

# HeraldPOST

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

## USAG BW welcomes new command team

By **Kristen Marquez**  
HERALD POST STAFF

On a rain-soaked Friday morning in Heidelberg, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg welcomed Col. William C. Butcher into command and said farewell to outgoing commander Col. Robert J. Ulses.

The command sergeant

major of the garrison also changed responsibility, as U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber took on the additional responsibility of being the USAG Baden-Württemberg command sergeant major, replacing outgoing USAG Baden-Württemberg Command

see **COMMAND** page 12



Jason L. Austin

Col. William C. Butcher, the new U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg commander, and his wife, Sandra, greet Gen. Carter F. Ham, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army commanding general, and his wife, Christi, before the change-of-command ceremony at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg Friday morning.



Kelli Bland

Anabel Rodriguez and her two sons, Damian and Aaron Huerta, welcome husband and father Sgt. Nathaniel Huerta home from a 15-month deployment to Iraq with the 18th Engineer Brigade after a ceremony in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg Sunday. Approximately 130 Soldiers from the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company returned home with Huerta.

## 18th Engineer Brigade returns after 15-month deployment

By **Kelli Bland**  
HERALD POST EDITOR

After 15 months and more than 20,000 miles on the ground in Iraq, approximately 130 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade returned to Heidelberg Sunday.

Anabel Rodriguez and her two sons, Damian and Aaron Huerta, grabbed

seats in the front row and patiently waited for husband and father Sgt. Nathaniel Huerta to march into the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion for the welcome home ceremony.

The couple has been married for 12 years, and this was the first deployment for the family.

"He came home for R&R in February for our anniversary, so that was really nice," Rodriguez said.

Huerta joined the Army in 2003 and was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"This was actually our first military (member) in the family at all," Rodriguez said. "It was all new and different to us. It's been good."

While at Fort Bliss, the family was able to go home to Houston on four-day weekends, but life in Germany has been a different story.

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**HP THURSDAY**  
July 23, 2009

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### Defense Details

#### AUTHORITY IN IRAQ

Several weeks after American forces in Baghdad handed over security leadership to their Iraqi counterparts, friction is giving way to a smoother transition of power, a top U.S. commander in the Iraqi capital said. Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger, commander of Multinational Division Baghdad, Tuesday described "hiccups and friction" that followed the American withdrawal from Iraqi cities in accordance with the June 30 deadline. While most U.S. facilities have moved outside cities — drawing down from hundreds of large and small bases around Baghdad at the height of the low surge in 2007 to a number in the low tens — a residual American force of 1,500-3,000 remain in cities, Bolger said.

#### MISSING SOLDIER

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said American commanders are "sparing no effort" to locate a U.S. soldier who went missing early this month in Afghanistan.

Army news: [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)

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## COMMAND BLOG

## New commander reaches out to community through social media



**By Col. William C. Butcher**  
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG COMMANDER

Well it's nearly midnight on the first day of my command, and I'm sitting in the guest house in Patrick Henry Village blogging for the first time in my life.

My family and I arrived here July 7 in order to begin what is certain to be a rewarding and challenging assignment as the commander of U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg.

So as we begin our journey here, I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself and provide some initial "thoughts and thanks." First of all, I am married, and my wife Sandra and I have one son, Bo, who is 18 years old. We recently moved here from Washington D.C., where I was assigned to the Army War College Fellowship Program with the Atlantic Council of the United States.

Though this is our first time being stationed in Germany, we are no strangers to Europe as we have previously lived in France, Turkey and the Netherlands. Sandra and I enjoy traveling and riding our motorcycle (HD, Ultra Classic); I like golf, outdoor activities and running; and Bo enjoys all sports and video games.

As far as my military career, I initially entered the Army in 1979, a day or two after my 17th birthday, and I have served in some capacity since that day.

I initially spent three years in the 82nd Airborne Division, where I attained the rank of sergeant prior to my ETS in 1982. While in college at the University of South Alabama, I served in the National Guard while simultaneously taking ROTC and was commissioned an infantry officer upon graduation.

While there will be challenges ahead in the coming years, I vow to work as diligently as those who've come before me to ensure the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, as well as the civilian and their family members who proudly support them, are superbly served by the BW team now in my charge.

**Follow Col. Butcher's Blog**  
<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

As an infantry officer, I served in Korea, Fort Benning and Fort Stewart, culminating in 1995 as an infantry company commander. We subsequently moved to Fort Bragg, where I began my "second" career as a civil affairs officer. After a two-year training program, including a master's degree in international relations, I was assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, where I served as a team leader, company commander and the battalion operations officer.

In 2000, my family and I began a whirlwind of assignments that included seven separate PCS locations in nine years, all of which culminated here in beautiful Baden-Württemberg.

So here I am! I'm the commander of USAG Baden-Württemberg – responsible for the safety, security and livelihood of nearly 58,000 Soldiers, civilians, and their family members in three diverse and unique communities. Wow, that's a huge responsibility!

But the good news is I have already noticed the exceptional team Col. Rob Ulse developed over his

two-year tenor as the BW commander. I must say, I have some huge shoes to fill. Rob and Kathy Ulse did a remarkable job with this community. Their contributions to the welfare of service members, civilians and their families will be felt for years to come.

So, I would be sorely remiss if I didn't take the time to say "thank you" to Col. Ulse and Kathy for leaving us with a great road map to continue their superb work and for their exceptionally warm welcome to myself and my family over these past two weeks. I know I speak for all of you in wishing them the very best in their transition to their next Army challenge.

Finally, let me close by saying how proud I am to represent the Army here in BW and how eager I am to continue the spirit of service and support to the members of these superb Army communities.

While there will be challenges ahead in the coming years, I vow to work as diligently as those who've come before me to ensure the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, as well as the civilian and their family members who proudly support them, are superbly served by the BW team now in my charge.

My wife, son and I look forward to earning our membership in your Army family.



Join the virtual community today  
<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

## BLOG ROLL

**Find out what your garrison commanders and members of your community are saying in the BWnow virtual community**

I finally got a job, and of course I had to put my son at CDC and then they shocked me with the prices. First of all they go by rank of your sponsor and then what your spouse makes and of course we got the highest category, this is as high as rent money terrible. I know some say, hey why am I complaining, we dont pay no rent no electricity but please give me a break. You have to bring your own diapers, then you pick up your kid and it looks like its been swimming in food its everytime dirty and they put them to sleep with them shoes

on. I am so mad and I think its not right to go by ranks ... Get real and change those prices or let they kids eat out of golden plates and sleep in waterbeds and not on mats.

-Petra, BWnow member

The Heidelberg Military Community unfortunately experienced a serious fire that displaced three families. On 16 July 2009 at 2355 hours our Fire Department was notified a possible fire at building 4473. Our fire fighters responded and

discovered there was smoke and fire coming from building 4473 apt 22B. Those residents living in that unit and those below were able to exit the building unaided, but the family living on the third floor had to be rescued by our Fire Department ... All occupants of the stairwell were relocated either to the Guest House or to another Army Family Unit and given assistance. All will move into another set of quarters next week. The estimated cost of damage is \$125k.

-Lt. Col. Robert White, USAG Heidelberg commander



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# On the Web

*Redesigned garrison sites provide up-to-date community news, hot topics, photos, social media outlets*

By Jason L. Austin  
HERALD POST STAFF

The garrison Web sites throughout U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg have undergone a face-lift to give them a look and feel more like the Army's site.

The changes bring your local news front and center while keeping the same navigation menus long-time customers have come to know.

The old design provided a lot of information for garrison customers, but the new sites offer more.

The garrison homepages feature continually updated news stories and photos with community specific stories on the Mannheim, Heidelberg and Kaiserslautern sites. The stories are taken from submissions provided by the community public affairs offices as well as from tenant units.

The stories on the site will remain on an archive page, allowing customers the option of browsing previously published articles. Also archived will be the ever-popular "Dear Ms. Vicki" column.

On the right of the homepages, there is a Hot Topics section, which

features items of command and community interest, such as local demonstration advisories and construction updates.

The USAG Baden-Württemberg social media initiatives are also featured on the right, offering a direct link to a broader conversation within the community.

The homepages also provide a feed of the popular Flickr image gallery, showing the six most recently published photos, and those images are tailored for each community. There is also a feed of Army videos to keep the audience up to date on Army-wide news.

At the bottom of the homepage is a tabbed area featuring programs and initiatives important to customers and leadership.

All of the pages on each site have the same navigation across the top and left as the homepage so customers can quickly and easily find information.

None of the menu items have changes from the old navigation, so even if you were used to finding things in a specific place in the menu, the links are still there.



Three of the four garrisons have already transitioned to the new format, with USAG Kaiserslautern scheduled to come online in the near future. The Kaiserslautern site already has a news-centric format, and the site will continue to provide its customers

with the information they've come to expect.

If you haven't already, check us out online at [www.bw.eur.army.mil](http://www.bw.eur.army.mil); [www.heidelberg.army.mil](http://www.heidelberg.army.mil); [www.kaiserslautern.army.mil](http://www.kaiserslautern.army.mil) and <http://home.mannheim.army.mil>.

## Preventative med experts continue to monitor H1N1

ERMC Public Affairs

Preventive medicine specialists monitoring H1N1 influenza encourage military community members to continue practicing good personal hygiene to help mitigate spread of the virus.

"We recommend following Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines: thorough hand washing, covering sneezes and staying home if you are sick," said Lt. Col. John Maza, lead epidemiologist and preventive medicine physician at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine - Europe. "Though simple, these are effective preventive measures that will help contain spread of the virus."

