

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
April 7, 2011

Speed Read

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Officials have announced priority registration for all U.S. servicemembers who have run in at least seven Ten-Miler races. **17**

Defense Details

USS REAGAN IN JAPAN

Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa Tuesday boarded the USS Ronald Reagan to thank U.S. servicemembers for their help since a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and the tsunami it caused struck Japan on March 11. The work of U.S. servicemembers and other Americans is a testament to the half century of *tomodachi* – friendship – between the United States and Japan, Kitazawa said as he shared a statement from Prime Minister Naoto Kan. The USS Ronald Reagan responded immediately after the disaster, and its sailors continue their humanitarian mission in Japan.

www.defense.gov

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Community ushers in month for children

By **Dijon Rolle**
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Residents of Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg were greeted by an early morning procession full of loud and excited megaphone wielding youngsters, some of whom were on foot while others happily rode along in strollers driven by equally excited adults.

The proud procession of children, parents, community members and child care providers marched from the Patrick Henry Village Child Development Center to the elementary school to celebrate the start of the Month of the Military Child Friday.

The annual kick-off was sponsored by Army Community Service, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and Child, Youth and School Services.

In the crowd, Sgt. Noelle Myers and her husband William Ingram, kept pace with their 5-year-old daughter Joelle.

"We didn't get to come out last year together and support Joelle during the walk, so we definitely wanted to make it this year," Myers



Children from the Patrick Henry Village Child Development Center use tiny megaphones to show their spirit during the Month of the Military Child kick-off walk on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg Friday.

said. "We need to have celebrations like this to make it about them because our children are serving with us and they support us every day."

Ingram added "We want to do whatever we can do today to make our children stronger in the long run."

Once the group arrived at the elementary school, everyone was ushered into the gym where guests circled up to participate in a spirited round of the "Hokey Pokey" dance to break the ice before U.S. Army Garrison Baden-see **CHILDREN** page 12



Sandy Hill, chief of USAG Baden-Württemberg Child, Youth and School Services, USAG BW commander Col. Bill Butcher, Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber and Stephanie Morales, Parent Central Services director lead the walk on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg to kick off the Month of the Military Child Friday.

Mannheim teachers to move to Heidelberg

Faculty looks forward to seeing Mannheim students next year

By **Donna Walker**
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Not since 1956 have students from Mannheim taken the bus to attend school at Heidelberg. Come August,

however, nearly 200 students will travel the 20 kilometers to Heidelberg High School once again when Mannheim High School closes its doors after 55 years.

However, it won't be only students making the transition. Seven Mannheim teachers will take their places among the faculty in Heidelberg.

"It's a big move for all of us," said freshman student Chance Bullard. "This is where (we've) felt comfortable. Some are okay with it and some are dis-

appointed because they have to leave Mannheim."

When news of the closure came last summer, all jobs at Mannheim High School and some middle school positions went away, according to HHS Principal K.J. Brewer. "They (the teachers) were eligible to request reassignment in the district or worldwide."

Seven of the teachers were placed in vacant positions at Heidelberg. They look forward to the change but, like see **TEACHERS** page 12

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Know the difference between 110 and 220-volt plugs

Patton Law Center

Power surges happen when electrical storms or sudden power interruptions occur. Accidentally plugging 110-volt appliances into 220-volt outlets has the same result.

It damages or destroys sensitive electronic equipment. Such losses aren't typically payable under the Personnel Claims Act.

Claims could be paid if a qualified repair technician states that lightning actually struck the claim-

Patton Law Center

To learn more, visit the Patton Law Center, Bldg. 107, on Patton Barracks 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 1:30-4 p.m. Thursday (closed the first Thursday of the month). DSN 373-5263, civ. 06221-17-5263.

ant's residence or objects outside it, such as the transformer box, or when the power company records a particular residence or group of residences were subjected to an unusually intense power surge.

When using a 110-volt outlet or a transformer, exercise caution and make sure you have sufficient personal property insurance to cover losses.

Using surge protectors, available from The Exchange or any other local electronics store, safeguards electronic devices. Reputable manufacturers often give a warranty against damage to property that occurs while one of their surge protectors is in use. Always check the voltage of an electrical device, the voltage of the power socket and the polarity of the outlet before plugging in the device.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

Regarding the article in the March 31 Herald Post, "Helicopters Move By Land" – since when is it good OPSEC (operational security) to have detailed descriptions of the planned movements of aviation assets?

This article seemed to me like a cordial invitation for attack or sabotage.

Capt. Paul J. Froehlich
Chief, Heidelberg Medical
Department Activity Physical
Therapy

Capt. Froehlich,

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Please be assured that the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg constantly evaluates and assesses its security posture; and we

also pay due attention to valuable aviation assets when they move through our footprint.

Our evaluation on this issue resulted in the conclusion that it made good sense to release a limited amount of information.

We released information about the day of transport, the roads affected and the type of load to a limited audience.

Select German print media in the Mannheim and Heidelberg areas received the news as well as the Herald Post.

We also limited the time frame, i.e., we released to German media and to the Herald-Post on Tuesday

afternoon.

The Herald Post is published on Thursdays, the day before the helicopter transport took place.

We are required to notify German officials and the (predominantly) German public when we foreseeably cause a traffic hazard in the form of a slow moving convoy on a heavily traveled public road such as B44.

We thank you for your inquiry and we hope all U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg members remain as vigilant on matters of operational security.

Thomas Heiss
U.S. Army Garrison
Baden-Württemberg
Public Affairs Specialist



VIDEO BLOGS



This Week's Focus:

Force Protection

Use your smart phone to connect directly to the video with the above quick response code.

www.youtube.com/BWnow



www.facebook.com/BWnow
<http://myBWnow.ning.com>

DISCUSSION BOARD

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

"I just had some people ringing on my door (inside the building already) trying to 'sell' me their religion. Is this allowed on post? And who lets them on? (two older ladies, I doubt they are family members)

– Bettina Corter, BWnow Facebook fan

"... Only authorized vendors that have been cleared/

authorized to be on the installation can sell their merchandise to service members and their families.

... No one is cleared to sell anything door to door in the community ..."

– BWnow Administrator

"You should have called the MPs right away. If they were not family members then somebody signed them in and they should have been escorted by that

person."

Daniela Rode, BWnow Facebook fan

"Residents should also ensure that the front door to the building is not left open allowing anyone to enter the building ... Buildings are to be locked at all times, thus allowing only entry for those residents that live there and have keys to the building."

– BWnow Administrator



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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.

Volunteer ceremonies thank those who give

By K.R. Pinkston
USAG MANNHEIM MEMBER

Every year during the National Volunteer Week in April, the military communities recognize volunteers for their contributions. For the Mannheim community, this year's volunteer recognition may mark the end of annual volunteer ceremonies in Mannheim, but it doesn't mark the end of volunteering.

"The truth is that very many organizations on any post could just not function without volunteers," said Lynda Pontious, Army Volunteer Corps coordinator at Mannheim Army Community Service.

"Think about the chapels, the American Red Cross, the schools or the USO. Then think about the coaches who volunteer so that our youth can do sports, the leaders who make it possible for our kids be girl scouts or boy scouts. Think about the blood drives at the clinic. We wouldn't even have programs like that without people willing to step up and volunteer. It is a great honor to recognize these selfless members of our community," Pontious said.

Volunteers have been officially recognized in the Army since Army Community Service was established in 1965. However, it was not until 1982 that an Army Family Action Plan issue brought forth the idea of establishing a central point of contact for volunteers. In 2005, today's Army Volunteer Corps replaced the Installation Volunteer Coordinator system. One of the duties of the volunteer coordinator is the placing of volunteers in organizations or areas to match the volunteers interests or skills.

"After I finished my schooling, I wanted to use my skills and knowledge. I also wanted to spend my time in a constructive way," said Jiyoung Jeong, who volunteers every day at ACS. "I just love to get involved in the community where I live, and I also like that I can help others through volunteering," Jeong said.

While volunteering is a full-time job for many, others prefer to work out their own schedule as time permits. Many volunteers want to use their talents, improve their skills or add experience to their resumes, while others want to meet new people or try out something new.

"No person volunteers for the exact same reasons," Pontious said. "I volunteered while my kids were at school just to get out of the house during the day. Little did I know that this experience would land me a job with the government years later."

Regardless of the reasons for volunteering, the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities currently boast a total of 3,270 registered volunteers who contribute their time, talents and efforts on a regular basis.

For some people volunteering becomes part of their life.

"I started volunteering in 1984 with the Special Olympics in Gulfport, Miss., and now I am still volunteering throughout the community," said Mimi Harvill, a military spouse.

While volunteers do not receive money for their work, they are reward in ways that cannot be measured in dollars.

"Volunteering is like sharing; when you share troubles, they are halved; when you share joys, they are doubled. It is a very happy experience," Harvill added.

Marksman



1st Lt. Michael Johnson

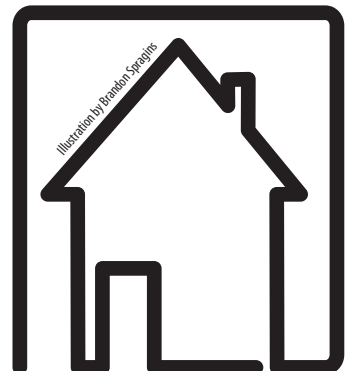
Sgt. Jasmine Cheatham, a team leader assigned to 2nd Platoon, 902nd Engineer Company, 15th Engineer Battalion, executes a dry fire drill during a class in close quarters marksmanship techniques March 19 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The training is designed to instill confidence in a Soldier's individual marksmanship skills, as well as the skills of their teammates, in close-range engagements, which requires the use of less traditional firing stances and adaptive body positioning. The 15th Engineer Company falls under the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 18th Engineer Brigade based in Schwetzingen.

