environment where minutes and even seconds count, the expertise gleaned during the 40-hour class is critical. Especially since the curriculum was changed to include aid for the three most preventable cases of battlefield deaths, James explained.

"We now teach how to stop bleeding from extremity wounds, how to open an airway and needle/chest decompression for chest injury and tension pneumothorax management," he said. "We also teach basic casualty evaluation, how to stabilize fractures and medical evacuation procedures. During the last exercise, students practice inserting intravenous lines into each other."

The classes are a combination of classroom teaching and hands-on instruction, which the students rate as crucial.

"I wanted to attend a (CLS) course for a while now because I know how important it is. The training really helps. Things are not that hard once you get to practice – that's what makes the difference," said Spc.

Heather Thomas, a 21st TSC postal clerk.

Staff Sgt. Justin Reed and Pvt. Inez Tulk, both motor transport operators with the 21st TSC's 515th Transportation Company, agreed.

"The practice makes me more confident. Now I know I at least have a chance of making a difference, whether that is giving aid to someone injured in an accident on the autobahn or during fighting downrange," Reed said.

"This is the second time I'm taking the CLS class, and I'm learning new techniques. The instructors are very experienced, very patient and precise. The way in which they show you what to do makes things easier and helps you know exactly how to do something," Tulk said.

James had some compliments to pass around, too. "We received phenomenal support from the 21st TSC staff, and the students are refreshingly attentive," he said. "There isn't even a whiff of the animosity that sometimes can mar the interaction between Reserve and active-duty Soldiers."

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Soldiers of the 100th Brigade Support Battalion board a C-130 aircraft as they prepare to leave for Afghanistan from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Saturday. Beginning in December, the 100th BSB provided logistical support to coalition forces in western and central Iraq as part of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).



Sgt. Alex Snyder



Staff Sgt. Robin Mattson speaks with a local resident while patrolling in Moorhead, Minn., Saturday. Approximately 500 members of the Minnesota National Guard, under the direction of the governor of Minnesota, continue to provide assistance to civil authorities in support of flood-fighting efforts.

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jason W. Rolfe



Staff Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum

Sgt. David Reeves, a survey team member with the 35th Civil Support Team, West Virginia National Guard, sets up a chemical lab as part of Operation Vigilant Guard March 24 near Ponce, Puerto Rico. Reeves and other members of the 35th CST set up the lab as part of a scenario in which terrorists have acquired weapons of mass destruction, and CSTs from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands help civil authorities negate the threat.

(Right) Sgt. Christopher Jasper, left, his military working dog, Uwe, and 1st Lt. Thomas Ray, Provost Marshal's Office, Camp Liberty K-9 section, look for unexploded ordnance, weapons caches and improvised explosive devices in Baghdad March 21.



Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell



Pond Security

Aiming to protect lives through training, professionalism

Photos by Jason L. Austin

Sabina Delaiva, a student at the Pond Academy for Safety and Security gets a few pointers from Kai Wagenknecht, training coordinator at the academy, after firing a weapon for the first time in her life March 26, at the academy in Freigericht-Bernbach. Delaiva, who is from Sardinia, Italy, is training to become a Pond Security officer.

By Jason L. Austin
HERALD POST STAFF

Germany's deep snow, rainy days and hot summers don't deter a group of men and women from braving the elements daily to protect the U.S. military communities where they serve.

The 3,400 Pond Security officers and support personnel who guard 25 sites throughout Germany take their job seriously and have the training and authority to fulfill their mission.

"We're the first person anyone sees coming on that post," said Guy Lane, U.S. contract manager, Pond Security Services, which holds the third largest security contract for the U.S. government according to epipeline, a federal contracting research company.

Each officer receives 136 hours of initial proficiency-based training, which incorporates situational training exercises and firearms training. All of the training is conducted during a four- to five-week resident training session at the Pond Academy for Safety and Security located in Freigericht-Bernbach, near Hanau.

The basic training includes a 40-hour German Basic Security Officer Course, which introduces the students to the laws governing their authority and liability as security officers, as well as the penal and civil codes that govern their actions.

The course also teaches de-escalation through interpersonal communication, physical security, fire-fighting skills and first aid.

"We are one of the only schools where you can teach this (course) directly," said Kai Wagenknecht, training coordinator, Pond Academy.

The students also receive a 40-hour German Weapons Safety Course, which teaches ballistics, laws governing weapons, armed self-defense and basic marksmanship.

The academy houses a shooting cinema where students can practice and qualify with their weapons.

The cinema also is used by hunters and sport shooters to hone their skills.

"They enjoy the opportunity to learn the basics," Wagenknecht said. "In the sport shooting clubs, they've got just standing targets ... we can show them different types of shooting."

They also teach staff from other security companies, he said. There are only two other civilian companies who have a cinema, but Pond Academy is the only company that offers marksmanship training — not just a range.

The remaining 56 hours of instruction cover the U.S. government contract or performance of work standards.

The PWS training establishes the rules of force, which mirror what military police abide by. Basically the officers are taught to use the least amount of force to end the situation whether it's through un-

armed self defense, a baton or a sidearm.

Ninety percent of the work security officers do is access control and the PWS training teaches the new officers how to go about these duties from using the Installation Access Control System to vehicle searches.

The officers are not gate guards, Lane said. "That gate doesn't need guarding; that gate's OK. We're guarding lives, and we're guarding very important property."

Officers are trained how to perform their patrol duties from responding to incidents, surveillance, and guard force communications and how to deal with U.S. personnel.

Finally, the PWS training establishes the standards for qualification and training.

"All we do here ends in certification," Lane said, adding that the weapons qualification meets both U.S. military standards and German weapons law standards.

The academy also teaches explosive detection and patrol dog handling, large vehicle inspections, and how to conduct baggage searches.

Each security officer is also required to complete 116 hours of training per year, with semi-annual situational training exercises. The training focuses on all aspects of the work and includes a lot of interpersonal communication, as well as quarterly weapons familiarization and qualification — more than the German Polizei or military police.

"They've started concentrating more on training," said Steve Holton, a supervisor in Wiesbaden, who occasionally teaches at the academy and has been with Pond Security for 12 years.

"The positive side about (a situational training exercise) — it's very good, because hands on is the best anyway, that's the best way to learn," said Holton, a former U.S. Soldier.

Security officers are also required to take physical fitness tests and random drug tests.

To compensate the officers for their dedication, Pond Security Services pays them one of the highest wages in the security industry in Germany with differential pay for night shifts and holidays.

Not many people can earn as much with out a degree or a trade license, Lane said.

One of the new hires at the academy, Martin Deubel was attracted to the money, he said.

The 24 year old was an auto mechanic in Garmisch, but with the recent downturn in the economy, he was let go.

Deubel saw an advertisement in a newspaper for a security officer at the NATO school in Oberammergau and applied.

He was in his third week of training and said he had learned a lot of information in a really short time.

Deubel had never shot a weapon before coming to



Oliver Gwiasda inspects a vehicle during a situational training exercise at the Pond Academy for Safety and Security March 26.

Pond Security Officers Must:

- have lived in Germany 1 year
- be between 20 and 55 years old
- speak English and German
- pass U.S. and German background checks
- be declared by physician to be physically and mentally able to carry a weapon
- be a NATO-born citizen
- pass a drug test
- pass a fitness test

the academy and said he was nervous the first time he shot the pistol, but now he is comfortable with the weapon and ready to qualify.

The students are required to qualify to Army standards, but the academy reserves the right to disqualify a candidate if they're not confident with the weapon.

"In the end, if in our opinion this guy is not able to carry a weapon, we will not allow him to go out and carry a weapon," Wagenknecht said.

