

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
Dec. 8, 2011

Speed Read

HERALD POST

The last issue of Herald Post for 2011 will be Dec. 22. Publication will resume Jan. 12.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When the weather turns bad, the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg provides information via telephone, AFN radio, TV and the website. **3**

SWEDISH NCO GRADUATION

Europe's senior enlisted advisor witnessed history at the Swedish Land Forces first NCO graduation in more than 30 years. **6**



MAINTENANCE AWARD

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An original member of the U.S. Army Europe Soldiers Chorus returns as master of ceremonies for holiday concerts. **13**



ARMY, AIR FORCE GAME

Air Force dominated the Army with a 34-0 win, earning the title at the first Sembach Invitational Flag Football tournament Nov. 19. **17**

Defense Details

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

It's been 40 years since the military began training troops to accept each others' differences and get along. And if anyone questions the value of diversity training, they need only to consider how much things have changed since it began, said director of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Ronald M. Joe. The institute was created in 1971 as the Defense Race Relations Institute to quell the tensions. As the institute has continued to evolve, more focus has been placed on removing barriers, understanding command climate and developing strategies to enhance workplace performance, Joe said.

www.defense.gov
www.army.mil/news

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German group tours installations to view real estate to be released to host nation

By Donna Walker
USAG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nearly two years before the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg inactivates, officials offered a tour of Army property in Heidelberg Friday to city leaders who will help decide the future of the land.

For many of the more than 70 people from the Heidelberg city council, German media, chamber of commerce, recreation and environmental agencies, it was the first time they had ever visited an Army installation.

"Many may have been to Patrick



A first look

In front of the door to Bldg. 106 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg, stand Chief of Housing Don Meyer, left, and Government Relations Adviser Harry Connors, right, briefing members of a Heidelberg advisory group that has been discussing the future use of U.S. land to be released to the German government when the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg inactivates in 2013.

Phillipp Rothe

Henry Village for past German-American Volksfests when it used to be easier before 9/11 to visit at least the housing areas," said USAG B-W Commander Col. Bryan DeCoster.

Heidelberg Lord Mayor Dr. Eckart Würzner requested the tour for the advisory board comprised of representatives from 32 groups with an interest in see **TOUR** page 12

Overseas school lunch prices jump 35 cents Jan. 3

First increase in seven years

AAAFES Public Affairs

Starting Jan. 3, school lunch prices at all Depart-

ment of Defense Education Activity schools outside the continental United States will increase.

On Nov. 10, the military services approved an increase in the price of school lunches at DODEA schools in order to keep pace

with increasing operational costs and comply with The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (Public Law 111-296).

The Act requires participants in the U.S. Department of Agriculture meal program to raise student lunch prices to a level comparable to the

state subsidy rate used for USDA reimbursement.

"As the designated school food authority, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service provides school meals on a non-profit, break even basis. In order to keep pace with see **LUNCHES** page 12



Holiday Magic

Janay Flowers, marketing clerk for USAG Baden-Württemberg Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, wears a festive green suit and hands out tickets to guests for a drawing for prizes during the garrison's annual Holiday Magic event Friday at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. The event gave children the chance to decorate Santa Claus hats and gingerbread houses, to take photos with Santa Claus, to listen to holiday stories and to see the lights on the garrison holiday tree glow for the first time this season. See more photos at www.flickr.com/photos/heraldpost.

OTom Boles

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Service of process rules confuse many in Germany

Patton Law Center

Whenever you bring a civil suit against someone or have a civil suit brought against you, including divorce in a U.S. court, one of the first terms you will hear is service of process.

Many people are not sure what service of process means and whether the rules concerning it are the same when you are in the U.S. and when you are in Germany. Many Soldiers and family members have ongoing civil court cases when they move to Germany or get involved in U.S. civil cases after arriving here.

This article is intended to help clear up some of the questions and confusion that arise as a result.

Legal process is a document that compels a person to appear in a U.S. court or comply with a U.S. court's decision. In short, it is the procedure that allows the court to acquire or exercise jurisdiction over the people involved in the case so the court's decision later can be enforced in favor of or against a party.

Most states use a document called a summons to initiate a civil matter. A summons is part of the legal process and it is a document usually prepared by an attorney working for the plaintiff, or sometimes by a court, which informs the other party or defendant that a civil case is being brought against that person and what

that person must do to protect his or her legal rights.

Service of process is simply the actual formal delivery of the summons to the other party or defendant so the plaintiff can later prove in court the other party knew of the case.

Once proper service of process happens, a civil case can continue to final judgment even in the absence of the other party or defendant.

The rules on service of process vary from state to state and whether the party is located inside or outside the United States.

Many people believe Army officials, such as commanders, have the ability to serve civil process against Soldiers and family members or on their behalf. This is not true.

Generally, no Army commander has the authority to serve process on Soldiers and family members whether they are located inside or outside the United States. Usually the most a commander could do is to see whether the person to be served is willing to voluntarily accept the service of process.

Under Army Regulation 27-40, this requires more than calling the person into an office and handing the person a certified letter or other notice from a U.S. court or attorney.

Fortunately in Germany, commanders and other Army officials can seek assistance and advice from the foreign law branch, Office of the

Judge Advocate, U.S. Army, Europe or from their local office of the Staff Judge Advocate on how to properly handle this matter.

There are only two methods of proper service of civil process from a U.S. state court on a Soldier, federal civilian employee or family member located in Germany.

First, any person may voluntarily accept the service of process. The second method is through The Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extra-Judicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters (Hague Convention).

Both the U.S. and Germany have signed this international agreement.

The Hague Convention provides for a central authority in each country to handle service of process requests from other countries who are signatories. In Germany, this authority is usually exercised by the German Ministry of Justice.

The Hague Convention has specific rules on what constitutes a proper request for service of process and Germany has specific rules regarding what is proper service of process within its borders.

For example, Germany does not allow service of process under the Hague Convention through certified mail, even to an APO address.

Also, any document a party from the U.S. wishes to serve under the Hague Convention on another party

Any document a party from the U.S. wishes to serve under the Hague Convention on another party in Germany must include a German translation of all documents ... even if the parties ... do not speak a word of German.

in Germany must include a German translation of all documents.

This is true even if the parties are all U.S. citizens and do not speak a word of German.

Additionally, many attorneys and courts in the U.S. are not well versed on the Hague Convention so its requirements are not obvious to them.

The Hague Convention rules do not apply to service of process from German courts or from U.S. courts in criminal matters and this too sometimes causes confusion.

Service of U.S. civil process on persons stationed or residing in foreign countries can be costly, difficult and time consuming. Sometimes this can frustrate a party in a case, especially in a divorce matter where one party may want to expedite the matter.



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

"Help a child in need this holiday season. Select an angel, purchase a gift that corresponds to the age and gender indicated on the back, and then place the gift with its angel into a drop box by Dec. 9.

Angel Tree and drop box locations:

- [Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village] library, Bldg. 4509
- PHV Commissary

- Mannheim Main Exchange, [Benjamin Franklin Village,] Bldg. 200
- [Heidelberg] Army Community Service, Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850."

—Dawn Sykulla, BWnow Facebook fan

"An easy way to make a child's life brighter - Do it!"

—Jacqui Haggerty, BWnow Facebook fan

"There's still time to make plans to see the KMC Onstage presentation of A Christmas Carol 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday at the Galaxy Theater on Vogelweh. The adaptation of Dickens' classic tale reawakens the true spirit of Christmas. Tickets are available in the One Stop Shop in Landstuhl or at webtrac.mwr.army.mil."

—BWnow Facebook Administrator



Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg:
Col. Bryan D. DeCoster

Public Affairs Officer:
Regina Abrigo-Hingten
Editor:
Donna Walker
Social Media Chief, Reporter:
Dijon Rolle
Web Master: vacant

Reporters:
Elizabeth Casebeer, Heidelberg
Rick Scavetta, Kaiserslautern

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

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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.



Holiday Giving

Kaiserslautern Toy Drive, Heidelberg Angel Tree: giving programs sponsored by Army Community Service

U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern Commander Lt. Col. Lars Zetterstrom, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gene Canada, right, recently took part in the Army Community Service Holiday Assistance Toy Drive which runs in the Kaiserslautern Military Community through Monday. Unwrapped toys set in community drop boxes will be distributed Dec. 14 and 15 to roughly 1,244 qualified children from 590 families in the Kaiserslautern community. The toy drive is one of many conducted throughout the Army and is similar to USAG Baden-Württemberg's Angel Tree program running through tomorrow. To help, select an angel from Christmas trees located at the Exchanges in Mannheim and Heidelberg, the Heidelberg commissary and ACS on the Shopping Center, purchase a gift that corresponds to the age and gender written on the angel and place into the drop boxes found at the same locations.

When weather turns dangerous, cancellations happen

USAG Baden-Württemberg DPTMS

During periods of inclement weather that cause school and work delays and cancellations, the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg provides timely information via telephone, AFN radio, television, web audience and the command information channel.

Decisions to delay school or other community activities because of dangerous road conditions (ice or snow) or failure of heating, electricity or plumbing is made by USAG Baden-Württemberg Commander Col. Bryan DeCoster based on information gathered by the military police.

Any decision is immediately relayed to AFN. Late opening or cancellation is usually announced on AFN Radio in Heidelberg FM 104.6 and AM 1143; in Mannheim FM 107.3

and AM 1143, and FM 100.2 and AM 1107 in Kaiserslautern before 6 a.m. and at least every 15 minutes from 6-7 a.m.

Information may also be obtained by contacting the MP station at DSN 388-2223, civ. 06221-678-2223.

The Installation Management Command Europe weather, road condition and school closure site also lists and updates this information which can be found at the bottom of the garrison website home page (www.bw.eur.army.mil) under Hot Topics.

This links to the IMCOM-E website at www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff_org/safety/road_conditions/index.asp.

Any cancellation for military or civilian personnel or bus transportation automatically applies to the schools.

All available communication systems to announce school delays or closures are used to notify parents as far in advance as possible. Students should have a designated alternate destination agreed upon in advance with their parents, in case of early closure or for any other reason.

The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security staff notifies military units and civilian agencies about delays and cancellations.