Allowances get set

Staff Report

Soldiers who fill out the Overseas Housing Allowance Utility/Recurring Maintenance Survey provide the data the Department of Defense needs to help determine how much money they will get to pay for off-post utilities and maintenance costs in Germany.

There is still time for eligible servicemembers stationed overseas to participate in the survey. The survey continues through April 15. The direct link to the survey is <https://www.defense-travel.dod.mil/ss/wsb.dll/s/eg4a>.



ACB

Heidelberg Volunteer Recognition
April 28
6-8:30 p.m.
Village Pavilion,
Patrick Henry Village

A Community of HEROES
Celebrating People in Action

Mannheim Volunteer Recognition
April 29
6-8 p.m.
Bldg. 725
Benjamin Franklin Village

Kaiserslautern
May 20, 6-9:30 p.m., Armstrong's on Vogelweh Housing

BW now

transformation UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions

Have a transformation-related question you'd like answered? E-mail usaghd.post@eur.army.mil. We'll find the answer for you and share it in the Herald Post and on the garrison's transformation Web page at www.bw.eur.army.mil/transformation.

How is Wiesbaden preparing to accept the additional people?

Wiesbaden has a lot of construction ongoing including a large facility that will be a 1,200 work station operational facility called the Command Battle Center to host all of the headquarters elements. It is scheduled to be completed in March of next year and ready for occupancy in the summer of 2012. Renovations of existing facilities have taken place over the past three years and most of the military intelligence and signal units have moved into them. Some additional renovation of facilities are ongoing for the anticipated arrival of USAREUR and V Corps elements. In the design phase are two more facilities, one for intelligence and one for signal. Those facilities start construction later this year if funded by the U.S. Congress. For more information about Wiesbaden construction, see <http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/hunion/Archive/WebAug2709/Transformation.htm>.

Is there enough base housing in Wiesbaden?

Wiesbaden has projects ongoing that are quality of life improvements that were due at this time regardless of who was going to be there. A family entertainment bowling center has been completed and a new Army lodging facility has opened. There have been numerous housing renovation projects and a new 326 dwelling unit housing area that's being built on the southern edge of the airfield. The coming year will see the start of a new Exchange and complex.

There are individuals who are not receiving LQA currently. If they move to Wiesbaden, will they now be eligible for LQA, based on the management-directed reassignment?

Management directed reassignments have certain components associated with them. Regarding Living Quarters Allowance, no determination has been made but it is being considered as plans to inactivate move forward. Once more is known about LQA for management-directed moves, we will get the information out in the Herald Post and on our Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/bwnow>) and Bknow websites (<http://mybwnow.ning.com>).

I just got hired for a new position in Heidelberg. I'm currently living in Kaiserslautern. The cost of living in Heidelberg is considerably higher than in Kaiserslautern and I'm led to believe that this is largely associated with LQA that is provided to some people. When people move from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden, I'm sure rents in that area will increase considerably once the local renters know that the government is paying the rent for the employees. I'm wondering if they consider giving even a half LQA to those of us that don't receive it and that have to move to higher rent areas?

It's true that Wiesbaden is a considerably higher rent district for housing.

While there are no regulatory provisions for granting pro-rated Living Quarters Allowance at the present time, individuals need to take this through the chain of command and make sure your concerns are understood. Garrison and housing officials are working together to make sure appropriate controls are in place to ensure Americans are treated equally as far as rent payments go.

How will the relocation affect the five-year rotation, if the employees are willing to move to Wiesbaden? Will they be required to enroll in PPP, utilize their return rights, or will they be allowed to extend? If they're allowed to extend, how long will they be allowed to extend?

Individuals who have reached the end of their five-year terms normally enter the Priority Placement Program or exercise their return rights, if any, unless for some reason an extension is granted to the five-year period. Extensions are a management decision. The length of an extension is also normally a management decision. In relation to transformation, management will look at individual situations closely to determine the best course of action. Individuals need to talk to their supervisors to ensure they understand each individual case.

With all the personnel moving to Wiesbaden, is there any plan to either expand the medical clinic there or to build a new one? Many of the patients from there who come to Heidelberg complain the Wiesbaden clinic is much too small and access to care for civilians is limited.

The Wiesbaden medical facilities are being reviewed to determine how to best support the projected increase in population. Efforts are underway to increase the number of exam rooms to improve efficiency for primary care, but the number of Primary Care Managers also drives capacity. The clinic encourages family members to see their assigned Primary Care Managers for optimum quality of care, but sometimes patients cannot see their PCMs on the date or time they wish. The priority of effort goes to active duty and active duty family members but civilians and retirees not enrolled to a PCM always have the option of using the space available option.

For Soldiers currently authorized to live in off post housing – will this still be authorized when we move to the Wiesbaden area or will they be forced back into military housing?

Housing assignments generally follow the USAREUR housing policy which states enlisted service members E-6 and below must live on post and E-7 and above may choose to live off post. Housing appointments for incoming personnel assigned to USAG BW are now handled at the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850 on the Shopping Center Kaserne in Heidelberg.

Facilities Operations Changes

Herald Post – The Herald Post will now be delivered to Sembach Kaserne. Drop-off locations are the shoppette, commissary and gas station.

Exiting Mannheim – The exit gate at Friendship Circle on Benjamin

Franklin Village in Mannheim has changed hours for traffic leaving the installation. The gate opens for exiting traffic and pedestrians (exiting and entering) at 6 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m.

Mannheim Customs Field Office – The Customs office in Mannheim is now located in Bldg. 256 (the Military Police station).

Mannheim Army Community Service – Army Community Services will move from Bldg. 255 into Bldg. 246 May 16. The ACS Lending Closet services will relocate from Bldg. 250 into Bldg. 246 April 18.

One number, two communities – The 24-hour sexual assault and domestic violence hotline is now valid for Mannheim and Heidelberg. The Mannheim-specific number is no longer valid. The hotline for both communities is civ. 0170-609-2862.

Parent Central Services – Mannheim's Parent Central Services and Family Child Care have relocated to the Youth Services Bldg. 696 with new hours: 8-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Phone numbers remain the same: DSN 380-9135, civ. 0621-730-9132.

Tompkins Launderette – The launderette on Tompkins Barracks is closed due to low usage. Many Soldiers have washers and dryers available in their barracks and a large launderette is located on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg in Bldg. 4517, across from the Teen Center.

AAFES Gas Station – The gas station in Mannheim on Benjamin Franklin Village South will change its operating hours June 1. New hours will be 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Sundays.

Popeyes and Taco Bell – Beginning July 1, Popeyes and Taco Bell on Benjamin Franklin Village South in Mannheim will be closed Mondays.

Coleman Shoppette – The shoppette on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim has expanded its hours to 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday and U.S. holidays.

Mark Twain Village Shoppette – The shoppette on Mark Twain Village in Heidelberg will close June 3. The Campbell Barracks shoppette will expand its hours to include weekends – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays – to support the Soldiers and family members who live on MTV.

Burger King – Burger King on the Shopping Center in Heidelberg will close May 30. As the community of Heidelberg enters its next phase of transformation, AAFES has the responsibility to minimize operational losses.

Subway – The Subway restaurant on Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim will close May 20 and reopen on the Shopping Center in Heidelberg June 13.

Logistics functions transfer to Materiel Command

Field Support assumes oversight of directorate

By Jennifer L. King
405TH AFSB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 405th Army Field Support Brigade, partnered with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, accepted command and control of Directorate of Logistics missions in the European theater from the Installation Management

Command Europe Friday. "This transfer of DOL functions in theater greatly increases our mission and capabilities," said 405th AFSB Commander Col. Ronald Green.

"With the new mission, we now oversee a number of DOL operations, including food service, household goods operations and a myriad of other functions," Green said.

The transfer of the DOL mission is in support of the DOL enterprise transforma-

tion, which is designed to align logistical support with core competencies, thereby increasing quality and efficiency and standardizing performance.

"As the headquarters for the U.S. Army Materiel Command in Europe, we focus on logistical services," Green said. "This will allow installation commanders to focus on their core competencies of managing installations and allow us to provide the expertise for which we are known."

Green said that there are multiple benefits to the transfer, including standardizing processes, improving contract management and enhancing the quality and the visibility of DOL services.

"As the single logistics integrator in theater, we have the flexibility to support surge requirements, manage the workload across all maintenance and supply activities, create efficiencies by centralizing logistics oversight and disseminate quality standards and best practices

throughout the materiel enterprise," he said.

The transfer of the DOL missions to the 405th AFSB is intended to be seamless to ensure customers throughout the theater are not impacted.

"I anticipate the transfer of functions to go smoothly as we are well prepared for this mission," Green said. "I am confident that that we will continue to provide the same high level of service to the warfighters and their families that IMCOM-Europe has always provided."

Drone photographs Heidelberg areas

Staff report

Heidelberg residents and employees may see a small aerial drone buzzing overhead some time between April 13 and 16 depending on weather and wind conditions.

The city of Heidelberg will fly a photographic drone over a geographic area that encompasses small portions of Patton Barracks, the Shopping Center and the Directorate of Public Works Compound along with adjacent German land areas.

The purpose is to document the progress of the Bahnstadt, an urban renewal project of the city of Heidelberg in these areas.

"The drone itself is quite small and consists of a powered device about the size of a shopping cart suspended from a hang glider type parabolic wing equipped with a 'look down' 35 mm

camera," said David Simpson, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg emergency manager.

Simpson has been working with the city's surveying department to ensure security concerns are considered.

The drone will be operated by three persons on the ground from an area about 200 meters southwest of the Community Support Center.

This drone is attached to a paraglider. Pilots on the ground will control it with a remote and it can be guided via GPS data.

The drone will be flying about 150 meters above the designated areas of interest.

Weather conditions must be optimal which makes an exact planning date difficult to schedule.

German police will escort the operators. The flight is estimated to last about an hour.

