

HeraldPOST

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

Reliving history



Staff Sgt. Don Graham

Paratroopers fill the skies during an airborne operation at Sainte Mere Eglise, France, Sunday. The paratroopers were there to celebrate the 65th anniversary of D-Day at Normandy. The 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 18th Military Police Brigade provided operational command and control of the weeklong celebration. See more photos and stories on the D-Day commemoration on pages 10-11.

Army to delay inactivation of V Corps HQ

Department of Defense

The Department of the Army announced June 4 that Secretary of the Army Pete Geren has delayed the inactivation of the V Corps Headquarters and the conversion of U.S. Army Europe Headquarters into a deployable field army headquarters.

A corps headquarters is the primary organization that synchronizes the see **V CORPS** page 12

2 cases of H1N1 confirmed at Landstuhl; 4 more 'probable'

ERMC Public Affairs

Two cases of novel H1N1 influenza were confirmed June 4 by the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Infectious Disease Laboratory and four more cases are "probable."

The cases involve military patients who were sharing a common area at Landstuhl. With exception of a patient who arrived from Italy on May 26, none had traveled outside of Germany in the past two weeks.

Each patient has responded to treat-

ment with Tamiflu®, according to Europe Regional Medical Command infectious disease and preventive medicine consultants at Landstuhl.

The two confirmed cases are the first among U.S. military personnel in Europe.

The United States European Command Web site (www.eucom.mil) has links to Department of Defense global H1N1 surveillance information, as well as links to current information from the World Health Organization and the see **H1N1** page 12

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June 10, 2009

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SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Defense Details

PAKISTAN, NORTH KOREA

Defense Department officials are encouraged by the Pakistani campaign in the country's Swat Valley and in its provinces of Buner and Dir, but North Korea continues to be a vexing issue. Pakistan's monthlong offensive against the Taliban within its borders is going well. The United States continues to stand ready to provide whatever assistance the Pakistani military needs to finish the job.

AIR FRANCE FLIGHT

The Defense Department is flying a 19-person crew and Navy equipment to Natal, Brazil, to aid in the search for Air France Flight 447's data recorders. The Airbus A330 jetliner with 228 people aboard disappeared May 31.

Army news: www.army.mil
Defense news: www.defenselink.mil

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COMMENTARY

Values bind service members together across span of time

By Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth
18TH MP BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NORMANDY, France – As I walked through the American cemetery at Omaha Beach here, I found it difficult to wrap my mind around a battle so large and so brutal. I imagine as thousands of Soldiers poured onto these beaches 65 years ago, the magnitude of the conflict must have been overwhelming to them as well.

I suppose that for many people an invasion like D-Day is so far removed from reality it starts to become just a series of old photos or film footage or a favorite scene in a movie.

But for others, the connection to Normandy is as real as the blood flowing through their veins. For some of the Soldiers who have come to pay their respects to the veterans of D-Day, it is more than just a bond between Soldiers. It is a family bond.

I have worked with Spc. William Hubbard, a native of Richmond, Va., and command group driver for the 18th Military Police Brigade, for more than six months now, but until we spoke at the cemetery at Omaha Beach, I had never heard Hubbard recount the story of his great-uncle, "Chief" Chavis.

Chavis was among the men who stormed the beaches here 65 years ago. Hubbard said his uncle manned a landing craft on D-Day, transporting platoon-sized groups of Soldiers to the beach. For Chavis, Hubbard told me, June 6, 1944 was "the hardest day of his life."

As I heard Hubbard talk about his uncle and how difficult that day was for him – how difficult I imagine it was for every Soldier that day – I began to wonder about Soldiers then and Soldiers now.

The generation of men who fought in World

War II was undoubtedly different than the generation of men and women who fight today. American society 65 years ago was different than American society today.

But aside from society, what about the values of Soldiers? Surely they can't be much different, then or now, I thought to myself. We live the Army Values. We live Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. These values are timeless, I tell myself.

As Hubbard told me more about his great-uncle, I tried to imagine the scene in my head. I tried to place myself in his boots.

"He would lower the ramp and have to watch as maybe one or two of the 20 Soldiers made it to sand," Hubbard said.

And then he had to head back to the main ship, rinse off his boat, sweep away any evidence of what had just happened and bring back the next group of Soldiers.

I think about the job Chavis did that day. It was not glamorous and certainly not one to be envied, but he did it. As difficult as it must have been, it was essential.

Then Hubbard said aloud what I had been thinking myself. "It ... makes me wonder if I could suffer through something like that," he said.

As I mulled this idea over in my head, I thought

to myself that perhaps what Hubbard and I have failed to consider is that our connection to D-Day is more even than just family or occupation. It is a connection of ideals.

We each raised our right hands and took the oath to serve our country. It takes rare individuals to be willing to sacrifice everything for their country. It takes courage when you know the risk you face.

As one of thousands of Soldiers who volunteered to enter the Army during a time of war, I reached a point in my decision-making process where I had to ask myself how much I would be willing to sacrifice.

Not knowing if today's war would turn for better or for worse, I had to ask myself if I was willing to take the risk.

Like every other service member, I chose my values over everything else. I chose my country and my fellow Soldiers over myself.

Hearing Hubbard's story about his uncle, I have come to the conclusion that, while wars may be fought differently now than they were 65 years ago, the troops who fight in them have not.

So, as we remember the men who fought so valiantly and the thousands who lost their lives 65 years ago, we cannot fail to remember those who follow in their footsteps and fight so bravely today in their honor.



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

We're all guilty of doing it. We complain about that pot hole in the road – the high school students who smoke at the corner – the broken swing at the park – the trash by the recycle islands. We share with anyone who'll listen, or commiserate with us, about how people in our community just don't seem to care. But what do we do? I say we quit griping and take action ... We don't have to sit around and wait for something to be done. We can take action and

make it happen. Be a part of making this the best community outside the United States to live, work and play. I know I will.

–Lira Frye, USAG Baden-Württemberg Public Affairs

My family recently visited us here in Heidelberg. It was an amazing time to show them where we live and visit some of the sights of Germany, including H-berg castle, Rothenberg ob der Tauber and of

course Garmisch. We also traveled to Stockholm, Sweden for three days. When I was in high school, we had an exchange student, Gabriella, live with us for a year, so we finally took this opportunity to go visit her and her family in Stockholm. I have to say, we weren't sure what to expect besides maybe lots of people who were blond, but we were excited to visit the land of some of our ancestors.

–Kristen Marquez, Herald Post Staff



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More than just fancy footwork

Heidelberg women learn to fend off attackers during self-defense class

By Kristen Marquez
HERALD POST STAFF

Shouts of “Back off!” and “No!” could be heard echoing inside the Campbell Fitness Center basketball courts Saturday, but it wasn’t from basketball players stepping up their defense.

Instead, it was a different kind of defense being practiced – women’s self-defense.

As part of Army Community Service’s Family Advocacy and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, and in conjunction with the military police, Heidelberg’s first women’s self-defense classes were offered.

After Saturday’s two sessions, around 20 women are trained in ways to protect themselves from a potential attacker or similar situation, according to Michele Barber, Heidelberg Family Advocacy Program manager.

Sexual assault is a real-life problem, Barber said. The important thing is for women to learn ways to protect themselves, and a class such as this one offers them a way to learn while having fun.

The course was taught by Yvette Castro, the sexual assault response coordinator for U.S. Army Garrison Benelux. Master Sgt. Charles Cavanaugh and Staff Sgt. Dana Valentine, both from

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg’s Directorate of Emergency Services, also volunteered their time to help teach the class.

Castro taught participants how to use their voices along with moves she calls by such names as the ‘chop’ and the ‘hammerfist.’

She gave class participants what she said was “a little bag of tricks to help you if you decide to use them,” and pointed out that it is always their own personal choice to decide if they want to fight back.

“The most important step in self defense is actually having the confidence to do it,” she told participants. She also reminded them the decision to fight back can sometimes escalate the violence and urged them to pick what worked for them and what they felt comfortable with.

First, the class started out by practicing how to yell “Back off!” with confidence, and combined it with arm, hand and leg movements and pressure points to help figure out the best ways to fend off a perpetrator.

Class members paired off and took turns playing the perpetrator before getting the chance to really practice on someone. Cavanaugh was dressed in the “red man suit” – protective gear to allow the women to hit as hard as they



Master Sgt. Charles Cavanaugh, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Directorate of Emergency Services, “attacks” Diane Kelch during the Family Advocacy Program’s self-defense class offered at Campbell Fitness Center Saturday.

wanted, which gave the real-life experience of hitting someone and trying to get away from a potential attacker.

Cavanaugh said he enjoyed volunteering his time to help the women become more prepared, alert and assertive.

“We were helping them and giving them a tool,” he said. “It was fun. Some of the ladies took it serious and hit really hard.”

“Some of them may have been intimidated at first, but after the training by Yvette, they became more confident.”

Valentine agreed that help-

ing the women gain confidence in themselves was an important part of the class.

“This is a great class because I think the participants were given great knowledge and power to be able to defend themselves if they ever find themselves in a situation where they are being attacked,” Valentine said.

Participants Nancy Blazek and Diana Kelch said they both enjoyed the class and felt they learned a lot. Kelch, a self-proclaimed “scaredy cat” who doesn’t like to yell, said it was especially helpful for her

confidence.

Both women agreed that learning ways to turn the tables on a potential perpetrator and getting to actually put what they were learning in to practice made for a successful class that was fun at the same time.