Delays for reporting to duty are standardized at two hours and essential garrison services and facilities continue to operate using minimal personnel. Unit commanders are responsible for their unit's essential missions and designating unit representatives.

For information on the inclement weather policy, look for #36 at www.bw.eur.army.mil/about/policies.html.

What Do Color-Coded Road Conditions Mean?

GREEN – Unrestricted vehicle dispatches are authorized. Ideal road, visibility and temperature conditions exist.

AMBER – Road surface is wet, slushy, snow is less than 4 inches, visibility is 20 to 50 meters and temperatures are 30 F to 35 F degrees.

RED – Only mission-essential and emergency vehicles are authorized. Road surface is flooded, snow is drifting 4 to 8 inches, visibility is 15 to 20 meters and temperature is 10 F to 30 F degrees.

BLACK – Only emergency-essential vehicles are authorized. Road surface is heavily flooded, snow is drifting heavily and there is 8 inches or more of snow, visibility is less than 15 meters and the temperature is below 10 F.

Where do you turn when **Severe Weather** hits?

For road condition information call:	DSN	Civilian
In Heidelberg and Mannheim:	388-2223	06221-678-2223
In Kaiserslautern:	480-2653	06371-47-2653

Road, weather conditions, school closure information online:
www.imcom-europe.army.mil under Safety – Road Conditions

**A link can be found under Road Conditions on the USAG Baden-Württemberg homepage: www.bw.eur.army.mil.

Listen to AFN for updates:		
Heidelberg:	104.6 FM	AM 1143
Kaiserslautern:	100.2 FM	AM 1107
Mannheim:	107.3 FM	AM 1143

Via AFN decoders: FM signal is Channel 152. The AM signal is Channel 153.

**For duty schedule variations contact your chain of command.

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.

Quiet Hours Clarification—The Directorate of Public Works Resident Guide will be revised soon to reflect quiet hours in housing areas as 10 p.m.-6:30 a.m. Due to force protection and other security concerns, large groups of Soldiers are no longer allowed to run together off post. As a result, units may continue cohesion runs and cadence calling through on post housing areas during their scheduled physical training times in the mornings. The command understands this is an inconvenience for family members who don't get up prior to 6:30 a.m. but asks that both Soldiers and residents be considerate of each other and do their part to minimize this inconvenience for everyone. If anyone notices outright abuse of this policy by the units, please report it to housing or building coordinators.

What will happen to the students at Heidelberg High School? My son graduates in 2014. Do we know when HHS will close?

Heidelberg High School as we know it today on Mark Twain Village will close after the 2012-13 school year, but DODDS may establish a combined high school and middle school on Patrick Henry Village for the 2013-14 school year if there are sufficient high school students remaining. Current projections of personnel remaining in the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities justifies maintaining an elementary school, middle school and high school in Heidelberg through 2012-13. The determination of how the schools will be configured in Heidelberg on PHV for the 2013-14 school year will be based on the projected number of assigned personnel and school age children remaining. As we gain more fidelity on these projections, we will work closely with DODDS to determine how assigned personnel will receive DODDS school services. If there are DODDS schools on PHV for the 2013-14 school year, community members can anticipate that some schools will be combined (either elementary combined with middle school or middle school combined with high school) and curriculum, faculty and activities will be reduced given the much smaller population remaining in Heidelberg and Mannheim.

Facilities Operations Changes Mannheim

Base Operations—For assistance, residents should contact Sgt. 1st Class Damien R. Hunt, who is now the Base Operations noncommissioned officer in charge located in Bldg. 245 on Sullivan Barracks, DSN 385-1610, civ. 0621-730-1610, civ. 07622-70-0535, damien.r.hunt@eur.army.mil; Bob Isbell, Mannheim Base Operations Manager, DSN 385-3944, civ. 0621-730-3944, bob.isbell@eur.army.mil; Ralph Santaliz, Interim Deputy Garrison Commander, rafael.santaliz@eur.army.mil; or Master Sgt. Romeo Satsatin, acting USAG Baden-Württemberg command sergeant major, romeo.satsatin@eur.army.mil, DSN 373-1300, civ. 06221-17-1310.

Education Center—The Mannheim Education Center is closed. Education services are available at the Education Center in Bldg. 106 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. GPS: Speyererstrasse 15, 69124 Heidelberg. DSN 373-6176, civ. 06221-17-6176, www.bw.eur.army.mil/contacts/service_directory.html.

Gospel Service—The Gospel Church Service for Mannheim members is now held in Heidelberg at the chapel on Mark Twain Village. DSN 373-6190, civ. 06221-17-6190.

Guest Lodging—Mannheim customers may use the guest house on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg or receive a certificate of nonavailability for housing on the economy on a case-by-case basis or if no rooms are available on PHV.

Health and Dental—Health and dental care for Mannheim members are now offered in Heidelberg only. TRICARE enrollment offices are on the Heidelberg Shopping Center in the Central Processing Facility and at the Heidelberg Health Center on Nachrichten Kaserne, Bldg. 3613, Room 2047. Both are open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 371-2445, civ. 06221-17-2445. Coleman Dental: DSN 382-5262, civ. 0621-779-5262. PHV Clinic: DSN 388-9500, civ. 06221-338-9500. Retirees and their family members who have been disenrolled may seek care at the Heidelberg Health Center on a space available basis. Retirees may pick up prescrip-

tion medications at the Coleman pharmacy.

Library Support—A library support office is open in Bldg. 246, Room 118, to assist community members 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1-6 p.m. Thursday. Patrons may activate online accounts to enable them to download books and videos and to receive library materials in their mailboxes. Services include assistance with electronic databases, registration and clearing. Computers, a small study room and free paperbacks are available. Items may be returned to the office or to the drop box outside. DSN 385-2688, civ. 0621-730-2688.

Overpass Closure—The overpass from Benjamin Franklin Village to Columbus Street has permanently closed.

Postal Service Center—Hours for the Postal Service Center on Coleman Barracks are 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Consolidated Mail Room customer service package pick-up window hours remain 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

School Age Center—The School Age Center on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim is in Bldg. 699 next to the elementary school. DSN 380-4321, civ. 0621-730-4321.

Self-Help—The Self-Help Store on Funari Barracks at the recycle center compound is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and closed on American and German holidays. DSN 387-3325.

Tax Relief Office—The Tax Relief Office on Sullivan Barracks is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, closed Tuesdays, Thursdays, weekends and U.S. holidays. DSN 385-3616, civ. 0621-730-3616.

Transportation Motor Pool—The Transportation Motor Pool on Spinelli Barracks has closed and all vehicles are dispatched at the Heidelberg TMP, Bldg. 157, on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-8350, civ. 06221-17-8350, www.bw.eur.army.mil/Directories/DOL/TMP.html.

Vehicle Registration—The vehicle registration office on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim has relocated to Bldg. 1563. The new office has a bathroom, a larger waiting area and a numbering system to ensure customers are seen in the correct order. Customers should first call or visit the official homepage for the U.S. Army Europe Registry of Motor Vehicles to ensure they have the proper paperwork and fee amount for their transaction, and bring checks or money orders to pay fees. The satellite registration office on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg is closed. The Spinelli office is open 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday (including training holidays) and closed American holidays. DSN 384-6909/6100, civ. 0621-730-6909, www.hqusaeur.army.mil/rmv.

Veterinary Treatment Facility—The vet office will close Dec. 22. Veterinary care will continue to be available through the Heidelberg Veterinary Treatment Facility on Patrick Henry Village. To prepare for closing, the Mannheim VTF has reduced its hours. It is open 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday for over-the-counter services only, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday for sick call and preventative medicine appointments. Clients requesting surgery will be referred to Heidelberg VTF or an off post veterinarian. Records remaining at the clinic after Dec. 22 will be transferred to Heidelberg. Those scheduled to PCS before that date should pick up their records at the clinic. DSN 385-2312, civ. 0621-730-2312.

Work Orders—All Star no longer responds to service order calls in Mannheim. Customers should call the Directorate of Public Works service order desk in Heidelberg at DSN 387-3310/3311, civ. 06221-4380-3312.

Heidelberg

Army Emergency Relief—AER requests are processed at Army Community Service in Heidelberg on the Shopping Center, Bldg. 3850, Room 250. DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6975. American Red Cross after hours service for emergency travel in Heidelberg: DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760 and civ. 001-877-272-7337.

Commissary Gate—The hours for the commissary gate on Patrick Henry Village are 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Sun-

day. Commissary hours remain the same: 7:30-9 a.m. daily for early bird shopping, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

Drivers Testing—All drivers' testing services are offered in Heidelberg on the Shopping Center, Bldg. 3850, Room 136, with operating hours 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 370-7889, civ. 06221 57-6681.

Health Center—Weekend services at the Heidelberg Health Center on Nachrichten Kaserne have ended. All emergency and after-hours urgent care is provided on the economy by host-nation providers. Health Center normal hours are 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m.-noon Fridays. Pick up a "Guide to Host Nation Health Care" at the Heidelberg Health Center or visit <https://ermc.amedd.army.mil/heidelberg/index.cfm>.

Postal Finance and Official Mail Service—The Postal Finance and Official Mail service at PSC 432 on Tompkins Barracks has been discontinued. Services are now located at the Heidelberg Shopping Center APO, Bldg. 3850, and the Official Mail and Distribution Center on Campbell Barracks, Bldg. 19, respectively. Consolidated mail room operations at PSC 432 continue uninterrupted. DSN 370-7940, civ. 06221-57-7940.

Mark Twain Village Shoppette—The shoppette on Mark Twain Village and the Campbell Barracks shoppette are open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays to support the Soldiers and families who live on MTV.

Customs Field Office—The Customs office in Mannheim is in Bldg. 256 (the Military Police station) on Sullivan Barracks.

Library—The library on Patrick Henry Village is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Sunday and closed Mondays. Patrons can go online and check out, download and renew services at the MYACCOUNT on-line library service, www.library.eur.army.mil. To set up an account, visit <http://mylibraryeu.fimwr.net/screens/firsttime.html>. Library staff at civ. 06221-338-9443 can answer questions, or assist in setting up an account when patrons visit the library. The IMCOM-Europe library is also available online at www.library.ulinet.army.mil.

