

HeraldPOST

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

HP THURSDAY
Jan. 13, 2011

Speed Read

EARLY BIRD WINNERS

The Europe Regional Medical Command retention team received the Army Medical Command's Early Bird Award by meeting its fiscal year goal for 2011 in just 32 days. 3

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Many happenings in the Heidelberg community are planned to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as the 25th anniversary of the holiday recognizing the influential civil rights leaders nears. 3



PX, BX NO MORE

The Kaiserslautern Military Community Center, the large mall and exchange on Ramstein Air Base, now sports the new Army and Air Force Exchange logo, X. The new logo will begin appearing on AAFES exchanges throughout 2011. 4

CIVILIAN BACK TO PLAY

A former Ramstein High School student, now a contracting specialist in Kaiserslautern, still scores big in soccer. 17

MLK BASKETBALL

The 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. men's and women's basketball tournament begins 4 p.m. at the gym on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. Play continues through the Monday. 17

Defense Details

PAY FREEZE

Defense Department civilian employees affected by the federal pay freeze for 2011 and 2012 will still have the opportunity to receive performance awards, promotions and normal longevity increases, a senior defense official said. Pasquale "Pat" M. Tamburrino Jr., deputy undersecretary of defense for civilian personnel policy, told American Forces Press Service in a recent interview that senior leaders are working to ensure that employees are treated fairly during the freeze. "We value the contributions of our career federal employees, and we value their service to the nation. Nothing has changed there," he said.

www.defense.gov

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Commander looks ahead

By Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
IMCOM COMMANDER

Like many others this time of year, I have been reflecting on the past 12 months and looking forward to the new year. Specifically, what should the Installation Management Community look like a year from now?

I've asked this question of Installation Management personnel during meetings, town halls and garrison visits. After all, the dedicated professionals at the garrisons and headquarters doing the work on a daily basis know what it takes to deliver the facilities, programs and services that support our Soldiers and families.

I've also sought feedback from Soldiers, families and leaders through installation visits, family forums at the AUSA annual conference, Army Community Service focus groups, and on the Army Family survey.

This feedback is critical because we need to know where we're on target and where we're missing the mark.

I urge everyone to continue to send me solid ideas that help answer the three fundamental questions:

Are we doing the right things? Are we doing see **FUTURE** page 12



Soldier's new Rally Point

Spc. Aislinn M. Amig
Col. Paul M. Paolozzi, 18th Engineer Brigade commander from Utica, N.Y., plays ping pong with Pfc. Frank Rieni, a combat engineer with 18th Engineer Brigade from Warren, Ohio, at the Rally Point Dec. 10 on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen. The Rally Point was designed as a place for soldiers in the Heidelberg community to get together outside of work to relax and spend time with one another.

Recreation within reach at Thompkins

By Spc. Aislinn Amig
18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers in the Heidelberg community spent the last few months renovating a building on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen and now have a new recreational facility to show for it.

The Rally Point, which opened Dec. 10, is a Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center designed as a place for Soldiers in Heidelberg to go after work to unwind, spend time with friends and get out of the barracks.

"Tompkins Barracks is so isolated from the rest of the Heidelberg community. It's nice to have somewhere available to us that is close to home where we can hang out,"

said Pfc. Rebecca Quiroga, a topographic analyst with the 60th Engineer Detachment, 18th Engineer Brigade, from Portage, Mich.

The facility is within a minute of each of the barracks for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade, U.S. NATO Brigade and the U.S. Army Europe Band.

"Soldiers wanting to have a good time outside of the barracks no longer have to drive in inclement weather or after they've been drinking," said Master Sgt. John Pennington, the brigade operations noncommissioned officer in charge who is from New Orleans.

The Rally Point features a pool table, ping pong table, a digital poker machine, card see **RALLY** page 12

FDA recalls alcohol pads, swabs, swabsticks

AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS – The Food and Drug Administration issued a recall specific to all lots of alcohol prep pads, swabs and swabsticks manufactured by Triad Group.

Merchandised under the "Exchange Select" label at various Army, Air Force,

Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Exchanges as well as Veteran's canteens, the products have been recalled due to concerns about "potential contamination of the products with an objectionable organism, namely bacillus cereus."

The FDA said it issued the recall "out of an abundance

of caution" as use of contaminated alcohol prep pads, swabs or swabsticks "could lead to life-threatening infections, especially in at-risk populations, including immune suppressed and surgical patients." To date, the FDA said it has "received one report of a non-life-threatening skin infection."

All affected products have been removed from shelves. Shoppers who previously purchased Exchange Select alcohol prep pads, swabs or swabsticks are advised to return them to the nearest exchange or canteen for a full refund. Information may be found at www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm239219.htm.

COMMENTARY

Buying braces on the economy

By K.R. Pinkston
BWNOW MEMBER

"No more new patients for braces," the orthodontist at the Mannheim Dental Clinic told me.

"Nor are they accepting new patients in Heidelberg." He looked straight at me, as he shattered my hopes of ever owning another new car, buying a house eventually or even enjoying retirement before I am a centenarian. "Consider going on the economy," he told me.

On the way home from the dentist, I tried my best to convince myself that braces are not really needed. After all, people lived thousands of years with crooked teeth. Why is it that nowadays everybody is supposed to have teeth like Soldiers standing in perfect formation?

Of course, the dentist said our son needs braces mainly because of his excessive overbite. Surely, the headaches and jaw problems that may follow can easily be treated with a little ibuprofen. As I parked the car I sighed. Perhaps we should wait with braces until we are back in the states?

That evening I talked to a friend whose three children are currently also receiving orthodontic treatment on the economy.

"It's not really that hard," she said. "We have about one more year of braces to go, and so far we are very pleased."

"What about all that paperwork?" I already saw myself chasing dentists for signatures, filling out forms until two o'clock in the morning, and finding out that I did not have the right documents after all.

"They e-mail you the forms," my friend assured me, "and the German orthodontist

fills out the bulk of it. Then I just scan it in at home and mail it right back."

We decided to get him braces now and go on the economy.

Luckily, we are enrolled in the Tricare Dental Program. After a phone call to Tricare Dental, they e-mailed me a list of local orthodontists and an overview on how the overseas TDP works.

Days later, the German orthodontist performed an initial evaluation and gave us an appointment to get all the treatment planning materials, like X-rays, together. "I'll mail you the diagnosis and treatment plan," the orthodontist said. "You can then e-mail it to Tricare." A couple of weeks later the treatment plan duly arrived, detailing all the steps needed to correct the overbite. This is too easy, I thought, until the first bill arrived.

Would we have to pay the initial examination or would Tricare pay it directly? After a call to Tricare Dental, we learned that we had to pay the bill in full; however, we would be reimbursed, since the initial exam is paid out of the yearly benefit. To my astonishment, the reimbursement for the initial examination came days later. In the meantime, the treatment plan was approved. The biggest drawback is that the plan will pay only half the cost. The good news is that we will receive a check for 50 percent of the total cost of the orthodontic charge after the treatment begins.

"I can't wait until my teeth are straight," our son said the other day, as he helped me sort through photos. "I'll be able to open my mouth when I smile!"

Yes, I had forgotten about that. What a small price to pay for full smile memories.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Not black and white: financial support policy

Patton Law Center

Few things in life are black and white, but the Army's policy on family support is one of them.

Soldiers are expected to provide continuous and adequate support to their family members even when they are physically separated. When a Soldier's command is contacted regarding a complaint of non-support, Army Regulation 608-99 explains the policy and provides actions a commander should take.

Under the regulation, Soldiers will not violate court orders that have a financial support provision or a signed financial support agreement between the parties. Court orders issued by German courts can be enforced if certain requirements are met. Commanders must enforce the terms of these documents.

In the absence of a court order or a signed financial support agreement, the Soldier must pay a set minimum amount of support to family members when they are separated. All Soldiers must provide support in an amount equal to his or her Basic Allowance for Housing entitlement at the "with dependents"

rate (without considering the geographic duty location amount). The pay chart the Defense Finance and Accounting Service publishes provides this amount and can be found on the DFAS Web site. Each family member is entitled to a pro rata share of the support amount.

AR 608-99 is intended to cover every Soldier, provide a minimum level of support and make it as easy as possible for commanders to know what a Soldier is required to pay.

Thus, many particulars of a given case do not matter. Things like whether the Soldier is not receiving BAH or is receiving less, or more, in BAH than he or she must pay should not matter to the commander's analysis and action. Equally unimportant is who is at fault for the physical separation of the family.

There are other rules that impact the process. One harsh rule is that while family members are residing in government family housing, a Soldier cannot be required to provide additional financial support. However, AR 608-99 provides some level of financial support to family members and provides a relatively easy to understand guide to help.

If you have further questions about family financial support, contact your nearest legal assistance office or Inspector General's office for assistance.



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

A comment from a member of the BWnow Facebook community on Jan. 7.

Our building does not have an fire extinguisher since MAY. I asked several time housing, DPW, Work Order Desk, Building Coordinator, nothing happens! Where on earth should I ask to so we get one? All this talk about fire safety and then that "eyeroll" Shouldnt be

our job to pick one up anyhow. I was told they just exchange but it wouldnt be so easy because we dont have one to exchange. And since we are not working for DPW or housing we would need a slip from them anyhow.

—Bettina Corter, BWnow Facebook fan

Bettina,
Have you tired contacting the garrison fire inspectors? You can reach their dispatch desk at DSN 373-8400, civ. 06221-17-8400. When you call them you will need to request to speak directly to the garrison fire inspectors. Hope this helps :)

—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.

Medical Soldiers re-enlist in record time, earn early bird award for year 2011

ERMC Public Affairs

The Europe Regional Medical Command retention team received the Army Medical Command's Early Bird Award by meeting its fiscal year goal for 2011 in just 32 days.

The record-setting pace for meeting the fiscal year goal topped a stellar calendar year for the team, which also recently captured six of MEDCOM's top retention wards for fiscal year 2010.

"I was new to the unit, and Master Sgt. Gray came to me with a plan to meet our goals in record time," said ERMC Command Sgt. Major Robert Luciano. "I was a little taken back by his goal, but I told him to ahead and execute."

And execute the team did. Each unit in the Army receives goals for retaining Soldiers in five categories. ERMC met its last goal for reserve component Soldiers on Nov. 2.

