

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
May 14, 2009

Speed Read

EARLY HP NEXT WEEK

The Herald Post will be published on Wednesday of next week due to the German holiday on Thursday.

POETRY SLAM

Heidelberg's Arts and Cultural Center hosts monthly poetry slams, and recent participants enjoyed raps, poems and spoken word pieces from community members. 3

HONORING A HERO

A local boy scout's discovery leads to the identification and memorial of a fallen German World War I soldier. 4

STRONG BEGINNINGS

Thanks to the Army Family Covenant, some of the youngest members of the Army Family will get a new opportunity to help them grow up Army Strong. 6

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES



A Kaiserslautern NCO shows how he's surviving and thriving in the Army despite tragedy on a recent deployment. 11

SCHOLARSHIP FOR SPOUSES

A new Department of Defense initiative provides up to \$6,000 in financial aid to spouses of active-duty and activated reserve service members and covers training and classes for portable careers. 13

Defense Details

SOLDIER CHARGED

Military officials in Baghdad identified a Soldier who has been charged with shooting and killing five of his comrades May 11 at a combat stress center at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Sgt. John M. Russell, 44, of Sherman, Texas, is being held in military police custody at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, and has been charged with five specifications of murder and one of aggravated assault, said Maj. Hunter Holliday, a military spokesman in Baghdad. Russell is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, based in Bamberg. The Army's Criminal Investigation Command is investigating the incident.

Army news: www.army.mil

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Spring Special Olympics Games



Photos by Christine June

George Collignon, a 61-year-old athlete from the Heidelberger Werkstätten, shows he's having a great time May 6 at the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's 26th Special Olympics Spring Games at the German Police Academy in Enkenbach-Alsenborn. (Below) Woodrow Zorica, 14, an eighth grader from Mannheim Middle School, plays his second to last attempt in the Bocce Ball event. More than 800 athletes participated in this year's Spring Games. Additional photos of the event can be found online at www.flickr.com/heraldpost.

Kaiserslautern, German Police Academy co-host 800 athletes

By Christine June
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ENKENBACH-ALSENBORN, Germany – An encouraging, great-feeling moment is how Lt. Col. Trevor Shaw described watching his daughters from the finish line at the 50-meter wheelchair-assisted race May 6 during the Special Olympics Spring Games at the German Police Academy here.

First-time competitor at these games, Haley Shaw, 12, a sixth

grader at the Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School in Stuttgart, drove her wheelchair as her little sister, Erica, 9, a RBE/MS third grader, ran with her cheering and waving a plastic hand-clapper during the whole race.

As the girls crossed the finish line, Haley had the biggest smile on her face and was bursting with laughter. Erica, too, was overwhelmed with joy as she put her arms up in the air, and shouted, "You did it!" She then see **SPECIAL OLYMPICS** page 16



BOSS program leaders attend Europe-wide session

By Ray Johnson
IMCOM-EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 50 members from Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers programs in Europe attended training sessions in Schwetzingen meant to enhance BOSS ac-

tivities throughout the region.

The participants—garrison program presidents; morale, welfare and recreation advisers; and installation senior military advisers – gathered for a weeklong forum, held April 27-May 2, to share ex-

periences and learn more in the areas of finance, event-planning, marketing and hosting live entertainment.

The overall goal: bring people together at one time and at one place to strengthen existing programs, while exchanging ideas and getting

a view of where the overall Army program is headed.

How did it go? According to Mike Kreger, BOSS representative for Installation Management Command Europe, which has 17 garrison programs, "Very well."

see **BOSS** page 16

COMMENTARY

Don't let others steal your identity

Patton Law Center

It is estimated that the cost of credit and charge card fraud is more than \$500 million a year to card holders and credit card companies.

Identity theft is the most obvious form of this fraud, and it may occur in a number of ways. Every day our e-mail boxes are bombarded with messages telling us how to turn a relatively small amount of money into a windfall. Or we may receive false e-mails and letters that appear to be from official agencies or reputable companies requesting us to provide sensitive information in order to protect our credit or our accounts.

As our society becomes more reliant on computers to conduct business, identity thieves have become more creative in their attempts to deceive us. But not all the news is bad. There are steps that can be taken to protect yourself and processes to employ if you are the victim of identity theft.

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your name, Social Security number, credit card number or other personal information for his own use. Identity thieves will steal wallets, purses, mail or official records to gain access to private information.

A common practice among identity thieves is "Dumpster diving." Here the thief digs through your trash to see what personal information he can find. While this may sound funny,

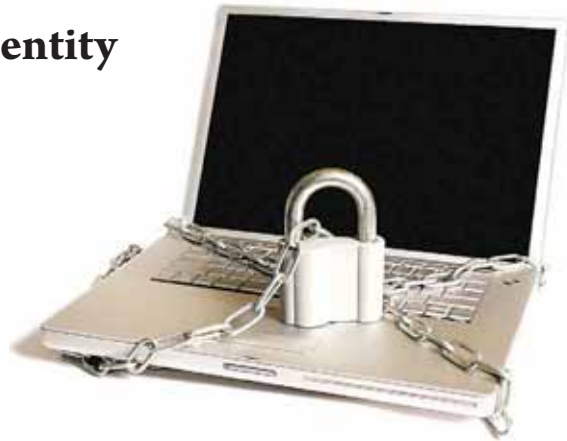
the result can be devastating to you, as it can take years, much effort and money for you to restore your credit report and good name once it is stolen. For this reason, any trash that has your personal information on it should be shredded or disposed of in a way that does not permit it to be compromised.

In addition to shredding documents that have your personal information on them, there are other steps you can take to safeguard your personal information.

If you don't need to carry a personal document on your person, don't carry it. For example, most people do not need daily access to a Social Security card, so it makes sense to keep it in a safe place in your home instead of on your person.

Don't leave your credit card in plain view, where others could see your card number when you are making purchases. Don't give out your credit card numbers unless you are sure you are dealing with a reputable company that has appropriate security safeguards in place. And never provide personal information to e-mails purporting to be from banks, other financial institutions, and companies, such as USAA.

None of these types of institutions will request your personal information through e-mails to you. Unfortunately, many law enforcement agencies report that many people are victimized by members of their fami-



lies, so be attentive in protecting your personal information around family members, too.

You should also request copies of your credit reports annually. In Germany, you must mail in a request for your credit reports. The form can be downloaded at www.annualcreditreport.com. You are entitled to free copies of your credit reports once every 12 months. If you are a deploying Soldier, you can place an active-duty fraud alert on your credit file to help minimize the risk of identity theft while you are deployed.

If you discover you are the victim of identity theft, immediately place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting one of the three consumer reporting companies. They are

Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. You need only contact one of them to place the alert.

Next, close all the accounts you believe have been compromised. Third, report it to the local police or to the military police.

Fourth, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. The Commission has a wealth of information to help you deal with identity theft issues on its Web site at www.ftc.gov. Next order a copy of all your credit reports so you can determine the extent of your problem.

Do not hesitate to contact your nearest legal assistance office for advice and help. Legal assistance attorneys are always available to assist you with this issue.



<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

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

What are some of the steps the community can do to curb underage smoking? Are individuals in the community willing to step up and voice their anger at underage smoking? Is it right for the garrison to punish underage smokers when found, or should that responsibility be left in the realm of parenting? What should be the consequences of underage smoking in our community?

-USAG Heidelberg Commander Lt. Col. Robert White

... Use what's here in your community. Go to the art exhibits at the Arts and Cultural Center. Eat lunch at Winger's. Join a bowling league. Eat brunch at the Village Pavilion. Take your child to story time at the library ... Your involvement helps make this the most desirable community outside the United States in which to live, work and play ... Comment on my blog, or write your own.

-USAG Baden-Württemberg Commander Col. Robert Ultes

Incoming!—that is a phone call. National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Carolyn Seldon (Senior Associate) Service to the Armed Forces notifies the "4:18 to Tikrit" Team Leader that the mission has changed and that our team in Afghanistan is in need of our assistance. Gene Rose has been selected to go on to Afghanistan now to join up with Tom Smith's team of three at Bagram Air Field.

-Red Cross Station Manager Peter Buttner (currently deployed)



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Submissions are welcome, including letters to the editor, but we reserve the right to edit for style, space, libel, clarity, security and good taste. To be considered for publication in a particular issue, they must be in our hands by noon the preceding Thursday.

Veterinarians assist in recall of Hydroxycut dietary supplements

ERMC Public Affairs

Europe Regional Veterinary Command officials and U.S. Air Force Public Health inspectors are assisting Army and Air Force Exchange personnel to pull over-the-counter dietary supplements from store shelves following a May 1 Food and Drug Administration announcement of a voluntary recall of a number of Hydroxycut products.

The FDA notice said 23 deaths have been linked to the products.

"We have been tracking the recall in our computerized system that pinpoints where the product was being sold," said Lt. Col. Martin LaGodna, deputy commander, Europe Regional Veterinary Command.

He said the product has been placed into well-marked areas away from store shelves until instructions arrive on how to handle the remaining product.

A notice has been posted on a Defense

Department Web site in order to educate service members on the health risks involved. The site can be found at: www.health.mil/Press/Release.aspx?ID=687.

In Germany, Army and Air Force Exchange Service spokesman Lt. Col. David Konop confirmed that all of the affected products have been removed from AAFES shelves in Europe.

Europe Regional Medical Command leaders are taking steps to educate Soldiers and their families on the health risks associated with the products.

"I've directed that we push this information out so that people can make a wise choice on what to do with any of these products they may have in their homes," said Col. Richard A. Jordan, deputy commander, Europe Regional Medical Command.

Some of the steps, he said, were to ensure unit commanders were aware of the recall, and to place fliers in waiting rooms in medical treatment facilities.



Jason L. Austin

Kasmir McLean reads one of his original poems at a Poetry Slam evening held at the Heidelberg Arts and Cultural Center in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion May 7. Poetry Slam is held the first Thursday of every month 6-8:30 p.m.

Arts and Cultural Center hosts new 'Poetry Slam'

By Jason L. Austin
HERALD POST STAFF

"Revolution between my thighs" ♦ "Freestylin'" ♦ "Can you read my mind?" ♦ "Queen" ♦ "In the darkness of my room" ♦ "Grace" ♦ "I am history"

These poems, along with others, a few raps and a spoken word piece by Whyte Eguakun highlighted the second Poetry Slam evening at the recently relocated Heidelberg Arts and Cultural Center at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion.

The event, scheduled for the first Thursday of every month, has already become the center director's favorite evening after only two months.

"The first Poetry Slam had 18 people attend from all backgrounds, ethnics and ages," said Jen Bieser, director, Heidelberg Arts and Cultural Center, "but there was this life force, which everyone fed off of, and a real sense of community."

"They all come with good energy, all wanting to share something, all wanting to be a part of something."

One person who came to be a part of the evening was Kasmir McLean, who showed up late with a folder full of original work.

"I've done (readings) in the past, but back in the Caribbean where I'm from," McLean said.

Most of his poetry is a whole different genre than what most people are reading at Poetry Slam evenings, because of his background, he said.

"It's just different ... being from the Caribbean, we have a different way of thinking and of being. Everyone has a different form of

doing poetry."

Having grown up in the Virgin Islands and attended college in Puerto Rico, McLean says he writes poetry and short stories in both English and in Spanish and began performing in front of others in speech class in high school.

"I only write for myself really," said McLean, a former Soldier, but he hopes to eventually be published.

Bieser said she wanted to be a professional poet herself earlier in life and has been published. She said that is why she created Poetry Slam evenings.

"I went to poetry slams all the time in Los Angeles and then in London," Bieser said. "The new Arts and Cultural Center presented the perfect opportunity for me to create that atmosphere of the poetry slams which I personally missed and so much loved."

"We get to hear different sides of things," McLean said listing the topics covered: love, lust, history and cats.

Bieser said she hopes "the community will get to know (the Arts and Cultural Center) as the 'happening' place ... they will take our classes, use our studios, they will want to be a part of something that is fun and feels good."

The next reading is June 4, and everyone is encouraged to be on time as the standing house rule is if you're late, you're next.