According to the World Health Organization, 94,512 laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported worldwide as of July 6. WHO

director Dr. Margaret Chan has described effects of this flu as "moderate."

The Department of Defense reports 2,459 cumulative cases as of July 10. The number includes all U.S. military services worldwide. Though some H1N1 cases have been confirmed in U.S. military communities in Europe, Maza said there is no cause for alarm.

"CDC and DoD-approved procedures are proving to be effective in detection and treatment," he said.

Maza said appropriate steps have been implemented to track H1N1 within the U.S. military population in Europe, including surveillance, laboratory identification, testing and treatment.

If a patient presents with influenza-like symptoms - a temperature of 100.5 degrees or higher, a runny nose, cough or sore throat - a clinician should do a nasopharyngeal

swab or nasal wash and submit the sample to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center laboratory for Respiratory Virus Panel testing. If the lab result is probable for H1N1, Landstuhl sends the sample to a host nation lab for confirmation or to a U.S. Air Force lab in Texas capable of performing confirmation testing, or both.

The Landstuhl infectious disease laboratory expects to have CDC-approved confirmation processes in place later this summer to expedite the confirmation process.

Europe Regional Medical Command Preventive Medicine Consultant Col. Evelyn Barraza said patients with probable or confirmed H1N1 cases may be treated with antiviral prescription drugs. She said priority is given to hospitalized persons and those at risk for influenza complications.

"We have been monitoring seasonal influenza for several years in the U.S. European Command area of responsibility," said Maza, who is a member of several pandemic working groups that monitor the H1N1 situation. "Though novel H1N1 adds a new dimension by appearing out of what is typically considered the normal influenza season, numerous international civilian and military organizations are monitoring it closely."

Maza said U.S. military services are sharing information among themselves and host nation health authorities. The Department of Defense also has an H1N1 influenza global surveillance "watch board" at <http://ftp.osd.mil/aiwatchboard> that is updated regularly.

The Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine - Europe maintains and updates its own pandemic in-

fluenza watch board at [www.chppmeur.healthcare.hqisareur.army.mil](http://www.chppmeur.healthcare.hqisareur.army.mil) with current clinical information and health advisories, as well as links to the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Maza advises community members to not over-react to confirmed cases or rumors of confirmed cases in their communities.

"Though H1N1 has appeared in military communities in Europe, the good news is that we can alleviate its spread through simple, yet effective, personal and community preventive measures to minimize its spread," Maza said.

For more information, visit [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov) or the H1N1 flu page at [www.eurcom.mil](http://www.eurcom.mil). The Europe Regional Medical Command Web site at <http://ermc.amedd.army.mil> also has links to H1N1 influenza information.

## Father, son Soldiers reunite in Heidelberg for R&R

By Kristen Marquez  
HERALD POST STAFF

Sons have followed their dad's footsteps into the military as long as militaries have existed, but in the case of one Heidelberg Soldier, his son followed him to Germany for some rest and relaxation, too.

Spc. Casey Chenault deployed to Iraq in March with his unit, the 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment of the Ohio National Guard. His father, Master Sgt. Steve Chenault, is the construction operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the office of the deputy chief of staff of engineers on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg.

Casey decided to take his mid-tour R&R to visit his father in Heidelberg, and his father couldn't be happier. Steve said the best part is just getting to see his son again and show him around Germany.

"I'm just glad to have him here," Steve said. "I'm going to show him around Heidelberg ... I'm going to take him to work with me, show him around Campbell Barracks, take him up to the castle. There's plenty to do around this area."

They plan to take some day-trips around the Heidelberg area, too, and Casey admitted he had no idea what was in store for him.

"I don't know - he made all the plans," Casey said. He bought his girlfriend, Chelsea, an airline ticket so she could visit from Ohio, too.



Kristen Marquez  
Master Sgt. Steve Chenault, construction operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the office of the deputy chief of staff of engineers on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, stands with his son, Spc. Casey Chenault, who is visiting his father in Germany while on R&R from his current Iraq deployment.

Casey was quick to acknowledge what he was most looking forward to on this two-week R&R.

"Getting away from Iraq - it's kind of boring there," he said, and then admitted he was also looking forward to spending time with his dad and seeing a little bit of the country his dad has called home for the past two years.

This Chenault father-son duo is just another in a long line of Chenault fam-

ily members to serve in the military.

"I was proud of him - proud that he went in," Steve said. "My grandfather was in World War I. To see (Casey) keep it going, I was kind of proud of that. I remember my grandfather talking about World War I, and my dad was a Korean War and Vietnam vet."

Casey, who works as an emergency medical technician when he's at home in Chillicothe, Ohio, was stop-lossed

by the military in June. He said although his initial enlistment is up, when he gets back after this deployment he'll "probably" still re-enlist.

Steve has spent about 33 1/2 years in the military, first in the Marine Corps and then with the National Guard and active-duty Army. "I'll probably keep doing it until they tell me I can't do it anymore," Steve said.

While Casey's military career has so far only spanned six years, both father and son agree the best part about the Army is the people in it.

In his current job, Steve said he is constantly traveling. He counted about eight different countries that he's worked in during the two years he's been stationed in Heidelberg.

"I guess about the same thing," Steve said about his favorite part of the Army. "That's one of the best things besides me making the trips, the people I work with over at my office at Campbell Barracks. I couldn't ask for any better. They're the best; it's almost like family over there."

The Chenault father and son duo last saw each other in February when both had to take emergency leave to Ohio due to the passing of Steve's father. Both agree the time they will get to spend together in Germany will be a nice break for each of them.

"We're just going to have a great time," Steve said. "The timing is just right, right now, for me to be here and for him to come from Iraq to here, the timing was pretty good."

## Vet command clarifies civilian pet policy

ERMC Public Affairs

An exemption policy recently approved by Europe Regional Veterinary Command allows space-available preventive care for pets of some Department of Defense civilian employees at Army veterinary clinics in Europe.

The space-available exemption went into effect July 1. Preventive care may include vaccinations, health certificates and parasite control measures. Clients may be referred to a host nation civilian veterinarian if there is no space available and for conditions requiring more involved medical treatment.

According to Army Regulation 40-905, Veterinary Health Services, an Army veterinary clinic is authorized to provide veterinary services to animals owned by personnel enrolled in the Defense Enrollment/Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS. This includes active duty, activated reservists or retired military personnel or other DEERS enrollees. Those DEERS enrolled individuals must have "medical" authorized on their Common Access Card or retired military ID card.

Non-DEERS enrollees - including certain DoD civilians, school teachers or contractors - may receive an exemption on a space-available basis only. If an appointment is not available, a list of local host nation veterinarians can be provided.

For more information, call your local Army veterinary clinic or visit the following link: <http://vetcom.amedd.army.mil/commands/europe.html>.

## Ham, Wilson visit Germersheim



Jason L. Austin  
Gen. Carter F. Ham, commanding general, U.S. Army Europe and Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, commander, Installation Management Command, receives a briefing of ongoing and planned military construction projects at the Germersheim Army Depot from Lt. Col. Robert White, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg, Monday at the depot.



#### SGT. JENNIFER KNIGHT

Sgt. Jennifer Knight serves with the 529th Military Police Company. She was recently awarded a "Superior Guardian of the Quarter" award for outstanding professionalism in the line of duty. Knight has been in the Army a little more than four years and hails from Ft. Pierce, Fla.

#### What is your favorite thing about your job?

There is always something different happening every day, whether it's training, helping the community or Soldiers.

#### Do you have a favorite vacation spot?

St. Lucia, West Indies

#### What book are you reading right now?

I just finished reading "The People vs Cashmere," written by Karen Williams.

#### What is your favorite way to relax?

Being around children and reading

#### Do you have a favorite German food?

The mac and cheese with chicken dish from Coyote's located in Heidelberg

#### If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you want to live?

Keyes, Fla.

#### 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](mailto:usaghd.post@eur.army.mil).

## Task group recommends reconstruction of Civilian Personnel System

By Jim Garamone  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – A Defense Business Board task group has recommended reconstruction of the National Security Personnel System.

Rudy DeLeon, the chairman of the group and former deputy defense secretary, said NSPS, a pay-for-performance system, tried to do "too much, too quickly," and his group recommended the moratorium on converting general schedule jobs to NSPS continue.

About 205,000 of the 865,000 Defense Department civilians are in NSPS. The full Defense Business Board will review the task group's recommendations and will prepare a report for Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

The first recommendation is to reconstruct the system. "Reconstruction is a level of effort and sophistication more than just fixes," DeLeon said. "It's going to require a significant amount of diagnosis before you come in with reconstruc-

tion."

DeLeon said an effective pay-for-performance system requires commitments in time, money and effort.

"A supportive culture requires leadership commitment, open communication, transparency and employee trust of supervisors and leaders," he said.

A pay-for-performance system needs to evolve, he said.

"Trying to do something too quickly, too ambitiously, may not produce the desired result," he said.

The overall conclusions are that the pay-pool process is overly complex and lacks transparency. Also, payout formulas are confusing. The task group heard repeatedly that pay band 2 is too broad, and reassignments within the pay bands fluctuate from organization to organization.

The group also believes that NSPS has lessened the bonds of trust between first-level supervisors and employees.

"Re-establishing the (Defense Department) commitment to

collaborating with employees and manager associations is essential," DeLeon said.

The task group also made recommendations for the general schedule system.

"Overall, the department needs to design a collaborative process for (Defense Department) managers and employees to design and implement a pay-for-performance system," he said. "Bargaining unit employees and the employees need to start from scratch in terms of any alternatives for the GS system."