Luciano said it was the earliest any MEDCOM unit had ever met its fiscal year goals. It was even five months ahead of their FY2010 performance.

The accomplishment followed ERMC's recognition at MEDCOM's annual retention dinner in Phoenix, Arizona, in mid-November for five other retention awards: the Commanding General's Cup for Top Producing Region; the Senior Manager of the Year (Gray); the Stallion Award for top producing career counselor (Sgt. 1st Class Henry, Heidelberg MEDDAC); the Retention NCO Award for the top producing retention NCO (Staff Sgt. Elma Thomas,); the Excellence in Retention Award (completed all five categories); and the Fiscal Year 2010 Early



Phil Tegmeier
Europe Regional Medical Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Luciano hoists the 2010 Medical Command Retention Trophy. The ERMC Retention team won five fiscal year 2010 MEDCOM retention awards and then followed up the feat by meeting the unit's fiscal year 2011 retention goals just 32 days into the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

Bird award.

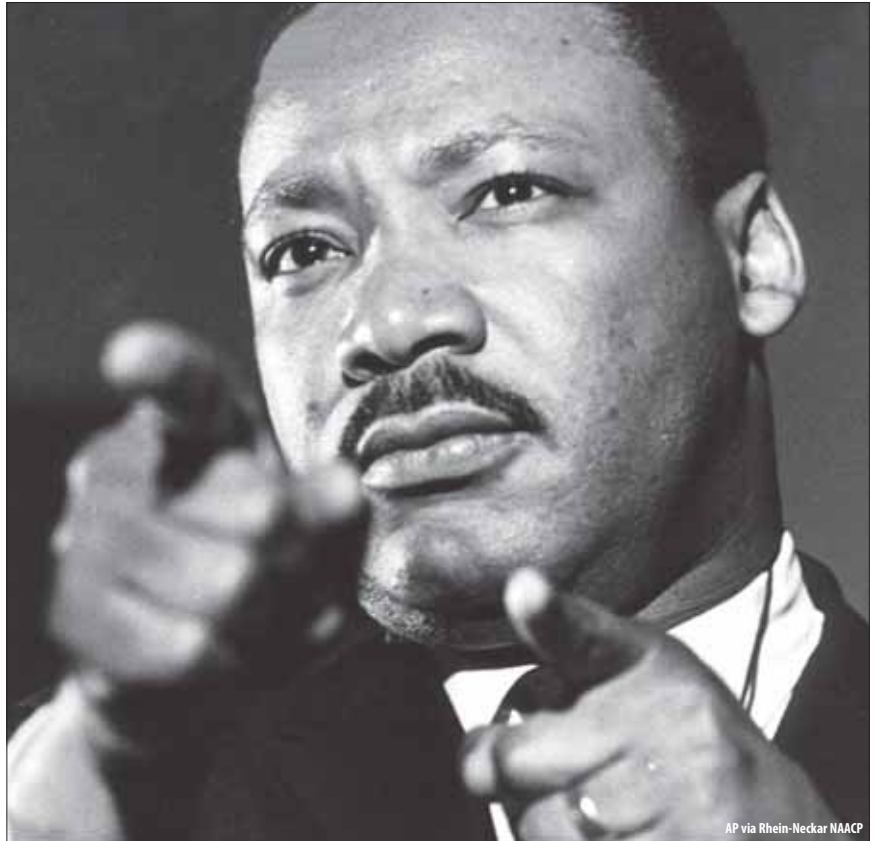
Gray said it was a team accomplishment.

"You have to get out there and talk to Soldiers," Gray said about his team's accomplishments. "You have to learn what a Soldier's needs are and try to meet them. It's all about listening."

Sometimes, he said, that meant working to get a Soldier assignment to a location or job the Soldier wants.

Other times, it means retaining Soldiers by getting them entry to a school or program to change military occupational specialty.

Honored were Master Sgt. Timothy Gray, ERMC's senior career counselor; Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Henry, Heidelberg MEDDAC; and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Jones, Warrior Transition Battalion - Europe; Master Sgt. Mark Cuatt, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center; Master Sgt. Juan Padilla, 30th Medical Command; and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ward, Bavaria Medical Department Activity.



AP via Rhein-Neckar NAACP

Heidelberg observes day to honor Martin Luther King

Staff Report

Many happenings in the Heidelberg community are planned to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as the 25th anniversary of the holiday recognizing one of America's most influential civil rights leaders nears.

NAACP Commemoration

The NAACP's Rhein-Neckar branch is co-sponsoring the 25th annual International Commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a weekend event in Heidelberg featuring a commemoration program focusing on King's ideas for social transformation at 6 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Providenz Kirche (Providence Church) in Heidelberg.

"The Rhein-Neckar branch has been presenting this commemoration program for more than two decades," said Malcolm Carpenter, the branch's press and publicity manager.

"The theme for this year's program will be 'Hope, Faith, and Shattered Dreams: The Challenges We Still Face Today,'" he said.

The event's main program,

co-sponsored by the German-American Institute in Heidelberg, includes gospel music presented by the Benjamin Franklin Village Chapel Gospel Choir of Mannheim and a keynote speech by Dr. Clayborne Carson, professor of history at Stanford University and senior advisor for the award winning, civil rights television series "Eyes on the Prize."

In addition, a panel of German and American scholars will hold sessions at the German American Institute to discuss the past and present relevance of King's social transformation. The opening panel discussion will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 21 followed by a later session Jan. 23.

The event is free and open to the public.

Prayer Breakfast

A prayer breakfast in honor of King will be held at the Patton Barracks dining facility 7:30-9 a.m. today. Installation Management Command-Europe Chaplain Col. Douglas Kinder will lead the annual prayer breakfast. Cost is \$2.30.

MLK Basketball Tournament

On Friday, Patton Barracks

fitness center in Heidelberg will host a weekend-long regional basketball tournament. The opening ceremony is 4-5 p.m. followed by five games.

The tournament, the longest running military invitational basketball tournament in Europe, features 14 men's and six women's teams from military communities in England, Italy, the Benelux and Germany.

Those attending have a chance to win prizes every day, U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg chief of sports and fitness Michael Criswell said. Games begin at 8:30 a.m. and last through 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The men's and women's semi-final and championship games are Monday with play starting at 9 a.m.

Taste of Soul

A Taste of Soul event at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg 7-11 p.m. Feb. 5 features food, music and Heidelberg High School JAAM. Bring your own soul food dish and win a prize for the best entree, appetizer and dessert. Sign up at the Arts and Cultural Center 338-9418.

X marks the spot



Airman 1st Class Desiree Whitney Esposito

The Kaiserslautern Military Community Center, the large mall and exchange on Ramstein Air Base, now sports the new Army and Air Force Exchange logo, X. The new Exchange brand name and logo will begin appearing on the front of AAFES exchanges throughout 2011, and it will be added to all marketing, advertising and collateral business materials, such as stationary, business cards, name tags, corporate presentations, tabloids, catalogs, shopping bags, exterior signs, tractor-trailer trucks, and publications. The exchange will be closed all day Jan. 27 for inventory, but all other establishments in the mall including the concessionaries, bookstore, shoppette, and restaurants will remain open.

Mannheim services transfer to Heidelberg

Military personnel services

Mannheim's Military Personnel Division will transfer functions to U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg MPD Jan. 18.

There will be a shuttle bus service between the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities.

Some military personnel services will physically relocate to Bldg. 3850 at the Heidelberg Community Support Center on the Shopping Center Kaserne.

Mannheim services that will relocate include but aren't limited to community in and out-processing (see story, next column), reassignments processing, Soldier personnel actions, military personnel records updates, transition services, ACAP, casualty and memorial affairs and post retirement services.

Mannheim services that will remain Bldg. 255 on Sullivan Barracks are the passports and ID Cards services and the ration card services for authorized civilian employees, contractors, Soldiers and family members. An announcement of when these services will relocate to Heidelberg will be made at a later date to be determined.

Some personnel services such as Soldier readiness processing, pre-deployment processing, re-deployment re-integration and unit group out-processing will be conducted in the community most convenient for Soldiers.

These activities will be coordinated between units and the supporting garrison. For information, call DSN 370-3347, civ. 06221-57-3347, Czernyring 14, 69115 Heidelberg.

A listing of the MPD services can be found at www.bw.eur.army.mil/DHR/DHR_milpo.html.

SOURCE: USAG Baden-Württemberg MPD

In, out-processing services

Mannheim personnel will in-process and out-process through the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Central Processing Facility in Heidelberg beginning Jan. 18.

When in-processing, the sponsorship bus (S-Bus) from the Frankfurt Gateway Reception Center will no longer stop at the Mannheim CPF on Sullivan Barracks. Personnel assigned to Mannheim units will be transported to the Patrick Henry Village Guest House, Bldg. 4527, in Heidelberg Grasweg, 69124 Heidelberg, DSN: 388-9387, civ. 06221-33-89387.

S-Buses depart the Frankfurt FGRC at approximately 11 a.m. (arriving 12:30 p.m.) and 2:30 p.m. (arriving at 4 p.m.) to the PHV Guest House. Before the S-Bus arrives in Heidelberg, units will be contacted by the Baden-Württemberg CPF staff for sponsors to greet newly-arrived personnel.

Both the unit sponsor and Baden-Württemberg CPF representative will meet the newly arrived personnel at the PHV Guest House in Heidelberg.

When out-processing, Soldiers leaving Mannheim will coordinate out-processing through the USAG BW CPF and will out-process through Heidelberg agencies.

The CPF is in room 180, Bldg. 3850, on the Heidelberg Shopping Center Kaserne and is open daily 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. In-processing: DSN 370-6711, civ. 06221-57-7687. Out-processing: DSN 370-8480, civ. 06221-57-6711, usaghd.cpf@eur.army.mil, www.bw.eur.army.mil/DHR/DHR_milpo.html.

The GPS/street address is Czernyring 14, 69115 Heidelberg.

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.

As a retiree I have a mail box at the post office. What will happen when the area closes down?

Retirees are authorized a general delivery post office box in Community Mail Rooms or Postal Service Centers. A retiree's box is a Box R general delivery, and the retirees are authorized to receive and send mail as long as the weight of the single piece doesn't exceed 16 ounces. If the Mannheim mail room closes, then patrons have the option of establishing a retiree mail box in Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern or Wiesbaden.