April 15 has passed. ("D'oh!")

Don't panic -- U.S. Army Europe tax centers will remain open until June 15.

ANY MISSION. ANYWHERE!

Design: Sgt. Carlos Norat, USAREUR PAO

Troops honor fallen WWI German soldier

Heidelberg boy scout's discovery leads to artifacts of soldier declared MIA

1st AD Public Affairs

WIESBADEN Germany – Two nations, once at war, came together in the village of Steinbach am Backnang April 28 to commemorate a fallen German soldier.

American and German troops held a memorial to honor Wilhelm Härer, who was declared missing in action in 1918 during World War I.

Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commanding general of 1st Armored Division, said it was an honor to join his German comrades in paying tribute to one of their soldiers who had died almost 100 years ago.

In August, the Boy Scouts of America were on an Eagle Scout project with the Argonne Historic Trail Program in the Argonne Forest in France to help clear the trail to where famed Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin C. York earned his medal.

The boy scouts were given permission to use metal detectors to see if they could find anything on a hill behind the actual trail. It was there that Nathaniel Barber, with BSA Troop 4 from Heidelberg, found the first artifacts belonging to Härer.

"We found a gas mask, buttons from his uniform and his dog tags," Barber said.

The Sergeant York Discovery Expedition has been looking for artifacts since Nov. 11, 2002, to prove York, then a corporal, actually had earned his medal.

During the time the research was being completed, the Germans helped the expedition by providing maps and information from their archives to find the exact location of where the battle took place.

"The Germans were surprised that the Americans were so interested in their regimental military history," said Col. Douglas Mastriano, co-founder of SYDE as well as a historian and chief researcher. He also serves as an intelligence officer with NATO Headquarters Heidelberg.

The German maps and information provided from their archives helped members of the expedition during the roughly 1,000 hours of time it took to search around the area, named the "York spot," before they found the artifacts.

After Härer's dog tags were uncovered, some members of the expedition



1st AD Public Affairs

German and American Soldiers carry respective wreaths to a memorial dedicated to fallen World War I German soldiers in Steinbach April 28. Germans and Americans came together to honor the recently discovered personal effects of Wilhelm Härer, a German Soldier who was listed as missing in action in the Argonne Forest of France October 1918 after famed Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin York and seven other U.S. Soldiers captured 132 German troops.

were unsure what to do with the find.

"We didn't know if the artifact should be added to Sgt. York's artifacts," Mastriano said. "After giving it some thought, I had one of the German soldiers who works in NATO contact the village of Steinbach am Backnang and ask if they wanted to commemorate this soldier."

Dr. Frank Nopper, the Oberbürger-

meister (mayor) of Steinbach, agreed to have the ceremony in Härer's hometown and have both nations work together to commemorate him.

"We are very happy that the Americans are so involved in the case and that the enemies of yesterday have become friends of today," Nopper said. "Wilhelm Härer has become a symbol of peace."



Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth

1st Lt. Gabrielle Blanchard-Manning, executive officer, 92nd Military Police Company, negotiates a climbing wall high among the treetops during a ropes course at the Kletterwald Rhein-Neckar ropes course in Viernheim April 25. The ropes course was a part of the 92nd's pre-deployment single-soldier retreat, organized by the 95th Military Police Battalion chaplain, which aims to provide Soldiers with the spiritual and mental resilience they will need while deployed.

Single Soldiers navigate ropes course, deployment challenges

By Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth

18TH MP BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With the understanding that the cycle of deployment and redeployment can place especially difficult burdens on Soldiers and their families, the 92nd Military Police Company offered its single Soldiers a chance to develop their personal strength and spiritual fitness.

Chaplain (Capt.) Christopher Dickey, 95th MP Battalion chaplain, organized a retreat to the Kletterwald Rhein-Neckar ropes course in Viernheim April 25 to help the 92nd's single Soldiers build the spiritual and mental resilience and strength needed during their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition to the challenges of the ropes course, the Soldiers were trained on the "10 tough realities about combat," a presentation developed by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

This training is a part of the Army's Battlemind program, which aims to promote resilience within Soldiers when facing the psychological impact that may result from combat and other military operations.

The single-Soldier retreat gave both leadership and Soldiers an opportunity to confront the most difficult aspects of deployment.

"There seems to be a great deal of reflection going on as I am providing the training," Dickey said. "Often many of the Soldiers have not thought about the topics which the training discusses."

At the end of the day, the walls climbed and the bridges crossed high among the treetops of the ropes course were an apt metaphor for the challenges many Soldiers face during deployments. As fears were overcome and obstacles were negotiated, the merits of the training were obvious.

"Each Soldier who attended this training negotiated the obstacles themselves, but I noticed some of the Soldiers did a lot more than they thought they were capable of with the encouragement of their peers," said 1st Lt. Gabriella Blanchard-Manning, executive officer, 92nd MP Company.

Giving Soldiers a chance to get high-quality, essential training in while having fun made the day a true success for Dickey, but he noted that in the end, "My goal was to provide Soldiers a realistic view of what they should expect as they serve in combat."

"Secondly, and more importantly, I wanted Soldiers to know and understand that if they begin to struggle while downrange, there are many resources that they can turn to – to help them work through their difficulty."



1ST LT. TIFFANY RICHARDS

First Lt. Tiffany Richards is a registered nurse with the Same Day Surgery unit at the Heidelberg Health Center. As an RN, she provides pre- and post-operative care for a wide variety of surgical patients.

What is your favorite part about being a nurse?

Providing excellent quality care for people in an altered state of health.

What made you decide to become an Army nurse?

I have always wanted to be a nurse, but to be an Army nurse allows me to be more. I am able to be a leader and take part in the mission of taking care of Soldiers.

Do you have any pets?

I have a seven-year-old boxer named Zeus. He has only-child syndrome.

Do you prefer vegetables or fruit?

Fruit, because it's sweeter!

Do you have any hobbies?

I love to travel all over Europe and I read a lot of thriller novels.

What is your favorite movie and why?

My favorite movies are the Underworld series because there is a lot of action and a love story, of course.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

To have the power to heal people who are unable to be treated with conventional methods of medicine.

What advice do you have for people pursuing a degree in nursing?

It is a lot of hard work and therefore needs a high degree of dedication. You need to be focused on your goal and know that you'll eventually have the awesome opportunity of helping people in their times of need.

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.

Strong Beginnings

Army Family Covenant program prepares children to be successful in kindergarten

By Kristen Marquez
HERALD POST STAFF

The U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg communities are bringing the Army Family Covenant to its younger members – all the way down to the pre-kindergartners.

With its new Strong Beginnings program, Army Child, Youth and School Services leaders have prepared a program intended to build a foundation for learning.

"Strong Beginnings program is ... designed to prepare children to be successful in kindergarten," said Aubrey McCaster, facilities director at Mark Twain Village and Patrick Henry Village child development centers in Heidelberg. "To prepare them with the necessary kindergarten etiquette, so to speak, so that they are prepared to learn and grow and be academically successful."

The Strong Beginnings program will be implemented this fall for children entering kindergarten in the 2010 school year. Parents can elect as to whether their children will participate in the program.

"(It) involves mainly building foundations for learning in the children, helping them with language skills, reading, comprehension, mathematics, science if you will, also computer skills, help them become well-rounded," McCaster said.

The curriculum will include instruction from certified CYSS staff who will be trained using Army Family Covenant funds.

"I think for one thing it will help the children prepare to enter school," McCaster said. "We have always had play activities for children. Our motto has always been, 'Children learn through play,' and they do. Except in this case, with Strong Beginnings it's more guided. There is more interaction between the adults and the child in the activities and there is more intentional learning brought in by the staff."

Army CDCs in the States as well as worldwide were losing preschool children to civilian

"(It) involves mainly building foundations for learning in the children, helping them with language skills, reading, comprehension, mathematics, science if you will, also computer skills, help them become well-rounded ... It will be great because I think, finally, the parents will have the feeling that their children are going to learn something in the pre-K program."

- Aubrey McCaster, CDC facility director

preschool programs or state-run preschool programs, McCaster said, so to counter that trend, the Army came up with this way to help parents prepare their children for school.

To begin with, parents with pre-kindergarten age children will have a meeting with McCaster or the staff members to determine the interest level for them with Strong Beginnings.

"It will be great because I think, finally, the parents will have the feeling that their children are going to learn something in the pre-K program," McCaster said. "They will find out the teachers will be very motivated to help their children learn. And they will be teaching the children – it's not just going to be a play environment anymore."

For more information on Strong Beginnings, call Heidelberg CYSS at DSN 388-9240, civ. 06221-338-9240; Mannheim DSN 385-2750, civ. 06221-730-2750; Kaiserslautern DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4156.

Save money with free, reduced school lunch programs

Student Meal Program applications for school year 2009-10 are being taking at school liaison offices in the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg communities.

The Student Meal Program is designed to meet federal requirements for nutritionally balanced meals and offer free or reduced-price meals to eligible children.

The program is available to children, from all military branches, attending Department of Defense Dependents Schools in the USAG Baden-Württemberg communities.

Eligibility for receiving free or reduced-price lunches is based on total family income and household size.

With the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's computerized tracking system, there is not distinction made between students – all receive the same meals.

To qualify for free or reduced-price meals, families need to apply on an annual basis.

The higher Alaska Guidelines are used to determine eligibility; thereby, more families may qualify for the program – for example, a master sergeant, single income – under 18 years of service, with a total family size of four (himself, spouse and two children) will qualify for the reduced student meal program. This is a savings of \$313.50 per child within a school year.

Families qualifying for the free program, could save around \$408.50 per school year, per child.

The application form (USAFE Form 400) can be obtained at any of the schools in the Baden-Württemberg communities and school liaison offices and at www.e-publishing.af.mil.

Income Eligibility Guidelines are published online at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/IEGs08-09.pdf.

To turn in your application or to obtain more information, please do not hesitate to contact your school liaison office.

SOURCE: 435th Mission Support Group and U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg School Liaison Officers

School Liaison Officers

- **Ramstein and Landstuhl Schools**, Ramstein Air Base Bldg. 2106, Room 207, DSN 480-9374, civ. 06371-47-9374, 435msg.slo@ramstein.af.mil
- **Kaiserslautern and Sembach Schools**, Kapaun Air Station Bldg. 2787, Room 306, DSN 489-6771, civ. 0631-536-6771, 431abg.slo@ramstein.af.mil
- **Mannheim Schools**, Central Enrollment Office, BLDG 255, Room 106 on Sullivan Barracks, DSN 385-2750, civ. 0621-730-2353
- **Heidelberg Schools**, Central Enrollment Office, BLDG 4443, Patrick Henry Village, DSN 388-9370, civ. 06221-338-9370

Construction Near Patton Barracks Entrance

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. Signs are posted to alert drivers that no left turn is possible and to follow the detour signs. To get back to Patton Barracks, turn left at the next traffic light into Pleikartsfoersterstrasse, as if driving to the Esso station or ADAC. Continue to the round-about or traffic circle, make a full circle and come back out, turn right on Speyererstrasse toward Patton Barracks.

Moroccan mission



U.S. Army Photo

Fifteen local national employees assigned to the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 6966th Transportation Truck Terminal conduct a heavy equipment transport convoy mission in Morocco April 25. The German transporters, who are assigned to the Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe, were instrumental in delivering five M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks and one M88 Armored Recovery Vehicle to Agadir, Morocco, in support of Task Force African Lion 2009, a joint exercise between the U.S. Marines and the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces.

Safety campaign offers free smoke detector checks

IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs

As part of Installation Management Command-Europe's Fire Safety Campaign, Army fire departments throughout Europe are planning to offer courtesy inspections of smoke detectors to Army Family Housing residents now through July.

Additionally, individuals living on the economy may ask for assistance to have their smoke detectors inspected, said Michael Schwarz, IMCOM-Europe director of safety.

"This campaign is about more than educating people about fire safety, it's designed to make people and the environment safer also," Schwarz said. "We are conducting one-time inspections of all smoke detectors in barracks sleeping quarters, common areas and other facilities as determined by leadership.