The trainers have the ability to pull out any student they feel is not qualified to perform the work. Supervisors are given the same empowerment, Lane said.

"Our people are trained to the highest standard levels in Europe for this industry," Lane said, adding that above and beyond all the training, Pond Security officers must speak English and German.

"There are not any better trained security personnel," Lane said, "and I'll go ahead and make this statement — in the world who do what we do."

New CSM joins 5th Signal Command team



Sgt. Brandon Spragins

Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Washington holds the noncommissioned officer sword of responsibility symbolizing her acceptance of becoming 5th Signal Command's new command sergeant major during a change of responsibility ceremony at the sports arena on Sullivan Barracks. Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Manley, Network Enterprise and Technology Command / 9th Signal Command, passed the responsibility to Washington.

By **Kristopher Joseph**
5TH SIGNAL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 5th Signal Command, headquartered in Mannheim, welcomed a new command sergeant major during a change of responsibility ceremony at the sports arena on Sullivan Barracks March 24.

Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Washington accepted the noncommissioned officer sword of responsibility from Network Enterprise and Technology Command / 9th Signal Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Manley.

Washington replaced 5th's interim command sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. David Tolver, who held the position since November.

"Sgt. Maj. Tolver stepped up to the plate in so many ways for this command, and we are all truly grateful for his leadership," said Col. Mark Baines, 5th Signal Command's deputy commander, during his opening remarks. "This being the Year of the NCO, you

(Tolver) truly displayed why NCOs are the backbone of the Army by the way you took care of our Soldiers, civilians and family members."

"Being (5th Signal's) command sergeant major was truly a great honor and an experience I will never forget," said Tolver during his outgoing speech.

Washington most recently served as the command sergeant major for the 1st Signal Brigade in Yongsan, Korea.

During her 27-year career, she has held virtually every key leadership position and has deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm and Operation Restore Hope with the 11th Signal Brigade.

Washington also served in Haiti and Somalia with the 10th Mountain Division.

"I am honored and looking forward to working with each and every one of you," said Washington during her remarks. "Dragon Warriors – Ready to Rock and Roll!"

Class melts confusion over ICE

By **Christine June**
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Interactive Customer Evaluation, better known as ICE, has been a way to provide customer feedback on military community services for about seven years, and yet, questions still persist, said Emma Vinson, the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's customer service officer.

Questions from service providers on "how to do this or that" prompted Vinson to initiate ICE Account Manager Training classes. Her first class was March 25 at the garrison library on Kleber Kaserne. She said she wants to hold these classes the last Wednesday of the month in different garrison locations. This way, she can also introduce people to all the different services that the garrison offers to the Kaiserslautern military community.

Response to this first class was overwhelming, said Vinson, who expect about three to six students and got double that as 12 account managers throughout the KMC attended.

"I'm trying to revitalize ICE by teaching people how to use it," said Vinson, who is also the ICE site administrator for the garrison.

She explained that the De-

partment of Defense Web-based customer feedback system known as ICE is now a part of the Installation Management Command's new Customer Management Services that she manages for the garrison. This program is a process that provides garrison commanders with the voice of the customer.

"This process is a way for IMCOM to get Army services to where they can be depended on and be predictable throughout the Army," Vinson said. "So as families go from installation to installation, the quality of services is something they can rely on."

As a part of this program, Vinson's new job is to find out from customers which Kaiserslautern garrison services fit IMCOM's goal of valuable and dependable and which ones need improvement.

One of the tools Vinson uses to determine the value of services is through ICE. She describes ICE as a "conversation between the individual and the customer service provider," because customers can log in complaints or compliments about a particular service and those responsible respond to that issue.

These classes are for those responsible – the account managers – from different

service providers throughout the community to respond to customers and manage their ICE accounts.

In the classes, Vinson teaches managers how to access their accounts, generate the satisfaction rating reports, and change report settings to reflect specific time periods. She can also teach them how to customize their ICE comment cards by adding questions directly related to their services, a list of frequently asked questions or a links to Web sites offering more information. They can even announce their events, she said.

"I teach them how to make their comment cards more customer friendly, which – hopefully – will be one of the tools they use to help to improve their services."

Wanting to improve their services is why Tom Estes and Dana Morris, from the Pirmasens Community Mailroom on Husterhoeh Kaserne, wanted to attend this class.

"I think this class really helps out," Morris said. "ICE gives you a feel of what the community thinks of your service."

Estes, who is the supervisor at the Pirmasens Community Mailroom, said the class has already benefited them because they were able to actu-



Christine June

Emma Vinson, the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's customer service officer, helps Tom Estes, with the Pirmasens Community Mailroom on Husterhoeh Kaserne, set up an ICE account during the Interactive Customer Evaluation Account Manager Training class March 25 at the garrison's library on Kleber Kaserne. Vinson is also the ICE site administrator for the garrison.

ally establish an ICE account.

"There was nothing set up where (customers) could reach out and touch someone in Pirmasens (mailroom)," Estes said.

More than half of the students attending this first class set up ICE accounts for the first time such as the garrison's Child, Youth and School Services' registered nurse, 119-Online Enterprise Service Desk and the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command's Training Support Center-Kaiserslautern.

"On the customer side, they now have new sites they can leave comments for," Vinson said.

Because the demand was so high, Vinson said she will

now require students to sign up for future classes. This way, she said, she can either make sure they have an existing account or she can set it up before class.

Designated account managers for service providers listed or wanting to be on the garrison's ICE site can attend this class. Vinson added that those service managers listed on the Air Force ICE site can also attend the class for information only as she is not the administrator for that site.

The next class is 9 a.m. April 29 at the garrison library, Bldg. 3810 on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. To register for the class, call Vinson at DSN 493-4241, civ. 06313-406-4241.

Recognizing heroism, sacrifice



Photos by Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth

After being awarded a Bronze Star, Sgt. James T. Hackemer (front) took his place in formation with Pfc. David L. Mayer, Spc. David A. Knapp and Spc. Austin J. Bewley (front to rear all without head gear), who were all injured March 14, 2008, when their convoy was attacked. All four Soldiers were able to make it back to Germany to welcome their unit home during a homecoming ceremony March 22 at Kleber Gym in Kaiserslautern.

Cheering crowd welcomes home 230th MP Company

By Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth
18TH MP BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Soldiers of the 230th Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, returned home March 22 to a cheering gymnasium of friends, family and fellow Soldiers at the Kleber Gym in Kaiserslautern after a 15-month tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The excitement as the Soldiers marched into the room, seeing their friends and families for the first time in months, was palpable.

Flags were waved, and cheers echoed through the gymnasium the moment the first Soldier walked through the door.

Lt. Col. Duane Miller, 95th MP Battalion commander, welcomed home the Soldiers by making a point to first tell them: "I would like to thank each of you for your service to our country, to our Army and to each other."

The 230th MP Company deployed to Iraq to work with the Iraqi police, helping them to take the lead in securing their country and providing them with the knowledge and tools to lead future generations of Iraqi police.

The work they did in Iraq supports the larger mission of the 18th Military Police Brigade and its battalions to assist with Iraqi police expansion, development and legitimacy.

In addition to recognizing the great work the Soldiers did during the deployment, one of the highlights of the return came when Miller recognized four Soldiers from the battalion who, against great odds, were able to return to Germany and welcome their comrades home.

Spc. Austin J. Bewley, Sgt. James T. Hackemer, Spc. David A. Knapp and Pfc. David L. Mayer were all injured March 14, 2008, when the Armored Security Vehicle they were riding in was hit by multiple explosively formed projectiles on its way to Baghdad.