Facilities Operations Changes

Retirement Services – Mannheim's Retirement Services Office will transfer to Heidelberg Jan. 18. To receive the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Retiree Newsletter, call civ. 06224-52-741. Area retirees or surviving spouses of retirees needing assistance should call Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. DSN 370-8236, civ. 06221-57-8236. An alternate number is DSN 370-8399, civ. 06221-57-8399. The RSO is located in the Community Support Center on the Shopping Center Kaserne. GPS Address is Czernyring 14, 69115 Heidelberg.

Mannheim Work Orders – The Heidelberg Directorate of Public Works has taken over the Mannheim service order and work reception functions. This shouldn't be noticeable to the customer because the current Mannheim phone numbers will be automatically forwarded until May. Customers may use the current Mannheim phone numbers or call the Heidelberg work reception at DSN 387-3310, civ. 06221-4380-3310, www.bw.eur.army.mil under public works/work reception.

Vehicle Inspection – A new, consolidated vehicle inspection station for the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities will open for business on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim Jan. 18. The new station will replace the vehicle inspection stations at Heidelberg's DPW compound and Taylor Barracks in Mannheim. The Spinelli Barracks operation will be the single-service location for all customers requiring vehicle inspections in Heidelberg and Mannheim. For minimal disruption to service, the consolidation will take place Jan. 14-17 during the four-day weekend. New telephone numbers are: vehicle registration manager DSN 384-6100, civ. 0621-730-6100; support DSN 384-6911, civ. 0621-17-6911; fax for vehicle registration DSN 384-6127, civ. 0621-730-6127; vehicle inspection DSN 384-6120, civ. 0621-730-6120. The GPS address is: Spinelli Barracks 1587, 68259 Mannheim-Freudenheim.

Self-Help and SORT Center – Mannheim's Self-Help Center is now located in Bldg. 804 and the SORT center in Bldgs. 804 and 806 on Funari Barracks. New telephone numbers for the Self-Help Center are DSN 380-4435, civ. 0621-730-4633. New numbers for the SORT center are DSN 380-4242, civ. 0621-730-4652.

Outdoor Recreation Phones – New DSN numbers for Outdoor Recreation are now operational following the move to Spinelli Barracks, Bldg. 1570 in Mannheim. They are DSN 384-6215 and 6232, fax 384-6707, civ. 0170 451-4102.

Find more information about
transformation on the garrison's
Web site at [www.bw.eur.army.mil/
transformation](http://www.bw.eur.army.mil/transformation)

Tax center staff knows new rules

Patton Law Center

The Heidelberg Tax Center opens Jan. 31 on the Shopping Center Kaserne in Bldg. 3860 to assist with tax preparation.

The tax center will provide services to the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities. Shuttle buses will offer transportation to the shopping center.

The tax center will be staffed with trained personnel who are up to date on changes in the tax laws.

One change is that taxpayers have until April 18 to file their 2010 tax returns and pay any tax due. This is because Emancipation Day, a holiday observed in the District of Columbia, falls this year on April 15, a Friday.

This has no impact on the automatic overseas extension deadline, which remains June 15. The automatic extension does not apply to the payment of taxes owed, so if you are going to owe taxes this year, you need to file by April 18 to avoid having to pay penalties and interests.

In addition, because of recent tax law changes, some people will have to wait until mid to late February to file their tax returns in order to give the IRS time to reprogram its processing systems.

This delay affects all tax payers who plan to itemize deductions (to include mortgage interest, charitable deductions, medical and dental expenses), claim the higher education tuition and fees deduction or claim the educator expense deduction.

Taxpayers in these categories should not submit their tax returns until the IRS systems are ready to process the new tax law changes.

This delay will affect both paper and electronic filers. However, the IRS urges taxpayers to use e-file instead of paper tax forms to minimize confusion over the recent tax law changes and to ensure accurate tax returns.

Those who intend to take advantage of the help available at the tax center should start now to organize and gather documents to ensure they receive the most complete assistance. Bring, at a minimum, your DOD-issued ID card and official documentation of social security number for you and your dependents, all W-2 forms received from employers and, if interested in electronic filing, a voided check.

You should also bring any other relevant financial information from the tax year (for example, investment statements, rental reports, medical expenses, charitable contributions). Also, please remember that if filing for your spouse you will need to bring a Power of Attorney.

Operating hours at the tax center will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments can be made by calling DSN 370-7510, civ. 06221-57-7510. You can also walk-in on a designated walk-in days to have your tax return prepared for you. Walk-in hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays.

A listing of tax centers in Europe can be found at: www.hqusaeur.army.mil/taxes.

Faces of the community: Customs Office



Donna Walker

Customs Inspector Abraham Haile assists Andy Guerrero with the proper forms to secure fuel rations for a rental car. The Customs office also provides the proper forms and lends assistance to those who want to sell vehicles to non ID card holders, to secure an exception to policy for non-ID card holders to drive USAREUR-plated cars, to help those who receive personal shipments of goods to avoid paying German taxes on them and to assist retirees and their widows or widowers who live in Germany to obtain privileges to shop in the commissary and exchange. The Customs Field Office Heidelberg in Bldg. 3850 on the Shopping Center Kaserne (DSN 370-8998, civ. 06221-57-7142) and the Mannheim office in Bldg. 255 on Sullivan Barracks (DSN 385-3307, civ. 0621-730-3326) are open 7:30 a.m.-noon and 12:30-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Kaiserslautern office (DSN 483-7383, civ. 0631-411-7383) in Bldg. 3245 on Kleber Kaserne is open 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Thursdays.

Consulate comes to Heidelberg to assist with document renewals

Military Personnel Directorate

Representatives from the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt will conduct an outreach program for the Heidelberg and Mannheim communities 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Heidelberg Shopping Center, Bldg. 3850, room 23. Applications will be accepted for report of birth, initial and renewal of tourist and official (no-fee) passports.

Representatives from the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security federal benefits unit will be available to review applications for social security, visa and citizenship, and to answer questions.

Here is a checklist of items to bring for report of birth and passport applications.

- Original "raised or multi-color seal" support document
- Birth certificate, naturalization certificate, certificate of citizenship, marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption decree, legal name change document.
- Existing passport (if applicable) and copy of it
- ID card and copy of it (front and back)
- Two 2-by-2 inches or 5-by-5 centimeters identical

passport pictures that are not older than six months.

•Exact amount money order per application.

•First time application or mutilated or lost/stolen passport: \$135

•Second time or any subsequent passport after turning age 16: \$110

•Initial and renewal for children under age 16: \$105

•Report of birth with no-fee passport for military personnel: \$100

•Report of birth with tourist passport for military personnel and report of birth for all others: \$205

•DS-11 for first time after turning age 16, mutilated, lost or stolen passport: must be completed online and printed out

•DS-82 for second or any subsequent passport after turning age 16: must be completed online and printed out

Information on passports and consular services is available on the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Web site at www.bw.eur.army.mil/DHR/passports.html. Forms may be found at www.travel.state.gov. For documents needed to apply for social security cards, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10120.html.

'Service of process' confuses most

Patton Law Center

One of the first terms that people come across in the confusing documents associated with a civil law suits such as divorce, is "service of process."

Process is a legal document of a U.S. court that compels a person to appear in court or to comply with a court's demand. A summons is considered part of process and is a legal document that is issued by the court, but usually prepared by a plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, which informs a party or defendant in a civil matter that they have been sued and that they must to file a response with the court or risk losing the case.

Service of process is the actual formal delivery of the summons to a party or defendant so the party or defendant knows of the court action. Once proper service is effected, a civil case can continue to finalization even in the absence of the party or defendant.

The rules on service of process vary greatly depending upon whether the Soldier or family member is inside or outside the United States. Generally, Army officials do not have the authority to serve

process on Soldiers or family members whether located within or outside the United States. Usually the most an Army official can do is to see if the person to be served is willing to voluntarily accept the service of process. Army commanders in Germany should contact the Foreign Law Branch, Office of the Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Europe, if they receive requests to serve process from attorneys or courts in the United States.

Service of civil process on persons stationed or residing in foreign countries can be costly, difficult and time consuming. Sometimes this can frustrate Soldiers and family members, especially in divorce or other kinds of family law cases where one party may want to expedite the case.

The following are the only two methods of proper service of process from a state court on a Soldier or family member located outside the United States.

First, the person to be served may voluntarily accept the service of process. Usually this is accomplished through certified mail. If an individual who receives service of process in this manner does

not wish to accept it, help should be sought immediately from the issuing U.S. court or the nearest legal assistance office. 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 United States and Germany have signed this treaty. It provides for service of process by a central authority, usually the Ministry of Justice, pursuant to a proper request. Germany has very specific rules regarding service of process within its borders. For instance, Germany does not allow service of process under the Hague Convention through certified mail and any document a party wishes to serve in Germany and must include a translation into German.

This is true even if the Soldier or family member does not speak a word of German.

Many attorneys and courts in the states are not aware of the Hague Convention or do not fully understand it. For information about the proper service of process, seek advice from a legal assistance office.

Caring for pets



Courtesy photo

From left, Makayla Roberts, Master Sgt. Michael Frederickson, Grace Frederickson, Glory Frederickson and Lilly Weaver help with the delivery of food, toys, blankets and supplies collected by the Mannheim parents and community members for the Viernheim animal shelter. The animal care drive was coordinated by Mannheim's School Age Center to promote caring behaviors in children. "The goal of this Animal Care Drive was to help the children learn about the importance of giving back to the community and develop caring behaviors," said Ivelisse Davila, School Age Center director. Additionally, the SAC children made doggy treats from some leftover food. "Several children and parents visited the tierheim, fully enjoying the opportunity to deliver the treats and meet the animals." The local shelter appreciates the donations, Davila said. "A lot of the animals are strays, so they're grateful because it really helps."



Heidelberg

On Dec. 14, Spc. John-Louis Huston was convicted by a military judge at a special court-martial of one specification of violating article 86 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for failure to report; one specification of violating article 86, UCMJ, absent without leave; one specification of violating article 89, UCMJ, disrespect towards a commissioned officer; one specification of violating article 95, UCMJ, resisting apprehension; two specifications of violating article 112a, UCMJ, wrongful use of controlled substances; an one specification of violating article 128, UCMJ, assault consummated by battery. Huston was sentenced to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit \$964 per month for four months, to be confined for four months and to be discharged from the U.S. Army with a bad conduct discharge.