"By also offering the inspections to members living in Army housing and on the economy, we can provide a mea-

"By also offering the inspections to members living in Army housing and on the economy, we can provide a measure of comfort and fire safety for our people."

—Michael Schwarz, IMCOM-Europe director of safety

sure of comfort and fire safety for our people."

As the Fire Safety Campaign continues through October, people should see more visible signs and information products to ensure people know how to prevent a fire and how to cope with a fire.

"As part of our awareness and information focus, safety and garrison fire departments throughout IMCOM-Europe will work closely with (Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation) staffs and schools to provide fire safety information and conduct fire safety demonstrations," said Gerald Adams, Installation Management Command

fire protection specialist.

"It's always good for families and individuals to periodically re-examine information about how to identify and correct fire safety hazards within their homes, contact emergency services in case of a fire; how to stop, drop and roll; and to create a fire escape plan, etc.," he said.

Individuals desiring to have smoke detectors inspected should contact their local fire prevention office, Schwarz added.

More information about fire safety is available on IMCOM-Europe's Web site at www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/management/so_fs.asp.

Medical command increases awareness of mental health programs

ERMC Public Affairs

Europe Regional Medical Command behavioral health providers are making an extra effort during Mental Health Month throughout May to create awareness of Army mental health programs in Europe.

"Mental Health Month is an opportunity to demonstrate our continuing commitment to the sustained good mental health of our Soldiers and to educate people about Army and Department of Defense behavioral health programs," said Dr. Daphne Brown, Chief of Behavioral Health at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

During the past year, ERMC has added 65 additional behavioral health providers to assure access to care.

Confidential behavioral health care and support is available to Soldiers and authorized civilian employees or family members at Army health clinics Europe-wide and at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

"Seeking help for mental problems is no different than going to a clinic when you are physically ill," Brown said.

"We are keenly aware of the unique behavioral health stressors facing Soldiers and families today, and continue to address these issues on several fronts."

Those "fronts" include:

- Resiliency training
- Suicide prevention training
- Post-traumatic stress disorder assessment, treatment and recovery programs
- The Chaplain Corps' "Strong Bonds" program

"We are part of a U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe team that offers a wealth of resources," Brown said.

Most Soldiers who seek behavioral health support recover and remain on active duty, according to Brown.

For more information on Mental Health Month, contact the local Army health clinic.

Information is also available at www.behavioralhealth.army.mil.

our ARMY around the world

For more Army news,
visit www.army.mil



Spc. William Hatton



Sgt. Eric Jungels

Two of 86 Soldiers and civilians participate in the 12th Annual Bataan Memorial March on Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, Sunday. The annual event honors victims of the original Bataan Death March.

(Top) A Special Forces Soldier fires a Carl Gustav rocket, also known by Soldiers as the "Gustav," during a training exercise conducted in the southern city of Basrah, Iraq, May 2. The Soldiers are assigned to Special Operations Task Force Central.



Senior Airman Kenny Holston

Sgt. Juan Filix, 5th Quartermaster Company, performs safety checks before paratroopers jump from a new C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft from Ramstein Air Base May 4 over southern Germany.



Michael J. MacLeod

(Left) A Soldier pulls security while Iraqi army troops question role players acting as locals of an Iraqi village during a training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center on Fort Polk, La., May 5.

(Below) A Soldier with the 10th Mountain Division assigned to Task Force Spartan conduct heavy weapons training and clear the range of past unexploded ordnance at Forward Operating Base Shank in the Logar Province of Afghanistan May 1.



U.S. Army Photo

Rod and Gun Club offers reloading course

Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club

Prices of goods in Europe frequently are higher than those of the same goods in the United States, but students at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club recently found a way to reduce ammunition costs – they learned to make their own.

Ten students completed the German requirements for reloading ammunition in both European and American calibers and have been certified as “reloaders,” as they’re commonly called, by the German government.

Reloading consists of obtaining the casings (brass hulls), gunpowder, lead bullets and primers (the powder ignition) – all pieces of a bullet – and then using special equipment to make ammunition.

“This was a great opportunity for our club to share more German traditions and education with our members,” said Col. Armon Cioppa, president of the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club Advisory Council. “Reloading is a great way for Germans and Americans to get together and share their techniques, and we were thrilled to have students come to Heidelberg from various American communities in Germany, including Stuttgart. Because Americans are not required to have a German hunting license to take this course, we were able to open registration to a wide variety of people.”

Larry Gandy traveled to Heidelberg from Stuttgart to take the course.

“I’m motivated to learn as much as I can about hunting, shooting and associated culture in Germany,” he said. “I thoroughly enjoyed meeting our lead instructor Herr Hensel and enjoyed meeting other students and learning more about shooting in areas other than Stuttgart.”

Robert Hembrook touted the environmental benefits of reloading. “Reloading is a fun and relaxing activity that allows you to experiment with (powder) loads ... or give you a specific load that you cannot buy off the shelf,” he said. “It is also economical and environmentally sound by reusing your brass rather than disposing of it after one shot.”

Kenny Phillips, who also traveled from Stuttgart, has been reloading ammunition in the United States since he was 14 years old. “Ammunition for the calibers that I shoot is very expensive, and I reload ammunition to save money,” Phillips explained. “I’ve been wanting to get a German reloading license for several years, and I’m grateful to the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club for making this opportunity available to all of us throughout Germany.”

The Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club is planning to host another reloading course in the fall. For more information on the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club and the variety of outdoor activities available, visit www.mwgermany.com/HD/rod_gun/rod_gun.htm.

Fighting for survival

Bullet wounds, loss of eyesight not enough to stop NCO

By Angelika Lantz
21ST TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

His decorations include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the combat action badge and an assortment of “lesser” awards.



SANDERS

Yet, Sgt. 1st Class Frank Sanders, a maintenance manager with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command’s support operations division, is looking for something more.

“I love being a Soldier, and I really believe the U.S. Army is the greatest organization in the world,” Sanders said. “I want to stay in as long as I possibly can.”

Nevertheless, this noncommissioned officer is fully aware of his chosen career’s fundamental dangers.

“The Army is serious business; it’s not a game,” he said. “When you take the oath, you are saying, ‘I am standing between the enemy and my country.’”

Twenty-one years and two wars into his profession, Sanders has experienced exactly how devastating and grim living that oath can be. Five years ago, he was just two weeks shy of completing his 15-month deployment with the 1st Armored Division’s Division Support Command when the convoy he was traveling in was attacked.

Sanders, the maintenance supervisor for the DISCOM’s operations section, was driving the fourth vehicle from the end in what should have been a routine logistics run from Camp Lima, Karbala to Baghdad International Airport. However, once the convoy’s gun truck had passed their ambush, the insurgents set off an improvised explosive device followed by a barrage of gun fire.

Sanders was shot in his left shoulder and left hand and the explosion injured the entire left side of his face and his eye.

Tellingly, when Sanders talks about the assault, he mentions another casualty.

“Lt. Col. (Miguel) Martinez was injured, too. He went into heat-stroke working on me,” the NCO



U.S. Army Photo

This explosion-riddled helmet was worn by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Sanders during an attack on the convoy he was traveling in between Camp Lima, Karbala and Baghdad International Airport May 3, 2004. Sanders served as the maintenance supervisor of the 1st Armored Division’s Division Support Command operations section when he was injured by bullets and an explosion.

said. “How do you ever thank someone for that kind of caring and consideration?”

Then, there is the version told by Lt. Col. William McCoy, the 21st TSC’s deputy command chaplain, who served in Iraq with Sanders.

“I have known him for the past eight years, and he is always the same – steady as a rock,” McCoy said. “His leadership as an NCO is exemplified by the fact that he had volunteered to drive the unarmored Humvee, filling in for another Soldier, when the vehicle blew up on him. Yet, he never became bitter – even in the hospital he was upbeat and positive.”

McCoy also recalls that when he needed a chapel built, he ended up with an 800-square-foot building, almost single-handedly designed and built by Sanders.

“In extremely austere conditions with no modern conveniences, Sgt. Sanders decided to take the project on himself,” the chaplain said. “He worked non-stop for about three months, with only one Iraqi, the chaplain’s assistant and myself to help.”

Since then, Sanders has endured six major surgeries and continues to go back to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., about every five months. Nonetheless he remains matter of fact and grateful.

For instance, he is grateful that the 21st TSC hired him after he was

wounded – to him that exemplifies the Army’s greatness.

“They told me, ‘We want you here. We want you to be a part of our team’ – even after I was injured,” Sanders said. “The 21st TSC is very good about seeing that the medical needs of wounded Soldiers are met. I think they track my appointments even better than I do.”

Despite the surgeries, Sanders has not regained vision in his injured eye and his retina remains precariously detached. However, while he will admit to migraine headaches, the upbeat Soldier does not consider himself disabled.

“I don’t feel handicapped, not even at a disadvantage,” he said. “Sure, there are things I can no longer do. I watch sports on television now while I used to actively play sports. And I am constantly aware of what I am doing and how I am doing it – but that’s pretty much it.”

The Winona, Miss., native, who enjoys travel and is currently working on his bachelor’s in business administration, has no time or patience for self-pity.

“I don’t regret serving my country and suffering a little for it,” he said.

“As a chaplain you look for Soldiers who lead others; Sgt. Sanders does,” McCoy said. “I’ve known him through difficult times to combat and back. Today, still, he has nothing but love in his heart; he inspires me.”

Paperwork, attention to detail ease shipment process

By Jason L. Austin
HERALD POST STAFF

Nothing says permanent change of station like cleaning your tire tread with a toothbrush, at least that's the impression many have of the steps needed to pass a vehicle inspection at their outbound Vehicle Processing Center.

The "Shipping your POV" booklet, however, states only that the vehicle be clean and dry vacuumed. "The VPC will not accept a (privately owned vehicle) laden with dirt, soil, mud or similar matter, to include the undercarriage."

"At the Mannheim VPC many customers, ranking from private first class to major general, invest in over \$100 to have their POVs cleaned professionally," according to a 598th Transportation Group press release.

What that normally means for the customer, though, is they will get a really clean car when they pick it up in the states.

The main emphasis at the VPC is

"Shipping your POV"

www.sddc.army.mil/sddc/Content/Pub/8808/DBCN8808.pdf

the paperwork: seven copies of your orders with amendments, certified copies of the vehicle title, written approval from a lienholder, driver's license, registration, a photo ID, and a power of attorney if someone other than the sponsor or spouse listed on the orders is shipping the vehicle.

Another obstacle for many – the vehicle must have less than one-fourth of a tank of fuel.

"Like when a service member was told that he had too much gas and was asked to leave the premises, the member disagreed and wanted the agent to finish the inspection," according to the release.

"But after mediating, the member left the inspection area to burn off the gas," said Marita Bold, the contracting officer representative at the Kaiserslautern VPC. "When the member returned, he was seen right away and



A SDDC contractor removes the license plate from the front of a vehicle being inspected before shipment at the Kaiserslautern Vehicle Processing Center. Courtesy photo

the inspection was finished."

The Mannheim VPC has seven to 10 outbound shipping appointments per day, the release said.

Customers scheduling appointments are counseled by the VPC staff over the telephone for various requirements and documents they should bring, which should be very similar to the outbound briefing they receive at their local transportation office.

Most people in the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg community have shipped a vehicle before and know the drill, however, customers will still be rejected by the contractor and be requested to obtain the necessary documents or make the necessary repairs to the POV before turning in for shipment, according to the release.

"But on the whole, most customers are happy to get in and out quickly."

AFN Europe experiencing information evolution through social media

By George A. Smith
AFN EUROPE



MALCOLM

Three years ago American Forces Network Europe commander Col. Scott Malcom and predecessor Col. Rick Sims put into motion a huge change to military radio – a standardized format called "AFN The Eagle."

The "Eagle" mandated military disc jockeys play a researched, pre-approved mix of family friendly adult contemporary and oldies music and follow the same operating guidelines. Until then, most young military DJs had been mostly playing whatever they wanted to hear and often saying whatever popped into their head.

"Our audience tells us through regular surveys that the music mix on AFN The Eagle and the information mix on AFN's Power Network continue to improve," says Malcom, whose headquarters is on Coleman Barracks.