Barber hopes to offer the class again in the future. The main reason it’s important for women to know self-defense techniques, she said, is to protect themselves and then be able to possibly teach others how to protect themselves as well.

500 local seniors prepare for the next stage of their lives

By Jonathan Ochart
HERALD POST VOLUNTEER

More than 500 seniors in the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg communities finally threw their caps into the air after receiving diplomas in their anxious hands over the weekend.

Of these graduates, around 200 were from Ramstein, 115 from Kaiserslautern and 50 from Mannheim. Of the approximately 140 graduates of Heidelberg High School, senior Daphne-Ann Vessiroopoulos, HHS student for two years, had an intriguing story to accompany the rewarding night.

Besides enjoying reading by the Neckar River, studying Korean and Japanese, and doing karaoke, she has high aspirations to become an international lawyer to solve problems in the world.

Her individuality and charisma, which she “struts down the hallways,” was evident among the graduation ceremony, which was held downtown Heidelberg in the Stadthalle Friday.

After senior Lee Hillmon sang “The Star Spangled Banner,” senior class president John A. Rynecki welcomed those attending with a speech composed of memoirs he and his fellow graduates shared throughout their high school days, from the passionate bonfire to painting the school red.

Guest speaker Lt. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker, V Corps commanding general, shared words of wisdom with the graduates. “Remember, when people struggle together, sacrifice together, and learn from one another, then nothing is impossible. I know that with your leadership, the future will continue to

burn very, very bright.”

The tone of the event was set once the speeches concluded; it was one of happiness and tears over past events, of speculation and wonder for the future.

Amidst a dark-blue sea of gowns, Vessiroopoulos remained afloat with a lei, a necklace typical of the Hawaiian culture. Although she was restricted to wearing it after the ceremony, the money-strewn object still symbolized her belief that hard work and dedication eventually pays off in the future.

Others stood out as well with their words when accepting their diplomas, which varied from engaging memories and appreciation toward family, friends and teachers.

“You’re my rock and my heart,” graduate Li’ana Myhand said to her family, while senior Christopher Wilhelm be-

lieves “a beautiful world awaits.”

Although the ceremony represented the end of a chapter in the graduates’ lives, to many, the night had just begun. As for Vessiroopoulos, she “got down with the natural state of things” with her fellow classmates on the traditional boat ride. Keeping in mind her goal of majoring in international studies in English, the graduate is “excited to meet new people and use the social skills she learned throughout high school.”

After years of tireless nights and caffeinated mornings, “I’m going to hang that diploma on my wall, and I’m gonna stare at it all day, and be like, yeah, I’m done with school,” the graduate said. It won’t be too long, however, before she heads out toward her hometown, Boston, Mass., where she will attend Suffolk University.

Missed appointments reduce access to care

By Jennifer Walsh
HEIDELBERG MEDDAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Meet Jane.

Jane is a military spouse who juggles the kids, works part time, and plays an active role in the family readiness group. With her busy schedule, Jane tends to miss the occasional hair appointment or meeting. So when Jane needs to skip her medical appointment, she doesn't think twice about it.

Sound familiar?

Last year, more than 6,000 patients failed to show up for their appointments at the Heidelberg Health Center, and almost 2,500 patients missed their appointments at the Mannheim Army Health Clinic. Last month alone, there were 454 no-shows in Heidelberg and 237 in Mannheim.

"When a patient fails to show up for their appointment, the appointment slot usually stays empty," said Col. Kyle D. Campbell, Heidelberg Medical Department Activity commander. "It's unfortunate because there are other people in the community who could have used the appointment to get their medical needs squared away."

According to Maj. Christoph A. Hillmer, the HMEDDAC Department of Clinical Services executive officer, one missed appointment actually takes up three appointment slots.

First, there's the appointment that goes unfilled, Hillmer said. Then there's the missed opportunity for someone else who could've used the appoint-

ment to get health care. Finally, the person who missed the appointment has to reschedule, which takes up another appointment that someone else could've used.

Although the reasons for missing an appointment range from Jane or Joe's situation to someone who simply forgot to mark their calendar, the actions of one person can affect many.

"It really impacts access to care for all of the other beneficiaries," Hillmer said. "Not to mention the wasted time of the provider who could be seeing another patient."

To help reduce the number of unfilled appointments, patients should call their local health clinic as soon as they know they will be unable to keep their appointment. After the appointment is canceled, it becomes available to another patient who needs medical care.

"There's an infinite demand for health care, and it's a limited resource. Like any other limited resource you have, you've got to use it wisely," Hillmer said. "If you're going to miss your appointment, call the clinic and cancel as soon as possible."

Patients who need to cancel their appointment should call Heidelberg central appointments at DSN 371-2622, civ. 06221-17-2622 or Mannheim central appointments at DSN 385-2273, civ. 0621-730-2273. Patients who scheduled their appointments through TRICARE Online can also cancel their appointments using the TRICARE Online site at <https://www.tricareonline.com/welcome.do>.

A D.A.R.E.ing venture



Christine Gebhard

German police officers from the Mannheim police Benjamin Franklin Village sub-station, mounted police and motorcycle group were on hand for a display and interaction with children and adults following a Drug Abuse Resistance Education graduation ceremony at Mannheim Elementary School. Sixty-four eighth-graders and 104 fifth-graders from the Mannheim community completed the D.A.R.E. program.

Youths 'on the go' for summer fun in Kaiserslautern

By Christine June
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Summer fun heats up Monday and stays sizzling for 11 weeks at the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's School Age Services and Middle School and Teen Center on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

These Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs boast weekly summer camps that showcase arts and crafts, field trips and workshops.

"Children and parents can choose which weeks they want to attend," said Belynda Smith, the garrison's FMWR Child, Youth and School Services chief.

Both camps will be supplemented by visiting Camp Adventure counselors.

Open to children entering second to sixth grade, the SAS camps' activities and field trips were chosen by experts – the children.

"The whole concept behind CYSS is that it's a children's program so they got to vote on what our camps would offer," said Dee Dee Lana, the Landstuhl SAS director. "It was all up to them."



Christine June

Arts and craft activities will be a part of summer camps at the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's School Age Services, and Middle School and Teen Center on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Summer camps at both facilities start Monday and go through Aug. 28.

Activities, Lana said, range from tie-dyeing T-shirts to putting on plays for parents. There will also be song and dessert fests.

"Summers are supposed to be special for children, and that's exactly what we want these camps to be for them – special," Lana said. "Everything is just for fun."

But, she also said that learning will be a part of the fun,

whether the children realize it or not because "they will be having too much fun to notice."

For those entering the seventh to 12th grades, the MSTC is all "a buzz" with two different types of programs to choose from – Teens on the Go and Ultimate Summer Program.

Teens on the Go is from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is reserved

and theme-based care, Smith said. It's this program that has the field trips, twice a week.

"This is the first summer where we are actually going to France," said Smith, citing the Metz City Tour June 18, two trips to the Snowhall Indoor Ski July 2 and Aug. 6, as well as the Peace Garden and Citadel/ Fortress tour Aug. 20.

An exciting aspect about the field trips, Smith said, is

that they will be taking trains instead of buses.

"This way, they will also be learning about the train systems in Europe," said Smith, who added she really wanted European culture to be an important part of the field trips.

Besides field trips, Teens on the Go offers four service areas: Leisure, Arts and Recreation; Sports and Fitness; Life Skills; and, Mentoring, Intervention and Support Services.

Activities catered to each service area will be provided daily as not only part of the Teens on the Go, but also part of the free Ultimate Summer Program, which starts each day at 1 p.m. and goes until 6 p.m.

To find out about all the trips and activities at SAS and MSTC, visit www.mwrgermany.com/KL/kaiserslautern.htm and select CYSS Services.

Registration for all the CYSS programs must be done at the garrison's Central Enrollment and Registration, Bldg. 2898 on Pulaski Barracks. The office is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

For more information about the camps, call DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.

In Memoriam – Johnnie B. Bailey and Alvin D. Thompson

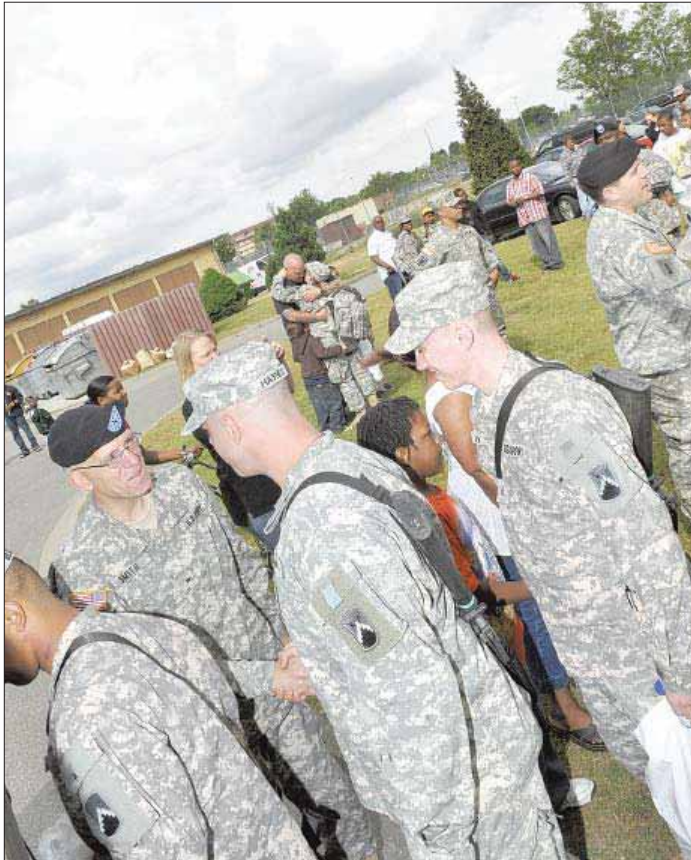


Retired Chief Warrant Officer 2 Johnnie B. Bailey died May 25 at the Klinikum in Worms after succumbing to a battle with cancer. Bailey was born in Okolone, Ark., April 11, 1942. He entered into active duty in 1962 and served in the United States Army for 23 years. His military career included two tours of duty in Vietnam. Bailey retired from the Army in Germany in 1985, but continued to work for various contractors. After his retirement, he remained active in the community by volunteering with the Retired Services Office to provide much needed help and guidance to widows of retired service members. Bailey is survived by his wife, Marlene, and children Johannes Bailey and Michelle Mays. He also leaves behind two grandchildren, Sara and Jonah Bailey, as well as three sisters, Patrica Parks, Thelma Livingston and Gertrude Brunson of Texarkana and Fulton, Ark. Bailey was laid to rest in his wife's hometown of Spraitbach, Germany, May 30.