Barber Shops—Barber services are offered at the Patton Barber Shop in Heidelberg 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Tompkins shop in Schwetzingen serves customers 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Red Cross—All Red Cross services have transferred to the Heidelberg station, Bldg. 3850, on the Shopping Center. In cases of a family emergency when a communication message is needed, the Heidelberg number will reach an emergency caseworker. The Heidelberg station is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-1760.

Social Work Services—Social Work Services has moved to the Heidelberg Health Center on Nachrichten Kaserne. DSN 371-2084, civ. 06221-17-2084.

Physical Therapy—Physical Therapy serves the active duty population who must go to the Heidelberg Health Center on Nachrichten Kaserne for this treatment.

Tompkins Gym—The Fitness Center on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen has new hours: 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday. The facility is closed Saturdays, Sundays and U.S. holidays. DSN 379-7700, civ. 06202-80-7700.

Village Grille—The Village Grille on Patrick Henry Village closes 3 p.m. Sundays.

Vehicle Registration and Inspection—A consolidated vehicle inspection station for Heidelberg and Mannheim is available on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim. Civ. 06221-678-2586. Vehicle registration manager DSN 384-6100, civ. 0621-730-6100; support DSN 384-6911, civ. 0621-17-6911; vehicle inspection DSN 384-6120, civ. 0621-730-6120.

Capel addresses first graduates of Swedish NCO Academy

By Sgt. Maj. Lisa Hunter
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army Europe's senior enlisted advisor witnessed a historic event for the Swedish Land Forces Nov. 19 during the Swedish Land Forces first noncommissioned officer course graduation in more than 30 years.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel was the distinguished guest at a banquet honoring the 56 graduating Swedish Army and Air Force noncommissioned officers held in Vadstena, Sweden.

The Swedish military disbanded its NCO Corps in the early 1980s. In 2008, the Land Forces established a "specialist officer corps," made up of lower-ranking commissioned officers. In May 2010, Sweden ended military conscription and decided to reestablish its NCO Corps. The 56 Soldiers and Airmen who graduated Saturday are the first to complete the intense 18-month noncommissioned officer education course and revive the centuries-old tradition of an NCO Corps in Sweden.

Since the 1980s, the role of the Swedish Army has transformed from territorial defense to units available for deployment, both domestically and internationally. Currently, Sweden has 550 soldiers currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Force and 68 soldiers deployed in Kosovo in support of NATO Kosovo Force.

As part of rebuilding their NCO Corps, the Swedish Land Forces are studying various NCO corps models. Capel met with Col. Michael Claesson, the commanding officer of the Land Warfare Center to discuss how USAREUR can assist with Sweden's transition to an all-volunteer force and the development of the Swedish Land Forces NCO Corps. It was their second meeting in two months.

In September, USAREUR Commander Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling and Capel traveled to Sweden to further relations and to thank Sweden for their contributions in ISAF and KFOR. Hertling's visit marked the first time a U.S. Army general had paid an official visit to the country since retired Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Dennis Reimer visited in 1996.

During his most recent visit, Capel attended the graduation banquet as the guest of Swedish Army Inspector and Commander of the Land Forces, Maj. Gen. Berndt Grundevik. At the

banquet, USAREUR's top NCO addressed the graduating cadets.

"After meeting with your officers, I know you already have one major factor going for you: Your officers believe in you and support you as noncommissioned officers," Capel said. "Your officers, and especially your commanders, are investing authority, power and – most of all – responsibility in you as noncommissioned officers. You must be there when they need you." Capel explained that U.S. Army noncommissioned officers have two documents that guide them: The Army Values and the Noncommissioned Officer Creed.

"The Army values are an overarching guide for who we are as Soldiers, no matter if we are officers, noncommissioned officers or Soldiers," he explained. "They are traits that I expect all noncommissioned officers to demonstrate, because noncommissioned officers must do the right thing whether anyone is watching or not."

Capel went on to explain the Noncommissioned Officer Creed.

"This creed is the code that we as noncommissioned officers live by. I think you will find excerpts of this creed will mean the same to you cadets sitting here tonight," he said. "The creed starts with 'No one is more professional as I. I am a noncommissioned officer, leader of Soldiers.' In our Army, the noncommissioned officers are known as the backbone of the Army. I know that your officers will expect no less of you."

Capel summed it up by reciting an excerpt from the last paragraph of the creed. "Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence, as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve ..." That is your charter," Capel told the cadets. "You noncommissioned officers sitting here tonight are among the first in your Army in 30 years. You are making history for yourselves, your country and all the Soldiers you will lead who will aspire to be noncommissioned officers just like you."

Grundevik closed out the evening with his advice to the newly minted NCOs, "Lead by example. We need you to ensure that our Army remains strong," the general said. "But, always remember to be a proud and simple Soldier."

Faces of the community: Combat Lifesaver



Stefan Alford

Staff Sgt. Angela Weeks, health care educator at the Heidelberg Health Center, places a splint on a dummy prior to teaching a Combat Lifesaver class. Weeks also provides sustainment training for the health center staff on first aid, combat medic procedures and changes in medical treatments. Her knowledge of these programs allows the health center staff to stay current on their requirements to provide quality care to all beneficiaries. In addition, the certified Emergency Management Technician teaches EMT classes for Central Texas College. She plans to study public administration next year at the University of Southern California. The health center on Nachrichten Kaserne is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m.-noon Friday. DSN 371-2622, civ. (toll free) 00800-376-22273.

Civil support command wins maintenance award for Europe

7th CSC Public Affairs

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Civil Support Command from Kaiserslautern has earned the U.S. Army Europe Chief of Staff of the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence in the reserve component Table of Distribution and Allowances medium category.

Active Table of Organization and Equipment, Army National Guard TOE, Army Reserve TOE and TDA units compete separately in three categories: small, medium and large based on number of authorized personnel. The National Defense Industrial Asso-

ciation co-sponsors the award.

"We are honored to receive the award. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, focus on mission readiness and hard work by our Soldiers and civilians," said Kabaka Teague, a 7th CSC VSE Corporation Logistics Analyst.

HHC, 7th CSC next competes in Phase I of the DA-level AAME competition, which convened Nov. 28 at the Ordnance Center in Fort Lee, Va., to select units for the DA-level Phase II on-site evaluation. The results of Phase I are expected to be announced on or about Dec. 21. The DA-level awards will be announced in April.

Military police provide honor guard for sculpture unveiling for 42nd Infantry at Croix Rouge Farm

By Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett
18TH MP BDE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BEUVARDES, France – The 529th Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, had the honor of providing a color guard for the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial ceremony Nov. 12.

During the ceremony there was a special unveiling of the monument dedicated to the Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division who gave their lives in France during World War I.

The memorial is a 10-foot bronze sculpture of a Soldier carrying a fallen comrade.

“This was a great opportunity for the 529th MP Company to act as a representative of U.S. Army Europe and pay our respects to the veterans that fought and prevailed at this battle,” said Capt. Aaron Kravitz, 529th MP Co. commander.

According to the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation website, the sculptor of the monument expressed his feelings on the memorial.

“In the Rainbow Division memorial, my original idea was to portray the powerful bond between men on active service with a Soldier carrying his dead comrade ... I am not a religious man, but working on this sculpture I felt a strong spiritual guidance,” James Butler said.

“The ceremony reminded us



The color guard of the 529th Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, march during the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial ceremony Nov. 12 near Beuvarde, France. The ceremony was dedicated to the Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division and who gave their lives in France during World War I.

of the significance of Veterans Day, especially walking across the old battlefield,” said 1st Lt. Molly Broderick, a platoon leader with the 529th MP Co. “This ceremony also made me reflect on not just a number but the actual Soldier and leader story.”

On July 26, 1918, Gen. Douglas MacArthur made the following statement about the battle of Croix Rouge Farm.

“The 167th Alabama Infantry Regiment assisted by the left flank of the 168th Infantry Regiment had stormed and captured the Croix Rouge Farm in a manner which for its gallantry I do not believe has been surpassed in military history. It was one of the few occasions on which the bayonet

was decisively used,” MacArthur said.

“The atmosphere just made you think about the strength and courage it must have taken to fight on an open field decisively down to bayonets,” said Broderick. “I was honored to be able to feel a plethora of emotions from their actions and it is an experience I will never forget.”

In 1918 on the 11th hour, the 11th day of the 11th month, Germany signed a peace agreement which ended all hostilities of World War I. It was once called Armistice Day. Now more commonly known as Veterans Day, we honor and remember the fallen comrades of present and past wars.



French citizens and Soldiers of the 529th Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, watch the unveiling of the monument dedicated to the Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division who gave their lives in France during World War I near Beuvarde, France, Nov. 12. The memorial is a 10-foot bronze sculpture of a Soldier carrying a fallen comrade.

ICE
gets
results

To submit an ICE comment, look for “ICE-HD” for Heidelberg, “ICE-MA” for Mannheim or “ICE-KL” for Kaiserslautern on the garrison website at www.bw.eur.army.mil.

Interactive Customer Evaluation allows customers to rate products and services provided by Department of Defense offices and facilities worldwide.

Comment card ratings are used to improve the products and services in the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg. Community members are encouraged to use the ICE system to provide feedback, both positive and constructive, about

garrison issues.

The garrison convenes a Chill Board each quarter to discuss and evaluate the satisfaction rates received from customers throughout the community.

The Herald Post will periodically feature issues brought to leaders through the ICE system and ask readers to submit comments on garrison social media sites.