Malcom is ending his command as he started it, putting into motion another information evolution, this time making AFN Europe a part of social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter and revamping the network's Europe-wide newscast.

Malcom's Network Produc-

tion Center Chief Maj. Paul Haverstick said AFN Europe is updating its Web site and initiating social media interactions this summer.

"We'll provide multiple venues for our audience to receive the latest information via the Internet. Since different people have different comfort levels with surfing the Web, we will provide a service for every level of user," Haverstick said. "People will be able to sign up for our e-mail distribution lists that will provide updates of gas prices, exchange rates and select stories. We have also set up AFN Europe pages on Facebook and Twitter so that people can sign up and get instant updates from our postings. This summer AFN stations will have their own blog site and Twitter page so you can follow the latest information in your community."

In addition, Haverstick said a new Europe-wide TV newscast is planned for AFN Atlantic Prime with shorter, faster-paced stories, current European weather and more information about what's

happening off-post.

The changes are the result of AFN's Web survey conducted earlier this year that showed a minority of people watch the newscast, even though it was recently judged to be the best in the Department of Defense. That's why the network is revamping the program to make it more appealing.

"We're putting the newscast on at a better time, expanding it to 30 minutes, adding local weather, making it more timely, and getting more feedback from the audience on what they want," Malcom said.

The newscast is targeted to debut in January. Malcom won't be in Europe to see the first broadcast. He moves on to the Senior Service College, the Army War College in Pennsylvania, in June.

The audience has seen a number of improvements during Malcom's three years. The biggest, he says, involved "evicting" unwanted guests.

"We overcame the insidious 'gremlins' that arrived in our technical plant when we moved to this current facility from Frankfurt," he said. "These gremlins caused new signal problems on a daily basis, negatively affecting just about everything we did every day. However, through the mature leadership of our

senior civilians and the persistence and excellence of our engineering team, I was able to declare victory over the gremlins last fall."

Good things happened to AFN radio under Malcom's watch. In addition to the family friendly "AFN The Eagle," the network got better radio frequencies in Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Vilseck.

"We secured three new FM frequencies that can be received in American automobiles," Malcom said. "This was a huge deal and took years to pull off. The workhorse on getting these done was Rainer Wunderlich from our local station in Vilseck, AFN Bavaria."

People often brought up the issues of poor radio frequencies and weak power levels to Malcom, and a frequent TV complaint: "Programming on 'The Family Channel' is a hot topic. Much of our audience feels it is disingenuous for us to call a service family-oriented but still air things that many feel are inappropriate."

While some gave Malcom complaints, others gave compliments. "I get 'the business' from all of my buddies and friends at church. However, after the joking is over, most people tell me that they appreciate what AFN does for them, and that they understand why

we do what we do," he said. "This is especially true after I explain some of the variables in our operational environment that drive what we can and can't do."

Germans said good things to him about AFN radio. "My German friends absolutely love AFN, especially those who were children or teenagers at the end of WWII. This is because for many years after the war AFN was the only radio service in most of Europe," he said. "It was through AFN that most of these Germans, and local nationals in other countries as well, learned about American music and culture. AFN has served to help strengthen the bonds of friendship since then as the U.S. military has kept a pretty constant presence on the continent."

Leaving Germany gives Malcom mixed feelings. "I will miss the people of AFN and walking in the Odenwald with my family the most. I won't miss the ever-present construction on the autobahn one iota, and I look forward to not having to stay up all night to watch my favorite sporting events."

For Malcom, that means lots of days filled with Texas Longhorn and Dallas Cowboys football.

Military spouses have opportunity for educational assistance

By Kristen Marquez
HERALD POST STAFF

Military spouses in the Baden-Württemberg communities interested in furthering their education now have a new option to receive up to \$6,000 in financial assistance.

The Department of Defense Military Spouse Career Advancement Account provides employment, career, education, counseling and financial assistance for spouses of active-duty and activated reserve service members worldwide.

"It's not competitive, it's not merit based, it's not specific to one university or one skill," said Michiel DeVito, Heidelberg Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program manager. "It is a generic 'what to you want to do, what do you think would be portable?'"

All spouses have to do is sign up for a MyCAA account and create a career plan, which

includes the help of an education counselor. Funding is available for most any "portable career" a military spouse may be interested in pursuing. Spouses' eligibility is determined through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

"I think another aspect of it is the fact that we've talked about how important employment is for military spouses, and I think this is another way for the military to show spouses how important they are and to provide them the tools that they need in order to obtain a career goal," DeVito said.

The money could go to career plans ranging from business school to cosmetology training and most any career in between, according to DeVito.

"I didn't see a lot of limitations on what they want that



money to go for," she said. "It was a very broad spectrum."

While the funding has not yet been released, the program's initial pilot testing phase is over and registration is now open for spouses to get a head start on the program. If spouses enroll now, there is a good chance they'll get the first wave of the scholarship money once it is opened up, according to DeVito.

Linda Rush, a military spouse for 20 years and Heidelberg resident for the

past two years, has already enrolled in the program and is using it to help finish her undergraduate degree in business through the University of Maryland. She expects to graduate next May.

She said she was amazed at the simplicity of the program – just sign up and start talking to a career counselor. She also was excited to find out that the program will pay for tests through the College Level Examination Program and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support.

"Just thinking about how difficult it's been with moving all the years in the past, it's finally nice to see that they are supporting military spouses," Rush said. "It's so hard for us to finish. I've tried so many times over the years to go back and especially living overseas.

I think (MyCAA) is wonderful. I think it will help so many younger spouses go back to school and finish."

The MyCAA program covers courses in technical schools all the way through graduate-level programs. It also covers extra training or certifications for spouses who are already employed and may need extra training to help further their careers.

"I think this opens a lot of doors, and it helps take care of some of those hurdles that we put in place just by the lifestyles that we have," DeVito said. "It's not anybody's fault; a lot of times it's just where we're at, but I think this is just another great example of taking care of our spouses the way that we need to and giving them some opportunities."

For more information, call Heidelberg ACS at DSN 370-6975, civ. 06221-57-6975, or visit the MyCAA link on the ACS Web site at www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs.

UMUC Europe recognizes more than 1,100 at commencement

UMUC Europe

University of Maryland University College Europe recognized more than 1,100 students at its 57th annual commencement ceremony Saturday in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion's ballroom in Heidelberg.

Of the 1,100 plus graduates, more than 220 travelled from across Europe, Africa and the Middle East to march in the commencement ceremony.

Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, offered greetings to the graduates along with guest speaker Norman R. Augustine, former Lockheed Martin president and chief executive and under secretary of the Army.

"For you to receive a degree from any fine university would be a great honor and accomplishment. But to put it simply, for you to receive a degree from UMUC is, in my judgment, an unsurpassed honor and accomplishment," Augustine said during his speech. "The reason for that is because you have earned your degrees the hard way – deploying to combat zones, holding down part-time jobs, raising families, volunteering to serve your communities.

"In short, you are my kind of people. I, like most of you, was the first in my family to attend college. But I did it the easy way – full-time, other than summer jobs and part-time work while in school. So my hat is off to you – all of you."



University of Maryland University College Europe graduates celebrate their accomplishments at the commencement ceremony at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg Saturday. More than 1,100 graduates from across Europe, Africa and the Middle East were recognized during the ceremony.

The graduating class included active-duty military students from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as family members and civilians stationed abroad.

Students who graduated with the class of 2009 earned degrees in a variety of disciplines, including approximately 480 associate's and 500 bachelor's degrees in the liberal arts from UMUC, and 120 mas-

ter's degrees with UMUC and Bowie State University in counseling, information systems, information technology and public administration.

On average, approximately 80 percent of the graduates are married and more than 60 percent have children.

For more information about UMUC Europe, call DSN 370-6762, civ. 06221-3780.

Officials outline rules for allowing guests to drive USAREUR-plated private vehicles

By Robert Szostek
USAREUR OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

One advantage of being stationed in Europe is that friends and family can visit and get that real old-world travel experience. They can also share the burden of driving if you go off on trips with them, but you must get customs approval first if you want to let them drive your U.S. Army Europe-plated car on their own excursions.

"Just go to your local military customs office and fill out the application form," said Bill Johnson, director of the USAREUR Customs Executive Agency. "If you want to have the paperwork ready when your relatives or friends arrive, you should bring along clear copies of their passports and Stateside or international driver's licenses."

Two things to remember, customs officials said, are that guests cannot be residents in Germany or dependents of the service member they are visiting. It is also important to make sure guests are covered by their host's automobile insurance policies.

Guests can use this exception to policy to drive a USAREUR-registered privately owned vehicle in Germany for up to 90 days after entering the European Union. The authorization document must be in the car when guests use a vehicle independently, along with their passports, the vehicle registration, proof of insurance and the guests' international driver's licenses (or official translations of their licenses).

"Driving in Germany is tax- and duty-free for U.S. forces personnel and their dependents," Johnson explained, which is why the customs authorization is required for guests.

But he warned that this exception to policy does not let your guests buy gas at Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas stations or use your AAFES fuel card. Visitors to Germany who rent a car may not use AAFES gas stations or fuel cards as well.

For details, visit a military customs office in Germany, call the Customs Hot Line at DSN 381-7610, civ. 0621-7307610, or visit www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom3.htm.



Game plan.

Finding your loved ones isn't always a game—
In an emergency, your family may not be together.
Plan ahead to keep your family safe.

- Get a portable emergency kit.
- Establish an out-of-state family contact.
- Identify a location for your family to meet.

It's up to you. Prepare Strong.

READY ARMY

IMCOM-Europe safety officials urge summer swimming safety

IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs

Anyone thinking that a nearby pond or stream might make for a good swimming hole during a hot summer day just might be jumping into trouble.

"It may look nice and feel warm on the surface, but two feet down may be very cold or possess hidden dangers like broken glass or sudden drop-offs," said Mike Schwarz, Installation Management Command-Europe Region chief of safety. "Also, some ponds may contain runoff 'fertilizers' from farms making the water quality questionable."

Schwarz said many serious injuries occur when people jump in waters that were not previously surveyed for safety hazards. Bottom line: "People

should only swim at authorized lakes and outdoor locations — they meet host nation water-quality and safety standards."

As IMCOM-Europe Region safety officials eye an increase in swimming activity, Schwarz said U.S. Forces personnel seeking a cool reprieve from summer heat should seek refuge at U.S. installation pools, host nation swimming facilities or authorized local swimming locations to be safe this summer season.

Local garrison safety officials can provide more information on authorized local swimming locations.

"Because many facilities, such as Edelweiss in Garmisch and host nation commercial facilities throughout Europe have indoor swimming pools,

swimming safety is a year-round issue for our people," he said.

"Now that we are experiencing weather that lends itself to increased swimming activities, it's important we remind people to think swimming safety first, because accidents can happen anywhere."

Schwarz emphasized that parents need to carefully supervise children.

"It only takes a moment for a child in a swimming pool to get in trouble. If a parent is distracted or turns away for only a brief time, a drowning situation could occur," Schwarz said.

"Many parents who have been in this unfortunate situation have said the same thing, 'I only looked away for a second.' Parents must supervise

children at all times."

While U.S. military installations have life guards at swimming pools, host nation facilities often don't, Schwarz said. So, while it's still important for parents to supervise at a U.S. military pool, it's all the more important for parents to carefully watch their children when visiting a host nation facility.

"Many host nation facilities offer great swimming pools, slides and a lot of fun activities. I encourage people to check out host nation swimming pools," Schwarz said. "However, people must be aware that facilities may not have life guards.

"So, check the facility out and know where lifesaving equipment is located in case you need it. But most impor-

tantly, if a parent, supervise your children; if you're older with friends, keep an eye out for each other."

The following are other swimming tips provided in the IMCOM Spring and Summer Safety Brochure:

- Never swim alone, even if you are an experienced swimmer.
- Swim only in supervised areas.
- Never swim when exhausted, overheated or immediately after eating.
- Before diving, make sure the water is deep enough.
- Don't depend on a tube or inflated toy for buoyancy.
- Whenever a storm approaches, get out of the water.
- Don't swim in extremely cold water.
- Don't consume alcohol and swim.