Three of the Soldiers – Hackemer, Knapp and Mayer – lost both legs as a result of the injuries suffered during the attack.

Their presence at the homecoming was a symbol of the sacrifice – external and internal, physical and emotional – that all of the Soldiers made for their fellow Soldiers, their families, their unit, the Army and their country during this deployment.

It was also an opportunity for Capt. Shaun C. Hall, 230th MP Company commander, to pin Hackemer with the Bronze Star he earned for his actions that day. Hackemer received his Bronze Star with his fellow wounded warriors by his side and family and friends surrounding him.

After Hackemer was presented with his Bronze Star, Miller said, "Today we are honored to have these four Soldiers back with us. But we're not done yet. We still have to return these four Soldiers to their formation."

Hall called the unit to attention, and the four Soldiers once again fell in with the unit, assuming their places in the formation.

The Soldiers were then released, and the families and friends of the returning Soldiers were finally given the opportunity that they had patiently and anxiously waited months for – the chance to reunite with their loved ones.

For Rikki Giardina, recently married



Raymond Benson, 1, enjoys playing with an American flag while waiting for his dad, Sgt. Eric Benson, 272nd Military Police Company, to come home from a 15-month deployment to Iraq with the 230th Military Police Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

More Photos Online
www.flickr.com/heraldpost

and going through her first deployment with her husband, Spc. Niel Giardina, she said seeing him again "was like falling in love all over again."

For many families and friends the coming weeks will be a chance to catch up with their Soldiers while they reintegrate back into their unit.

For Rikki, that means getting to know her husband again, travelling together and "finally relaxing," she said.

Summer hire applications accepted until May 8

CHRA-Europe Region

The Civilian Human Resources Agency-Europe Region will accept applications through May 8 for summer employment across Europe for military family members ages 14-22, CHRA officials announced March 25.

Human resources officials said the 2009 summer hire program, which provides jobs for the period from June 22-July 31, is designed to provide young people an opportunity to gain meaningful job experience and prepare for future education and career goals while supporting the Army mission.

Jobs are available in clerical, labor and child development positions.

Human resources officials said clerical work includes tasks such as typing, computer work, filing, answering telephones and receptionist and customer services; child development positions involve assisting child caregivers; and labor positions may include working indoors or outdoors and light to moderate lifting or yard work.

Salary for these positions is to be determined, officials added, but should not be less than \$5.50 per hour.

Applicants for summer hire positions must be unmarried family members of active-duty service members or Department of Defense civilian employees who have reached their 14th birthday prior to June 22 and will not reach their 23rd birthday prior to the end of the program July 31.

For child development positions, applicants must be at least 18 years old.

Applicants must submit an online application form as well as a hard-copy application packet to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center that services their community.

More information, including vacancy announcements and application instructions, will be available under "employment" on the CHRA Web site at cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur.

BOSS training educates, encourages idea sharing

By Ray Johnson
IMCOM-EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Installation Management Command-Europe is sponsoring a Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers training session in Schwetzingen April 27-May 2.

And to ensure each installation benefits from the week-long event, the region Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation division is inviting garrison-level BOSS program presidents, senior enlisted advisers and FMWR advisers.

"By bringing them all together at one time, there is a tremendous amount of shared experience and learning that takes place – which benefits everyone," said Peter Shallish of IMCOM-Europe FMWR.

Indeed, at last year's BOSS training opportunity, Arnie Cole, director of IMCOM-Europe FMWR, said: "Having forums like this helps us make better decisions. When we start distributing resources, we had better know what (the troops want) ... the single Soldier's voice is important."

Besides IMCOM-Europe,



Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers Council members at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden discuss upcoming events. Installation Management Command-Europe is sponsoring a BOSS training session April 27-May 2 in Schwetzingen.

participants will hear from members of the Army's FMWR Command; Army and Air Force Exchange Service; Defense Commissary Agency; and private industry. Topics range from marketing to special event budgeting.

The BOSS program, started in 1979, is centered on improving the quality of life for single/unaccompanied Sol-

diers by raising well-being issues, providing recreation opportunities and ensuring community integration.

It also serves as a leadership tool by setting "the conditions for junior Soldiers and noncommissioned officers to interact, ultimately enhancing mentorship and individual development," said IMCOM-Europe Command Sgt. Maj.

Tracey Anbiya.

And with many Army in Europe Soldiers having served downrange, BOSS also plays a role in reintegration. Last year, the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt BOSS program ran an initiative dubbed "This One's for You," that included a series of recreational activities meant especially for redeploying troops. Plus agencies

– such as Army Community Service and the Army Substance Abuse Program – provided in-depth classes on topics such as alcohol awareness and family reconnection.

The program was open to every Soldier facing difficulties in readjusting to normal life following 15 intense months in a combat zone.

Moreover, the program was designed to "deal with reintegration in a healthy, fun-filled way ... in a more relaxed environment than normal redeployment briefings," said Silvia Joiner, the garrison's FMWR adviser for BOSS.

Spc. John Maki, the current IMCOM-Europe BOSS representative, attended the 2008 forum as the USAG Grafenwöhr program president. As he said last year, when it comes to supporting Soldiers and their communities, "BOSS has no limits ... (but) it's our job to gear the program toward the target audience."

Accordingly, "Leadership at all levels understands that the BOSS program and events are critical to the morale of our single Soldiers," Anbiya said.

7th TTSB

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evacuations, identifying improvised explosive devices and explosive ordnance disposals," Brown said.

The field training was based on different scenarios such as reacting to sniper fire, near and far ambushes, clearing obstructed roads and vehicle recovery, which could all present themselves in the theater of operations, said Master Sgt. Shane M. Layo, the 7th's signal engineering branch theater spectrum management chief.

"Given the current theater of operations, there is a more sophisticated enemy that has changed the focus of our military training," Layo said.

Safety NCOs with previous deployment history helped ensure eye protection was worn for all M249 squad automatic weapons and ensured drivers of Humvees maintained the proper speed during convoys while Soldiers engaged targets with dry, blank and live rounds, Brown said.

Brown, the lead safety NCO during the training, also provided safety assistance during the training technical practice. "The TTP was set up for participation as it provided awareness of what the unit will expect while going downrange," he said.

"One of the primary goals of the field training was to familiarize our Soldiers with using their weapons

safely, as they interacted with their surroundings in the convoys, said 1st Sgt. Warren Close, HHC, 7th TTSB.

"Isolating Soldiers in a training environment allows them to train more efficiently, while decreasing challenges of distraction," Layo said.

It is very important for each Soldier to know what his responsibilities are if the team undertook any hostile action during a convoy, in addition to being able to assume those tasks efficiently, Layo said.

"I did not encounter many challenges with the Soldiers," Brown said. "The best thing the Soldiers did was react, while the worst thing they could have done was fail to react, no matter how scared they might be."

"After the live-fire integration, you could see the look of satisfaction and motivation in the faces of all the Soldiers," Layo said. "I saw a lot of teamwork in all three scenarios, and the Soldiers were able to safely navigate through the training and be successful."

The headquarters element of the 7th TTSB will serve in Afghanistan as the Joint Network Operations Control Center, which is the single control agency for the management of the joint force communications systems. The headquarters last deployed in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PRESTON

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Obama understands that 15-month or longer deployments were not beneficial to the force. He added that one year deployed and one year of dwell time does not mean one year off, and that it's important to recognize the need for Soldiers and their families to have a chance at stabilization.

"Leaders must do everything within

their power to sustain the force, help identify and combat the stressors that Soldiers and families deal with during long deployments and redeployments," said the 18th's Command Sgt. Maj. David Clark. "We must keep the experience within our formations, this will assist with continuing our move forward."