Issue: The commissary gate

Scope

The entrance and exit gate on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg near the commissary changed hours July 1. Those coming to or leaving the installation were unable to use that access point between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Customer Feedback

- ♦ Shopping at the commissary was difficult 6-9 p.m. when the commissary was open but the gate was not.
- ♦ Bike trails were inaccessible because the alternative gate leads to roads that don't allow bike riding.
- ♦ School activity buses returning to

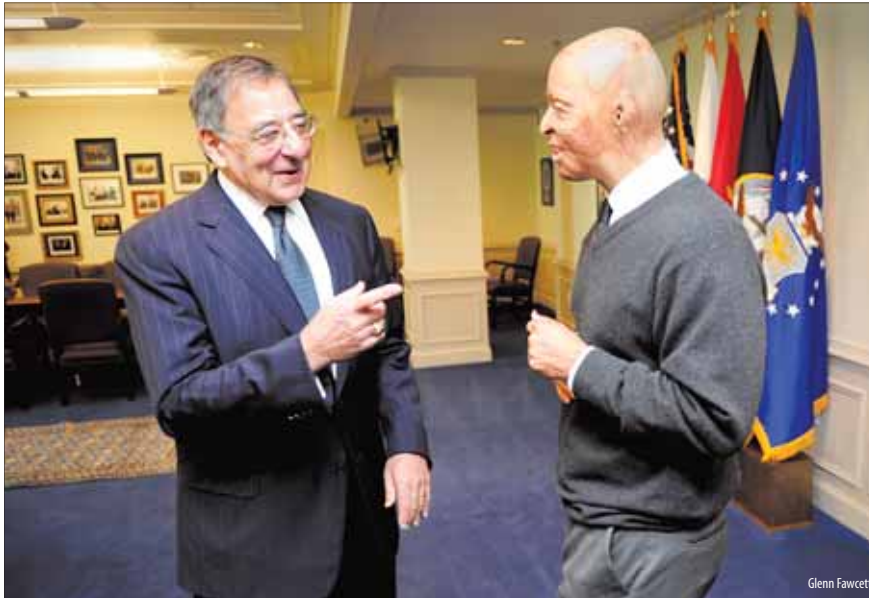
PHV after hours had difficulty negotiating the narrower intersection at the alternative gate near Burger King.

Command Response

The command extended the gate hours to 8 p.m. except Sunday. On Nov. 1, gate hours were again extended. They are now 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

What do you think?

Express your opinion on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bwnow) and BWnow (mybwnow.ning.com) by answering the Question of the Week: “How do you feel about the change in hours at the commissary gate on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg?” Responses or other comments may also be emailed to the Herald Post at usaghd.post@eur.army.mil.



Our ARMY around the world

For more Army news,
visit www.army.mil

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta does a few steps with Dancing with the Stars sensation and actor J.R. Martinez at the Pentagon Dec. 1. Panetta, a fan of the show, invited Martinez to the Pentagon to meet and congratulate him. In 2003, Martinez was severely burned over 40 percent of his body while serving in Iraq as a U.S. Army Soldier.

Glenn Fawcett



John Stillwell

Queen Elizabeth II shakes hands with Capt. Christopher Miorin of the U.S. Army Drill Team, after watching his team in action at the British Military Tournament at Earls Court in west London Friday.



Rachel Larue

Tomb sentinel Sgt. Dontae Skywalker, relief commander for the Tomb of the Unknowns, calls out orders for the changing of the guard in Arlington National Cemetery in Northern Virginia Monday.



Senior Airman Grovert Fuentes-Contreras

Staff Sgt. Mark Lynas, Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul squad leader, calls for a member of his team during a mission in Shah Joy, Afghanistan, Nov. 26. Lynas is deployed with Charlie Company, 182nd Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard.

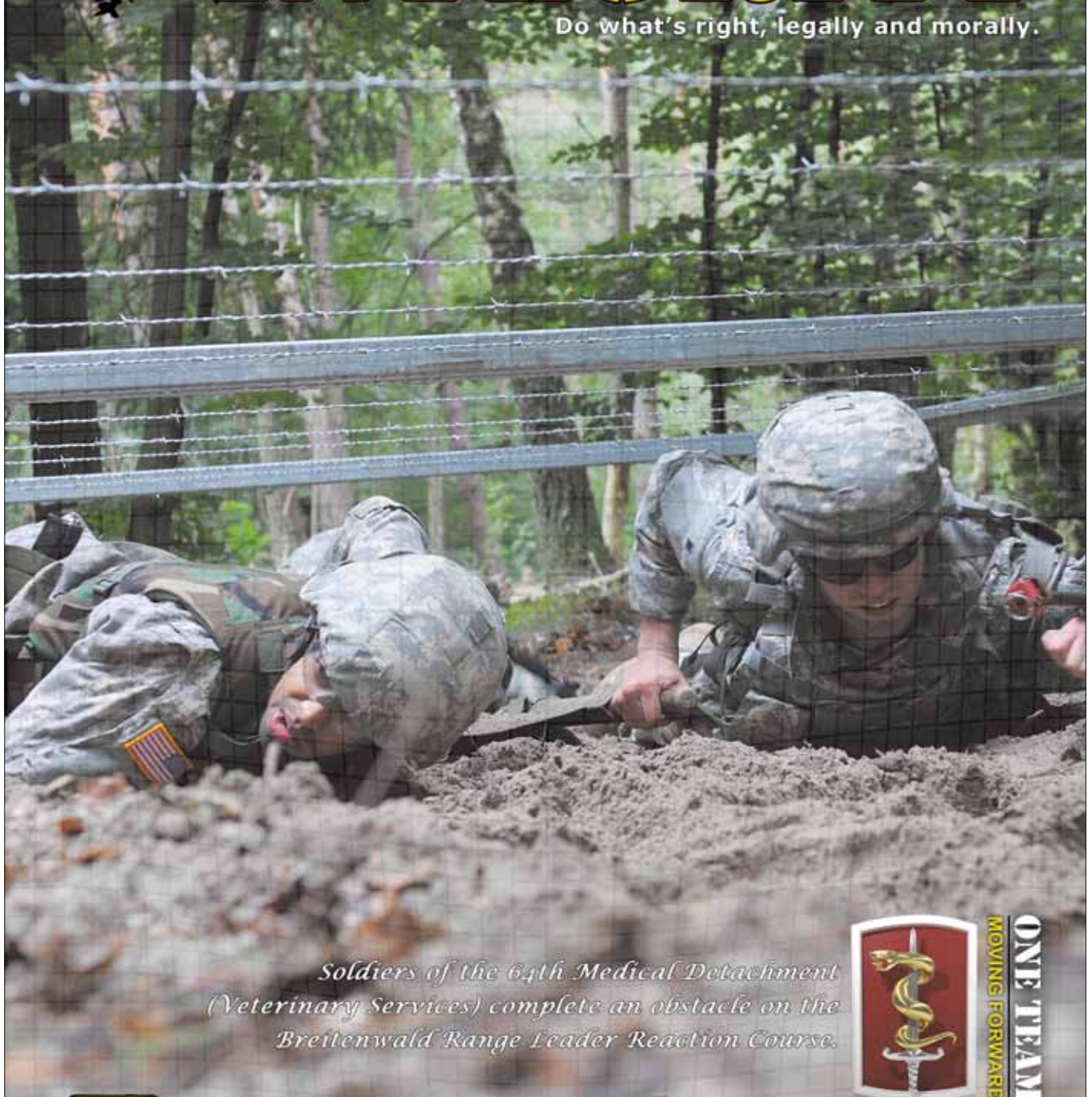


Spc. Ken Scar

Sgt. 1st Class Alpi Reyes, who is from the Dominican Republic, waits for his ride on Combat Outpost Herrera Friday. Reyes, an infantry Soldier by trade, was finishing up a seven-month deployment as the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's science and technology advisor for Regional Command East. The assignment took him all over the region, usually by himself, to document improvements Soldiers wanted in their equipment. Once documented, he will relay the information back to the states where prototypes will be made and sent into theater for real-world trials before being mass-produced and officially issued.

—INTEGRITY

Do what's right, legally and morally.



Soldiers of the 64th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) complete an obstacle on the Breitenwald Range Leader Reaction Course.



ONE TEAM
MOVING FORWARD



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.

ARMY VALUES

Singing in the Season



Linda Steil

Students from Patrick Henry Elementary School sing at the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg's Holiday Magic event Friday on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. Community members ushered in the season with a tree lighting ceremony, entertainment and a chance to get a photograph with Santa Claus and ask him for that special Christmas gift. The activities are all part of the annual event hosted by USAG B-W Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Children decorated Santa Claus hats and gingerbread houses and listened to holiday stories. Family and MWR gave away prizes, Heidelberg's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers sponsored the gingerbread house decorating activity and the Heidelberg Mothers of Preschoolers offered cold event goers a cup of hot soup.

TOUR

continued from page 1

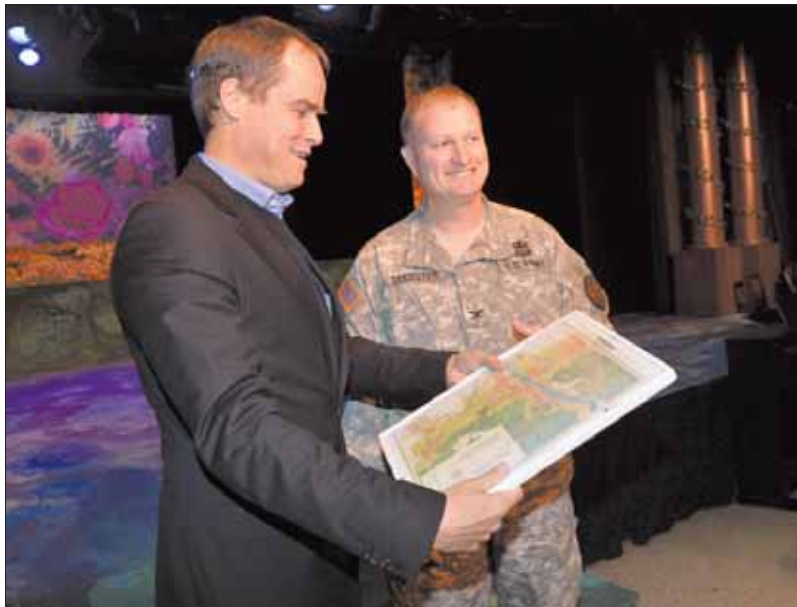
the development of the real estate the area will receive as a result of transformation.

"For us, this is a major part of what is to be in our future," Würzner said. "We were very happy to have the U.S. Army here in Heidelberg after the war. The decision to [close] was not an easy discussion but we have to accept it and look into the future," Würzner said.