Alvin D. Thompson died in Heidelberg May 25. After spending years in the military, he finished his career at the Heidelberg shoppette on Patrick Henry Village. Thompson was born Dec. 10, 1930, in Galveston, Texas. He joined the Army at 17 and was promptly sent to post-war Germany to assist in the rebuilding of this country which he came to love in the decades to come. He attended mechanic school in Murnau, finishing best in his class. Shortly after, he was posted in Darmstadt, where he helped clear and rebuild that city and surrounding areas from the devastation of World War II. He participated in the Berlin Airlift in 1948 and 1949. Thompson retired from the U.S. Army in 1970, and continued working in mechanics, first for Ford and then with DoD as a civilian. He was deeply involved with the American Legion and the VFW. He was an inspiration, even after becoming ill in the fall of 2008. He spent most of his last months at the home of his daughter and son-in-law in Bensheim. A memorial will be held in Thompson's honor at the Patrick Henry Village Chapel at 5:30 p.m. June 17. Lt. Col. (Chap.) Jason Duckworth, Heidelberg community chaplain, and Ed Sherman, American Legion Post GR-03 commander, will speak at the ceremony.

Heading to OEF



Staff Sgt. Jonathon M. Gray

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith Jr., commander, 5th Signal Command, says farewell to Spc. Jason B. Haynes, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, before Haynes and approximately 35 Soldiers from the 7th boarded a bus near the unit's headquarters in Mannheim to deploy to Afghanistan for up to 12 months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Family members and friends of the deploying Soldiers gathered to say their farewells to loved ones before the deployment.

KAISERSLAUTERN

New BOSS president pushes for input

By Christine June

USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Input is what Spc. Kimberly Perry wants to increase during her presidency of the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's Better Opportunities for Single Service members program.

"I need a lot of input – ideas and participation – to get single Soldiers out of the barracks," said Perry, who was re-assigned in April from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to the garrison to serve as the BOSS president in the Kaiserslautern military community for a year.



PERRY

Kaiserslautern's BOSS program has garnered either the best large installation or event honors in the past three years by the Installation Management Command-Europe.

"What the BOSS program needs is a single Soldier recruiter – getting single Soldiers and leadership involved," said the garrison's Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Jessup, who oversees the program here, including selecting the president. "And, that's what Perry does – gets out there and acts as the voice for single Soldiers."

Perry arrived here a little more than a year ago, and three months later, she became the BOSS vice president.

"I was really involved in the program, so I knew a lot about it, and I believe I have good ideas and energy to add to the program," said Perry, on why she wanted to be the next BOSS president.

Founded in 1989, BOSS is a three-pillared organization that helps single and unaccompanied Soldiers with recreation and leisure, community service and well-being issues.

"We have implemented a new rule that members must volunteer in order to take advantage of our specially priced trips," Perry said. "We offer many community volunteer opportunities every month."

She cites regular scheduled BOSS volunteer programs like Adopt a Road and participating in the Ramstein Air Base's Armed Forces Against Drunk Driving program. Adopt a Road is usually held the last Thursday of the month and involves units volunteering to pick up trash along the road from Autobahn 6 Kaiserslautern East exit to the Mannheimer Strasse by Daenner Kaserne. Usually the last Friday in the month, Kaiserslautern BOSS members volunteer for AADD, which provides a free safe ride home for KMC members in the local area.

A new volunteer program for the Kaiserslautern BOSS program is Walk the Dog where members walk abandoned dogs housed at a local German dog pound. It happens once a month on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Single Soldiers (living in the barracks) can't have pets and most are not around their families, so this volunteer program gives them a little bit of home, and these dogs stay in their cages unless people volunteer to walk them, so it offers a great community service," said Perry, who added that this idea came up in a BOSS meeting.

"We are always looking for different ideas for community service," she said.

The BOSS program in most Army communities stands for Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, but because of the unique KMC demographics, the name was changed locally to service members around 1997 to encourage Airmen, Marines and Sailors here to take advantage of the same opportunities afforded to Soldiers.

Meetings are held 1 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month in the garrison headquarters' conference room, Bldg. 2933 on Pulaski Barracks. The BOSS office is in Bldg. 2929 on Pulaski Barracks.

For more information on the BOSS program, call Perry at DSN 493-4344, civ. 0631-3406-4072.

V Corps' STB changes leadership

By Sgt. Fabian Ortega
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Matthew F. Rasmussen assumed command of V Corps' Special Troops Battalion during a change-of-command ceremony at Victory Park in Heidelberg Friday.

He succeeds Lt. Col. Charles T. Connett, who will depart Germany to head the operations center at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Before giving his final goodbye to V Corps' Soldiers, Connett expressed his best wishes to Rasmussen, adding that his successor is the best choice to take command of the STB.

"I am absolutely confident that I turn over command to a much more able officer than I," Connett said. "(I) wish you nothing but the best as you take this command to the next level."

The ceremony welcomed Rasmussen back to Germany where he served, from 1998 until 2001, as an aviation observer/controller at the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels.

Rasmussen thanked the V Corps and U.S. Army Europe Soldiers in the formation for executing the ceremony and "upholding the finest traditions of our Army."

"Your hard work and sacrifice are greatly appreciated. I am excited to serve with you, and for you, in this historic, proud, and dynamic command," Rasmussen said.

During his career, Rasmussen has served in a variety of command and staff assignments in the U.S., Germany and Japan. He served as a personnel officer with the 101st Airborne Division's 101st Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell, Ky., and his most recent assignment was as the 8th Theater Sustainment Command human resource officer at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

The founding of 5th Signal



Staff Sgt. Jonathon M. Gray
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith Jr., commander, 5th Signal Command, addresses the gathered guests during his speech for the annual reception at the Herrnsheim Castle May 29. The reception brings together all the family, friends and foreign partners of 5th Signal Command in a friendly environment. The reception honors 5th's founding in the city of Worms.

Defense Priority Placement Program places 250,000th employee

By Gerry J. Gilmore
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department's Priority Placement Program placed its 250,000th employee in March, program officials said Friday.

The program provides hiring preference to eligible civilian employees who've been displaced from their jobs because of downsizing or restructuring, said Jeff Nelson, chief of the Civilian Assistance Reemployment Division, a component of the Civilian Personnel Management Service.

Since 1986, Nelson said, the program also has assisted military spouses in obtaining another defense civilian job when they move with their military sponsors. More than 52,000 military spouses have obtained Defense Department jobs through the program.

On March 29, a Navy spouse became the 250,000th per-

son to be placed through the Priority Placement Program, Nelson said. The spouse, he said, had returned stateside from an overseas location with her military sponsor.

"That truly is a significant quality-of-life benefit for military families," Nelson said.

Defense personnel managers, Nelson said, view the Priority Placement Program as a useful tool for retaining skilled civilian employees displaced during downsizing or restructuring.

Employees affected by reductions in force, Base Realignment and Closure actions and other restructuring can voluntarily register in the Priority Placement Program, said Steve Wooley, Nelson's deputy division chief.

Registration for the program peaked in 1996 at about 22,000 participants, Wooley said. This surge, he said, occurred amid a series of BRAC actions that began in the late

1980s.

"The most noteworthy thing about the whole experience through the first four BRAC rounds is that we eliminated over 400,000 civilian positions," Wooley said, "but only about 9 percent of the employees affected were involuntarily separated."

According to CPMS documents, the Priority Placement Program benefits the Defense Department in a number of ways, by:

- Retaining skilled employees and minimizing retraining costs;
- Maintaining employee morale and productivity at installations affected by defense transformation;
- Reducing costs associated with involuntary separations, such as severance pay, unemployment compensation;
- Complying with statutory requirements to provide priority hiring consideration for displaced employees; and

•Implementing force restructuring actions efficiently and humanely.

Employees being separated during a reduction in force have the highest job-placement priority, Wooley said, and they also have the broadest options in terms of geographic choices for new jobs. In this situation, he said, participants who are more flexible as to where they'll relocate "are the ones who get placed."