Editor's Note: Pfc. Jack Hannah contributed to this article.



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston greets Spc. Micah Wilson, 18th Engineer Brigade, during his visit to Forward Operating Base Marez March 23.

Staff Sgt. Chris Lee

Audience plays a part in KMC Onstage's latest production

By Christine June
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Surprises keep coming up in the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern KMC Onstage's latest production "Night of January 16th," which continues its run for the next two weekends at the theater, Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne.

"Night of January 16th" is a play written by Ayn Rand in 1934. It takes place entirely in a court room and is centered on a murder trial.

"I came across this play a few years ago and found the concept and content quite interesting," said Leo Kosley, who volunteered to be the director for this production, as the theater's director position has been vacant for several months.

One of the surprises and, Kosley said, most intriguing aspects of the show is that the jury in this case is drawn from the audience members.

"They come on stage and sit in the jury box and decide the fate of the defendant, so each night the ending of the show can be different," he said.

The plot of the play centers around Bjorn Faulkner, who has swindled millions of dollars from investors and is facing bankruptcy, when he falls to his death on the night of Jan. 16. The purpose of the play is to decide if it was a suicide – or murder.

A few of the witnesses make up another part of the play's many surprises, Kosley said.



Yungyoung Cho, portraying the clerk of the court, swears in Private Investigator Homer Van Fleet, played by Don Jackson, as a witness for the prosecution during dress rehearsals of the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's KMC Onstage's latest production "Night of January 16th" at the theater on Kleber Kaserne.

"I'm very excited to be a part of this production – not only is it challenging and exciting to be a part of an interactive play, but it's also amazing that so many people are willing to give up their personal time and volunteer to keep a cherished part of this community alive with their talent," said Sarah Richard, the KMC Onstage's operations assistant.

Volunteers have indeed kept the theater's doors open and the lights on, Kosley said.

"One note of importance about the show is that it has been produced by an all-volunteer force

from conception to performances," Kosley said.

This show, according to Kosley, is the KMC's entrance piece into the U.S. Army Europe Annual Tournament of Plays, a yearly event where civilian theater professionals judge shows performed by military community theaters throughout Europe.

If you haven't been to the show yet, there's still time. The production continues this weekend, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 3 p.m. Sunday, and next weekend, 7:30 April 10 and 11 at KMC Onstage, Bldg. 3232 on Kleber Kaserne.

For details, call KMC Onstage at DSN 483-6626.

Security officials advise Americans about security precautions in France, Germany this weekend

By Bill Roche
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The announcement by NATO of Friday and Saturday's summit of heads of state and government marking the alliance's 60th anniversary means members of the U.S. forces community in Europe need to be aware of summit-related and general travel and security measures, say U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe security experts.

USAREUR and IMCOM-Europe antiterrorism and force protection officials said 10-15,000 anti-NATO demonstrators – many of whom are also anti-American and police officials believe could become violent – are expected to protest through Sunday in and around the conference's locations in Baden-Baden and Kehl, Germany, and Strasbourg, France.

A large encampment of protestors is expected south of Strasbourg,

and many protestors are likely to use public transportation to the centers of all three cities, officials said, noting that police will restrict pedestrian and vehicle movement around train stations and rail lines and possibly roadside rest areas, within several miles of each city.

In a related move they said is designed to ensure the security of the summit, French Immigration Ministry officials announced they are temporarily restoring controls on France's borders with neighboring countries through Sunday.

German police issued a similar statement that travelers will be checked at Germany's land and sea borders and airports. While travel restrictions among European Union member nations have been relaxed for many years as part of the EU's Schengen Borders Code that allows for free movement of EU citizens, German and French officials said the code also allows for the temporary

restrictions.

"It's important that our personnel constantly practice the personal protective measures taught in Level I antiterrorism training and carry the proper documents when traveling in Europe," said Don Grosz, acting chief of the antiterrorism division of the USAREUR operations directorate. "Anyone who cannot reschedule travel to the areas where the NATO summit is taking place must be extra prepared and extra vigilant to avoid the sites of potential trouble, and to cooperate with law enforcement and security authorities."

The Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Manual (DoD 4500.54-M, modified March 10, 2009) notes that passports are required for off-duty travel to France at any time, and a visa is required for stays of more than 90 days.

Visas may also be required for those traveling on no-fee official passports. While travelers on official duty may

be authorized to enter France with official orders and a military identification card, DoD officials recommend that all travelers consult the manual and their organization travel experts for specific guidelines when traveling across any international border. The manual is available online to users on a .mil domain at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>.

The USAREUR-issued U.S. Forces Certificate of License entitles the bearer to drive within the confines of the country in which it was issued, and driving across international borders in Europe requires an international driver's license, added Tom Lorenzini of the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles.

For example, Lorenzini explained, a USAREUR license obtained in Germany is a privilege granted through an agreement with the German government only and an international license is required to legally drive outside the German borders.

GERMAN COOKING

Odette's Potato Salad (Odette's Kartoffelsalat)

Named after a busy working mother from Bavaria, this fresh interpretation of the iconic potato salad surprises with light flavors and bright colors.

Serves: 4 - 6 people

Ingredients:

- 1 pound potatoes, scrubbed
- 1 1/4 cups hot chicken or beef stock
- 5 to 6 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 tablespoons German vinegar (such as Gundersheim, Hengstenberg, Kuehne, Surig)
- 1 teaspoon German mustard (such as Gundelsheim, Hengstenberg, Burkhardt, Frenzel, Haendelmaier, Kuehne, Surig, Thomy, Löwensenf)
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/3 cucumber
- 1 large German Pickle (such as Gundelsheim, Hengstenberg, Kuehne, Spreewaldhof)
- 5 ounces cooked bacon, chopped (optional)
- 2 spring onions, chopped
- 2 small onions chopped finely
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 6 to 8 cherry tomatoes, halved
- Black pepper to taste

Preparation:

- Cut the potatoes into large cubes and boil in salted water until tender.
- Drain and pour the hot stock over the potatoes. Leave until cool, by which time they should have absorbed the stock.
- Whisk the oil with the vinegar, mustard, sugar, salt and pepper.
- Halve the cucumber lengthwise, scoop out the seeds with a teaspoon and dice the flesh into cubes.
- Chop the pickle to the same size as the cucumber cubes.
- Mix the cooked bacon, cucumber, pickle, onions, chives and dressing into the cooled potatoes. Gently mix in the tomatoes and set aside in the fridge for an hour or two.
- Check the seasoning and serve.

SOURCE: www.germanfoods.org

Learn to Shop for German Food

Are you curious about local products and food items available on the economy? Visit an organic food store or a typical grocery store accompanied by a registered dietician who is fluent in the German language. Call the Nutrition Care Division at the Heidelberg Health Center to book your free tour, DSN 371-2747, civ. 06221-17-2747.



Vicki Johnson is a military spouse and clinical social worker with more than 12 years experience working with families in crisis. To contact Ms. Vicki, e-mail her at dearmsvicki@yahoo.com.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

My wife just won't grow up. I'm sure we were married too young. I've made a big adjustment and adapted to my new Army career, but like other Soldiers, I will be deployed by the end of the year.

I just don't think my wife will make it or survive if I'm deployed. She is 27 years old, and she does not drive. She is not afraid to drive because of a bad experience or anything, she just doesn't care to drive. I drive her to all of the places she needs to go and wait in the car for her to complete her shopping. It makes me feel like an old man because my grandfather did the same thing for my grandmother who did not drive.

Of course, I pay all of the bills. She doesn't even care to know what is going on with the household finances. How am I supposed to give attention to my tasks at hand when I have to stop to pay the monthly bills? It won't be possible.