Once a U.S. installation in Germany closes, BImA (*Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben*) takes control of the property as the agency responsible for turning it over to the host nation.

Pronounced *beema*, it is the German Federal Agency for Real Estate and it grants first choice to German federal agencies, second choice to German state level, then local cities and finally to private companies. With a portfolio of 300,000 hectares of land and more than 43,000 apartments, BImA is the largest property holder in Germany, according to its website www.infopark.com/2376292/bima.

"I'm impressed because it is



Donna Walker

so large," said councilwoman Margret Hommelhoff, whose reaction was mirrored by many of the participants. "We have never been here in these buildings."

The 4.5 hour tour took them through Patton Barracks, the Heidelberg Army Air Field, Patrick Henry Vil-

lage, Mark Twain Village and Nachrichten Kaserne.

"It's important to visit to get an idea of the buildings and the area," said city council-

LUNCHES

continued from page 1

increasing food and operational costs, and to be compliant with this new law, school lunch prices will increase for the first time in seven years," explained U.S. Army Lt. Col. Thomas Shrader, Exchange spokesman.

The last price increase was 10 cents per meal in 2004. Starting Jan. 3, the new increase is 35 cents per full price meal, or \$2.40 for elementary students and \$2.55 for secondary students.

Families qualifying for the Free and Reduced Meal Program will not be impacted by the meal cost increases. The cost of a reduced price meal will remain unchanged at 40 cents per meal.

Wholesome, balanced meals are vital to the academic achievement of school-aged children. The DOD School Meal Program meets the same USDA guidelines as CO-NUS schools by provid-

ing all of the important nutrients children need to be successful in school and healthy in the future.

For information on free and reduced meal eligibility, contact Parent Central Services in Bldg. 699 on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim, DSN 380-4850, civ. 0621-730-4851, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

In Heidelberg, contact PCS in Bldg. 4443 on Patrick Henry Village, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and Friday, and 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday except first Thursdays when the hours are 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., DSN 388-9240, civ. 06221-338-9241. Parents need the most recent leave and earnings statements for all members of the household and a copy of orders that include all family members.

For information on the school meal program, visit www.shop-myexchange.com.

woman Dr. Annette Trabold. "It's difficult to get an impression from photographs," Trabold said. "We want to see the buildings so we can better imagine what's going on when we talk about it."

The city has also held open meetings for Heidelberg citizens to gather their ideas and opinions on how the land should be used. One idea is affordable housing for the young.

"[It's] a little village," said Trabold about Patrick Henry Village, which has the capacity to house 3,600. "This is a big chance to have an area and houses there," Trabold said. "We have students and families with young children who can't stay in Heidelberg because it's too expensive" to rent apartments.

Trabold said it's a challenge to formulate a restructuring plan for the area.

The garrison will continue to offer tours of the area so that planning can progress.

"Our relationship with you, our German friends and neighbors, is important to us. We'll continue to provide you with opportunities like this," DeCoster said.

Members of the 7th Army Support Command Soldiers Chorus pose for a photograph in 1963, the year the group was formed thanks to Brig. Gen. William Harris, who had the vision for a Soldiers Chorus which came to fruition during his command. Lawrence Fogelberg, standing on the far right in the fifth row from the bottom, returns to serve as master of ceremonies for the upcoming U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus holiday concerts.



Original US Army Europe Soldiers Chorus member returns as master of ceremonies for holiday concerts

By Sgt. Kailin Eskander
USAREUR BAND AND CHORUS

For more than 45 years, the U.S. Army Europe Soldiers Chorus has been delighting audiences throughout Europe with a full range of classical and pop music.

In 1963, Brig. Gen. William A. Harris had the vision for a Soldiers Chorus. The personal archives of Lawrence Fogelberg, a member of the original chorus, contain a document which states, "The underlying concept of the Soldiers Chorus is to provide a living symbol of unity within the many organizations of the command, to establish a unique method of entertainment and to enhance the German-American Relations program."

The present day Soldiers Chorus continues to honor the original concept as a group made up of Soldiers from different units throughout the command.

Fogelberg was one of 150 men who auditioned for the 7th Army Support Command Soldiers chorus and won his way into the group.

"Back then we were just an all male chorus, 50 men, although we were seldom up to strength, and we had a piano accompanist," he said. "The chorus had a couple of



WILLIAM HARRIS,
Chorus
Founder

**U.S. Army Europe
Band and Chorus Holiday Concerts**

- 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at Konrad Frey Halle in Bad Kreuznach
- 6 p.m. Dec. 11 at Kongresshaus Stadthalle in Heidelberg
- 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at Pestalozzi Halle in Graeben-Neudorf
- 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at Congress Centrum Pforzheim in Pforzheim
- 6 p.m. Dec. 15 at the main post Physical Fitness Center in Grafenwöhr
- 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at Rhein Neckar Halle in Eppelheim



LAWRENCE FOGELBERG,
Guest
Emcee

drafted professional singers and draftees who had studied voice in college. The rest of us could sing well enough to pass the audition, though not all could read music."

During December of 1963 the Soldiers Chorus participated in Operation Christmas Border Tour. They traveled over 1,800 miles and performed in dayrooms, mess halls, service clubs and theaters, sharing their music with troops stationed along the former Czechoslovakian and East German borders.

"We were in field gear. The audiences were sometimes on alert with weapons and white parkas handy," Fogelberg said.

There were 15 performances at U.S. border camps. They performed just 700 meters from the Iron Curtain. An unscheduled and spontaneous performance in a nearby German village made it into the written history of the

unit: "Carols sung in both German and English brought tears to the eyes of many of the local citizens – a memorable day."

There is a popular German saying which when translated reads, "Where someone is singing you may rest. Wicked people have no songs." The music was a comfort, a bridge between differences and a reminder of a shared humanity during a time of war, Fogelberg recalled.

Nearly 50 years later in a reunified Germany, Fogelberg will rejoin the Soldier's Chorus and the USAREUR Band to which they are attached for six holiday-themed concerts.

"I was very surprised but thrilled by the suggestion that I participate in the series of Christmas concerts," he said. "As I discovered from videos on the internet, the chorus is no longer the all men's chorus that it was

40-odd years ago. Of course I expected that it would be a mixed chorus, but I didn't expect to see choreographed action."

The Soldier's Chorus has evolved over the years into a smaller group than the original 50, and it has added a chorus combo made up of electric guitar, electric bass, drums and keyboard. It also has its own sound and light technicians and choreographed songs. The chorus has been attached to the concert band since 1981, and the groups perform individually as well as together.

"Auditions are available to all Soldiers. We have positions for all vocalists: soprano, alto, tenor and bass, as well as for sound and light engineers, electric guitar and keyboard. This two-year special duty assignment is a wonderful opportunity to be a musical ambassador for U.S. Army in

Europe," said Chorus Director Capt. Bryan Ralls.

"If you are a dedicated, high-speed Soldier with a passion and talent for singing and you have the full support of your command team, then take the audition. This is a fantastic assignment," said chorus recruiter Sgt. Lucky Tagalao.

Reflecting almost five decades later, Fogelberg said, "Being able to join the chorus was sort of a dream for anyone who liked to sing, also because of the camaraderie of serving with men who shared that interest. The hundreds of persons registered on the website for chorus alumni/alumnae suggest that many, many others feel the same way."

This year's holiday concerts will feature the full spectrum of musical groups and styles featuring Fogelberg as the master of ceremonies.

"We have had a great time rehearsing and preparing for this concert series. I hope many people from both the military and German communities come out to enjoy a great evening of music. It will be fun for the entire family," said vocalist Cpl. Xavier Santiago.

For information about joining the chorus, visit www.army.eur.mil/band.

GERMAN COOKING

Cinnamon-Almond Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 egg white, slightly beaten
- Extra granulated sugar (or cinnamon sugar)
- Blanched almonds

Preparation

- Mix together butter and sugars until creamy, then add egg and vanilla and blend in dry ingredients.
- Refrigerate about 1 hour or until firm.
- Pre-heat oven to 350 F.
- Shape dough into 1-inch balls and place on un-greased baking sheets.
- Flatten slightly with the bottom of a glass covered with a damp cloth.
- Brush the top of the cookies with the egg white and sprinkle with the extra granulated sugar or cinnamon sugar.
- Bake about 12 minutes.
- Let cool for a minute, then move to wire racks to cool completely.

Cut-Out Cookies With Preserves

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup cold butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 1/3 cups flour
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 pack vanilla sugar, optional
- 1 pinch of salt, optional
- 1 cup jam, apricot, raspberry or strawberry (for the filling)
- 2 tablespoons icing sugar (for dusting)

Preparation

- Combine cold butter, sugar, egg yolk, vanilla and salt in a bowl and mix with an electric mixer. Gently stir in the flour mixture.
- Flatten the dough into a disk, wrap in foil and chill for at least two hours.
- On a lightly floured surface or a large silicon mat, roll out the dough until it is about 1/4 of an inch thick.
- Cut out the dough with a round cookie cutter. (If you have a cookie cutter with inner cutter, then cut half of the dough with it. Otherwise, take a smaller cutter (or an upside down tip of the decorating bag) and cut out in the middle of half of your cookies).
- The cookies will be sandwiched together and there will be a small "cut out" in the top cookie so you can see the jam underneath.
- Place the cookies about 1 inch apart on the baking sheets. Place in the refrigerator for about 15 minutes to firm up the dough so the cookies will maintain their shape when baked.
- Preheat oven to 350 F. Bake for about 10 minutes, or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack.
- Place the cookies with the cut-outs on a wire rack and dust the tops with the icing sugar.
- Warm the jam for one minute on medium in the microwave
- Spread about a 1/4 - 1/2 teaspoon of jam on the full cookie and place the cut-out cookie on top.
- Using a small spoon, fill the cut-out with more jam.

SOURCE: Birgit Thompson, Stuttgart Public Affairs



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

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I wanted to write to you about six months ago about this dilemma. I've been married for over a year now to a wonderful man, my Soldier. I love him and he loves me, too, more than anything.

Only, his family hates me. You should see the way they treat me. I've even thought about having you write a letter to them or call them only to let them know how wrong they are about mistreating me. My husband and I met on eHarmony. It was an instant connection and true love blossomed.