The PPP also comes into play during realignments, Wooley said. One of many examples, he said, is the Missile Defense Agency. Many MDA employees do not want to accompany their organization during its pending relocation from northern Virginia to Alabama.

"As a result, they'll be scheduled for separation and (be) eligible to register in the PPP," Wooley said. "But, the difference here is that we don't allow them to register as far

away from northern Virginia as Huntsville, Ala."

Program participants who decline the Alabama job offer would thereby restrict their geographic consideration for employment "to points less distant," Wooley explained, and also would carry a lower priority for job placement, because "they did have a job offer, albeit one in a different state."

Then-Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara established the program in 1963, during a period of military downsizing prior to increased U.S. involvement in South Vietnam. McNamara announced that all civilian employees facing layoffs due to base closures would be offered positions at other installations.

The first employees were enrolled in the program in 1964. The system became fully operational the following year.



Dave Melancon

President Barack Obama, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and President of France Nicolas Sarkozy, returns a salute to an honor guard of U.S. and allied service members during the 65th anniversary commemoration of D-Day in the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France Saturday. The heads of state honored veterans of the landing and World War II.



Master Sgt. Donald Sparks

World War II veterans Arthur Petersen, from Santa Barbara, Calif., and Robert Herrot, from Friendship, Wis., study a historic photo together moments before a ceremony in Carentan, France, honoring World War II paratroopers of the 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment as part of events honoring the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

D-DAY
65 years later
 Read more about D-Day events at
www.hqsareur.army.mil



Master Sgt. Donald Sparks

A citizen from the town of Carentan, France, holds the United States flag near the encased regimental colors of the 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. The paratroopers of 3-502nd engaged in some of the fiercest fighting on French soil in the Carentan area following the D-Day invasion in June 1944. A wreath-laying ceremony Friday honored the regiment for liberating the town.



Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth

Members of the British Foreign Legion pay their respects after laying wreaths in honor of German Soldiers who lost their lives in the Normandy campaign during World War II, at a ceremony in the German military cemetery in La Cambe, near Bayeux, France, Friday.



Sgt. Fay Conroy

Members of a re-enactment group park a restored World War II-era truck at the Airborne Festival in Sainte Mere Eglise, France, June 3. The festival features historic vehicles, weapons and other equipment in recreated World War II settings.

President Obama visits wounded troops at Landstuhl

By **Chuck Roberts**
LRMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The commander in chief focused his attention on wounded warriors during a visit to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Friday.

President Barack Obama paid bedside visits with U.S. and coalition service members as well as joining an enthusias-

tic crowd of outpatients at the USO Warrior Center. Along the way he pinned on six Purple Hearts honoring service members injured in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Among those in the packed Warrior Center was Pfc. Dean Baker, an 18-year-old injured in an improvised explosive device blast while deployed to Iraq with the 161st Infantry

Brigade. His reaction to meeting Obama echoed those of many.

"It was really cool just to be in the presence of a leader like that," Baker said. "People started walking in (to the Warrior Center) and I'm like, 'Oh my God, it's the president.' You're never going to get that chance again unless you're really lucky."

Baker, a native of Vancouver, Wash., said it was an honor just to be in the presence of such a powerful man, especially on an occasion where the president came to honor those who were injured in the service of their country.

Leading the president during his visit to an in-patient ward was 1st Lt. Danielle Schaaf, an Army nurse who said Obama's

impact on the wounded warriors was visibly noticeable.

"He was so kind to all the Soldiers and so sincere, and really took their stories and what they were saying personally," Schaaf said. "It really meant a lot to the Soldiers. You could just tell on their faces they were very impressed. He was happy to see them and they were happy to see him."

First French town liberated on D-Day appreciates veterans

By **Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth**
18TH MP BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAINTE MERE EGLISE, France – After a well-deserved tribute at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Omaha Beach Saturday, attended by four heads of state, the veterans of D-Day were honored again Sunday.

This tribute, however, was organized by and held in the town of Sainte Mere Eglise, the first town liberated by allied forces on D-Day.

Along with the families of the veterans, Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe's 21st Theater Sustainment Command and Brig. Gen. Jon Miller, 21st TSC deputy commanding general, were among those who attended the ceremony.

Even though the crowd was nowhere near the size of the one at Omaha Beach, the appreciation and respect shown for the veterans was as strong in front of the Sainte Mere Eglise town hall as it was at the Saturday event.

The crowd that gathered outside to welcome the veterans could hardly contain its excitement. While technical difficulties prevented speech-making, in the end the gratitude of this town did not need words.

The appreciation of the people of Sainte Mere Eglise could be seen in the faces of the children who lined up to take their picture with the veterans. It was felt in the pressing crowds, eager to get closer to their heroes.

As the ceremonies in remembrance of D-Day come to an end in Normandy, the veterans and the people who gather here to honor them have not waned in their enthusiasm for one another.

William Tritt, 86, a native of Carlisle, Penn., was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division's 508th Infantry Regiment when he landed four miles northwest of Sainte Mere Eglise on D-Day.

This year was Tritt's first trip back to Normandy since the war, and he said he has enjoyed the reception he has received here. Even after sharing a handshake with the president of the United States, Tritt still thinks the best part of his week has been the affection he has gotten from the ladies.

"The best part is the kissing," Tritt said of his warm reception from the people in town. It is a reception that has not been an uncommon sight here.

The festivities continued after the outdoor reception and the presentation of gifts to the veterans from the French administrative department Manche, when the veterans shared lunch with their families and one another.

As the ceremonies and the celebrations for D-Day roll to an end and the town of Sainte Mere Eglise returns to its normal pace, one gets the feeling that even when the last troop pulls out of town, the spirit of that day will never leave.



Sgt. 1st Class Steve Selvage of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment gets an autograph from 91-year-old D-Day survivor Ralph Manley in Sainte Mere Eglise, France, June 1. The two met while Selvage was in the town during his unit's participation in events commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the Normandy invasion.

Hearing history from the source

By **Tech. Sgt. Michael Voss**
435TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAINTE MERE EGLISE, France – Although sun and waves come together to create a serene picture of Sainte Mere Eglise today, it was once the site of one of the bloodiest battles in history.

On June 6, 1944 – D-Day – French, U.S. and other allied forces stood together to fight the German occupiers of France. During the battle for the beaches of Normandy, paratroopers from American, British and Canadian forces landed along a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy coast. It was the largest single-day amphibious invasion in history, with 160,000 troops landing that day.

Each year since the liberation of Normandy, allied forces have come here to honor those who fought here that day.

Today many of the survivors of the invasion have passed away or become too ill to make the long journey here to join in this week's events marking the 65th anniversary of D-Day, but their legacy lives on through the lives of active-duty service members. One of those still-serving troops, Ohio native Sgt. 1st Class Steve Selvage, said he has waited 22 years to see the Normandy beaches and participate in commemoration ceremonies here.

"I have wanted to get here since my first year here in Germany. I just never had the chance," said the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldier. "It is a great honor."

Although Selvage's role here escorting distinguished visitors to the ceremony is a busy one, he has had a bit of time before the ceremony to take in some of the sights and sounds of the historic area.

Almost as if it happened according to plan,

when Selvage packed his gear and Class A uniform for the week, he made room to pack a very special item: a book by Stephen Ambrose he's had more than 10 years.

"I brought the book, 'D-Day,' which I have read at least three times," said the 23-year veteran. "I brought it strictly for reference when seeing some of the sights."

On one trip into Sainte Mere Eglise, Selvage, a father of three – including one son serving in Iraq – spotted an older gentleman in a leather bomber jacket passing by and overheard a couple British Soldiers say, "There goes Ralph Manley." He immediately set out to meet the 91-year-old D-Day veteran.

Without knowing what to say, he approached Manley, book in hand, just hoping to hear the first-hand tale of a surviving D-Day veteran.

"These guys are legends. They accomplished something I could never imagine," Selvage said. "I think it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Selvage could not have been more right. Many of the survivors are now in their 80s or older, and Selvage is retiring from the Army in the next couple months.

Of the more than 154,000 allied forces that landed on Normandy, an estimated 10,000 were killed, wounded, missing or captured, and as the years have passed, more and more of those who survived the invasion have passed away or are now too elderly for a trip here.

While listening to Manley's story, Selvage said, the veteran noticed the D-Day book in the sergeant's hand. He reached for the book, opened its cover and signed a small memo inside. "It was really enough that he would just sit and share his experiences with us," Selvage said. "He really didn't have to sign it for the experience to mean any more to me."

V CORPS

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operations of Army, joint and coalition forces within its designated area of responsibility. This decision will allow time for the Army to assess its overall command and control requirements.

The decision is not tied to any other force structure or stationing issues. The one-year retention of V Corps Headquarters in Germany does not fall under the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission, nor will it have any impact on the two heavy brigade combat teams currently stationed in Europe.

This action is part of a larger effort to relieve the extraordinary demands that are being placed on the Army's corps headquarters and that have reduced 'dwell time' to unacceptably low levels.

Geren's decision calls for the delay of force structure actions for the V Corps and U.S. Army Europe Headquarters for a period of one year, from July 2009 to July 2010.

Under this directive, both organizations will remain in their current approved designs and at current resourcing levels. V Corps Headquarters will maintain its current military authorization of 411 personnel, and U.S. Army Europe Headquarters will retain its current military authorization of 377 personnel.

When the inactivation of V Corps was announced last year, certain staff sections were merged to create efficiencies as the inactivation date approached. The inactivation delay does not affect those mergers.