On Sept. 1, Spc. William Grimes was convicted by an enlisted panel at a general court martial of one specification of violating article 120, Uniform Code of Military Justice, rape of an adult by force. Grimes was sentenced to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for three years and to be discharged from the U.S. Army with a dishonorable discharge.

Courts-Martial Results

The results of courts-martial associated with the Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern and Mannheim communities are published in cooperation with the V Corps and 21st Theater Sustainment Command Judge Advocate General.

Soldiers visit Maginot Line

By Lt. Col. Carol Fontanese
30TH MEDCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCHOENENBOURG, France – Peaks of white snow covered artillery blocks and outposts that lined the approach to Fort Schoenenbourg, France, where Soldiers of the 30th Medical Command (Deployment Support) and the Sanitaetskommando II participated in a staff ride Dec. 14.

Fort Schoenenbourg is a fortified defense system of the Maginot Line of Alsace. The Maginot Line was a line of concrete fortifications, tank obstacles, machine gun posts and other defenses which France constructed along the border with Germany in the wake of World War I.

During the staff ride, Soldiers learned about the events that led to the creation of the Maginot Line and its purpose, capabilities and limitations.

"Historical and current events will never be identical, but the more you know about the past, the better you can prepare for the future," explained Lt. Col. Frank Golden, 30th MEDCOM intelligence officer.

Soldiers of the Sanitaetskommando II (2nd Medical Command) and the Lazarettregiment 21 (21st Field Hospital Regiment), Rennerod, Germany, participated.

"The cooperation is valuable between both of our units in order to establish contact, get to know each other and build a basis for future cooperation," said Fregattenkapitän (Lt. Col.) Udo Schmalstieg, operations officer for the Sanitaetskommando II, Diez, Germany.

Soldiers discussed the dynamics that promoted the shift in French military doctrine and culture and compared it to the transformation in U.S. military doctrine and culture today. They also talked about the importance of greater joint and coalition partner military operations.

"I did not expect there would be more similarities than differences between the German and American Army," said Oberleutnant (1st Lt.) Olaf Lemmer, operations officer at the Lazarettregiment 21. "I enjoyed talking to the American Soldiers because they are open-minded and will share their ideas openly with us."



Soldiers form up in preparation to recite the Soldiers Creed at the U.S. Army All American Bowl at the Alamodome Jan. 8. The U.S. Army All-American Bowl is a high school football all-star game held in San Antonio, Texas. The game features high school athletes that excel both on the football field and in the classroom. U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sean M. Worrell

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Sgt. Adam Dean (right), a combat engineer with 2nd Platoon, 832nd Engineer Company, attached to 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, speaks to a couple of young Afghan boys from the village of Qalah-ye Boland in Parwan province, Afghanistan. U.S. soldiers of 832nd Engineer Company visited the village to assess the area and to attend a key leader engagement with the Malik.



Spc. Kristina Gupton



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Boan Ferguson



Above, Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, U.S. Forces - Iraq commanding general, salutes the tomb of the unknown soldier Jan. 6, during a wreath laying ceremony on Iraqi Army Day in Baghdad, Iraq. U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Andrew Lee

Spc. John Lombardo, left, and Spc. Christopher Keefe pull security on a hill top while mechanics look over a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle, or MRAP, after the brakes ignited during a return mission from Shinkay, Afghanistan Jan. 6. Specialists Lombardo and Keefe are assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul, Qalat, Afghanistan.

COMMENTARY

The cutting edge of ACU fashion

What (not) to do when wearing the uniform

By Sgt. Maj. Lisa Hunter
USAREUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This winter seems to have come some new Army Combat Uniform fashion trends. Surely you've seen the green micro-fleece cap with edges rolled, or the Gore-Tex jacket unzipped for a more casual look.

Of course, that's not how they're supposed to be worn. For that matter, this whole ACU fashion trend should be pretty simple. After all, it's a uniform. That means we all dress alike. But some Soldiers like living on the cutting edge of ACU fashion, which means they are not following regulations.

To help those who may be confused about what's in vogue this year (i.e., what's authorized) before the uniform police nab them, I consulted U.S. Army Europe's subject-matter expert, U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Major Thomas Capel. I also read the USAREUR Uniform and Appearance Policy Standards Memorandum dated Dec. 9, 2010, and Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, the absolute Bible on Army uniforms.

Here's the Cliff's notes version of what the experts say are the "do's" and "don'ts," for today's ACU ensembles.

The Basic Uniform

First we'll look at the basic uniform. It's hard to go wrong here. The ACU shirt should be zipped and Velcro fasteners closed. Sleeves should never be rolled or cuffed. All basic items – rank insignia, nametape, unit and combat patches, etc. – are still the standard accoutrements.

In the case of trousers, length is not an issue. Soldiers can go old school, wearing the pants legs tucked into their boots, or they can blouse the pants legs using commercially procured blousers or the ACUs' convenient built-in drawstrings. Regardless of which method you choose, blousing the trouser legs below the third boot eyelet is definitely a fashion "don't."

From there we'll move onto outerwear. You'll see the Gore-Tex jacket and the black or green fleece jackets, everywhere this year. They are all in



Photos by Sgt. Daniel J. Nichols, illustration by Bill Roche
The green microfleece cap should be worn snugly on the head and not rolled on the ends. Guidance on how to wear the uniform is found U.S. Army Europe's Uniform and Appearance Memorandum (Dec. 9, 2010) and Army Regulation 670-1.

style this winter, which means they are authorized for wear. The black fleece might be last year's fashion, but it's still authorized. But Soldiers who insist on being seen in nothing but the very latest styles can stop by their local Central Issue Facility and make the change to the green fleece.

No matter which jacket you go for this season – even if you decide to mix and match – remember that the snaps are to be fastened and the zipper should be zipped up to the neck.

As for accessories, Soldiers can wear either pin-on or embroidered slip-on rank in the center of the jacket. The nametape – in quarter-inch block letters – should be worn on the left sleeve pocket only. Do not have your name embroidered directly on the jacket pocket. This takes away from the style -- and it's not authorized. U.S. Army tape, nametape, and rank are to be worn on the fleece jacket.

Head Gear

Now, let's move on to head gear. The beret is the hat we will all be seeing this year, as it's the only authorized head gear for garrison wear.

No matter how much you like your patrol cap, keep it on the shelf for special occasions, such as performing maintenance in the motor pool or training events. The commander can authorize the wear of the patrol cap in transit to training events, but trips to the PX are not considered training.

When you wear your patrol cap, rank insignia should be affixed to the front and the nametape should be worn on the back. When it comes

to the cap, less is more, specifically when it comes to adding fashion accessories like cat-eyes reflective strips. The only Soldiers authorized to sew cat eyes on the back of the cap are observer/controllers. And even they are only authorized to wear them while they are "in the training box," Capel said.

Now we get to the most misunderstood uniform item: the green micro-fleece cap. The green cap is a "do" when worn with the improved physical fitness uniform.

It's also a great ACU accessory to wear when pulling prolonged duties, such as guard duty in freezing temperatures. But it's not the fashion statement for short walks, say, from your car to the PX. Like the patrol cap, it needs to stay on the shelf most of the time. When authorized for wear, it should be pulled down snugly on the head. And, don't roll the ends – not authorized.

Accessories

Of course, no ensemble is complete without the right accessories. We'll start with jewelry. The rule to remember is to wear the bling with your civilian wardrobe. Authorized jewelry means two rings (a wedding set counts as one), a wristwatch, and an identification bracelet such as a medical alert bracelet or MIA/POW bracelet (in black or silver only), with only one item worn on each wrist.

When it comes to body piercing, the Army just says no – at least while you're in uniform or on an Army installation or facilities under Army

control. That means do not "attach, affix or display objects, articles or ornamentation to or through the skin" – and the AR 670-1 definition of skin includes "the tongue, lips, inside the mouth, and other surfaces of the body not readily visible."

Last but not least, how about the fashion statement you make with eyeglasses and sunglasses? When you're in uniform, make sure you're making the right statement, and not talking (fashion) trash.

Soldiers are not authorized to wear glasses that are considered trendy, such as those with initials, designs or other adornments on the lenses or frames. Sunglass lens colors should be on the conservative side, in gray, brown or dark green.

Because eyewear is not authorized for wear on top of your head, the fashion question for sunglasses is, "Where do I put them when I'm not wearing them?" The short answer is: Know where not to put them. Don't hang them off your uniform, and don't hang them from chains, bands or ribbons down the front of the uniform.

These tips take only seconds to apply, which is generally far less time-consuming – or painful – than being the subject of a long and loud on-the-spot correction. You'll know you've achieved the look when you are dressed exactly the same as every other Soldier in your unit.

Apply these simple guidelines and you're guaranteed to be the height of ACU fashion this season.



RALLY

continued from page 1

table, foosball and many gaming systems.

In addition to the gaming amenities, the facility offers a library, a theater-style entertainment system with recliners and a full kitchen.

In the coming months, free wireless Internet will also be available at the Rally Point.

"This is a great service, especially for newly arrived Soldiers needing to keep in touch with their families back home," said Pennington.

"They have somewhere they can go to connect with their loved ones before they are able to get their own Internet connection," said Pennington.

The Rally Point is maintained by Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade.

It is expected to be the place for various Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program activities and events in the coming months.



Spc. Aislinn M. Amig

Spc. Nikolas Michelini (left), a technical engineering specialist with the 18th Engineer Brigade from Houston, plays a hand of digital poker with Sgt. 1st Class Alex Deprat, an 18th Engineer Brigade equal opportunity advisor from Houston, at the Rally Point on Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen Dec. 10. The Rally Point is a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation center designed as a place for Soldiers in Heidelberg to relax and spend time with one another.

FUTURE

continued from page 1

things right? What are we missing?

The point of asking for input is to build a shared vision of where we are going in the next year.

I am meeting with senior Installation Management Community leaders this month to develop that vision that will enable us to begin with the end in mind.

Once we have a shared vision of what right looks like, we can figure out how to get there from here.

We can eliminate random activities and focus our efforts on the initiatives that will have the greatest impact.

We started 2010 by producing the Installation Management Community's Cam-

paign Plan. It laid out a vision, strategy and way ahead for providing the programs, services and facilities that support Soldiers and families.