We dated for about six months and were then married. I've even been through one deployment with him already. You would think his family would give me credit for being faithful during tough times but they give me no credit.

According to them, I'm too old for my husband. I'm 30 and he is 25. He doesn't have any children and I have an adorable 3-year-old son whom I love tremendously. My husband loves him so much and wants to adopt him. This is another problem because his family is saying that he shouldn't adopt my son. They even

mistreat my son by giving him the silent treatment and not allowing any of my husband's nieces and nephews to play with him.

According to them, I'm used goods because I am bringing a child into my marriage who is not my husband's. It's not like I cheated on my husband and had my son outside my marriage. I had my son in a previous relationship, that's all. What's so wrong with that?

His family doesn't think I have anything to bring to the table. I'm not smart enough; I'm not pretty enough; my husband could do better; I don't have a career; I just want my husband for his money. The list goes on and on.

Last Christmas, we went to his family for the holiday. I was miserable and I felt awful for my son. Now they want my husband to come again, but not necessarily with me and my son. My husband wants us to come, too, so we can be together.

I'm not sure I can take it. Should I suffer through another Christmas this year just to please my husband, or should I just say no?

From Holiday Blues

Dear Blues,

Life is too short to spend the holidays with people who don't appreciate you and will mistreat you.

Moreover, I'm really appalled that you are willing to put your son through the torture of being mistreated, too. If it were just you, I would say you're an adult, so you can do as you please. In all cases, I try to advocate for the person who doesn't have a voice, and that's your child. He deserves to be around people who will love him and not mistreat him. You deserve the same, too.

I know you love your husband, but there is no way I would go to your in-laws for Christmas. I also think it's time for your husband to speak up for you. It's like he is

being the silent party in all of this. He should let his family know that their behavior will stop. If it doesn't, then he should stay home, too.

We don't have to take abuse from anyone. My advice is not to go to your in-laws. Don't allow your child to be mistreated.

Moreover, stop trying to measure up to your in-laws' standard of what they think you should be.

Enjoy the holidays and be good to you.

Responses to previous columns:

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I love your advice so much. Every week I pick up the paper just to read your column. You give such great advice that is so practical and down to earth. I also like the way you "tell it like it is" so candidly. You always encourage people to seek therapy and counseling. I think that's important, but believe it or not, your advice could replace the need for therapy.

If people read your column, they wouldn't need counseling because you answer questions on everything from A-Z. Keep it coming, Ms. Vicki, and happy holidays.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

I'm one of your fans who reads your letters and advice religiously. I have everyone in my family reading your column, too. It's the highlight of my week. In my social groups, we often discuss your letters and answers. Everyone loves them. There have also been times where my Sunday school teacher has read your letters and answers because it was so applicable to the lesson, especially when a teenager reaches out to you.

I don't have teenagers, but if I did, I would be so happy to know that my daughter or son wrote to you for advice.

I think you would do a good job of giving them the advice they needed. I appreciate all of your hard work. Meaghan

Nominate military child of year

Operationhomefront.net

SAN ANTONIO – Operation Homefront announced Monday the nomination period is open through Jan. 15 at www.OperationHomefront.net/MCOY for the 2012 Military Child of the Year award for outstanding military children ages 8-18.

Ideal candidates for the award demonstrate resilience, strength of character and thrive in the face of the challenges of military life. They also demonstrate leadership within their families their communities.

"The sons and daughters of

America's service members learn what patriotism is at a very young age," said Jim Knotts, chief executive officer, Operation Homefront.

"Children in military families understand sacrifice and live with the concept of service. This is what the Military Child of the Year Award honors."

Nominees must have valid military identification or current enrollment in DEERS, be 8-18 years old and have the ability to travel to Washington, D.C., for the ceremony.

Finalists are required to provide references, and a background

check will be conducted to confirm eligibility.

Winners will receive \$5,000 and roundtrip airfare accompanied by a parent or guardian to a recognition ceremony scheduled in Washington, D.C., April 5.

According to its website, 2011 was the first year an award was given to a military child from each branch of service.

First Lady Michelle Obama showed her appreciation at the recognition ceremony in Washington.

Recipients of the 2011 awards are profiled in the book "Our Youngest Heroes."

GET OUT!

area events

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

December 8

Ice Magic – Visitors can enjoy a special attraction of the holiday season as Eiszauber, or Ice Magic, returns to Schwetzingen. A 4,520-square foot ice skating rink will be set up on Schlossplatz, the main square facing the front of the palace through Jan. 29. Hours are 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Kaiserslautern on Ice – Glide and twirl over 600 square feet of ice under a cozy tent on the Kaiserslautern ice rink in the heart of the city in the area of the Kaiserslautern Gartenschau. Rink is open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday through Feb. 13.

Stuttgart Christmas Market – Experience Germany's 315-year-old Christmas Market in Stuttgart spread across the squares between the cathedral and the castle. See the city lights and visit nearly 300 stalls with wooden toys, hand-crafted gifts, glassware, sheepskin clothing,

gingerbread, honey waffles, wine and baked apples. A daily Christmas concert begins at 6 p.m. at the Old Castle. The market is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday through Dec. 23. www.stuttgarter-weihnachtsmarkt.de/index.php.

Baden-Baden Christmas Market – The Baden-Baden Christkindelsmarkt, held near the distinctive Kurhaus features live music from bands that will perform twice daily in front of the Kurhaus and more than 50 vendors selling cakes, candy, crafts, cookies, jewelry and holiday gifts. Market is open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday through Dec. 26 and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Wiesbaden Christmas Market – The Wiesbaden Christmas market, located on the Schlossplatz, is open 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon-9 p.m. Sunday through Dec. 23.

Heilbronn Christmas Market – This market features small wooden huts along the Salmer- and Fleinerstrasse as well as the Marktplatz. An ice rink and a daily children's program are also offered. The market opens daily at 11 a.m. through Dec. 22.

December 9

The Secret Garden – Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks presents The Secret Garden 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9, 10, 16, 17 and Jan. 6, 7, 13, 14 and matinees 3 p.m. Dec. 11, 18 and Jan. 8, 15. The Tony-award winning musical, based on the children's classic, tells the story of 10-year-old Mary Lennox who is orphaned by a cholera epidemic in India then sent to live with her uncle in England. Reservations are recommended. DSN 373-5020, civ. 06221-175020, www.roadsidetheater.com.

December 10

A Christmas Carol – KMC Onstage presents A Christmas Carol 7:30 p.m. Dec.

10 and 3 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Galaxy Theater on Vogelweh. The song-filled adaptation of Dickens' classic tale reawakens the true spirit of Christmas in a heart-warming carol of beauty and redemption. Tickets are available in the One Stop Shop in Landstuhl or at webtrac.mwr.army.mil.

December 17

Karlsruhe Christmas Market – Meet at the Heidelberg Main Train Station at 9:30 a.m. and return by 7:30 p.m. after seeing the Karlsruhe holiday market. See Germany's only pyramid, the round church of St. Stephan and the national history museum. <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinmain>.

Ski Europe – Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation offers three ski trips: to Engelberg, Paris or Ski Express. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwrgermany.com.

December 23

Ski Christmas weekends – Ski for the holiday Dec. 23-26 in Garmisch or Interlaken, Switzerland with Heidelberg Outdoor Recreation. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282, www.mwrgermany.com.

December 26

Black Forest White Christmas – Travel early enough to the Black Forest in Triberg for cuckoo clock shopping, a journey to the Triberg festival alive with local artisans, international musicians, pyro-stunts and holiday attractions. At sundown, watch as the town powers up its 250,000 lights, amazing onlookers with unusual visual effects and nighttime illumination of the surrounding mountains, including the Triberg Falls, Germany's highest waterfall. Wear warm clothes and bring euro. <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinmain>.

December 31

Löwenstein Torch Lighting – This traditional city event starting at 5 p.m. finds its roots in pagan times. On New Year's Eve, the castle courtyard is lit with a large fire and the castle walls are illuminated with numerous torches while an entertainment program rings in the new year. <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinmain>.

Mannheim Concerts

Rocky Horror and Gospel Singers – Due to high demand, BB Promotion announces extra performances for two concerts at Mannheim's Rosengarten: a third show of Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show is scheduled for 2 p.m. Dec. 31. Queen Esther Marrows Harlem Gospel Singers Show will play 3 p.m. Dec. 26. www.rheinneckarticket.de or www.bb-promotion.com.

Alex Max Band – Tickets are now on sale for the Alex Max Band Forever Yours

Tour at the Capitol Mannheim 8 p.m. Jan. 17. Tickets: civ. 0621-101011 or www.bb-promotion.com.

Chris Rea Concert – The British singer and songwriter will perform his Santo Spirito Tour 2012 at the Rosengarten in Mannheim Feb. 25. Concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets: civ. 0621-10-1011, www.bb-promotion.com.

Bryan Adams – The singer and songwriter will perform at the SAP Arena in Mannheim March 29. Concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets: civ. 0621-101011, www.bb-promotion.com.

Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson and Band – Celebrating the 40th anniversary, Anderson will perform the Thick As a Brick Tour at the Rosengarten in Mannheim 8 p.m. May 27. Tickets: civ. 0621-101011, www.bb-promotion.com.

Rea Garvey will perform his Can't Stand the Silence concert on Mar. 22, 8 p.m. at the Capitol Mannheim. Tickets: civ. 0621-10-1011 or www.bb-promotion.com.

Ongoing

Zweibrücken Outlet Center – Shop in a relaxed atmosphere that is appealing and stylish at the Designer Outlet Centre Zweibrücken. The centre promises savings from 30 to 70 percent, always, in a 21,000 square meter shopping area, with international labels such as Burberry, Ralph Lauren, Nike and more. Shopping hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Londoner Bogen 10, Zweibrücken 66482. Civ. 06332-48-7734, www.zweibruecken.de, www.buzzoffice.com.

Haribo Factory Store – The most famous gummy bears in the world come from Germany. Haribo Goldbaeren (gold bears) were born in 1920 in Bonn and became the largest manufacturer of gummy sweets on the globe. Although you can't enter the factory itself, you can visit the Haribo factory store close to the original factory, which features an exhibition about Haribo 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, haribo.com.