Faces of the community: Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers



Donna Walker

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg BOSS President Spc. William Perkins explains to Soldiers of the German Bundeswehr how to get involved with activities provided by BOSS, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers. BOSS focuses on active duty single Soldiers, but its activities, which align with the three pillars of the BOSS program – community service, recreation and leisure and quality of life, are open to all. The group meets every first and third Wednesday in Bldg. 104 on Patton Barracks (next to the Warrior Zone). DSN 373-5275, civ. 06221-17-5274.

Army, Air Force firefighters train to save lives

By Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett
2151 TSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The firefighters of the 23rd Ordnance Company conducted aircraft burn training with the 886th Civil Engineer Squadron for the 21st Theater Sustainment Commander Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston at Ramstein Air Base recently in Kaiserslautern.

"I think it takes a special person to run into the fire when everyone else is running out," said Pfc. Michael Hamilton, a firefighter with the 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Upon entering the military, Army firefighters attend 13 weeks of Advanced Individual Training in which they learn first aid procedures, rescue procedures and firefighting equipment operation. In addition, the Soldiers rotate monthly from Grafenwöhr to Ramstein to train to become more proficient in their field.

"With the training, I feel like I can save lives," said Spc. Stephen Virgil, a



Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett

Soldiers from the 23rd Ordnance Company extinguish a fire during aircraft burn training on Ramstein Air Base in Ramstein March 23.

firefighter with the 23rd Ordnance Company.

Soldiers also work with civilian firefighters, who help Soldiers train and sharpen their skills inspecting buildings and equipment for fire hazards and responding to emergency situations.

Cleveland Brasiendton, a firefighter with the 23rd Ordnance Company and a native of Sumter, S.C.

Army firefighters also go out to the communities and talk with people about fire safety.

"We go to schools and teach fire prevention. We get involved with kids and teach them different techniques to get them out of a house fire," Brasiendton said.

Prior to the military, Brasiendton volunteered at the fire department in his hometown after 9/11. When he saw the effect firefighting had on the community, he decided to join the Army as a firefighter.

"Firefighting is my life. I wouldn't want to do anything else," Brasiendton said.

"I love the aspect of saving lives and protecting property," Hamilton said.

McQuiston toured the training area, observed Soldiers and Airmen extinguishing a fire set to a mock aircraft, used the fire hose and received a demonstration on the "jaws of life."

"I've been a firefighter for 40 years. I like to help people and train other firefighters," said Dieter Bestyak, the Kaiserslautern Military Community fire department training officer and a native of Mackenbach.

"There is a lot of hard work that goes into being a firefighter," said Sgt.

Changes at the Heidelberg Health Center

Prescription refill changes

HMEDDAC Public Affairs

Understanding that patients' time is important to them, the Heidelberg Health Center Pharmacy is changing the way prescription refills are handled.

Effective May 1, patients who need refills on prescriptions at the Health Center will be required to use the phone-in automated system, instead of coming to the pharmacy and waiting for the refill.

However, they will still have the option of using www.tricareonline.com as well.

Patients will be able to call in their refills and pick them up the next business day after 9 a.m. This change is intended to reduce the wait time for all patients.

"This allows us to accomplish this workload when we are less busy, and therefore serve you better during the busy times," said Allen Whisenant, outpatient pharmacy supervisor.

"Also, you will be advanced to the front of the pharmacy line by selecting the top button on the console in the lobby. The system will bring you to the window ahead of everyone

else," he said.

The call-in system can be reached by calling one of these numbers.

- Toll-free civilian 00800-7446-2500
- DSN 486-5601
- International: 49-(0) 6371-86-5601

Once the call is answered, press "3" for the Heidelberg footprint, then press "1" for Heidelberg Pharmacy.

Next, press "1" again to refill or "2" for pharmacy hours. Enter the Rx number listed on your prescription (just the numbers-no letters).

Both the phone-in and online systems are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The refilled prescription will be ready for pick-up the next duty day after 9 a.m.

According to Julia Gannon, HMEDDAC chief of pharmacy, this is an example of just another way the HMEDDAC healthcare team is here to help patients.

"Using the phone-in system or TRICARE Online assures you that your prescription will be ready on time and waiting for you, instead of you having to wait on your prescription," Gannon said.

Same day surgery department to close, acute care to close on Sundays

HMEDDAC Public Affairs

The Heidelberg Medical Department Activity announces the closure of the Same Day Surgery department inside the Heidelberg Health Center as of May 1.

"Closing the Same Day Surgery department is part of an ongoing change of Heidelberg Health Center from a hospital to a health center right-sized to its military community," said Col. P.K. Underwood, HMEDDAC commander.

Currently, the Same Day Surgery department conducts only minor procedures, such as colonoscopies. Those procedures will now be performed by host nation providers in the civilian community or at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

In addition, the Acute Care Clinic will be closed Sundays and federal holidays starting April 24.

"Historically, there has not been a high demand for patient care on Sundays and holidays in the ACC," said Lt. Col. Lance Raney, HMEDDAC deputy commander for clinical

services. "Of those patients we do see, most are not urgent and can be managed by their primary care provider."

"The Acute Care Clinic is not an emergency room," Raney said. "Patients who require emergency care should go to the nearest host nation emergency room. In an emergency, every moment counts. Host nation emergency rooms are equipped to handle major emergencies."

Host nation emergency room information is listed in the Heidelberg Health Center's "Guide to Host Nation Healthcare" available at the TRICARE Service Center inside the Heidelberg Health Center.

The guide is also available online at <https://ermc.amedd.army.mil/heidelberg/index.cfm>. The guide includes information on getting health care on the economy, as well as maps and driving directions to hospitals in the Heidelberg and Mannheim areas.

"Host nation hospitals provide world-class healthcare," said Underwood. "Our beneficiaries will get the care they need by going to local national facilities."

Preserving history



Jessica Burns

Drew Burns works with other members of Heidelberg Scout Troop 4 to improve the Argonne Forest trail of World War I Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin York. Recently, American historians have rediscovered the spot where Sgt. York fought Oct. 8, 1918, in Châtel-Chéhéry during the Meuse-Argonne offensive against the German forces. York's actions that day earned him the nation's highest honor. The scouts improvement project will help ensure that this path is maintained and suitable for all visitors who want to learn its history. Scouts are Drew Burns, Briton Rott, John Peters, Zach Harrison, Will Glazier, Michael Rayl, Nathaniel Barber, Josh Groom, Jose Tavarez Jr., Alex Vickers, Liam Dougherty and Conner Dougherty. Parents are: Jessica Burns and son Dakota, Scoutmaster Mike Wigton, Mike and Denise Rayl, Dave Barber, Jose Tavarez, Mike Vickers and Sean Madden.

Transportation team deploys

By Capt. Joseph Hall
39TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

The 624th Movement Control Team, 39th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, deployed March 10 to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

Comprised of only 21 Soldiers, the unit plays a vital role in coordinating movement throughout the battle space. The team will provide for the reception, staging, and onward movement of equipment and vehicles as they transit south to Kuwait.

Prior to its deployment, the 624th MCT provided movement control support throughout U.S. European Command and supporting theater engagement strategy exercises.

In 2009, the unit supported the deployment, redeployment and sustainment of forces operating in Germany, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

The 624th MCT spent one year in Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-06 and 15 months from 2008-09 in Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett

The 624th Movement Control Team commander Capt. David Moses and Sgt. 1st Class Gary Brown case the unit colors March 3 on Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern.

Commanded by Capt. David Moses, the 624th MCT now operates in Talil, Iraq, replacing the battalion's 635th Movement Control Team.

Moses was enthusiastic about the opportunity to command a unit downrange.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to lead so many honorable Soldiers on an important mission. As we complete the drawdown of forces in Iraq, our job will remain demanding and important," Moses said.



U.S. Army

Staff Sgt Eric L. Jenner from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, plots points on his map for the day portion of the land navigation test for the NCO and Trooper of the Year competition going on this week.

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U.S. Army

First Lt. Alexander Schell, facilities management staff officer assigned to 3rd Battalion, 71st Cavalry Squadron, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, shakes hands with an Afghan National Army soldier from the 1st Afghan National Army Battalion, 1st ANA Brigade, 205th Hero Corps, who provided security for a mosque opening ceremony Friday at Tarok Kolache village in Arghandab District. Schell, a native of Center Line, Mich., helped provide security for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the mosque. The mosque is the first completed structure in a massive joint reconstruction effort by Tarok Kolache landowners and International Security Assistance Forces since the village, previously a Taliban stronghold, was destroyed in an effort to rid it of insurgents.



U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. Ryan Knight, a soldier with U.S. Army Japan, shakes hands with a displaced Japanese citizen during the relief efforts of Operation Tomodachi at Toho Junior High School, March 31. The high school is being used as a shelter for the displaced citizens following the recent earthquake and tsunami that impacted the area.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Dustin D. March

Capt. Jennifer Scruggs, veterinarian, Western Pacific District Veterinarian Command, administers vitamins to a goat during a veterinarian civic action program in Candelaria District, Zambales Province, Republic of the Philippines, March 24. The VETCAP was part of exercise Balikatan 2011. The exercise is a bilateral program established to increase the Armed Forces' of the Philippines and the United States' ability to respond quickly and work together effectively to provide relief and assistance in the event of natural disasters and other crises that threaten public safety and health while promoting social development.

Soldiers at the Army's Northern Warfare Training Center's Cold Weather Leaders Course learn to use rescue equipment in Alaska's harsh winter conditions. During the two-week course the students learn a variety of survival skills and cold weather tactics.



Sgt. Trish McMurphy

Spotting suspicious letters, packages requires vigilance

USAREUR Public Affairs

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials are reminding members of the U.S. forces community in Europe to be vigilant for suspicious packages and letters.

The reminder follows reports that an Italian military officer in Livorno, Italy lost three fingers and suffered severe eye damage from a letter bomb that exploded in an army barracks there March 31.

Force protection and security officials offer the following information to help identify and safely deal with suspicious packages.

The first thing the experts recommend is that any suspicious-looking package or letter should be treated as a potential bomb.