With the campaign plan and the three fundamental questions as our guides, we have continually challenged ourselves to improve our performance.

Some of our efforts are visible to those we serve. For example, based on feedback, we have enhanced delivery of several vital programs including the Exceptional Family Member Program, Survivor Outreach Services, the Total Army Sponsorship Program, the Army Substance Abuse Program and the Army Continuing Education System.

Many efforts will not be immediately apparent. For

example, we are reducing the number of administrative regions from six to four and integrating the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command into IMCOM Headquarters.

Soldiers and families will see no difference in the quality of support or number of services they receive, but behind the scenes, we will be working smarter.

We will streamline delivery of services to our customers and generate savings that can be applied to Soldier and family programs.

Now, as we build a shared vision of what the Installation Management Community should look like in November 2011 and lay out the plan to achieve that vision, we will continue to challenge our-

selves to go beyond what we already know and are comfortable with. We will continue to look at the shape and size of our organization and workforce.

We will continue to reach out and build relationships with others committed to supporting Soldiers and families including universities, businesses, non-government organizations and other government agencies.

We will continue to identify, develop and align the resources, policies and processes needed to support family programs, safety, sustainability, energy security and other priorities.

The process of developing a shared vision can be difficult for some, since it carries the possibility of change, but

it can also be energizing, and it is important for us to do if we take our jobs seriously. For one, we owe it to our fellow citizens to be good stewards.

We must be mindful of how we impact the environment, how we treat our people and how we spend taxpayer dollars. If we do our job well today, then we will have the resources we need in the future.

An even more important reason is the Soldiers and families we support. We commit to provide a strong, supportive environment in which they can thrive.

We change, not for change's sake, but because we can do better. We owe it to our Soldiers and families to ask what right looks like and to make sure we are on track to get there.

Outlet shopping bug hits Germany

Metzingen beckons bargain shoppers of high quality goods

By Birgit Thompson
USAG STUTTGART PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Factory outlets made their debut in 1971 in Pennsylvania. Today, the trend has not just spanned decades but crossed the ocean. Germany has caught the outlet shopping bug, and it shows.

Not far from Stuttgart, nestled at the base of the Swabian Alps, is the ever-inviting Metzingen Outlet City with its Boss, Tommy Hilfiger, Swatch and Burberry stores.

Once the production site of Boss high-end fashion, Metzingen slowly turned into a city of outlets and flagship stores for almost 50 international brands. Closer to home is the Salamander shoe factory and outlet mall located in Kornwestheim.

Salamander Outlet

For great savings in the shoe department, visitors should stop by the original location of this leather goods manufacturer.

The shoe factory sports a totally remodeled exterior and several other outlet stores. Shoppers can hunt for all kinds of clothing bargains, but first and foremost are the shoes found on endless racks covering more than 2,000 square meters.

Shoe sizes range from infant to men's size 15 and for women, up to size 12 (U.S.)

The outlet offers an average of 30 percent off on brands such as Salamander, amel Active, Timberland, Addidas, Puma, Betty Barkley, Yellowstone and the children's lines of Salamander, Lurchi.

Great savings can be found throughout the year, but especially during the change of seasons when shoppers can save up to 60 percent.

Trigema Sportswear

Adjacent to the shoe outlet is a Trigema flagship store. Trigema is a high-quality sportswear manufacturer. The store is currently a trial-store to find out if outlet shopping will be profitable for the company.

This store not only carries overproductions, seconds and returns, but also serves as the pilot for Trigema's new lines before production hits full swing. Savings of 30 to 50 percent can be found here, in comparison to regular store prices.

Mustang Outlet

The Mustang Factory Store, a unique and little-known outlet, is found just 70 miles up the road in Künzelsau.

The outlet has a beat-up exterior,

How to get there

The trip from the Mannheim and Heidelberg areas takes about 1.5-1.75 hours. Make your way to Autobahn 5 toward Basel/Karlsruhe for about 37 kilometers. Take exit 46 to merge onto Autobahn 8 toward München/Stuttgart/Pforzheim for 67 kilometers. Take exit 52a to merge onto B27 toward Tübingen/Reutlingen/Filderstadt for 11 kilometers. Take exit B312 toward Metzingen/Aichtal for another 13 kilometers. At the roundabout, take the third exit onto Stuttgarter Strasse which turns into Wilhelmstrasse and brings you to the outlet area. GPS address is Reutlinger Strasse 63, 72555 Metzingen.

Outlet City is open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturday (Hugo Boss is open 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.) Information is available in English (click on the British flag) at www.outletcity-metzingen.com. The Web site provides more than shopping information. The area offers special events and tourist attractions for children and adults.

but once visitors step through the glass doors, they will find themselves in jeans heaven.

Shoppers are greeted with the first "Schnäppchen" (bargain) just inside the store, on this day a knitted wool sweater for only €3 – an 80 percent savings.

Winter jackets that were originally priced at €129 can be found on the rack marked down to €20.

Shoes and boots line the aisle between the men's and women's sections.

The outlet also offers belts, hats, purses and other accessories. Sizes range from a size 23 to 44 (U.S.) for jeans and XXS to 4XL in shirts. If shoppers take their time and scan through all the racks, savings of at least 60 percent are very possible.

During the warmer months, the outlet also offers the occasional sales tents where savings of up to 80 percent are not uncommon.

To find out more about these outlet stores, visit www.mustang.de, www.salamander.de and <http://www.outletcity-metzingen.com>.



Birgit Thompson

Both of these photos show Metzingen Outlet City which features more than 60 stores in two main shopping districts in the center of town. Brands available include Boss, Joop, Adidas, Polo, S. Oliver. A fascinating world full of international brands all around the Lindenplatz invites you to shop and stroll. While the Lindenplatz radiates a touch of big-city flair, seven historical buildings on the Kelternplatz provide evidence of a century-old tradition of wine growing. Travelers can also take advantage of nearby attractions such as the Steiff museum, Alb Thermal Springs in Bad Urach, the Reutlingen castle and the Lichtenstein castle.



GERMAN NEWS

Google

German Web companies could face hefty fines for using Google's online metrics service after data protection officials broke off talks with the U.S. Internet giant this week and threatened to pursue a precedent-setting court case. The free Internet service Google Analytics gathers detailed information about Web site visits via a user's IP address, sending the data back to Google servers in the United States for processing. According to the paper, data protection officials in some German states believe this practice should be illegal. In talks since November 2009, Google has agreed to abbreviate IP addresses for anonymity in addition to creating user protection modules for different Internet browsers. But officials said that for some browsers, namely Safari and Opera, there is no such solution also alleging that Google still collects the full IP addresses of users who declare their wish for anonymity.

Terror Alert

Some two months after declaring a heightened terrorism alert, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière said Tuesday he still couldn't give an all-clear signal. Whether an attack has already been prevented by security forces, was never planned, or could still be planned may never be known with complete certainty, the minister told broadcaster Deutschlandfunk. But law enforcement officials continue to investigate for evidence of possible attacks, he said. In November, the minister told the nation there were "concrete indications" of an imminent attack that month, calling on increased vigilance from citizens. The government then ramped up security at airports, train stations and government buildings, even closing the dome of the Reichstag parliamentary building to tourists.

SOURCE: www.thelocal.de

GERMAN Cooking

Linseneintopf – Lentil soup with sausages

Ingredients:

3 onions
One bundle of soup greens and vegetables
500 grams (1 lb.) potatoes
1 kilogram (2.2 lb.) ham bone (Schinkenknochen)
400 grams smoked bacon in one piece
500 grams (1 lb.) lentils with peel
10 black pepper corns
3-4 bay leaves
3-4 branches of parsley
Salt, pepper, sugar, Maggi seasoning (Maggi is a liquid seasoning similar to soy sauce found in German stores in the soup and gravy aisle)
Sausages (wiener würstchen)

Instructions:

Peel onions and finely chop. Clean the soup greens and vegetables and chop. Peel the potatoes and cut into squares. Wash the ham bone. Add all the ingredients in a large pot; keeping the sausages and three branches of parsley for later. Add three liters of water and bring to a quick boil before turning the heat down. Let the soup simmer for three hours, stir occasionally. Chop the leftover parsley branches and add to the soup. Add salt and pepper, as well as Maggi seasoning to taste. Heat sausages in hot water, drain and add to the soup.

SOURCE: www.chefkoch.de



DEAR MS. Vicki

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,

My husband died 5 1/2 years ago. He had been medically discharged from the Army. When he was alive he told me that any of his children, stepchildren, etc. could attend school with his GI bill, so we did not save for college as they pay for schooling along with a living allowance.

After he passed away, I started checking and have been told that is not correct.

I don't know what to do now. Our daughter is an honors student who maintains at least a 3.5 grade point average and she is a senior.

Help!

Dear Help,

I'm sorry to hear about your husband passing away. Somehow, I hope you are managing to make it. I know it's been tough.

I don't want to give you the information about your question for fear that I will be incorrect. The best advice I can give is to contact the Department of Veteran's Affairs, 800-827-1000 or visit www.va.gov or www.gibill.va.gov.

I know they have changed the laws allowing service members to transfer their GI benefits, but talk to them first.

Take care of yourself.

Dear Ms. Vicki,

My husband and I have been married 12 years. Two weeks after he said I do to the Army he said I do to me, so we've grown in his Army career together.

Military life has been difficult, but we've done well to stay together; however we keep stumbling over his inability to balance work and home life.

Last year, we had a year without deployment; however he was then stationed with a unit tasked to go to Afghanistan early so they only had six months notice.

We decided that I would move back home to be with my family while he went to his new duty

station. He is the Operations Officer and I know his job is stressful.

My husband like most men has a difficulty expressing himself. I understand. I don't call him during the day and I accept the five minute phone calls.

If you don't have gas in your tank, you can't make the car go, and my husband is so spent from his day he really has nothing left to give me. Not that it makes me happy, but I have been supportive.

Then two months ago, I asked my husband if I could come visit him at his duty station and he said yes. He had a training exercise at another post just prior, so I was to meet him there and then go on to his duty station for one week.

A week before seeing him, he said I shouldn't come because he's too busy to spend time with me. He said I could still come to the training exercise, but I should go home from there. I was hurt beyond belief, and I thought that once I got to where his training exercise was and he saw me, he would change his mind, so I packed like I was going on both trips. But he didn't change his mind and I came back home.