I do all of the grocery shopping and do 90 percent of the cooking, too. I thought I could help her grow up and achieve something, but now I am wondering if it's possible.

At first she was saying she wanted to go to college so she could possibly have a career, but she got cold feet and hasn't even applied for any school in the area.

Now she is pregnant, and I don't know what will happen to my wife and child when I am in Afghanistan.

Should I send her home to be with her family for support, or should I leave her here and force her to grow up?

From: *Immature Wife*

Dear Wife,

Now is not the time to pick apart every thing your wife won't take the initiative to do. However, it is time to move forward and empower her, increase her confidence and independence, and increase her assertiveness.

You will be deployed in a few months. You are right to be concerned about your wife and

Ms. Vicki's Online Talk Show

Don't get enough Ms. Vicki in the Herald Post? Now you can tune in for her Internet radio show at www.blogtalkradio.com/dearmsvicki to hear her talk about teen dating violence, helping military children have a smooth transition, relationships and more.

your unborn child. She would be isolated and eventually unhappy if she doesn't increase some of the skills you mentioned.

I'm not sure why she takes a back seat to such responsibilities, but it is time to change them. Conversely, I applaud you for wanting your wife to have more independence over her life and your family matters.

Here are my recommendations; start having conversations with your wife about the need for her to assert more independence. Tell her it will be necessary for her to do so at this time, so she will be ready when you deploy as this is to her benefit and your child's benefit.

Often times as military families we do not have the advantage of residing near our close family members and friends. It's important for us to be able to maneuver in any environment at any time.

Secondly, encourage your wife to get involved with Army Family Team Building and Army Community Service. These organizations offer many classes and programs that are advantageous to spouses.

Many of our posts offer newcomer tours. On the tour they will show you around the local area and even teach you how to use public transportation. Some include an introduction to Army life, budgeting, check writing, computer classes, etc. I can guarantee you they will be able to assist your spouse with many of the concerns you have.

Next, query your wife to find out why she hasn't learned to drive. For example, is she afraid to drive because of a past experience while driving or as a passenger i.e. a car wreck? If not, then I encourage you to enroll her in driver's education classes.

Lastly, I think you should begin today educating your spouse about your household finances. Start discussing your income, your financial obligations and payment procedures.

Additionally, start minimizing your role as cook, grocery shopper, etc., and begin to give her a role with these daily functions.

Thank you for writing me and for sharing your story. Continue to take care of yourself and your family.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I keep giving my neighbors chances to stop abusing their children, but I keep seeing them hit

their children and verbally abuse them. I don't want to be nosy, but I know it's not right what they are doing.

Their poor children are constantly getting yelled at, smacked on their butts, and grabbed by the collar if they do anything wrong. It's hard for me to watch. They are only acting like children, that's all.

I think they are taking this military lifestyle too far. They are children, not Soldiers who you can order around.

Where are the MPs and counselors when you need them? They should be policing these neighborhoods protecting innocent children and other people.

Instead, I guess they are sitting in offices eating donuts. This is not right!

No one is doing a good job with our tax dollars, not Wall Street, the police or counselors.

I'm a concerned citizen who wants to help children who are being abused, but everyone is turning a deaf ear until something bad happens. What do I need to do, stand on top of my roof and yell "Help"?

From: *A Concerned Citizen on Patrol*

Dear Citizen,

You are a mandatory reporter regarding child abuse. If you see it, then you report it to authorities. You don't have to wait for military police to drive through your neighborhood.

They can't be everywhere or see everything.

Secondly, I don't know of any program that allows clinical social workers or counselors to police neighborhoods looking for child abuse.

Again, you are reporting to me that you see the abuse, and it's hard for you to watch. Shame on you!

If it were me, I would step up and tell my neighbors their behavior toward their children causes concern for me.

Moreover, I would tell them I'm calling the MPs and making a report.

I would also go even further and call Child Protective Services and make a report and even call Social Work Service on my base for further assistance. These are all immediate options for you.

Stop blaming every one else in this matter and look in the mirror. You are an immediate defense for these children.

If it's bothering you so much then do something now, report it!



Inkheart

This week we have a movie that has been a long time in the making. Originally slated for release in Christmas 2007 and pushed back till March 2008 and then once more because of the writers strike the movie finally made it to the big screen in January.

I will say this movie was well worth the wait. This is one of those beautifully written books well overdue for movie crossover.

Written by Cornelia Funke, an award-winning German author, the books have a huge following. Brendan Fraser is Mortimer "Mo" Folchart a.k.a. Silvertongue who has the incred-

Movie Lovers Online
Join the "Movie Lovers" group in the BWow virtual community at <http://myBWow.ning.com> to give props and flops to the latest flicks and chat with The Reel Life's Spc. Joseph Nieves.

ible ability to read characters out of books. At first it sounds really cool, but as you find out in the movie, it can have some very bad after effects.

Mo and his daughter, Meggie Folchart (Eliza Bennet), are the traveling types and get caught up in an amazing adventure.

This movie is one of those cool adventure films I think the whole family will get into. The special effects are pretty cool, and since they are planning to release the trilogy in its entirety on screen, it's shaping up to be another cool epic series.

I would have to suggest this movie to our readers for being one of those incredibly imaginary films – one that just feels like your imagination has gone wild.

Check it out and enjoy.

GET OUT!
area events
More events online at <http://myBWow.ning.com>

April 2

Vienna Teng & Band – Enjoy an evening of jazz, folk and pop, 8:30 p.m. at Kamimgarn in Kaiserslautern. Tickets cost €18. <http://kamimgarn.de>.

Live Rock Music All Nighter – Head to Mannheim's The Cove where local bands will hit the stage starting 10 p.m. Cover: \$3. DSN 385-2884, Civ. 0621-730-2884.

Live Music – Enjoy the sounds of Alaska with Hobo Jim at Legends on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg starting at 7 p.m. The event is free. www.mwgermany.com.

April 3

Skiing in Innsbruck – Enjoy a three-day ski trip to Austria with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. Cost is \$265. DSN 388-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

L'Orfeo – An opera by Claudio Monteverdi, 7:30 p.m. at the Pfalz Theater in Kaiserslautern April 3, 8 and 25. Civ. 0631-3675-209, www.pfalztheater.de.

April 4

Glacier Ski Express – Spring is almost here so enjoy the last Glacier Ski Express trip. Cost is \$69. DSN 388-9282, Civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

Volksmarching in France – Join the Heidelberg International Wandering Club on a trip to the Alsace region of France. The 10-kilometer volksmarch in Ballersdorf will be followed by a side trip to Soufflenheim for pottery lovers. We'll stop at a French supermarket in Hagenau where you can stock up on French delicacies. www.hiwc.de.

April 6

Mini Spring Bazaar – The Landstuhl Com-

munity Club will host the 2009 Mini Spring Bazaar. Shop with vendors from around the world to find treasures like antiques, wine, cheese, jewelry, artwork and much more. The Mini Spring Bazaar will be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday. DSN 486-7244, Civ. 06371-86-7244, www.mwgermany.com.

April 7

Europa Park – Take a trip to Europa Park where you can enjoy exciting rides, games and a whole lot of fun. Cost is \$89 for children and \$99 for adults (price includes park entrance fee). DSN 388-9282, Civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwgermany.com.

April 8

Independent and Foreign Films – Kaiserslautern libraries present independent and foreign films at Heaton Auditorium. All showings begin at 6 p.m. and are free. April 8: "The Bothersome Man," by Jens Lien – Norwegian with English subtitles; April 15: "The Grocer's Son," by Eric Guirado – French with English subtitles; April 22: "Choking Man," by Steve Barron – English and Spanish with English subtitles; April 29: "Days and Clouds," by Silvio Soldini – Italian with English subtitles. DSN 486-7322, Civ. 06371-86-7322.