It's equally important to know that if there is a suspicion that a bomb is in the vicinity, the job of finding and disposing of it should be left to the experts: explosive ordnance disposal teams, military police or security experts. Untrained personnel should never attempt to deal with bombs themselves.

Is it a bomb?

There are several questions that can help determine if a suspicious package might contain a bomb.

- ◆ Is the package from a stranger or an unknown place?
- ◆ Is the return address missing?
- ◆ Is the package addressed to a recipient by title only?
- ◆ Does the address include a mismatched or incorrect name and title?
- ◆ Is there an excessive amount of postage, tape or string on the package?
- ◆ Is the size abnormal, excessive or unusual?
- ◆ Are there misspelled or poorly typed words in the package's address?
- ◆ Do the locations on the postmark and the return address differ?
- ◆ Are there restrictive markings on the package, such as "personal"?
- ◆ Does the handwriting appear to be in a "foreign style"?
- ◆ Does the item smell peculiar? (Many explosives used by terrorists smell like shoe polish or almonds.)
- ◆ Is the package unusually heavy or light? Is it rigid or bulky?
- ◆ Is the package lopsided or uneven in balance?
- ◆ Does the package have oily stains, discolorations or crystallization on it?
- ◆ Is there a "springiness" to the top, bottom or sides?

- ◆ Are there protruding wires or strings?
- ◆ Is the package marked "registered" or "personal" in a manner that raises suspicion? (For example, receiving a registered package when none is expected.)

If any of these questions can be answered "yes," the package or letter should be turned over to security experts immediately. Isolate the package. Do not shake, bump, open or taste it. Call police or security officials immediately. Never touch or move a suspicious package or letter. Do not cut tape, strings or wrappings or immerse in water.

Phoned Bomb Threat

If a bomb threat is received by phone, there are some ways to help identify the caller and perhaps get more information about the threat.

- ◆ Be calm and courteous to the caller. Listen to what he says, and do not attempt to interrupt him. Use a pre-arranged signal to notify a family member or co-worker that the call is a bomb threat.
- ◆ Record the date and time of the call.
- ◆ Try to make a note of the exact words spoken by the caller. These can help to identify the exact nature of the threat.
- ◆ There are a series of questions you should attempt to ask the caller. When is the bomb going to explode? Where is the bomb right now? What kind of bomb

is it? What does the bomb look like? Why did you place the bomb?

- ◆ Try to ascertain the caller's identity by verbal cues. Is it a male or female? An adult or juvenile? About what age does the caller appear to be from the sound of his voice?
- ◆ Note the quality of the caller's voice. Is it notably loud or soft? Is it deep or high? Is it raspy or pleasant-sounding? Does the caller sound as if he may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol? Does the caller speak fast or slow? Is his speech distorted or distinct? Does he have a nasal sound to his voice, a stutter, a slur or a lisp?
- ◆ Listen for an accent. Does the caller sound as if he's local or not local? Is his language good or poor? Does he use foul language or slang? If the caller sounds foreign, try to determine what region he might be from.
- ◆ Try to determine the caller's disposition. Is he angry, calm and deliberate, rational or irrational? Is he incoherent? Is he emotional or self-righteous? Is he laughing?
- ◆ Listen for background noises that might give clues to the caller's location or identity. Is the background quiet? Do you hear other voices? Are there sounds of machinery, street noises, aircraft, trains, office equipment, animals or music? Does the background sound like a "party atmo-

sphere?" If there is a mixture of sounds, try to determine what they are.

Emergency Numbers

Heidelberg, Mannheim and Kaiserslautern

Emergency – DSN 114
Heidelberg civ. 06221-57-114
Mannheim civ. 0621-730-114
Kaiserslautern civ. 0631-536-114

Fire and Ambulance – DSN 117

Heidelberg civ. 06221-57-117
Mannheim civ. 0621-730-117
Kaiserslautern civ. 0631-536-117
When traveling in Europe or Germany, dial 112 to reach emergency services.

Non-Emergency Numbers

Heidelberg

MP Desk
DSN 388-2222, civ. 06221-678-2333
German Police Liaison
DSN 388-2564, civ. 06221-678-2581

Mannheim

MP Desk
DSN 385-3359, civ. 06221-730-3359
German Police Liaison
DSN 385-2550, civ. 0621-730-2559

Kaiserslautern

MP Desk
DSN 489-7070, civ. 0631-536-6060
German Police Liaison (Ramstein AirBase)
DSN 480-1985, civ. 06371-47-1985

AFAP Heidelberg and Mannheim AFAP issues

Issue: Compensation for officers, NCOs

Army Family Action Plan

The Mannheim and Heidelberg communities identified major issues of concern at the February AFAP conference. The command prioritized 13 issues. One issue is featured in the Herald Post each week. **Next week:** U.S.-Internet Provider addresses for Soldiers overseas.

Scope

There is an inequality within officer and enlisted pay based on responsibility, education and leadership experience.

More noncommissioned officers are college educated. They are given more responsibilities and assigned leadership and administrative positions previously held by officers.

The compensation gap between officers and noncommissioned officers with 10 or more years of service and a college degree impacts the retention of highly qualified NCOs.

Recommendation

◆ Provide NCOs with 10 or more years of service monetary compensation to reflect changing education levels and assigned leadership roles.

Command position

"Issues and concerns such as equitable compensation are decided at the highest levels of our military and our government, and while they can't be addressed locally, the fact that they progress to the appropriate level is demonstrative of the value of the AFAP process as an instrument of change," said U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Commander Col. Bill Butcher.

What do you think?

Express your opinion of this issue on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bwnow) and BWnow (<http://myBWnow.ning.com>) by answering the Question of the Week: Do you think Congress should take a look at the compensation gap between officer and NCOs with more than 10 years active duty?

BWnow feedback on last week's issue: Cost of Pet Relocation

"Yes, and I feel as if we lost a part of our family. I could not find homes for them and I had to place them in a animal shelter."
— Lynda Pontious, BWnow Facebook fan

been expensive to bring them but we also didn't think it was fair (to them) to go from a very big yard, to having them in a tiny apartment on PHV where they couldn't get out and run. I do feel like I left a part of our family back in the states. :("
— Becky McElhaney, BWnow Facebook fan

"During our PCS move, we brought our cat and our dog with us. It was never a question of should we or should we not. We knew we were relocating, and made arrangements in advance to cover the cost of relocating our 'family' (pets) with us. It was pretty expensive ... "
— Evelyn Livermore, BWnow Facebook fan

"... It would be nice to have help finding the costs to ship our animal if they can not go on the plane with us or the cost of the airline to bring the pet on the plane with us. Knowing the costs and having the help getting it done is half the battle ... "
— Susan, BWnow Facebook fan

"We decided to leave our two dogs back in the states with family members. Yes, it would have

Reading Together

First Sgt. Kermit L. Joseph, 39th Transportation Battalion headquarters company, gets help reading "Sky High" from 9-year-old William Jones during the Women's History Month Read-To-Me program at Vogelweh Elementary School in Kaiserslautern March 29. Soldiers and leaders of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command visited the Vogelweh Elementary School in Kaiserslautern to read to students as part of Women's History Month. "Women are 50 percent of the population but receive little coverage in history books, so it is important to come down here and take the time to read to the students and promote not only reading but women's history as well," said Lt. Col. Edward L. English, 39th Transportation Battalion commander. Students gave volunteers a tour of the school and showed them their projects for Women's History Month. The students also received a visit from the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston who read to a receptive fourth grade class of 24 students. The 21st TSC's Equal Opportunity office plans to make the Women's History Month Read-To-Me program an annual event.



Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor

CHILDREN

continued from page 1

Württemberg commander Col. Bill Butcher read the official proclamation declaring the start of the Month of the Military Child.

"Celebrating the month of the military child is really about us saying thank you to our children who sacrifice so much," Butcher said. "They sacrifice their parents being gone, the long hours that we dedicate to our nation through military service and they sacrifice by being away from friends and family by being over here in Europe."

As part of his official duties, Butcher also read the book "My Dad's a Hero," by Rebecca Christiansen, Jewel Arm-

strong and Jen Robertson amid cheers, cries and coos from the young audience members.

"Military children are our heroes," said Stephanie Morales, Parent Central Services director. "If you think about it, some of these children that are in our programs and in the child development center, have been living with deployments or some state of conflict their entire lives.

"That is their norm. They face deployment and separation anxieties from their parents every day."

According to Morales, this event has been going on since 2002 and she urged parents and community members to continue to show their support to military kids year round.

"Volunteer and become involved, that is the biggest help that you can provide to children," she said.

Morales said parents can come in and read to children, repair broken toys or serve as chaperones, coaches or tutors for children. They can also participate in a parent advisory committee.

For community members who are not parents, but would still like to volunteer their time and talents to help kids, they can contact the Army Volunteer Corps representative at their local Army Community Service office.

The festive event concluded with Butcher and garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Annette Weber recognizing each

child with an individual hero award for their service.

In 1986, Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger designated April as the Month of the Military Child.

A quarter of a century later, military installations, organizations and communities around the world continue to host special events and activities to pay tribute to military children.

April is also designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

For more information on local activities and events, you can contact Parent Central Services at DSN 388-9240, civ. 06221-338-9240 or visit www.mwgermany.com and click on USAG Baden-Württemberg and Child, Youth and School Services.

TEACHERS

continued from page 1

their students, have mixed feelings. Five-year teacher Christopher Zamor said students "overall, show guarded optimism on the whole affair," he said.

"I just got here in the middle of eighth grade," Mannheim freshman Chance Bullard said. "I expected to stay here and then I found out we have to go to Heidelberg High School. It is what it is. It's the Army."

Zamor whose wife Leah, also a Mannheim teacher, observed a marked maturity among students.

"For some, there is a certain degree of 'learning to like' Heidelberg that will need to

occur. Many students seem to recognize that in time that feeling will fade, new friendships will be made and old friendships will be continued."