There's way more to this situation which would take me an hour to write about, but I'm really at a loss. With us, it's like disappointment is the norm.

He says he doesn't want a divorce; however, he is not willing to compromise on his dedication to the Army at all. And branch has told us that he will deploy every other year until he gets out which won't be for another eight years.

I feel like as long as I am married, I have the right to have certain expectations and one would be him wanting to see me. He refuses to compromise at all. And knowing him like I do, I don't believe it's in his personality to change. This is just something we keep coming back to.

In answer to your probable questions, yes, we've been to marriage counseling before and he says he won't go back.

And no, I do not think he is having an affair. He really is an obsessive-compulsive when it comes to the Army. He is 100 percent Soldier all the time, which I can appreciate as a leader.

But while he is in the states, he has a responsibility to his family and unfortunately, he looks at me like I'm a distraction. He forgets to tell me things. His flight changed and he didn't bother telling me. His mother was having surgery and he didn't tell me. I can go down the list of things.

And now, I feel numb and betrayed and really don't feel like I deserve what I'm getting.

Am I being too hard on him? I've asked retired Army officers if I am

and they all basically tell me that same thing, if your husband thinks he can save a deployment, he's got another think coming. I've offered to divorce and have him come back in eight years after he's finished, but he doesn't think that's a good idea.

I can't ask him to get out of the Army. He is a Soldier and I will not be the reason he gets out.

And knowing my luck, he'll get picked for brigade command, which means he'll stay in for more than 20 years. Eight years of this is more than I can stand.

Sad and Broken Hearted

Dear Broken Hearted,

I hear you loud and clear and many other military spouses do, too. We've all been there. What you are feeling is normal. In my opinion you are not asking for something unreasonable.

I applaud your husband's commitment to serving his country. However, he has an obligation to you, too. That's just the way it is.

He has to resolve this sooner or later, learning how to achieve balance with his work life and family life, too. It's not easy but it can be done. Besides, he should want to see you happy.

Here's the deal, he may stay in for 30 years, and if he can do so, it will be his choice. You are right; you shouldn't give him an ultimatum "It's me or your career."

Conversely, you are asking to have a marriage where there is a commitment to intimacy and closeness. This can be done across the miles.

You are also asking to be treated like you matter, and you also want to feel that you come first. Even given the fact that he is active duty army and we are currently involved in two wars, this is still attainable.

Even if he refuses to continue with marital counseling, I think you should continue to see a therapist. This will be extremely helpful given what you are experiencing.

You don't think he is having an affair, but what you must resolve is this feeling he is "cheating" with his profession because he is definitely making you feel like he is unavailable.

So let's say he never realizes that he should put his marriage and relationship with you first. Are you willing to be in a marriage with a husband who is a workaholic and compulsive with his work habits so much that he doesn't realize he is not making you happy?

Trust me: he is not the only service member who is coping with increased workloads and deployments.

GET OUT!

area events

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

January 14

Trekki Party – Boldly go forth and have some fun at the Star-Trek-inspired party at the Irish Pub on Vogelweh Housing in Kaiserslautern 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Civ. 0631-354-9986, www.mwrgermany.com.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast – KMC Singing tea pots, swinging candle sticks, chomping wolves, a beautiful maiden, and of course, the Beast himself appear on KMC Onstage Jan. 14-16 and 22-23 on Kleber Kaserne. Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 3 p.m. For tickets stop by the KMC Onstage or visit the One Stop Shop in the Kaiserslautern Library on Landstuhl Post, Bldg. 3810.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – C.S. Lewis' beloved and magical "Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" will be presented at the Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14, 15, 21 and 22. Tickets: www.roadside-theater.com, www.mwrgermany.com.

January 15

Art Exhibit – The Heidelberg Arts and Cultural Center hosts the art exhibition "Reflections of Generosity: Toward Restoration and Peace" 7 p.m. in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg featuring the works of over 50 Soldier and civilian artists from the Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern and Mannheim communities as well as from the United States and around the world. The artwork and performances reflect the spirit of ongoing generosity demonstrated by the military and honors the men and women who have sacrificed their lives as a result of ongoing conflicts.

January 17

Ski for the day – Travel to the Feldberg mountain in southern Germany with transportation provided by Mannheim's Outdoor Recreation which regularly sponsors trips there and to Engelberg in Switzerland. Participate in three of these trips and get the fourth trip free. DSN 384-6215, civ. 0621-730-6232, www.mwrgermany.com.

January 19

English Theatre Frankfurt – The English Theatre Frankfurt is continental Europe's largest English-speaking theater. Each season, more than 60,000 visitors enjoy its wide range of classics, comedies, thrillers and musicals. The theater's auditorium boasts state-of-the-art audio-visual technology. Find it at Gallus Anlage 7, Frankfurt am Main 60329. Civ. 0692-423-1620. <http://www.english-theatre.org/>

Cheap Eats – Heidelberg's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers has a treat planned

for their latest Cheap Eats event. Enjoy a fabulous fondue spread of cheeses, fruits, meat variations and more starting at 6 p.m. at the Warrior Zone on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg.

January 20

Latino Palace Chango – At the Latino Palace Chango you will find a range of Latino inspired acts regularly performing, an outdoor party area, restaurant and of course plenty of space for you to dance the night away along with many more exciting activities for you to join in spread over two large floors. The club is on Münchener Straße 57, 60329 Frankfurt am Main. Civ. 0692-722-0807. www.latinpalace-chango.de.

January 21

Free concert – Allstar Weekend is an American pop and rock band which gained its popularity after debuting "Suddenly" on the Disney channel television network. See them at no cost at the Galaxy Theater on Vogelweh Housing in Kaiserslautern. Doors open 6 p.m., concert starts at 7 p.m.

Cadence Call Competition – Bring your best cadence caller plus a team of up to four performers (march, step, etc.) to the Right Arm Night Cadence Call competition 5-8 p.m. at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim. Winner receives \$150 for their FRG, unit or directorate. DSN 380-9370, civ. 0621-730-9370, www.mwrgermany.com.

Hip Hop Night – Hop over to the Recovery Room on Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg for Hip Hop night starting at 9 p.m. and hosted by disc jockey Pat. DSN 371-2762, civ. 06221-17-2762, www.mwrgermany.com.

January 22

Military History Tour – Hitler and his paladins selected the old imperial city of Nürnberg to become the party center and the setting for their pageantry during the party rallies that were held every September from 1934 until 1938. These gatherings were pompous spectacles, theatrical demonstrations of every branch of the National Socialist Party hierarchy. This tour takes you to the relics of the staged presentations and to a documentation center presenting an in-depth portrait of this period of German history. <http://affiliates.usa.org/Kaiserslautern/>

Flea Markets – Check out area flea markets for those hard-to-find bargains in Mannheim, Kaiserslautern, Frankfurt and Stuttgart. For details on locations, times and addresses, visit www.meine-flohmarkt-terme.de and click on the link for the 6000-6999 zip code (PLZ).

January 24

Wax Museum – Since the doors of Madame Tussauds world famous waxwork museum first opened over 200 years ago in London, millions of visitors have flocked to see the incredible likenesses of real life celebrities and historical persons. Check out the museum's Berlin location and discover your favorite celebrity heroes and the process behind how the waxwork figures are made. You can also snap a photo with Barack Obama, Angelina Jolie, the Queen of England, David Beckham, Madonna and many more. The museum is located at Unter den Linden 74, 10117 Berlin. Civ. 0180-554-5800.

January 28

Life Upon the Wicked Stage – Spend the evening at the KMC Onstage Jan. 28 and 29 for the dinner theater production of "Life Upon the Wicked Stage." This cabaret features award-winning actress and vocalist Jeanne Ragonese accompanied by pianist Hatem Nadim. Get tickets at the KMC Onstage box office on Kleber Kaserne, Bldg. 3232, or the One Stop Shop in the Kaiserslautern Library on Landstuhl Post, Bldg. 3810.

January 29

Fashion Show – Watch the Winter Fashion Show and Airbrush Army NYC starting at 9 p.m. at the Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim. DSN 382-4410, civ. 0621-730-4410, www.mwrgermany.com.

Dance Classes – Cut a rug with your fanciest dance steps or at least learn how at the Lamade dance school in Mannheim. The school offers many classes, courses, special nights and events to get you on the floor whether it's hip hop or the Viennese waltz. Civ. 0621-10-3040.

Ongoing

Billiards and Bowling – The Heidelberg Kontakt Club offers free billiard lessons every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at Harbigweg 10, 69124 Heidelberg. Civ. 06221-16-4412. Everyone is welcome to join the bowling fun every Sunday at noon at the Patrick Henry Village Bowling Center. DSN 387-3296, civ. 06202-18-071.

Antique Market – Cuijk is the site of the Netherlands' largest antique and flea market held every Saturday in an exhibition center outside town. The center's four halls are fully covered and heated and packed with antique furniture, used paintings, clothing, household goods, crafts, antique reproductions, furniture and junk. Cuijk has always been an insider's flea market. <http://affiliates.usa.org/Kaiserslautern/>

coming to THEATERS

TRUE GRIT

(Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon) A spunky 14-year-old girl sets out to avenge her father's death with the help of an aging, drunken, one-eyed marshal. Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of western violence including disturbing images) 120 minutes.

SAW 3D

(Presented in 2D format) (Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor) Saw 3D details the ongoing exploits of long-dead serial killer Jigsaw and the people who continue his gruesome morality lessons. Rated R (sequences of grisly bloody violence and torture, and language) 91 minutes.



PLAYING THIS WEEK

Heidelberg, Patrick Henry Village

Jan. 13 - PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2 (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 14 - MEGAMIND (PG) 7 p.m.; DUE DATE (R) 9 p.m.
Jan. 15 - MEGAMIND (PG) 4 p.m.; SAW 3D (R)(2D Version) 7 p.m.; DUE DATE (R) 9 p.m.
Jan. 16 - MEGAMIND (PG) 4 p.m.; DUE DATE (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 17 - SKYLINE (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 18 - MEGAMIND (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 19 - SAW 3D (R)(2D Version) 7 p.m.
Jan. 20 - PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2 (R) 7 p.m.