At this point, V Corps Headquarters will continue to provide oversight of its subordinate units and will continue to report to the commanding general, U.S. Army Europe. V Corps' priority function will be to ensure units that deploy from Europe for operational missions are trained and ready. Both V Corps and U.S. Army Europe Headquarters will continue to operate under their current structures.

Field day fun



Kristopher Joseph

Spc. Kebba Barrow (left) and Pvt. Deangelo Whitfield from 5th Signal Command's 102nd Signal Battalion play tug-o-war with students during Aukamm Elementary School's Field Day in Wiesbaden Friday. Approximately 15 Soldiers in the 102nd volunteered to assist in the school's annual event that featured 10 various stations including an obstacle course, potato sack relay race and a visit by the German fire department.

Army encourages education of civilians

By Paula Nardella
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

FORT RILEY, Kan. — To help Department of Defense civilians continuously improve their skills, the Army uses the Civilian Education System, which is based on various course levels.

Each course level has different priorities of students as well, because the classes are mandatory for some workers and optional for others.

"When you compare enrollment and completions of all of these Army installations, Fort Riley is at the top," said Kathy Bassett, chief of the Workforce Development Division of the Directorate of Human Resources. Fort Riley has had 185 people take part in the system and is followed by Fort Hood with 81.

The foundation course is the lowest level of the CES distributed learning classes

and is required for all interns, team leaders, supervisors and managers who were hired after Sept. 30, 2006. However, it is available for all Army employees.

Completion of the other distributed learning courses, such as basic, intermediate, advanced and the continuing education for senior leader's course is required before taking the resident courses of the same name.

Some government employees, including those assigned as team leaders, supervisors or managers, must complete the CES resident requirements within a specified time frame.

One of the courses that must be completed is the basic resident course. This class must be completed within one year and prerequisites are the foundation course for employees hired after Sept. 30, 2006, and the basic distributed learning course.

Because the class is mandatory for team leaders, supervisors and managers, they are given first priority on the attendance list. Second priority is given to Army civilians who are not supervisors, as well as Army and DoD civilians who are in an Army-endorsed supervisory or management development program for the basic course, intermediate course and the advanced course.

For all classes, third priority is given to active-duty Soldiers who supervise Army civilians and DoD leaders and term and temporary civilians who are responsible for supervising civilians and have taken the necessary prerequisite classes.

The intermediate resident course must be completed by supervisors and managers within two years. Workers who need to complete this course also must have successfully completed the distributed

learning foundation, basic and intermediate-level courses.

Civilians who are GS-13 to GS-15 pay grade also must complete the advanced course within two years. Prior to taking the advanced course, all the previous classes, as well as the corresponding distributed learning class, must have been completed.

The continuing education for senior leaders' class is available to Army civilians who have attained the grade of GS-14 or GS-15, as well as Soldiers holding the rank of lieutenant colonel, colonel, chief warrant officer 4 or 5, sergeant major or command sergeant major.

To help iron out any problems with the system, a team of directors from various organizations responsible for CES visited Fort Riley May 28 to not only brief the community but also to get feedback on how to improve the program.

H1N1

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.


"There is presently no indication of additional cases outside of this small group,"

said ERMIC Preventive Medicine Consultant Col. Evelyn Barraza.


Barraza said U.S. military infectious disease experts are examining the circumstances of the cases to identify the source.

She said U.S. military community members should continue to follow preventive guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to seek medical advice or treatment as needed.

MWRGERMANY.COM




The REEL LIFE (HEIDELBERG)



Submit a video to the BWnow & FMWR Video Contest and show us what life is like for YOU and YOUR military family in Heidelberg!

The winner will be announced at the Heidelberg 4th of July celebration!



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Videos should be less than 2 minutes in length and uploaded to the BWnow virtual community at <http://myBWnow.ning.com> by midnight, June 28, 2009. Remember to keep them family friendly and follow force protection guidelines. Vote for your favorite July 2-3 at the Arts & Cultural Center or at the 4th of July celebration on PHV. For more information, call 373-7243; 06221-17-7243

GERMAN HOLIDAY

June 11 is Corpus Christi Day

The German word "Fronleichnam" originates from Middle High German and is a combination of "vron" (Christ) and "lichnam" (body) which is an old and unusual German expression of "Christ's body." But the name is self-explanatory and stands for the "Day of Corpus Christi."

It is the commemoration of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It is also related to the Last Supper the day before Jesus' crucifixion, when he gave God's body in form of bread and wine to his disciples (according to Catholic dogmatic theology). Finally, the Catholics commemorate Jesus' attendance with bread and wine during their services and processions.

Fronleichnam got a significant meaning through the procession that take place before or after the service. During the processions, the Host, symbolizing Christ's body, is paraded through the streets.

The Catholic Priest carries the consecrated bread in a monstrance, which is a type of vessel in which the host is exposed. For the procession, the streets will be colorfully decorated with birch twigs, and they stop four times to read from the Bible or speak intercessions.

In 1209, the nun Juliana von Luetlich had several visions of a moon disc with a black spot on it. According to her narrations, Christ had explained to her that the moon disc would have been the church calendar, and the black spot a missing event to honor the Holy Eucharist. In 1246, the diocese Luetlich introduced Fronleichnam for the first time and since 1317, Pope Johannes XXII declared it as an international Christian event.

The first procession took place in 1279 in Cologne.

Fronleichnam is not an overall national holiday. Only some states of Germany commemorate Fronleichnam. And it is mostly celebrated in the Catholic Church, because Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, declared Fronleichnam as one of the most dishonorable events. He missed the Biblical background, and from his point of view processions were profanity.

Information gathered by Ina Stiewitz, USAG Baden-Württemberg Public Affairs



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

Dear Ms. Vicki,

We are what you would call "infantry elitists." My husband and I are quite snobs about his branch, and we admit to it.

Infantry officers and Soldiers are who make up the Army. They are on the front lines. As a spouse, I think those who serve in this capacity should earn more money and definitely get more perks.

I know I have lost friends, and some spouses refuse to interact with me because of my feelings on this issue. However, let's be honest about this and help them face the truth about the other MOSs and branches. What does Signal Corps do? How about field artillery? Do we even have to mention the laughable chemical group?

I will even go as far to say that Special Forces does a good job of hiding out and acting like they work when they do nothing. I'm sure I read in the past that your husband is infantry too, right? I'm sure you will agree with me then and set the record straight.

Our husbands bust their butts and pave the way for so many other services and branches.

Infantry spends many days and nights in the field training in preparation for deployments and fighting to make our country free. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have

an Army.

Personally, I think there should only be one branch and one MOS: Infantry. I'm not afraid to stand up and proudly say that I am not only an Army spouse, but I am a proud and snobby infantry spouse and loving it.

From: Others Must Step Aside

Dear Snob,

Every now and then I get a few letters that leaves me speechless. Your letter is one of them. Infantry elitist, huh? So you think we don't need the Medical Corps, engineers, support, signal, field artillery, and no Special Forces?

I'm sorry lady, but I think you've got it all wrong. I think you should look at the Army as being "one body" with many "parts or members." For example, I'm sure I don't think about my feet until I need to walk. What in the world would I do without them? My arms and hands do so much for me. All of my limbs make up this body that I have. Every part of me is important. One is not better than the other.

To answer your question, yes my husband is infantry. He's never considered himself to be a snob even though he loves being in the infantry branch. I've never called myself a snobby infantry spouse or Army spouse.

To think that you are losing friends and associates over this issue is preposterous. Bottom line, I think you are way off base and totally out of your lane.

Honestly, I think you should change your tone and get a life. You are spending too much time being the banner for infantry when you should try to be a good neighbor.

Think about what it is that you like to do. What are you passionate about? Isn't there some organiza-

tion or effort that you would like to volunteer for? There are many of them. Spend some time on your own personal growth and leave the infantry job to your husband. I really wish you well.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I have never written a letter to anyone until now. I decided to write you and let you know that I appreciate your advice very much. I have my family and friends around the country reading your advice, too.

Since I have been an Army wife, I have learned a lot and I have matured a lot. This is probably a major reason I love the advice you give.

In a candid but professional way you put the issues to the forefront and tell people to wake up and smell the coffee. I have learned over the past 10 years that you must be able to stand on your own two feet and fend for yourself.

No one owes an Army wife anything. Not even because our husbands are putting themselves in harm's way for our country. Too many spouses who write to you, (and I'm assuming they are female) whine and complain too much, and for what? Oh, because they hate Army life? I'm sorry, no one wants to hear that. We are all grown and adult women. Somehow we must make this work for us.

I miss my husband, too, but I had to grow up and learn to cope with this. Besides, if you are in the military, you have to know that many deployments will be a way of life for us for many years to come. If they don't want to deal with it, then they must make a decision to get out of the military and hopefully find gainful employment as a civilian.

Keep giving good advice, Ms. Vicki. You get a bad rap for only telling the truth.

From: Grown Up and Loving It

New Soldier-dads get administrative leave, Army says

By Jacqueline M. Hames
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Army wants Soldier-dads to know there is a new paternity leave policy available to them and spread the word to military bloggers at the Pentagon June 2.

The policy, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush Oct. 14, 2008, allows new dads up to 10 consecutive days of administrative leave after the birth of a child.

Leading the roundtable was Col. Larry Locke, chief of compensation and entitlements for the Army G-1. He said the policy is one way of showing

appreciation for Soldier-dads, because leave time can take months to accrue.