Christmas markets – For a complete list of Christmas markets in Germany, Belgium or the Netherlands, visit www.usagschinnen.eur.army.mil/sites/local/leisure.html. For a list of markets in Baden-Württemberg, visit www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de/baden-wuerttemberg.html.

Painting – View more than 130 paintings from renowned artists such as Rubens, Cranach, Teniers and Kobell at the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum in Mannheim, CS, ongoing through Jan. 8. www.rem-mannheim.de/index.php.

Flossenbürg – The Flossenbürg concentration camp, near Grafenwöhr, is a smaller site than Dachau but contains a vast array of history. The camp opened in 1938 and the location was chosen for the proximity to a large granite deposit. The prison eventually housed 100,000 prisoners from more than 30 countries and was closed in 1945. An English language program is available.

coming to THEATERS

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

(James McAvoy, Jim Broadbent, Bill Nighy) Arthur Christmas reveals the incredible, never-before-seen answer to every child's question: So how does Santa deliver all those presents in one night? The answer: Santa's exhilarating, ultra-high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole. But at the center of the film is a story about a family in a state of comic dysfunction and an unlikely hero, Arthur, with an urgent mission that must be completed before Christmas morning dawns. (Rated PG for some mild rude humor.) 97 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Dec. 8 – KILLER ELITE (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 9 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 7 p.m.; DRIVE (R) 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 10 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 4 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 7 p.m.; 50/50 (R) 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 11 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 4 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 12 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 13 – 50/50 (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 14 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 15 – DRIVE (R) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

Dec. 11 – ABDUCTION (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

Dec. 8 – HUGO (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; ABDUCTION (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m.; KILLER ELITE (R) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Dec. 9 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m. 10:15 p.m.; HUGO (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.; DRIVE (R) 11:15 a.m., 4 p.m., 9 p.m.; 50/50 (R) 1:45 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 10 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.; DRIVE (R) 1:45 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; 50/50 (R) 11:15 a.m., 4 p.m., 9 p.m.; MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m.
Dec. 11 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 11 a.m.; DRIVE (R) 11:15 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; 50/50 (R) 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) 11 a.m.
Dec. 12 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; DRIVE (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; 50/50 (R) 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m.
Dec. 13 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; DRIVE (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; 50/50 (R) noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (PG) 11 a.m., 2 p.m.
Dec. 14 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; DRIVE (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; 50/50 (R) noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 15 – ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; DREAM HOUSE (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; DRIVE (R) 11:15 a.m., 4 p.m.; 50/50 (R) 1:45 p.m., 7:30 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 Cineplex (P4 13), CinemaxX (N7, 17), Mannheim, civ. 01805-625466, www.cineplex.de

Mannheim, CinemaxX, Cineplex - English Language movies

Dec. 8-14 – CARNAGE (PG-13) 6 p.m. at Cineplex
Dec. 8-9, 11-13 – PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 8:15 p.m. at Cineplex
Dec. 9-10 – PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 10:30 p.m. at Cineplex
Dec. 14 – MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 8 p.m. at Cineplex

community HIGHLIGHTS

Combined Federal Campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign Overseas campaign has been extended through Dec. 15 with a contributions goal of \$2.5 million. More than 2,400 charities are supported by CFC-O, as well as family and youth programs, of which 100 percent will be returned to the community. Each charity has been researched and vetted to ensure all donations are spent responsibly and responsibly. Military and civilian employees can donate using a pledge form, online at www.cfc-overseas.org or through an online payroll deduction.

Science Fair

Students in grades 6-9 can put teams together by Dec. 16 to participate in a free science fair, where winners can earn up to \$8,000 in U.S. savings bonds toward a college education. Sponsored by the U.S. Army, eCYBERMISSION is designed to share the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics with the leaders of tomorrow and encourage them to understand the real-life applications of these subjects. <https://www.ecybermission.com/public/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FDefault.aspx>.

Equal Opportunity Training

All civilian employees, military and local nationals who supervise civilian employees are required to attend annual classroom equal opportunity training. Employees must have classroom training every other year and the online version, www.bw.eur.army.mil/Directories/EEO/Training/EEONoFEAR.pdf, on the alternating year. Classes are scheduled 1-2 p.m. Jan. 18, Feb. 15 and every month through September in the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg EEO Training Room, Bldg. 128, on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. Registration is required: DSN 373-5494.

Army OCS Board 2012

Completed packets must be submitted by Jan. 20 to the military personnel division in Bldg. 3850 on the Community Support Center in Heidelberg for the next Department of the Army level Officer Candidate School selection board April 23-27. USAG Baden-Württemberg will host a structured interview (local board) 9 a.m. Feb. 2-3 in the MPD conference room. OCS requirements can be found at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/operations/accissions/ocs/index.htm> or by contacting unit S1s. DSN 370-8054, usaghd.mpd.pss@eur.army.mil.

Army Homefront Fund

The Army Homefront Fund provides financial aid to wounded warriors and their families. It partners with the Warrior Transition Command and non-profit agencies to provide grants for emergency financial assistance and food, transitional family housing, emergency home repairs, critical baby items, vehicle repair service, furniture and household items, local moving assistance and retreats for spouses of wounded warriors. Its goal is to provide wounded warriors and their families the resources they need. Soldiers can apply for assistance at www.armyhomefrontfund.org/Mafa.aspx.

local

EMPLOYMENT

Zumba

Certified Zumba instructors are needed to fill Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation contractor positions at Germersheim Army Depot. DSN 370-6489, civ. 06221-57-6489.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Education

• **Bank Account Management** – Learn how to establish a budget, track spending and maximize savings to increase net worth 9-11 a.m. Dec. 13 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration is required. DSN 493-4151, civ. 0631-3406-4151.

• **Resume Writing** – Learn how to write and refine resumes and practice interview techniques 10 a.m. Dec. 13 in Bldg. 2917 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration is required. DSN 493-4029, civ. 0631-3406-4029.

• **Midweek Money Series** – Learn how to get out of debt, how to build credit and manage debt and what bankruptcy really means 9 a.m. Dec. 14 in the Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center on Daenner Kaserne. Registration is required. DSN 493-4151, civ. 0631-3406-4151.

• **Language Classes** – Beginner English as a Second Language for adults, 9:30 a.m. Mondays; Intermediate English as a Second Language for adults, 9:30 a.m. Fridays; Conversational Spanish, 10 a.m. Tuesdays. Classes are in Bldg. 2891 on Pulaski Barracks. Registration is required. Conversational German (10-week series; sign-up required), noon-1 p.m. Tuesdays and 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday in Bldg. 2926 on Pulaski Barracks. DSN 493-4203, civ. 0631-3406-4203.

Community

• **Bastogne Memorial** – Join Outdoor Recreation on the Bastogne Memorial March in Belgium Dec. 10. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

• **Holiday Cinema Sunday** – Families can watch the movie A Christmas Story while snacking on free popcorn 2:30-6:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036, on Vogelweh Housing. Free snack bags will be available for children 12 and under. Civ. 0631-536-6000.

• **Cards For A Cause** – The Ramstein Middle School National Junior Honor Society will make cards as a service project 2:30-4 p.m. Dec. 14 at the school. Civ. 06301-719376.

• **Quilt Guild** – The Rheinland Pfalz Quilt Guild meets 9:30 a.m. Dec. 15 in the Ramstein North Chapel and 6 p.m. Dec. 22 in the Kaiserslautern Landstuhl Spouses Association Building on Pulaski Barracks.

• **HIRED!** – Applications for winter term are accepted through Dec. 16 for teens 15-18 interested in preparing for college and the future workforce. Apply online, at Parent Central Services, Bldg. 2898, Pulaski Barracks or at One Stop Shop, Landstuhl Library, Bldg. 3810. www.mwrgermany.com.

• **Merengue Competition** – Prizes will be awarded for first through third place during a merengue dance competition 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dec. 17 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036, on Vogelweh Housing. Civ. 0631-354-9986.

• **Holiday Services** – A Lessons and

Carols service will be held 5 p.m. Dec. 24 at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center chapel with music performed by former White House musician Erin Sammon.

HEIDELBERG

Education

• **ACS Classes** – Relaxation Techniques for Warriors in Transition, 1-2:30 p.m. Dec. 9, Nachrichten Kaserne, Bldg. 3622, WTU Conference Room; Army Family Team Building Level II, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 12-14; Applying for Federal Job, 9-11 a.m. Dec. 13-14; Financial Readiness Training, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 14; Exceptional Families Network (topic is Respite Care), 10-11:30 a.m. Dec. 14; Effective Management of Volunteers, 10-11 a.m. Dec. 14; English as a Second Language, 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays, ACS Annex, Patrick Henry Village, Bldg. 4531; Registration is required. Classes are in the Community Support Center, Bldg. 3850, on the Shopping Center unless noted.

Community

• **CPAC Closure** – The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center located across from the Community Support Center will be closed starting 11:30 a.m. Dec. 9. DSN 370-1430, civ. 06221-57-1430.

• **Holiday Bingo** – The Heidelberg Community and Spouses' Club hosts Holiday Season Bingo for ID card holders 18 and older starting 10 a.m. Dec. 14 in the ball room at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Reservation required by Dec. 9 at www.hcsc-heidelberg.com/reservations.html.

• **Jewish Services** – December services are held in the Mark Twain Village Chapel 7 p.m. second and fourth Fridays. Following regular Shabbat services Dec. 9 and 23, there will be a First Shabbat meal and a hail and farewell (Dec. 9) and Shabbat Hanukkah program (Dec. 23). There will be no Shabbat service Dec. 16. Jewish services are also available at the Ramstein Air Base South Chapel in Bldg. 2403 or at the local Heidelberg synagogue. Heidelberg: DSN 370-6506, civ. 06221-57-6506. Ramstein: DSN 480-5753, civ. 06371-47-5753.

• **Trivia Challenge** – Bring a team or join one to win weekly prizes at Trivia Challenge 7-9 p.m. Dec. 8 and every Thursday at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9570.

• **Line Dance Instructions** – Learn how to line dance and stay for a karaoke and dance party starting 7 p.m. Dec. 9 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570.