Mannheim, Schuh

Jan. 14 - TRUE GRIT (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 15 - TRUE GRIT (PG-13) 4 p.m.; MEGAMIND (PG) 7 p.m.; DUE DATE (R) 9 p.m.
Jan. 16 - MEGAMIND (PG) 4 p.m.; TRUE GRIT (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Vogelweh, Galaxy

Jan. 14 - NANNY MCPHEE RETURNS (PG) 4 p.m.; PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2 (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 15 - MEGAMIND (PG) 4 p.m.; TRUE GRIT (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 16 - TRUE GRIT (PG-13) 4 p.m.; DUE DATE (R) 7 p.m.

Ramstein, Gateway Movieplex

Jan. 13 - CATS & DOGS: THE REVENGE OF KITTY GALORE (PG) 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m.;
SKYLINE (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m.;
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2 (R) 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m.
Jan. 14 - MEGAMIND (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.;
DUE DATE (R) 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m.;
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m.;
LOTTERY TICKET (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m.;
SALT (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
Jan. 15 - MEGAMIND (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.;
DUE DATE (R) 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.;
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5 p.m.;
LOTTERY TICKET (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:30 p.m.;
FOR COLORED GIRLS (R) – 7:30 p.m.;
RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (R) - 9:30 p.m.
Jan. 16 - MEGAMIND (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.;
DUE DATE (R) 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.;
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8 p.m.;
LOTTERY TICKET (PG-13) 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m.
Jan. 17 - MEGAMIND (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.;
DUE DATE (R) 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.;
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG) 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m.;
LOTTERY TICKET (PG-13) 11 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m.; SALT (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18 - MEGAMIND (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.;
DUE DATE (R) 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.;
CATS & DOGS: THE REVENGE OF KITTY GALORE (PG) 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.
Jan. 19 - MEGAMIND (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.;
DUE DATE (R) 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.;
EAT PRAY LOVE (PG-13) 11:15 a.m., 3 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 20 - MEGAMIND (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.;
DUE DATE (R) 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.;
ALICE IN WONDERLAND (PG) 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.

THEATER INFORMATION

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

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

community HIGHLIGHTS

Soldier Show

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is accepting nominations through Jan. 18 for performers and technicians for the 2011 show. Nominations are being accepted for vocalists, dancers, musicians, specialty acts and technicians for lighting, audio, video, costuming and stage. DSN 379-7667, civ. 06202-80-7667.

EEO and Sexual Harassment

There will be Equal Employment Opportunity and sexual harassment training 1-3 p.m. Jan. 19 and Feb. 16 at the Community Training Center on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg Bldg. 104. This training is required for every civilian employee and any military or local national who supervises civilian employees. Employees must have the classroom training every other year and the online version on the alternating year. http://www.bw.eur.army.mil/training_security.html. Additional class dates are: March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17 and Sept. 14. Reservations: DSN 373-5494.

Kaiserslautern PX

The Kaiserslautern Military Community Center, the large mall and exchange on Ramstein Air Base, will be closed all day Jan. 27 for inventory. All other establishments in the mall including the concessionsaires, bookstore, shoppette, and restaurants will remain open.

AFAP Issues

Issues for consideration at the Mannheim-Heidelberg AFAP conference in February will include any submitted before Feb. 1. Issues can be Heidelberg, Mannheim, Installation Management Command or Department of the Army wide. Pick up forms at the Mannheim or Heidelberg ACS offices or download one from the Mannheim Web site, www.home.mannheim.army.mil or the Baden-Württemberg Web site, www.bw.eur.army.mil.

Care Call Center

The European Regional Medical Command Care Call Center has changed its hours. Families in the Mannheim and Heidelberg areas can make appointments 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. by calling DSN 371-2622, civ. 06221-17-2622 or toll free 00800-3762-2273.

Teen Clinic

The Teen Clinic at Heidelberg High School will be closed for approximately six weeks until late January due to staffing issues at the Heidelberg Health Center. Closure of the clinic allows increased provider availability in the pediatric clinic. The Heidelberg Medical Department Activity will coordinate with the high school to ensure unforeseen medical needs are met. HMEDDAC thanks you for your patience during this time.

local EMPLOYMENT

Nutritionist/Dietitian/Nurse

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has a job opening in the Mannheim WIC Overseas Office for a Nutritionist/Dietitian/Nurse starting April 15. Requires a BS in Nutrition, Dietetics, BSN Nursing or Home Economics and experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition. Registered Dietitian preferred. Experience with WIC desirable. Must have current driver's license. DSN 380-4342, civ. 0621-730-4342.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Community

• **Kleber Health Clinic** – Ongoing renovations to the clinic will not reduce services at the Kleber clinic in Kaiserslautern. Until renovations are complete medical services will continue in Bldg. 3287a 6:30-7 a.m. for sick call, 7-8 a.m. for in-processing, 7:30 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7:30 a.m.-noon Fridays. DSN 483-1750, civ. 0631-411-1750.

• **Winter Term Scholarships** – Submit applications by Jan. 14 for KMC Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's winter term scholarships for active duty junior officers, enlisted, civil service and family members currently employed or residing in the Kaiserslautern Military Community and pursuing a degree in an information technology related field. Scholarships are up to \$200 for those eligible for tuition assistance and \$400 for those ineligible for tuition assistance. Applications: www.kmcafee.org/kmcscholarship.

• **Cards For A Cause** – The Cards For A Cause Club will meet 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at Woodlawn Golf Course on Ramstein to make blank cards and small projects for wounded warriors to send to family and friends. Workers are needed to help prepare Valentine cards and cocoa packets. \$5 fee. Open to ID card holders. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

• **Scrapbooking** – Learn how to scrapbook 9 a.m.-3p.m. Jan. 22 at the Kaiserslautern Library on Landstuhl, Bldg. 3810. Bring four to five photos. All basic materials provided. DSN 486-7322, civ. 06374-86-7322.

• **Quilt Guild** – Sign up and pay by Feb. 1 for the Rheinland Pfalz Quilt Guild spring retreat March 4-6 at Maria Rosenberg Hotel in Waldfishbach. Price includes the meals, lodging, and work space. The cost is €115 for single room, €105 to share a double room. info@rpqg.eu.

• **Business Club Scholarship** – The American German Business Club offers €1,000 scholarships to business majors who live in the Kaiserslautern area. Applicants must be studying business or business-related courses at an accredited university, be living in the Kaiserslautern, Pirmasens, Saarbrücken, Koblenz, Mainz area and have at last one year remaining before completion of degree. kaiserslautern@agbc.de.

• **Kinder Music** – SKIES Unlimited is now offering "ABC Music and Me" for children enrolled in a child care or pre-K program for literacy development through music. DSN 493-4516, civ. 0631-3406-4516.

• **Certified** - Certified Mechanics are available at Pulaski Auto Skills in Kaiserslautern and at Landstuhl. General maintenance and specialized

services are also available. Pulaski: civ. 0631-350-2323, Landstuhl: civ. 06371-4931-628.

• **Tow Services** – Pulaski Auto Skills now offers tow services 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and after hours for an additional fee. DSN 493-4167, civ. 0631-3406-4167.

HEIDELBERG

Education

• **ACS Classes** – Intro to MS Word 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 14, Nachrichten Kaserne, Hospital second floor; Intro to MS Power Point 9-11 a.m. Jan. 18-19, Heidelberg ACS; FRG Key Caller and POC Training 2:30-4 p.m. Jan. 18, Heidelberg ACS; The Volunteer Experience 10-11 a.m. Jan. 19, Heidelberg ACS; Sponsorship Assistance Training 10-11 a.m. Jan. 19, Heidelberg ACS; AFTB Level I 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Jan. 19-20, Heidelberg ACS; Relaxation Techniques 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Jan. 20, Nachrichten Kaserne, Bldg. 3622, Company B conference room; Bringing Baby Home 1-4 p.m. Jan. 20, Heidelberg ACS.

• **University of Maryland** – Registration for the UMUC spring session takes place through Jan. 16 including a text book sale. Register by Feb. 20 for the March field study courses. DSN 370-6762.

• **FAST Class** – Functional Academic Skills Training to reinforce basic math or reading skills will be held 8 a.m.-noon Jan. 19 - Feb. 8 at the Patton Education Center in Heidelberg. DSN 373-6226.

• **University of Phoenix** – Pursue a master's of business administration at the Patton Barracks Education Center starting Jan. 25. Civ. 06371-46-6876.

• **Pre-retirement Briefing** – There will be a pre-retirement briefing for Soldiers 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 9 at Army Community Service in Bldg. 3850, room 172, on the Heidelberg Shopping Center Complex. Reservations: DSN 370-3283.

• **Red Cross** – The American Red Cross will offer a CPR/AED Adult class plus Child and Infant CPR and Standard First Aid 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 13. Prepayment of \$45 is required by Feb. 9. DSN 370-1760, civ. 06221-57-8711.

• **Central Texas College** – Registration has begun for Central Texas College offering: Fundamentals of Fire Protection, Emergent Literacy for Early Childhood, Crime in America, Criminalistics I and Emergency Medical Technology – Basic Certification Course. DSN 373-8660, civ. 06221-17-8660.

Community

• **Work Orders** – The Directorate of Public Works no longer accepts walk-in work requests. All requests will be accepted through phone calls, fax or Internet. DSN 387-3240, civ. 6221-4380-3240, www.bw.eur.army.mil under Public Works.

The Real Property Planning

Board – The Real Property Planning Board will meet 1:30 p.m. Jan. 18 in the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. The meeting will include a review of fiscal year 2010 accomplishments and introduce 2011 projects, changes and closures. The RPPB provides a forum to discuss facility construction and maintenance priorities. DSN 387-3913, civ. 06221-4380-3913.

• **BOSS Meeting** – The next Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meeting will be 3 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Heidelberg BOSS Headquarters on Patton Barracks Bldg. 104. DSN 373-5275.

• **Right Arm Night** – Legends on Patrick Henry Village hosts Right Arm Night 5-7 p.m. on the third Friday of the month on Patton Barracks. Enjoy free admission and finger foods. The next Right Arm Night is scheduled for Jan. 21.

• **Taste of Soul** – Celebrate Black History Month with a beautiful art exhibition, soul food tasting, poetry readings and live music by Jimmy's Soulquity 6-11 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Participate in the Soul Food Competition by signing up at the Arts and Cultural Center. Prizes awarded for best dish. DSN 373-7414.