Administrators and teachers are helping students negotiate the emotions of the upcoming events. "Almost every week, counselors come in our classes and talking and helping as much as they can – with the move, with our grades, everything. Our teachers and counselors are behind us 100 percent," Bullard said.

Bullard will continue with Junior ROTC and sports at HHS and he has already met some of the football, rifle team and drill team coaches and players. He knows Hei-

delberg somewhat and recently visited the high school with his younger brother and sister, twins who will be freshmen, to select courses for next year.

"We're okay with going over there (to Heidelberg) because we're behind our parents 100 percent. We know that being in the Army means you have to move a lot," Bullard said. "The ones that are most disappointed are those who just got here. They already made a big move."

Transitions are not uncommon experiences for these students who face multiple moves throughout their school years along with the absences of parents when they deploy. Because of this familiarity with change, said

Science teacher Leah Zamor, Mannheim students exhibit "a lot of personality, tenacity and most important, perseverance, overcoming obstacles such as multiple deployments of family members."

Her colleague, English and German teacher Debby Osborne, believes the reassigned teachers can help later, too.

"I'm glad to be accompanying our students from Mannheim and hope it will help to provide stability and encouragement," Osborne said.

Filling teaching positions happens every school year and HHS principal Brewer said he's pleased the Mannheim teachers are qualified and experienced. He believes

Mannheim students will be welcomed as will all new students.

"Each year, we have about a 30 percent turnover in our school population. So along with the students coming from Mannheim, we will have students from many bases in America and probably transfers from other bases in Europe," Brewer said. "We will do our best to welcome new students with great programs and activities that support the high school experience."

The Mannheim teachers who will transfer to Heidelberg next year are: Lynn Anderson, John Ochoa, Deborah Osborne, Patricia Schlachter, Eric Wegner, Christopher Zamor and Leah Zamor.

your local connection



U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg's command information program

- Local Information:** www.BW.eur.army.mil
 Get the latest news and information about the Heidelberg, Mannheim and Kaiserslautern communities
- Virtual Community:** <http://myBWnow.ning.com>
 Blog, discuss, ask questions, make friends, share
- Facebook:** www.facebook.com/BWnow
 Up-to-the-minute information on what YOU want
- Photo Gallery:** www.flickr.com/heraldpost
 View, download from community events
- YouTube:** www.youtube.com/BWnow
 View the latest command video blog for a deeper look at command issues

Exceptional Family Network offers umbrella of support

ACS Marketing

In the past, the Army Community Service Exceptional Families Member Program offices at U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg and Mannheim each held a monthly support group meeting.

Unfortunately, it was not well attended by family members enrolled in the program.

In response, members of the now combined USAG-Baden-Württemberg EFMP team brainstormed about what changes could be made to increase community involvement.

First, the team thought of a name they felt would welcome all – the Exceptional Families Network.

The purpose of the network is to encompass all aspects of the EFM program and create a support system for families with special needs to ensure they receive the help they need to deal with challenges.

Team members also shifted the focus from a support group to an educational outlet to help connect EFMs, parents, spouses, servicemembers, ACS staff and professionals under one umbrella. The changes proved beneficial with an increase in attendance at the first meeting.

"The first Exceptional Families Network meeting was a huge success," said Sherri McVeigh, EFMP System Navigator.

gator.

"We had a large group of family members and professionals come together and learn about federal benefits available for individuals with disabilities. I'm really looking forward to future meetings because this is a great way to bring together people in our Mannheim and Heidelberg communities, share our resources and expertise and support one another," McVeigh said.

"The neat thing is that you do not have to be enrolled in the EFMP program to participate. Everyone is welcome," she added.

Attendees echoed their excitement.

"The Social Security workshop was very informative," Valerie SanJuan, Mannheim High School special education teacher.

"The speaker came with excellent information and answered all the questions posed by the group. After the meeting, I had an opportunity to share the information with a parent who was inquiring about social security benefits," she said.

Voncile Farmer, Mannheim EFMP Program Manager encouraged all to attend.

"Many of the difficulties individuals with disabilities experience results from a lack of understanding not from

"... This is a great way to bring together people in our Mannheim and Heidelberg communities, share our resources and expertise and support one another."

—Sherri McVeigh, EFMP System Navigator

the disability. Our hope is that pooling several resources together will increase awareness, support, and, ultimately, improve the quality of life for EFMs and their families."

The next Exceptional Families Network meeting is 10 a.m. April 20 in the Heidelberg ACS conference room on the Shopping Center Kaserne. April is Autism Awareness Month, and two guest speakers will discuss autism in infants, toddlers and school aged children during this month's meeting.

EFN meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in either the Mannheim or Heidelberg conference room. For signup in Mannheim, call DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101 and in Heidelberg, call DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6883.

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Kaiserslautern	Landstuhl Post	Heidelberg and Mannheim
Kleber Kaserne	Bldg. 3701	Shopping Center
Bldg. 3210	DSN 486-6334	Bldg. 3860
DSN 483-7688	civ. 06371-86-	DSN 370-7510
civ. 0631-411-7688	6334	civ. 06221-57-7510

Sergeants Major Serve



Sgt. Maj. Lisa Hunter

Members of the Heidelberg Sergeants Major Association, Sgt. Maj. Brad Weber, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Ivor Watson and Sgt. Maj. Ira Russey, serve dinner to wounded warriors at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Friday. For the second straight year, the members have prepared an Italian dinner and served it to wounded warriors at the hospital. This year, the association members served more than 80 hospital patients.

GERMAN NEWS

U.S. Attack Jet Crashes in Germany

An American attack jet crashed in Germany's western Eifel region on Friday near Laufeld. The pilot was able to eject and has been taken to a nearby hospital. The slow-moving A-10 Thunderbolt II, which is used for close air support, was not carrying missiles, according to a police spokesman in Trier. But the plane, commonly known by its "Warthog" moniker, did have 1,100 rounds of live ammunition for its cannon on board. The fire brigade, the police and a rescue helicopter all rushed to the crash site which was only 300 meters from the village of Laufeld. A spokeswoman for the U.S. airbase Spangdahlem said the jet was stationed there and had been on a routine training flight when it suddenly crashed for still unknown reasons around 4 p.m.

Fake Euro Coin Scam

Investigators probing a massive fraud involving fake euro coins have arrested six people in the Frankfurt area, including Lufthansa flight attendants, authorities announced March 31. Euro coins earmarked by the Bundesbank to be scrapped were reassembled in China, Frankfurt state prosecutor Doris Möller-Scheu said in a statement. Flight attendants allegedly smuggled them back to Germany where they were swapped for legitimate currency at the central bank. The gang netted an estimated €6 million. The scam involved 29 tons of €1 and €2 coins sent to China as scrap metal, the statement said. Before they are sold as scrap, the gold and silver parts of the coins are broken apart. But the gang stuck the parts back together and then smuggled the coins back to Germany. The Bundesbank is the only place in Europe that exchanges damaged coins at no cost. Five people are in custody. A sixth has already been brought before a judge. The suspects allegedly carried 29 tons of coins from China to Germany between 2007 and 2010 and four flight attendants were allegedly involved in the scam.

Frontrunner for new FDP leader

Health Minister Philipp Rösler was shaping up Monday morning as the most likely new leader of the Free Democrats as the business-friendly party geared up for generational change and tough times ahead. In the wake of Guido Westerwelle's announcement Sunday that he would step down as party chairman, the Free Democratic Party (FDP) was moving quickly to regain momentum with a quick announcement of a new leader.

SOURCE: www.thelocal.de



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 need some guidance on an issue with my adult step-daughter. I have been married to her dad for 13 years and we have a good relationship.

She is 32 years old. She lives in the states with her husband and children. They are happily married. They both like their jobs, the children's school, being close to her in-laws and her mother and where they live.

The same is true for us. We like our jobs, our lifestyle, inexpensive travel, serving the military at Landstuhl, meeting noble Allied soldiers and being in Germany.

We stay here because we like it here. We serve the wounded warriors, volunteer with Soldiers in a number of capacities and find fulfillment in our careers.

We take one long trip "home" almost every year to visit for one to two weeks. We send birthday and Christmas gifts and Skype from time to time. It works for us.

Here is the issue: within 15 minutes of arrival at every single home leave, we are hit with this

question, "When are you coming back to the states?"

During the visit, there are direct and indirect messages sent that we are bad grandparents because we do not come back "to see the grandkids." If we talk about changes in our location or career series, we get the predictable response, "That same job is open in Oklahoma and you could see the grandkids more." This has been the pattern for seven years.

The children are becoming old enough to pick up on it and joining in now, too. At first, we would answer, "Our current contract is over in x years." And for a few years I, but not my husband, got angry and said something like, "When we are too old to take care of ourselves, we will come and live with you, ok?"

Obviously that was the wrong thing to say and didn't stop the continual nagging. If you have any words of wisdom that could stop this cycle we are at the end of our strategies and welcome yours. L.D.

Dear L.D.,

Surely you know your comments will be taken with strife, right? My advice is "don't bite."

You love Germany and you are doing great things. I'm impressed by your efforts for those you serve. Keep up the good work.

I know their comments are awkward. You are happy for them and you wish they would be happy for you. Some grandparents see their grandchildren every day, and some are like you, wanting to spend quality time with them when you can.

Remember it's quality time. So when you are visiting them in Oklahoma, make the best of the visit. Try not to react to the "side-bar" comments.

If there's something to be said, I say, "let your husband say it." His daughter may get upset with him,

but she will forgive him and hold off on comments against you.

Again, I'm proud of you and I applaud your success. Please send me some pictures of Germany, lol. I know it's beautiful this time of year.

Response to previous column

Ms. Vicki,

I felt compelled to respond to a letter. I've been in a similar situation and I want to share what no one shared with me.

First, You found the information for a reason. It was not by accident. Presently you are in shock. You still love him. You will not grow to hate him. Do not try because it will eat you alive.