• **Caracalla Spa** – Spend the day with Outdoor Recreation at Caracalla Spa in Baden-Baden Dec. 11. DSN 388-9282, civ. 06221-338-9282.

• **Life Teen** – Catholic teens meet 10:30 a.m. Dec. 11 at Patrick Henry Elementary School. Civ. 01515-292-5550.

• **Holiday Open House** – Enjoy holiday stories and refreshments 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 11 at the library on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9443, civ. 06221-338-9443.

• **Musical Advent Service** – A choir practice will be held 7 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Mark Twain Village chapel for the musical Advent service 6 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Heiliggeist Kirche in downtown Heidelberg. DSN 373-6190, civ. 06221-17-6190.

• **Council of Catholic Women** – The Military Council of Catholic Women meets 6:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Mark Twain Village chapel and 9 a.m. Dec. 15 at the Patrick Henry Village chapel. Civ. 01515-292-5550.

• **Cloth Diapers** – The cloth diapering group will meet 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at Child, Youth and School Services, Bldg. 4443, on Patrick Henry Village. Civ. 06221-73-67033.

• **Parents Night Out** – Child, Youth and School Services offers parents night out 7 p.m.-midnight and parents day out 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 16, 17. Parent Central Services: DSN 388-9241, civ. 06221-338-9240.

• **Postal Facilities** – All Heidelberg postal facilities, including official mail and distribution, consolidated mail rooms, postal service centers and Army post offices will close at noon Dec. 16. DSN 370-7940.

• **Christmas Market** – ID card holders 14 and older can take public transportation 11 a.m. Dec. 17 to the Mannheim Christmas Market. Bus departs from ACS at the Community Support Center. DSN 370-6883, civ. 06221-57-6883.

• **Hanukkah** – Hanukkah menorahs, candles and Jewish Welfare Board calendars are available from the Heidelberg Jewish Lay Leader. DSN 370-7217, civ. 06221-57-7217.

• **Big Lebowski New Years Eve** – Watch the movie The Big Lebowski dressed as your favorite character, with best costume and bathrobe prizes awarded starting 7 p.m. Dec. 31 at Legends on Patrick Henry Village. DSN 388-9570, civ. 06221-338-9570.

• **Check Writing** – Starting Jan. 1, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will no longer cash checks for cash and will not allow cash back above the amount of the purchase. Customers will still be able to write checks for the amount of their purchase or program fee.

• **Breastfeeding 101** – Parents can attend Breastfeeding 101 in the Wellness Center, Bldg. 3617, on Nachrichten Kaserne 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 3 and first Tuesdays. Sign-up is required. Civ. 06221-17-3200.

• **Coats for Afghan Girls** – Until

Jan. 15, Girl Scout Senior Troop 732 is sponsoring a drive to collect coats for Afghan girls ages 6-16 to send to Razia's Ray Of Hope, an organization which promotes education for girls in Afghanistan. Donation boxes are located in the library and chapel on Patrick Henry Village, the Mark Twain Village chapel and DODDS schools.

• **On-site Tutoring** – The Lion's Den on Patrick Henry Village offers on-site tutoring 4-8 p.m. Monday-Friday. DSN 388-9396, civ. 06221-338-9396.

MANNHEIM

Education

• **ACS Classes** – Teens in Action, 1-3 p.m. Dec. 8, Sullivan Barracks, Bldg. 246, conference room. DSN 370-6975; civ. 06221-576975.

Community

• **Gstaad Ski Weekend** – Outdoor Recreation goes skiing in Gstaad, Switzerland, Dec. 9-11. DSN 493-4117, civ. 0631-3406-4117.

• **Call of Duty Night** – Challenge yourself or your buddies on X-Box or Play Station 3 4:30-10 p.m. Dec. 9 and every Friday at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410.

• **Movie Night** – Enjoy an action or adventure-themed movie in an HD home theater room with surround sound 4:30 p.m.-midnight Dec. 10 and every Saturday at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410.

• **'70s and '80s R & B** – Enjoy music from various disc jockeys during '70s and '80s R & B Night 10 p.m.-3 a.m. Dec. 10 at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village. www.mwrgermany.com.

• **Comedy Movie Night** – Laugh out loud with a comedy movie 4:30-10 p.m. Dec. 11 and every Sunday at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410.

• **Madden 11 Night** – Play Madden NFL 11 online against your peers on X-Box or Play Station 3 4:30-10 p.m. Dec. 14 and every Wednesday at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks. DSN 382-4410.

• **Postal Facilities** – All Mannheim postal facilities, including official mail and distribution, consolidated mail rooms, postal service centers and Army post offices will close at noon Dec. 16. DSN 370-7940.

• **New Years Eve** – Tickets for a New Years Eve party include champagne, breakfast and party favors as well as entertainment by disc jockeys Big Money and special guest Lil Money 9 p.m.-4 a.m. Dec. 31 at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village.

• **ACS Satellite Office** – The Army Community Service satellite office hours are now 8 a.m.-noon Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 1-4:30 p.m. Thursdays and closed U.S. holidays. DSN 385-3101, civ. 0621-730-3101.



Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett

Leonard Hill, 18th Military Police Brigade, looks to pass the football during the first Sembach Invitational Flag Football Tournament on Sembach Kaserne Nov. 19 that ended with a 435th Security Force Squadron win over Army 34-0.

Army, Air Force compete in Sembach's first invitational football tournament

By Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett
18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On a cold, foggy Saturday morning, five flag football teams battled on the grid iron for the right to be called champion, but it was Air Force that won 34-0 over Army in the first annual Sembach Invitational Flag Football Tournament Nov. 19.

Jeff Thomas, an operations specialist with the 18th Military Police Brigade, arranged the tournament with the intent of bringing something to the Soldiers and Airmen of Sembach to boost their morale in the growing community.

The 18th MP Bde. invited units from Sembach, Heidelberg and Mannheim providing the opportunity for surrounding communities to partner together and make this event memorable for service members and their families.

"I only heard great things about this event and the anticipation of more sporting events to follow," Thomas said.

"The time I spent planning this tournament was well worth it for all the Soldiers, Airmen and families of the Sembach community," he added.

The tournament began with preliminary games determining the seeding of the first through



Staff Sgt. Tramel S. Garrett

Soldiers from the 18th Military Police Brigade and Airmen from the 435th Security Force Squadron compete in the championship game during the first annual Sembach Invitational Flag Football Tournament on Sembach Kaserne Nov. 19.

fifth position of the teams, which established the bracket for the elimination rounds.

"In the elimination round all records from the preliminary round were thrown out and it was win and move on or lose and go home," Thomas said.

After all the elimination games were played there were only two teams left remaining, the 435th Security Force Squadron and the combined team of the 95th MP battalion and the 18th MP Bde.

Motivated by a last second win

over the number one seed, the Air Force dominated the Army with a 34-0 win claiming the title of champion and bragging rights in a battle of the military services.

"The tournament was a great success," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Patterson, the coach of the U.S. Army Correctional Command football team.

"The weather was perfect for football. Win, lose or draw, all teams built camaraderie with other units in the area," Patterson said.

staying ACTIVE

Kaiserslautern Wrestling Invitational

A wrestling invitational takes place Dec. 10 at the Miesau gym, Bldg. 1220, in Kaiserslautern with weigh-ins and physicals 8-9:30 a.m., coaches meeting at 9:30 a.m. and invitational start at 11 a.m. Register: DSN 493-2088, civ. 0631-3406-2088.

Heidelberg Community Basketball

The Heidelberg unit level basketball league upcoming games are: **Dec. 12** – 1-214th Aviation vs. 529th Military Police at 6 p.m., Medical Department Activity vs. 60th Geospatial Engineer Team at 7 p.m. and Medical Command vs. Slayers at 8 p.m.; **Dec. 14** – NATO vs. Warriors at 6 p.m., 1-214th vs. MEDDAC at 7 p.m. and MEDCOM vs. 529th at 8 p.m.; **Dec. 15** – NATO vs. 60th Eng. at 6 p.m., Warriors vs. Slayers at 7 p.m. and 1-214th vs. MEDCOM at 8 p.m.

New Year's Eve Bowling Party

A New Year's Eve party will be held 3-6 p.m. Dec. 31 for families and 8 p.m.-1 a.m. for adults at the Heidelberg Bowling Center featuring buffet, sparkling cider and champagne at midnight. DSN 388-9040, civ. 06221-338-9040.

Heidelberg Sports Camp Instructors

U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Child, Youth and School Services seeks summer camp instructors for 2012 summer camps. Experience in instructing and coaching in a specific sport is required. DSN 388-9397, civ. 06221-338-9397.

Heidelberg Volleyball

Heidelberg sports is seeking men and women players for community volleyball teams. DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032.

Heidelberg Basketball

The Heidelberg sports branch is seeking men and women players for community basketball teams. Practices are 6-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday at the fitness center on Patton Barracks. DSN 373-8032, civ. 06221-17-8032.

Heidelberg Paint Ball

Paintball play days for units and groups at the Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club in Oftersheim are noon-4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Open days are 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday for ID card holders ages 16 and up. DSN 06202-51193.

Kleber Free Cycling

A RealRyder Cycling Class is offered 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Kleber Kaserne Fitness Center, Bldg. 3235. This indoor cycling training is free the entire month of December. DSN 483-7610, civ. 0631-411-7610.

Instructors Wanted in Kaiserslautern

Instructors are needed for youth self defense classes and for dance classes for teens ages 13-18. Must have certifications. DSN 486-5412, civ. 06371-86-5412.

Sunday Night Football

Watch your favorite football team on a big screen television 7-10 p.m. Sundays until Jan. 1 at Armstrong's Club, Bldg. 1036, Vogelweh Housing. Civ. 0631-536-6000.

Mannheim Bowling Hours

The Bowling Center on Benjamin Franklin Village has new hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11-1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, 2-9 p.m. Sunday and closed Tuesdays and holidays. DSN 380-9528, civ. 0621-730-9528.

Sembach Bowling Center Extended Hours

The Sembach Bowling Center is now open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. DSN 497-7569, civ. 06302-67-7569.