Motorcycle Safety: Are You Ready to Ride?

The warm weather and the longer hours of daylight mean spring is on the horizon. Signs that it's time to take the bike out of winter storage. Hold on before you ride: you should thoroughly inspect your vehicle to ensure it is safe to ride. Perform a pre-ride inspection of your vehicle checking the tires and wheels for serviceability, controls for damage and proper adjustment, lights for operation, fluid levels, and the chassis for visible signs of damage and the stands. Okay, the vehicle may be ready, but are you?

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation offers the following guidelines for riding a motorcycle safely:

Be Visible!

- Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles and reacting in time.
- Make sure your headlight works and is on day and night.
- Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle.
- Be aware of the blind spots cars and trucks have.
- Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.
- If a motorist doesn't see you, don't be afraid to use your horn.

Dress for safety.

- Helmet:** Certified to meet American National Standards Institute Z90-1 or the Economic Commission for Europe Norm 22-02.
- Eye Protection:** Impact or Shatter Resistant Goggles or Full-face Shield. Must meet Vehicle Equipment Commission Regulation, Standard 6 (VEEC-6).
- Full-fingered Gloves**
- Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes**
- Outer Garment:** Brightly colored (i.e. yellow, bright green, red, orange) during the day and reflective at night (See Note)
- Long sleeved shirt or jackets and trousers**
- Remember** - the only thing between you and the road is your protective gear.

Note: When wearing military uniforms, military operators will wear a brightly colored Operation 21 light you must identify visible from the front and rear of the motorcycle jacket. The Army PT jacket worn with an orange or yellow reflective belt (worn diagonally across the shoulder) meets both day and night requirements.

Apply effective mental strategies:

- Constantly search the road for changing conditions. Use MSF's Search, Evaluate, Execute strategy (SEESM) to increase time and space safety margins.
- Give yourself space and time to respond to other motorists' actions.
- Use lane positioning to be seen; ride in the part of a lane where you are most visible.
- Signal your next move in advance.
- Avoid weaving between lanes.
- Pretend you're invisible, and ride extra defensively.
- Don't ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Know and follow the rules of the road, and stick to the speed limit.

Know your bike and how to use it:

- Get formal training and take refresher courses.
- Note: Riders must complete a MSF course every 3 years.
- Visit: http://www.imcom-europe-army.mil/sites/management/0_atatp.asp to locate the Motorcycle Safety Foundation hands-on RiderCourse nearest you and available training date.
- Practice. Develop your riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Know how to handle your bike in conditions such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces.

Remember:

Give yourself space. People driving cars often just don't see motorcycles. Even when drivers do see you, chances are they're never been on a motorcycle and can't properly judge your speed. Ride Smart...Ride Safe.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

continued from page 1

ran over to the event coordinators to get her big sister's ribbon.

"Just a great feeling – it's encouraging to see my disabled child – physically – have some kind of athletic outlet and to see my other child be so supportive to her sibling," said Shaw, with the Headquarters, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart. "Special Olympics is a great event – well run and organized."

Special Olympics is an international program of athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. It's been held in the Kaiserslautern military community in early May for 26 years, courtesy of the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern. For the past 10 years, the event has been held and co-hosted by the German Police Academy.

More than 800 athletes competed in this year's games, said Jason Ille, the garrison's Special Olympics coordinator. Athletes, ages 8 to 70, competed in eight games such as softball, volleyball and Bocce Ball, and those 5 years and older enjoyed 12 non-competitive events such as bean-bag toss, obstacle course and basketball.

"These games are very important for their personality and self-esteem that's with them in their daily lives," said Monika Kabus, a teacher with the Hans-Zullinger-Schule in Grünstadt, who was at the games for the first time bringing 40 students, also for the

first time. She had just finished giving a big congratulations hug to one of her students, Anja Wrablewski, 18, for earning the gold medal in Bocce Ball.

More than 1,500 – a hundred more than previous years – German and American Army, Air Force and Navy military and civilian volunteers from the KMC and surrounding areas participated, said Larry Zani, who has been an event coordinator for the Special Olympics here for the past 18 years.

Showing up at these games at 6 a.m. for the past three years, Air Force Master Sgt. Johnny Rapier, from the 86th Airlift Wing Construction and Training Squadron, helps out by registering all the athletes and volunteers. It takes about three hours, he said, and after that he helps out wherever he can.

"Even if it's to say 'hi,' cheer on athletes and meet people," he said. "It puts a smile on my face – I just can't help it. It's such a great event."

Volunteers were from Stuttgart, Vilseck, Bitburg, Spangdahlem, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Hohenfels and Grafenwöhr.

Athletes represented 41 schools and institutions throughout Germany, including 16 Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe.

Schools participating for the first time were Hohenfels Middle/High School, and the brand-new Netzaberg Elementary and Middle Schools, and it's been many years since the Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School has taken part in the games

here, Zani said.

Ribbons were given at the competitive events for just trying, with some athletes garnering first, second or third-place honors. By the games' end, numerous multicolored ribbons adorned most athletes.

Adding to the color were medals of gold, silver and bronze awarded in the competitive games in gender-specific categories such as assisted, unassisted and wheelchair bound.

Haley won a gold medal, and her twin brother, Connor, who was also participating in these games for the first time, won three silver medals.

"They were trying to decide which was better – the one gold or the three silver medals," said Shaw, two days after Special Olympics were held. "(Haley) was really excited – she looked forward to these games, and she has slept with her gold medal for the last two nights."

For showing spirit and love of the games, Sara Jung, an athlete from the Lebenshilfe in Zweibrücken, was awarded the Sarah Bican Inspirational Athlete Trophy. This award is named after Sarah Bican, who as a DoDDS teacher brought Special Olympics to Kaiserslautern in 1974.

Lt. Col. Mechelle Hale, the garrison's commander, awarded the Commander's Trophy to Bootz Arno, 51, from the Lebenshilfe in Kusel.

"I am surprised and very happy. I'm going to put this trophy in a special place," he said.

BOSS

continued from page 1

"We sought feedback from everyone after each block of instruction," Kreger said. "The responses certainly added flavor and detail to material we provided."

BOSS, which started in 1989 and originated from the Army Family Action Plan, is centered on improving the quality of life for single and unaccompanied Soldiers by raising well-being issues, providing recreation opportunities and ensuring community integration.

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

At its core, BOSS serves as a voice for Soldiers while improving not only their lives, but their communities as well.

Examples of how programs in U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg have achieved such intentions include:

- USAG Kaiserslautern held a BOSS and Commissary Appreciation Day that provided a supermarket sweep where participants had 90 seconds to gather and keep as much food as possible for unit functions.

- USAG Heidelberg participates in a monthly "Cheap Eats" dinner where BOSS members, family readiness group volunteers and senior leadership gather for a meal that "allows us to speak with our chain of command and work through some issues," said Spc. Meagan Noles, BOSS president for Heidelberg.

Noles, who taught a class during the training on how to hold meetings, said an update on the Army's "I A.M. Strong" sexual harassment and assault prevention program was essential information that she will share with fellow young Soldiers – whether they participate in the BOSS program or not. The acronym I. A.M. stands for "intervene, act and motivate."

Going into the training, USAG Baumholder's Command Sgt. Maj. Earla Reddock said she expected much from the opportunity, "and it delivered ... it lived up to my expectations."

"First and foremost," she said, "meeting the BOSS presidents was extremely beneficial. These young noncommissioned officers and Soldiers are full of ideas on how to improve the program. Plus the MWR advisers shared their knowledge and experiences freely."

Asked what she gets out of BOSS as a senior enlisted adviser, Reddock replied: "I work for the Soldiers. I have a rare opportunity to watch them grow emotionally and mature into responsible young adults. I get to point them into the right direction. And sometimes, when I fix their problems, I get to be their hero."

By "fixing problems," the command sergeant major was referring to one of the three components of BOSS: quality of life, which continues to grow in importance as a foundation for the 20-year-old program.

Indeed, single and unaccompanied troops are encouraged to identify garrison-level and Army wide well-being issues and concerns that impact their quality of life.

After being addressed during BOSS meetings throughout Europe, warranted issues are submitted through



Ray Johnson

Spc. Clairissa Sifuentes, president of the U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, takes notes during training held in Schwetzingen.

Local BOSS Awards

Heidelberg: First place for Best Event in the medium category for a single Soldier population of 1,000-1,999. Heidelberg's BOSS won for its Make A Difference Day activities.

Kaiserslautern: Second place for Best Installation in the medium category

the senior military adviser (usually the garrison command sergeant major) for resolution via command channels or support agencies.

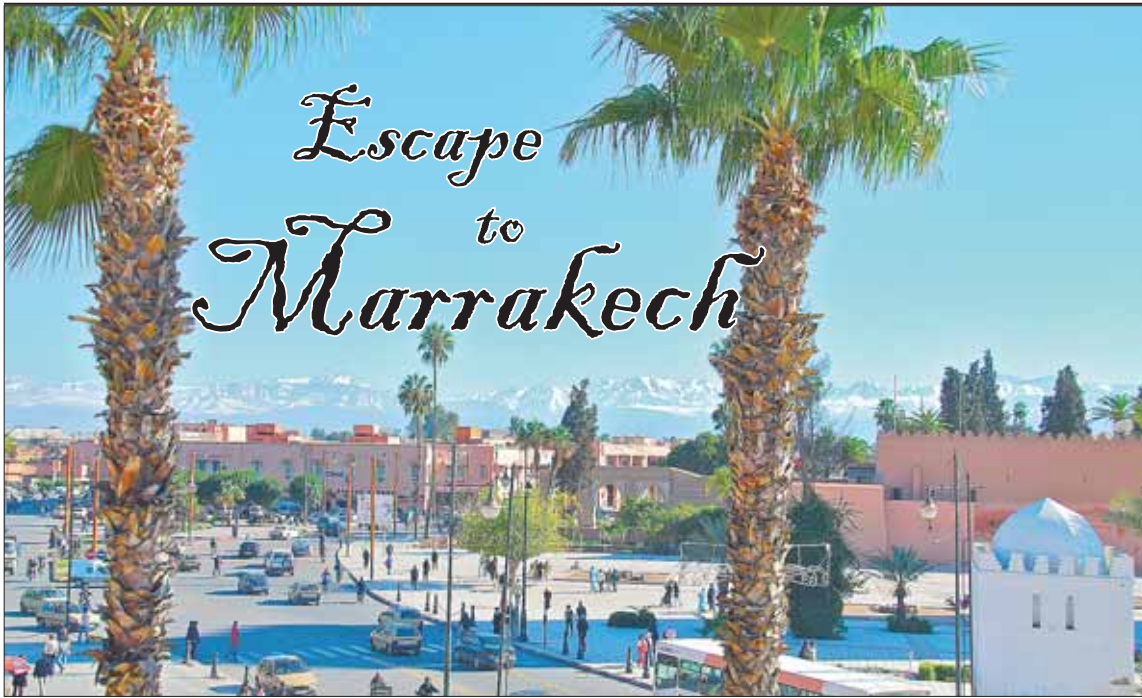
Issues that cannot be resolved locally are submitted to installation AFAP forums – where BOSS got its start – and possibly all the way up the Army-level AFAP conference.

"Historically, because they are so visible and popular, it's been recreation and community activities that grab everyone's attention," said Spc. John Maki, the BOSS president for IMCOM-Europe. "But quality-of-life and well-being issues – which impact morale just as well – are moving to the forefront. And through BOSS, Soldiers can have a say in their living environment and personal satisfaction."

As part of the training here, two members from the Soldier and Community Recreation Directorate, de-

livered a presentation showing that BOSS programs worldwide, in 2008, provided 158,973 volunteer hours, saving the Army more than \$3 million; held 867 community service events; oversaw 868 recreation activities; and identified 174 quality-of-life issues.

"Obviously, BOSS program members, in Europe and throughout the service, are making a big difference," said Robert Lattanzi, chief of Army BOSS.



Nina Chang

Koutoubia mosque and tower in Marrakech, Morocco.