The group recommended replacing the current general schedule classification system.

DeLeon said the personnel system has to be changed.

"Never has the federal workforce, particularly in (the Defense Department), been as important as it is right now," he said. "After a period of using contracting out, we've come back to an understanding of how critical the federal workforce is in terms of the national security mission of the United States."

## Education in a time of war

### Deployed Soldiers can still advance their educations

By Spc. Ida Tate  
7TH THEATER TACTICAL SIGNAL BRIGADE

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – An education center on Bagram Air Field provides education assistance to more than 600 Soldiers, all hoping to take advantage of the extra time allotted during their deployment to build toward a better tomorrow.

Pfc. Charlysa Mclean, a supply specialist in 5th Signal Command's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, is taking classes toward her business administration associates degree at the University of Maryland.

"Having a professor on site is helpful because I can go directly to the source with any problems," Mclean said.

Mclean said she thinks an uneducated Soldier in the military is often slowly promoted, and she looks forward to advancing in the ranks.

Mclean anticipates going to school the entire deployment or until she completes her goal.

The direct benefits of military or civilian education is often promotion and can increase

**"Having a professor on site is helpful because I can go directly to the source with any problems."**

-Pfc. Charlysa Mclean, 7th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade competency for many civilian jobs as Soldiers prepare for their future after the military, said Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Burnett, brigade S-1 senior human resource sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade.

Burnett has encouraged the eight deployed Soldiers and noncommissioned officers in his section to begin their career progression through military and civilian education.

Military education is specifically tailored to the needs of the forces, and is an essential tool many NCOs have used in the past. The success of military education benefits the future of the armed forces by building future leaders.

"The role of military education in a time of war, simply put, is to make Soldiers into stronger leaders," Burnett said.



Spc. Ida Tate  
Pfc. Charlysa Mclean, a supply specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, is taking classes toward her business administration associates degree at the University of Maryland while deployed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Mclean said she looks forward to using her degree to advance in her career.

## 21st TSC project showcased at DOD symposium

*TLSC-E's hazardous receipt process saves money, benefits war fighters*

By Angelika Lantz  
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It is two out of two for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command.

The Department of Defense hosted its second annual Continuous Process Improvement Symposium in Lansdowne, Va., recently, and like last year, a 21st TSC project was showcased.

This year's featured Lean Six Sigma project, "Improve Hazardous Receipt Process at Supply Activity Europe," like last year's was completed by the 21st TSC's Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe.

"It's a project that has already received some attention last summer when it was selected by U.S. Army Europe as a Best Practices for Logistics project and presented to an Army-wide audience of logisticians," said Ron Stanley, an operations research analyst and Master Black Belt candidate with the 21st TSC's Operations Research and Systems Analysis section.

"It was selected because it's a classic project that used all the LSS tools; everything is there, which makes it great to showcase," he said.

A total of 71 Best Practices projects were selected from all military services with only 14 coming from

the Army.

The TLSC-E project was featured in the operations category during the CPI exposition portion of the symposium.

Like all LSS projects, it began with a problem. In this case, the existing procedure to process a variety of diverse hazardous and non-hazardous materials resulted in receiving backlogs and delayed accountability processing. A process to eliminate poor work flow, double-handling and safety hazards needed to be established.

"It was broke, and we fixed it. It's okay to admit something is broke as long as you have a solution – and we did," said Michael Printer, a Black Belt and the chief of central shipping and receiving at TLSC-E's Supply Activity-Europe.

Printer's team measured and analyzed the productivity throughput for several months, identified the root causes and their effects, and set their goals.

"You have to get the employees involved," Printer said. "You have to promote a culture of change, where you have people with open minds who want to improve the processes they own."

For Thomas Gruhn, LSS core team member and Black Belt at TLSC-E's quality assurance management office, this is what makes or breaks a project.

"LSS is not just a tool but a toolbox and most importantly, with LSS we involve the workforce and actively seek their input. They know the processes; they are the true subject matter experts," Gruhn said.

While the initial goals may have seemed ambitious, Printer's team managed to beat them. The revised process now meets Department of the Army standards for processing material into the Standard Army Retail Supply System.

The process cycle time was reduced from an average of 48.7 days to 1.86 days, and the backlog of 500 receipts was eliminated within 22 days.

Consequently, the project received a lot of attention from the approximately 750 symposium participants.

"The Army Materiel Command asked that we share all our standard operating procedures with them so they can distribute them to their depots," Printer said.

Even more significant than any potential cost savings, the process directly benefits the war-fighter.

"The increased account visibility means customers can requisition items directly from TLSC-E instead of passing their requests to the United States. That is a direct contribution to the warfighter," Printer said.

## Army warns troops to avoid 'diploma mills'

By Fort Leavenworth Lamp

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – The Army is warning Soldiers to avoid unaccredited colleges and universities that offer instant degrees supposedly based on military experience or training.

"The Army Human Resources Command is initiating an all-out campaign to warn Soldiers about these educational establishments and to work with Army educators and personnelists to ensure Soldiers are not enticed by unscrupulous vendors to purchase these fraudulent documents," said a message sent to all Army activities earlier this month.

"Soldiers who knowingly purchase one of these documents from a 'diploma mill' and attempt to have it placed in their official military personnel file for purposes of promotion (or) assignment consideration or other military reasons are perpetrating a crime, which may be punishable under the (Uniform Code of Military Justice)," the ALARACT message said.

"Diploma mills" are schools that offer certificates, degrees and diplomas for a fee.

The message also listed resources that can be used to check to see if a school is accredited. The Web site [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com) lists all accredited institutions used by Soldiers to obtain degrees. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation Web site, [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org), lists all colleges and universities that are nationally and regionally accredited.

## Fire causes damage to housing unit on PHV



USAG Baden-Württemberg Directorate of Emergency Services

The Heidelberg military community experienced a serious fire on Patrick Henry Village July 16, which displaced three families and caused an estimated \$125,000 in damages. The Heidelberg Fire Department was notified of a fire at Building 4473 just before midnight. The residents living in the unit from which the fire originated and those below were able to exit the building unaided, but the family living on the third floor had to be rescued by the fire department. According to the fire investigator, the cause of the fire at this time is unknown and is under investigation. All occupants of the stairwell were relocated to the Guest House on PHV or to another Army Family Housing unit.



Staff Sgt. Christopher W. Allison

A group of U.S. and Afghan National Security Forces team up to play a game of volleyball at Forward Operating Base Bostick in Kunar province, Afghanistan, July 6. The Soldiers and civilians at the FOB often play sports such as volleyball, soccer and cricket together to build a stronger cohesion.

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U.S. Army Photo

Army Spc. Michael Winters, 40, of Seymore, Tenn., assigned to the 230th Air Cavalry Squadron looks on after signaling for another rocket to be loaded on to a OH-58D helicopter at Forward Operating Base Diamond Back, Mosul, Iraq, July 14.



U.S. Army Photo

Army Reserve Best Warrior candidates take a break prior to the start of the night Urban Warfighting Orienteering Course at the 2009 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 14.



Sgt. Andrew Smith

Spc. Gareth Warner drops a 120mm mortar round into the tube while Spc. Ricky Olivo keeps the gun on target during a fire mission on Combat Outpost Zurok in Paktika province, Afghanistan, July 13. The Soldiers are deployed with the 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison

U.S. Army Gen. David D. McKiernan and his wife, Carmen, pay respect during the National Anthem prior to his full honors retirement ceremony on Fort Myer, Va., July 15. McKiernan served as the commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

# 357th AMD-D holds change of command

By Sgt. Fay Conroy  
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers and families of the 357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment gathered at Rhine Ordnance Barracks July 10 for a change-of-command ceremony.

Col. Anthony English assumed command of the 357th AMD-D from Col. Rodney McCants. The unit was re-designated in October 2007 as the 357th AMD-D, and it was officially activated in a ceremony at Rhine Ordnance Barracks April 16, 2008.

"This afternoon I stand before you humbled yet excited and filled with eager anticipation," McCants said. "Humbled because I know how far this unit has come and how hard this unit has worked in the past 18 months to get where we are today."

The ceremony included an inspection of troops conducted by McCants, English and Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker,

the commanding general of V Corps, who was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

"Soldiers in your brigade are disciplined, motivated and focused on the mission," Hunzeker said.

English, whose last assignment was as the deputy chief of staff for operations, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, also had high hopes for his new Soldiers.

"I am truly honored and humbled to be standing here today. I look forward to leading the best brigade in the United States Army," English said.

The 357th AMD-D, which is a subordinate brigade of V Corps, is stationed in Kaiserslautern at Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

The unit is comprised of a headquarters and headquarters detachment and the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery with its five subordinate batteries and a headquarters battery.



Sgt. Fay Conroy  
Col. Rodney McCants, outgoing commander of 357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment; Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, the commanding general of V Corps; and Col. Anthony English, incoming commander of 357th AMD-D, render honors during the playing of the National Anthem at a change of command ceremony held at Rhine Ordnance Barracks July 10.

## Gates calls for increase Plus-up of 22,000 active-duty troops backed by senior leaders, president

By John J. Kruzal  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced plans to add up to 22,000 Soldiers to the U.S. Army's ranks.

The plus-up of active duty troops will take the Army from 547,000 to 569,000 Soldiers in what Gates characterized as a temporary increase of the Army's "end strength" for three fiscal years.

"This is an important and necessary step to ensure that we continue to properly support the needs of our commanders in the field while providing relief for our current force and their families," the secretary told reporters during a Pentagon news conference.