April 9

Bluegrass Meeting and Open Mic Night – Head to Shooter's Bar and Grill at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club in Offersheim every second Thursday of the month to enjoy a delicious meal while listening to the classical sounds from the Bluegrass Valley. Local musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and join the band. Civ. 06202-511-93, www.mwgermany.com.

April 11

Stuttgart Spring Festival – At the Cannstatter Wasen site through May 3, visitors to Stuttgart can join in a joyous celebration of the return of spring. Pure pleasure is the order of the day, with a Ferris wheel, the Wild Mouse, raffle stands, festival beer, candy floss, bratwurst, Göckele and Käsespätzle. info@in.stuttgart.de or www.in.stuttgart.de.

Easter Egg Hunt and Kinderfest – Mannheim's annual community Easter Egg Hunt and Kinderfest will be held at Sullivan Gym at 9:30 a.m. Late arrivals will miss out on hunting for eggs. Kinderfest follows (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) with face painting, SKIES demonstration, Operation Missing You, Start Smart sports activities, free food and beverages and much more. DSN 385-2048, Civ. 0621-730-2048, www.mwgermany.com.

Eggstravaganza – At 11 a.m. head to Pulaski Park in Kaiserslautern for this free event open to the community children up to 12 years old. DSN 493-4117, Civ. 0631-3406-4117, www.mwgermany.com.

Grown-Up Easter Egg Hunt – Head to the Kazabra Club in Kaiserslautern at midnight to take part – find the golden egg and win a prize. DSN 489-7261, Civ. 0631-536-7261, www.mwgermany.com.

April 16

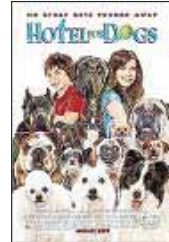
Pfennig Bazaar – The German American Women's Club Heidelberg hosts its 2009 Pfennig Bazaar noon-6 p.m. April 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. April 17 and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 18 at the International Gesamtschule, Baden-Badener Strasse / Erlengenweg in Heidelberg.

Lionel Richie – American singer Lionel Richie will appear at the SAP Arena in Mannheim at 8 p.m. www.bb-promotion.com.

coming to
THEATERS

HOTEL FOR DOGS

(Emma Roberts, Don Cheadle) When Andi and her younger brother, Bruce, find themselves in a foster home with a strict "no pets" policy, Andi has to use her quick wit to help find a new home for their dog, Friday. The kids stumble upon an abandoned hotel and begin transforming it into the perfect home for Friday – as well as all the strays in the city. In no time, the kids have transformed the old hotel into something truly magical: a home for both the dogs and for themselves. But they have also aroused the suspicions of police who want to know who let the dogs in? Rated PG (mild thematic elements, language, crude humor) 100 minutes



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

- April 2 - FROST/NIXON (R) 7 p.m.
- April 3 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 7 p.m.; LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- April 4 - INKHEART (PG) 4 p.m.; HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 7 p.m.; LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- April 5 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 2 p.m.; MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 4:30 p.m.; INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 6 - LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 7 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 8 - INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 9 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 7 p.m.

Mannheim, Schuh

- April 2 - FROST/NIXON (R) 7 p.m.
- April 3 - I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 7 p.m.
- April 4 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 4 p.m.; LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.; I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 9:30 p.m.
- April 5 - INKHEART (PG) 4 p.m.; I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 7 p.m.
- April 6 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 7 - LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 8 - I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 7 p.m.
- April 9 - INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

- April 2 - I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 7 p.m.
- April 3 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.
- April 4 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.; LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.
- April 5 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
- April 6 - LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 7 - INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 8 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 9 - INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Hercules

- April 3 - LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- April 4 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 5 - INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Nightingale

- April 2 - RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 3 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 3:30 p.m., INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.; I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 10:30 p.m.
- April 4 - INKHEART (PG) 3 p.m.; LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.; I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 10:30 p.m.
- April 5 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 3 p.m.; I LOVE YOU MAN (R) 7 p.m.
- April 6 - INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 7 - HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 8 - INKHEART (PG) 7 p.m.
- April 9 - LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) 7 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238
Schuh Theater, Mannheim, 0621-730-1790
Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017
Hercules, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550
Nightingale, Ramstein, 06371-47-6147

Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions

community HIGHLIGHTS

Precautionary Over Flights

Baden Württemberg's Polizei Helicopter Wing will conduct precautionary over flights of the Confinement Facility on Coleman Barracks and U.S. Army Europe Headquarters and the Joint Headquarters Center on Campbell Barracks April 2-3. These flights are in support of the upcoming NATO Conference.

Government Vehicle Auction

Interagency Fleet Management System European Region will hold a public auction of used U.S. government vehicles April 8-19. Bidding will be via live Internet auction. Public inspection period 9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 16 at Spinelli Barracks, IFMS Consolidated Vehicle Processing Center. www.vebeg.de/web/en/auktionen/index.htm. DSN 337-7781, civ. 0621-705-7784.

Retiree Pay Representative

A retiree pay representative from DFAS-Cleveland will be in Germany to assist retirees and annuitants with pay problems and conduct audits of individual pay account. The schedule includes: April 20, Mannheim, CPF Building; April 21, Kaiserslautern, Daenner Kaseme/Panzer Kaseme; April 23, Heidelberg, Shopping Center CPF office. Check with your local Retirement Services officer for exact times and possible location changes.

Postage Increase

The price of a first class letter, 1 ounce, will increase May 11 to 44 cents. Other classes of mail and some services will also increase. The Forever Stamp is still good for sending first class letter mail weighing 1 ounce or less. When the rate increase begins, your local military post office will have the new stamps.

local EMPLOYMENT

Career Expo

Don't miss the upcoming Career Expo 9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 16 at the Kazabra Club, Vogelweh Bldg. 2057. Participants can meet with dozens of employers, including government and contracting agencies. DSN 493-4029, civ. 0621-3406-4029, or jaqueleine.boone@eur.army.mil.

Mannheim EFMP Coordinator

Interested candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in one of the following fields: psychology, marriage, family and child counseling, social work, human development, counseling, public administration, special education, public health or nursing. Solicitation will close at noon April 17. DSN 385-3101.

Massage Therapists

The Heidelberg Sports and Fitness Centers are looking for massage therapists. DSN 370-6489, civ. 06221-57-6489.

Aerobics Instructors

The Kaiserslautern Sports and Fitness Centers are looking for aerobics instructors for the following classes: Power Pump, Hi-Low Step, Turbo Kick, Latin Aerobics and Hip-Hop Aerobics. DSN 493-2086, civ. 0621-3406-2086.

Education Center Substitutes

Sullivan Barracks Education Center seeks: administrative assistant, ALC Operator, test examiner and Central Texas College field representative. Civ. 0621-730-2370, jeanne.bakts@eur.army.mil.

KAISERSLAUTERN Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – Anger Management, 10 a.m. April 6 and 3 p.m. April 9; AFTB Instructor Training, 8:30 a.m. April 7-11; Resumix, 1 p.m. April 7 and 9 a.m. April 9; ADHD Support Group, 6 p.m. April 7; Making Your Money Work for You, 9 a.m. April 8; Career Ready Training, noon April 8; HUGS Play Group at Pulaski Kids' Zone, 10 a.m. April 9; Stress Management, 4 p.m. April 9; Couples Communication, 6 p.m. April 9. Reservations are required for most classes. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0621-3406-4203, www.mwgermany.com/kl/acs.