Escape to Marrakech

Bazaars, snake charmers and mountain scenery delight and surprise in Morocco

By Dan Thompson
BAVARIAN NEWS

If you're like me, you've learned that some of the most memorable experiences in Europe are found off the beaten path and away from the roar of tour bus parking lots, cuckoo clock megastores and museums so packed you would be lucky to emerge without becoming nauseous.

If you're looking for something more than the typical European tourist experience, it may be time for you to consider going beyond the horizon – way beyond – to a place where you can relax in a private, hidden palace, pluck oranges from trees and enjoy a calming, warm desert breeze in the evening from your rooftop overlooking a magical skyline.

If this sounds like your kind of escape, then it's time to book your ticket to Marrakech, Morocco.

Marrakech is a virtual kaleidoscope of culture, bursting with legendary architecture, incredibly intricate art and very friendly people.

Perhaps best capturing the essence of this energy is the famous Djemma El-Fna square, which was featured in the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, "The Man Who Knew Too Much." There you may sip on freshly squeezed orange juice while perusing local shops selling brass wares, colorful Islamic art and irresistible pastry shops. For those so inclined, you may also sit in on a snake charming or get your photo taken with a deadly cobra (don't worry, they've been defanged).

You may also appreciate how the merchants, unlike those elsewhere in many Arab markets, have a more relaxed manner – not heckling or pressuring customers too much.

At night, the Djemma El-Fna becomes a buzzing circus of sword swallowers, storytelling by lantern light, and traditional food stands where you can eat all the seafood you would like for only a few euros.

Other attractions in Marrakech include mysterious,

maze-like alleyways, souqs (covered bazaars) overflowing with unique crafts from all over northern Africa, grand palaces and spacious green parks lined with orange trees.

One of the nicest aspects of your Marrakech adventure may be your lodging.

Traditional riads (palace-like courtyard houses) are available throughout Marrakech and offer much more authentic atmosphere than hotels.

I stay at Tamkast (www.tamkast.co.ma/eng), an elegant and spacious oasis of peace echoing with the sounds of chirping finches and mystical Sufi hymns. Its walls are decorated with intricate calligraphy and high, open ceilings let in a flawless blue sky and warm desert air. Lounge couches on the roof under toasty Moroccan sunlight provide an almost intoxicating sensation of relaxation – and all for about 80 euro a night or less.

Sip on aromatic tea, deeply breathe in the soothing scent of cinnamon and jasmine in the air, and gaze at the Atlas Mountains in the distance. It is all possible in Marrakech.

So is Morocco safe? The truth is, yes, but you should always check with your garrison's security office for the latest travel brief.

The Moroccan people are incredibly hospitable, peaceful and tolerant. In fact, the oldest American diplomatic property in the world is located in Tangier, and Morocco and the United States have enjoyed a very special relationship since 1777.

In any case, you will want to schedule a week to explore Marrakesh, the nearby Atlantic coast, and the Atlas Mountains, all of which are easily accessible.

If you are an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, you may actually find a trip to Morocco almost therapeutic as you are free to explore Arab culture and interact with in a much different way than in Iraq.

Whatever the case may be, an escape to Marrakech may be a great way to experience real adventure while relaxing your soul after a dreary winter.



vveev

Rahba Kedima (Old Square), one of the souqs of Marrakech, with knitted caps and carpets. (Below) A snake charmer in Marrakech.



DoJan Halbrook

GERMAN COOKING

Jägerschnitzel

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- Schnitzel:
- 8 3-ounce boneless pork loins
 - Salt and pepper
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 cup all-purpose flour
 - 2 cups bread crumbs
 - 1/2 cup vegetable oil

Mushroom Sauce:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 cups sliced mushrooms, a mixture of button and chanterelle
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 roma tomatoes
- 1/2 cup beef broth
- 1 cup red wine
- Leaves of two sprigs of fresh thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary
- Dash dried marjoram
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper

Preparation:

- Pound pork loin to about 1/4 to 1/8 inch thick – but not paper thin – between two sheets of plastic wrap. Season with salt and pepper.
- Beat eggs in a bowl. Dust pork with flour on both sides. Dip in beaten eggs. Coat with breadcrumbs, patting them to ensure they stick. Refrigerate.
- Make sauce: Heat butter and onions in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in mushrooms and cook for 1-2 minutes. Add tomatoes, herbs, red wine and beef broth. Simmer until sauce is reduced by half. Remove bay leaf. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- Heat vegetable oil in a large fry pan. Carefully add pork and fry on high heat, using a screen to prevent splattering. Turn and continue frying just until both sides are golden brown. Remove to paper towels.
- Drizzle with mushroom sauce and serve immediately.

SOURCE: www.germanfoods.org



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,

I don't know why people write you such rude comments. You are doing something great for our community.

I think it takes guts to do what you do. Next to fighting in a war, you are doing something that many people would never do, even me; you are telling people the truth about their lives, and you even show your picture next to your column. I'd be afraid that someone would put a hit out on me or something.

Anyway, I'd just like to say to you the same as you say to others "hang in there." Don't let the rude comments stop you from writing and telling the truth. You are the best.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

My 15-year-old daughter has been telling me for over a month that she needs to talk to me about something. I guess I kept blowing her off or just not taking her seriously about this conversation.

Finally we talked, and she said that she is going to have sex with her

Ms. Vicki's Online Talk Show

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

boyfriend, and she wants to be on birth control. I couldn't believe what I was hearing.

She was acting like she already had them, and maybe she was just covering her tracks by telling me after the fact.

I am not taking my daughter to get birth control. I waited until I was married, and so is she. What's so hard about waiting?

I told my husband what she said, and he almost came unglued. He told me as a mother it was my place to talk with her. He doesn't want to get involved only to say he does not want to be a grandfather.

I don't want to have to deal with this on my own, but I guess I have to. I know my daughter thinks she is in love because she has been dating this boy for about six months. So what, it's been six months. She doesn't owe him anything, but she thinks she owes him because she sees him as being loyal. I keep thinking this is a bad dream. Do you think she is joking, or should I believe her?

From: Should I Believe My Daughter

Dear Believe,

You have something most parents say they want from their children – honesty. She has come to you and disclosed her intentions. She is not my daughter, but I don't think she is joking.

I understand where you are coming from. I wouldn't want my 15-year-old daughter having sex either. Like you, I would do all I could to try and monitor her

behavior and show her where she would be making a mistake having sex at such an early age. At 15, I know she is not ready for the consequences of her behavior.

Let's go back to what she said. "I want to be on birth control because I am going to have sex with my boyfriend."

From my experience with teens, I think she will go behind your back and make the decision on her own without your input. I would regret that happening.

I'm not telling you to take your daughter to get the birth control, because this is not my decision. I think that's something you and your husband should discuss with her.

What I am saying is looking the other way on this matter could lead to an unplanned pregnancy and even sexually transmitted diseases. I think you should spend as much time as possible talking to your daughter about her plans. Discuss the pros and cons if she should become sexually active.

Guess what, there are no pros to this situation, but you must help her realize this. She must know she is worth waiting for. I would also involve this young man and his family in some discussions, too. Speaking to him and his family could help her glean a lot about him. Whatever you do, don't turn your head and look the other way on this issue.

I hope your daughter waits. Keep in touch with me.

U.S. immigration reaches out to Soldiers, spouses

By Rob McIlvaine
FMWRRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Non-citizens have served in the U.S. Army since the American Revolution. In fact, almost half of Army enlistees in the 1840s were immigrants, and between 1862 and 2000, more than 660,000 military veterans became citizens through naturalization.

Today, about 35,000 non-citizens serve in the military and about 8,000 enlist every year.

According to Leslie Lord at U.S. Army Human Resources Command, many have used military service as a stepping stone to citizenship.

The Army Family Action Plan created Issue Paper #515 in response to family members encountering problems with the citizenship and residency application process.

In this issue, AFAP recommended installations designate and train a liaison to assist family members in the CIS process, and coordinate with CIS for approval of Department of Defense-administered fingerprinting and physical exams.

"Immigration laws and the procedures for ap-

plying for citizenship and lawful permanent resident status (often called green cards) are complex. Although Soldiers themselves need apply only for citizenship, family members are frequently new immigrants to this country who need to apply for green cards," Lord said.

Fingerprints are required as part of the application process for citizenship and LPR status. Although CIS often uses fingerprints taken at enlistment for Soldiers who are applying for citizenship, technical problems may require Soldiers travel to a CIS fingerprint facility to accomplish this task.

For all family members applying for citizenship or green cards, CIS will not accept DoD fingerprints; so, they must travel to a CIS fingerprint facility to have their fingerprints taken.

Bettye Donley, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, action officer working Issue #515 for AFAP, says this hardship is considerable for families with children. To alleviate this problem, CIS would like to bring immigration services, such as biometrics collection, informational appointments, adjustment of status and/or naturalization inter-

views and naturalization oath ceremonies to service members on a regular basis at military installations.

By June 2008, CIS field office directors, during Phase One of this program, began contacting officials at installations within each branch of the military and presented "Immigration 101 Seminars" to service members and families.

These seminars focus on immigration information important to service members and their families, such as the military help line, address changes, capture of biometrics, military naturalization, and naturalization of eligible spouses of military members.

Phase Two of this military outreach program requires FODs to coordinate with either regional points of contact or headquarters field operations naturalization branch POCs to ensure the availability of necessary resources.

ACS relocation liaisons to CIS at installations perform a number of valuable services such as multi-cultural outreach programs, English as a Second Language classes, and classes on the citizenship and residency application process.

Visit www.uscis.gov/military for more information.



Boldly go where we've gone before!

This week's movie masterpiece is "Star Trek." Obviously I loved this movie; it was great to see "Star Trek" come back to the big screen after such a long time.

Die-hard fans, don't be shy – this movie isn't just a "Star Trek" that's watered down so new people can be made into fans. Director J.J. Abrams does an amazing job at reimagining the very start of the series.

The part I like most about this movie is that instead of lining up an all-star cast of old actors, the producers went ahead and picked up a cast of new up-and-coming actors who deserved a shot at being the next generation of big names. Playing James T. Kirk (conqueror of alien women across the galaxy) was Chris Pine, whom I felt did an incredible job of dis-

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

playing the usual characteristics of the Captain of the USS Enterprise without going overboard. Zachary Quinto (Sylar from "Heroes") plays a young Spock and does an amazing job showing the conflicted Vulcan commander and working masterfully alongside Chris Pine.

John Cho ("Harold and Kumar") plays Hikaru Sulu, Zoe Saldana ("Vantage Point"), Karl Urban ("Pathfinder") and Simon Pegg ("Shaun of the Dead") round out the crew of the ship.

There were tons more people who lent their names to the cast, but you will just have to go watch and see.

The plot is great; it's hard to give too much info without ruining the movie, so I will go on to say that it's not your father's "Star Trek" anymore, but it still remains true to the series.

Amazing movie, fun for all ages. Although it may be a bit much for the younger crowd, it's still an overall fantastic voyage. Check it out, and see you all in the final frontier.

GET OUT!
area events

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

May 14

MES Drama Club – Head to the Mannheim Elementary School gym to see the Drama Club presentation of "The Little Mermaid" at 5 p.m.

May 15

Ansbach Fest – Head to the Ansbach Festplatz, Hofwiese through May 21 for carnival rides, a fest tent, numerous booths, live entertainment, and a variety of food and beverages. Opening hours for the spring fest are Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to midnight. Wednesday is family day, so most tickets for carnival rides are offered for half the original prices.

Art Exhibition – Meet and greet artist Milijenko Cubelic in the gallery of the Arts and Cultural Center in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg at 7 p.m. Cubelic's art will be on display through July 1. DSN 388-9418, www.mwrgermany.com.

May 16

Visit Luxembourg – The Luxembourg tour begins with a visit to the U.S. Military Cemetery where General Patton is buried, followed by a city tour where we will have a short windschild tour, and then a walking tour. Visit the ravine and the casemates, go inside the stunning cathedral, walk over Place Guillaume where the market is held, stop in front of the Ducal Palace and Parliament, march on to the Theater Square, and to the Place d'Armes. <http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern>.

[org/kaiserslautern](http://affiliates.usa.org/kaiserslautern).