• **Theater Auditions** – Auditions for "On the Verge" will be held 7 p.m. Feb. 15-16 at the Roadside Theater on Patton Barracks. The show calls for three women and one man over the age of 18. No experience is required. DSN 373-5020, www.roadsidetheater.com.

• **Town Hall Meeting** – The next U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Town Hall meeting will be 6 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion.

• **Spouses Club Scholarships** – High school seniors may apply through Feb. 16 for \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Heidelberg Community Spouses Club for the best essay submitted. Applications: www.hcsc-heidelberg.com/scholarship, or scholarship@hcsc-heidelberg.com.

• **Girl Scouts** – The Girl Scouts are looking for community-minded volunteers. Training and mentoring are provided. Girls 5-17 years old are invited to become Girl Scouts. HeidelbergGS@yahoo.com.

• **Karaoke** – Legends on Patrick Henry Village hosts karaoke and line dancing at 7 p.m. every Friday. Get free dancing instructions from 7-9 p.m. and then sing your heart out on the karaoke microphone.

MANNHEIM

Education

• **ACS Classes** – Welcome to the USA 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 14, Sullivan Bks, Bldg. 254; FRG Key Caller and POC Training 1-2:30 p.m. Jan. 17; FRG Funds Manager Training 1-2:30 p.m. Jan. 19; The Volunteer Experience

1:30 p.m. Jan. 19. All classes are at ACS unless otherwise noted.

• **Financial Planning Workshop** – Learn planning strategies to secure your financial future 4-5 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Sullivan Library. DSN 385-2688, civ. 0621-730-2688.

• **Pre-retirement Briefing** – There will be a pre-retirement briefing 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 25 in the USO conference room Bldg. 254 on Sullivan Barracks. Contact DSN 385-3487.

• **German classes** – Beginner, intermediate and advanced instruction in German begin at the Viernheim Volkshochschule Jan. 31. Civ. 06201-988-402 or 06201-13942.

• **Pre-separation Briefing** – There will be a mandatory pre-separation briefing for Soldiers separating from the Army in the basement of Bldg. 258 on Sullivan Barracks 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 1. DSN 385-3487.

Community

• **Time for Tea** – The youth center will host a tea tasting 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 13, 20 and 27 at the Youth Center on Benjamin Franklin Village Bldg. 696. www.mwgermany.com.

• **Developmental Screenings** – Educational and Development Intervention Services will offer developmental screenings in conjunction with Mannheim New Parent Support at the New Parent Support Group, Bldg. 725, on Sullivan Barracks in January. Babies from birth to one year can be screened 10-11:30 a.m. Jan. 19 and children 13-36 months can be screened 10-11:30 a.m. Jan. 26. No reservations are needed.

• **School Advisory Committee** – The high school's School Advisory Committee will meet 3:15 p.m. Jan. 20 in the media center.

• **Yearbook Congratulations Ads** – Student dedication ads are now available for the yearbook, the last for Mannheim high school before its closure in June. Individuals and organizations can dedicate ads for students or as a community farewell in general. Design is provided. DSN 380-4092, civ. 0621-730-4092.

• **Fashion Show** – The Warrior Zone on Coleman Barracks is looking for Soldier models to walk the runway at its winter fashion show Jan. 29. All clothing will be provided by AAFES. DSN 382-4410, civ. 0621-730-4410.

• **Walking Group** – The Mannheim ACS New Parent Support Group hosts a Walking Group 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the track behind the clinic. No cost. Just bring strollers and your babies. DSN 385-2027, civ. 0621-730-2027.

• **Auto Skills** – The Auto Skills center on Spinelli Bks, Bldg. 1577, has a new DSN 384-6023. The civilian number is the same: 0173 200-0642.

• **Library volunteers** – The Sullivan Library is seeking a volunteer to organize and lead its story hour on 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays. Civ. 0621-730-3101.

MLK Basketball tournament returns

Staff Report

Heidelberg Sports and Fitness will host the 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. men's and women's Basketball tournament at Patton Barracks gymnasium Jan. 14-17.

The opening ceremony begins at 4 p.m. Jan. 14 with the unveiling of the new center court logo designed by contest winner Brandon Spragins, the U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg Webmaster and also includes a performance by the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus.

The Heidelberg MLK Jr. Basketball tournament was one of the first inter-service tournaments

conducted among the Armed Forces and is the longest running basketball tournament in Europe, said Michael Criswell, USAG BW chief of sports and fitness.

This year's competition includes 14 men's teams and six women teams from across Europe. The men's teams include Heidelberg, Grafenwöhr, Mannheim, Naples, Kaiserslautern, Geilenkirchen, Lakenheath, Stuttgart, Volk Air Base, Spangdahlem, Ansbach and Aviano. The women's teams include Heidelberg, Schweinfurt, Spangdahlem, Mildenhall, Naples and Stuttgart.

The event marks the first time the gym will be used since renovation began last November

to replace the floor and improve lighting. AFN will broadcast live and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will provide give-aways each day. The first to be drawn at 6 p.m. Friday during half-time of the first game is a Sports Week at the Edelweiss Lodge in Garmisch.

Buy tickets during the following periods: 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Friday for the Edelweiss package, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Saturday for skis and bindings, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Sunday for two mountain bikes and 9 a.m.-noon and 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday for a flatscreen TV. Drawings are for ID card holders 18 years and older.

Army civilian returns for to work, play

By Rachel Clark
409TH CSB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sean De Haas has been kicking up a storm lately after recently competing with the Ramstein Soccer Team in the Armed Forces Europe soccer tournament in Aviano, Italy.

De Haas, who is a U.S. citizen raised in Kaiserslautern by his parents who are both Department of Defense teachers, attended Ramstein High School where he excelled at soccer and was part of the All-Europe soccer team.

Upon graduating, De Haas made the trip back to the United States to attend Texas State University. While in school he knew he had to find his way back to Germany. De Haas thought majoring in international business would be a good choice. After completing school, De Haas applied for and was accepted into a government contracting internship program.

After the two-year internship, De Haas accepted a government civilian position as a contracting specialist with the 409th Contracting Support Brigade in Kaiserslautern.

"I am so glad to be back here in Germany where I grew up. I really enjoy living in the heart of Europe and being able to travel all over. Having cities such as Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels right at our doorstep is amazing," De Haas said.

De Haas, who speaks fluent German, felt right at home getting back into soccer in Germany. He teamed up with the military



Rachel Clark
Sean De Haas, a former student at Ramstein High School and now a contracting specialist with the 409th Contracting Support Brigade's Theater Contracting Center, kicks around a soccer ball near his office in Kaiserslautern.

soccer team as his official team, but practices with the locals.

"As a team, we can never seem to get a field that's available on the base so a lot of us practice with local German teams to keep up our skills," said De Haas.

De Haas and many of his team-

mates, practice with the Mackenbach Soccer Club.

Even though the soccer season is over for now, De Haas said he will be ready to play next year.

"When the American team comes together, I'll be there too," he said.

staying ACTIVE

Heidelberg Youth Soccer

Seven boys from U.S. Youth Soccer Heidelberg District participated in the Three Kings Tournament in Pforzheim Sunday. There were 12 teams in the tournament. Next on the U15 boys schedule is the Michael Brendel indoor soccer tournament at the Mannheim Sports Arena on Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim over Presidents Day weekend.

Winter Hunting Course

Register by Jan. 15 for Heidelberg's Rod and Gun Club winter hunting course Jan. 26 through March 19 from 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. The course is open to ID-card holders 18 and above. It covers the history of European hunting traditions and game animals in Germany. Upon completion, students get paperwork to obtain German hunting licenses via the local German courthouse and will have the ability to purchase and store firearms at their homes. Civ. 0620-25-1193.

Marksmanship Team

The Heidelberg and Mannheim High Schools Marksmanship teams compete 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Jan. 15 and 22 at Patch.

Heidelberg High School Basketball

Heidelberg girls' and boys' basketball teams play at home Jan. 14-15 against Hohenfels and Jan. 21-22 against Black Forest Academy. On Jan. 14 - Junior Varsity girls play at 4 p.m., JV boys play at 5:30 p.m., Varsity girls play at 7 p.m. and Varsity boys at 8:45 p.m. On Jan. 15 - JV girls play at 10 a.m., JV boys at 11:30 a.m., Varsity girls play at 1 p.m. and Varsity boys at 2:45 p.m. On Jan. 21 - JV girls play at 4 p.m., JV boys play at 5:30 p.m., Varsity girls play at 7 p.m. and Varsity boys play at 8:45 p.m. On Jan. 22 - JV girls play at 10 a.m., JV boys play at 11:30 a.m., Varsity girls play at 1 p.m. and Varsity boys play at 2:45 p.m.

Wrestling

Heidelberg and Mannheim High Schools Wrestling teams compete 10 a.m. Jan. 15 at Ansbach and Jan. 22 at Bamberg.

Heidelberg Unit Basketball

Upcoming unit-level basketball games scheduled at the Patton Barracks Fitness Center are: 4th Air Support Operations vs MEDCOM AT 6 p.m., U.S. Army Europe vs 43rd Signal at 7 p.m. and NATO vs U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Württemberg at 8 p.m. Jan. 24. Games played on Jan. 26 are: USAG B-W vs 4th ASAG at 6 p.m., MEDCOM vs USASREUR at 7 p.m. and 43rd Signal vs. NATO at 8 p.m. DSN 373-6110, civ. 06221-17-6110.

Kaiserslautern Youth Sports

Starting Feb. 15, sign up youth ages 8-15 for track and field, tennis, bowling and golf. Sign up youth 7-15 for indoor rock climbing. Sign up youth ages 4-15 for T-ball, softball, or baseball. Interested participants must currently be enrolled with Child, Youth and School Services. Register at Parent Central Services, Bldg. 2898 on Pulaski Barracks, or online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>.

Sullivan Gym Free Classes

Mannheim's Sullivan Gym now has free zumba classes at 7 p.m. Thursdays. Classes will be free until Feb. 1. Additional classes will be added at 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays starting in January. There are also two free interval cardio training classes that include nutritional information. The classes are held 7:15 a.m. and noon Mondays and Wednesdays. DSN 385-3149, civ. 0621-730-3149.

Heidelberg Golf Club

The Heidelberg Golf Club on der Bundestrasse 291 in Oftersheim has closed its restaurant for renovation in January and February and reopen March 1. Civ. 06202-537-67.

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