• **Basic Skills Pilot Program** – The education center on Rhine Ordnance Barracks is the site for the Army's Online Basic Skills Pilot Program for GT score improvement. This pilot program is for basic skills in reading and math and ends Aug. 31. Students can begin this self-study program at anytime. DSN 493-2590, civ. 0621-3406-2590.

Community

• **Car Wash Tokens** – The Pulaski Auto Skills Center will switch to token-operated car washes and vacuums in April. The tokens can be purchased at the change machines. Quarters will no longer work in the car washes or vacuums after the switch has been made. DSN 493-4167, civ. 0621-3406-4167.

• **Spring Break @ Your Library** – The Landstuhl Library will be hosting a full week of events noon-2 p.m. April 6-10. Enjoy a different crafting project each day and learn more about crafting through books. Monday – Beading; Tuesday – Make a picture frame; Wednesday – Origami; Thursday – Make a hat; Friday – Make an egg basket. DSN 486-7322, civ. 0621-3406-7322.

• **Easter Sunrise Service** – The Army and Air Force Chaplain's Office will host an Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. April 12 at the Vogelweh football stadium, located between the Vogelweh Gym and commissary. In the event of inclement weather, the service will take place inside the Vogelweh Gym. DSN 493-4219, civ. 0621-3406-4219.

• **Family Fun Night** – Promote child abuse prevention and education at this carnival-themed event that's fun for the whole family 5-8 p.m. April 13 at the Vogelweh Elementary School gym. One lucky person will win two free tickets to Disneyland Paris. DSN 493-4331, civ. 0621-3406-4331.

• **CYS Services Teen Shuttle** – This service, beginning April 15, is available to all CYS Services patrons in high school. A valid ID card and shuttle card will be required to ride. Pick up points are located throughout the KMC including Vogelweh, Ram-

stein and Landstuhl. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0621-3406-4516.

• **BOSS Commissary Appreciation Day** – The Vogelweh Commissary and Better Opportunities for Single Service members host this event at 6 a.m. April 16. All military units in the Kaiserslautern military community are asked to come out and participate in this unit-level physical training competition. DSN 493-4344, civ. 0621-3406-4344.

HEIDELBERG Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – Community Orientation, noon-3 p.m. April 6; Parents of Multiples, 12:30-2 p.m. at PHV CDC April 7; Reintegration Briefing, 9 a.m. April 7; PCS Briefing, 12:30-3 p.m. April 7; English as a Second Language offered throughout the week. DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6883, www.mwgermany.com/hd/acs.

• **German Language Classes** – Day and evening classes will be offered at Patton Education Center starting April 20. Cost is €80 (level 1) and €100 (levels 2-4) for 38 hours over eight weeks (evenings) or three weeks (daytime). Registration is 5-7 p.m. April 3-4 in room 116 at the education center. DSN 373-6176, civ. 06221-168226.

• **Master of Business Administration** – University of Phoenix is currently enrolling students for the MBA program. Classes are one night a week and start May 27. DSN 373-7650, civ. 06221-588-0492.

Community

• **Heidelberg International Wandering Club** – Upcoming Volksmarches: Rodenbach, Freiberg/Neckar, April 4-5; Sprendlingen/Bingen, April 10-11; Dallau, April 11 and 13. Next meeting is at 7 p.m. April 6 at the SG Gasthaus Ottersheim. Sign up for trips to Frankfurt and London. hiw@yahoo.com, www.hiw.de.

• **School Registration** – Registration for school year 09-10 will be: Mark Twain Elementary, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. through April 3; Patrick Henry Elementary School, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. through April 3; Heidelberg Middle School, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. March 30-31; Heidelberg High School, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. March 30-31 and noon-4 p.m. April 1. Contact each school directly with questions.

• **Thrift Shop Closure** – The Thrift Shop will be closed April 4-11 for spring break. Any consignments expiring during the closure must be withdrawn prior to the closure. The shop will reopen April 14.

• **Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarships** – Deadline for applications is April 3. Civ. 0179-536-2115, covens316@hotmail.com.

• **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training** – Join subject matter expert Russell Strand April 3,

Roadside Theater, Patton Barracks. Victimology: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sex Offenders: 1-4 p.m.

• **PHV Shoppette Closure** – The shoppette will close midnight-4 a.m. April 4 for equipment upgrades.

• **Refuse Collection Schedule Change** – Due to the host nation Easter holidays, the refuse collection schedule will change as follows: April 6 collection will now be April 4, April 7 will be April 6, April 8 will be April 7; April 9 will be April 8, April 10 will be April 9, April 13 will be April 14, April 14 will be April 15, April 15 will be April 16, April 16 will be April 17, and April 17 will be April 18.

• **EDIS Happy Hours** – Parents can talk to professionals about their child's development 4-6 p.m. April 7 and 15 at PHV Child Development Center and 4-6 p.m. April 2 and 21 at MTV CDC. Civ. 06221-17-2738.

• **Easter Closures** – The Housing Office and the Recycling and Reuse Center will be closed April 10 and 13 in observance of Good Friday and Easter. Full services will resume April 14.

• **Retirement Ceremony** – Held at 3 p.m. April 24 near the flag pole on Patton Barracks for Soldiers and civilians with an approved retirement date. DSN 373-6334.

• **Krimson and Kream Scholarship Benefit Ball** – Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. will hold its 2009 ball April 25 at the Village Pavilion. Donation is \$35, and proceeds go toward scholarships for graduating DoDDS students. Civ. 0160-9916-2144.

• **Spring Clean Up** – All Soldiers and civilians assigned to or living in Heidelberg will participate in Spring Clean Up, to be held April 27-May 1. Mornings should be used to clean up around the work place, and at 10 a.m. Soldiers should be released to clean up in family and single Soldier housing areas under the direction of their area building coordinators. DSN 373-8857, civ. 0162-270-0571.

• **International Movie Nights** – Enjoy an evening watching great foreign films at International Movie Nights at the Arts and Cultural Center in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion, every last Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. Feel free to bring your own refreshments. Movie Nights are open to ages 18 and over only. DSN 388-9418, civ. 06221-338-9418, www.mwgermany.com.

• **Poetry Slam** – Check out Poetry Slam every first Thursday of the month 7-8:30 p.m. at the Arts and Cultural Center on PHV. It's a place for poets and poetry lovers to share, listen to and discuss poetry. Open to ages 17 and over. www.mwgermany.com.

MANNHEIM Education

• **ACS Classes** – Welcome to

America for Foreign-Born Spouses, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. April 4; Volunteer Training, 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. April 6; School-Age Parenting, 9-10 a.m. April 7; Levy and Out-Processing Brief, 1-2:45 p.m. April 7; Mom and Me Play Group, 10 a.m.-noon April 8; Guten Tag Kids, 3:30-4:30 p.m. April 8; English as a Second Language offered at various times and dates. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

• **German Class** – Sign up today for your beginner German course at the USO. The eight-week course runs Thursdays 5-6:30 p.m. April 2-May 21. Price: €50. DSN 385-2082, civ. 0621-730-2082.

Community

• **Gate Changes** – Upgrades are coming to the access control points at Funari, Coleman, Spinelli, Grant Circle and BFV-5. Any installation with a closed exit lane will be marked as closed and signs will be posted to the alternate exit gates. Schedule: BFV-5 Gate (PX), April 6-18; Spinelli Gate, April 20-25; Coleman Gate (phase II), May 4-11; Funari Gate, May 18-23.