Because he has eroded your trust, little things that never bothered you before will start to bother you. You will start to become overly possessive. When he's not with you, the ugly memories will begin to resurface.

You will have good days and then bad days will creep up. It takes a lot of energy to push the negative thoughts away.

You will start to feel sad for the person you have become. Your fiancé may not like the person you have become also, because he's going to miss the you he had. He will expect that since you are still with him you have gotten over it.

This situation has also changed him. He's going to be on the alert thinking that you are going to cheat on him. Some times when he says he loves you, you'll question "If you loved me you would have spared me this pain?"

Marriage is not five hours. It's a lifetime. This is your challenge, own it and work through it. You will get through this. It has hurt you; it will not kill you. The bright side is, you are not married yet and thankfully you don't have children together.

Been There

April is Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month

Dr. E. Wayne Combs

U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Approximately 19 million sexually transmitted diseases occur each year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Almost half are in young people ages 15 to 24. One in two young people will get a sexually transmitted disease by age 25, and many won't know it.

Untreated STDs can cause serious medical complications like chronic pelvic pain, infertility, or passing an infection to an infant during child birth. Individuals infected with STDs are at a much greater risk for HIV infection.

The only way to know for sure if you have an STD is to get tested. Testing is faster and easier than ever before. You can't assume your health care provider will bring it up. You might feel embarrassed to initiate conversation about such a personal subject, but it's absolutely essential.

You and your health care provider will decide what STD tests make the most sense. If you have an STD, get treated as soon as possible. Here are tips for having a talk with your healthcare provider:

- ◆ Think of problems or questions you have. Even if you only have one or two, write them down.
- ◆ When you make your appointment, tell the receptionist that you'd like to be tested for sexually transmitted

diseases.

On the day of your appointment, be prepared to ask lots of questions, be honest, and, if you don't understand a question or answer, ask for an explanation.

A good sexual health exam begins with a good sexual health history.

Here are some common questions that healthcare providers need to ask in order to help you.

- ◆ How many sexual partners have you had recently?
- ◆ How many sexual partners have you had in your lifetime?
- ◆ Do you have sex with women, men or both?
- ◆ Do you have oral sex?
- ◆ Do you have anal sex?
- ◆ Do you use condoms?

- ◆ Do you have symptoms now?
- ◆ Have you had symptoms in the past?
- ◆ Have you ever had a sexually transmitted disease?
- ◆ Have you used over-the-counter medications to treat your symptoms?
- ◆ Do your partner(s) have any STDs or symptoms of STDs?
- ◆ Do you have any drug allergies?
- ◆ When was your last menstrual period?

These questions might seem personal, but be honest with your health care provider. Your provider will help you make important decisions about what test(s) and treatment you may need. Finally, be sure to ask when you'll get results.

For information, visit www.itsyoursexlife.com.

GET OUT!

area events

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

April 7

Orchestra Concert – Tickets are now available now for the Paul Potts and Frankfurt New Philharmonic Orchestra concert. The concert is scheduled to be held at 8 p.m. Nov. 26 at Mannheim's Rosengarten. The tenor of Britain's Got Talent fame (American Idol equivalent) will tour Germany to promote his third album featuring classic tunes from classic movies, such as Breakfast at Tiffany's, Titanic and Doctor Zhivago. Tickets: civ. 0621-10-1011, www.bb-promotion.com or www.rhein-neckarticket.de, and at local ticket agents.

April 8

Spoken Word – Enjoy an evening of live poetry and music on the second and fourth Friday of the month at The Roots lounge in Weilerbach near Kaiserslautern. Doors open at 9 p.m. Show starts at 10 p.m. <http://roots-lounge.com/roots-lounge.com/Home.html>.

April 9

Prague Easter Market – Pay a visit to the Easter Market in Prague where you will find over 100 stalls filled with a variety of handcrafted products: wooden toys, Czech crystal and glassware, jewelry, metalware, candles, embroidered cloth and beautifully dressed puppets and dolls. The most common sight is brightly colored, hand-painted Easter eggs which Czech ladies dressed in traditional costume may even personalize for you, by painting on a name or special message. Trip includes a three-hour walking tour of the city. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinmain>.

Celebration of the Arts – Celebrate the arts at this first-time event at the Hohenfels Community Activities Center Bldg. 40. All crafters and artists are invited to sell and share their handmade goods during the event. The celebration features a free craft show from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The craft show will feature more than 30 local crafters and artists selling beautiful, handmade goods. Afterwards, stay for a celebration of the Arts Gala 7-10 p.m. at the same location. Enjoy live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine bar and auctions during this elegant event. Purchase Gala tickets at www.HohenfelsCSC.com. Event is open to U.S. I.D. cardholders.

Veterama – Experience one of Europe's largest classic and vintage car and motorcycle markets and swap meets. Find whole vehicles, spare parts, tools, accessories and documentation. Trade and meet fellow aficionados. The event in Ludwigshafen, sports more than 1,500 exhibitors offering about 100 complete cars and 600 motorcycles on two weekends. April 9-10 features cars and motorcycles, April 16-17 is for

motorcycles only. Location: Friedrich Ebert Gelände, Erzberger Straße, 67063 Ludwigshafen. Hours: 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays. www.veterama.de/en/1-home.html.

Long Night of the Museums – The "Long Night of Museums," 7 p.m.-2 a.m., features 30 new locations this year to include a rediscovered bunker in the hillside under the Heidelberg castle and a boat tour of Mannheim's industrial harbor. A wealth of offerings are available with a single ticket that gives access to 130 venues: museums, art galleries, historic monuments, theaters, libraries in Mannheim, Heidelberg and Ludwigshafen. The ticket includes public transportation (Museumslinie) between sites. Featured are special exhibitions, workshops, guided tours, concerts and performances. Tickets are available online and at participating museums, galleries and public transportation salespoints. A children's program is available 7-10 p.m. The website features a "Nachtplaner" (night planner) to help map a route in advance to get the most out of the offerings. <http://langenacht.meier-online.de> (website in the German language only).

April 10

Sunday Shopping – Stores in Kaiserslautern's downtown shopping area and in the Merkurstrasse industrial park will be open 1-6 p.m. There will be plenty of special offers in shops and activities in the streets.

April 12

Frankfurt Zoo – The Frankfurt Zoo, established in 1858, has a large selection of animals. From the Asian lion to the zebra pipefish, there are over 5,000 animals representing 450 species. When you are ready for a break, you can eat at the zoo café or visit one of the many restaurants just outside the zoo grounds. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinmain>.

Mannheim Tour – If you're new to the Mannheim area or just curious about the city, this special tour provides all you need. Visit some of the city's most popular sites such as the Water Tower, the Holocaust memorial, the Paradeplatz, the Farmer's Market and the castle. There will also be time for lunch and shopping. Let USO Heidelberg be your guide. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinmain>.

April 14

Salt Mines Tour – Enjoy an underground tour at Berchtesgaden Salt Mines. These amazing mines have been in operation for almost 500 years. Take a trip down into the mine to see its salty wonders. The mines are open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 1-Oct. 31 and

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 1- April 30. Tickets: civ. 0865-26-0020, www.buzzoffbase.com.

April 15

Frankfurt Fair – Millions of people will be at the first open air fair of the year on the Festplatz am Ratsweg for Frankfurt's Spring Dippemess Fair. There is a huge fireworks displays, carousels, a roller-coaster, wine, beer and food. The fair is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. now through May 8 at Festplatz am Ratsweg, Am Bornheimer Hang 4, 60386 in Frankfurt.

April 23

Easter Market – Slip into Spring at the Kaiserslautern Easter Market. Discover decorative and traditional arts and crafts such as wooden eggs, ceramics, lanterns made out of glass and leather goods. The market is located at Stadtmitte, Fackelstr. 1, 67655 in Kaiserslautern.

April 30

Sound of Music Tour – Come relive the magic of this all-time favorite movie during the 45th anniversary of its filming. Visit several of the sites made famous in the movie and enjoy the beauty of Salzburg and Berchtesgaden. <http://affiliates.usa.org/Kaiserslautern>.

Stuttgart Spring Festival – Travel to Stuttgart for the Spring Festival. Europe's biggest and best attended festival that attracts 1.5 million guests to the Cannstatter Wesen fair grounds between mid April and the beginning of May. Enjoy modern and traditional fairground rides, side-shows, beer tents and catering stalls full of family fun and entertainment. <http://affiliates.usa.org/rheinmain/files>.

Maimarkt – Mannheim's May Fair, April 30 through May 10, boasts a tradition of over 400 years as a regional fair among Germany's largest. Over 1,400 vendors on the fairgrounds near Mannheim's SAP Arena offer everything from tools, building materials, livestock, home entertainment, travel information, sporting goods and farm supplies. The fair is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Advance tickets are now on sale and a good bargain is the VRN Maimarkt ticket which combines a public transportation return ticket from anywhere inside the VRN network available at more than 300 outlets in the region. www.maimarkt.de (German language).

May 5

Sade Concert – Sade's European tour comes to Germany. The legendary songstress Sade and her band perform at the Festhalle Messa in Frankfurt 8 p.m. Tickets available at www.worldticketshop.com.