Those 10 days are "very important to young Soldiers and families," Locke said, and cautioned the roundtable participants not to "under-sell" the policy benefits.

Joining the roundtable were two Soldiers, both fathers who were able to take advantage of the new leave policy. Sgt. 1st Class Logan McKenzie said that the policy helped to facilitate the birth of his son.

McKenzie, stationed away from his wife, participated in an in-vitro fertilization program at Walter Reed. The 10 days of non-chargeable leave allowed McKenzie more time to travel back and forth for

the procedures and to support his wife.

Maj. Rodney Von Price had his third child this past March and was concerned about who would take care of the older two children while his wife was in the hospital.

"Thankfully, the Army created a system where I would have time to do that," he said.

The policy states that paternity leave must be taken within 45 days of the child's birth if the Soldier is in the United States.

If the Soldier is deployed, he must take the leave within 60 days of returning from deployment.

Leave not taken within the established timeframes will be lost.

GET OUT!

area events

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

Four-Castle Illumination Cruise

Tickets are on sale now for the Warrant Officers Association's river boat cruise and four-castle illumination with fireworks July 25. 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-NeckarSilver.com.

Apollo Amateur Talent Show and After Party

Get your act together now to win big cash on July 11 starting at 9 p.m. It's the audience who decides who walks away with the \$1,000 cash prize. The show takes place at the Schuh Theater followed by an after party at the Top Hat Club. All participants and patrons must be at least 18 years old. Interested participants must sign-up before June 27. Mannheim/Kaiserslautern: Civ. 01511-162-1992; Heidelberg: Civ. 01515-125-1285.

June 11

Bluegrass and Open Mic Night – Head to Shooter's Bar and Grill at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club for the Bluegrass Meeting and Open Mic Night. Bring your instruments and join the band. Civ. 06202-511-93.

Punt Race – Head to Tübingen for a great spectacle on the Neckar River. More than 40 teams have raced against each other in punts every year since 1956. The loser has to drink a half liter of cod-liver oil (per head) and organize next year's race. The team with the best fancy dress receives a suckling pig and the winner invites all the teams to a big party. It all begins at 2 p.m. www.tuebingen-info.de.

June 12

Tour through the Black Forest – Join up with the USO for this scenic drive to the city of Triberg, the unofficial capital of cuckoo clocks. Here you'll have the unique opportunity to go behind the scenes to see how these timepieces are crafted. Then, climb a portion of the highest waterfall in Germany. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinneckar>.

June 13

Steam Festival – There are piercing whistles and plenty of smoke in the Upper Swabian museum village of Kürnberg when the old steam engines, steamrollers and various steam models are started up in the wonderful setting of the open-air museum. Get-together of the Swabian railway enthusiasts, steam train trips through June 14. www.museumsdorf-kuernbach.de.

A Day in the Alsace – We first visit Soufflenheim, the home of the beautiful hand made pottery for Backeoffe and kougelhopf, with plenty of opportunity to buy your own unique piece. We then move on to Wissembourg, gateway to the Alsace and home to the abbey of St. Peter and Paul. Finally, we move on to the famous Cleebourg Winery to sample Alsatian wine from the region and visit their "Cave Historique des Hospice," the history of Alsatian vineyards. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern>.

June 14

Neuschwanstein Castle – Driving to

the foot of the Alps, our tour will take you to the romantic Bavarian Castle of Neuschwanstein. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinneckar>.

June 15

Spend a Day in Paris – Zooming from Kaiserslautern to Paris in 2 hours and 28 minutes, we'll travel at speeds of up to 320 kilometers (200 miles) per hour. Join us for this unique experience. Spend the day in Paris, shopping, sightseeing, visiting a museum, or just hanging out watching people. You'll travel by train, with a USO tour guide, and upon arriving in Paris, our expert guide will direct you to some of the highlights of the city via public transportation, or if you choose you can plan your own agenda. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern>.

June 16

Anastacia Concert – Soul diva Anastacia appears at the Festspielhaus in Baden-Baden at 8 p.m. Tickets: Civ. 07221-301-3101.

German Cooking Class – Come to this special German cooking class and learn to prepare the vegetable of the season, the white asparagus. This royal king of vegetables is only harvested for a very brief period – from late April until June 24, and locals take every opportunity to prepare a variety of asparagus dishes. Come to Vogelweh Chapel 9 a.m.-noon and learn some of the special recipes so you can prepare the white asparagus on your own. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern>.

June 19

Polish Pottery Express – This tour is for serious shoppers who are interested in Polish pottery, wicker and amber jewelry. Charming Polish pottery from the Boleslawiec region is hand-painted and made from natural ceramic clay, found in nearby deposits. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinneckar>.

Maximilian Knights Tournament – Through June 21, head to Horb am Neckar for jousting, a medieval market and a festival procession. The "Horber Vertrag" (Contract of Horb) (1498) describes the historical background for the tournament.

The visitors will see King Maximilian and his retainers at the presentation of the Horber Vertrag in front of the town hall, afterwards the tournament takes place beside the Neckar. Four tournaments as well as one night tournament, program on two stages, four medieval parades, a medieval concert and medieval market in the Old Town. www.horb.de.

June 20

Flea Market in the Netherlands – If you like strolling around flea markets then you'll love the Vrije Market in Cuijk, Netherlands. The market is about the size of four football fields and the Dutch say that "if you don't find what you're looking for here, you won't find it anywhere!" With over 1,500 stands, you'll find antiques, furniture, lights, carpets, toys, clothing, hardware and flowers. When you need a break, there is also a food court where you can relax and think about your impending purchases. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinneckar>.

Cochem Castle and Medieval Dinner – Step back into the age of royal courts and experience how feudal lords, ladies and knights feasted. The USO will take you to a medieval banquet where you'll be entertained by minstrels while you eat. Prior to the eatery, we'll have a guided tour through the 1000-year-old Reichsburg (imperial castle) of Cochem situated on an imposing hilltop with a commanding view over the Mosel River. After the guided tour, you'll take part in an authentic medieval feast. The Lord of the Manor will welcome you with a goblet of Mosel wine and explain the medieval customs and table manners for the feast. Servants and maids in period costumes serve you lavishly and pass you water to wash your hands so you can eat with your fingers. The evening climaxes with the traditional knighting ceremony. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern>.

Ongoing

Flic Flac Circus Show – See Flic Flac through June 21 on the Messeplatz in Heidelberg. For two and a half hours, the circus' new fascinating and breathtaking show "Underground" will take the audience into a world of action-packed artistry and slapstick comedy such as motorbike acrobatics, trapeze acrobatics or juggling. By using spectacular stage tech, unbelievable effects, rock sounds and daring acrobatics, the show is elaborately put on stage. The ticket point on Messeplatz is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8.30 p.m., and Sundays and German Holidays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Ulm Festival – More than 70 events are held in and around the big top through July 4. Internationally known artists give concerts from the fields of rock, pop, blues and jazz as well as comedy, dance, cabaret and variety. Children's program and beer garden. Civ. 0731-960-8513, www.ulmzeit.de.

coming to THEATERS

THE HANGOVER

(Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms) Two days before his wedding, Doug and his three friends drive to Las Vegas for a blow-out bachelor party they'll never forget. But, in fact, when the three groomsmen wake up the next morning, they can't remember a thing. For some reason, they find a tiger in the bathroom and a 6-month-old baby in the closet of their suite at Caesars Palace. The one thing they can't find is Doug. With no clue as to what transpired and little time to spare, the trio must retrace their hazy steps and all their bad decisions in order to figure out where things went wrong and hopefully get Doug back to L.A. in time to walk down the aisle. Rated R (pervasive language, sexual content including nudity, drug material) 100 minutes



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

June 10 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 7 p.m.
June 11 - UP (PG) 7 p.m.
June 12 - THE HANGOVER (R) 7 p.m.; OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) 9:30 p.m.
June 13 - KNOWING (PG-13) 4 p.m.; 12 ROUNDS (PG-13) 7 p.m.; THE HANGOVER (R) 9:30 p.m.
June 14 - KNOWING (PG-13) 4 p.m.; OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) 7 p.m.
June 15 - 12 ROUNDS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 16 - THE HANGOVER (R)(1STRUN) 7 p.m.
June 17 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 18 - OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) 7 p.m.

Mannheim, Schuh

June 10 - FAST & FURIOUS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 11 - ADVENTURELAND (R) 7 p.m.
June 12 - UP (PG) 7 p.m.
June 13 - UP (PG) 4 p.m.; KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.; OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) 9:30 p.m.
June 14 - KNOWING (PG-13) 4 p.m.; 12 ROUNDS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 15 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 16 - 12 ROUNDS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 17 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 18 - UP (PG)(1STRUN) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

June 10 - ADVENTURELAND (R) 7 p.m.
June 11 - FAST & FURIOUS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 12 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; THE HANGOVER (R) 10:30 p.m.
June 13 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 11 a.m., 3 p.m.; THE HANGOVER (R) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
June 14 - MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) 11 a.m., 3 p.m.; THE HANGOVER (R) 7 p.m.
June 15 - OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) 7 p.m.
June 16 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 17 - THE HANGOVER (R) 7 p.m.
June 18 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Hercules

June 12 - 12 ROUNDS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 13 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 14 - OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Nightingale

June 10 - TERMINATOR SALVATION: THE FUTURE BEGINS (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 11 - NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN (PG) 7 p.m.
June 12 - UP (PG) 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; KNOWING (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.
June 13 - UP (PG) 3 p.m., 7 p.m.; 12 ROUNDS (PG-13) 10:30 p.m.
June 14 - UP (PG) 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
June 15 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 16 - OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) 7 p.m.
June 17 - KNOWING (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 18 - UP (PG) 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.aaes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions

community HIGHLIGHTS

Capital City Visitation Tour

Be a guest of the state of Baden-Württemberg and the city of Stuttgart and learn about your home state. The tour is June 22 and is open to all Soldiers, DoD civilians and spouses. Transportation is free. Tour departs 7 a.m. from the park and ride area located outside the Heidelberg commissary gate. Register by June 12 by contacting the USAG Baden-Württemberg Public Affairs Office. DSN 373-1600, civ. 06221-171600, usaghdpa@eur.army.mil. Note: This program is for adults only.