Family Day at Heidelberg Zoo – The event's theme is "time for your family" and includes the youth fire department, teddy bear hospital and the Heidelberg sports club. In addition to zoo animal attractions, you can join in exciting actions, such as guinea pig races or magic shows – and you can also win prizes. "Zeitinseln" are available all over the zoo and invite you to a cozy rest. The entrance fee will be lowered for families.

May 17

Country Music Concert – See Jonalee White and Derek Sholl perform at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg starting at 8 p.m. White has had three singles on the Top 40 country charts, including her newest release "Wake Me." Texas-based crooner Sholl joins her for this free show hosted by Armed Forces Entertainment and FMWR Heidelberg.

May 19

"Big Fish" Author Visit – Army Europe Libraries is resuming its "Conversations" literary discussion series in May with author and illustrator Daniel Wallace, best known for his 1998 novel "Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions," the basis for Tim Burton's 2003 film "Big Fish." He will visit the Patrick Henry Village Library May 19 and the Landstuhl Library May 20. Wallace's writing workshops will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the day of each visit. After a short break at 6:30 p.m., a reading and discussion will begin at 7 p.m. DSN 370-6678, [civ.](http://www.mwrgermany.com)

06221-57-6678, www.library.eur.army.mil/conversations.

May 21

Memorial Day in Spain – Enjoy Memorial Day in beautiful Costa Brava with Kaiserslautern Army Outdoor Recreation through May 25. Trip includes transportation, three nights lodging and an optional day trip to Barcelona. DSN 493-4117, [civ. 0631-3406-4117](http://civ.0631-3406-4117), www.mwrgermany.com.

May 22

The Sound of Music – Enjoy this classic musical at the Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg May 22, 23, 29, 30 and June 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. and May 24 and June 7 and 14 at 3 p.m. There will also be a special performance for the Exceptional Family Member Program May 31 at 3 p.m. DSN 373-5020, [civ. 06221-17-5020](http://civ.06221-17-5020), www.roadsidetheater.com.

Comedy After Dark and After Party – Head to Mannheim's Top Hat Club at 9 p.m. to see Chicago native Marlon Mitchell, who is a six-season mainstay on BET's comedy showcase, "Comic View." Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. DSN 380-9370, [civ. 0621-730-9370](http://civ.0621-730-9370).

May 24

Ballet Performance – Heidelberg's SKIES Unlimited program presents Hans Christian Anderson's enchanting production "The Emperor and the Nightingale" at 7 p.m. Tickets on sale through May 21. www.mwrgermany.com.

coming to
THEATERS



MISS MARCH

(Molly Stanton, Holly Hindman) A young man awakens from a four-year coma to hear that his once virginal high-school sweetheart has since become a centerfold in one of the world's most famous men's magazines. He and his sex-crazed best friend decide to take a cross-country road trip in order to crash a party at the magazine's legendary mansion headquarters and win back the girl. Rated R (strong crude & sexual content, nudity, pervasive language, drug use) 91 minutes

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT

(Garret Dillahunt, Martha MacIsaac) The night she arrives at the remote Colingwood lakehouse, Mari and her friend are kidnapped by a prison escapee and his crew. Terrified and left for dead, Mari's only hope is to make it back to parents John and Emma. Unfortunately, her attackers unknowingly seek shelter at the one place she could be safe. And when her family learns the horrifying story, they will make three strangers curse the day they came to the Last House on the Left. Rated R (sadistic brutal violence including a rape and disturbing images, language, nudity, drug use) 110 minutes

PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

May 14 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 15 - MISS MARCH (R) 7 p.m.; STAR TREK (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
May 16 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 4 p.m., 7 p.m.; MISS MARCH (R) 9:30 p.m.
May 17 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 4 p.m., 7 p.m.
May 18 - WATCHMEN (R) 7 p.m.
May 19 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 20 - THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 7 p.m.
May 21 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Mannheim, Schuh

May 14 - MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 15 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 16 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 4 p.m.; MISS MARCH (R) 7 p.m.; THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 9:30 p.m.
May 17 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 4 p.m.; WATCHMEN (R) 7 p.m.
May 18 - MISS MARCH (R) 7 p.m.
May 19 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 20 - THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 7 p.m.
May 21 - MISS MARCH (R) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

May 14 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 15 - STAR TREK (PG-13) 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
May 16 - MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) 3 p.m.; STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
May 17 - MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) 3 p.m.; STAR TREK (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 18 - WATCHMEN (R) 7 p.m.
May 19 - THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 7 p.m.
May 20 - WATCHMEN (R) 7 p.m.
May 21 - MISS MARCH (R) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Hercules

May 15 - WATCHMEN (R) 7 p.m.
May 16 - THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 7 p.m.
May 17 - MISS MARCH (R) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Nightingale

May 14 - OBSESSED (PG-13) 7 p.m.
May 15 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
May 16 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
May 17 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
May 18 - THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 7 p.m.
May 19 - WATCHMEN (R) 7 p.m.
May 20 - MISS MARCH (R) 7 p.m.
May 21 - X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

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

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

community HIGHLIGHTS

Fuel Ration Card System Outage

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will have a scheduled system outage that will affect the Esso Ration Card System. There will be a complete outage 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 19 when customers will not be able to purchase fuel on post or at local Esso stations.

OCs Board

The next Officer Candidate School board for USAG Baden-Württemberg will be conducted June 26. Completed packets must be turned in to the Military Personnel Division on Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim no later than June 15. DSN 385-2774.

AAFES School Lunch Survey

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service School Lunch Survey is up and ready for use. As a part of the School Meal Program improvement planning, AAFES SMP Administration is conducting a satisfaction survey to gain important feedback on how its customers rate the nutrition services. The survey runs through May 15 and can be found at <http://odin.aafes.com/nutrition/08/index.html>.

Technology Exchange

The 5th Annual U.S. Army Europe IT Contracting and Technology Exchange will be held May 19-20 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. Learn about the latest in policy guidance on the Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions' designation as the Army's primary source for commercial information technology contracts. There will be special presentations, workshops and exhibitors showcasing the latest IT products and services available through CHES contract vehicles. DSN 370-3869, civ. 06221-57-3869, https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil/scp/usareur_aic/generalinfo.jsp.

local EMPLOYMENT

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 Lion's Den Teen Center for more information on the HIRED! Program. DSN 388-9396, civ. 06221-338-9396.

Financial Readiness Educator

Mannheim Army Community Service has an opening for a Financial Readiness Program educator. Solicitation number is W912PE-09-T-0135. To apply, https://acquisition.army.mil/asfi/solicitation_search_form.cfm. Solicitation will close at noon May 18. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101 or DSN 375-3371, civ. 0621-487-3371.

Emergency Placement Coordinator

Mannheim Army Community Service has an opening for an emergency placement coordinator. Interested candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, counseling or a related field. Solicitation number is W912PE-09-T-0114. To apply, https://acquisition.army.mil/asfi/solicitation_search_form.cfm. Solicitation will close at noon May 18. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-487-3380.

Aerobics Instructors

The Kaiserslautern Sports and Fitness centers are looking for aerobics instructors. DSN 493-2086.

KAISERSLAUTERN Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203, www.mwrgermany.com/kl/acs.
 • **Microsoft Publisher** – Learn the basics of Microsoft Publisher and make Father's Day cards to take home at 11 a.m. May 19 at the Landstuhl Library. DSN 486-7322.
 • **CSB Briefing** – The Kaiserslautern Transition Center hosts a briefing on Career Status Bonus May 20 in Bldg. 3245 on Kleber Kaserne. This class is for Soldiers who reach the 15-year mark and are eligible for a \$30,000 bonus. Registration: DSN 483-7071.
 • **POSH Training** – The Equal Opportunity Office hosts Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training 9 a.m. May 21 in the Learning Center, Bldg. 3718 on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. DSN 493-4277.
Community

• **Indoor Flea Market** – The market is 8 a.m.-2 p.m. May 16 at the Special Events Center on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. Reservations: DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.
 • **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** – Army Community Service hosts the 2009 ceremony at 6 p.m. May 21 at the Armstrong Community Club on Vogelweh Housing. DSN 493-4062, civ. 0631-3406-4062.
 • **American Legion Meeting** – Post GR01 will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m. May 21 at Bldg. 368 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. DSN 486-7516, www.ktownamericanlegion.org.

• **Friday Family Fun Night** – Enjoy family games 5:30-8 p.m. May 22 at the Landstuhl Library. DSN 486-7322, www.mwrgermany.com.
 • **Midnight Bingo** – Kazabra Club brings you Midnight Bingo starting at 9 p.m. May 24. Doors open at 7 p.m. Free food and soft drinks. DSN 489-7261, www.mwrgermany.com.

• **Independent and Foreign Films** – Kaiserslautern Libraries present independent and foreign films at Heaton Auditorium. All showings begin at 6 p.m. and are free. May 27: The Pope's Toilet, by Charlene and Fernandez – Spanish with English subtitles. www.mwrgermany.com.
 • **It's Bunco Time** – May 28, 6-10 p.m. The Landstuhl Community Club will host an indulgent evening of free Bunco fun. No experience necessary to play. Win gift cards and other great prizes. DSN 486-7244, www.mwrgermany.com.

• **Single Soldier Day** – Better Opportunities for Single Service members hosts a Single Soldier Appreciation Day 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 29 at Pulaski Park on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4344, civ. 0631-3406-4344.

HEIDELBERG Education

• **ACS Classes and Events** – Community Orientation Briefing, noon-3

p.m. May 18; Rear Detachment Commander Training, 1-4 p.m. May 18; Reintegration Briefing, 9 a.m. May 19; Sponsorship Assistance Training, 2-3:30 p.m. May 18; Nurturing Parenting classes begin May 20; Cookbook Management, 9-11:30 a.m. May 21; Bringing Baby Home, 1-4 p.m. May 21. DSN 370-6883, www.mwrgermany.com/hd/acs.
 • **Red Cross Classes** – Standard First Aid with CPR for children and adults and AED training, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. May 16 and 30. Shopping Center Bldg. 3850, room 172. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.
 • **FAST Class** – The Army Education Center on Patton Barracks will conduct Functional Academic Skills Training classes 8 a.m.-noon May 28-June 19. Class will meet at the Education Center, Bldg. 106, room 116. TABE test is required to get a seat. DSN 373-6176.

• **Central Texas College** – Register May 18-29 for Term V classes – Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation, Emergent Literacy for Early Childhood, Garde Manager, and Purchasing for Hospitality Industry. Classes run June 8-Aug. 6. DSN 373-8660, www.europe.ctcd.edu.

Community

• **HHS PTSO** – Heidelberg High School PTSO will hold a general membership meeting at 6 p.m. May 19 in the cafeteria before the Spring Concert. Whether you are a member or not, Polish pottery opportunities will be available and sandwiches and drinks for sale along with baked goods (donated).

• **Memorial Service** – A service for Helga Nielsen, a former U.S. Army local national employee, and burial of the urn in its final resting place, will be held at 2 p.m. May 20 at the cemetery Bergfriedhof in Heidelberg.

• **Army Emergency Relief** – The deadline for the AER Campaign in Heidelberg has been extended to June 1. Donations help AER in fulfilling its mission of providing emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. DSN 370-8238, www.aerhq.org.

• **Basket Bingo Night** – The HHC, 18th Engineer Brigade's Family Readiness Group is hosting Basket Bingo Night at the Heidelberg Middle School Multi-Purpose Room May 16. Food will be served at 6 p.m., and the first game begins at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 a card or \$5 for \$20 to win an iPod and themed basket prizes.

• **Heidelberg International Wandering Club** – Upcoming Volksmarches: Odenheim, Lichtenau, May 16-17. Sign up for trips to London and Belgium. hiwc@yahoo.com, www.hiwc.de.

• **KONTAKT Club** – Bowling at PHV, noon May 17, 24 and 31; Stammtisch at Makedonia, 6 p.m. May 19 and 26; Krämer u. Fohlenmarkt Sinshem,

May 23; Lunch at Yang-Yang in Schwetzingen, noon May 25; Stadtfest in Mannheim, 11 a.m. May 30. Civ. 0170-537-8380, annemarie.fritz@t-online.de.