Gates pointed to escalating violence in Afghanistan and an added U.S. presence there, political turmoil in Pakistan and elimination of the so-called "stop-loss" policy of involuntarily extending a soldier's length of service as reasons behind the decision.

"The cumulative effect of these factors is that the Army faces a period where its ability to continue to deploy combat units at acceptable 'fill rates' is at risk," he said. "Based on current deployment estimates, this is a temporary

challenge which will peak in the coming year and abate over the course of the next three years."

Some 130,000 American troops are in Iraq and 58,000 are in Afghanistan, where an influx of deploying troops will bring the number to 68,000 by the end of this year, defense officials said.

"These additional forces will be used to ensure that our deploying units are properly manned, and not to create new combat formations," the defense secretary said, adding that the decision was made after consulting with the Army's top military and civilian leadership and with the backing of President Barack Obama.

Gates, who has described the defense budget as "zero sum," said the cost of the Army increase would be absorbed in funding already allocated in the budget for the next two fiscal years.

"We will take that money from some place that isn't as high a priority as [adding] more Soldiers and taking some additional steps to relieve the stress on the force," he said. "This is a very high priority."

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared alongside Gates, and also weighed in on the decision.

## Retreat, retirement ceremony held for members of 21st TSC

By Angelika Lantz  
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 21st Theater Sustainment Command retreat and retirement ceremony at the parade field on Panzer Kaserne July 10 was a special one for at least four people present. Traditionally, a retreat ceremony signals the end of the official duty day, but for the four retirees and their families it also signaled the end of a way of life.

"Our ceremony today is a fitting way to bid a fond farewell to four warriors and their families. ... With over 87 years of combined service, Maj. Ken Woods, Master Sgt. Keith Skinner, Master Sgt. Juan Rivera and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Perez are retiring with the appreciation and respect of the Armed Forces of the United States of America," said Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, the commanding general of the 21st TSC.

The four retirees agreed that trading their Army uniforms for civilian clothes will definitely mean the start of a new chapter in their and their families' lives.

Nonetheless, after 22 years of service, Rivera, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 21st Special Troops Battalion operations section, considers retirement a good place to be in his life.

"It's a little like after graduation," he said. "You have a great sense of accomplishment and at the same time you are excited about what is ahead of you."

Skinner, the operations NCOIC with the 21st TSC's training section, has served 23 years and looks forward to this new life as well.

"I am very happy that I have a lot of things already taken care of," he said. "I've purchased a house and moved my family to Charleston, S.C."

"My wife is already employed, and I have job options. That gives me peace of mind; it's a good feeling."

For Perez, the NCOIC at the 21st TSC's deployment processing center, the sentiment is bittersweet.

"It's sad, and it's exciting," he said. "After serving for 24 years, it's a bit like leaving a child behind. You like to think you have done a good job and have accomplished something in those years. But it's also a very good feeling to start another career, to start something new."

Woods has served in the command's transformation office.

"Right now, I am actually a little numb and don't quite know what to feel yet – how it will be to no longer wear this uniform," he said.



## COMMAND

continued from page 1

Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Lomax, who left for Korea shortly after the ceremony.

The change-of-command and change-of-responsibility ceremony was held inside the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion due to the weather and was attended by hundreds of people from each community in the garrison as well as German dignitaries and military service members.

Butcher comes to Heidelberg from the Army War College Fellowship program as a fellow with the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington, D.C. He said he is prepared to carry on the traditions of the Baden-Württemberg garrison and knows his first few months in command will be a time of learning and leading.

"What I hope to accomplish – and I have the expectation of doing so – is learning these communities," Butcher said in an interview prior to the ceremony. "My first mission is just to learn my responsibilities of USAG Baden-Württemberg and how those encompass the three communities of Heidelberg, Mannheim and Kaiserslautern. Then, certainly my expectation after I've got a sense of that, is to continue to take this community forward, in support of those who serve and sacrifice for our great nation.

"It goes back to the responsibilities of supporting the community. But most importantly, I want to learn. I recognize my obligations as the commander and I will do that, but this first step is gaining and understanding."

Butcher said as a leader, he is a team

player and a communicator. He has high standards, he said, as well as a critical eye.

"What you can expect out of me is hard work," he said. "I am a team player, and I always have been."

His expectation of coming here, however, is to take care of the Soldiers, families and civilians who live and work here.

"My expectations are very similar to that of the former commander – that we support to the best of our ability the Soldiers, civilians and dependants that count on this organization for their livelihood, their safety, their normal support and their enjoyment in being in Europe," he said.

During the ceremony, Butcher spoke to those in attendance about how proud he is to take command of the garrison.

"I am truly honored and humbled by the opportunity to again take the reins of a command, and I look forward to leading by, with and through the men and women of USAGs Baden-Württemberg, Heidelberg, Mannheim and Kaiserslautern," he said. "While we undoubtedly possess unique and varied communities, I look forward to continuing the exceptional work of Col. Ulses by focusing on building strong ties between us in order to ensure the best possible safety, security, support and care for the Soldiers, civilians and family members touched by the efforts of this command."

As Ulses left command, he thanked the garrison community for the support shown to him and his family, calling the time he spent in command



Juan R. Melendez Jr.

Col. Robert J. Ulses, former U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg commander, congratulates Command Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Lomax for her work in the garrison at an award ceremony prior to the change-of-command and change-of-responsibility ceremony at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion Friday morning.

here "an honor and a privilege." Ulses' next assignment is as the chief of staff, U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

"It's hard to believe it's been two years, and I really mean that," he said. "I was told before assuming command that time would go quickly, and at times it didn't, but as I stand here today, it has gone very quickly."

During Ulses' time in command, he helped the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, the Army Community Service and the Child, Youth and School Services programs grow and prosper, achieving national and Department of the Army-level accreditations.

Also under Ulses, the command made extensive improvements to Soldier barracks and significantly upgraded more than half of the Army Family Housing units in his footprint. He managed major transformation initiatives to achieve USAREUR's global rebasing and restationing objectives, which enabled the command to move, merge or inactivate numerous units and close several installations and housing areas. The command also supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom deployments for more than 3,300 Soldiers, successfully reintegrating more than 2,195 redeploying troops.

## 1-214th Avn. changes command



Sieg Heppner

Lt. Col. Troy D. Krings, outgoing commander; Col. Richard E. Crogan, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade commander; and Lt. Col. Richard G. Watson, incoming commander, salute during the playing of the national anthems at the 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment's change-of-command ceremony. Krings had been in charge of the unit for the past 24 months. He leaves for Omaha, Neb., where he will serve as a professor of military science at Creighton University. Watson most recently served as the 12th CAB's deputy commander in Iraq.

## WELCOME HOME

continued from page 1

"(Moving to Germany) was drastic for us, but we adjusted well," Rodriguez said. "We love it here, and we're hoping to stay another three years."

The family has lived in Germany for two years, but, of course, Huerta has been deployed for the majority of it.

Rodriguez said she stayed busy working on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim and traveling with the boys. The couple was able to talk on the phone or via Webcam nearly every day.

"It all worked out really well for us – and the experience was hard, but in the end, it was all worth it," she said. "We made it, so what matters most is that we're both here."

As a human resource information system management specialist, Huerta spent more than one year in various Iraqi cities with the Soldiers from his unit.

"We went into Tikrit first and did a phenomenal job," Col. Matthew Russell, 18th Engineer Brigade commander, told Rodriguez and the other family members waiting to reunite with their loved ones. "And then they pushed us up to Kirkuk, so we could ... rebuild in

**More Photos Online**  
[www.flickr.com/heraldpost](http://www.flickr.com/heraldpost)

that city, and finally to the hotbed of Mosul, where I can tell you, you ought to be proud of your Soldiers – and I know you are – for the tremendous job they did in taking on the rebuilding of the essential services and structure in Mosul to give those people, 2.5 million people in Mosul, the chance to regain the livelihood in their lives.

"It is because of the troops you see here today that Mosul and Ninewa Province and Iraq can now again start to stand upon its own feet and take care of its own country," the colonel said before thanking the families for their constant support and then releasing the troops for their first day back home.

As for Rodriguez and Huerta, they're gearing up to spend some time together on vacation – a family vacation. Rodriguez said she is ready to be a family again and go back to the routine they had together.

"We're really united," she said, "and with him being gone, I think it's actually made us stronger."



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## GERMAN COOKING

### Leberknoedelsuppe (Liver Dumpling Soup)

Serves: 4

#### Ingredients:

- 6 stale crusty rolls; thinly sliced
- 50 grams beef suet
- 1 small onion; coarsely
- 1 chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 deciliters milk; lukewarm
- 250 grams liver
- 2 eggs; lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 600 milliliters beef stock, well flavored

#### Directions:

- Put the sliced rolls in a large bowl. Sprinkle them with salt and pour over the lukewarm milk. Leave them to soak until required.
- Trim the liver and put it through a meat mincer together with the suet and onion.
- Add the soaked bread, the eggs and marjoram, and mix with a wooden spoon until well blended. The mixture will be very soft.
- Bring the stock to the boil in a large saucepan. Reduce the heat to low and simmer the stock.
- Divide the dumpling mixture into 8 portions. With wet hands, shape a portion at a time into a ball and drop it into the stock.
- Simmer gently for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the dumplings are cooked through.
- Serve 2 dumplings per person in soup plates, together with some of the stock.
- Bavarian liver dumplings are almost as large as tennis balls. Two of them make an ample portion, served either in a well-flavored stock, or as a main course, garnished with fried onion rings and accompanied by mashed potatoes and sauerkraut.