• **Youth Services** – Ultimate Journey, 4-5 p.m. April 3; Passport to Manhood, 4-5 p.m. April 8 and 22; Promise Passport, 5-6 p.m. April 9. DSN 380-4864, civ. 0621-730-9997.

• **Free Pancake Breakfast** – Join the USO 7-9 a.m. April 8 in the USO ballroom for pancakes, bacon, sausage and orange juice.

• **Sullivan Library** – Scrapbook Club, noon-3 p.m. April 5 and 19; Film Screening, 4-5:30 p.m. April 5 and 19; National Library Week, April 12-18; Story Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays; Teen Advisory Board, 4-5 p.m. Thursdays. DSN 380-1740, civ. 0621-730-1740.

• **EDIS Happy Hours** – Parents can talk to professionals about their child's development 4-6 p.m. April 22 and 28 at Mannheim Child Development Center. Civ. 06221-17-2738.

• **Models Needed** – The Top Hat is seeking volunteer female and male models of all shapes and sizes for the May 29 Fashion Show. Participants and patrons must be 18 years of age and older. Call no later than April 17. Civ. 0151-5428-2645.

• **Baby Shower** – The Mannheim Army Health Clinic invites expectant parents and parents with children 2 months old and younger to its Mannheim Community Baby Shower 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 30 at the Sports Arena. Sign up by April 23. Civ. 0621-730-9560.

• **Super Saturdays** – Held the second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Child care is open to families who have a current registration with CYS Services. Reservations accepted up to a month in advance: DSN 380-4851, civ. 0621-730-4850.

Battle of champions



VS.



Army, Air Force face off in Mannheim Saturday

By Ken Robinson
DPL PRESIDENT

The Army Bruins will take on the Air Force KMC Eagles in a winner-takes-all hockey contest Saturday night.

The 2008 U.S. Armed Forces-Europe Champions Baden Bruins, which dominated the German DPL (Die Players Liga) league last season will face its toughest opponents yet, the current and dominating 2009 USAFE Champions – the KMC Eagles.

The KMC Eagles, which dethroned the Bruins in February at the USAFE Championships, has been dominating the German DPL league all season.

Its rise to the top is much attributed to its organizational growth and, of course, acquisition of top-notch college-level hockey players.

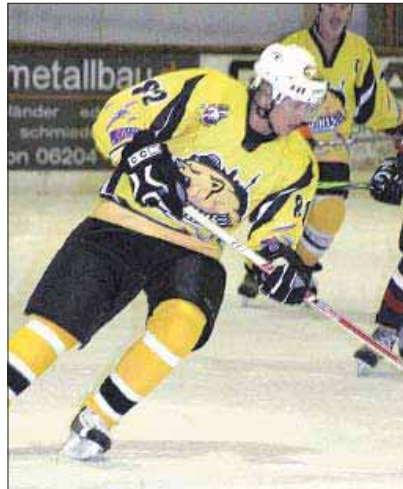
Todd Poynter, the Eagles president, has made it a point to recruit and build the largest possible hockey program in the KMC area.

The KMC Eagles had not won the coveted USAFE title since its inception back in 1992. This year, however, the Eagles soared through the competition going undefeated in the tournament. Over the past five years, the Eagles have worked diligently to build a program that could not only compete in the highly regarded DPL league, but also be recognized as the top military team in Europe.

The Baden Bruins, on the other hand, have won the USAFE title twice and have dominated the German league for years.

Last year, the Bruins were red hot as they swept the competition at both Garmisch and the DPL. The Bruins are coached by ex-Hartford Whaler Bob Sullivan. This season, however, the Bruins only loss was at the hands of the improved KMC Eagles.

It's a classic battle of Army tradition versus Air Force pride. Come Saturday, the Bruins plan to revenge their only loss of the season. The KMC Eagles, however, are



Courtesy Photo

Kevin Dick and the rest of the Baden Bruins Army ice hockey team will face the Air Force's KMC Eagles during the Division I DPL league championship at SAP Arena in Mannheim at 9 p.m. Saturday.

determined to keep their winning streak alive and win the most prestigious of titles – the 2009 DPL Championship title.

The Bruins-Eagles Division I Championship game will take place at the SAP Arena in Mannheim at 9 p.m. Saturday. The Division II game is scheduled for 7 p.m. For more information about the DPL or the military teams, visit www.dpliga.com.



Sgt. Maj. Lisa Hunter

Bring it on

Darla Hammond rolls a strike during the Heidelberg Sergeants Major Association Bowling Tournament Saturday at the Heidelberg Bowling Center. Twenty-one teams of four participated in the tournament, which was a fundraiser for the association. The HSMA raised nearly \$500 from the event. The association is donating the proceeds to a Mannheim children's hospital to fund an Easter celebration.

staying ACTIVE

Send the HP Your Sports Photos

Do you have photos from sporting events in your community – youth sports, high school sports, unit-level or community sports? Share them with the Herald Post. E-mail your photos, along with the details of the event and names of those pictured to usaghd.post@eur.army.mil.

Basketball Championship

Mannheim Sports and Fitness hosts the Final Four Army/Air Force Basketball Championship April 3-5. All games are played at BFV Sports Arena (Benjamin Franklin Village, Bldg. 736). Entry is free. DSN 385-3164, civ. 0621-730-3164.

Unit-Level Volleyball

Heidelberg – Standings as of March 25: Leftovers, 3-0; Cougars, 2-1; MEDDAC, 1-2; 302nd MI, 0-3. Games to be played at Patton Fitness Center: MEDDAC vs. Cougars, 6:30 p.m. April 8; 302nd MI vs. Leftovers, 7:30 p.m. April 8.

Kaiserslautern – Units wishing to participate in this year's unit-level volleyball league should contact Sports and Fitness. DSN 493-2087, civ. 0631-3406-2087, usagklnsports@eur.army.mil. Sign up no later than April 15.

Unit-Level Softball

Mannheim – Mannheim Sports Office will be conducting a meeting for teams that wish to participate in the upcoming unit-level softball league at the BFV Sports Arena at 1 p.m. April 9. Coaches/representatives need to bring a letter of intent signed by the unit commander or first sergeant to play. DSN 385-3149, civ. 0621-779-4337. A Mannheim Community Unit-Level Softball Clinic will be held at Sullivan Barracks, (Bldg. 238, room 234) 6-9 p.m. April 22-24. Anyone interested in umpiring softball must attend. DSN 385-2048, civ. 0621-730-2048.

Kaiserslautern – Units wishing to participate in this year's unit-level softball league should contact Sports and Fitness. DSN 493-2087, civ. 0631-3406-2087, usagklnsports@eur.army.mil. Sign up no later than May 6.

Golf Tournament

Play in the Heidelberg Golf Club Masters Tournament April 12. Registration deadline is April 5. www.heidelberggolf.com.

Marathon Club

Join Heidelberg International Marathon Club for its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. April 15 at Campbell Barracks Bldg. 31, Room M (above the food court). Share your opinion on what marathon the club should support in the fall and listen to a guest speaker from the Heidelberg Physical Therapy Department discuss the anatomy and mechanics of running shoes. hbgimc@gmail.com, www.heidelbergrunningclub.org.

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk

Promote sexual assault awareness and education at a 5K Run and 1K Walk, at 3 p.m. April 17 at the Ramstein Southside Fitness Center. Free T-shirts for the first 500 Army participants. Show your support for victims of sexual assault by participating in the "Shine the Light" Sexual Assault Awareness Walk on Vogelweh Housing at 7 p.m. April 30. Walk begins at the Vogelweh Youth Center Fields. Registration is not required for either event. DSN 493-4617, civ. 0631-3406-4617, lisa.velez2@eur.army.mil.