Asian Pacific American

• **Heritage Month** – Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, noon-2 p.m. May 16 at the Community Support Center. This year's theme is "Leadership to meet the challenges of a changing world." Join in for entertainment, music, food, dancing and more. DSN 373-7955, civ. 06221-17-7955.

• **Real World Workshops** – Workforce Preparation, Making the Most of Your Summer Job and PCS – Positive Change of School are featured workshops at CYS Services Real World transition workshops for youth seventh-12th grade and parents, 4-6 p.m. May 17 at Heidelberg Middle School. DSN 388-9377, barbara.abeje@eur.army.mil.

Campbell Fitness Center

• **Closure** – The fitness center on Campbell Barracks will close from 1 p.m. May 21 until 5:30 a.m. May 26 for installation of new water lines inside the building. While the gym is closed over the Memorial Day holiday, patrons will still be able to use the fitness center on Patton Barracks, which will be open regular hours May 21-22 and extend its hours May 23-25 to 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

• **Community Yard Sale** – Set up shop in front of your quarters or in the park behind PHV Library for the Heidelberg Community Yard Sale 8 a.m.-2 p.m. June 6. Rental tables and canopies are available from Outdoor Recreation. Open to U.S. ID card holders only. Personal items only, no retailers allowed. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

• **Concessionaire Wanted** – Operate a restaurant with a bar at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club in Otfersheim. The concessionaire shall provide limited dinner snacks, sandwiches, finger food and bar services. To receive a solicitation package: Civ. 0631-411-7050, claudia.fink4@us.army.mil by May 19.

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

MANNHEIM Education

• **ACS Classes** – Resume Writing, 10-11 a.m. May 15 and 19; English as a Second Language, 9-11 a.m. May 15, 18 and 22 and 6-7:30 p.m. May 19 and 21; School-Age Parenting,

9-10 a.m. May 19; Account and Budget Management, 9-11:30 a.m. May 19; FRG Key Caller and POC Training, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m. May 19; Levy and Outprocessing, 1-2:45 p.m. May 19; Hearts Apart, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. May 20; Sponsorship Training for Leaders, 3-4 p.m. May 20; Healthy Relationships, 2-4 p.m. May 21; Organization POCVMIS Training, 3-4 p.m. May 21; Stress Management, Anger Management and Communication Class, by appointment. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.

• **German Language Class** – The USO offers a beginner German class June 4-July 23. Cost is €50, and the class meets 5-6:30 p.m. Thursdays. DSN 385-2082.

Community

• **New MOUT Site** – A new urban training facility is set to open at the local training area in Mannheim-Lampertheim to help prepare Soldiers for possible deployment missions. The grand opening is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. May 19 and will include a ribbon-cutting followed by a live demonstration.

• **Summer Camp Registration** – SAS Summer Camp enrollment begins May 18 at CER, building 255, room 106. Camp is June 15-Aug. 28 and is for children 6-11 years old.

• **MES Spring Fest** – Head to Mannheim Middle School 6 p.m. May 19 for a spring fest featuring skits, songs, dances, jazz band and beginning and advanced bands. Various departments will display work from students. Refreshments provided. DSN 380-4739.

• **FRG/Unit Night** – Child, Youth and School Services FRG/Unit Night will be held 5:30-8:30 p.m. May 21. This program offers free child care for families attending a FRG or deployment-related meeting. Reservations: DSN 385-2750, civ. 0621-730-2353.

• **Free Barbecue** – The USO is hosting a free barbecue at the Cove on Sullivan Barracks starting at 11 a.m. June 6. There will be live music, free beverages, an electric bull, bouncy castle, beach volleyball, and many more offers for each age group.

• **Sullivan Library** – Scrapbook Club, noon-3 p.m. May 16; Free Film Screening "Eldorado", 4-5:30 p.m. May 16; Anime Club, 4-5:30 p.m. May 20; 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** – Dragon Fly Quest, 4-5 p.m. May 15; Youth Action Council, 5-6 p.m. May 15; Image Makers, 4-5 p.m. May 21; Youth Sponsorship, 5-6 p.m. May 22. DSN 380-4864, civ. 0621-730-9997.

Pope anchors Lions pitching staff

HHS Baseball Coaching Staff

It's the fastball that usually gets the third strike, but it's that nasty curveball that has batters shaking their heads.

Heidelberg's Jamal Pope anchors a pitching staff that is anything but decided. The only thing that is decided is that Pope is the ace.

Heading into the last weekend of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe high school baseball season, the Lions have tapped Pope to pitch in the first game of each of the season's schedule of doubleheaders.

Pope has 23 strikeouts in five outings, to include 10 strikeouts against Mannheim two weekends ago.

But heading into a weekend that sees the Lions travel to play doubleheaders on Friday against Bamberg and Saturday against Vilseck, figuring out when to use Pope is tricky. Pitching rules limit the number of innings a player can pitch, so Pope may not be the first pitcher on the mound against Bamberg.

Throughout the season thus far, Pope has cut through the competition: Ansbach, Hohenfels, Mannheim, Patch. He also pitched well in a scrimmage game against Ramstein, only to have the defense collapse and batters struggle to produce hits, let alone runs.

Game one? No problem: throw Pope. It's when the Lions get to game two that pitching gets dicey. Do you go with Ben Jackson, a tall, lanky senior with a fastball and curve who delivers from over the top, but brings the pitch from a side-arm delivery when he struggles to find the strike zone? And while he has shined, he has also struggled.

Then there's Zack Smith, Jake Moak, Ben McGee, Jimmy Montfleury, Stefan Steen and Chris Williams, who have all seen mound time. Only Williams and Steen have pitched notable stretches with success, to include Williams picking up a complete game and win against Patch.

Heading into a weekend two-day, four-game schedule, the Lions will face pitching decisions similar to strategy the European championship may require.

So it's back to Pope. Heidelberg's European baseball championship hope. "There's no mystery who our ace is. It's Jamal Pope," said Lions baseball coach Tom Leugers. "From week one, day one of this season, we have been talking about the big showdown between Jamal and Justin Phelps from Patch. Phelps has been highly touted and had gotten lot of ink in 'Stars and Stripes.' We knew Jamal was

very capable of matching up to any of Europe's top pitchers. He did that against Patch."

In addition to his outstanding pitching, Pope delivered the game-winning double that drove in two runs to give the Lions a comeback win 9-8 Saturday against Patch.

The Lions overcame a 7-0 deficit in the opener and got a complete-game performance from Chris Williams in the nightcap to sweep the Panthers and improve to 7-1 on the season.

Pope squared off against highly-touted Patch lefty Phelps. After battling through six innings with Phelps holding an 8-7, Pope stroked a last-inning, walk-off, two-run double to cap the comeback.

According to Leugers, Pope got additional batting help in game one from Justin Patrick and Jimmy Montfleury, each of whom was 3-for-3. Patch's Phelps was 3-for-4 as was his teammate, C.J. Kellog.

In the nightcap, Heidelberg's Tommy Saunders was 2-for-3 for the second straight game and teammate Stefan Steen went 2-for-2 and stole 3 bases, Leugers reported.

Pope, a junior, is a solid, 6-foot-3-inch righty with an easy-going attitude. He mingles with everyone on the team. Despite being the ace, there's no arrogance in his attitude.

"He is very poised and very contained," said Berry Patrick, assistant Lions coach, who also oversees pitchers and catchers. "Jamal comes to play every day, and he does what he does quietly. He doesn't make a lot of noise; he doesn't have an inflated ego ... He's a good kid and a very good pitcher."

While the coaches are complimentary of Pope's achievements so far this season, they also feel the rest of the pitching staff will be ready for the high school European championship May 22-26.

"It's very easy to look at what Jamal has done and lose sight of the fact that some of our other pitchers have done pretty darn good," Patrick said. "Ben Jackson has thrown several solid games but had problems against Mannheim. We can work that. He is an experienced senior and knows what he needs to do to make the adjustments on the mound ... With Chris Williams throwing very well against Patch, we are confident in our three-pitcher rotation and have other kids that will get better over the next few weeks that will contribute down the stretch. We'll keep working ... to ensure we've got the pitching depth needed for the championships."

American shooters compete in Black Forest

Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club

At the Deutsche Jagdschutz Verband Regional Hunters Competition Shoot May 3 at shooting stand "Jaegerloch" near Freudenstadt in the heart of the Black Forest, several hunters from the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club participated and gave it their best shot.

Rifle shooting disciplines included both stationary and moving targets at 100 and 50 meters, as well as shooting trap and skeet with shotgun and pistol events.

In the Novice Class, Mike Sinema shot very well for his first shoot, coming up four points short of earning Bronze. "I should have hit a couple more birds, but I really enjoyed the shoot," Sinema said.

In the Bronze Class, Tom Winkel had a great shoot, taking first place

with a score of 276 and moving up to the Silver Class. "This year I paid attention and lined up on each station where the birds were coming from," placing him in much better shooting position, Winkel said.

In the Large Gold Class, Dom Knoll nailed trap and skeet being honored as Top Shotgun Shooter, as well as taking second place in his class.

The Heidelberg Team, consisting of Mathias Münch, Heinrich Vierling, Knoll, Gerry Clayton and Morgan Skinner all shot well taking the silver medal in the handgun shooting event.

It was a bitter-sweet day for Skinner, a solid silver shooter who was hoping to place in the Gold Class for his last shoot in Germany before moving to Fort Riley, Kan. Unfortunately he came up short on points.

"I am going to sorely miss all the great shoots and camaraderie I've enjoyed with the shooters over the last several years," Skinner said.

During the ceremony, DJV representatives presented pins and certificates to the shooters, who then selected and took home some very nice prizes. Beautiful weather, good nature, and the camaraderie shared by the shooters made for a great day.

Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club hunters continue to hone their shooting skills as competition heats up in selecting the American Forces Team of the top six shooters to attend the DJV Bundesmeisterschaft (German Nationals) to be held later this year.

For more information on the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club, visit www.mwrgermany.com/HD/rod_gun/rod_gun.htm.

staying ACTIVE

Tennis Tournaments

The Heidelberg Men's and Women's Memorial Day Tournament will be conducted May 16-17. Entry fee per player is \$20. DSN 388-9037, civ. 0176-2456-8225. The Spring Open Junior (ages 6-18) boys and girls clay court tournament will be hosted May 30. Entry deadline is May 29 at 6 p.m. Several age categories will be established for the youth event. www.mwrgermany.com.

All-Stars/Masters Championships

BFV Bowling Center in Mannheim invites all qualified members of local associations chartered through USBC to participate in this state-level tournament May 22-25. Bowling competition will be handicap with a separate division for scratch bowlers. Cash prizes available depending on the number of participants. Sign-up through May 15. Entries accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. DSN 380-9528, civ. 0621-730-9528, colleen.gardner@eur.army.mil.

Golf Tournament

The annual Kaiserslautern American German Business Club Charity Golf Tournament will be held May 29 at the Championship Course of the Ramstein Air Base. The proceeds from this event fund the AGBC Scholarship for German and American students who are pursuing business-related courses on the university level. The event will be a "Scramble" (Best Ball) format and will feature a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Deadline for application and payment of fees: May 15. kaiserslautern@agbc.de.

Youth Track and Field

Sign up through May 29 to get involved with track and field in Kaiserslautern. Events available include long jump, shot put, discus, relays and various track distances. DSN 493-4122, civ. 0631-3406-4122, www.mwrgermany.com.

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.mwrgermany.com.

Youth Dance Classes

Mannheim SKIES Unlimited Program is now offering creative movement, ballet, jazz dance and tap dance classes. All classes meet once a week with a cost of \$35 per month. All children must be registered with the Mannheim CYSS. DSN 380-9290, darren.brown3@us.army.mil.

Baseball Players Wanted

The Worms Cannibals are looking for players of all ages and skill levels in the hope of registering new teams for the coming seasons. Those interested are invited to a practice any time. Practices are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. on the Bürgerweide in the Worms Naherholungsgebiet. Civ. 0151-1108-7096, www.worms-cannibals.de.