SOURCE: [www.mygermanrecipes.com](http://www.mygermanrecipes.com)

#### 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.



#### Dear Ms. Vicki,

*I've been reading your letters for about two years, and if I remember correctly, you have received other letters about family reunions. My letter is about a family reunion but somewhat different.*

*I was raised in and out of foster homes all of my life due to neglect. I believe what happened to me was neglect, but now that I'm older I also think it was because my parents tried to play the system, too. I was sometimes placed in the custody of other family members who would receive money from the state for caring for me as a foster child. In turn I would often be at home with my birth parents who were sharing the state money with the relatives who said I was in their care.*

*All in all I think I live through a hell that no child should have endured. Why didn't I get decent parents? I often wondered why they did not love me more than drugs, partying and wandering around from place to place. I deserved to have a good home life.*

*One reason I joined the Army was to have a place to belong and to have a family. I don't like the Army very much, but at least it beats my crappy family.*

*The last couple of years my parents have tried to clean up their acts. Yes they are still together and both have been in and out of rehabs. They have asked for my financial help, and I refuse to help them. All of a sudden they are trying to become the pillars of the community*

#### 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](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/dearmsvicki) to hear her talk about teen dating violence, helping military children have a smooth transition, relationships and more. You can also visit her online at [www.dearmsvicki.com](http://www.dearmsvicki.com).

*and facilitate family reunions. This is the third annual event to be held next month. I did not attend the last two, and I really don't want to go this one either.*

*My grandmother is telling me I should have a heart and make amends with my parents and other family members who I know took part in making my life miserable instead of caring for me properly.*

*Why should I? They have never so much as said "I'm sorry" or given any apology. Why should I talk to them first about how I feel? I'm the one who's 24 years old, and they are all much older than me.*

*Should I be the bigger person and attend the family reunion? If I go, I think I am sending my parents the wrong message. Thanks for your help and for reading this letter. If you can write me back soon I will appreciate it.*

*From: I'm Victorious*

**Dear Victorious,**  
I like the description you gave yourself. You can be victorious, and I think you are well on the way. It sounds like you are doing a lot of positive things with your life.

You said you don't really like the Army, but it can open the doors to other opportunities for you. Now to the issue at hand; will you attend the family reunion?

Listen, you don't have anything to prove, and if you don't attend, so be it. It's your choice, however, if you think the environment will be too upsetting to you, then I urge you not to attend. There's no other way around it.

There is an old saying "when you know better, you do better." You will be able to avoid the mistakes your parents made and you will do your best to be a better parent. You deserve the best.

I would encourage you to start talking to a clinical therapist or professional counselor about your past. I truly want you to move forward being happy and emotionally healthy. At this time I think you harbor resentment and anger to-

ward your parents and other family members. Conversely I think you are well within your rights to do so. No one can blame you.

It's all about you moving forward so you can be emotionally and mentally healthy. If you allow this to "eat at you" continually, you won't be able to do this.

In addition to counseling, you should consider writing a letter to your parents or talking to them if you are comfortable doing so. Either way you should let them know how their actions affected your self-esteem, etc. It's about you getting this off your chest and venting.

Be prepared that they may not own up to their part in this. They could very well act like victims or act like they don't have a clue. Again, their actions should not stop you from progressing. Please take care of yourself. I totally understand, and I'm on your side. Let me know what you decide.

#### Dear Ms. Vicki,

*I've been reading your columns for about seven months now, and I must say I'm a big fan and I agree with what you have to say. Someone has to tell the truth.*

*Most people are afraid to speak the truth for fear of retaliation or maybe even they fear they will lose friends, too. I'm so glad you have been given this venue. Do you plan to do anymore of your radio shows?*

*From: A Big Fan*

**Dear Fan,**  
Thanks for your comments. I plan to update more radio shows. At this time I'm also caring for my aging mother who is not in the best of health in addition to other duties and responsibilities. While it's additional responsibility, it's a burden lifted from me because I know she is good hands now.

I'm trying to pin point a specific time to devote to the radio segments even if it's only once a week. Updates are coming. Thank you for your support.

## Troops should apply soon for education benefits, VA official says

By Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg  
SPECIAL TO AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Service members interested in using the new Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits this fall are encouraged to contact the Veterans Affairs Department soon to determine their eligibility, the VA's director of education said.

"The reason we opened the door early on May 1 (was) so that we can manage this workload ef-

fectively; we expected a significant demand," Keith Wilson told bloggers and online journalists during a "DoDLive" bloggers roundtable, July 14.

On average, processing times to verify eligibility can take from a few weeks up to a few months, Wilson said. However, colleges and universities have been ready to receive the enrollment applications for some time.

The VA already is processing fall enrollment forms, he noted.

The new Post-9/11 GI Bill is just one of four major education programs the VA offers, Wilson said. People should educate themselves on the different options to find the best fit.

Service members' spouses and children may be eligible for benefits, as well.

To be eligible to transfer benefits to family members, service members must first qualify for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Clark said.

Visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or call 1-888-GIBILL-1.

# GET OUT!

area events

More events online at <http://myBNow.ning.com>

## July 24

**Ride the German Trains** – Learn all about how the German train system works on this USO train orientation and tour. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive a briefing on the train system, buy your own ticket, and take a trip to the city of Mannheim and return. You'll be accompanied by a USO escort, but you can gain first hand experience purchasing tickets and riding the trains. This special tour will take you to one of Mannheim's main attractions – the Luisenpark. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

## July 25

**7th Annual Chili Cook-Off** – Head to the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club in Otfersheim to enter your best chili concoction, or come out to taste test them all. Sign up as an individual or as a team. \$5 entry fee per chili. Cooking starts at 9 a.m., and judging is at 3 p.m. Chili must be made on site. Tables, benches and electricity are provided, and camping is available. Civ. 06202-5193, [www.mwgermany.com](http://www.mwgermany.com).

**Four-Castle Illumination Cruise** – Cruise to Medardsteinach with the Warrant Officers Association for the annual four-castle illumination with fireworks. Cost: €25 per person, children under 7 are free. Proceeds fund the WOA scholarship program for graduating seniors and family members. DSN 375-5192, civ. 0162-297-4953, [www.rhein-neckar-silver.com](http://www.rhein-neckar-silver.com).

**Open-Air Festival** – One of the highlights of the annual festival season at the Monrepos lakeside palace in Ludwigsburg. Experience an unforgettable summer evening with classical music in the unique atmosphere of the romantic parkland in front of a picturesque backdrop. The highlight is the baroque inspired fireworks display. Civ. 07141-939-636, [www.schlossfestspiele.de](http://www.schlossfestspiele.de).

**Strasbourg Tour** – Head to Strasbourg, home of the European Parliament and the capital of the Alsace. Visit the famous Gothic cathedral and marvel at the astrological clock built in 1350. Ride through the old district, and the picturesque "Le Petite France," on a Strasbourg choo-choo train. <http://affiliates.uso.org/rhein-neckar>.

**Salsa Night** – Armstrong's Club in Kaiserslautern will feature a live disc jockey, margarita bar, chips and dip, and a free hour of salsa lessons 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Civ. 0631-354-9986.

**A Summer Evening Concert: Clarinet Music** – Enjoy a summer evening concert featuring clarinet performances by Sgt. Vincent Fortado of the U.S. Army Europe Band and Dr. Mary Alice Druhan of the Dallas Wind Symphony. Pamper your ears with the sounds of Bach, Kovacs, Smith, Widmann and Nifchfor. Show time is 7 p.m. [www.roadsidetheater.com](http://www.roadsidetheater.com).

**Swiss Border Tour** – See gorgeous flowers, stately trees, a glassy lake, a charming

## Operation Rising Star

Win the ultimate recording music experience! USAG Mannheim is looking for talented singers to participate in the Army-wide singing competition, Operation Rising Star, at the Top Hat Club. Audition night is Aug. 8, with competition rounds Aug. 14, 21, 28 and the finals Sept. 12– all starting at 8 p.m. At the local level, prizes include: \$500 (first place), \$250 (second place), and \$100 (third place). The first-place winner will then qualify for the 2009 Rising Star finals. The winner of 2009 Rising Star will receive an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles to record a three-song CD at a professional studio. Units and FRGs will also have the opportunity to compete each week for the Spirit Award grand prize of \$300 for their unit or FRG. Contestants must be active duty, Guard or Reserve from any branch of service or family members; all need to be at least 18 and older. DSN 385-2342, civ. 0621-730-2342, [www.oprisingstar.com](http://www.oprisingstar.com).

medieval town and a thundering waterfall. We begin our tour with a visit of the flower island of Mainau. The island is on Lake Constance bordering on Germany, Austria and Switzerland. We continue our journey by crossing the border into Switzerland where we visit Stein am Rhein. Then travel along the Rhine River to Schaffhausen, which is the location of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

## July 26

**Block Party** – The Cove on Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim will host a Block Party 1-8 p.m. July 26. Families join in the outdoor fun with live entertainment, various activities and food. DSN 385-2884, civ. 0621-730-2884.

**Shepherds' Race** – Head to Bad Urach to see historic traditional costumes at an event that only happens every two years. Since 1724 the shepherds' race of Urach has been held. Shepherds have to show that their sheep can behave. There's also a competition between young women who have to run over a mowed field bare foot. Civ. 07125-1560, [www.badurach.de](http://www.badurach.de).

**Neuleiningen Castle Tour, Wine Tasting and Dinner** – Learn the fascinating history of this castle built in the Middle Ages and which served as the largest fortress in this area. Neuleiningen's hilltop castle overlooks the famous German Wine Road, known throughout the world for wonderful wines and beautiful scenery. Enjoy a guided tour through the town and Neuleiningen Castle, dinner in a charming restaurant, plus wine-tasting in one of the oldest vineyards in the Palatinate. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

## July 30

**Dionne Warwick Concert** – As part of the Seebühnenfest (sea stage festival) in Luisenpark Mannheim, the R&B diva Dionne Warwick will give her one and only concert in Germany. Tickets: Civ. 0621-101011, [www.ticketonline.com/de/en/production/175869-Dionne+Warwick](http://www.ticketonline.com/de/en/production/175869-Dionne+Warwick).

## August 1

**Disney Paris** – Kaiserslautern BOSS invites

you on a day trip to Disney Paris. Price includes transportation and admission. Open to all ID cardholders. Civ. 015-224-780-310, [www.mwgermany.com](http://www.mwgermany.com).

**Downhill Biking, Black Forest** – Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

**Europa Park Summer Party** – Many special highlights make a visit to Europa Park's Summer Party an unforgettable experience. Enjoy the attractions in Germany's biggest theme park until midnight – a spectacular party with many surprises is waiting for you, including live music, karaoke, fireworks and more. [www.europapark.de](http://www.europapark.de).

**Amsterdam City Tour** – Visit a wooden-shoe maker and cheese farm where you can see how shoes and cheese are made, then have a short orientation of downtown Amsterdam. From the Dam Square, you'll be able to visit Anne Frank's House, the famous Red Light District, the Royal Palace, or some of the many other downtown sights, museums, and shops. After the city orientation, you'll have a whole day to spend in this fascinating town. <http://affiliates.uso.org/kaiserslautern>.

## August 2

**Tongeren Flea Market** – Head to Belgium with Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

**Trout Fishing** – Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

## Ongoing

**Heidelberger Schlossfestspiele** – Through Aug. 9, enjoy a variety of theater and musical performances at Heidelberg Castle, including "The Student Prince" July 24, 26 and 30 and Aug. 7. Tickets: Civ. 06221-582-0000, [tickets@theater.heidelberg.de](mailto:tickets@theater.heidelberg.de), and at local ticket outlets. [www.heidelberger-schlossfestspiele.de](http://www.heidelberger-schlossfestspiele.de).

**Railway Romance** – Take a 50-kilometer trip on the 100-year-old line. Experience pure railway romance: treat yourself to the unique experience of a leisurely train excursion in old carriages, which rolled through a romantic landscape at the time of our great grandparents. Runs through October. Civ. 07702-47-7604, [www.sauschwaenzlebahn.de](http://www.sauschwaenzlebahn.de).

# coming to THEATERS

## HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE

(Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson) Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds, and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing him for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching. The students are under attack as teenage hormones rage across the ramparts. Love is in the air, but tragedy lies ahead, and Hogwarts may never be the same again. Rated PG (adult language, adult situations) 155 minutes



## PLAYING THIS WEEK

### Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

July 23 - I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 24 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.; HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 9 p.m.  
 July 25 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 4 p.m.; X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.; HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 9 p.m.  
 July 26 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 4 p.m.; HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 7 p.m.  
 July 27 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 28 - HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 7 p.m.  
 July 29 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 30 - HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 7 p.m.

### Mannheim, Schuh

July 23 - BATTLE FOR TERRA (PG) 7 p.m.  
 July 24 - I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 25 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 4 p.m.; X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.; I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.  
 July 26 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 4 p.m.; I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 27 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 28 - I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 29 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 30 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Vogelweh, Galaxy

July 23 - I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 24 - HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.  
 July 25 - HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.  
 July 26 - HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.  
 July 27 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 28 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 29 - HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 7 p.m.  
 July 30 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Ramstein, Hercules

July 24 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 25 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 26 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Ramstein, Nightingale

July 23 - ANGELS AND DEMONS (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 24 - BATTLE FOR TERRA (PG) 3 p.m.; I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m.; X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.  
 July 25 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 3 p.m.; I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.  
 July 26 - BATTLE FOR TERRA (PG) 3 p.m.; I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 27 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 3 p.m.  
 July 28 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 29 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
 July 30 - STAR TREK (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](http://www.aafes.com) for updated listings and more movie descriptions



Andrey Okonetchnikov

The Giant Ferris Wheel at Vienna's famous amusement park, the Prater, rises above the city skyline and the rest of the park. The Prater was originally an imperial hunting ground until 1766.

By Ina Stiewitz  
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Last week's Herald Post featured the first in a two-part series on Vienna, Austria. This week, we continue our four-day journey through the imperial city.

On our first two days in Vienna, we visited the Spanish Riding School and the "Sisi ticket" that offers admission to the Imperial Palace with the Sisi Museum, the Imperial Silver Collection, the Schoenbrunn Palace and the Imperial Furniture Collection. The "Sisi ticket" is named after the "Myth Sisi" also known as Empress Elisabeth I, who played a large role in the history of Vienna and whose history is important to know before visiting the city.

#### Before You Go

As a reminder, it is probably a good idea to bring the following three things with you on your trip to the Austrian capital: a city map to help you find your way, a public transportation ticket to help make the journey within the city easier, and strong feet and legs to help with all the walking you are sure to do.

#### Day Three

Your third day in Vienna could include a visit of the Karl Church and the Giant Ferris Wheel at the Prater.

Besides the huge St. Stephen's Cathedral, one of the nicest churches in Vienna is the baroque Karl Church. An elevator carries you to an inside platform 32.5 meters high and you can walk into the cupola, which will provide a view not only of the beautiful frescos but also of Vienna.

A must for every Vienna visitor is a ride on the Giant Ferris Wheel at Vienna's famous amusement park, the Prater. The Ferris wheel was built in 1896-97, after it burned down during World War II it was rebuilt in 1945. It is 64.75 meters high and at its top you will have a great view over Vienna.

The Prater had been an imperial hunting ground until Emperor Josef II donated the area to the Viennese in 1766 as a public leisure center. Today, the Prater hosts 250 attractions, but it also has a green area for relaxing. With the Liliputbahn, a miniature

railway, you can get a view on both sides of the Prater.

#### Day Four

Closing your excursion through Vienna, the last day could be used to visit the Treasury, the St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Imperial Burial Vault, and finally riding with a typical Viennese carriage, called "Fiaker".

The treasury is also located in the Imperial Palace and is home of the most important collection of medieval royal objects. Highlights in the dark rooms of the treasury are: the insignia and jewels of the Holy Roman Empire, the Crown of the Austrian Empire, the Burgundian Treasure from the 15th century and the Treasure of the Order of the Golden Fleece. The Ecclesiastical Treasury offers a journey through the history of art, piety and religion.

With an audio guide you can choose the items that should be explained to you. Listening to every single object will take you three hours, which is an indication for the complexity of the treasures.

Then, on your way to St. Stephen's Cathedral, you should stop at the Imperial Burial Vault, below the Capuchin Church. Here you will find the caskets of the members of the ruling Habsburg dynasty since 1633. At the end of the tour through the vault are the caskets of Emperor Franz Joseph I., Empress Elisabeth I. and their son, Crown Prince Rudolph. By visiting "Sisi's" casket you have finally reached the last station of her life and the end of her trails.

Conclude your sightseeing tour with the St. Stephen's Cathedral which houses a wealth of art treasures, some of which can best be seen during a guided tour.

To relax and process all the impressions you have gathered during your stay in Vienna, take the time and go on a carriage ride. The "Fiaker" is available at certain carriage "parking" areas. Enjoy your time, relax, and listen to the coachman who will certainly be pleased to tell you something about his beautiful Vienna.

During this tour, you will realize that a four-day stay in Vienna just gives you its highlights, but there is definitely much more to see.



Ina Stiewitz

Karl Church is one of the sites not to be missed in Vienna. Inside is an elevator that takes visitors to a platform 32.5 meters high, leading to a cupola that provides unsurpassed views of Vienna as well as the beautiful frescos.

#### Helpful Hints

##### Gather information:

[www.wien.info/en](http://www.wien.info/en)  
[www.schoenbrunn.at/en/home.html](http://www.schoenbrunn.at/en/home.html)  
[www.wienerriesenrad.com/index.php?lang=en](http://www.wienerriesenrad.com/index.php?lang=en)  
[www.khm.at/en/museum-of-carriages-and-department-of-court-uniforms/](http://www.khm.at/en/museum-of-carriages-and-department-of-court-uniforms/)

##### Public Transportation Ticket:

[www.wienerlinien.at/wl/ep/channelView.do?channelId=17256&pageTypeld=10220](http://www.wienerlinien.at/wl/ep/channelView.do?channelId=17256&pageTypeld=10220)

##### Find an apartment or hotel:

[www.wien.info/en/travel-info](http://www.wien.info/en/travel-info)

community  
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Hydrant Work in Heidelberg**

The annual maintenance work on hydrants and the unidirectional flushing program for water main pipes will begin Aug. 3 and last approximately two weeks within all Heidelberg-area installations. During this time, discolored yellow or brownish water might appear in the Heidelberg installations. The color is a result of settled iron that is flushed out once a year. Water can also appear to be cloudy because of dissolved air in water. Both effects are not harmful. In cases of colored or cloudy water, allow water to run until water is clear again. If you notice that the hydrants in your area being worked on, flush the faucet in your laundry room before you do your laundry. DSN 387-3213, civ. 06221-4380-3214, [www.dpw.heidelberg.army.mil](http://www.dpw.heidelberg.army.mil).

**UMUC Europe \$6,000 Grants**

University of Maryland University College Europe announces that it is a full participant in the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program, administered by the U.S. Department of Defense. All UMUC undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates qualify for the program, which provides up to \$6,000 in grant money to eligible spouses of active-duty or activated National Guard or reserve service members (officer or enlisted). The program is designed to provide financial assistance to eligible military spouses who are seeking licensing, credentials and education for future or continued employment in portable career fields. DSN 314-370-6762, civ. 06221-3780, [www.ed.umuc.edu/mycaa](http://www.ed.umuc.edu/mycaa).

**Nostalgic for Darmstadt?**

Members of the general public are invited to sign up for escorted group tours of Darmstadt's Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne and Jefferson Village and Lincoln Village housing areas the afternoon of Sept. 4. Civ. 06151-132045, [konversion@darmstadt.de](mailto:konversion@darmstadt.de). The message should list the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the visitors.

**Military Technology Expo**

The free Mannheim Military Community Technology Exposition will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. July 30 at the Sports Arena on Benjamin Franklin Village. More than 50 exhibitors will be on hand. Civ. 001-443-561-2420, [brooks@ncsi.com](mailto:brooks@ncsi.com).

local  
**EMPLOYMENT**

**Seeking Dance Instructors**

SKIESUnlimited is currently seeking individuals to become dance instructors. Styles of dance include ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop and salsa. DSN 486-5412, civ. 06371-86-5412.

**Bank Employees**

Employment is immediately available for a part-time teller and a part-time customer service associate at the Coleman Barracks Community Bank. Call Harlan Morse, banking center manager. DSN 382-4187, civ. 0621-784158. Applications are available for pick-up, drop off at any Community Banking Center.

**Chapel Watch Care Workers**

Contracted positions available at PHV and MTV chapels. Flexible schedule, must complete background check and Red Cross CPR/First Aid certification. Civ. 06221-301-269, [ed.matthiessen@kabelbw.de](mailto:ed.matthiessen@kabelbw.de).

**KAISERSLAUTERN Education**

• **ACS Classes and Events** – DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203, [www.mwrgermany.com/kl/acs](http://www.mwrgermany.com/kl/acs).

• **Youth Salsa Class** – Child, Youth and School Services and Edge! will offer free salsa lessons for teens (11-18) at the Warrior Room in the Landstuhl Community Club 5-6 p.m. July 23 and 30. Sign up at Central Enrollment. DSN 493-4516, 0631-3406-4122, [www.mwrgermany.com](http://www.mwrgermany.com).

• **Radiation Safety Officer Course** – The safety office hosts a Local Radiation Safety Officer Course 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. July 27 and 28 at Wing C, Bldg. 2925 on Pulaski Barracks. Reservations: DSN 493-4025, civ. 0631-3406-4027.

• **ICE Training** – The customer service officer hosts ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) account manager training 9 a.m. July 29 at the garrison's library, Bldg. 3810 on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. DSN 493-4241.

• **Babysitter Training** – Child, Youth and School Services and SKIE-SUnlimited are offering a babysitter's training class 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 1 and 8 at the Landstuhl Teen Center. Class includes comprehensive 4-H approved training material and Red Cross CPR/first aid certification, as well as hands-on experience and CYS Babysitter Referral Service. Open to youth 13-18. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.

• **Preseparation Briefing** – The Kaiserslautern Transition Center hosts a preseparation briefing 8:30-11:30 a.m. Aug. 4 in Bldg. 3245 on Kleber Kaserne. Registration: DSN 483-7071, civ. 0631-411-7071.

• **VAT Office Relocation** – The Pulaski VAT Office can now be found in Bldg. 2899, across the street from its old location. DSN 493-4035, civ. 0631-3406-4035. The Landstuhl VAT Office will relocate to Bldg. 3810, Room 201 Aug. 3. DSN 486-1780, civ. 06371-86-1780.

• **Community First Focus Groups** – The customer management officer and Army Family Action Plan Program will conduct two Community FIRST (Feedback, Issues, Resolution, Solution, Today) focus groups in July. The Civilian Employee Focus Group will be held 1-4 p.m. July 28 and the Active-Duty Focus Group is 1-4 p.m. July 30 in Room 201 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. Register: DSN 493-4241, civ. 06313-406-4241.

• **Seeking Community Issues** – The Customer Management Services officer and Army Family Action Plan program are currently seeking issues from garrison customers – those who work, live or play on garrison installation in the Kaiserslautern military community. Issues needed

are those that affect quality of life and recommendations for improvement. Submit issues by July 31. DSN 493-4241, civ. 06313-406-4241.

• **Family Retreat** – The chaplain's office hosts a "Learn the Habits of Healthy Families" family retreat Aug. 6-8 to Ferienpark Hambachtal. Departure is 1:30 p.m. Aug. 6 at the Vogelweh Bowling Alley. Cost for trip, food and child care is free. Registration deadline is July 31. Register: [thomas.collier@eur.army.mil](mailto:thomas.collier@eur.army.mil). DSN 493-4098, civ. 01515-581-8133.

• **Commissary Appreciation Day** – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers invites KMC units to participate Aug. 7 at the Vogelweh Commissary. Civ. 0160-708-4367, [www.mwrgermany.com](http://www.mwrgermany.com).

• **Auditions for "Almost, Maine"** – A cast of up to nine men and eight women are needed (20-ish and over) for the play "Almost, Maine." Audition material will be provided. Please bring your calendar. Directors and technicians are also needed. Directors should contact KMC prior to auditions. Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 24 and 25. Performances will be Sept. 25 and 26 and Oct. 2 and 3. DSN 493-6626, civ. 0631-411-6626, [www.mwrgermany.com](http://www.mwrgermany.com).

• **Command Team Forum** – The outreach coordinator hosts a Command Team Forum 10 a.m.-noon Aug. 13 at the Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center. Unit leaders will learn how to support their Soldiers and families by discovering new opportunities and enhancements to the garrison Army Community Service programs and services. Registration is required and must be done by Aug. 6. DSN 493-4062, civ. 0631-3406-4062, [selinda.torbert@eur.army.mil](mailto:selinda.torbert@eur.army.mil).

• **Local Bike Rides** – Join ODR every other Wednesday and explore some of the local area biking trails. These outings are free of charge, only \$5 for a bike rental. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

**HEIDELBERG Education**

• **ACS Classes and Events** – Families Learning About Germany, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. July 27-28 with field trip at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 1; Deployment Support for Parents, 1-4 p.m. July 27; Intro to Computers, 9 a.m.-noon, July 28; Anger and Stress Management, 1-4 p.m. July 28. DSN 370-6883, [www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs](http://www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs).

• **Preseparation Briefing** – Briefing for honorably transitioning Soldiers (not retirees) will be held 1-4 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Heidelberg ACS, Bldg. 3850 at the Community Support Center. Reservations: DSN 370-3283, civ. 06221-57-3283.

• **CPR and First Aid** – The American Red Cross will offer a CPR and first aid for adult, child and infant class

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 29 in Bldg. 3850 on the Community Support Center. Cost is \$40. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-8711.

**Community**

• **ACS Focus Groups** – Army Community Service wants to know what you think about its programs and services. Join one of two focus groups July 27 where you can voice your opinion and make a difference. Register: [HD\\_ACS@mwrgermany.com](mailto:HD_ACS@mwrgermany.com).

• **National Night Out** – Residents of Patrick Henry and Mark Twain villages are encouraged to host cookouts in their neighborhoods the evening of Aug. 4 to help build police and community partnership. Become familiar with your neighbors and their property, so you can help protect each other. Get to know your local law enforcement officers, and help stop crime in your community.

• **New Hours at Patton Law Center** – The Law Center will be closed all day the first Thursday of each month for training. The first closure will be Aug. 13 (the second Thursday in August.) Normal hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 1:30-4 p.m. Thursday.

• **HIWC Events** – Join the Heidelberg International Wandering Club for the following volksmarches: July 25-26, Kronau and Frankfurt-Goldstein; Aug. 1-2, Heuholz, Biffingen. Sign up for trips to Nurnberg in October, France in November and Cologne in December. [www.hiwc.de](http://www.hiwc.de).

• **Girl Scout Movie Day** – July 25 is Movie Day for Heidelberg Girl Scouts. They will have a special showing at noon of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince", followed by a costume parade and contest. Registered Heidelberg Girl Scouts may attend for free. 2009-2010 registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. Pre-register online: [www.gsusahd.org](http://www.gsusahd.org) and click "Movie Day," or e-mail [OCCH Heidelberg@aol.com](mailto:OCCH Heidelberg@aol.com).

• **Consequence Management Exercise** – USAG Heidelberg will be hosting a full-scale exercise Aug. 1 on Nachrichten Kaserne. During morning hours until approximately noon the normal entry gate will be closed to all traffic. Persons can enter through the "old" gate adjacent to Romerstrasse. Parking will remain open in front of the main building and the south parking lot. At approximately 9 a.m., a loud explosive simulator will be activated.

• **Green Beauty** – Girl Scout USA in Heidelberg is sponsoring a "Green Beauty" event for all 11-17 year old girls 6-8 p.m. Aug. 1 in the PHV Scout Hut. Register: [www.gsusahd.org](http://www.gsusahd.org) and click "Green Beauty."

• **Vehicle Registration** – Effective Aug. 3, the office in the DPW compound will be open 8 a.m.-noon due to lack of manpower. Customers can still get full service in Bldg. 3850,

Room 230 during regular hours (8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) The office remains closed on the last working day of each month. As of Aug. 1, the main office will be open the first Saturday of the month 8 a.m.-noon.

• **Vacation Bible School** – Registration is open for children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade for the SonRock Kids Camp to be held 9 a.m.-noon Aug. 3-7 at Patrick Henry Elementary School. Register your child or volunteer to help: DSN 388-9406 or visit PHV or MTV Chapel.

• **Playgroups** – Your child can socialize with others his age during playgroups at the PHV Child Development Center Room 7. Schedule: Newborn-15 months, 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday; 16-30 months, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday; 31-48 months 2-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; Family Group for newborn-48 months, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Friday. Civ. 0160-968-53425.

• **HMS New Student Orientation** – Students in sixth-eighth grades who are new to the community are welcome to attend new student orientation at Heidelberg Middle School's multi-purpose room at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 28.

**MANNHEIM Education**

• **ACS Classes** – Resume Writing, 10-11 a.m. July 27; Interview Skills, 10-11 a.m. July 28; Volunteer Training, 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. July 27 and 29; English as a Second Language, 9-11 a.m. July 24, 27 and 29 and 6-7:30 p.m. July 28 and 30; Levy and Out-Processing, 1-2:45 p.m. July 28; Stress Management, Anger Management and Communication Class, call for date and time. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

• **Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy** – Held at Coleman Chapel every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. DSN 370-7504.

• **Sullivan Library** – Summer Reading Program, 10-11 a.m. every Thursday through Aug. 6; Scrapbook Club, noon-3 p.m. July 25; Film Screening, 4-5:30 p.m. July 25. DSN 380-1740, civ. 0621-730-1740.

• **DFAC closures** – Taylor Dining Facility closed July 20 due to the 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployment. The Sullivan DFAC will close July 31, due to 44th ESB's relocation to Schweinfurt and low service member headcount.

• **School Liaison Transition Services** – Its time to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch School Year 2009/2010. Items needed: sponsor's and spouse's most current LES; sponsor's orders with family members listed; completed application. Apply with Central Registration. Applications at all Mannheim schools, and in the SLO Office.

# Summer Slam 2009



Kelli Bland

Heidelberg pitcher Jacqueline Dixon pitches the ball in the final moments of the game against Wiesbaden on Tompkins Barracks Saturday afternoon during the annual Summer Slam tournament. Heidelberg overpowered Wiesbaden 15-0 in four innings after Friday's 11-3 win against Mannheim, but lost to Stuttgart 1-7 Saturday night, and then fell to tournament champions Ramstein 0-13 in the semi-final game Sunday. More photos are available online at [www.flickr.com/heraldpost](http://www.flickr.com/heraldpost).

## Heidelberg hosts teams from across Europe in annual tourney

By Zoë H. Todd  
HERALD POST INTERN

Twenty-four teams and 29 individuals from as far away as Spain and Belgium or as close as next door battled it out for the top titles at the 18th annual Summer Slam held Friday through Sunday in Heidelberg.

This three-day event featured basketball, racquetball and softball with Ramstein and Kaiserslautern dominating the team competition.

Further highlights included the much-loved men's home run derby with Nino Collado from Stuttgart crowned king, the lady's base hit contest won by Tara Wheadon from Bamberg, and a slam dunk contest for the men with Anthony Johnson from Bamberg taking home the gold.

"It's a sports happening that we at Heidelberg look forward to hosting every year," said Thomas Benson, the tournament director – and with the enthusiasm shown by participants, this is easy to believe.

As many as 30 tents went up on Patton and Tompkins Barracks as Soldiers made themselves at home, grilling and enjoying the festivities, according to Mike Criswell, U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg's chief of Sports and Fitness.

"It's getting better and better each year," he said. Even heavy rains failed to dampen the spirits of both athletes and their fans as teams from Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, Ramstein and Stuttgart fought their way

to the finals held Sunday on Patton Barracks.

Kaiserslautern easily claimed the basketball title with an 81-67 win over Baumholder, and Ramstein's men and women both bested Stuttgart in softball.

The women claimed victory with an 8-5 win, while the men trampled the Stuttgart team 26-3.

"The Summer Slam was absolutely superb," said Col. William Butcher, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg's new commander. "A great mix of healthy competition and community pride.

"I'm also really impressed with the great work of the sports and fitness office of (Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation). Their efforts really made the difference in the success of the event."

Summer Slam is one of the oldest and longest running events offered by the community, according to the Sports and Fitness office.

Editor's Note: Mike Criswell contributed to this article.

### Racquetball

#### Men's Open/A

- 1 - James Johnson
- 2 - Mel Garalde

#### Men's B

- 1 - Kevin Goulet
- 2 - Kevin Yaklovich

#### Men's C

- 1 - Walter Sauer
- 2 - Eugene Ojeda

#### 30+

- 1 - Kevin Goulet
- 2 - Michael Corley

#### 40+

- 1 - James Johnson
- 2 - Mel Garalde

#### 50+

- 1 - James Johnson
- 2 - Margarito Castanon

#### 60+

- 1 - Walter Sauer

### U.S. Forces Europe Tennis Championships

The U.S. Forces Europe Tennis Championships, coordinated by the U.S. Air Force-Europe, was held at the Heidelberg Tennis Center Friday-Sunday.

#### TEAM AWARDS:

- 1 - Ramstein (247 points)
- 2 - Heidelberg (223 points)
- 3 - Gangel (43 points)

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

- Women Single Open**
- 1 - Maya Pardee

- 2 - Cristina Miklas
- 3 - Susan Flynn

#### Men Seniors 30-39

- 1 - Metin Karaca
- 2 - Mike Stanton
- 3 - Greg Outlaw

#### Men Single Open

- 1 - Robert Alexander
- 2 - Jorge Sepulveda
- 3 - Terry Johnson

#### Men Masters 40 and Above

- 1 - Carl Citrine
- 2 - David Ward
- 3 - Ralph Totorica

#### Men Doubles

- 1 - Metin Karaca / Kris Joseph
- 2 - Jorge Sepulveda / Terry Johnson
- 3 - Craig Hendrix / Robert Alexander

#### Mixed Doubles

- 1 - Jamie Rydell / Cristina Miklas
- 2 - Maya Pardee / Mark Pardee
- 3 - David Ward / Sally Cotter

### staying ACTIVE

#### Heidelberg Unit-Level Softball

**Standings as of July 15:** V Corps, 11-4; MEDDAC, 10-5; 529th MPs, 7-7; PMO, 6-9; DENTAC, 3-12.  
**Games to be played on Patton Barracks July 23:** 529th MPs vs. V Corps, 6 p.m.; DENTAC vs. PMO, 7 p.m.; MEDDAC vs. 529th MPs, 8 p.m. Unit-level championships will be played at Patton sports field July 27-31, and a meeting will be held at 1 p.m. July 24 at the Heidelberg Sports Office.

#### Mannheim Soccer Summer Camps

Developmental Soccer Camps will be offered for ages 5-7 July 27-31 with morning (9 a.m.-noon) or afternoon (1:30-4:30 p.m.) sessions. Junior Soccer Camp will be offered for ages 8-13 Aug. 3-7 (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Senior Soccer Camp will be offered for ages 13-18 July 27-30 (6-8 p.m.). Cost: \$70. Central Enrollment Registration: DSN 380-9290, civ. 0621-730-9290.

#### Edge! Bicycling for Fun

Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation and CYS Services Edge! Program offer Bicycling for Fun class Thursdays in August, 3-4 p.m. Learn how to fit a helmet, inflate tires, fix a flat and more. Participants will also enjoy bike rides on the trails around Vogelweh. Class is open to youth 6-11 and costs \$25. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.

#### Tackle Football Officials Clinic

The Center for Workforce Development in Schweitzingen is offering Tackle Football Officials Clinic for all ID card holders ages 18 and up Aug. 5-8. Register: [www.mwonline.com](http://www.mwonline.com).

#### Unit-Level Flag Football

Kaiserslautern units wishing to participate must register by Aug. 12. League play will be held at the sports fields located on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. The coaches meeting will be held Aug. 6, 6 p.m. at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Bldg. 172. DSN 493-2087, [quinton.floyd@eur.army.mil](mailto:quinton.floyd@eur.army.mil).

#### Youth Sports Registration

**Heidelberg** – Register through Aug. 7 for soccer, flag football, tackle football and cheerleading. Volunteer coaches are needed. DSN 388-9397.

**Mannheim** – Register through July 31 for soccer, flag football, tackle football and cheerleading at Central Enrollment Registration. DSN 380-9290, civ. 0621-730-9390.

**Kaiserslautern** – Child Youth and School Services Youth Sports is now offering a golf program to youth ages 8-15. Registration begins Aug. 10 and the season begins Aug. 24. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.

#### Military Long Drive

Take your best shot for a trip to compete in the 2009 Military Long Drive Championship Finals in Mesquite, Nev., and possibly win \$10,000. The Europe event will be held Aug. 8 at the Heidelberg Golf Club in Offersheim. Second place wins \$200 in pro-shop certificates, and third place gets \$100 in certificates. Entry fee: \$10 for six balls. [www.mwgermany.com](http://www.mwgermany.com).

#### Human Foosball Tournament

ACS is recruiting units to participate in the first Human Foosball Tournament 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 29 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Each unit in Heidelberg and Mannheim can have one team with five players per team. Register by Aug 14. DSN 370-6883, [HD\\_ACS@mwgermany.com](mailto:HD_ACS@mwgermany.com).