THEATERS

SEASON OF THE WITCH

(Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman) A 14th century Crusader returns to a homeland devastated by the Black Plague. A beleaguered church, deeming sorcery the culprit of the plague, commands the two knights to transport an accused witch to a remote abbey, where monks will perform a ritual in hopes of ending the pestilence. A priest, a grieving knight, a disgraced itinerant and a headstrong youth join a mission troubled by mythically hostile wilderness and fierce contention over the fate of the girl. Rated PG 13 for thematic elements, violence and disturbing content. 95 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

April 7 - SUCKER PUNCH (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 April 8 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 7 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 9 p.m.
 April 9 - THE GREEN HORNET (PG-13) 4 p.m.; NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 7 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 9 p.m.
 April 10 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 4 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 7 p.m.
 April 11 - THE GREEN HORNET (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 April 12 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 7 p.m.
 April 13 - SANCTUM (R) 7 p.m.
 April 14 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

April 8 - SUCKER PUNCH (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 April 9 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 4 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 7 p.m.
 April 10 - SANCTUM (R) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

April 7 - SUCKER PUNCH (PG-13) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.; THE GREEN HORNET (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m.; THE RITE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
 April 8 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 4 p.m.; TRUE GRIT (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.; TRON: LEGACY (PG) noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.
 April 9 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m. SANCTUM (R) 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10 p.m.; SEASON OF THE WITCH (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 8:45 p.m.; TRON: LEGACY (PG) noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.
 April 10 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; THE DILEMMA (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2:45 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 8:15 p.m.; TRON: LEGACY (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m.
 April 11 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; SEASON OF THE WITCH (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; YOGI BEAR (PG) noon, 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
 April 12 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; SEASON OF THE WITCH (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; YOGI BEAR (PG) noon, 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
 April 13 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; SEASON OF THE WITCH (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; YOGI BEAR (PG) noon, 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
 April 14 - NO STRINGS ATTACHED (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m.; SANCTUM (R) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; YOGI BEAR (PG) noon, 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg, 06221-27-238
 Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh, 0631-50017
 Gateway Cineplex, Ramstein, 06371-47-5550
 Visit www.aafes.com for updated listings and more movie descriptions
 Mannheim, CinemaxX, P4 13, 68161 Mannheim, civ. 01805-62-5466, www.cineplex.de

Mannheim, CinemaxX

April 7, 8, 12, 13 - RIO 3D (PG) 5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.
 April 9-10 - RIO 3D (PG) 2:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:45 p.m.
 April 10 - THE FIGHTER (R) 11:30 a.m.
 April 13 - UNKNOWN IDENTITY (PG-13), 8 p.m.

community HIGHLIGHTS

Dangerous Goods

The U.S. Army Europe Safety Office is offering Army Garrison Dangerous Goods Advisor and Unit Dangerous Goods Advisor classes 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 11-15 in Bldg. 286 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks in Kaiserslautern. Those attending should have at least 12 month left in Europe and a transportation background. DSN 370-6917, civ. 06221-57-6917.

Environmental Officers

An environmental officers training courses will be offered 9 a.m.-4 p.m. April 13-14 at the Heidelberg DPW Compound in Bldg. 3983. DSN 373-5455, civ. 06221-17-5455.

SAFER Exposition

The Mannheim and Heidelberg Soldier and Families Evaluating Risk Exposition and Summer Safety Day will be held 8 a.m.-4 p.m. May 5 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. The day promotes healthy lifestyles among Soldiers, civilians, students and family members by presenting safety training and information. DSN 373-1670, civ. 06221-17-9082.

TRICARE Representative

A TRICARE beneficiary services representative will be at the commissary on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg 11 a.m.-3 p.m. the first Saturday of every month. The TRICARE Overseas Program patient handbook can be downloaded at <http://tricare-overseas.com>.

Federal Benefits Phone Number

The Federal Benefits Unit in Frankfurt has a new telephone number to provide assistance with Social Security, Medicare or Veterans Administration issues. The new number is civ. 069-905551-110. All previous extensions and phone numbers are discontinued. The Federal Benefits Unit, Frankfurt can also be reached at FBU.Frankfurt@ssa.gov or fax 069-749352.

New York Residents

New York will hold a special election May 24 for the 26th Congressional District to fill the seat vacated by Representative Christopher J. Lee. The district includes: Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties. <https://forums.army.mil/communitybrowser.aspx?id=1355241&lang=en-US>.

Scholarships for Wives

Wives of uniformed service members may apply for the Saban Military Wife Educational Scholarship to attend vocational training programs in the medical field. Fifteen \$8,500 scholarships, five \$10,000 scholarships and two \$30,000 scholarships will be awarded. Applications will be accepted through May 1. www.OperationHomefront.net/scholarship.

Communicating with commissary

Commissary customers seeking the fastest resolution to a local commissary concern should contact their local store director via e-mail on the store's web page. To access your local commissary page, go to www.commissaries.com, select locations and your commissary.

Heidelberg Health Clinic

Construction will continue through June on the Heidelberg Health Center dining facility to install a push-button door and handicap ramp to improve accessibility. The dining facility remains open for business.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Education

♦ **Classes** – Bank Account Management, 9 a.m. April 12; Personal Investing, 1 p.m. April 12; Buying and Selling a Car, 4 p.m. April 12; Parenting Class, 5 p.m. April 13; AFTB Level I, April 20-21; all in Bldg. 2917, Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203; Midweek Money Series, 9 a.m. April 13, Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center on Dae-nner Kaserne. DSN 493-4151, civ. 0631-3406-4151; Smooth Move, 10 a.m. April 14, Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203.

♦ **Educational Success** – Students in grades 9-12 can explore college selection, financial aid, SAT and ACT exams 4-5:45 p.m. April 13, 20 and 27 at the Landstuhl Library. Youth must be enrolled in Child, Youth and School Services. DSN 493-4122, civ. 0631-3406.

♦ **Youth Scholarships** – Youth will learn how to get money for college through a combination of scholarships, grants and loans 4:30-6:30 p.m. April 14, 21 and 28 at the Landstuhl Library. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406.

Community

♦ **Petey the Parrot** – Dress your best for pictures with Petey the Parrot 11 a.m.-6 p.m. April 9-10 at Kids' Zone on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4125, civ. 0631-3406-4125.

♦ **Comedy Show** – The Kazabra Club on Vogelweh will host a comedy show featuring Queen Aishah and M-Dub 9 p.m. April 15 with an after party to follow. DSN 489-6000, civ. 0631-536-6000.

♦ **Vehicle Safety** – Pulaski Auto Skills will provide free safety checks on Vehicle Safety Day 10 a.m.-7 p.m. April 20 in Bldg. 2859 on Pulaski Barracks, DSN 489-6162, civ. 0631-536-6162. www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Mother's Day Bazaar** – This bazaar 9 a.m.-6 p.m. April 25-28 in Heaton Hall, Landstuhl hospital, is designed to help you find the perfect Mother's Day gift.

♦ **Game-A-Ganza** – The Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center offers Game-A-Ganza 2-6 p.m. April 30 featuring pool, chess, cards and board games. DSN 483-6500, civ. 0631-411-6500, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Military Child Celebration** – Be treated to food and entertainment 11 a.m.-3 p.m. April 30 in Pulaski Park for the Month of the Military Child Celebration. DSN 486-8915, civ. 06371-86-8915.

♦ **Trivia Night** – Fun trivia will challenge the smartest 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays at the Java Café on Rhine Ordnance Barracks. DSN 493-2623, civ. 0631-3406-2623, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Kazabra Karaoke** – Sing your favorite songs 8 p.m.-midnight Thursdays at the Kazabra Club on

Vogelweh. DSN 489-7261, civ. 0631-536-7261, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Quilt Guild** – The Rhineland Pfalz quilt guild meets 9:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Ramstein North Chapel and 6 p.m. on fourth Thursday in the Kaiserslautern Landstuhl Spouses Association building on Pulaski Barracks. Stitch n' Gab meets 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays in the Kapaun Chapel Annex.

HEIDELBERG

Education

♦ **ACS Classes** – Families Learning About Germany, 5-9 p.m. April 11-14; Field Trip, 8:30 a.m. April 16; Exploring the Job Market, 9-11 a.m. April 12; FRG 101, 2:30 p.m. April 12; Resume Writing, 9-11 a.m. April 13; Volunteer Orientation, 10-11 a.m. April 13; 1, 2, 3, 4 Parents, 2-4 p.m. April 13, 20 and 27; Mandatory First Termers Financial Readiness, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 14; Time Management, 10 a.m.-noon April 14 on Nachrichten Kaserne, Bldg. 3622, Company B conference room.

Community

♦ **DPW Gate** – The entry and exit gate next to the Deutsche Post is permanently closed. The new gate is near the vacant Vehicle Inspection building. All traffic going in and out of the DPW Compound must use the new gate. The city has constructed a new roadway connects the new gate to the main parking lot.

♦ **Volksmarches** – The Heidelberg International Wandering Club is registered for walks in Rodenbach, Freiberg/Neckar, Ketsch (Sunday only) April 10. The full list of trips is now online. www.hiwc.de.

♦ **Free Movie** – Take the kids to the Patrick Henry Village Theater 2 p.m. April 8 for a free viewing of "Toy Story 3" with a child size popcorn, drink and goodie bag. Arrive early as seats are limited. www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Cyber chat** – Talk to deployed family members through cyberspace 6 p.m. April 8 at the School Age Center, Bldg. 3850, Shopping Center.

♦ **Magic Show** – Magician Rob Lake will present a free family magic show open to the community 7 p.m. April 15 at the Village Pavilion. DSN 373-7414, civ. 06221-17-7414.

♦ **Snow White** – The Missoula Children's Theater assists local students in presenting "Snow White" 5:30 p.m. April 16 at Heidelberg Middle School.

♦ **Children's Art** – See what the children say about saving the earth at the children's art exhibition 11 a.m.-3 p.m. April 17-22 at the Village Pavilion. Also check out the Earth Week display at the library on Patrick Henry Village.

♦ **Teddy Bear Tea Party** – Children ages 2-10 (accompanied by an adult) are invited to a special tea time 2-4 p.m. April 17 at the

Easter Egg Hunts

Kaiserslautern kids can hunt for eggs 11 a.m. April 23 at Pulaski Park on Pulaski Barracks. Mannheim will host an Easter Egg hunt 10 a.m. April 23 on the Sullivan Gym Field. Heidelberg's Easter egg hunt is 12:30 p.m. April 24 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg.

Village Pavilion. Mr. Teddy Bear will make an appearance so formal attire is recommended. DSN 388-9240, civ. 06221-338-9240.