Scheduled Fuel Card Outage

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service will have a scheduled system outage that will affect the ESSO Ration Card System from 10 p.m. June 28 through 8:30 a.m. June 29. Between these hours customers will not be able to purchase fuel on post or use their ration card at local ESSO stations and AAFES will not be able to issue new fuel ration cards.

UMUC Europe Registration

Registration for University of Maryland University College Europe online courses continues through June 14, with classes starting June 15. UMUC Europe will offer two new \$100 summer book awards for active-duty enlisted service members, their spouses and families: www.ed.umuc.edu/financial_aid. UMUC Europe also has a new \$5,000 military spouse scholarship available starting this session: www.ed.umuc.edu/militaryspouse. DSN 370-6762, civ. 06221-3780.

APO Use for Retirees

Retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their widows can apply to use the Army Post Office system after retirement. To obtain APO privileges, make arrangements with the local APO to receive your mail through "Box R" (General Delivery Mail Section). Your mail must be addressed to "Box R" of the APO concerned and the address must include the word "retired" (e.g., "U.S. Army Ret"). You must pick up your mail at the APO and take any parcels received unopened to German customs for clearance. If you fail to present parcels to German Customs within a reasonable time (about one week), you may lose APO privileges for the rest of your stay in Germany. DSN 370-7142, civ. 06221-577142.

local EMPLOYMENT

ACAP Counselors

The Army Career and Alumni Program is currently seeking full-time counselors for the Heidelberg-Mannheim area. Applicants must have a master's degree, be computer literate and have a minimum of two years' training in job assistance, career or employment counseling, teaching, training or a related field. Applicants cannot be considered ordinarily resident and must have logistical support. DSN 431-2191, civ. 07031-15-2191, darla.huck@us.army.mil.

Teens get HIRED!

If you are 15-18 years old, the HIRED! Program can find you a paid apprenticeship with MWR placement sites to match your goals and interests. The first 12-week term starts July 1. Call now or stop by the Heidelberg Lion's Den Teen Center for more information on the HIRED! Program. DSN 388-9396, civ. 06221-338-9396.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203, www.mwrgermany.com/kl/acs.

• **Substance Abuse Training** – Employee Assistance Program-Substance Abuse Training for all Department of Army civilians is 10-11 a.m. June 18 at the Learning Center, Bldg. 3718 on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. DSN 486-1710, heather.a.robinson@us.army.mil.

• **POSH Training** – The Equal Opportunity Office hosts Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training 9 a.m. June 25 in the Learning Center, Bldg. 3718 on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. DSN 493-4277.

• **Teacher Certification Examination** – The garrison will host the PRAXIS Teacher Certification Examination 8 a.m. July 29 at the education center on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. Deadline to register is June 9. DSN 493-2593, civ. 0631-3406-2593.

• **CYSitter Class** – Become a certified babysitter through CYS Services and SKIES Unlimited. This two-day course is open to youth 13-18 and will offer Red Cross CPR/First Aid certification and 4-H babysitter certification. Classes will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m. June 20 and 24. Pre-registration is required. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516, www.mwrgermany.com.

Community

• **Construction on Ramstein** – Until July 2, a change in lane closures at the west gate is required. Security forces will keep two inbound lanes open during the morning. Personnel who use the west gate should anticipate delays entering the base. Also, the Kising-Lincoln intersection is closed for approximately three months, which started May 18, in support of the new Kising-Lincoln Traffic Circle construction.

• **Sports Physicals** – The U.S. Army Health Clinic-Kaiserslautern on Kleber Kaserne will provide sport and school physicals 7 a.m.-noon June 12 and 25 for empaneled patients. To ensure medical records are accurate, bring a copy of immunization records. DSN 483-1750, civ. 0631-411-1750.

• **Cards for a Cause** – Cards for a Cause service club will meet 11 a.m.-5 p.m. June 17 at the Ramstein Community Center atrium to make cards and mini-scrabbooks for wounded warriors to send to family and friends. Participation is open to all ID card holders, and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. pejachowski@juno.com.

• **Teens on the Go** – June 12-Aug. 28, teens entering grades 7-12 can participate in field trips several times a week for \$45 per week, which includes transportation and

admission costs. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

• **CYSS Summer Camp** – Sign up now to take part in Summer Camp 2009, June 15-Aug. 28. Open to children entering grades two through six. Kids will enjoy: arts and crafts, field trips, workshops and more. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.

• **Library Closure** – The Miesau and Kleber Branch Libraries will be closed June 19. Services at the Landstuhl Main Library will be available 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on that day. DSN 486-57322, civ. 06371-86-7322.

• **Town Hall Meeting** – The garrison and 21st TSC will hold a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. June 30 at the Armstrong Community Club on Vogelweh Housing. The town hall meeting is open to all members of the community. DSN 493-4241, civ. 06313-406-4241, emma.vinson@eur.army.mil.

• **American Legion Meeting** – Post GR01 hosts post meetings the first and third Wednesday of the month in Bldg. 368 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. DSN 486-7516, www.ktownamericanlegion.org.

• **BOSS Meeting** – Better Opportunities for Single Service members hosts meetings 1 p.m. every first and third Thursday of the month in Bldg. 2929 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4344.

HEIDELBERG

Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – Community Orientation Briefing, noon-3 p.m. June 15; Intro to MS Word, 9 a.m.-noon June 15 and 17; Re-integration Briefing, 9 a.m. June 16; Resume Writing, 9 a.m.-noon June 16; Checkbook Management, 9-11:30 a.m. June 18. DSN 370-6883, www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs.

• **German Language Classes** – Sign up for German classes at the Patton Education Center. Classes will meet June 22-Aug. 17. Level I and II classes available. Register by e-mail only: germanatpatton@iks-heidelberg.com. Civ. 06221-16-8226.

• **Child and Infant CPR and First Aid Class** – American Red Cross Child and Infant CPR and First Aid class, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. June 27. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.

Community

• **Holiday Closures** – Due to the June 11 host nation holiday, refuse collection will occur a day later. The recycling center and housing office will be closed June 11.

• **Construction Near Patton Barracks** – Until approximately June 15, personnel traveling south (leaving Heidelberg) on Speyererstrasse wishing to turn left in order to enter Patton Barracks will not be able to do so because of ongoing construction in that vicinity by the city of Heidelberg. The access control point is still open

and accessible to those traveling north on Speyererstrasse.

• **HIWC Events** – Join the Heidelberg International Wandering Club for the following volksmarches: Schwaigern, June 10-11; Bad Kreuznach, June 13-14; Walldorf, including "Young Walker's Walk" in English, June 14; Hassenroth, June 20-21; Meckesheim, June 21. Sign up for upcoming trips to Belgium and Versailles. www.hiwc.de.

• **KONTAKT Club** – Bus tour to Guntersblum, 10 a.m. June 13; Middle Ages Festival in Weinheim, June 14; Barbecue at Neulussheim grill hut, 10 a.m. June 20. Civ. 0170-537-8380, annemarie.fritz@t-online.de.

• **Splash N2 Summer** – Middle schoolers can Splash N2 Summer with Club Beyond and CYSS. Head to Panther's Place 11 a.m.-4 p.m. June 11 for fun summer activities like water wars, dunk tanks and volleyball.

• **Red Cross Volunteers** – Orientation will be 2-5 p.m. June 11 in Bldg. 3850, room 263 of the Community Support Center. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.

• **Summer Reading Program** – Sign ups are underway for summer reading programs at the PHV library. Grades 1-6, 11 a.m. Tuesdays June 30-July 29; ages 3-5, 11 a.m. Wednesdays July 1-July 29. DSN 388-9443.

• **Acute Care Clinic Hours** – Beginning July 1, the Acute Care Clinic at the Heidelberg Health Center will be open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. every day. DSN 371-2605, civ. 06221-17-2605.

MANNHEIM

Education

• **ACS Classes** – ESL, 9-11 a.m. June 12, 15 and 17 and 6-7:30 p.m. June 16 and 18; Toddler Parenting Class, 9-10 a.m. June 15; Installation Volunteer Orientation/Training, 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. June 15 and 17; School Age Parenting, 9-10 a.m. June 16;

Resumix Workshop, 10-11 a.m. June 16; Levy and Out-processing Briefing, 1-2:45 p.m. June 16; Account and Budget Management, 9-11:30 a.m. June 16; Hearts Apart Support Group, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. June 17; Sponsorship Training for Leaders, 3-4 p.m. June 17; Healthy Relationships, 2-4 p.m. June 18; Organization POC VMIS Training, 3-4 p.m. June 18; Interview Skills, 10-11 a.m. June 19; FRG Key Caller and POC Training, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 19;

Mannheim Orientation Spouses' Tour, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. June 22-24. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

• **Preparation Briefing** – A preparation briefing for honorably transitioning Soldiers is to be conducted not later than 90 days before transition date. The next briefing is 8:30 a.m.-noon June 17 at the USO Conference room, Bldg. 254

on Sullivan Barracks. DSN 385-3487, civ. 0621-730-3487.

• **Career Status Bonus Briefing** – A briefing on the Career Status Bonus and REDUX retirement program is 1:15-3 p.m. June 17 in Bldg. 238. DSN 385-3484, civ. 0621-730-3487/3488.

Community

• **Customs Field Office Closure** – The customs field office will be closed June 11.

• **Vacation Bible School** – Volunteers needed; orientation 6 p.m. June 17. Register online at www.vbs09.eventbrite.com, password vbs09 or at the BFV chapel. VBS will be at Mannheim Elementary School, 5:30-8:30 p.m. July 13-17. Civ. 0163-717-7087.

• **Summer Camp Registration** – SAS Summer Camp enrollment is now open at CER, Bldg. 255, room 106. Camp is June 15-Aug. 28 and is for children 6-11 years old. This year's theme is "SAS Goes Green." DSN 380-4864, civ. 0621-730-9997.

• **Sullivan Library** – Scrapbook Club, noon-3 p.m. June 13 and 27; Film Screening, 4-5:30 p.m. June 13 and 27; Story Hour, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays; Teen Advisory Board, 4-5 p.m. Thursdays. Volunteers needed to help plan programs, choose materials. DSN 380-1740, civ. 0621-730-1740.

• **Youth Services** – Army Birthday celebration, 1-7 p.m. June 13; Father's Day Appreciation, 7-9 p.m. June 19; Sleepover/Lock-in, June 29-July 2. DSN 380-4864, civ. 0621-730-9997.

• **FRG/Unit Night** – FRG/Unit Night will be 5:30-8:30 p.m. June 18 at the CDC. Child care will be available only to those families who will be attending FRG or deployment-related meetings. Children must have a current registration with CYSS. DSN 385-2750, civ. 0621-730-2750.

• **Day for Kids** – Mannheim Army Community Service will host Day Just for Kids 10 a.m.-1 p.m. July 9. This is a fun annual event in which enrolled Exceptional Family Member Program children enjoy carnival rides, games, arts and crafts, and free food at the German-American Summer Fest. Volunteer "buddies" are needed to assist the children on this special day. Contact ACS no later than June 30 at DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

• **SKIES Unlimited** – Register for the following classes at the Central Registration Office: Mixed Martial Arts, ages 6-18; Gymnastics, 3-18; Piano Lessons, 3-18; Kindermusic (music for beginners), 2-8; TAE-BO, 4-18; Ballschule, 3-8; Technology for Youth, 4-18; Arts and Crafts, 3-9 and 10-18; Cooking and Baking, 3-9 (parent and child) and 10-18; Voice Lessons, 4-18; Basic and Advanced Gymnastics, 3-18; Dance Classes, 3-18; Babysitters Training, 13-18; DSN 380-9290, civ. 0621-730-9290, darren.brown3@eur.army.mil.

Seventy golfers took part in the annual Two-Person Best Ball Golf Tourney at the Heidelberg golf course Sunday with a father-son team winning one division and a 12 and 13-year old winning the other. Steve Mahler and his son Martin shot a net 65 to win the "Early Birds" division by one stroke over Kim Daffron and Lee Quinones.

Two-Person Best Ball Golf Tourney

Maxi Bogel, 12, and Carina Junker, 13, fired a net 61—lowest score of the tourney—to win the "Night Owls" division. Tobias Enders and Christian Heinrich were second with 62 and Elihu Jones and Frank Valdez third with 63. The "Early Birds" were teams with a combined handicap of 19 and over, and the "Night Owls" had

18 and under. Closest to the pin winners included Helga Worm, Sabine End, Maxi Bogel, and Tobias Enders who had a hole-in-one on the seventh hole. Club official Lamar Porter greeted each team on the first tee, and conducted the awards ceremony, thanking the players for taking part in the uncertain weather.

Junior Girls' Softball Championship



Photos by Kristen Marquez

Heidelberg's Dorothy Harrison tries to connect with the ball Friday during the first day of the Installation Management Command-Europe Junior Girls' Softball Championship on Patrick Henry Village. The Heidelberg team place third of 10 teams from around Europe.

Heidelberg team brings home third place; Stuttgart claims title

By Kristen Marquez
HERALD POST STAFF

U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg hosted the 2009 Installation Management Command-Europe Junior Girls' Softball Championship Friday-Sunday on Patrick Henry Village.

The Stuttgart Pirate Penguins walked away with the championship by defeating Bamberg 14-13 in eight innings Sunday. The Heidelberg Diamondbacks lost to Bamberg 18-16 in the semi-finals to come in third overall of the 10 participating teams.

Each garrison in IMCOM-Europe is invited to send one junior girls' team, made up of girls ages 13-15, to participate in the tournament. Garrisons with more than one team hold a playoff in the preceding week to determine who advances to the tournament. Tournament brackets are determined by a blind draw.

"I think it was the best tournament I ever attended, but then I'm a bit biased," said Leslie C. Orlowski, USAG Heidelberg Child, Youth and School Services Sports, Fitness and Nutrition clinician. "Based on comments from visiting coaches and fans, a good time was had by all.



Heidelberg's Tatiana John pitches the ball during Friday's 17-7 win against Hohenfels.

More Photos Online
www.flickr.com/heraldpost

There was little of the usual drama between coaches and officials. The officials did an excellent job of controlling the games, and there were very few challenged calls."

The tournament location rotates each year among garrisons. Heidelberg last hosted in 2007, and Vilseck hosted in 2008.

The determination of who hosts the tournament is made by IMCOM-Europe and is based on several factors, including availability of facilities, decisions of local man-

agement and the one fund solvency, according to Orlowski.

CYSS youth sports programs allow youth to try new sports and learn new skills in a supportive environment that encourages active participating regardless of skill level, Orlowski said.

"As I understand it, for some of the girls on the winning team, this was their first season playing softball," she said. "If we questioned the other coaches, we would find that each team had a few newcomers to the sport. There are two things that constantly amaze me about this. First is the fact that you don't have to be playing a sport since you turned 6 to excel at it. And second, that a team with only nine players, some of whom are 'rookies,' can become European Junior Girls' Softball Champions, as was the case with the Stuttgart Pirate Penguins. CYSS Sports develops not all-star teams, but all-star team players."

The Heidelberg girls topped Hohenfels 17-7 Friday and advanced to play Stuttgart Saturday, losing 18-7. Then, they routed Aviano, 25-7, and Vicenza, 18-8, before losing to Bamberg in the semis Sunday.

staying
ACTIVE

New Traffic Sign for Skaters

The German Federal Council approved a new traffic sign showing a black skate on a white background and the word "frei", which allows skaters to use streets and cycle tracks. The sign does not prevent skaters from considering the vehicle traffic. Skaters are directed to stay on the far right, skate only in the direction of the vehicle traffic, be extremely careful, and consider other traffic and let it pass. Without the additional sign, sports and games are still not allowed on streets, breakdown lanes or cycle tracks.

Sports Physicals

The Heidelberg Health Center is currently scheduling sports physicals for children who plan to enroll in school sports or Child, Youth and School Services programs this summer. DSN 371-2622, civ. 06221-17-2622.

Mannheim Mustang Softball Bash

Men's and women's teams representing various military garrisons throughout Europe will battle June 13-14. Games are played at Lincoln Field on Sullivan Barracks and are free for spectators. DSN 385-3164, civ. 0621-730-3164.

Soccer Officials' Clinic

Schwetzingen's Center for Workforce Development will host a soccer officials' clinic June 16-20, starting at 9 a.m. daily except Tuesday start will be at 10 a.m. The clinic is designed to train attendees to become officials and train others to become officials for programs hosting soccer tournaments, such as Child, Youth and School Services, unit level and community and high school. Attendees will learn field mechanics, current rules, points of emphasis, and discuss changes. The clinic will culminate with a written test and practical examination. The practical examination will consist of on the field officiating during the clinic tournament June 20. Registration: www.mwraonline.com. Questions: tony.leesr@eur.army.mil.

Baseball World Cup 2009

Get your tickets now to see Team USA along with teams from Venezuela, China and Germany compete at the Armin-Wolf-Baseball-Arena in Regensburg Sept. 9-12. Team USA plays Venezuela at 7 p.m. Sept. 10, Germany at 7 p.m. Sept. 11 and China at 2 p.m. Sept. 12. www.baseball.de.

Parents' Exercise Room

The Landstuhl Fitness Center recently opened its Parents' Exercise Room. The carefree and relaxed environment features the latest in cardio equipment and offers a play area for your little ones to safely play or watch movies while you workout. DSN 486-7172, www.mwgermany.com.

Send the HP Your Sports Photos

Do you have photos from sporting events in your community? E-mail your photos, along with the details of the event and names of those pictured to usaghd.post@eur.army.mil.

Want to be a Cheerleader?

SKIESUnlimited now offers a Cheerleading Class. Classes are available for youth ages 5-11. No previous experience is necessary. All classes include basic instruction to include: cheer fundamentals, yelling techniques, jumps, dance and teamwork. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4122.