♦ **Pajama Story time** – School-age children can enjoy pajama story time 7:30 p.m. April 21 at the library on Patrick Henry Village.

♦ **Old School Party** – The Recovery Room on Nachrichten Kaserne will host an old school dance 9 p.m.-3 a.m. April 16 with disc jockey Madlogic. DSN 371-2762, civ. 06221-17-2762, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Recycled Art Class** – The Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village will offer a class 11 a.m.-2 p.m. April 18 on turning recyclables into art to observe Earth Week.

♦ **Earth Day Kids Drawing** – The Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village sponsors a kids drawing class 3:30-5:30 p.m. April 21.

♦ **Bike to Work Day** – Plan now to bike to work April 21 to mark Earth Day. Meet at 7 a.m. in the Burger King parking lot on Patrick Henry Village. One group will bike to Patton Barracks and one to Campbell.

♦ **Earth Week Hemp Jewelry** – The Arts and Cultural Center on Patrick Henry Village teaches how to make hemp jewelry 4:40-7 p.m. April 22.

♦ **Earth Day Block Party** – Celebrate the earth at Slapshots on Patton Barracks 4-9 p.m. April 23 with a live band, food and drinks.

♦ **Easter Brunch** – Easter Sunday Brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 24 at the Village Pavilion comes complete with a German-American breakfast buffet. DSN 388-9098, civ. 06221-338-9098.

♦ **Kiddie Volksmarch** – The Heidelberg International Wandering Club will sponsor a kiddie Volksmarch April 30 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Village Library. Don't miss the picnic next to the skate park starting 10 a.m. www.hcsc-heidelberg.com.

MANNHEIM

Education

♦ **ACS Classes** – Personal Financial Management Training, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. April 11; Account and Budget Management, 3:30-4:30 p.m. April 11; Anger Management April 12, 1-3 p.m., Bldg. 251, room 107; Mommy and Me Signing Time, 3-4 p.m. April 12, Bldg. 251, SFAC Lounge; AFTB Level 1, 6-7:30 p.m. April 12; Playgroup, 10 a.m.-noon

April 13, Bldg. 725; VMIS/OPOC Orientation, 5:30-7 p.m. April 13; Saving and Investing Basics, 2:30-4 p.m. April 14; Mommy and Baby Wellness Group, 1-2 p.m. April 14, Bldg. 251, SFAC Lounge

Community

♦ **Spring Break** – The Mannheim Community holds Community Service Week throughout Benjamin Franklin Village April 11-15 which is spring break for students.

♦ **Salsa Lessons, Party** – Learn how to salsa 6-7 p.m. for level one and 7-8 p.m. for level two April 13 and 20 at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village. Then show off your talent at the Salsa Party 9 p.m.-4 a.m. April 22. DSN 380-9370.

♦ **Mannheim's Got Talent** – Mannheim's Got Talent is open to all ages and talents 6 p.m. April 16, 23 and 30 at the Top Hat Club. DSN 380-9370, civ. 0621-730-9370, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Europa Park** – Visit Germany's largest amusement park with over 100 attractions, entertainment and rides. Outdoor Recreation bus departs Mannheim Schuh Theater 7 a.m. April 17. DSN 384-6300, www.mwrgermany.com.

♦ **Month of the Military Child Exhibit** – See how children express themselves through art 3:30-5:30 p.m. April 22 at the School Age Center, Bldg. 737. DSN 380-4321, civ. 0621-730-4321.

♦ **Snow White** – Mannheim's children perform in the Missoula Children's Theater production of "Snow White" 6 p.m. April 23 at Mannheim Elementary School.

♦ **Month of the Military Child Barbecue** – Wrap up the month of the military child 11 a.m.-noon April 29 at a barbecue at the School Age Center, Bldg. 737.

♦ **Protestant Women** – Women of all faiths are invited to join the Protestant Women of the Chapel 9:30 a.m.-noon and 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays until May 17 at in the Benjamin Franklin Village Chapel basement.

♦ **Community Yard Sale** – Buy or sell at the community yard sale 8 a.m.-2 p.m. April 30-May 1 on Benjamin Franklin Village. Residents, with the exception of those who live on Washington and Lincoln Streets, may set up in front of quarters; all others may set up in the parking lot in front of the Sports Arena. No new or commercial items may be sold. Rent tables from Spinelli Outdoor Recreation or on-site (at the Sports Arena). DSN 385-3169, civ. 0621-730-3169.

♦ **Moving On** – Mannheim Middle School and Mannheim High School will host a "Moving On" celebration 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. June 9 on Woods Field. Entertainment will be provided by the USAREUR band and both the school bands and drama students.



Gary Sheffick

The first of 30,000 runners begin last year's Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., Oct. 24, 2010.

Troops get priority for Army Ten-Miler

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Army Ten-Miler race officials have announced changes to the registration date and procedures for signing up to run in the 2011 race.

This year, there will be a priority registration for all U.S. servicemembers and other runners who have participated in at least seven Ten-Miler races. About one-third of the total 30,000 race entries, the race's runner cap, will be reserved for this new priority registration program.

Priority registration will open May 1, and U.S. servicemembers must use a ".mil" address to register. A searchable data base will be posted for seven-time plus race participants to determine if they qualify for priority registration.

The remaining two-thirds of the race entries will be available to the general public on a first-

come-first-served basis beginning May 15.

"This is the Army's race and we wanted to improve registration opportunities for U.S. servicemembers and those loyal Army Ten-Miler runners," Jim Vandak, the race director, said.

"Last year's race sold out in a record 36 hours. So, we still expect the 30,000 runner field to fill quickly and urge runners to register early," Vandak added.

For those who miss registration in May, the transfer program will open June 1. Last year, more than 2,500 runners were able to enter the race through this program.

Race officials also will conduct a July lottery for U.S. servicemembers and this year's lottery has been increased to 1,000 entries.

The 27th Annual Army Ten-Miler, produced by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, will be held at 8 a.m. Oct. 9 at the

Pentagon.

Race officials also announced that staging of the 2011 race has been moved to the Pentagon north parking lot. Because of this move, the race will start on Route 110.

The flat, fast scenic course passes national monuments and memorials as it winds through the nation's capital. A shuttle bus service runs between the Pentagon north and south parking lots.

The race's two-day Health and Fitness EXPO at the DC Armory will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 7-8. More than 35,000 attendees normally visit this pre-race event. The armory is located at 2001 East Capitol Street across from RFK Stadium. The armory is accessible from the Stadium/Armory Metro stop on the blue and orange lines.

Complete race information is available at www.armytenmiler.com.

staying ACTIVE

Rod and Gun Club

The Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club an der Bundestrasse 291 in Ofersheim offers handgun safety, 5 p.m. April 8; fun shoot, 5 p.m. April 8; trap, 1 p.m. April 9; hunters meeting, 7 p.m. April 13; Bluegrass, 7 p.m. April 14; Archery Safety, 1 p.m. April 16; Fisherman's meeting, 7 p.m. April 27. Civ. 06202-51193.

Heidelberg Golf Club

Head over to the Wednesday Night Scramble 6 p.m. Wednesdays April 20-May 25. Registration starts at 4 p.m. and is limited to the first 60 paid participants. Open to eligible users with verifiable handicap. DSN 379-6139.

Late Night Cosmic

The Heidelberg Bowling and Entertainment Center on Patrick Henry Village offers late night cosmic bowling 10 p.m.-1 a.m. April 21. DSN 388-9040, civ. 06221-338-9040.

Heidelberg Softball Officials Clinic

Heidelberg Softball officials' clinic and tournament has been rescheduled for April 26-30. Classroom instruction will be 6-9 p.m. April 26-29 in the Heidelberg Sports office, Bldg. 128, on Patton Barracks. The tournament will be April 30. DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032.

Youth Tackle Football Camp

Registration for tackle football camp is ongoing through May 1 for camp June 22-25 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks Sports Field. The event is open to 9-18 year olds and those interested must be enrolled with Kaiserslautern Child, Youth and School Services. Register at Parent Central Services on Pulaski Barracks or <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>.

Soccer Players

Heidelberg Community Soccer is seeking players for the community team. Practices and tryouts are 6-9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Patton Barracks fitness center in Heidelberg and the Tompkins Barracks fitness center in Schwetzingen. Must be 18 years or older. DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032.

Baden Bruins

The Baden Bruins Army hockey team is looking for new players to fill their recent expansion team – the Province Bruins, a new team for skilled Army hockey players. Inline season began April 1. Those interested in inline skating or ice hockey should e-mail info@badenbruins.com.



Into the Forest...

Earth Week Photo Contest

If you have dreamed of being a wilderness photographer, now's your chance! You don't have to travel far to go into the woods. The United Nations has declared 2011 to be the International Year of the Forests. Explore the woods of Germany, with your eyes and cameras. Leave only your footprints behind you, but bring back your best photographs or collages and submit them to the [myBWNOW.ning.com](http://mybwnow.ning.com) – Earth Week Photo Contest page. The winning and runner up photos will be published in the Herald Post during Earth Week.

Go to <http://mybwnow.ning.com/profile/intotheforest> to upload photos.

Photos/collages should be taken in Germany. Please submit by April 10. See the website for more information. You must have a myBWNOW account to upload photos.



Did you know?

DoD is removing Social Security Numbers
from ID cards

SSN Removal

To protect your privacy and personal identity information, your Social Security Number (SSN) is being replaced with a DoD ID Number on all ID cards.

ID Card Changes:

- As of June 2011, SSNs will no longer be printed on any new ID card.
- SSN removal will occur in three phases.
- Your new ID card will have a **DoD ID Number** in place of your SSN.
- Your DoD ID Number will be used as the Geneva Conventions serial number.
- If you are eligible for DoD benefits, there will also be a **DoD Benefits Number** printed on your new ID card.



For more information about Social Security Number removal, please visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard.